

JUNE 2018

GCU

MAGAZINE

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On Our Cover: The winning photo from the GCU Photo Contest Age 16-18 group. All winners appear on page 9 of this issue. *Photo by Nicole Dolinish*

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Birthdays

“Your Birthday” – a day that each of us has. We are most fortunate that our families and friends make a “big deal” of our special day in celebration of our birth. Traditionally we celebrate with birthday gifts, cards or a birthday party. It is a “big deal” as we all appreciate the outpouring of care and love shown to us each year on our special day. Although I personally appreciate all the well wishes, I am a little lower keyed and tend not to have a fuss made over me whether it’s my birthday or other accomplishments I may have attained both personally and professionally. A simple “Happy Birthday” or “Good Job” wish suffices for me. I get the most joy of singing praises to others! That’s just me!

Birthdays are not just limited to people but to institutions as well! On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress declared the birth of our “Great Country” as a new nation – The United States of America! We will be celebrating this July 4th the 242nd year of this historic event as celebrations will abound with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches & ceremonies. We must always continue to celebrate the freedoms and opportunities that are granted to us by the Constitution of the United States, our supreme law. So, it is my hope that at some point during our July 4th celebrations, that we all take time to honor our Founding Fathers, thank our God, express our appreciation for all those that serve in our military and pay homage to our fallen comrades that made the supreme sacrifice defending our Country, thereby

assuring our freedom and liberties now and into the future!

We can continue to celebrate the GCU’s good fortunes as well! We have recently filed our first quarter financial reports with the various states we are licensed in. The GCU continues to exhibit consistent asset and surplus growth while generating excellent profitability. Assets increased to \$1.755 billion representing a 2.5% or \$42.6 million increase since year end 2017. Surplus has increased for the first quarter of 2018 \$6.2 million and totals \$139.2 million with net income of \$6.5 million accounting for this increase. The GCU’s solvency ratio of 108.6% is excellent as well. A detailed first quarter 2018 report is presented on page 4 by our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres, which we encourage you to review.

The GCU’s growth is primarily attributed to the success of our fixed rate annuity product portfolio along with a steady growth of our investment portfolio. We continue to offer very competitive rates in the fixed rate annuity markets and have been increasing our rates within our short term and long term annuity products based upon the increased Treasury Interest Rates. We once again express our appreciation to our members and agents for your continued support of the GCU!

We are anticipating the launching of our new and improved Whole Life and Twenty Pay Life Products as we convert to the 2017 Mortality Tables that will allow for lower premiums and for the GCU to be more competitive in the life insurance marketplace. In addition to the new rates various riders will also

be offered such as Accidental Death Benefit, Disability Waiver of Premium, Single Premium Paid-Up Additional Life Insurance, Paid-Up Additional Life Insurance, Spouse Term Insurance, Child Term Life Insurance and Guaranteed Insurability. Increasing our life insurance premium is our primary goal in 2018 and beyond.

In April I attended the American Fraternal Alliance’s Executive Summit in Washington DC. A session of the Summit included a visit to Capitol Hill as eleven delegations of Fraternal Society Executives met with more than 40 Members of Congress and/or their staff to assure that federal legislators know who we are and what we do, and to recruit additional co-sponsors for the American Fraternal Alliance’s House and Senate Fraternal Resolutions. I had the honor of visiting with legislative assistants of the offices of Congressmen Louis Barletta, Glenn Thompson and Brian Fitzpatrick and Senator Robert P. Casey. The results of our visits were an overwhelming success. We must continue to tell our story to all of our federal and state legislators especially now, as state and federal governments may look towards tax exempt organizations for additional tax revenues. I also had the pleasure of having a private session with Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Minn.), the lead GOP sponsor of the House version of the Fraternal Resolution for the past three sessions of Congress.

We congratulate all the GCU student members for being awarded GCU National Scholarships, Academic Perfor-

CONTINUED

mance Scholarships, Athletic Scholarship and Bowling Scholarships. We thank you for your participating in our scholarship programs and wish you success with your continuing education!

Congratulations as well to the 2018 Art and Photo Contest winners! We invite you to review the various articles contained in this publication relating to our Scholarship and Contest awardees!

We have a full summer ahead of us and we invite you to participate in the various planned activities sponsored by the GCU and your local lodge and district. Please refer to the GCU's website as the full array of activities are located under – Member – Events – for the months of June, July, August and September.

I recently attended the GCU's National Bowling Tournament in Las Vegas, NV as the GCU teamed up once again with the Slovak Catholic Sokols.

A “great time” was had by all despite a lower number of participants this year. A special thank you to Basil Wahal and the staff of the GCU Fraternal and Communications Department and Jim Matlon, Director of Sports and Activities of the Slovak Catholic Sokols and his staff for all their efforts in organizing this event. We will also be partnering once again this year with the Slovak Catholic Sokols for our 2018 National Golf Tournament to be held Friday-Sunday, August 10-12, 2018 at Oak Tree Country Club and Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course in West Middlesex, PA. I personally can guarantee you a great time and invite you to attend this year's outing!

In closing, once again my sincere thank you to our entire membership and our agent force for your continued support of the GCU, that plays a most important role in the continued success

of the GCU! My best wishes to you and your family for a fun, safe and memorable summer season!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions of concerns!

Goodness is Great!



2017 Annual Fraternal Report

Charity and caring for each other is the foundation of our lodges and the GCU. While our members and staff do good because it's the right thing to do and it makes them feel good, it has become imperative to put those acts into trackable quantifiable figures.

Lodges are required to submit quarterly reports to tell us about their events and volunteer hours. Thank you to lodge officers and members for not only being charitable, but holding meetings, organizing events, and reporting to us.

This year's fraternal report is broken into two categories that reflect the reporting system lodges follow.

Community Service is defined as assisting those in need or improving the community-at-large. Social activities that benefit a charity or cause are considered community service.

Fraternal Fellowship & Support is defined as social, educational, cultural, religious, recreational, or patriotic activities as well as activities necessary to maintain the local lodge, personal development of members, or those that advance our

mission or build fellowship among members.

In a world with many distractions, our members should be proud to be part of an organization that puts God, family and community at the top of the list.

GCU Annual Fraternal Report

Community Service	611 events
Fraternal Fellowship and Support	893 events
Total Volunteer Hours	94,082
Matching Funds Donations—Lodges & Districts (GCU Contribution-\$121,720. ⁸²)	\$355,814. ⁰⁸
Parish Expansion Matching Funds	\$16,101. ⁶³
Total 2017 GCU Charitable Donations	\$573,189.²¹



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Is it Possible to Avoid Probate?

There is a misconception that if you have a will you can automatically avoid probate. But what you really have is a letter to the court that states your intentions for the dispersal of your assets. You are essentially asking the judge to transfer your assets according to your wishes.

A will is crucial because it serves as a guideline to ensure that any assets not titled to avoid probate, are transferred properly.

This underscores the importance of having your deeds and documents reviewed. Everyone is different, and not everyone needs to go through probate court. Sometimes probate can be avoided and you can save the additional expense; sometimes it's actually better to go through probate and sometimes you don't have a choice because of the way your assets were held before you died. Your attorney will review your situation to determine if probate can be avoided—or not. You can not make any assumptions.

If your assets are titled properly, you can typically avoid probate. But your will acts as a safety net, just in case anything

was missed. And things like furniture and other possessions aren't titled properly, which is why good estate planning to distribute these items according to your wishes is vital.

It is important to review your documents regularly to ensure your affairs are in order. Many people like to use the beginning of each year since they will be going through paperwork for tax purposes anyway. Whatever time you choose, ensuring that your critical estate documents are in place now, can avoid unnecessary expenses to your family down the road.

I recommend an estate plan review every five years.

If your assets are titled properly, you can typically avoid probate. But your will acts as a safety net, just in case anything was missed.

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

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 Home Office will be closed Wednesday, July 4th.



First Quarter 2018 Financials



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

GCU is strongly committed to serving its members and certificate holders. As we are quickly approaching the mid-way point of 2018, it is my pleasure to report our first quarter financial achievements. Highlights of the first quarter which ended on March 31, 2018 are as follows:

Our financial strength continues to grow to new heights. Despite experiencing the recent industry trend of decreasing life and annuity premiums, our first quarter earnings remained on par with last year and met expectations. Net Income for the first quarter of 2018 was \$6.1 million compared to \$6.6 million in 2017. Realized capital losses in 2018 from investment trading activity were \$.4 million compared to net realized capital gains of \$.5 million in 2017. Surplus grew to \$138.6 million compared to \$133.0 million at year-end 2017.

Assets totaled \$1.755 billion, an increase of \$43.0 million or 2.5% from year end 2017 that totaled \$1.712 billion. This increase can be attributed to continued positive cash flow from life & annuity sales and reinvestment of investment earnings.

Liabilities grew by \$37 million to \$1.616 billion at March 31, 2018 compared to \$1.579 billion as of December 31, 2017. This increase is due primarily to higher annuity reserves of \$34.7 million from new annuity deposits less payouts and an increase of \$2.5 million liability for securities purchased and not yet settled.

Total Income decreased \$10.8 million or 11.8% to \$80.6 million from \$91.4 million in 2017. Revenue from life and annuity premiums decreased by \$12.4 million from the prior year. This decrease is partially offset by a \$1.7 million increase in net investment income from the growth in the fixed income portfolio.

Operating expenses, before the change in reserves, decreased \$3.9 million or 8.8% for the first three months of 2018 and totaled \$40.9 million compared to \$44.8 million in 2017. The decrease is primarily due to lower annuity benefits paid of \$5.1 million reduced by \$1.1 million in higher pension plan payouts due to retirements of certain long tenured employees.

The Changes in Reserves for the three months totaled \$33.1 million compared to \$40.5 million in 2016. Reserves are a function of premium deposits, payment of death & annuity benefits and interest accumulation.

