

DECEMBER 2017

GCU



MAGAZINE



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On Our Cover: The City of Pittsburgh, PA Crèche is the world's only authorized replica of the Vatican's Nativity Scene as erected in St. Peter's Square. It opens on Pittsburgh's annual Light Up Night in November and remains open through Epiphany in early January.

Each year an estimated two hundred and fifty thousand people stop to gaze at the life-like replicas and the manger scene that is the reason for the holiday celebration.

We wish all our members a Blessed & Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year. [Photo by Tyler Smith]

The GCU Magazine
(USPS 227-900) (ISSN0895-5395)
Subscription Per Year: \$12
To Canada-Per Year: \$18

Periodical Postage Paid at
Beaver, PA 15009 and at additional offices

Postmaster

Send address changes to:
GCU Magazine
5400 Tuscarawas Road,
Beaver, PA 15009

**Thursday, January 25, 2018 is the copy
deadline for the February GCU Magazine.**

Email copy to: bwahal@GCUusa.com or

Mail to: GCU Communications Dept.

Attn: GCU Magazine

5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

Official publication of GCU,
Issued the 15th of February, April, June,
August, October, December.

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

December Thoughts

The Christmas Season is a special time of the year! The many Christmas Specials broadcasted on TV, the many theaters and symphonies throughout our nation focus in on bringing “Good Times” and “Good Cheer” to all during the Holiday Season. Many shows are repeated each year and never seem to get old! How many times have you watched “Christmas Story” or “Christmas Vacation?” It’s a time where family and friends come closer together, a time of giving and a time of reflection. For me what I enjoy most is getting together with family and friends, laughing, reminiscing and just having a good old time! It’s a time to relax and reflect upon the past and cherish the present, a time to thank God in all that he has provided, a time in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so that we may have eternal life, a time to create memories that last a lifetime! Although the preparation ahead of Christmas Day can be quite hectic, I do hope that you do cherish each moment of the season and take the time to enjoy family and friends and all that this joyous season offers!

Speaking of memories, 2017 was an extraordinary year as the GCU celebrated its 125th Anniversary. I recently attended celebrations in District 7 and District 11. My sincere thank you to Mary Bannworth, President of District 7, and Gary Mozuras, President of District 11 and all the officers and members of their respective Districts for the hospitality extended to me during my visits.

My thank you also to the many other Lodges and Districts that held events in celebration of this historic occasion. Our Founders and the early members of our Society would be so proud of our accomplishments over the years. Although somewhat modified over the course of our 125 year history, the “Plan” of our forefathers has stood the test of time as our current Mission Statement of **“Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities”** is most relevant throughout the course of our history as a Fraternal Benefit Society.

In 2017, the GCU launched its new image and brand with a more contemporary look and feel that all generations can relate to. We recently received certificates from the United States Patent and Trademark Office approving and registering the “GCU” and “GCU Logo” as official trademarks of our Society.

The GCU has been blessed as well in terms of our financial performance. We continue to experience sound asset and surplus growth while generating excellent profitability. Assets through September 30, 2017 total \$1.675 billion, reflecting an 8.1% growth from year end 2016. Surplus through the third quarter of 2017 has grown 14.8% from year end 2016 and totals \$ 124.6 million. Despite realized write downs taken on positions within our investment portfolio, the GCU is experiencing excellent profitability thus far in 2017 of \$ 17 million. The detailed GCU third quarter financial results are presented by our Chief Financial Of-

ficer Tim Demetres along with his commentary, on page 4, which I invite you to review. We sincerely thank our members and our agents for your continued support of the GCU which is the major factor in our continued success.

The GCU experienced a very successful fraternal year as well. The various articles published in our bi-monthly *GCU Magazine* publication are a testimony to the commitment of the GCU at a national level and of our lodge and district members on a local level in support of our fraternal mission in providing financial and volunteer support to our churches, our communities and to individuals in need. It is the goal of your Board of Directors to have more of our over 50,000 members participate in the fraternal programming of the GCU not only through our current lodge and district structure but through other avenues such as our newest program, GCU GO-GIVE!

The Board of Directors approved at their fourth quarter meeting additional and revamped fraternal programs for 2018 that included a new Disaster Relief Program, Lodge Compliance Rewards Program, Student Debt Relief Program, Matching Funds for non-Byzantine Christian parishes and new guidelines for our Fraternalist of the Year award. Each of these programs will be introduced over the coming months.

I have scheduled additional meetings with many of our Districts to once again review the Regional Lodge Concept that would combine our current lodges

together. We will be finalizing plans for the lodges of the former District 1 (Pittsburgh) to transform the seven current lodges into four regional lodges.

The entire GCU world extends its sympathy and condolences to the family of Nicholas Yachanicz who recently passed and served as a member of the Board of Directors for 24 years. Additional information on Mr. Yackanicz and his GCU career is located on page 44, Eternal Memory!

As we wind down another year of operations, we had an extremely productive year as many of our business plan objectives, within each of our departmental operations, were addressed with many of our goals accomplished. We are in the process of finalizing our 2018 Business Plan and Budget, continuing to address our inherent risk within our business and develop a long-term sound and succinct strategy for our Society to assure our continued success.

We are certainly keeping a close watch on interest rates that plays a most important role in our overall financial stability as well. We again want to assure our members that the GCU will continue to remain relevant and competitive within the fixed annuity and life insurance marketplace.

In closing, once again I would like to extend to all of our members and our Board of Directors my sincere appreciation for the support you have given to me as I complete another year as your President and Chief Executive Officer. Please be assured that your Board of Directors, executive officers, general counsel and management staff will continue to lead and guide our Society to ongoing success, now and into the future. A special thank you as well to our executive team, department managers,

our support staff and our sales agents for your dedicated and conscientious efforts this past year that have made a major contribution to our financial and fraternal success once again in 2017!

My best wishes to our entire GCU Family for a very Merry Christmas and for a most Peaceful, Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

CHRIST IS BORN! CHRISTOS RAZDA-JETSJA!

George

GCU Presents Annual Byzantine Seminary Educational Grant

On Sunday, December 3, 2017 GCU President/CEO George N. Juba presented Metropolitan William Skurla, Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh with the GCU's educational grant of \$110,000.⁰⁰. The annual grant is for the SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary. The presentation took place at the Saint Nicholas Charity Celebration held at St. John Cathedral Center. With this year's presentation GCU donations, which began in 1961, now total more that \$3.1 million.

Archbishop William Skurla and GCU President/CEO George N. Juba with the GCU educational grant for the Byzantine Catholic Seminary.





Very Rev.
Richard I. Lambert
GCU Spiritual Advisor

Empty Chairs

I was recently moved by an article that appeared in the **Catholic Exponent**, the publication of the Diocese of Youngstown, which carried an article by Laura Kelly Fanucci entitled “The Ones Who Won’t be Home for the Holidays.” I will combine some of the author’s thoughts with mine to wish you all the best for the holidays!

The season sparkles with you. We open our homes to family and friends, greeting each other at wreath-decked doors under twinkling lights with the seasonal greeting, “Christ is Born!” and “Merry Christmas!”

Amid the joy of the season, a small moment often catches in our throat. We set one less place at the dinner table and cross a few names off this year’s Christmas card list. At those tables and among those lists are holes left by those who aren’t there. Relatives who have died. Loved ones lost to addiction. Babies who never got to be held. Families divided by divorce. A family member deployed. Children who have moved across the state, the country or the globe.

Holidays often set this truth in stark relief: Our families - and our lives - don’t always look the way we expected or planned. Still, human nature is quick to judge what we see on the surface - quick to idealize others’ lives - but

laughter and tears often cover up the sadness, tears and loneliness that many feel especially at Christmas. I look at my family and miss familiar faces that are replaced by newborn babies seen for the first time, and others not seen since the last holiday.

Still, here’s a truth worth celebrating in a season of wonder. We keep going! Suffering and grief are met by an even stronger force: that God made human hearts resilient. We do not have to despair when our reality does not match our hopes or others’ expectations. We can still embrace the good work of living out our calling.

Suffering and grief are met by an even stronger force: that God made human hearts resilient. We do not have to despair when our reality does not match our hopes or others’ expectations. We can still embrace the good work of living out our calling.

Think about the holiest of families. Mary and Joseph could never have imagined how parenthood would begin for them. Both, however, embraced the life that God set before them, even with its suffering and heartache. They must have known great joy, too!

So, don’t fear this year if your heart aches for the ones who aren’t here at home or in Church. Look around at those here to celebrate with you. Remember those who are gone. When you find yourself holding them together – the living and the dead, the lost and the found – then you enter more deeply into God’s mystery. Even in absence, we can love in the present tense. **God is with us!**

2017 Third Quarter Financial Results



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

GCU is committed to serving its members and certificate holders. It is my pleasure to present the 2017 nine month results of GCU's financial achievements.

Our financial strength continues to grow and surplus reached a new high at \$124.6 million at September 30, 2017. Income before realized gains (loss) increased \$1.2 million to \$19.8 million. Net Income decreased \$1.2 million to \$17.0 million compared to \$18.2 million in 2016 due to impairing certain energy related securities that may not be fully recoverable at maturity.

Assets totaled \$1.675 billion, an increase of \$125.1 million or 8% from year end 2016 that totaled \$1.550 billion. This increase can be attributed to continued positive cash flow from strong life and annuity sales, growth in investment earnings, and expense management. Our investment portfolio, consisting primarily of investment grade corporate bonds, increased \$124 million from \$1.527 at year end 2016 to \$1.651 billion at September 30, 2017.

Total Liabilities increased \$109 million to \$1.550 billion from \$1.441 billion as of December 31, 2016. This increase is due primarily to higher life and annuity reserves of \$107 million from sales; \$0.6 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve, and \$3.1 million Interest Maintenance Reserve increase from deferring realized capital gains on bond sales; reduced by a \$1.5 million decrease in payable for securities purchased not yet settled.

Total Income for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 period increased \$3.9 million or 1.5% to \$262.7 million com-

pared to \$258.9 million in 2016. The increase is primarily due to continued growth in investment income of \$5.3 million and \$1.1 million increase commission allowances from ceded reinsurance reduced by \$2.6 million in overall life and annuity sales.

Operating expenses before the increase in reserves increased \$24.9 million or 22.4% for the nine months of 2017 and totaled \$136.5 million compared to \$111.6 million in 2016. The increase is primarily due to higher annuity benefits paid of \$18.1 million, exchanges to other annuity products of \$5.1 million, and higher producer commissions of \$2.3 million. We continue to control the growth in general insurance expenses which were \$4.9 million in 2017, \$0.4 million less than 2016 expenses of \$5.3 million.

The increase in life and annuity reserves decreased by \$22.2 million for the nine months to \$106.5 million compared to \$128.7 million in 2016. Reserves are established on new premiums and the emergence of claims.

Financial strength and stability is a foundational pillar of GCU. Surplus now stands at \$124.6 million compared to \$108.5 million at year-end 2016. The \$16.1 million increase in surplus is primarily attributable to net income of \$17.0 million reduced by a \$1.1 million change in unrealized loss in the net equity of subsidiary.

Total surplus is the amount we set aside for unexpected losses from operations and financial protection against business volatility. The solvency ratio at September 30, 2017 is 108.0%. The solvency ratio adjusted for the Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR) is 109.3%. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

The chill in the autumn breeze brings the joyous Christmas season to our doorstep. Happy holidays and Merry Christmas!

Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	9/30/17	9/30/16	Change
Assets	\$1,675,011	\$1,509,610	\$165,400
Total Income	262,742	258,852	3,890
Total Expense	245,739	240,669	5,070
Net Income	17,002	18,183	(1,181)
Surplus (Net Worth)	124,627	105,678	18,949
Asset Valuation Reserve	18,177	16,003	2,174
Total Adjusted Capital	142,804	121,681	21,123
Normal Solvency Ratio	108.0%	107.5%	0.51%
Solv. Ratio-Total Adj. Liab.	109.3%	108.8%	0.55%

Reconciliation of Changes in Surplus

(000's omitted)	9/30/17
Surplus Previous Year 12/31/16	\$108,532
Net Income	17,002
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	853
GCU Holding Company & Other	(1,168)
Change in Non-Admitted Assets	28
Change in Asset Valuation Reserve	(620)
Net Change in Surplus	16,095
Ending Surplus 9-30-2017	\$124,627

GCU Balance Sheet Comparison

Assets

(000's omitted)	9/30/17	9/30/16	12/31/16
Bonds	\$1,556,724	\$1,386,980	\$1,430,407
Preferred Stocks	46,157	37,684	44,259
Common Stocks	11,975	11,954	11,797
Alt. Investments	14,106	11,342	11,945
Cash/Short Inv.	18,446	36,662	26,262
Mortgages	2,505	1,572	1,552
Certificate Loans	649	593	626
Real Estate-Home Office	544	611	591
Inv. Inc. Due & Acc.	23,425	21,203	21,432
Other	480	1,009	1,090
Total Assets	\$1,675,011	\$1,509,610	\$1,549,961