Financial strength and stability is a foundational pillar of GCU. Surplus now stands at \$138.6 million compared to 2017 year-end surplus of \$133.0 million. The \$5.6 million increase in surplus for the three months ended March 31, 2018 is primarily attributable to net income of \$6.1 million reduced by a \$0.3 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve and the decrease of \$0.2 million in the investment in GCU Holding and Subsidiaries.

Total surplus is the amount we set aside for unexpected losses from operations and financial protection against business volatility. Total Adjusted Capital includes Surplus of \$138.6 million and adds back the Asset Valuation Reserve of \$19.0 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000 and totaled \$157.7 million as of March 31, 2018. This is an increase of \$5.8 million over year-end 2017. The solvency ratio based on total adjusted capital at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 are 109.9% and 109.7%, respectively. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

Summer is upon us, enjoy!

Tim

Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	3/31/18	3/31/17	Change
Assets	\$1,754,886	\$1,712,285	\$42,600
Total Income	80,590	91,411	(10,821)
Total Expenses	73,987	85,288	(11,300)
Net Income (Loss)	6,114	6,555	(441)
Surplus (Net Worth)	138,585	133,042	5,542
Asset Valuation Reserve	18,952	18,662	290
Interest Maintenance Reserve	22,899	22,870	29
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	\$157,687	\$151,855	\$5,832
Normal Solvency Ratio	108.6	108.4	0.15
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	109.9	109.7	0.14

Reconciliation of Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	3/31/18
Surplus Previous Year (12/31/17)	\$133,042
Net Income	6,114
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	9
GCU Holding Company & Other	(233)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(58)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(290)
Net Change in Surplus	5,542
Ending Surplus 03/31/18	\$138,585

GCU INCOME STATEMENT

Three Months 2018 vs. 2017

INCOME (000's omitted)	3/31/2018	3/31/2017	Change
Life Premium	\$ 403	\$ 2,057	\$ (1,653)
Annuity Premium	52,523	63,233	(10,710)
Annuity Premium Exchanges	4,075	4,484	(409)
Accident & Health	176	142	33
Subtotal	57,177	69,915	(12,738)
Net Investment Income	21,885	20,184	1,701
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	728	586	142
Commissions-Reinsurance	689	599	90
Other	112	128	(16)
Total income	\$80,590	\$91,411	\$(10,821)
EXPENSES			
Death Benefits - Life Ins.	\$ 1,085	\$ 509	\$ 575
Annuity Benefits Paid	29,619	34,687	(5,068)
Annuity Exchanges	4,075	4,484	(409)
Life Insurance Surr. Benefits	266	188	78
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	152	113	39
Commissions	2,451	2,924	(474)
General Operating Expenses	1,940	1,670	270
Ins., Taxes, Licenses & Fees	112	136	(24)
Pension Plan Payouts	1,174	83	1,091
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	19	18	1
Subtotal	\$40,891	\$44,813	\$(3,921)
Changes to Reserves	33,096	40,475	(7,379)
Total Expenses	\$73,987	\$85,288	\$(11,300)
Net Gain/Loss Before Refunds	6,603	6,124	479
Refunds to Members	65	63	2
Net Gain/Loss After Refunds	6,538	6,061	477
Net Realized Gains/(Losses)	(424)	494	(918)
Net Income	\$6,114	\$6,555	\$(441)

BALANCE SHEETS

March 31, 2018 vs. December 31, 2017

ASSETS (000's omitted)	3/31/2018	12/31/2017	Change
Bonds	\$1,631,133	\$1,595,058	\$36,075
Preferred Stocks	51,383	50,146	1,237
Common Stocks	12,501	12,375	126
Alternative investments	17,730	15,985	1,745
Cash/Short Term Investments	13,861	11,318	2,543
Mortgages	2,378	2,489	(111)
Certificate Loans	603	642	(39)
Real Estate			
Beaver Home Office	509	527	(18)
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	23,788	22,787	1,001
Other	999	958	42
Total Assets	\$1,754,886	\$1,712,285	\$42,600
<i>Percentage Total Change Period to Period—2.5%</i>			
LIABILITIES			
Life Reserve Fund	\$ 68,648	\$ 69,360	\$ (712)
Annuity Reserve Fund	1,492,607	1,457,906	34,700
Accident & Health Reserve	148	141	6
Employee Pension Fund	5,951	6,956	(1,005)
Convention Reserve	279	279	0
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Ref. Resrv.	371	372	(1)
Pending Investment Trade	2,507	0	2,507
Accounts Payable	757	761	(4)
Refund Accumulations	3,183	1,935	1,247
Asset Valuation Reserve - AVR	18,952	18,662	290
Interest Maint. Reserve - IMR	22,899	22,870	29
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,616,301	\$1,579,243	\$ 37,058
Surplus Fund	\$ 138,585	\$ 133,042	\$ 5,542
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$1,754,886	\$1,712,285	\$42,600
Normal Solvency	108.6%	108.4%	
Solv. Ratio Total Adj. Capital*	109.9%	109.7%	

*Adds AVR + 1/2 of dividend liability to surplus.

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

Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.

Life changes
in a heartbeat.



Life is a Journey. You meet your soul mate... start a family... plan your legacy...
GCU Life Insurance protects your family every heartbeat of their lives.

Dress A Girl Around the World

GCU's GoGive! program recently accepted a new charity called **Dress a Girl Around the World**. This organization was founded by Rachel Eggum Cinader in October 2009. Women from all over the United States and around the world have made over one million dresses for poor and underprivileged girls in over 81 countries. Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, as well as Indian reservations and poverty-stricken areas like Appalachia, all receive shipments from DAG. Girls in these areas are very often regarded as having no value... simply because they are girls.

Volunteers gather to create dresses from size 0 to 14. They must be made of sturdy material because they will be washed in rivers and streams. The dresses must also be constructed so that they will fit a variety of body types. Little girls like bright colors and pretty prints and one popular style is a T-shirt dress (pictured here). Additionally, a label is sewn to the front of each dress and it tells possible sex traffickers and others that the girl is protected by an organization and may help save her from a terrible fate.

Ambassadors located throughout the world accept these dresses from individuals and sewing groups and make sure that they are shipped to the proper destination. Missionaries



A few of the dresses that were made to be donated to the Dress a Girl Around the World.

then “hand-carry” the dresses and slip them over the tattered clothing of the girls. They just “beam” when they receive their new garments.

A GCU member became aware of this charity and has already made 21 dresses to be distributed in April. She was delighted to receive acceptance into the GoGive! program and will continue to fashion garments throughout the year for the **Dress a Girl Around the World** program. Thank you, GCU, for your continued interest in serving those in need. For further information, visit DAG’s website at dressagirlaroundtheworld.com.

Save the Date
JULY 26

98th Annual
GCU
Byzantine Family Day

Kennywood
THE WAY TO
Unforgettable
FUN!

RIDE ALL DAY!
\$24 (up to 54)
\$14 SENIOR (55+)
\$10 SUPER SENIOR (70+)
\$15 LUNCH

Credit Cards Accepted

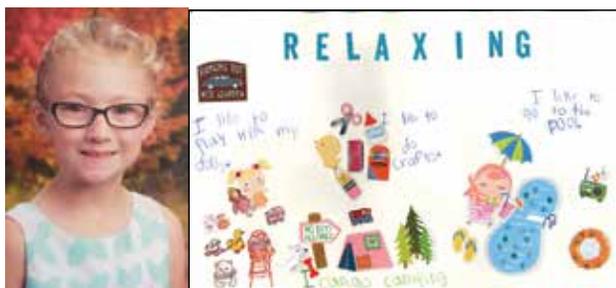
ORDER TICKETS
GCUusa.com
or
800-722-4428

YINZ CAN'T RESIST
POTATO PATCH FRIES!

Kennywood

This year's theme was "Invested in Relaxation"

2018 Art Contest Winners



First Place Age 6 & Under
Leah McGee, Aliquippa, PA Lodge 994

I relax by playing with my dolls, camping, doing crafts and going to the pool.



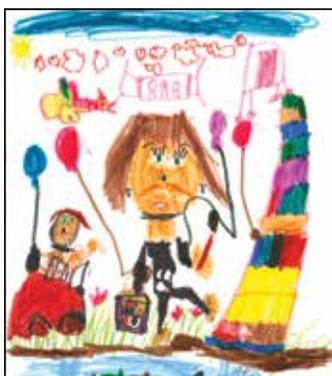
First Place Age 7-9
Anthony Cherevka, Munhall, PA Lodge 2

Summertime fun and relaxation.



First Place Age 10-12
Grace Allshouse, Clarksburg, PA Lodge 255

This is how I relax, I draw and walk our dog. Drawing is my way to relax, it's a very fun way to express myself and show my creativity.



Second Place Age 6 & Under
Michaela Revilak, West Mifflin, PA Lodge 2



Second Place Age 7-9
Emanuel Revilak, Munhall, PA Lodge 2



Second Place Age 10-12
Margaret Baca, Baytown, TX Lodge 994

This year's theme was **"Invested in Relaxation"**

2018 Photo Contest Winners



First Place Age 13-15
Timmy Allshouse, Clarksburg, PA Lodge 255

Relaxing at a little cafe' when visiting the island Samos while on spring break in Greece.



First Place Age 16-18
Nicole Dolinish, Olney, MD Lodge 17

Lake Erie is one of my favorite places to relax. It has beautiful sunsets. Its not too noisy and I can feel the amazing earth around me.



First Place Age 19-23
Sarah Foran, Vestal, NY Lodge 47

I like to hike and enjoy nature. This picture was taken while walking a trail in Bryce Natinal Park, Utah.



Second Place Age 13-15
Casey Allshouse, Clarksburg, PA Lodge 255



Second Place Age 16-18
Brooke Weitzel, Chagrin Falls, OH Lodge 302



Second Place Age 19-23
Katie Hammes, Uniontown, OH Lodge 83



Basil M. Wahal
Fraternal-Communications
Director

2018 Scholarships

The GCU National Scholarship Committee met on Thursday, May 10 and announced the awarding of 17-\$1,500.⁰⁰ National Scholarships together with 47 Academic Performance Scholarships in the amount of \$750.⁰⁰ each. Awardees appear over the next four pages.