Liabilities

Life Reserves	\$ 69,017	\$ 64,830	\$ 65,078
Annuity Reserves	1,430,640	1,288,801	1,327,609
Acc. & Health Reserves	160	85	134
Emp. Pension Liability	7,009	6,999	7,068
Convention Reserve	254	154	179
Adv.Prem. + Fut. Ref. Rsvs.	368	330	345
Pending Inv. Trades	267	5,758	1,799
Accounts Payable	501	527	650
Refund Accum.	1,720	1,822	1,803
Overfunded Pension	1,148	893	1,148
Asset Valuation Rsrv.-AVR	18,177	16,003	17,557
Int. Maint. Rsrv.-IMR	21,124	17,730	18,059
Total Liabilities	\$1,550,384	\$1,403,932	\$1,441,429
Surplus Fund	\$124,627	\$105,678	\$108,532
Total Liab.+Surp.	\$ 1,675,011	\$1,509,610	\$1,549,961
Normal Solvency	108.0%	107.5%	107.5%
Solv. Ratio-Total Adj. Liab.	109.3%	108.8%	108.9%

GCU Income Sheet Comparison

Nine Months 2017 vs. 2016 Results

Income

(000's omitted)	9/30/17	9/30/16	Change
Life Premium	\$ 4,452	\$ 1,508	\$ 2,944
Annuity Premium	167,601	178,417	(10,816)
Annuity Exchanges	23,515	18,452	5,063
Accident & Health	407	180	227 Sub
Sub-Total	195,976	198,557	(2,581)
Net Investment Income	62,431	57,123	5,308
Amort. Int. Maint. Reserve	2,030	1,842	188
Comm. Allowance Reinsure.	1,879	807	1,072
Other Income	425	523	(98)
Total Income	\$262,742	\$258,852	\$3,890

Expenses

Death Benefits	\$ 1,761	\$ 2,011	\$ (250)
Annuity Benefits Paid	96,026	77,893	18,133
Annuity Exchanges	23,515	18,452	5,063
Life Ins. Surrender Benefits	621	681	(60)
Acc. & Health Benefits Paid	321	102	219
Commissions	8,702	6,426	2,276
General Operating Exp.	4,873	5,287	(414)
Ins., Taxes, Bank & Audit Fees	246	419	(173)
Pension Benefits Paid	404	261	143
Interest on Accounts	52	51	1
Sub-Total	\$136,522	\$111,583	\$24,939
Increase in Reserves	106,465	128,666	(22,201)
Total Expenses	\$242,987	\$240,249	\$2,738
Net Gain Before Refunds	19,755	18,603	1,152
Refunds to Members	197	194	3
Net Gain After Refunds	19,557	18,409	1,148
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	(2,555)	(226)	(2,329)
Net Income	\$17,002	\$18,183	\$(1,181)

Financial information is unaudited and is presented on the statutory basis of accounting.



“ELEEMOSYNARY”

Hopefully the title of this article has caught your attention. I find Eleemosynary to be one of those neat and different words in the English language. It is difficult to spell, many people do not know what it means or even know how to pronounce it.

The way to say it is “e-li-mas-in-airy.” It means to give freely to a charity.

The GCU Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity organized by GCU for the purpose of advancing the interests of GCU members, members of Byzantine Churches in the US, and individuals who are interested in learning more about the Byzantine Catholic Church, its Slavic heritage and its Rusyn culture. The GCU Foundation advances the above interests by making monetary grants for charitable, educational and religious purposes. The GCU Foundation is the donation arm of the GCU. Like all successful businesses and companies, there is a separate foundation set up for the purposes of advancing the interests of the foundation in making charitable, educational and religious donations.

What does this mean to you and for the GCU Foundation? It means that when you are reviewing your estate plan to insure the protection of yourself and your family, that you may want to consider making a gift to the GCU Foundation.

With good planning, you can make sure your family is properly provided for upon your death and that the GCU Foundation is a recipient of a bequest, for the purposes outlined above.

In future issues of the *GCU Magazine*, I will provide you with good reasons for you to give to and through, the GCU Foundation. The articles will show you what the GCU Foundation does with its money and how decisions on donations are made. In fact, when you make a donation to the GCU

The way to say it is
“e-li-mas-in-airy.” It means to
give freely to a charity.

Foundation, you will receive a tax deduction and the ability to direct where your donation goes.

This year, the GCU Board of Directors has revitalized the GCU Foundation. The first charitable event that was set up through the Foundation was the Hurricane Relief Fund. With very little advertising it has shown to be a very successful fundraiser. The donation made to the American Red Cross and Salvation Army Hurricane Relief efforts, with donations and GCU Matching Funds was over \$11,000.

At their November 2017 meeting the GCU Board of Directors gave approval to the guidelines for immediate use of the GCU Foundation for Disaster Relief Matching Funds in the future. The Board has given the GCU President/CEO the ability to institute an emergency Matching Funds event within the first 24-48 hours of a disaster. This will allow for quicker response from the GCU membership and for maximum Matching Funds benefits to the victims.

If you have any questions or concerns or need further information about the GCU Foundation, feel free to contact Fraternal-Communications Director Basil Wahal at the Home Office.

Atty. John J. Urban | GCU National Director

Fall Helping Hands Day Holy Annunciation Monastery

Sugarloaf, PA

Saturday, October 28 was the fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery. It was a little brisk in the morning, but sunshine appeared and made the day a lot easier to contend with.

The day started off with a prayer service at the chapel. Deacon Larry Foran assisted at the services. Thirty volunteers from the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge and District 5 were then prepared to help in any way they could.

As usual, Mother Marija had her list of chores that had to be done. Several crews were dispatched to different areas to help with the outdoor clean-up. It was time to give the grass its final cutting for the year, all of the summer flowers were pulled from the ground, the peonies were all trimmed down, trees trimmed and the tarp was removed from the planting areas.

The indoor crew was on box detail. The volunteers made 1000 boxes that will be used for the Sisters' Christmas bake sale.

Coffee and cookies were available for the workers in the morning and then a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner, garlic bread, Klondike bars and of course more home-made cookies made for a delicious lunch.

Contributions were made to Mother Marija by Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge, District 5, and personal donations were also given.

The Spring 2018 Helping Hands Day is planned for Saturday, June 2. It is great to see all the work that is done in a short period of time.

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary



District 5 presented a check to Mother Marije at the event. Ilona Dolinish, Ed & Gina Keil, Mother Marija, Michele Halbeisen, Toppay Zayac, Ed and Macrina Dolinish.



Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge presented a check to Mother Marija at the event. Seated are Marge Hoppey and National Director Dorothy Ann Foran. Standing is Cathie Cramond, Agnes Rohrbach Mother Marija, Pat Dallao and Barbara Kubishin.



B.P. Romancheck, Ted Sherrock, Brian Romancheck and John Kanyak cutting down trees.



Pizza with the Princesses

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and local affiliate of the Miss America Organization focusing on Service, Scholarship & Success, held its first ever Pizza with the Princesses fundraiser at Edgewood by Sandsprings in Drums, PA. Over 120 attendees and 31 volunteers including Elsa (Miss Pocono Kayla Schneider), Anna (Miss Keystone's Outstanding Teen), Belle, Cinderella (Miss Hershey Area Brianna Kubishin), Jasmine (Miss Pocono's Outstanding Teen Alyssa Alexander), Miss Greater Hazleton Kate Marhelko, Miss Greater Hazleton's Outstanding Teen Julia Snyder, Miss Keystone Donna Montgomery, and Miss Mountain Laurel Elisa Rivera were in attendance for the royal event. The girls service platforms include: Generations-Share Your Story & the GrandParents' Club; From Darkness to Light-Child Sexual Abuse Awareness; Inclusion Starts with I-Disability Awareness; Painting the Past-Art Education; The Body Image Project and Choices that Change You-Cancer Prevention Starts Now. Thank you to the GCU GoGive program for its generosity and support!

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Program is open to all ladies in Pennsylvania ages 12-24. For more information on how you can get involved, visit MissGreaterHazleton.weebly.com.

Sherri Homanko

**GCU
GoGIVE**

To learn more about GCU GoGive and how it can help you with your fundraising event visit the GCU Website www.GCUusa.com and click on Giving Back

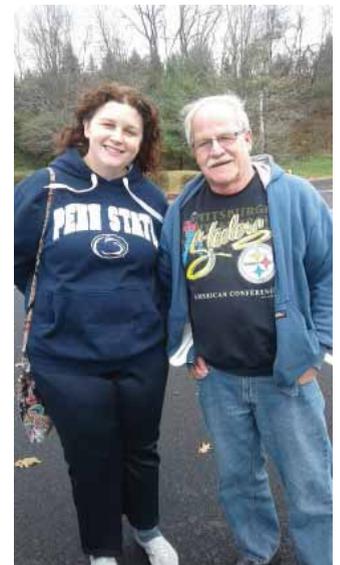
GoGive Benefits PTSA Organization

In the month of November, the West Mifflin, PA PTSA held a holiday extravaganza fundraiser under the guidance of Chairperson Rachel Kuzia. The first set of 1,000 tickets were sold so quickly that a second set of 1,000 tickets were quickly printed and distributed. Even after 2,000 tickets, there was still a waiting list. The support of parents and the school helped to make this a fabulous success.

The two winners were: Joe Corbett and Becky Cibulka. Becky is the high school's Spanish teacher. She also has the distinction of being a GCU member!

A profit of approximately \$6,900 was realized. The GCU GoGive! funds were used to purchase some of the gift cards that were part of the winners' prizes. The proceeds will be used throughout the school year to help give back to the students with: class parties, assemblies, Fun Day, field trips, prizes, Polar Express Day, dances, and much more.

Kim Kolesar



Mary Vavrek's 90th Birthday

On Sunday, November 19, Lodge 28 held its farewell Christmas party in conjunction with long-time member/officer, Mary Vavrek's milestone 90th birthday; her actual birthday is December 25 (Christmas Day). Being that Mary is now living at Arden Courts in Jefferson Hills, PA, the Social Room at the facility was the location of the party.

Upon entering, everyone was greeted by the festive red and green decor of balloons, favors, table settings, and more. They were invited to enjoy the hot and cold appetizers. Due to the large volume of attendees consisting of GCU and church members, family and friends, prearranged seating was made.

First, everyone enjoyed a catered meal from Our Little Secret Catering. Simultaneously, DJ Joe Cohen was playing a variety of Christmas carols and other songs for listening pleasure. His booth was set in the adjacent Community Room so that the residents would also be able to enjoy three hours of nonstop music.

After lunch, a few games were played: Left-Right game, "How Well Do You Know Mary?," Pass the Present, and the Broom Dance. Due to this being a GCU special subsidy event, two lucky and very ecstatic winners received \$25 Amazon gift cards.

Next, Mary was honored by a beautiful Proclamation rendered by City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto. On the plaque, he listed Mary's accomplishments as well as her lifetime residency in the South Side section of the City. He proclaimed, "November



Mary (at right) celebrating with family and friends.

19, 2017 is Mary Vavrek Day in the City of Pittsburgh."

Mary was so happy and enjoyed her special day. She walked around talking to everyone at the tables and thanked them all for coming. She was like a bride at a wedding! Then, she spoke on the microphone and thanked everyone for coming a second time. Further, she announced that we have to do this again next year.

The afternoon concluded with singing Happy Birthday and cutting of the cake. At that point, guests also started to hit the dance floor. So many compliments were received on a perfect and fun day.

Kim Kolesar | Secretary Treasurer

Fr. Robert Oravetz Celebrates 20th Anniversary



Barbara Toth, Mary Lou Straple, Fr. Robert Oravetz, Ann Morey and Jacquie Ballow.

To celebrate the 20th year of ordination for Fr. Robert Oravetz, a surprise dinner was held in the St. Nicholas church hall after the 11 AM Liturgy on Sunday, October 22, 2017.

The Ladies Guild provided the chicken and cake and parishioners were asked to bring a covered dish of their choice. There was a great selection of foods to choose from.

Fr. Oravetz knew there was a dinner but thought the dinner was in thanks to all who helped with the summer activities at the church. He was quite surprised to discover it was in his honor.

Since October of 2012, Fr. Oravetz has been the pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Nanty-Glo, PA and Holy Trinity in East Conemaugh, PA.

He was ordained at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Munhall, PA on October 26, 1997 by the late Most Reverend Judson M. Procyk, D.D. Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh.

Gene Ostinowsky | Lodge 401 Vice President

Raybuck Crowned Homecoming Queen

Maci Raybuck is a senior at Punxsutawney Area High School and was crowned during half-time at the football game. She is the daughter of Mark & Susan Raybuck and the granddaughter of Mike & Helen Meko. Helen is the president of Lodge 62 where Maci is also a member. After graduation, Maci plans to pursue a career in the medical field. She is a member of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church.

Helen Meko | Lodge 62 President



Maci Raybuck



Mary Elizabeth & Vitalii Stashkevych.

Subdeacon Vitalii Stashkevych and Mary Elizabeth Kacsur Wed

On Friday, September 15, 2017, Subdeacon Vitalii Stashkevych and Mary Elizabeth Kacsur were married at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, PA. Celebrating the ceremony was the Right Reverend Monsignor Russell A. Duker. Con-celebrating priests included: Rev. Frank Firko, Rev. Andrew Deskevich, Rev. Valerian Michlik, Rev. Mykhaylo Farynets, Rev. Mykhaylo Shkyndya and Rev. Ivan Shemet from the Eparchy of Mukachevo. Archbishop William Skurla presided over the wedding ceremony. After the ceremony guests were welcomed to a reception at the Grand Hall at The Priory located on the Northside of Pittsburgh.

Subdeacon Vitalii is from the Eparchy of Mukachevo in Ukraine and was recently accepted by Archbishop Skurla to serve in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. He was ordained to the diaconate on Wednesday, November 8 by Archbishop Skurla at Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks. Deacon Vitalii will be serving at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, PA. He will be ordained to the priesthood in January.

Mary Elizabeth Kacsur is a lifelong parishioner of Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks. She is the daughter of Harry & Donna Herron and the granddaughter of Peter & Norma Kacsur. All are members of Lodge 390.

God grant to your servants, Deacon Vitalii and Mary Elizabeth, many happy and blessed years! Mnohaya Lita!



The following is an article written by GCU Scholarship awardee Emily Torres, as part of the GCU Scholarship recipient "Where Are They Now?" series. If you are a past GCU scholarship recipient and would like to share your accomplishments in the GCU Magazine, please email your article and photo to bwahal@gcuusa.com. When your article appears in the GCU Magazine, the GCU Board of Directors has authorized a donation of \$250.00 be made in your name, to a charity of your choice. Previous donations for "Where Are They Now?" articles have been made to the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization by Sherri Homanko and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America by Heather Houseknecht.

Pierogies, Bones, and Vampires: Part 2

As we stepped off the bus in Drawsko, Poland there was not much to look at. From our parking spot outside the town's convenience store we could see the entire perimeter of the town and the miles of farmland surrounding it. There was the convenience store, a bakery, two schools, a bar, a hardware store, and a couple dozen small houses with colorful exteriors, surrounded by beautiful flower gardens. We soon learned we would be sleeping on air mattresses in the classrooms of the elementary school and saw the rest of the field school. Our "lab," was a long table in the school across the street from where we were staying, and the site was in the middle of a farmer's field about a mile away.

After the first day, we quickly settled into a routine: wake up at 6:30 AM, dig until 3 PM, first dinner at 4 PM, osteology lecture, second dinner at 7 PM, chores, study, sleep. After a couple of days, my air mattress began to feel like a Tempur-Pedic and I was asleep before my head even hit the small travel-sized pillow we were given. About 90% of the time I had no idea what I was eating, but it was delicious after spending the day out in the sun digging or hunched over a skeleton. In addition to digging in the

field, we also had an osteology course that covered all the identifiable features on all of the bones of the body and how to age and sex skeletons. Some nights we would all take our studying to the bar a block away from the school. We must have looked ridiculous to the locals with our manuals and notebooks sprawled across the table, a pen in one hand and a beer in the other.

On the weekends, we broke off into groups and headed to the train station in the next town over, Krzyz, and went to as many places as we could. The first weekend I went back to Poznan, this time seeing much more than just the airport and hotel lobby. We explored the old churches, ate ice cream that was coated in cornflakes and fried, and went to the Croissant museum where we learned how to make St. Martin's croissants and became certified croissant masters. The following weekend we travelled 6 hours



Emily Torres

to Gdansk, where we wandered through the largest brick castle in the world, experienced the first night of a three-week long festival called St. Dominic's fair, and dipped our toes in the Baltic Sea. For our third, and final, weekend in Poland we stayed together as a school. We went to a Viking festival in northern Poland and went kayaking down the same river Pope John Paul II would visit for his vacations. By the end of my trip I had fallen in love with Poland but was ready to come home. It was time to pack up the skeletons, get my bags, and take some pierogies for the road.

I didn't find any vampires in Drawsko, but I learned that you never know where one flyer, stapled to an old bulletin board, can take you.

Emily Torres

Giving

Project Bundle-Up Shopping Experience

GCU was a shopping experience sponsor again this year for WTAE-TV and the Salvation Army's Project Bundle-Up.

Project Bundle-Up is a combined effort of WTAE-TV and the Salvation Army in the Greater Pittsburgh area. The mission of Project Bundle-Up is to provide boots, gloves, hats and coats to help keep kids warm and healthy during the winter season. GCU was a shopping experience sponsor again this year and 16 volunteers met at the Kohl's Department Store in Monaca, PA to help local children pick out their own new winter garb. It is a rewarding experience to get to know the children and see how fun it is for them to pick out their own coats. Thank you to all of our volunteers!



GCU Makes Donation to Project Bundle-Up



Created in 1986, Project Bundle-Up is a joint community service effort of The Salvation Army and WTAE-TV Channel 4. This unique program, utilizing over 1,000 volunteers each year, provides new winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens and boots to thousands of underprivileged Western Pennsylvanian children and senior citizens annually. Over the past 30 years, Project Bundle-Up has raised more than \$13 million and provided new winter outerwear for more than 267,000 individuals.

GCU National Director Barb Kushner and Fraternal-Communication Director Basil Wahal presented a \$2,500.00 donation to WTAE's Cam Tran during the Project Bundle-Up telethon broadcast on December 1.

Beaver County Festival Of Trees



Volunteer decorators from the GCU Home Office are from left: Lisa Anderson, Gene Nagy, Gina Spickerman, Ashley Guthridge (kneeling), Amy Douglas, Nicole Gailey and Tom Woolaway.

The 28th Beaver County Festival of Trees was held at Brady's Run Park, Beaver Falls, PA from November 26 through December 3, 2017. The GCU Home Office once again participated by entering a tree entitled "Signs of Christmas" which sold within the first two hours. All proceeds benefit the Children & Youth Services Advisory Board and U.S. SARR Corps.



Donations to Variety Presented

At the end of September, the GCU wrapped up their Cause of the 3rd Quarter with a generous employee donation of \$200.00 matched by GCU to present a check for \$400.00 to Variety-The Children's Charity! Chariman of the Board Michael Schneck and Board member Andrew Fisher were on hand to accept the donations. Funds were also collected through patron donations for the GCU 125th Anniversary Celebration program booklet and from a portion of the ticket sales to the national celebration held at Seven Oaks Country Club on Saturday, May 6, 2017. These donations generated another \$4,000.00 for Variety. The charity strives to enable kids with disabilities to live to the fullest with a focus on mobility, communication and social inclusion and interaction. Variety believes that no child should be left out, left behind or isolated, and through its programs and experiences, Variety strives to give children opportunities to discover the possibilities for their own lives, and to be a kid, first and foremost.

St. Mary Byzantine Church Elementary School Parish Expansion



On Wednesday, October 4, 2017, GCU Lodge 302 sponsored a Parish Expansion Matching Funds event to assist St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Elementary School. The Fall Salad Bingo had 75 persons in attendance to enjoy a salad bar dinner and evening of bingo. Attendees included school families, parishioners and GCU members.

The buffet featured a variety of homemade salads donated by school families. Bingo prizes were gift items donated by school families. The donations contributed to the overall profit of the event. With GCU Matching Funds the event raised over \$3,000.00 to upgrade the school's security and PA systems.

Rita Basalla

District 5

Fall Helping Hands | On Saturday, October 28, 2017, six members assisted the Carmelite Sisters at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA with fall cleanup. The volunteers prepared their grounds for winter, removed annuals, cut down perennials, mowed the grass, cleaned up their garden and the Austree area, and folded cardboard boxes, which the Sisters use for their Christmas dessert sales. We were treated to homemade garlic bread and spaghetti & meatballs, along with a variety of the Sisters' special cookies and Klondike bars.

Annual Meeting | The District 5 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, November 5 with Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Kingston, PA, followed by a Panachida for the deceased members. Forty-four people attended the breakfast meeting at Touch of Class Catering, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The following were elected District 5 Officers: President Gina Keil, Vice President Daria Shierly, Secretary Krissy Williams, Treasurer Colleen Evans, Athletic Director Ed Keil, Assistant Athletic Director Bob Suflita, Publicity/Fraternal Activities Director Ilona Dolinish, Sergeant-at-Arms & Standard Bearer Bernie Shinko and Auditor Jason Marcin. Our chaplain for the year is Rev. Mykhaylo Prodanets.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

Founders' Day Luncheon

Sunday, February 11, 2018 - Tentative Date

St. Nicholas Social Center, Old Forge, PA

Wilkes-Barre Penguins Hockey Game

Saturday, April 7, 2018

Penguins vs. Binghamton Devils

Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, PA



National Director & Vice Chairman George Kofel (left) with the 2018 District 5 officers.

50th St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards Program

The 50th Annual St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards Program was held on Sunday, November 26, 2017 at the Radisson, Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton, PA. District 5 President Gina Keil welcomed all in attendance and Bob Suflita, cantor of Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, Binghamton, NY, led the attendees in the Hymn to Saint Nicholas and God Bless America.

Scholarship Chairperson Dr. John G. Evans, presented a certificate and a check to Sarah Tanana of Lodge 945 and Olyphant, PA. She is attending Marywood University, Scranton, PA and majoring in Exercise Science. Her goal is to become a physical therapist or nurse.

The 2017 Fraternalist of the Year Award was made to Edward Keil of GCU Lodge 17. Ed is a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge, PA. He is the current District 5 Athletic Director, a position he has held since 2005 and has served as Lodge 17 Secretary/Treasurer, since 2009. Ed has been a Golf Course Superintendent for the past 38 years. Mary Ann Evans, last year's recipient, presented him with a clock.

Congratulations to both the Fraternalist of the Year and Scholarship recipient.

May you have a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Ilona Dolinish | Fraternal Director



At left is District 5 Scholarship recipient Sarah Tanana and Dr. John G. Evans. At right is Mary Ann Evans presenting Fraternalist of the Year Ed Keil with a clock.

District 7



Dignitaries at the head table at the 125th celebration.

Celebration of 125 Years |

District 7 celebrated the GCU's 125th Anniversary in conjunction with the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ. The day started with the Liturgy celebrated by District 7 Chaplain Fr. Jim Badeaux, followed by a Moleben for GCU members.

The group of almost one hundred

attendees then met in the church hall to enjoy a buffet luncheon. Fr. Jim Badeaux began the festivities with an opening prayer. Michael Geles, led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Mary Bannworth asked all the veterans to stand and be recognized for their service. Chairman of the Board of Directors Gregory Vladika made a champagne toast to "Another 125 Years." GCU President/CEO George

Juba, presented a very interesting slide show on the history of the GCU.

It was a beautiful afternoon enjoyed by all. This special social event was made possible through the support of the Home Office and the hard work of the 125th Anniversary Committee.

Mary Bannworth | President



GCU President/CEO George Juba with District 11 President Gary Mozuras holding a copy of the program booklet.

District 11

Michigan Celebrates GCU's 125th Anniversary with Elegance |

On Sunday, October 22, District 11 hosted a banquet to celebrate the GCU's 125th Anniversary. Over 80 lodge members and officers of the Michigan-based District and their family members and guests enjoyed a delicious catered buffet along with GCU President/CEO George Juba, who traveled from the Home Office in Beaver, PA to attend the affair.

Hosted at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Clinton Township, MI., the event began immediately following an 11 AM Divine Liturgy. In the parish social hall, guests enjoyed a wine and cheese reception prepared by Joanne Mozuras and Karen & Kim Kaufman. Long-time District 11 President Gary Mozuras emceed the banquet. President Juba had a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the GCU, including its humble beginnings and some surprising and interesting facts. There were also some bits of print memorabilia on display,

such as 1980s copies of the old *GCU Messenger* newspaper and articles on past District 11 events. Each attendee received a large white ceramic mug sporting the new GCU logo and a printed program from the Home Office.

The hall was beautifully appointed by Joanne Mozuras (Gary's wife) and new GCU member Sharon May.

District 11 Fraternal Director Val Marszalec was asked to read an uplifting, anonymously written poem called "Joy of the World," which spoke, appropriately, of Christian charity and a call to fraternity.

Sub-Deacon Phillip Dinsmore, of St. Nicholas Parish, offered the invocation prior to the meal, and Sub-Deacon Lazarus Der-Ghazarian of the parish gave the benediction to conclude the banquet.

CONTINUED

DISTRICT 11 CONTINUED

Officer Election Held at Annual Meeting | District 11 Annual Meeting and election of officers took place on Sunday, November 5, 2017, at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Clinton Township, MI, beginning with 11 AM Divine Liturgy followed by a Panachida for the deceased members of District 11.

A buffet lunch was served and regular district business was conducted. Then the lodge delegates elected the officers to serve for 2018: President Gary Mozuras, Vice President George Nagrant, Secretary Anita Cipa, Treasurer Nick C. Kovalcik, Athletic Director John P. Minarish, Assistant Athletic Director Nick P. Kovalcik, Assistant Athletic Director Kim Kaufman, Fraternal Director & Publicity Director Val Marszalec, Auditors Karen Kaufman & Valerie Vancil and Chaplain Rev. Joseph Repko. At the conclusion of



2018 District 11 Officers.

the meeting the officers were sworn into office by Chaplain Fr. Joseph Repko, pastor of St. Nicholas. The office of Sergeant-at-Arms/Standard Bearer was vacated following the death of long-time Lodge 860 member Eugene Kovacs who held the position for many years.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal Director & Publicity Director

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, January 14, 2018

12:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Main Event Entertainment (formerly Latitude 360)
200 Quinn Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275 (Near Robinson Township)

Bowling, lunch and fun! A District 15 post-holiday celebration for children, bumper bowling is also available for our youngest members. Please contact Laura Seech (tseech@gmail.com or 724-729-7309). Children **MUST** be signed up by January 6, 2018.

Senior Award Applications

Are available for high school seniors planning to attend college or technical school after graduation in 2018. Contact Kathy Kapaldo 412-951-8331 or kkapaldo@comcast.net for information.

Completed application materials must be post-marked by Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

Awards will be presented at District 15 Founders' Day on March 18, 2018, at Seven Oaks Country Club.

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 4, 2018

12:30 PM - Pizza Lunch with Bowling at 1 PM

Center Lanes, 3084 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689 for details.