Scholarship Committee members include: GCU National Directors Dorothy Foran-chairperson, Melanie Basl, Lisa Gulibon, Barbara Kushner and David Oleksa; Judith A. Gula of Lodge 255, Patricia Dietz of Lodge 151, John J. Katana of Lodge 93 and Jack Mendenhall of Lodge 10.

GCU National Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and submit a required essay. Two of the awardees this year will receive an additional \$500.⁰⁰ award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA: Nathaniel Dowell of Lodge 252 in Youngstown, OH and Abbey Sitko of Lodge 18 in Leisenring, PA. The essay theme for this year was "Community Service and You." The essay judged to be Best Essay was written by Christopher Susco. He will receive an additional \$500.⁰⁰ award for his winning essay. An excerpt of his essay appears below.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients!

4.0 GPA



Nathaniel Dowell
Hubbard, OH L252
Youngstown State University
Major: Accounting



Abbey Elizabeth Sitko
Dunbar, PA L18
Seton Hill University
Major: Osteopathic Medicine -
Biology 4+4

Best Essay

Growing up we were always reminded of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would like done unto you." Community service has been a large part of my life whether it was through my Byzantine Catholic Youth (BCY) group of my parish, the Boy Scouts of America, or the Catholic schools I have attended. My family has been very fortunate to function on our own but there are individuals in the community who cannot and need assistance. All of the service projects I have participated in have not been just a chore, a box to check off, or another resume booster, but rather the service was about those whom we are helping by our work.



Christopher Susco
Clifton, VA L83
University of Notre Dame
Major: Electrical Engineering



Joseph Basalla
Parma, OH L302
The Catholic
University of America
Major: History



John Columbus
Belle Vernon, PA L255
Pennsylvania State
University/University
Park Campus
Major: Electrical
Engineering



Katherine Flick
Johnstown, PA L625
Penn State Altoona
Major: Nursing



Sarah Foran
Vestal, NY L47
University at Buffalo
Major: Psychology



Jarod Fullard
Pleasant Hills, PA
L390
Hobart Institute of
Welding Technology
Major: Welding



Gordon Hulak
Mars, PA L151
Pennsylvania State
University
Major: Mechanical
Engineering



Kristi Karaffa
Wadsworth, OH L302
Kent State University
Major: Early Child-
hood Education



Jonathan Kaschak
West Hazleton, PA
GHRL
Penn State University
Major: Turf Science



Rebecca Kaschak
West Hazleton, PA
GHRL
Misericordia University
Major: Early/Special
Education



Ashley Pajer
Plainview, NY L151
Manhattan College
Major: Marketing and
Business Analytics



Hayley Planitzer
Venetia, PA L255
Slippery Rock Uni-
versity of Pennsyl-
vania
Major: Spanish
Professional and
Accounting



Diane Rabiej
Woodland Park, NJ
L12
Seton Hall University
Immaculate Con-
ception Seminary
School of Theology
Major: Masters
Theology



Emily Shuster
Beaver, PA L10
Kent University
Major: English



**Sarah Rachel
Tanana**
Olyphant, PA L945
Marywood University
Major: Exercise
Science

Academic Performance Scholarships

Theodore Alt

Stuart, VA L665
Virginia Tech
Major: Music Education

Maria Frances Batyko

Scranton, PA L945
Temple University
Major: Advertising

Jill Renee Bender

Indiana, PA L401
Indiana University of PA
Major: Environmental, Health and Safety

Emily Ann Betterly

Hazleton, PA GHRL
Emily Betterly
Major: Early Childhood and Special Education

Grant Bittner

Pittsburgh, PA L390
University of Northwestern Ohio
Major: Diesel Associates

Samuel Joseph Blike

North Canton, OH L644
University of Cincinnati
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Emily Anna Bordas

Marietta, GA L390
Georgia College and State University
Major: Economics

David Bratnick

North Royalton, OH L302
Bowling Green State University
Major: Film Production

David Columbus

Belle Vernon, PA L255
The Pennsylvania State University
The Eberly Campus
Major: Secondary Education/Physics

Michael Danovich

Sewell, NJ L83
Villanova University
Major: Computer Engineering

Cori Dowell

Hubbard, OH L252
Grove City College
Major: Biology

John Taylor Durica

Johnstown, PA L625
Coastal Carolina University
Major: Marine Science

Mallory Eperesi

Mars, PA L390
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: Nursing

Abigail Fullard

Pleasant Hills, PA L390
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Major: Dental Hygiene

Aaron Gulibon

Souderton, PA L321
University of South Carolina
Major: Business Economics/Accounting

Matthew Gulliver

Bloomsburg, PA GHRL
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Major: Master of Nurse Anesthesia

Alexander Hardoby

Rahway, NJ L340
Providence College
Major: Marketing

Brendan Howell

North Braddock, PA L2
University of Pittsburgh
Greensburg Campus
Major: Management Accounting

Kyle Harrison Jasuta

Manhattan Beach, CA L17
Springfield College
Major: Finance/Accounting

Jessica Jones

Mechanicsburg, PA L10
Slippery Rock University
Major: Public Health

Madeline Karaffa

Grafton, OH L302
Kent State University
Major: Fashion Merchandising

Jacqueline Kutzfara

Elizabeth, PA L255
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: School Counseling

Adam Robert Macala

Boardman, OH L360
Youngstown State University
Major: Information Technology

Jenna McDonnell

Dobbs Ferry, NY L7
College of Mount St. Vincent
Major: Biology, Minor in Healthcare Management

Viviana Montalvo

Scottsdale, AZ L999
Arizona State University
Major: Finance

Katie Nan

Moon Twp., PA L994
University of Pittsburgh
Major: Spanish

Christian Nonnemacher

Hazleton, PA GHRL
Penn State University
Major: Rehabilitation & Human Services

Emily Melinne Olack

Beaver, PA L10
Clemson University
Major: Microbiology - Biomedicine Concentration

Elena Nicole Patchan

Haymarket, VA L83
West Virginia University
Major: Biometric Systems and Computer Engineering

Marina Pegula

Dunmore, PA L92
Lackawanna College
Major: Pre-Allied Health

Leslie Peters

Mechanicsburg, PA GHRL
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Major: Accounting

Emma Planitzer

Venetia, PA L255
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: Management Information Systems

Elizabeth Rau

Flushing, MI L644
Ohio Dominican University
Major: Physician Assistant Studies

Vince Patrick Rose

Rochester, PA L10
Washington and Jefferson College
Major: Physics

Julianne Shirilla

Brunswick, OH L302
The Ohio State University
Major: Nursing

Michael Skvarek

Schererville, IN L66
Purdue University
Major: Network Engineering Technology

CONTINUED

2018 Athletic Scholarships

The GCU Fraternal/Athletic Committee, consisting of five GCU National Directors, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Athletic Scholarship. The awardees were selected from 22 applicants for this year's award. Anais Haftman of Daisytown, PA (Lodge 57) & Jacob Kosuda of West Mifflin, PA (Lodge 255) will each receive a \$1,500.00 scholarship to assist with their first-year expenses of post-secondary education.

Anais excelled in figure skating and participated in dance

and marching band. She ranks first in her class academically and volunteers regularly at her local hospital.

Jacob was an outstanding member and leader of the West Mifflin High School soccer team. In addition, he volunteers at Mon-Valley School coaching students with physical and emotional disabilities.

Will you be the 2018 Athletic Scholarship awardee? Online applications from high school senior athletes will be accepting at www.gcuusa.com beginning on October 1, 2018.



Anais Haftman



Jacob Kosuda

SCHOLARSHIPS

Kristina Skvarek

Schererville, IN L66
Indiana University Bloomington
Major: Human Resources Management

Mackenzie Smith

Oakland, MD L255
Frostburg State University
Major: Exercise Science

Jacob Spillane

Syracuse, NY L211
University at Buffalo
Major: Biology

Catherine Susco

Clifton, VA L83
James Madison University
Major: Computer Information Systems

Kaitlin Swick

Pittsburgh, PA L390
La Roche College
Major: Psychology/Business

Daniel Edward Terek

Cresson, PA L625
The Pennsylvania State University's Schreyer Honors College
Major: Accounting with a Minor in Finance

Stacy Ann Tomaszfski

Lancaster, PA L254
Rider University
Major: Accounting (Masters)

Anna Tombazzi

Hinckley, OH L302
University of Akron
Major: Chemical Engineering

Jarret Kevin Vrabel

Canfield, OH L252
Westminster
Major: Biochemistry

Jasmin Wadsworth

Brownsville, PA L57
California University of Pennsylvania
Major: Biology Pre-Medicine

Sarah Wood

Jeannette, PA L321
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: Criminology and Spanish

People



GCU National Director Welcomes First Child

John David Basl arrived on Saturday, April 14, 2018 to proud parents Matt & Melanie Basl. Melanie currently serves on the GCU Board of Directors and is active in Lodge 255 with Matt and the Niskach family.

JD received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy communion on Mother's Day, May 13, 2018 at St. John Chrysostom Church with Father Thomas Schaefer celebrating the Divine Liturgy and administering the sacraments. Godparents were his aunt, Kam Niskach and uncle, Stephen Basl. JD was also welcomed with love by grandparents John & Patty Niskach and Dave & Lois Basl. The GCU world welcomes him as a new member of Lodge 255.

God grant John David many happy and blessed years.

Coach Rubish has Successful Basketball Season

Paul Rubish has been an assistant boy's varsity coach at Mars Area High School for the past 18 years. This year's team completed one of its most successful seasons, compiling a 25-5 record. The team won its sixth straight section title, a WPIAL District 7 title and made its second appearance in 3 years in Hershey, PA for the PIAA State Championship. The Fightin' Planets also were invited to play in numerous tournaments this season including the #1 high school tournament in the country, the City of Palms Classic in Ft. Myers, FL. They also competed at the Cancer Research Classic in Wheeling, WV and the Pittsburgh Basketball Club Hall of Fame Classic in Pittsburgh, PA.

Paul, his wife Roberta and their sons Paul Andrew and Thomas, are parishioners of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, PA where the boys are altar servers for their pastor, Father Frank Firko. Paul and his sons are members of Lodge 57, Brownsville, PA.



Coach Paul Rubish (kneeling) with his two young sons in front of him.

Bernie Karoffa | Lodge 57 Publicity Director

Jason Marcin Selected for United States Senate Youth Program

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) choose GCU Lodge 182 member Jason Evan Marcin of Dallas, PA to join US Senators Robert Casey & Patrick Toomey in representing Pennsylvania in the nation's capital during the 56th annual USSYP Washington Week, March 3-10, 2018. Meg Jones of Greensburg, PA was the other Pennsylvania representative. They were elected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation. Each student also receives a \$10,000.00 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

The USSYP was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 and has been sponsored by the Senate and fully funded by The Hearst Foundations since inception. The impetus for the program as stated in Senate testimony is to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and emphasize the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for peo-

ple around the world.

Jason attends Lake Lehman Jr./Sr. High School where he serves as class president and Student Council vice president. He is also an active member of the Lake-Lehman Key Club and serves as the district secretary/treasurer for the Pennsylvania District of Key Club International. Jason is a member of the National Honor Society. He is actively involved with his church and participates in several community service projects. As he is extremely politically engaged, Jason hopes to attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and eventually attain a career of public service.

While in Washington the student delegates attend meetings and briefings with senators, members of the House of Representatives, Congressional staff, the President, a Justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an Ambassador to the United States and senior members of the national media. The students also toured many of the national monuments and several museums in Washington, D.C.

Jason enjoyed the unbelievable



experience at Washington Week where he heard a speech from and met civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis. He also sat down to dinner with Bill Clinton's former chief of staff; attended remarks and question & answer sessions with Senators; government officials; USSYP alumni; the Executive Editor of the Washington Post and even spent several hours in the Supreme Court chamber with Justice Neil Gorsuch. Jason was included in a group picture with President Donald & Melania Trump, as well as Vice President Mike Pence. Jason was beyond grateful for the chance to be selected as a delegate and for the relationships he formed with all his co-delegates as well. Overall, he described the experience as awe-inspiring and unforgettable.

Marylyn Barone Conducts Iconography Workshop

Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Church in Monroeville hosted an iconography workshop over the weekend of April 13-15, 2018. The workshop was conducted by Marylyn Barone (Lodge 2) of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in Wall, PA. The 16 participants represented three area GCU lodges.

At the workshop, six different icons were painted: Saint Nicholas with and without a miter, Saint Teresa of Lisieux, Saint Patrick, Saint Xenia of Saint Petersburg and Christ the Teacher. The students learned about the theology of icons plus the lives of the saints whose icons were painted at the workshop. Students also learned to apply gold leaf, to use a drafting pen with the paint to make straight lines and a drafting halo to apply the painted red ring around the halo.



David & Sarah Foran Celebrate Accomplishments

Lodge 47 Member David Foran has earned the Boy Scouts of America’s highest achievement—the Eagle Scout Award. On April 21, 2018 he became the 156th scout from Troop 221 in Vestal, NY to accomplish this honor.

Since its inception in 1912, the Eagle Scout Award has only been awarded to 2% of eligible scouts. To reach this top designation, scouts must earn 21 merit badges, including 11 required badges. David went above and beyond this requirement by achieving 34 badges. He was therefore decorated with bronze and gold palms at his Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony.

Additionally, a scout must hold a leadership position for at least 6 months, and also develop, lead, manage and complete a community service project before reaching their 18th birthday. For his project, David ripped out and reconstructed two bridges on the Waterman Conservation Trail in Apalachin, NY. These bridges will allow rescue vehicles to access the trails. Waterman Conservation is an education center which expands environmental awareness; promotes conservation education; serves members and visitors to the wildlife refuge system and works with the surrounding area, communities and counties, in support of research. David spent 128 service hours to plan and execute the project.

David has been involved in scouting since first grade. He has held various positions including Troop Guide and Den Chief in his troop. In the summer of 2016 he was one of twelve scouts from the Northeastern US to represent the Boy Scouts of America at the Blair Atholl International Scouting Jamboree in Perthshire, Scotland. After being elected patrol leader of this contingent, he spent three weeks leading them throughout England and Scotland. Over 1,100 scouts from twenty different countries participated in the event. The focus of this international event was on international friendship



building and leadership.

David’s older sister, Sarah was recently awarded the GCU National Scholarship for 2018. She also submitted a winning photo in the 2018 GCU Art-Photo-Video Contest. Inspired by the theme of this year’s contest, Sarah’s picture was taken while on a hike last July through a canyon at Bryce National Park in Utah. She found the canyon to be a very peaceful place—fitting perfectly with the relaxation and fun theme. Sarah is a psychology major in her sophomore year at Binghamton University.

David and Sarah are the children of Michael & Marilyn Foran of Vestal, NY. They are members of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Endicott, NY.

Please join Lodge 47 and the parish families of both Holy Spirit and SS. Peter & Paul in expressing congratulations to David & Sarah!

Daria Shierly | Lodge 47 Secretary/Treasurer

Giving

St. George Church Parish Expansion Stuffed Cabbage To-Go-Go Gives Hope of a "Sign" to Come

The last weekend of April 2018, St. George Byzantine Church had a very well planned, "Stuffed Cabbage TO GO-GO!" fundraising project. This special initiative was to benefit St. George Parish in Bay City, MI., "Outdoor Sign Fund." The purpose of the sign is to raise awareness in the St. George neighborhood and in the city that the parish is active and contributing toward the common good of both. This special endeavor stems from previous years of various evangelical pursuits such as billboards and banners to continue to promote the great Christian love that flows from the Byzantine Catholic Church.

Father David A. Hannes, said "it's not just about 'great tasting' stuffed cabbage that we are offering but more so, a life in Christ given to us by our very loving Lord." The parish had several banners on the main entrance of the church gates but the parishioners know that it is time to do more. It is with great hope that a new large sign of welcome and purpose will be erected in the near future on the south side of the church. The Parish Expansion Matching Funds provided by the GCU, in conjunction with this fundraiser, certainly points the parish in an affirmative direction of completing another of their gospel objectives.

Anne Thompson | St. George Parish Secretary

Holy Spirit Church Parish Expansion

South Side Lodge 28 decided to help out neighboring Oakland parish, Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit no longer has a GCU lodge and several parishioners are Lodge 28 members.

From March 4 to April 8, a 20-basket fundraiser was held. The baskets included a basket of cheer, a lottery basket, a dining out basket, a 43-inch TV and more. Tickets were sold before and after Sunday Liturgy as well as any other time that there was a liturgical celebration or event at the church.

A total of \$2,364.⁰⁰ was realized from the fundraiser. The profits received a maximum amount of GCU parish expansion matching funds of \$1,500.⁰⁰ providing a total of \$3,864.⁰⁰ to help cover the maintenance expenses at Holy Spirit parish.

Kim Kolesar | Lodge 28 Secretary Treasurer



Lodge 28 member Dave Zavasky showing the many baskets that were at the fundraiser.



The stuffed cabbage rolling crew hard at work. They began working at 8 AM and were completed rolling 2,620 cabbage rolls by 2:30 PM. The workers packaged 362 - 2lb. containers to sell. Way to GO!!

District 5

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENT

Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, October 27

9 AM

Sugarloaf, PA

Contact Gina Keil at 570-824-1264.



Lydia & John Marko.



Joann, Sean & Paul Pezak.

Hockey Game | The annual District 5 hockey game outing was held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township, PA. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins faced off against the Binghamton Devils. The 78 GCU attendees were the most participants the district has ever had. A contingent from the Binghamton area joined in the fun.

It was fan appreciation night, so besides receiving a Penguin's hat, a value meal voucher from McDonald's, a hot dog, chips, and drink, fans received various gifts from the Penguins. Tribute was also given to Tom Kostopoulos, the Penguins captain, who was playing his final regular season home game, after 19 seasons. He played over 600 games in both the NHL and AHL. The Penguins won 7-4 and clinched a berth in the Calder Cup playoffs.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the special events subsidy, pill cases and Amazon gift cards. Gift card winners were Greg Barkowski, Daria Shierly and Dr. John Guarnieri.

Ed Keil | Athletic Director

District 7

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 4

10 AM Shot Gun Scramble Format

Deadline is July 15

\$80 (golf, cart & lunch)

\$25 lunch only served at 1 PM

Green Pond Country Club
3604 Farmersville Road
Bethlehem, PA 18020

Contact Mike Geles 732-423-5754
or email him at mikegeles@gmail.com



St. Baldrick's FOUNDATION

Conquer Childhood Cancers

St. Baldrick's is a charity committed to supporting the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. This year, the charity will benefit from District 7's Golf Outing. There will be a basket fundraiser and other fundraising activities in conjunction with the golf outing.

To make a donation, visit GCUusa.com then under the Member's Tab, choose Events, select August 2018 and then District 7 Golf Outing. Or make a donation and mail it to Kathleen Meddaugh, 38 Summerfield Road, Belvidere, NJ 07823. Make checks payable to District 7. If you have questions, please call Kathleen at 908-619-4898.

Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship even if you are not a golfer and support this very important charity!

District 11



Event organizers Kim Kaufman (far left) and Athletic Director John P. Minarish (far right) with a happy group of junior bowlers.

47th Annual Junior Bowling Tourney 2018 Strikes 'n' Spares, Pizza 'n' Prizes! | Enthusiastic and talented junior bowlers from ages 2 to 18 turned out at Five Star Lanes in Sterling Heights, MI, on Saturday, April 14, 2018 to participate in District 11's 47th Annual Junior Bowling Tournament.

With family members and friends cheering them on, the young participants bowled their best, then received a pizza luncheon, trophies and prizes for their efforts.