District 15

Annual Meeting | The District 15 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, November 5. Father Mykhaylo Shkyndya led the group in an opening prayer and Paul Lebanik led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. All district lodges were represented. The District 15 officers reported to the district delegates and GCU President/CEO George Juba provided an update on business and fraternal matters. President Elizabeth Harbist reported on the various activities sponsored by District 15 in 2017 and shared plans for upcoming 2018 events. Be sure to check out the District 15 Calendar of Events for 2018 on the GCU website.

Elizabeth Harbist | President

Lodge News

Lodge 2

MUNHALL, PA

Annual Picnic

Lodge 2 and St. John's Cathedral parish gathered in August to hold their annual picnic. This year the lunch was catered by the Two Brothers Barbeque truck. Desserts were provided by parishioners and the drinks by St. John's. The kids played games and received gift bags from Lodge 2. Anna Marie Wargo made scarecrows with gift cards attached that were awarded to several lucky adults. A balloon artist also entertained the attendees. A relaxing day was had by all.

Annual Clothing Drive

Collection took place for two weekends in September at St. John's and St. Elias churches for our surrounding communities. Over 50 jackets and coats, 600 sweaters, sweatshirts and jerseys, 200 pants and sweatpants, 20 pairs of shoes, 80 pairs of new socks and 20 women's dresses were collected, sorted and boxed.

Once again, a large box of handmade, knitted scarves, hats and mittens from Lodge 2 member Mrs. Bernadine McTaggart from Florida, arrived for the clothing drive. Bernadine and her friends knit these items as a hobby and ship them to be included in the Lodge 2 drive. We thank her for the beautiful donations! Donations were divided between The Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead, PA; Free Food for the Homeless in Braddock, PA and the St. Vincent dePaul Society in Munhall, PA.

Thanks to all who helped with this wonderful project.

Patty Bovee | Treasurer



Lodge 2 members show the items that Bernadine and her knitting partners from Florida donated.



Ann Berezna, Fr. John Cuccaro and Pat Vargo from SS. Peter & Paul in Duquesne, PA with VA Hospital donations.

Veterans Collection

GCU Lodge 2 collected items for the Veterans during November. President Andrea Harhai is pleased to report that over 2,500 items were delivered to the Oakland (Pittsburgh) VA Center. Tony, from volunteer services, was overwhelmed with the amount donated by Lodge 2 and the local parishes. Thank you to the parishioners of St. John's Cathedral, St. Elias, and SS. Peter & Paul Churches for their generous donations.

Andrea Harhai | President

Lodges 10 & 994

ALIQUIPPA & BEAVER, PA

Lodges Combine to Serve Less Fortunate

On Tuesday, October 31, 2017 members of GCU Lodge 10 in Aliquippa and Lodge 994 in Beaver served over 60 people at the Manna Dinner at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Aliquippa. Manna is a free weekly meal provided by different community organizations. The meal is served to any member of the community who wishes to attend. Manna feeds not just the body but the mind and spirit and no one is turned away. Since it was Halloween the children in attendance also received treats. After serving the meal, members of Lodges 10 and 994 also enjoyed sharing a meal. The two lodges have enjoyed partnering together for the past several years both financially and physically to participate in this community event.

Kathy Kapaldo | Lodge 10 President



Front (from left): Susanne Juba, Mary Ann Popovich and Dorothy Peterson. Back (from left): Mary Elizabeth Olack, Kathy Olack, Georgia Zeedick, Martha Seech, George Seech, Diane Ketterer and Kathy Kapaldo.



Box Makers: (seated) Pat Gallagher and GCU National Director Dorothy Ann Foran. Standing (from left): Agnes Rohrbach, Cathie Cramond, Pat Dallao, Marge Hoppey, Ilona Dolinich, Toppay Zayac, Michelle Halberson, Ann Marie Betterly and Barbara Kubishin.

Fall Helping Hands Day

GCU Lodge 17 participated in the fall cleanup at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA on Saturday, October 28, 2017. Five members assisted the Carmelite Sisters with preparing their grounds for winter. Tasks included: cutting down day lilies, cleaning up the garden, mowing the lawn and folding boxes for desserts that the Sisters sell during the holidays. A homemade spaghetti and meatball luncheon along with a variety of their special cookies was the Sisters way of saying thanks to the volunteers.

November & December Recap

The month of November included food collections for the poor and used eye glasses for the Lions Club. In December, the lodge assisted with the church Christmas Party on December 3 and held an appreciation luncheon and 4th quarter meeting on December 9. Details will appear in the next issue.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Ed Keil | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Turkey Bingo

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Taylor, PA held their Turkey Bingo with the assistance of GCU Lodge 17 on Sunday, November 12, 2017. There were 115 participants. GCU key chains and memo pads were distributed to the attendees. Activity books and crayons were given to the children.

Twenty BINGO games were held, including specials, with turkey gift certificates given away to the winners. There were numerous other fundraising activities including 31 basket prizes. Food sales along with a bake sale added to the afternoon's profits. This was a matching funds project to help with repairs at St. Mary's. Thanks to all who contributed.



Turkey Bingo kitchen help: Gina Keil, Marion Savinelli, Pat Oliver, Nadine Oliver and Joe Korpita.

Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

Helping the Local Hospital

Members of Lodge 47 and parishioners of Holy Spirit Church, have been meeting weekly for Pani Michelle Tomas' Crochet Club. "Beginners" and "experts" have enjoyed the tutoring and leadership that Pani Michelle has offered. The ladies have crocheted lovely hats for the Oncology Department of a local hospital. These hats are available to chemotherapy patients free of charge.

In the future, the Crochet Club plans to make other items including lap afghans, for nursing home residents. What a wonderful way to assist others!

Dottie Bakalar | Publicity Director



Jean Hrehor, Olga Demoski, crocheting group coordinator Pani Michelle Tomas (behind), Marilyn Kumpon (behind), Dottie Bakalar, Jean Turock and Becky Merges.

Bowling League

With the start of September, the bustle in Binghamton began just after Labor Day when the GCU Bowling League started their 2017-18 season. Thirty weeks of strikes, spares and splits on the lanes, with a little friendly competition added in, as the bowlers cheer on their teammates and each other, no better way to spend a Tuesday night from now, until Springtime!

Angel Tree

Lodge 47 was happy to once again participate in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Sponsor Program. "Angels" were hung in the church, where anonymous donors picked them up, purchased the described gift, and then returned it to the designated area for our annual St. Nicholas Celebration, held on December 10, 2017.

Thank You!

A sincere thank you to all the parishioners, volunteers, lodge members, family and friends for their hard work, loyalty, dedication, support and donations. Thank you for your participation in any and/or all lodge & church events. It is truly because of all your efforts that everything is such a remarkable success.

Lodge 47 also wishes to say thank you to the Home Office for the generosity of the GCU Fraternal Grant Program. This program has definitely been advantageous to our lodge and helped make 2017 a successful year.

The lodge is looking forward to 2018!

Bob Sufilita | President



At left: ECF students carve pumpkins and at right Election Day pie sale preparation.

Fall Parish Activities

The Fall Festivities continued with a Halloween party for the ECF students. Lodge 47 sponsored the event which included pizza, cider and pumpkins. An all-around favorite was the students making each other look like mummies!

Shoppers were happy and smiling on Saturday, November 4 when they left the Holy Spirit Parish Center with their "new" merchandise from the Rummage Sale. These were items donated by parishioners and lodge members.

A few days later, baking supplies and apples were purchased to prepare for the Election Day Pie Sale, held on Tuesday, November 7. Volunteers were coordinated to share the many tasks involved to make this event a huge success. There were crust mixers, rollers, pie fillers, apple peelers, corers, slicers, bakers, and the list goes on. So that no one who came to vote would be disappointed, a Holupky Sale and Bake Sale were also offered.

Lodge 52

BETHEL PARK, PA

"A Tasteful Night"

On Friday, October 20, St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church presented a "Tasteful Night" at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located in Bethel Park. Lodge 52 was thrilled to be a part of this annual fundraising event. The 120 attendees enjoyed live entertainment featuring The Move Makers Band, dancing and tasting delicious samples from thirteen area restaurants. The food prepared by Bravo, Outback, My Thai, Whole Foods, Totopa, Starbucks, Texas Steak House, Betsy's Ice Cream and Bob's Diner was delicious.

Chances were sold for multiple fundraising activities. The most popular fundraiser was the chance to win "Beer for a Year" sponsored by the St. Gregory Men's Club.

Rosemary Tomko | Publicity Director



A few of the volunteers at the Lodge 57 Bazaar.

Lodge 57

BROWNSVILLE, PA

Successful Church Bazaar

Another very successful annual church bazaar took place at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church on November 5, 2017. Rose Kordich and Lodge 57 Treasurer Becky Thomas, were in charge of the kitchen. They, along with many other helpers, cooked over 300 dozen pirohi, which sold out in one afternoon. The holupki, haluski and chicken dinners also sold out. Take-out orders alone made \$2,400.00 with the help of Pam Gresh, Jackie & Jim Ducar and Valerie Thomas, who quickly filled all orders.

The bakery table was run by the Dirda Family. Many homemade rolls were donated along with jars of canned jellies and quarts of stewed tomatoes, which all sold out. The food serving area was run by the very efficient ladies of the parish.

Others that contributed to the events success were: Lodge 57 Secretary Melody Yeardie, Lois Dirda, Genevieve Marszal, Steve Grzesiak, Sean Dirda, Jean Mangini, Ron & Gloria Phillips and John Marcolini. Of course, pastor Fr. Christopher Burke, was right in there helping in any way possible.

The lodge would like to thank all the hard-working parishioners, friends and supporters of St. Nicholas Church. The profit from this event was \$6,848.32, which will be used for the needed repairs at St. Nicholas Church.

Bernie Karoffa | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 57 EVENT

Winter Clothing Collection

January/February 2018



Lodge 62 members enjoying the "Thank You" luncheon.

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

Thank You Luncheon

A good time was had by all who attended the "Thank You" luncheon held on October 8. Approximately 60 people enjoyed pizza, wings, salad and dessert and most of all a chance to relax instead of working around the parish.

Deacon Steve White was recognized for installing a new ramp to the sidewalk and all the other workers were thanked for their many hours of volunteering.

Helen Meko | President

Social Get Together

"Living a Healthy Lifestyle" was the thyme of an informational social held by Lodge 62 on Saturday, October 28 for lodge members and the community. Approximately 60 people were in attendance. Carol Gresock from the Punxsutawney Area Hospital was the guest speaker. A lite lunch was served.

Elaine Koromaus | Secretary Treasurer



Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

GCU 125th Celebration

On September 10, 2017, Lodge 69 celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the GCU along with the opening of the 2017-2018 school year for the School of Religion.

Chinese Auction

The annual Chinese auction was held on November 10. Parishioners donated the prizes. GCU and Guild members helped to collect and set up the prizes. Parishioners and the local community helped make this event a success. Baked goods and soft pretzels were served during intermission and everyone had a great time.

Nancy Harding | Secretary

Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

Matching Funds Dinner

GCU Lodge 77 partnered with St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church for an Autumn Leaves dinner on Saturday October 7, 2017. The dinner featured delicious food made by the parish "wonder workers." The menu included sausage & sauerkraut, stuffed cabbage, pirohi, green beans and desserts. The lodge also held a Chinese basket auction, along with other fundraising events. All proceeds were donated to St. Nicholas Church. Everyone enjoyed great food and fellowship while listening to polka music. The event was a great success.

Anne Dillon | Treasurer





Slavjane Folk Ensemble performers.

36th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

ECF Coordinator Marcia Harrer arranged for ECF students and their parents to help set up for the 36th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration, on the Sunday prior to the event. At the event held on Sunday, October 29, Lodge 81 officers, members, and parishioners joined together to make it a successful fundraiser for St. John parish. Some of those that volunteered included: Theresa Petruska, Norbert Duritsa, Ann Kormanik, Helen Ponzurick, Bonnie Balas, Gerry Dorobish, Marcia & Richard Harrer, George Jr., and Janet Gaydos, Stephen Petruska, Paul Rubish and sons (L57) and Monica Sweet. The event included a Moleben for the Eastern Catholic Bishops, a Slavjane Folk Ensemble performance, guest speaker John Righetti, a musical performance by Dean Poloka and his musical folk group, folk and religious art demonstrations and of course great ethnic food. The hard work and dedication of all involved, make it possible for this event to be an annual success.

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Supporting Parish Activities

Friday, October 13 marked the 100th Anniversary of Fatima. St. John Parish hosted an Akathist service in commemoration of this miracle. Father Christopher Burke was the featured speaker and a social followed. Cathy Phillips, Bonnie Balas and Gerry Dorobish attended the event.

Lodge 81 helped pay for the parish children to attend a hayride at Duda's farm on Sunday, October 15. Marcia Harrer arranged the activity, which include not only a hayride, but pumpkin picking, smores by the campfire, and other fun things.

Quarterly Meeting

At the quarterly meeting held on Sunday, November 19, Lodge 81 discussed and planned for upcoming events and items such as, the St. Nicholas Program for parish children, Christmas Craft/Bake Sale, Uniontown Public Library Christmas Program, Super Bowl Special Fundraiser, and a joint activity with local lodges to recognize the 125th Anniversary of GCU. Christmas season donations will be made to the Sisters of Saint Basil at Mount Macrina, Sparkle - the local Salvation Army Project for the needy, and the St. Nicholas Charity Dinner to benefit the SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. The next quarterly meeting is planned for Sunday, February 4, 2018 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy.

Bonnie Balas | VP and Publicity Coordinator

Invested in
Education

2017-2018 GCU Scholarship Programs



**FRIENDLY
REMINDER...**

Applications for scholarships must be completed and submitted online in one session by 11:59 PM EST on December 31, 2017 to be eligible.

GCUusa.com

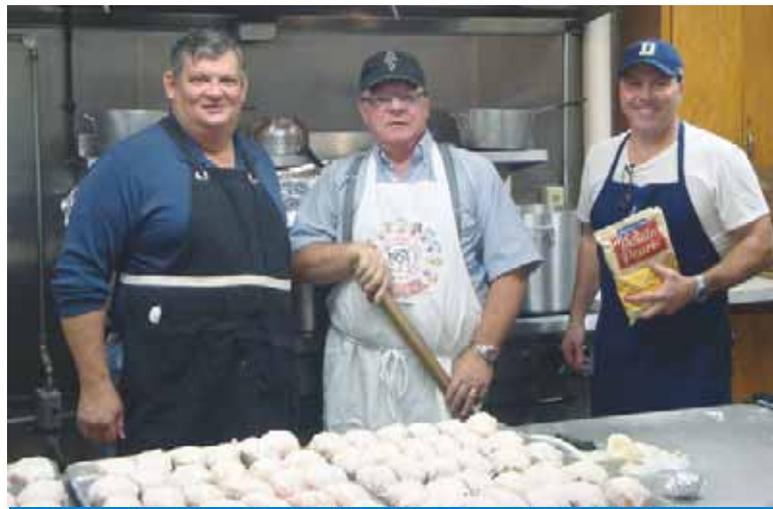
Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

Chicken Breast Dinner

The annual Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church was held on November 5, 2017. Members of the Holy Ghost Advisory Committee and GCU Lodge 92 worked together to serve dinners to over 350 people. This very successful dinner will benefit the church's financial debts.

Michaela Mancak | Secretary/Treasurer



Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner kitchen staff: GCU Chairman of the Board Gregory Vladika, Ronald Mancak and Mark Pegula.



Eleanor Barkowski, Bruce Semon, Mother Marija, Greg Barkowski Sr. and Dorothy Semon.

Check Presentation

As the calendar year draws to a close, the members of Lodge 92 have been busy. In November, Lodge 92 President Gregory Barkowski Sr., along with wife Eleanor and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Semon Sr., presented a check to Mother Marija of the Carmelite Nuns at the Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA. The amount of \$1,500.00 was given in the name of the late Bruce Semon Jr. This money comes from the proceeds of the lodge's first ever Friends of Bruce Semon Golf Outing held in August.

Children's Christmas Party

On December 5 the lodge held its annual Saint Nicholas Day Children's Christmas Party at Holy Ghost Church hall. The entire parish and community were treated to a concert performed by the LaSalle Academy children's choir and refreshments prepared by Lodge 92 members and volunteers. The lodge also held a basket fundraiser. As always, the party concluded with a visit from St. Nicholas who distributed chocolate coins to all in attendance.

Mark Barkowski | Publicity Director

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Anniversary Dinner

Lodge 93 sponsored a 125th GCU Anniversary Dinner following Divine Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Vasil Polyak at St. John's Byzantine Church in Northern Cambria. After Liturgy attendees enjoyed dinner in the social hall. Everyone received a gift bag with GCU items compliments of the Home Office. Door prizes were also awarded. A thank you to everyone and the GCU for making this 125th Anniversary Dinner a success. Compliments to the cooks for a delicious dinner.



CONTINUED

Lodge 93 CONTINUED



Basket Auction

Lodge 93 sponsored a basket auction Sunday, November 5 in the social hall of St. John's Byzantine Church. There were a variety of items from appliances, soft goods, domestics, children's items, Christmas gifts, toys, food baskets and gift cards. This project was part of the GCU Matching Funds program.

John J. Katana | Secretary



Gloria Hoffman and Deacon Paul Simko working the assembly line to fill the hoagies with meats.

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Matching Funds Hoagie Sale

On Thursday, October 19, GCU Lodge 109 held a hoagie sale to raise money for the parish. Members of Lodge 109 and St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church made a total of 550 hoagies (one of the largest in the history of this event) in a matter of only a couple of hours that morning. The hoagies sold for \$6 each.

All hoagies had been pre-ordered and were either picked up at the church or delivered to those that ordered 10 or more hoagies.

The project was split up into two days with the day before the sale being one of preparation. Meats and cheese were

sliced, counted, and bagged and tomatoes, lettuce, and onions were also prepared and bagged ahead of time. Once everything was ready, the assembly line procedure went smoothly to make quick work of the finished project—a foot long hoagie roll filled with 3 types of meat, cheese, lettuce, sweet onions, tomatoes and Italian dressing. The hoagie crew is accomplished and works well together.

We wish to thank the GCU Home Office for the Matching Funds and the many volunteers who helped make this sale a huge success.

Children's Halloween Party

On Sunday, October 29, Lodge 109 held a Halloween party for the parish children, plus a coffee social for the adults, after morning Liturgy.

The children, were entertained by playing games like "pin the tail on the cat," decorating their own cupcakes, and competing in a costume contest for the scariest, prettiest, and most creative costumes. Many thanks to President Janet Stetzer and Monica Sertik for planning the activities, decorating the hall and judging the costumes.

CONTINUED



Halloween Party.

Lodge 109 CONTINUED



President Janet Stetzer makes use of the new stair glide after injuring her foot.

New Stair Glide

Recently a stair glide was installed at St. John's for the benefit of our elderly, handicapped, or injured parishioners. This was made possible by a fundraising campaign. GCU District 15 made a generous contribution, which was greatly appreciated.

Janet Uram | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Breast Cancer Luncheon

The Lodge 151 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon held on Friday, October 13 and the success of this event can be attributed to President Marge Pajer Russell. She commandeered approximately 140 lodge members and friends, in an effort to help eradicate this affliction. A program of speakers, singers and an enjoyable game of breast cancer Jeopardy was led by Chris Hukak. The event raised \$4,900.⁰⁰. The proceeds will be dedicated to a local resource, the Adelphi Breast Cancer program in Garden City, NY, where support teams and survivors share in the struggle. It was a great day.



Breast Cancer Luncheon.



Youth Day

Due to a tremendous rain storm, Lodge 151 had to hold its Youth Day indoors. Over 100 children and their grandparents were in attendance. GCU teens Paul & Nicholas Mamay gave out pumpkins and helped the children decorate them. The children enjoyed the GCU activity books and even sat down and worked on some of the activities. It was a great day filled with face painting and candy. There were many happy faces and full stomachs.

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

Ethnic Harvest Dinner

Lodge 151 supported the Church of the Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church in Smithtown, NY Ethnic Harvest Dinner on October 21. The food consisted of homemade pierogies, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, sauerkraut and other ethnic foods. Over 170 people, in two servings, enjoyed the delicious food. The church's folk dancing group entertained the diners. There was a boutique with many handmade items and other fundraising activities. The church made over \$5,500.00 which includes Parish Expansion Matching Funds from the GCU. Andi Wolles and her group worked hard to make this event a success. The lodge presented an icon to Father Tyler Strand for being our spiritual advisor for many years. A special thank you for his support and advice.



Lodge 151 officers for 2018.

Presentation of Check

Marge Russell presented a Matching Funds check to Fr. Nicholas Daddona for the church handicap ramp. Fr. Daddona was very happy and thanked the GCU for their continued support. The ramp was just completed and will meet the needs of the parish.

Marge Pajer Russell | President

UPCOMING LODGE 164 EVENTS

First Quarter Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Following Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center

Founders' Day Brunch

Sunday, February 11

Following Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center

Lenten Soup & Sandwich

Starting Wednesday, February 14

Youngstown Area Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 18

Time to be Announced

Camelot Lanes, Boardman, OH

Contact Elaine Chachko at 330-755-6243

Second Quarter Meeting

Sunday, April 8

Following Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center

Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Fourth Quarter/Annual Meeting

Lodge 164 held its Fourth Quarter/Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017. The lodge honored local veterans, elected officers and planned the 2018 Calendar of Activities. A check of \$3,127.00 was presented to Fr. Richard Lambert to benefit St. Mary's Assumption Center. These were raised at the Father's Day Bingo along with GCU Matching Funds of \$1,500.00.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



Veterans Emery MacDonald, Don Danko, John Trella and George Lutza.



Announcing the
GCU



2018 Art, Photo & Video contest!

This year's theme is:

"Invested in Relaxation"



Art



Need some inspiration? **Brainstorm:**
How do you relax?
Where do you go to relax?
What relaxes you the most?
Who do you like to relax with?



If you're 12 or younger, enter your artwork!
-submission must be original on paper or art board – maximum size 12" x 18"
-include short description of your art, name, age, address, phone number and email on the back of your submission



Photo



Video

If you're age 13 – 23 enter your photo or video!
-send photo submissions to events@GCUusa.com
-videos must be at least 30 seconds, maximum of three minutes
-include short description, name, age, address, phone number and email with your submission
-photos or videos that include identifiable people require a model release. *Find the model release and exact directions for submitting your video at GCUusa.com/events.

Deadline
April 6, 2018

Winners in each category will receive a gift card of their choice!

One entry per member. All contestants must be a GCU member for one year.

Membership and age is determined as of March 31, 2018.



Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA

Rosary for 100th Anniversary of Fatima

Lodge 182 and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Rosary Society in Kingston participated in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Fatima. A living Rosary was held at St. Mary on October 14, 2017 in conjunction with the worldwide Pray the Rosary event.



Lodge 182 members with a few of the Angel Tree donations.

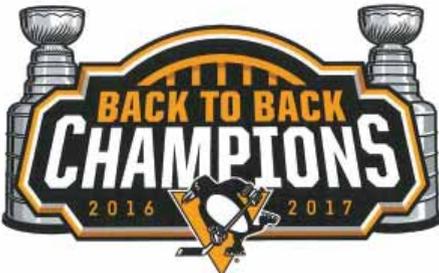
Angel Tree Donation

Lodge 182 donated gifts to local children for Christmas in conjunction with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. The Angel Tree Program is a unique holiday assistance program that connects generous individuals or groups with a deserving child in need. Tags are chosen from a tree. Each tag lists a child's first name, their age, their sizes and what toys they are interested in. Lodge 182 hopes that their efforts were successful in making at least a few children's Christmases a little merrier!

Laure Marcin | Secretary

Join us for an Eastern Conference Final rematch!

2018 Penguin Outing



**Tuesday
February 13, 2018
7PM**

PPG Paints Arena
Pittsburgh, PA
Section 234

**Members: \$52
Non-members: \$62**

Credit Cards Accepted

GCUusa.com

800-722-4428 ext. 3809

Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH

Hayride

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, Lodge 255 continued the tradition of the annual hayride at Duda's Farm in Brownsville, PA. Twenty-nine people enjoyed the unusually hot & sunny, 80+ degree day.

The day began with lunch and dessert—all the ingredients to make s'mores were ready to go. The families also had time to explore the farm, shop at the market, ride the double barrel shotgun slide or navigate the corn mazes. Next, a variety of games were played by the children and adults. Following the games, a tractor took all on a long hayride, viewing many scarecrows dressed in various attire along the way. A stop was made so everyone could pick a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch before arriving back at the farm.

Kim Kolesar | Lodge 28 Secretary-Treasurer



Lodge 255 members enjoyed a hayride and pumpkin picking.



Halloween Party

Saturday, October 28 was the Annual Kid's Halloween Party organized by Jennifer Gula at St. John Chrysostom Church.



Tailgate Party

Sunday, November 12 was the 15th Annual Steeler Tailgate held at St. John Chrysostom Church. With money raised and matching funds from the GCU, \$7,000.00 was given to the church, the local food bank and the children of wounded warriors. Thanks to the Niskach family and all the other volunteers including: those who donated, organized, worked the day of the event and the kitchen crew. The largest crowd in the 15 year history of the event, was in attendance. The best way to end the event was with a Steeler win! Without the hours of prep work this successful event would not be possible year after year.



Donation to St. John Chrysostom Church.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 19 was the Lodge 255 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. John Miller recognized the golf and bowling winners and presented them with Dick's Sporting Goods Gift Cards. John Niskach, Patty Niskach and Judy Gula presented donation checks to St. John Chrysostom Church and the Greenfield Food Bank.

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director



Donation to Greenfield Food Bank.



Lodge 271 Prairie Fest.

Lodge 271

HOMER GLEN, IL

"Prairie Fest: 2017–10 Year Celebration"

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church held its 10th annual Prairie Fest from August 11-13, 2017. The festival is filled with everything from music, art, food, education and evangelization. There was music for everyone: ABBA Salute, Piano Man, Nick Lynch and culminated with "Polka Sunday." Children had plenty of activities from an arts and crafts area, to a play area with a bouncy obstacle course. There was a juggler Chris Fascione, baseball mascots-South Paw (WHITE SOX) and Clark (CHICAGO CUBS), pictures with the "Pope" and new this year a "Dunk Tank."

The fest has grown from a church event to a true community event. Summed up best by Rev. Father Thomas Loya, pastor at Annunciation, "It's a way for us to open our heart and our home to the community."

Lodge 271 has been a main sponsor of the fest over the years as well as having its members volunteer throughout the weekend event.