First place trophies were awarded by age categories and gender, and all others received a participation trophy. Some participants also received fast food gift cards given away in random drawings.

The winners were: Age 2-3—Thea Sevegney; Age 4-5—Emily Marszalec; Age 6-7—Olivia Cpak; Age 8-9—Sabrina Kosa and Drew Yakubesan; Age 10-12—Helena Murphy and Anthony Carter; Age 13-15—Margaret Swanney and George Swanney and Age 16-18—Austin Bigger.

Three-Peat for the 'Lucky 4' in 2018 Inter-Parish Mixed Bowling League | Almost certainly a league first, the team "Lucky 4" bowled their way to the top, taking first place in the District 11 Inter-Parish Mixed Bowling League for the third year in a row!

The championship team, this year bowling with only three of their original team members—Peter Digon, Adam Digon, and Fr. Joseph Repko, pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI—were recognized at a catered banquet and awards program at Five Star Lanes in Sterling Heights, MI, on Sunday, April 29.

Other recognized bowlers were: Youth: high game, high series and high average—Austin Bigger. Women: high game, high series and high average—Christine Pelak and most improved bowler—Helen Minarish. Men: high game—Chris Mathewson, high series and average—Adam Digon and most improved bowler—Norm Gottardo.

The league also conducted officer elections resulting in the reseating of all the incumbents: President Paul Shubeck, Vice President John P. Minarish, Secretary Gary Mozuras and Treasurer Judy Goetz.

The league is moving to Imperial Lanes on Garfield Road and M59 in Clinton Township for next season. The preseason meeting for new bowlers interested in joining the league will be Tuesday, August 14—contact Gary Mozuras 586-872-6142. The new season will begin on Sunday, August 26 with bowling continuing every other Sunday for 16 weeks.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal Director & Publicity Director



Adam Digon, Rev. Joseph Repko & Peter Digon.

District 15

Annual Luncheon & Bunco | Sincere gratitude is extended to all who supported the annual Ladies Luncheon and Bunco event held on Saturday, May 12 at Seven Oaks Country Club. Kathy Kapaldo chairs this annual event, which raised \$2,330.⁰⁰ for the District 15 Senior Awards and Beaver County Outdoor Immersion.

We were fortunate to have former senior awardee, Pamela Kapaldo, do the signage for the event, it looked awesome. Thank you, Pam!

Mike Spanik, Diane Ketterer and Mary Ann Popovich were very helpful the morning of the event. Thank you for the generous donation of your time and talents.

Elizabeth Harbist | President



Luncheon & Bunco event at Seven Oaks.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

An Afternoon at Narcisi Winery & Luncheon

Sunday, August 26
12 NOON

Narcisi Winery
4578 Gibsonia Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044

\$15 GCU Members
\$25 Non-Members

Contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446.

District 15 Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 16

Seven Oaks Country Club
132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Contact Bill Uram 724-287-0689 for details.

Like and Share us on Facebook where you can find additional details for all District 15 events.

Lodge News

Lodge 15 TRENTON, NJ

Helping Hands Day

On Saturday, April 29, 2018, members of Lodge 15 joined fellow parishioners on the grounds of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ to participate in the annual property clean-up. Fourteen volunteers pruned the shrubbery and removed debris from the church, rectory, convent, social hall and school areas. While the workers were executing the clean-up, GCU members Marcelline Embley and Joseph Bodnar provided refreshments to the volunteers. After three hours of manual labor, the tasks were completed and the property deemed ready to welcome in the spring and summer season.



Juan Torres, Fr. Yuvry Oros and Anna Jane Petty.

UPCOMING LODGE 15 EVENT

3rd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, September 9
Following 10 AM Divine Liturgy in the Social Center

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church
411 Adeline Street, Trenton, NJ 08611

CONTINUED

Lodge 15 CONTINUED

Matching Funds Casino Trip

On a hot, sunny day in May, lodge members and friends took a trip to Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA. This was a Matching Funds event to benefit Catholic Relief Services.

Have a great summer!!

Marcy Embley | Fraternal Director



Lodge 15 group waiting to board bus to Sands Casino.



The group that attended Baldwin High School musical performance.

“Honeymoon in Vegas” Outing

On Friday, April 13, 2018, twenty lodge members and friends gathered for a social outing. The evening began with the live musical “Honeymoon in Vegas” at Baldwin High School. There were so many talented young actors, singers, dancers, acrobats and musicians. Lodge member Sarah Pavlick, performed two instruments in the orchestra pit, keeping her busy throughout the performance.

Following the musical, everyone in the group was invited to the house of President Karen Pavlick and her family. She provided a delicious late-night buffet while the group was socializing.

Tentative plans were made to attend next year’s musical at West Mifflin High School.



Sara Nairn with Karen Pavlick at the Norwex demonstration.



Examples from the card making fundraiser.

Lodge 28

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Palm Sunday

On Sunday, March 25, there was a full congregation for Palm Sunday Liturgy at St. John Byzantine Church. The attendees included former parishioners of Father Tom Schaefer from Aliquippa, PA. At the beginning of Liturgy, palms and pussy willows were blessed. Everyone was invited to come forward to receive them to hold during the service. In addition, communal confession was offered.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, everyone was invited to the church hall for an Easter social and the lodge’s quarterly meeting.

Church Matching Funds

St. John the Baptist Church in Southside-Pittsburgh, is in dire need of a new roof. Therefore, church/lodge members have decided to step up and help out.

On Sunday, March 18, twelve people participated in a card making fundraiser in the church hall. The idea was suggested by parishioner Jackie Fuga. She and her daughter, Shannon, have been making cards and crafting for several years. Both were on hand to instruct and supervise seasoned as well as first time attendees. Each person got to make and take home 9 cards. There were 3 birthday, 3 thank you and 3 Easter cards. With a portion of the cost going to the church, it was a win/win situation. Pastor Rev. Thomas Schaefer even dropped by to welcome and thank the participants. It was a great and fun experience.

On Sunday, April 15, lodge officers organized a Norwex party fundraiser. Guests were treated to lunch followed by a brief presentation of the products. Questions were encouraged before allowing everyone to peruse the catalog and place orders. For those unable to attend, an on-line link was provided. Thirty-five percent of sales were donated to the church.

Kim Kolesar | Secretary/Treasurer

Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY.

GCU Bowling League

The Binghamton GCU Bowling League concluded its 30-week bowling season with a banquet on Tuesday, April 3. Bowlers, lodge members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and bowlers received their end of season awards. The league is already gearing up for the start of next season!

Slavic Festival

On Sunday, April 29, the annual Slavic Festival was in full swing at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Binghamton. It was an afternoon filled with entertainment (featuring an on-site radio broadcast by local Polka-celebrity Bill Flynn), dancing, games, baked goods and ethnic foods. The Slavic Festival drew a crowd of over 600 people. Guided church tours were conducted by Bob Sufлита and Dianne Metzlar. Lodge 47 donated a "Movie Time" themed basket for the basket fundraiser. Thank you to all members and parishioners who helped to make the festival a tremendous success!



Sacred Sites

In conjunction with The New York Landmarks Conservancy a statewide "Sacred Site" Open House was held on Sunday, May 6. This is a local event which showcases the unique structure, history and culture of each participating site. Lodge 47 home parish, Holy Spirit Byzantine Church, was one of 24 local congregations which welcomed visitors by giving tours, playing traditional Slavonic music, explaining stained glass windows and the history of the church.

Bob Sufлита | President



Baskets for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Lodge 53

WILKES BARRE, PA

Easter Egg Hunt

Lodge 53 held an Easter Egg Hunt for parish children of St. Mary Byzantine Church and the local community. A little snow couldn't stop the fun for the 35 kids attending the event. Everyone had a great time!

John Marko | Secretary/Treasurer



Pirohi makers.

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

Pirohi Sale

Lodge 62 made and sold thousands of pirohi to help the financing of a pavilion for the church festival. Lodge and church members along with friends helped with the work and had a great time visiting with each other and sharing lunch. The event raised \$1,592.⁰⁰. Thanks to all who volunteered their talents and the GCU Home Office for the Matching Funds.

Get Acquainted Breakfast

Approximately 75 parishioners enjoyed the come and get acquainted breakfast for Father Vasyl Kadar and his wife Kvita along with their son Vasyl and their daughter Ulyana. Fr. Kadar is from the Ukraine, he and his family came to the states last August and he has been assigned to SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church in Punxsutawney, PA. The lodge wishes him success in his new assignment.

Helen Meko | President



Fr. Vasyl Kadar, Vasyl, Ulyana and his wife Kvita.



Charles Bealer, Fr. Nicholas DeProspero, Alexandria Schrack and Sarah Voelker.

Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

First Holy Communion

St. John the Baptist Church held Solemn First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 6, 2018. The names of the communicants are: Charles Bealer, Alexandria Schrack and Sarah Voelker. A breakfast was held afterward in the church hall for communicants and their families.

Nancy Harding | Secretary

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Parish Activities

Lodge 81 members continued with parish activities for the months of April and May. At the monthly Coffee Social Stephen Petruska was recognized for his April birthday. GCU members Bonnie Balas and Cathy Phillips were among those who prepared the coffee social.

St. John Parish ECF classes came to a close for the students on April 29. Officers who are also catechists Marcia Harrer, Gerry Dorobish, James Mihalko, and Bonnie Balas prepared a culminating activity for all students which included prayers, activities and games centered around the material presented through the year. The following Sunday, May 6, GCU Lodge 81 sponsored a Bowling Party at Yough Lanes in Connellsville, PA. The lodge treated the children and parents to bowling, pizza, snacks and drinks. The event was enjoyed by all who attended.

Richard Harrer and Stephen Petruska along with other men of the parish were involved in the planning and preparation of the Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 13 in St. John Social Hall. Lodge 81 members along with their mothers and/or wives attended the event. As part of the event, May birthday celebrants were acknowledged. This included several parishioners and Lodge 81's Helen Ponzurick, who celebrated her 91st birthday on May 5. She shares the same birthday as parishioners Nadine Morgan and Ida Mae Morganosky. Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas, both of GCU and St. John Social Ministry Committee, were involved in the event passing out favors and door prizes.



ECF students with small Paska made by Kay Balas.



James Mihalko with his nephew Joseph Mihalko and friend Steven Popson.



Helen Ponzurick with Nadine Morgan and Ida Mae Morganosky. They all share a May 5th birthday!



Mother's Day brunch attendees: George & Janet Gaydos, Bonnie & Kay Balas and Stephen & Theresa Petruska.

UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENT

3rd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, August 27

Following morning Liturgy

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church
185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401

2nd Quarter Meeting

Lodge 81 quarterly meeting was held on Sunday, May 20, after the morning Divine Liturgy. Discussion involved the Flag Day Program planned for Sunday, June 10. Marcia Harrer planned to invite local scout and veteran groups to take part. New U.S. Flags were purchased for the parish to be dedicated at the event.

The GCU sponsored Helping Hands Day at Mt. Saint Macrina held on June 2 was also discussed. Lodge 81 donated toward the event, as well as encouraging members and parishioners to volunteer at the event. A donation was also approved for St. John Church for the use of the activity room for the quarterly meetings.

Bonnie Balas | Lodge 81 VP and Publicity Coordinator.



Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

First Corporate Communion

Rev. Fr. Robert Lozinski CSC with communicants Adysen Rose Iyob and Allie Jayne Sedlak. Both received their First Penance and reception of First Corporate Communion on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at Holy Ghost Parish. Lodge 92 hosted the reception for their family and friends at Holy Ghost Church.

Mark Barkowski | Publicity Director

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Basket Auction

Lodge 93 sponsored a Basket Auction to benefit St. John's Byzantine Church, Good Samaritan Food Pantry and the local library. A wide variety of baskets were on display that included, the Copper Pan and other copper products that are seen on TV, children's gifts, an outdoor grill and picnic items, household goods, tool packages, a 19" TV, a spa package, Ninja products, a variety of gift cards and special door prizes.

Complimentary coffee and cake were provided. Hot dogs and haluski were also available. Fr. Vasil & Helen Kost pulled the tickets and John Katana announced the winning numbers. A thank you to the GCU Home Office for the promotional items. A special thank you to all the workers that helped make the basket auction a success.

Mother's Day Dinner

Lodge 93 sponsored a Mother's Day Dinner after Liturgy at St. John's Byzantine Church, where Fr. Vasil Polyak is pastor. All local lodge members and parishioners were invited to enjoy a delicious chicken dinner and homemade desserts. Ladies in attendance received a Mother's Day icon bracelet. Door prizes were awarded and GCU promotional items distributed.

John Katana presented a short history of Mother's Day. As part of the program, donations were made to Good



Lodge member Walter Rogal presenting Fr. Vasil Polyak with a donation from the basket auction.



Lodge member Mary Susick presenting a donation to Good Samaritan Food Pantry representatives.

Samaritan Food Pantry and St. John's Byzantine Church. A thank you to the cooks that prepared the dinner and a special thank you to all those that made the desserts. An excellent job well done to all. The next scheduled activity is a Father's Day picnic style luncheon on Saturday, June 16.

John J. Katana | Secretary



The group at Westbury Manor to see Funny Girl.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

“Jesus” Sight and Sound Production

Lodge 151’s trip to Sight and Sound to see the production entitled “Jesus,” was the culminating event of this year’s Lenten and Easter Seasons. The theatre located in the Amish community of Lancaster, PA draws crowds from around the world. Over 2,000 people attended the absolutely magnificent performance. The first act highlighted many of Jesus’ works and miracles. The second act recreated the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Pentecost. It was a great production with spectacular staging, animals and miracle on the water.

Funny Girl

On Wednesday, April 25, several GCU members got together and went to Westbury Manor for a delicious lunch and theatre production of “Funny Girl.” It was a perfect way to spend a rainy day. It was great to see Barbara Kovalcik and Julia Hulack after some health issues. A special thanks to GCU member Marie Dzadik and Cathy Walsh for making all the arrangements.



Fr. Daddona 1st Anniversary

Parishioners of St. Andrew Church in Westbury, NY celebrated Fr. Nick Daddona’s first anniversary as a priest on Sunday, April 29. Friends and family attended Liturgy and were happy to be part of the celebration. God grant you many more blessed years as a priest.



Helping Hands Day

On Friday, May 4 parishioners and GCU members celebrated Helping Hands Day. Volunteers planted over 100 plants on the grounds of St. Andrew Church. Fr. Nick

led the group in beautifying the area around the church. Altar boys Nick, Paul and Joseph helped to clean the church and to plant the flowers.

Marge Russell | President

UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENTS

Visit to Belmont Racetrack

Thursday, July 12

\$60 per person

Includes a 3 hour buffet, free race program and private seating.

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016

Deadline is June 30.

Matching Funds Luncheon

Sunday, September 30

St. Andrew the Apostle Church
275 Ellison Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016



The crowd at the Mother's Day Bingo.

Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Mother's Day Bingo

Lodge 164 held their Annual Mother's Day Bingo on Sunday, May 13, 2018 at St. Mary's Social Center. There were 222 bingo players on hand. Each received a free dauber (donated by St. Mary's) and a GCU pen.

Fourteen lodge members and an additional 5 parishioners volunteered at the event.

The three community groups receiving equal donations of \$695.⁶⁷ from the event were: The Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley, The St. Vincent dePaul Society Kitchen and The Beatitude House of the Tri-County Area.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

UPCOMING LODGE 164 EVENTS

Third Quarter Meeting & Picnic

Sunday, July 15

Following Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center
356 S. Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Fourth Quarter Meeting/Election of Officers

Sunday, November 11

Following Liturgy

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center
356 S. Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA

Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt was sponsored by Lodge 182 at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Hall on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 following the 9 AM Divine Liturgy. Children of the parish and local community were asked to hunt for 6 eggs each a different color and return them for prizes which included GCU giveaways, books, toys, school supplies and candy. The children and their parents were then treated to baked goods, fruit, hot chocolate, fruit drinks and coffee. The hot chocolate and coffee were a big hit due to the rain and chilly temperatures that morning. The families of the participating children were asked to bring a donation of a toy for the Catherine McCauley House, which is a shelter for homeless women and their children located in Plymouth, PA to assist in making their Easter a little happier. A good time was had by all and many thanks to all who helped make this day a success.



Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt.

Piggie/Holubki Dinner

The members of Lodge 182 and St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Rosary Society joined forces to hold a Piggie/Holubki Dinner at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church hall on Saturday, April 28, 2018. The dinner was available for both

CONTINUED

Lodge 182 CONTINUED

take-out or dine-in. Participants enjoyed delicious holubki, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, red cabbage, a wide variety of desserts, coffee, soda, water and tea. A huge thanks to the Rosary Society & Lodge 182 members, as well as all the wonderful volunteers that made the dinner a huge success. Truly a combined effort on everyone's part and a job well done!

Laure Marcin | Secretary



Treasurer Mary Ann Evans, Secretary Laure Marcin deliver toys collected at the Easter egg hunt to Sr. Breige Lavery, RSM Director and Caseworker at the Catherine McCauley house.



Workers from the Piggie/Holubki Dinner.

Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH, PA

Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, March 25 Jennifer Gula with the assistance of Ammie Ribarchak organized Lodge 255's first Easter Egg hunt in years. Both lodge and parish children of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Church enjoyed a light brunch, visit from the Easter Bunny and the Easter Egg hunt!



Kids with the Easter Bunny.

UPCOMING LODGE 255 EVENT

Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Open

**Saturday, August 4
1 PM**

Cost \$70, includes golf, cart, prizes, hot dog at the turn and buffet dinner. Open to all GCU members!

Seven Oaks Country Club
32 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Info and applications call John Miller
412-576-4328



Having fun at the Murder Mystery Dinner.

Murder Mystery Dinner

On Saturday, April 14 Lodge 255 hosted its first ever Murder Mystery Dinner with the Mystery's Most Wanted theatre company. Seventy people attended the 1920's themed event. The flappers and mobsters enjoyed the food, fraternalism and entertainment at this very successful mystery dinner.

Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK, IL

Super Bowl and March Madness Fundraiser 2018

Lodge 271 has sponsored Super Bowl and March Madness fundraisers for the past 7 years. The lodge and whole church community come together to raise funds for Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer Glen, IL. As usual, this year was a lot of fun. There were winners and contributors but the prayers of all were answered, with another successful fund raising effort for Annunciation Church.

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

UPCOMING LODGE 271 EVENT

Prairie Fest 2018

Friday, August 10—5-10:30 PM

Saturday, August 11-12—NOON-10:30 PM

Sunday, August 12—11 AM-5 PM

Annunciation Byzantine Church
14610 Will-Cook Road
Homer Glen, IL 60491

Contact Vicki Blidy at 708-870-0480

LODGE 288

CLAIRTON, PA

Easter Activities & Donation

Lodge 288 sponsored their annual Easter program for families on Palm Sunday at Ascension Hall. Guests Father Ivan Rusyn, his wife Marianna and children Victor & Antony were introduced and their children joined in the festivities. A light lunch prepared by the lodge and generous donations of desserts from parishioners made for a delicious fare.

Afterwards adults helped to prepare Easter favors for a local nursing home. The kids created a bunny flower pot and planted flowers for their activity. The Easter Bunny arrived to the tune of “Here Comes Peter Cottontail” with a basket of wooden pysanky eggs to share with the children. The Easter Bunny also kicked off the Easter Egg hunt leading the children to look for eggs, treats and prizes.

Later in the week, volunteers delivered the Easter favors to Unity Nursing Home in Clairton. As the volunteers entered the dining room someone yelled the “Easter Bunny is here!”



Kids with the Easter Bunny.