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

Lodge 288

CLAIRTON, PA

Matching Funds Luncheon

Lodge 288 held a Matching Funds luncheon on Sunday, November 5, 2017 to benefit the Clairton Police and Canine Unit. Guests provided a wide variety of delicious pot luck items for the luncheon. Several fundraising activities were held. The canine officer was recently deployed to Afghanistan, so in his place Officer Jeff Simmons, attended to thank everyone. He spoke about the department and their appreciation of the lodge's efforts to help out with much needed equipment. He also participated by picking the fundraising activity winners while keeping everyone laughing with comments and joke—a regular comedian! He took time out to talk with the kids about police work before having to get back to his patrol.

Annual Field Trip

The annual parish field trip was on Sunday, November 19 to Butler, PA. Family members boarded the bus with the first stop for brunch at the Eat-n-Park buffet in Butler. Then on to experience an alpaca farm to feed them snacks and to pet the alpacas, even week-old twin alpacas in winter wraps. The gift shop was a popular spot with the group buying socks, scarves and other hand-made alpaca fur items.

After a few unexpected road closures due to flooding and construction we finally arrived at the next stop, the Glass Blowing Center in Hilliards, PA. The owner of the shop demonstrated the different types of glass melting and blowing, using a blow torch to mystify everyone with glass bubbles, ornaments and creating a delicate hummingbird decoration.

From there the bus trip continued onto the Butler Fairgrounds to see the Shadrack Light display. Driving through the fairy land of lights was a thrill. Afterwards the group visited the Christmas Festival for refreshments and gift ideas as the kids rode the train and other amusement park rides. Last stop was a quick McDonald's dinner for the ride home after a wonderfully exhausting day!

Food Drive

Lodge 288 plans to close out the year with a food drive to benefit the local food bank in collaboration with the neighborhood Rite Aid and assisting with the annual church St. Nicholas breakfast.

Trish Roberts | President



Adults and children both enjoyed the alpacas.

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

Trunk or Treat

It was a ghoulish afternoon on Sunday, October 30, 2016 for the Trunk or Treat and Halloween Party event for more than 40 children and adults. Treats were distributed in St. Joseph's Hall due to inclement weather. Refreshments included apple cider and donuts. A big thank you goes out to Diana Simpson and Jean Karaffa for helping to make this a spooktacular event!



Trunk or Treat Party.



Murder Mystery Benefit

Lodge 302 sponsored the wacky and crazy Addams Family Murderous Mayhem Murder Mystery on Saturday, November 4, 2017 to benefit the "Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation." The foundation builds mortgage-free smart homes for the most catastrophically injured service members and first responders. Every home is custom designed to address the unique needs of each individual. More than 200 attendees enjoyed the show, dinner, specialty themed drinks and prizes. Thank you to all the lodge volunteers and donations that made this event one of the largest fundraisers sponsored by Lodge 302.

Food Drive

In the spirit of Thanksgiving the annual Lodge 302 Food Drive and Banner Sunday was held at St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH, on Saturday, November 18 and Sunday, November 19. Non-perishable food items will be donated to St. Mary's Hospitality House along with a Lodge 302 monetary donation of \$200.⁰⁰.

Please like us on Facebook! Lodge 302 photos and events are also posted on our Facebook site www.facebook.com/GCULodge302.



Children with food drive donations.



2018 Lodge 302 officers.

Annual Meeting

The Lodge 302 fourth quarter/annual meeting and luncheon was held on November 5, 2017. Officers elected for the 2018 year are: President/Secretary Judy Weitzel, Vice President/Recording Secretary Bonnie Ciresi, Treasurer Michael Andrako, Athletic Director Jean Karaffa, Fraternal Director Diana Simpson, Publicity Director Diane Richey, Sergeant-at-Arms/Standard Bearer Jerry Holderbaum, Auditors John Kresnisky & Don LeFleur and Chaplain Fr. Bruce Riebe. Former Cuyahoga Heights Mayor and GCU member Ralph Contipelli administered the oath of office. Congratulations to this hard-working team of officers!

Diane Richey | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

First Quarter Meeting/Founders' Day Luncheon

Sunday, February 4, 2018—Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH

Annual Adult Game Night

Saturday, March 10 at 5:30 PM

St. Joseph's Activity Center, Brecksville, OH

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 25 at 12 NOON

St. Joseph's Church Hall, Brecksville, OH



St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church 100th Anniversary.

Lodge 319

FLUSHING, MI

Parish 100th Anniversary

Lodge 319 joined the parishioners of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in the celebration of the parish's 100th Anniversary. The event took place on Saturday, October 21, 2017.

A Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop John Kudrick followed by a banquet in the church hall. The short program was opened by Marie Zuk, planning committee chairperson, she recognized George Dunich, a member of the parish since 1917. Pastor, Fr. David Hannes, then offered his heartfelt thanks for the efforts to make the event special. As the parish bulletin noted: "The establishment of St. Michael Parish has been the result of many prayers and many, many helping hands. We are here today to give thanks to our generous Lord: especially for the founders and benefactors of this holy place."

Pat Chartier | President

Lodge 321

BRADENVILLE, PA

2017 in Review

Spring Events—Lodge 321 members baked loaves of pascha and donated them to the Ladies Guild Easter Bake Sale. The lodge also provided an Easter Treat for the CCD students at St. Mary's Church. Ellie McDonald, Ella Chappell and Jovie Williams celebrated the Reception of Holy Communion—the Lodge presented each with a gold Byzantine cross and chain to commemorate the event. On Mothers' Day all mothers and fathers were honored at a strawberry shortcake celebration. All mothers received flowers and all fathers received prayer cards.

Summer Events—In July, Sarah Wood, daughter of Bob & Sherrie Wood, was awarded the Lodge 321 Scholarship. Sarah is a junior at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she is a double major in Criminology and Spanish. On August 6, St. Mary's Holy

Protection BC Church in Latrobe, PA held a mini festival and Ethnic Dinner. Over \$7,000.00 was raised for the Church's Building Maintenance and Improvement fund. The Home Office provided "giveaways" for the event.

Fall Events—In October at the District 4 Annual Banquet two college students from Lodge 321 were recognized for receiving \$1,500.00 GCU Scholarships—Aaron Gulibon and Sarah Wood. Aaron also received Best Essay. On November 19, a reception brunch was held at the Dome in honor of Helen Homulka, a GCU member and the oldest parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Bradenville. The occasion was her

100th birthday. Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla was the main celebrant of the Liturgy that day. The lodge presented Helen with flowers. The lodge provided snacks and drinks for the CCD students of St. Mary's Church in Bradenville and for St. Mary Holy Protection Church in Latrobe after the Liturgies on Sunday, December 3, the parish celebration of St. Nicholas Day.

Laurene Kristof | Publicity Director



Volunteers who made the Ethnic Dinner a success.



Lodge 340

RAHWAY, NJ

Autumn Helping Hands Activity

On a very warm, sunny September day GCU member Don Anderson, the church landscaper, coordinated the planting of 25 pale yellow mums. The mums look beautiful on the front lawn of St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church. Don has offered his time and talent to plant these mums for the past couple of years. Thank you to the Home Office for the Helping Hands grant to make this event possible and for the Helping Hands t-shirts.

“The Homeless Bus” Charity Table

Lodge 340 partnered with the St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church Altar Rosary Society to sponsor “The Homeless Bus” charity table at their annual Tricky Tray event. The Homeless Bus charity benefits the growing homeless population. Each Saturday night the bus arrives in NYC with sandwiches, hard boiled eggs, snacks, toiletries and various clothing items. The Bus provides basic necessities for more than 300 homeless individuals. This year the lodge prizes included a \$250 gift card, a Tommy Hilfiger leather bag and a pair of Tommy Hilfiger sunglasses. The Tricky Tray took place on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in the St. Thomas Church hall. There were over 300 people in attendance at this successful GCU Matching Funds event.

Mary Bannworth | President



Annual Tricky Tray event.

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Ham and Halupki Dinner

Lodge 351 held its annual Ham and Halupki Dinner at St. Jude’s Byzantine Catholic Church in Ernest, PA on Sunday, October 22, 2017. Homemade haluski was included with the dinner and there also was an assortment of homemade cakes. The take-out only dinner was planned by members of Lodge 351 and parishioners of St. Jude. Agnes Klyap used a halupki recipe that was handed down to her through the St. Jude Church ladies and she carefully directed the newbies in the cooking of the cabbage, preparing the meat mixture and rolling the halupki. The dinner was a success and plans are being made to hold another dinner in the fall of 2018.

Patty Yamrick | Publicity Director



Agnes Klyap.



Lodge 360

CAMPBELL, OH

Halloween Treats

Parish Children at St. Michael's enjoyed receiving Halloween treats sponsored by Lodge 360 following the Liturgies on the weekend of October 28-29, 2017. Aubrey & Christopher Vokish, children of GCU member Keri Vokish were excited to receive their treat bags, especially their GCU coloring books.

Food Drive

GCU Lodge 360 recently sponsored a food drive to benefit the local St. Vincent dePaul Food Kitchen. The event raised over \$500.00 in cash and food donations. Any parishioner who donated to the food drive was entered into a drawing to win a beautiful lottery wreath made by lodge President Ed Stanko. Lodge member John Dubos was the lucky winner of the drawing.

Lisa Kinnick Romito | Secretary/Treasurer



Lodge 390

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Vendor Fair

On Saturday, September 23, The Slavjane Folk Ensemble held a Vendor Fair at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, PA.

Over 15 different vendors displayed and sold their wares to visitors. During the day, members of Slavjane sang and played for those present.

Slavjane receives financial consideration from the GCU. This fundraiser received GCU Matching Funds through Lodge 390. Slavjane is grateful to the GCU for all the support.

Fall Helping Hands

Every fall Holy Ghost Church gathers to spruce up the public areas and grounds. Outdoors the crew pulled all the dirt, weeds and plants from the sidewalks and curbs on the block surrounding the church and school buildings and bagged the scattered litter. Weather was pleasant for both clean-up weekends. The main storage area inside the school was also cleaned out and reorganized. The local community noticed and appreciated the cleaner look on the block. Many thanks to our volunteers.



Halloween Party

On Saturday, October 21 Holy Ghost Church and Lodge 390 held a Halloween costume party for the parish and friends. The school gym was festively decorated for the event. A fall themed photo area with hay bales and pumpkins provided a nice back drop for guests to make permanent memories of the night. Games, contests and dancing with Halloween themed music provided the entertainment for the evening.

Steve Puluka | Secretary Treasurer



Lodge 401

NANTY-GLO, PA

Annual Picnic

GCU Lodge 401 in conjunction with members of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, held the annual summer picnic at Nanty-Glo Park & Pool on September 9, 2017.

The weather was sunny and cool. The 75 plus people in attendance included pastor Fr. Robert Oravetz and a surprise guest, GCU District 4 President John Katana. John was curious to find out if the rumors were true that the food was among the very best—he seemed well pleased.

Thanks to all who planned and setup the event, to the GCU Home Office for their financial assistance and the items for the kids. A thank you is also in order for those who attended and shared a dessert and covered dish.

Eugene Ostinowsky | Vice-President

Lodge 442

BOARDMAN, OH

Annual Parish Dinner

Lodge 442 members attended the Altar and Rosary Society's Annual Parish Dinner for Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church. The annual dinner was held for all parishioners and guests on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, Boardman, OH. It was a beautiful fall afternoon for parishioners and guests to break bread together, socialize and get to know one another better. Lodge 442 donated a gift card prize and lodge members helped in making favors and centerpieces as prizes.



Matching Funds Project

Lodge 442 concluded their Community Matching Funds project for The Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley on Sunday, November 5, 2017. A big “thank you” to all members and parishioners who gave so generously.

Elaine Chachko | Activities Director

UPCOMING LODGE 442 EVENT

First Quarter Meeting

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Following Liturgy

Infant Jesus of Prague Church

A coffee and donut social for all parishioners and guests will be held prior to the meeting



GHRL at Sight and Sound Theater to see "Jonah."

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

The leaves have all but fallen off the trees, the hillsides are once again barren and gray. Mother Nature is now getting ready for our annual crazy winter forecasts. This is the wonderful part of living in the Northeast, you can experience all four seasons in one season.



At left: Claire Kaschak (bowling ball) and Mary Ellen Fichter (bowling pin).
At right: the Mick family and their dog during the visit at Thomas Farms.



Recap of Fall Events

On Saturday, September 23 members boarded the bus to see the biblical story of "Jonah" at the Sight and Sound Theater. After the show, it was Good and Plenty for dinner. A trip to see the play "Jesus" at Sight and Sound is planned for Saturday, August 18, 2018. Reservations for the show, dinner and transportation are already complete—for further details, please call Agnes at 570-454-4869.

The annual Hayride took place at Thomas Farms on October 1.

Fall Helping Hands Day was held on Saturday, October 28 at Holy Annunciation Monastery. There were 30 volunteers from GHRL and District 5. Once again, a lot of work was accomplished in a short period of time.

The Cold Hands-Warm Heart Clothing drive took place the first 2 weeks of November. Presentation of the donations will be made to Catholic Social Services. Thanks to all who donated toward this project.

The GHRL bus trips are done for the rest of this year. The lodge sponsored trips to the Sands Casino on October 22 and November 18. Some of the bus trip attendees toured the steel stacks (the old Bethlehem Steel Stacks) and many got some Christmas shopping done at the outlets.