May Events

First Holy Communion was held at Ascension Church on Sunday, May 6. Communicants Maxim Gardner-Gotera and Nicholas Tomkowitz were honored with a continental breakfast. Each received gifts from Lodge 288 and other church organizations.

On Mother’s Day, all of the moms attending Liturgy were honored with carnation corsages.

June Activities

A cover dish luncheon and chocolate tasting event was held on Sunday, June 3. A Norwex (environmentally safe cleaning products) demonstration was also held the same day in the church hall. Orders placed for the cleaning products helped to benefit the Alzheimer’s Foundation.

Donation

Lodge volunteers cleaned out the storage cupboard and collected left over GCU coloring books and crayons to donate to the Metro Community Health Center in Edgewood for their book drive. The Center was thrilled to receive books for their waiting room and loved that they would be able to let kids take them home.

Trish Roberts | President



First Holy Communion at Ascension Church.

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Third Quarter Meeting

Sunday, August 5
Following 10 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 28
Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH



The Ebert children with the Easter Bunny.

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at St. Joseph Byzantine Church in Brecksville on Palm Sunday, March 25. The Easter Bunny made a special appearance and helpers scattered many eggs throughout the activity center for the children to find. It was a successful turnout of children up to 12 years of age.

The children enjoyed their treat bags and candy along with taking plenty of photos with the Easter Bunny. Jars of peanut butter and jelly were collected from the participants to make sandwiches for the hungry and a check for \$100.00 was presented to Pat Lesnick for St. Joe's Hunger Outreach program. Thanks to Diana Simpson, Jean Karaffa and Carolyn Liggett for making this a special event.

Diane Richey | Publicity Director



Jim Bendel speaking to the crowd.

Lodge 321

BRADENVILLE, PA

Mother's Day Event

After the Divine Liturgies on Mother's Day weekend, Lodge 321 at St. Mary's Byzantine Church in Bradenville, sponsored a Strawberry Shortcake Social to honor all parents. Mothers were given roses and fathers received St. Nicholas prayer cards. The GCU Home Office sent "giveaways" for all attendees.

Parishioners were asked to make free will donations of select items to the Union Mission of Latrobe in honor of their parents. The items were on a "Wish List" provided by the Mission. The Union Mission is the only men's shelter in Westmoreland County. It serves men in crisis—many of them veterans.

Approximately 80 very generous people, attended the events. Over \$2,000.00 in clothing, household supplies, cleaning products and monetary donations were collected for the shelter. Special guests of St. Mary's were Kathy & Jim Bendel. Jim, chairman of the board of directors for the Union Mission, addressed the Sunday gathering. He spoke about the clients and their needs as well as their successes. He thanked the parishioners and the lodge for their support. Mr. Bendel also thanked Fr. Joe Borodach, the pastor, for his ongoing support of the organization.

This is the fourth Parents Weekend celebration held by Lodge 321. Each year a different local 501c3 charity is chosen to receive the proceeds of the event.

We thank those who contributed to the Mission for their generosity.

Laurene Kristof | Publicity Director

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Indiana County Decathlon

The Indiana County Decathlon held its kick-off event at Blue Spruce Park near Ernest, PA on Saturday, February 10. Participants were given birdseed to help attract the different species of birds residing in the park. Several walkers were delighted when birds swooped down and snatched a snack from their open hands. At the end of the walk, everyone was treated to a warm cup of chili. The next walk on the schedule was held on St. Patrick's Day in Clymer PA – The Irish Walk-n-Roll. Walkers of all abilities were encouraged to wear green and trek the three miles around the trail. A military color guard and the singing of the National Anthem took place before the walk, and refreshments were served at the Clymer Fire Hall after the walk.

Lodge 351 is one of the sponsors of the decathlon and our grant through the GCU helped to provide prizes to participants who earn at least 10 stamps on a participation card. The decathlon runs from January to May and highlights the many outdoor trails, parks and paths that can be utilized for biking, hiking, walking and running. It is coordinated with the Indiana Parks & Trails of Indiana County, the Indiana YMCA and WalkWorks of Indiana County. Members of Lodge 351 are encouraging other GCU members to continue to walk, bike and hike their way to a better healthy lifestyle, even after the event ends in May.

Patty Yamrick | Publicity Director



Monica and John Kowalski on the Hoodlebug Trail.



Easter Egg Hunt.

Lodge 360

CAMPBELL, OH

Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, March 25 St. Michael's Parish hosted their 14th annual Easter Egg Hunt for the parish children. GCU Lodge 360 was a co-sponsor along with the St. Michael's Civic Club. The children had a great time hunting for candy and prize filled eggs using GCU bags to carry all their goodies.

Betty Stanko Honored

On Sunday, April 8, Lodge 360 had the privilege to honor retired President Betty Stanko following the Liturgy. Betty served Lodge 360 for more than 40 years. Rev. Kevin Marks gave Betty a blessing and the GCU presented her with a wooden plaque of the GCU's St. Nicholas Chapel and a certificate of recognition for her many years of service. A luncheon was held afterwards at the parish social hall. God grant her peace, health and happiness for many blessed years.



Betty Stanko.

Rummage Sale

Lodge 360 co-sponsored the 3rd Annual Rummage Sale at St. Michael's Parish in Campbell, OH on Saturday, May 5. Parishioner and GCU member Marge Shabella pitched in to assist with the sale. At 92 years old, Marge is a great example on how to get it done.

Lisa Kinnick Romito | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 390

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Palm Sunday Party

St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church in Gibsonia, PA held its annual Palm Sunday party which was an exceptional success. With the largest attendance in the past few years, around 90 guests enjoyed a potluck lunch. Following lunch, the younger children played games, did crafts and hunted down about 300 hidden Easter eggs filled with candy and small toys. Support from the GCU Home Office and Lodge 390, helped to fill gift bags with coloring books, key chains, and pinwheels for the children and teens. In addition to the children's gift bags, adults were also able to select a small keychain or tape measure gift from the GCU. Overall, the children, teens and adults had a wonderful time enjoying food, faith and fun.



Annual Palm Sunday party.

Youth Group Fundraiser for ByzanTEEN Rally

In April the Holy Ghost McKees Rocks Youth group engaged in another fundraiser as the last push to support attendance at this year's ByzanTEEN Rally. The ByzanTEEN Rally is a gathering of youth from throughout the United States every two years for a group experience in a college campus environment. This allows many small communities to experience a larger gathering of youth for both spiritual enrichment and social activities.

Lodge 390 consistently has supported the home parish youth attending the ByzanTEEN Rally with fundraising efforts. This year the youth group sold Sarris Candy as part of the non-profit sale program. The \$720.00 raised was doubled through the GCU Matching Funds program. Attendance at the rally is a highly anticipated event for the group. Having the additional support from GCU is much appreciated by all involved.

Holy Ghost Northside-Pittsburgh Fund Raising

Following the St. Thomas Sunday Divine Liturgy on April 8, a fundraising winner was chosen from all the participants at Holy Ghost Byzantine Church in Northside-Pittsburgh. The parish and winner each received \$401.⁵⁰. The parish used the money to make a partial payment towards their annual real estate taxes. The parish is sponsored by Lodge 390 which requested GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds for the event. The parish especially thanks Lodge 390 Vice President Roxanne Savka for selling tickets at her home parish of St. Andrew in Gibsonia. We also thank Mary Frances and Edward Spontak Sr. for spearheading this project and all who supported this endeavor.

Steve Puluka | Secretary Treasurer



Holy Ghost Youth Group selling Sarris Candy candy bars.



Fundraising efforts.

Lodge 401

NANTY GLO, PA

Spaghetti Dinner

Lodge 401 held a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, April 22 to benefit the Nanty Glo Public Library. Ninety-five dinners were served for a profit of \$591.⁸² With the generous Matching Funds from the GCU, a check for \$1,183.⁶⁴ will be presented to the Library. Lodge 401 thanks all those who came out to support this worthwhile fundraiser.

Steve Bender | Secretary Treasurer



John Patrick, Steve Bender and Marina Sell working in the kitchen.

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

Once again Mother Nature has adorned our hillsides with the beauty of spring. It is a pleasure to go for a ride and see what was once barren is now full of greenery & wondrous splendor. Hopefully, the recent rains come to a halt so that we can get out to enjoy this marvelous time of year. This type of weather does not last long in Northeastern PA.

Hazleton Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 8 was the annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. John Church in Hazleton. Since the weather was just a little too cold, the hunt was held inside the church hall.

Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM welcomed everyone and led a prayer for the glorious time of the year. The 28 children participating in the event enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny as well. Door prizes were given to all the children and there were also gifts for the adults.

Refreshments were served to all of the attendees.



Joe Galgoci demonstrating pysanky egg decorating.

Lansford Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, March 25 the ECF students and children of St. John's Byzantine Church in Lansford, PA were treated to an Easter Egg Hunt at the parish hall.

Joe Galgoci demonstrated Pysanky egg decorating talent and all were treated to refreshments. Everyone received a GCU drawstring bag, coloring books, crayons, candy and goodies that were brought for all in attendance.

Recent Happenings

GHRL had a bus trip to Hollywood Casino on Sunday, April 15—a few lucky winners helped to make the trip more enjoyable.

On Saturday, April 21, the lodge had its annual No-Tap Blind Doubles Bowling Tournament at



Hazleton Easter Egg Hunt participants.

CONTINUED

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge CONTINUED

Bowl-Arena in West Hazleton, followed by a banquet at Bonanza Restaurant. It was great to have Fathers Donish, Hosler & Wolbert and Deacon Foran as guests at the dinner. A complete report appears on page 41.

Parish Expansion Matching Funds were applied for to benefit SS. Peter & Paul in Beaver Meadows, PA—they had a successful pirohi sale. Matching Funds also benefitted St. John's BC Church in Hazleton. The church held an Avon Book Party, Tricky Trays and another fundraiser to help raise funds for the parish. Thanks to all who helped make these 2 projects a great success and thanks to the Home Office for this great project benefitting the parishes.