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

First Quarter Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2018

1 PM

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, McAdoo, PA

Pre-Lenten Casino Trip (Sands Casino)

Sunday, February 4

Jr. Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 18

Time to be announced

Bowl-Arena, West Hazleton, PA

Annual St. Nicholas Dinner

The annual St. Nicholas dinner was held on Sunday, December 3 at Capriotti's. A visit from St. Nicholas, good food, tricky trays and a fundraiser were held. Thanks to the Home Office for the grant and also the gifts. Christmas donations were made to all of the parishes of the regional lodge and scholarship winners—Stephen Betterly and Leslie Peters were honored.

Thank You

I would like to thank the Home Office for their help in fulfilling all GHRL's requests, the fraternal grants, the gifts and their time. Thank you also to all the volunteers at GHRL that make the projects a success. Here is wishing the entire GCU world a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a very Healthy and Happy New Year. Remember to keep "Christ" in Christmas.

Sometimes, due to circumstances beyond our control, dates and activities are subject to change. If you are ever in doubt about an event or meeting, please give me a call at 570-454-4869 or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates.

Till next time, take care and may God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director



2018 GHRL officers.

Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

Halloween Party

On Saturday, October 28 Lodge 625 held its annual Halloween Party for the children of the lodge. Eight children participated in the party that was held at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church. The children were treated to pizza, hot dogs, cupcakes and cookies. They each made a Halloween craft and were given a GCU bag filled with various candy and goodies. Following the party some of the children participated in the community trick or treat night and the lodge handed out treat bags, coloring books and crayons to the local community children. The lodge wishes to thank the Home Office for the donation of bags, coloring books and crayons and the grant to make this annual event a success.

Swiss Steak Dinner

On Sunday, November 12 Lodge 625 held the final fundraiser for the year, a Swiss Steak Dinner at Holy Trinity Church hall, Conemaugh PA. Over 150 meals were sold and the lodge proceeds were added to the treasury for planned December events. We also honored parish veterans with a free dinner.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, November 26 following Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church. Through the music festival fund raiser held in August and the Matching Funds from the Home Office the lodge voted to donate \$3,000.00 to various community non-profits. A list will be provided in our next report.

St. Nicholas Party

On December 6, following Divine Liturgy for the St. Nicholas feast day, the lodge sponsored its annual St. Nicholas pizza/salad event. All in attendance at Liturgy were invited to enjoy food and fellowship.

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the email list are asked to send an email to gculodge625@yahoo.com.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer



Kids in attendance at the Halloween Party holding their GCU drawstring bags.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

Christmas Eve Social

Sunday, December 24

Following Divine Liturgy

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Light refreshments provided by the lodge

Founders' Day Coffee Social

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Following Divine Liturgy

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, February 18

11 AM - 2 PM

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

First Quarter Meeting

Sunday, March 4

Following Divine Liturgy

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

More from Lodge 644

AKRON/BARBERTON, OH

Annual Meeting

The annual Lodge 644 meeting was held on Sunday, October 22 and the lodge is looking forward to another active year. Along with a \$100.00 donation to the Eparchial Annual Stewardship Appeal, the annual community Matching Fund project to benefit the Salvation Army as well as the Good Samaritan Hunger Center was planned.

Recognition Dinner

Each year Lodge 644 has a Recognition Dinner when the members come together to socialize and enjoy a fine meal. This year the dinner was on December 9 at Bricco Prime Restaurant in Portage Lakes, OH. This has been a very successful event for many years and this year was no exception.

In Memory

We are sad to report that Kate Rekettye passed away on October 11. She had been a very active member of Lodge 644 for many years and her presence at church and lodge activities will be missed. The lodge would like to extend condolences to her family and friends.

As the holidays approach Lodge 644 wishes all GCU members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Keblesh | Publicity



Sue Irving, Mary Ann Pinto and Joanne Angeletti.

2018 Officers

President Sue Irving, Secretary Mary Ann Pinto and Treasurer Joanne Angeletti were re-elected as officers. They have been doing an excellent job and the membership welcomes their continued service.

Lodge 860

DETROIT, MI

Laughter, Fun, Food and Prizes!

This fourth annual pub-style Trivia Night for adults was once again hosted by Lodge 860 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Clinton Township, MI, on Saturday, November 11, 2017.

For a two-dollar admission fee, attendees enjoyed a light supper organized by Anne Nagrant. Then teams formed and answered seven rounds of trivia questions, led by Diane McDonald, this year's Trivia Master. Since it was Veteran's Day, the first category featured questions on the topic of the armed forces. Throughout the remaining categories, participants tested their knowledge while picking up interesting new facts and tidbits.

Monetary prizes were awarded for the top four teams.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal Activities Director & Publicity Director



The first place winning team. Clockwise from left front: John Sanders, Gary Spisak, Duane & Valerie Vancil, Bob Kulasa and Karen Sanders.

Lodge 945

DUNMORE, PA

Tis the season when we “fall back” in time, but move forward in activity, as Lodge 945 plans and participates in many events.

Halloween Help

The fall season of activities began with lodge volunteers helping with Sherwood Park’s annual Halloween Parade and Party for the area youngsters. Lodge 945 also provided financial assistance to help supply candy for the trick or treaters.

Pot Luck Celebration

Lodge 945 was happy to provide refreshments and a few entrees for St. Michael’s Feast Day pot luck celebration. In addition, several lodge members volunteered to help with the set-up and clean-up. Delicious dishes and desserts were on the menu provided by parishioners.

Feed a Friend

Through the month of November the lodge combined efforts with St. Michael’s parish family for the very successful Annual Feed a Friend drive. The lodge utilized the Home Office Matching Funds program to increase the contribution to Scranton Rescue Mission. Thank you to everyone who generously participated.

4th Quarter Meeting and 125th Celebration

The fourth quarter/annual meeting was held at Sibio’s Italian Restaurant in Dunmore. In addition to the meeting, the lodge celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the GCU. We thank the Home Office and Basil Wahal and his staff for providing us with the very informative program booklet with GCU historical facts and the commemorative giveaways. Thank you to Fred Petro for his research about Lodge 945. It was interesting to find out that the lodge has been in existence for 123 of the GCU’s 125 years. The lodge founders’ would be proud that the original mission continues today. Thank you to George Kofel for chairing this special event. Before the festivities began, the business meeting took place with election of officers and designation of annual monetary donations. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, 2018.

CONTINUED



National Director George Kofel and Lodge 945 President Paul Dunda with Michael and Blake, who volunteered at the clean-up for school service hours.

Walking Trail Clean-Up

The bi-annual clean up at Dunmore’s Walking Trail sprung the interest of some local school students required to do community service hours. Their effort made Lodge 945 President Paul Dunda happy to sign off on their service hours. Noticing that the American Flag that flies at the trail’s entrance was tattered, George Kofel left to buy a new flag and with the help of everyone, replaced that flag. The wildlife and those who enjoy using the trail have a nicely refreshed area to enjoy for the next few months.



National Director George Kofel shown with Fr. Leonard Martin, pastor of St. Mary Church, Scranton, accepting a matching funds check from the summer festival.

Lodge 945 CONTINUED

Holiday Activities

The annual Angel Tree project for the residents of the Gino Merli Veterans Home ran through the middle of December. This is the seventh year of conducting this program in partnership with St. Michael's parish family and the fourth year the gifts are being given to the veterans home. If you would like to participate, please contact Sharon Kofel at 570-561-5696.

To close out the busy holiday season activities, Lodge 945 sponsored the annual St. Nicholas Celebration for the St. Michael's parish family. Children of the parish were greeted by St. Nicholas who gave gifts to them following in his tradition of giving to children. Refreshments were served to all in attendance and GCU giveaways were given. Thank you to Sharon Kofel for chairing the activity.

A very familiar and active lodge member has been missed these past few weeks. God's blessing for a speedy recovery are sent to Mary "Toppo" Zayac. Toppo had surgery and is recuperating at home. You are missed and Lodge 945 hopes to see you up and about soon.

In closing, a Blessed Christmas Season and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year are wished to all Lodge 945 members and the GCU family. Looking forward to a not too snowy winter and an early spring.

Elsie Kolcun | Fraternal/Publicity Director



Sharon Kofel (second from left) is shown with Mary & Sal DeMarco, parishioners and Father Robert Lozinski, pastor of St. Michael's Dunmore accepting a Matching Funds check towards the church roof campaign.

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation & Holiday Schedule

The GCU Home Office (800.722.4428) is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The Call Center (855.306.0607) accepts calls Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7 PM EST and Fridays 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The GCU Home Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26, 2017 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of New Year's Day.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



2018 GCU National Event Dates

Family Outings

- Sunday, June 3** Byzantine Family Day—Passaic—Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA
 - Thursday, July 26** Byzantine Family Day—Pittsburgh—Kennywood Park, W. Mifflin, PA
- Note:** Be sure to check the GCU Website www.gcuusa.com for affinity discounts at amusement parks and other family attractions.

Sports Outings

- Tuesday, February 13** NHL Hockey Game, Pittsburgh Penguins vs. Ottawa Senators
- Mon.-Tues., May 21-22** 2018 GCU National Bowling Tournament
GCU & Slovak Catholic Sokol
The Orleans—Las Vegas, NV
- Monday, June 4** GCU Spring Golf Classic at Seven Oaks CC, Beaver, PA
- Saturday, August 18** PNC Park-Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball plus Fireworks
- Fri.-Sun., Aug. 10-12** GCU + SCS National Golf Tournament—Tam-O-Shanter and Oak
Tree Country Club, West Middlesex, PA
- Saturday, Sept. 15** Charity Golf Scramble, Seven Oaks CC, Beaver, PA

Fraternal Activities & Events

- Monday, January 31** Scholarship Information Submission Deadline
- Friday, April 6** Art, Photo + Video Contest Deadline
- Saturday, June 2** Helping Hands Day at Mt. Saint Macrina, Uniontown, PA and
Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA
- Sunday, December 9** 62nd Annual St. Nicholas Celebration
A Benefit for SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary

Cause of the Quarter

In July of 2017 GCU introduced the Cause of the Quarter. The idea is to have a cause that all of our members can donate to. Whether they are active in their local lodge or even those that do not have a local lodge, the Cause of the Quarter invites all our members to be part of the GCU—Investing in the Goodness of Community. The GCU Board of Directors will match total donations from each quarter up to \$2,500/quarter. Donation information is available on the GCU Website: www.GCUusa.com.

- January-March** National Center for Addiction & Substance Abuse
- April-June** Alzheimers Association
- July-September** Local Volunteer Fire Departments
- October-December** Salvation Army-Project Bundle Up & Treasurers for Children

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

83	Ernest F. Aimino, Indiana, PA	644	Charles Davis, Tallmadge, OH	600	Elizabeth Gursky, Emmaus, PA
994	Eugene Alquin, Aliquippa, PA	8344	Anthony R. De Robertis, Stroudsburg, PA	83	Jean Harris, Ambler, PA
83	Alvin Altieri, Cecil, PA	360	Steve Democko, Kettering, OH	83	Sayoko Hawthorne, Monroeville, PA
47	Irene Armstrong, Binghamton, NY	10	Lorraine D'Eramo, Aliquippa, PA	28	Mary Jane Herk, Pittsburgh, PA
81	Ernest Arnold, Perryopolis, PA	83	Olga Dougherty, Springdale, PA	83	Rose Ann Hess, Millsboro, PA
83	Kathleen Balogh, McKeesport, PA	83	Rose Drury, Jeannette, PA	83	Edna Hice, Greensburg, PA
211	John Barna, Wexford, PA	12	John Duch, Wyckoff, NJ	2	Margaret Hixon, Pittsburgh, PA
83	Jean M. Baumgartel, Greenville, PA	83	Richard Durachko, Phoenixville, PA	182	John Hohl, Pringle, PA
83	Cecelia Beblo, Butler, PA	600	Adela Durkay, Bethlehem, PA	83	Marie Holet, Monessen, PA
83	Mae L. Benedict, Orwigsburg, PA	83	Francis X. Eells, Hatboro, PA	8304	Christa Howard, Escondido, CA
8358	LaVon Birkrem, Cambridge, WI	10	Eugene Eiler, Aliquippa, PA	8344	George Hutnick, Allentown, PA
8358	Betty J. Blasczyk, Green Bay, WI	83	Patricia A. Emerick, Butler, PA	83	Martha Hutton, West Hills, CA
83	John M. Bodnar, Pittsburgh, PA	302	Dale John Esper, Brooklyn, OH	999	Patricia Ann Iwasiek, Phoenix, AZ
62	Helen Bonarrigo, Simsbury, CT	83	Evelyn Eves, Monaca, PA	945	Robert J. Jones, Scranton, PA
83	Helen G. Borger, Bellefonte, PA	83	Julia Faiola, Apollo, PA	8309	Theda M. Jones, Ocala, FL
271	Anna Borosky, Palos Hts., IL	83	Clarence Farmer, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Elizabeth Kallok, Pittsburgh, PA
83	Mildred P. Brett, Robinson, PA	2	Troy John Ferron, Clearwater, FL	8358	John Kane, Pittsville, WI
8344	Kenneth E. Brown, Edinburg, PA	83	James C. Finley, Hatboro, PA	390	Eleanor Kapko, Mars, PA
83	Anna Buckley, King of Prussia, PA	860	Jack R. Flesher, Clinton Twp., MI	271	Marlene Kassebaum, Belleville, IL
83	Mary Lou Buckley, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Marie Fodse, Swansboro, NC	83	Emil Kenyhercz, Pittsburgh, PA
66	Richard Buksar, Merrillville, IN	83	Ora M. Folden, Latrobe, PA	83	Mary C. Kiefner, Willow Grove, PA
83	Charles Burkarth, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Eugene R. Fraley, Pittsburgh, PA	77	Julanne Kolesar, Amherst, OH
83	Lloyd Earl Cable, Winter Haven, FL	83	Samuel R. Fuoco, Monessen, PA	860	Patricia Kollar, Lake Worth, FL
83	Elizabeth Campanelli, Avella, PA	83	Steven Fusick, Sacramento, CA	83	Kathleen M. Kostelnik, Pittsburgh, PA
83	Sara Elizabeth Cargiene, Canonsburg, PA	644	Florence M. Garnick, Uniontown, OH	999	Leona Krenke, Mesa, AZ
83	Helen Chappel, Naples, FL	83	Glenn A. Geidel, Ford City, PA	83	Steve Kundrat, Bluffton, SC
250	Edith M. Cipa, Shelby Twp., MI	83	Dorothy Gidcumb, Dallas, TX	8344	Gene R. Kyle, Bellwood, PA
83	Zella M. Cleaver, Orangeville, PA	83	Maryanna Giles, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Jack A. Leake, Greensburg, PA
83	Vivian Crawford, Uniontown, PA	83	Martha Graznak, Tarentum, PA	83	Claire Lear, Pipersville, PA
83	Ruth Creps, Roaring Spring, PA	83	Philomenia Greenawalt, East Brady, PA	271	Francis Lee, Swansea, IL
336	Seth J. Cronin, Willoughby, OH	600	John P. Gretchen, Freeland, PA	8358	Albert J. LeFever, Menomonee Falls, WI
57	Dolores Culyba, Belle Vernon, PA	211	Anna Griffin, Olyphant, PA	83	Robert Lepore, New Castle, PA
83	Gertrude Cypher, Herman, PA	8344	Theresa Groeller, Bethlehem, PA	994	Patrick A. Lomagro, Industry, PA
8344	Jean R. Dadey, Reading, PA	83	Daniel Elsworth Gromley, Indiana, PA	8358	William Lux, Madison, WI
8344	Celeste Danisavich, Barnesville, PA				

83	John Marshalek, Rural Ridge, PA	319	Nancy A. Putnam, Prudenville, MI	83	Dorothy Turner, Warren, PA
92	Thomas Matkosky, Peckville, PA	69	Jennifer S. Rankin, Millersville, PA	7	Michael G. Valko, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
83	Joann Matula, Fredericktown, PA	83	Blanche A. Regan, Johnstown, PA	10	Andrew Vargo, W Aliquippa, PA
83	Mary J. Maximo, East Millsboro, PA	644	Catherine Rekettye, Akron, OH	83	Virginia Vinglas, Cresson, PA
83	Ernest McDivitt, Indiana, PA	83	Robert Retorick, Clarence, PA	83	Rose M. Wagner, Butler, PA
83	William McElroy, Acme, PA	83	Kathleen Rihs, Pittsburgh, PA	252	Mary E. Wansack, Youngstown, OH
83	Wanetta McGrady, Fredericktown, PA	8344	Jeanie C. Ritchie, Lansdale, PA	83	Rhea M. Waples, Warren, PA
83	Caroline E. Measmer, Finleyville, PA	83	Cornelius Robinson, Dilliner, PA	83	Myrtle Ward, Broomall, PA
83	Irene Mellon, Anderson, SC	83	Nancy Rock, Smithfield, PA	665	Anne Washco, Union, NJ
62	William Meterko, Punxsutawney, PA	8309	Nancy Rosenberg, Fernandina Beach, FL	83	James Webb, Johnstown, PA
319	Peter Paul Midock, Flint, MI	235	Esther Rozum, Seymour, CT	8344	Mary C. Weinzierl, Johnstown, PA
83	Anna Miller, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Samuel Rura, Belford, NJ	83	Albert Weirich, Duncansville, PA
83	Helen B. Miller, Dayton, PA	83	Carl T. Russo, Warren, PA	83	Dorothy Wells, Avalon, PA
83	Helen M. Miller, Cheswick, PA	83	Grace Sanker, Johnstown, PA	600	Mary Wernosky, Romney, WV
83	LaVerne M. Miller, Greensburg, PA	994	Eugene Schleiger, Beaver, PA	8309	Flora H. Westberry, Orange Park, FL
83	Paul Miller, Point Marion, PA	83	Robert Sciulli, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Pearl Winters, Greensburg, PA
83	Helen Millow, Uniontown, PA	10	Frank A. Serecin, Monaca, PA	83	Grace E. Wise, Pittsburgh, PA
625	Anna Mindala, Johnstown, PA	83	Clara Shafer, Greenville, PA	83	Julia Wright, Debary, FL
665	Dorothy Mitko, Monroe Township, NJ	52	Ralph Shaw, West Finley, PA	600	Mary Ann Yakubik, Hazleton, PA
83	Dolores Morrow, Monroeville, PA	8344	Doris J. Shirey, Reading, PA	600	Yvonne Yannuzzi, Hazleton, PA
83	Harry O. Mottern, Chicora, PA	252	Dorothy T. Shirilla, Youngstown, OH	83	Anna Yates, Pittsburgh, PA
83	William Nuhfer, Warren, PA	252	William Simpson, Brookeville, MD	20	Robert Yiaski, Kimberton, PA
860	Henry Thomas Olivas, Pompano Beach, FL	83	Joseph V. Skrobot, Butler, PA	83	Elizabeth J. Yost, Carnegie, PA
255	Claudia Panaiia, W. Homestead, PA	12	Andrew Skurla, Galloway, NJ	20	Dolores Zaccarelli, Springfield, PA
288	Mary Pasinsky, Donora, PA	321	Mary Smail, Greensburg, PA	83	Eva K. Zakuciya, Johnstown, PA
8344	Peter Peckyno, South Park, PA	83	Dolores M. Smith, Butler, PA	83	Mary Ann Zanakis, Indiana, PA
288	Mary Pesta, Dravosburg, PA	83	Helen Smith, Cabot, PA	83	Mary Zofchak, Dayton, OH
83	Carl Phillips, Allentown, PA	860	Mathilda M. Smith, Kalamazoo, MI	83	Ralph E. Zook, Martinsburg, PA
83	Catherine Pijanowski, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Ida Snyder, Tyrone, PA	211	Andrew Zwanch, Jessup, PA
83	Mary C. Pinhas, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Almalene Soborowski, Oil City, PA		
302	Evelyn M. Ponzio, Parma, OH	92	Alex Stachacz, Dickson City, PA		
8344	Mary L. Pramuk, Hollidaysburg, PA	83	Marie Starr, Pittsburgh, PA		
83	David Presock, Mt Pleasant, PA	83	Mary Ann Stephan, Hollywood, FL		
83	John L. Proebstle, Jackson, MI	8358	Douglas R. Stephenson, Albany, WI		
		401	Maleri Lynn Sterner, Nanty Glo, PA		
		83	Helen Tate, Marietta, GA		
		47	Charlotte Tinkunas, Binghamton, NY		
		235	Thomas Tita, Danbury, CT		

Remembrances



Nicholas Yackanicz

GCU Honorary Officer

Nicholas J. Yackanicz, 87, of Whitehall, PA, a retired GCU national and honorary officer, died on November 7, 2017. He was first elected to the GCU Supreme Tribunal at the National Convention in 1968 and four years later he joined the ranks of the Board of Directors. Nick represented what was eventually to become the paradigm for new members elected to the Board, namely, young, college educated and well informed of current lifestyle and business operations.

For seven consecutive National Conventions he easily gained reelection to the Board where he served for 28 years as a member of numerous committees as called upon. In 1976, 1980 and 1984 he performed the duties of Secretary at the National Conventions. When he retired as a member of the Board at the 2000 National Convention, Nick delivered his parting message in a unique manner.

Called upon at the concluding Convention session for a few words of farewell, Nick presented his message in song. In full baritone resonance he sang, "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You" as his departing comments to the GCU Convention delegates. In recognition of his 28 years of continuous service as a national officer, the 2000 Convention delegates designated him GCU Honorary Officer, a distinction for life.

Born in Hazleton, PA, he grew up in nearby Beaver Meadows as the son of the late Nicholas and Ann (Super) Yackanicz. He graduated in 1948 from Hazleton High School, and served in the US Army during the Korean War. He then earned a bachelor's degree in commerce & finance from Bucknell University. While at Bucknell, he played on the undefeated 1951 football team, an achievement he took great pride in and one that he often related to friends and associates.

Nick worked as an accountant for Trojan Powder Co and then for PPL Electric Utilities before retiring in 1991. He was a member of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church, Allentown, PA, where he served as a cantor and was a member of the Holy Name Society. He served as a youth football coach for the Fullerton AA for many years. An avid bowler, fisherman and gardener, he loved music, singing and sports, especially the New York Yankees.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years Gabriella P. (Klocek) Yackanicz; children Susan (Paul) Stafura of West Mifflin, PA, Mary (Kai) Karch of Easton, PA, Nicholas (Lori) Yackanicz Jr. of Emmaus, PA, James (Sandra) Yackanicz of Bethlehem, PA., Joseph (Jennifer) Yackanicz of Ambler, PA, Michael (Lisa) Yackanicz of South Carolina, and John (Linda) Yackanicz of Schwenksville, PA; 21 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sister Maryann Peters; and brothers Carl Yackanicz and Greg Yackanicz. He was predeceased by his granddaughter Leann and brother Paul.

The Office of Christian Burial with Divine Liturgy was celebrated in St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Allentown. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Eternal memory and blessed repose.

John Gregory Duch

John Gregory Duch, Esq. age 57, passed peacefully into the Lord's hands on Sunday, October 8, 2017 surrounded by family members. John was an extraordinary man who wore dozens of hats. He gave much of himself to his family, his friends, his church, and his community. He is survived by his loving wife of 27 years, Elizabeth M. Duch, and his children, Alexandra (Sasha), Gregory, and Stephen; his father, Thomas Duch, and his brother, Thomas J. Duch and wife, Cheryl; his father-in-law, John Paulich, his brother-in-law, John Peter Paulich; his sister-in-law Judy Liquori; and sister-in-law, Christine Kapinos and husband, James; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother, Helen O. Duch and his mother-in-law, Anne Paulich.

John was a graduate of Lehigh University and Seton Hall School of Law. He was a member of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Cathedral located in Passaic, NJ and Woodland Park, NJ. At St. Michael he was a member of the Holy

Name Society, Rosary Society, Annual Festival Committee, and the ever-ready kitchen crew. Professionally, he was a member of the Bergen County Bar Association and a Volunteer Arbitrator in the Passaic County Superior Court.

For the past 18 years he served as co-chairman of the Statewide Slovak Heritage Festival Committee. He was a past vice president of GCU District 7, a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokols, and First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

John was a former Councilman and Deputy Mayor of the City of Garfield, NJ. He was the Public Defender in Clifton, NJ; Elmwood Park, NJ; Rochelle Park, NJ and Central Bergen Municipal Court. He maintained his law practice in Clifton and Elmwood Park.

John was the long-time chairman of the Margaret Muscarelle Child Development Center in Garfield, a former member of the Wyckoff Education Foundation, a frequent marcher in the Pulaski Parade sponsored by St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Garfield, an active band parent at Ramapo Regional High School, and a former assistant coach for the Wyckoff Lacrosse Program.

He will long be remembered for his selfless dedication to his family, his church, his charities, and his civic and professional organizations. John's dedication to family and friends was summed up best by Drew Pavlica, a long-time friend and Garfield City Clerk. The following quote by Mr. Pavlica appeared in a tribute article in the Suburban News publication written by Kristie Cattafi. "Once you were friends with John, you had a friend for life. That's not typical in today's age. He would help anyone at the drop of a hat."

A Funeral Liturgy was con-celebrated at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, by Rev. John Custer, Rev. Jody Baron, Rev. Martin Vavrec, Rev. John Cigan, Rev. Felix Marcyniak, Rev. Stephen Wisniewski, Rev. Edward Szpiech, Msgr. William Reilly, Rev. John Connolly, and Rev. Richard Baker. Interment followed at St. Michael Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Cathedral or the Sisters of St. Basil.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.



TEAM EVENT
MONDAY, MAY 21 – 3-6 PM

DOUBLES AND SINGLES EVENTS
TUESDAY, MAY 22 – NOON TO 6 PM

ROOM RATE \$99*
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 18-19

ROOM RATE \$49*
SUNDAY-THURSDAY, MAY 20-24

*THERE IS AN \$18/NIGHT RESORT FEE

TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL GROUP RATE BOWLERS WILL NEED TO ENTER THE ASSIGNED RESERVATION ID: A8GCC05 THROUGH THE HOTEL'S WEBSITE AT THE FOLLOWING URL: WWW.ORLEANSCASINO.COM/GROUPS

OR CALL (800) 675-3267 AND IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS BOWLERS OF GCU 82ND NATIONAL BOWLING OR USE THE ASSIGNED RESERVATION ID: A8GCC05

BOWLING COST FOR THE EVENT WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS IN 2017.
\$22 PER EVENT, \$5 FOR ALL EVENTS AND \$29 FOR THE BUFFET BANQUET ON MONDAY, MAY 21 FOLLOWING BOWLING AT 6 PM. TOTAL FOR BOWLERS IN TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES, ALL EVENTS AND THE BANQUET IS \$100.

THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO
4500 W. TROPICANA AVENUE
LAS VEGAS, NV 89103