The lodge's June Matching Funds community project was a huge success. Since all lottery calendars were sold, we will be having a winner every evening. Once the month is over the financial report will be sent to the Home Office to receive Matching Funds for the "Avenues." Thanks to all who took the time to sell the calendars to make this a very profitable event.

By the time this magazine is published, we will have participated in the Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Park and also a bus trip to Sands Casino.

Looking Ahead

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Hazleton will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on Sunday, June 24. Congratulations and best of wishes to Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM and all the parishioners of the parish.

At the GHRL second quarterly meeting it was discussed that all parishes of the lodge participate in a Bakeless Bake Sale on the weekend of July 29. This will be a Special Matching Funds project for Holy Annunciation Monastery. The revenue raised will be brought to the lodge's 3rd quarterly meeting on August 12 and forwarded to the Home Office to receive Matching Funds. The agenda will also include discussion on the fall Matching Funds for the month of November to benefit Holy Dormition Friary. A bus trip is planned for November 17 to Hunterdon Hills to see the Christmas Show.

Notes

Here is wishing all fathers, grandfathers and godfathers a very blessed and happy Father's Day. If you have the time, spend some of it with dad, they are always there for you.

Please keep in your prayers those who have lost their lives by people doing wrong and also all the areas that have been hit by disaster, either by tornadoes, wind storms and the erupting volcanoes in Hawaii and Guatemala.

Sometimes, due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, dates and activities are subject to change. If you are ever in doubt, please give Agnes 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 | GHRL Secretary & Fraternal Activities Director

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

41st Annual Holupki Open

Saturday, July 14

10 AM Shot Gun Start-4 Man Scramble

White Birch Golf Course

660 Tuscarora Park Road, Barnesville, PA 18214

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

Applications available at GCUusa.com (Members-Events-July)

3rd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, August 12

2 PM

SS. Peter & Paul Church

107 South 4th Street, Minersville, PA 17954

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

"Jesus"

Saturday, August 18

Sight and Sound Theater

Lancaster, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

Family Bowling Event

On Sunday, April 29, Lodge 625 held its annual family bowling party at Richland Lanes. Family and friends enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship, bowling and pizza. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the giveaway bags.

Mother's Day

For Mother's Day Lodge 625 provided a carnation to all the women of the parish. On May 20 the parish family of Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church celebrated its 110th Anniversary with a Divine Liturgy followed by dinner.

Helping Hands Day

The Lodge 625 Helping Hands event was held on Saturday May 26. Volunteers made repairs and worked on the church grounds and cemetery.

Note

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

Georgia Lehman | Secretary Treasurer



The happy group at Lodge 625 family bowling event.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

Father's Day Social

Sunday, June 17

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

2nd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, June 24

Following Divine Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Conemaugh, PA

Jackson Heritage Festival

July 19 Set Up

July 20-21-22 Festival

In the month of June, lodge members will be gearing up for this annual event which will be a Parish Matching Funds event. We will be selling gobs, pirohi and haluski.



+ Mary Ann Pinto.

More from Lodge 644

AKRON/BARBERTON, OH

With Great Sorrow

It is with great sorrow that I begin this article by reporting that Lodge 644 Secretary, Mary Ann Pinto, unexpectedly passed away on March 16. She served the lodge with efficiency and kindness and will certainly be missed. The lodge extends condolences to her entire family as well as all the members she helped during these past years. At present, Sue Irving is serving as secretary and can be reached by calling 330-673-9142.

Lodge Meeting

The April 29 lodge meeting was quite productive, discussing the Helping Hands Project at St. Nicholas Church that was held on May 19 and card party that took place on June 13. Rick Schen volunteered to organize a tour of Walsh College followed by a luncheon in early August. Thus, Lodge 644 will be active throughout the summer.



Rick Schen.



John & Patricia Keblesh.

Special Announcement

Now for my special announcement, after 50 years of reporting on Lodge 644, this will be my final article. I appreciate my wife, Patricia, who has done the proof reading of my articles. Patty and I are both thankful for all the wonderful GCU members we have become acquainted with over the years. Rick Schen kindly volunteered to do the publicity beginning July 1. Rick has been an active lodge member contributing to lodge activities in a very positive way. He is retired but serves as a social worker for Cambridge Caretakers in Canton, OH. We wish him well as he begins this new and very interesting phase of lodge activity and certainly look forward to his articles.

As summer approaches, we wish all GCU members a happy and healthy vacation season.

John Keblesh | Publicity



Steve Powanda, Janet Susarchick, Margita Geles and Lillian Gregory.

Lodge 665

LINDEN, NJ

Kolachy Day Fundraising

Lodge 665 and church members enjoyed gathering together to share Kolachy Day and a fundraising event on Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday). Thank you to the organizers and workers of the event for making this event a success.

Michael A. Geles Sr. | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 697

WEIRTON, WV

Keeping the Traditions Alive

Lodge members and parishioners from St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church gathered together to prepare for Easter and keep a cherished tradition alive—the art of pysanky eggs. The lodge and church members are lucky to have Lodge 697 officers Michelle & Rachel Lahita to pass on this time honored art.

Sticking with tradition, everyone in the class used wooden kistkas and black beeswax to write the designs on their eggs and go through the steps of dying them. From white to black, using all the other colors of the rainbow in between, the participants created beautiful works of art.

Michelle worked with the adults and let them choose their own designs and guided them along in the process, teaching them the meanings behind the eggs they had



Pysanky egg class participants.

chosen. Rachel took the children and started teaching them a design together. They were all very interested in learning the meanings behind the designs and the colors.

Everyone had a wonderful time together learning about their cultural history, spending a day in fellowship & fun and making a beautiful creation to cherish forever.

Rachel Lahita | Secretary Treasurer



Preparing bagged lunches are Duane Vancil, George Nagrant, Steve Terlescki, Margie Swanney, Peter Swanney and Kim Prodan. Photo by Jim Van Kula.

Lodge 860

CLINTON TOWNSHIP/DETROIT, MI

Bagged Lunches for Local Homeless

Members of Lodge 860 together with parishioners of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Clinton Township, held the 13th annual lunch-packing on Sunday, March 4, 2018, to benefit local area homeless people.

Following the 11 AM Divine Liturgy, the volunteers worked side by side, assembly-line style, in the parish social hall. They loaded sandwiches, beverages and more into 100 white paper lunch bags they had previously decorated with inspirational artwork.

The lunch-packing volunteers were treated to a pizza lunch. The stuffed lunch bags were packed into multiple boxes and transported to a local homeless shelter for distribution.

Easter Celebration and Children's Egg Hunt

Lodge 860 supported the first St. Thomas Sunday Potluck and Easter Egg Hunt at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township on Sunday, April 8, 2018.

Parishioners and lodge members brought various dishes to the buffet and the lodge donated \$100.⁰⁰ toward the cost

CONTINUED

Lodge 860 CONTINUED

of other supplies.

Following the luncheon, children of the parish and lodge went outside to hunt for and collect toy-filled plastic eggs hidden on the parish grounds by the Easter Bunny!



Kids at the Easter Egg Hunt: (from left): Drew Hyci, Dorothy Sidau, Maggie Swanney, Nicholas Swanney, Peter Swanney, Fred Swanney, Sarah Dinsmore, Evelyn Nagrant, Thomas Swanney, Emily Marszalec, Brody Smith, Clay Hucki and Elleana Beitel. Photo by Suzanne Swanney.



Cindy Dinsmore maneuvers an extension pole to dust high wooden arches and ceiling fans in the interior of St. Nicholas Church. Photo by Sub-Deacon Phillip Dinsmore.

Helping Hands for Parish Beautification

On Saturday, April 28, in cool and partly cloudy weather, a dedicated group of lodge members and parishioners worked hard at improving the grounds at St. Nicholas Church. Beginning with coffee and donuts at 9 AM, several individuals and family groups took on diversified projects both indoors and out. Several folks took to the back-breaking work of removing large bushes and their roots from around the front entrance of the church. Others began exterior and interior painting to further enhance the entryway.

Volunteers also tackled cleaning the hall kitchen and restrooms, as well as dusting wood and vacuuming carpeted areas. Other outdoor tasks included weeding, planting flowers and mulching. Many of the supplies for these projects were purchased with a grant from the GCU.

Once the work began, it didn't stop until lunch, which was pizza and antipasto salad. Then work continued into the afternoon.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal Activities & Publicity Director

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Rummage Sale

St. Stephen parish rummage sale was held on Friday & Saturday, March 16-17, 2018. All of the monies collected through generous donations and GCU Matching Funds will benefit the St. Stephen Building and Improvement

Fund. In addition to all of the items for sale, baked goods and hot dogs were sold during the event.

Joanie Mahar | President



SEVEN OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

Recreational Facility Usage Rules & Important Information

A GCU Benefit member will be entitled to 6 facilities (golf) and 3 each (swimming and tennis) uses in which 3 are complimentary uses (golfers must pay cart fee) and the other uses will pay the current guest fee for each facility. To receive a temporary GCU/Seven Oaks membership card, please contact Chris at 724-495-3400 ext. 3810. After you have received your temporary card, you can have a permanent photo card issued when you visit Seven Oaks. Photo cards are available Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM and Saturday-Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM in the Seven Oaks office.

Benefit Member's complimentary pass non-transferrable.

Dining

- ❖ Unlimited dining in the Clubhouse—reservations are preferred.
- ❖ Benefit Members must accompany their guests. Spouses & children who are not benefit members, are classified as guests.



Golf

- ❖ Tee times available 3 days in advance.
- ❖ Weekend or holiday tee times available starting at noon.

Golf Fees

- ❖ Cart fee (18 holes)—\$24 (9 holes)—\$17 per person including tax.
- ❖ Green fees (18 holes)—\$31 weekdays—\$41 weekends.

Swimming

- ❖ Restricted to 3 times per year.
- ❖ Children must apply for a benefit membership or will be classified as a guest.

Pool Fees—\$10 per person

Tennis

- ❖ Restricted to 3 times per year.
- ❖ Children must apply for a benefit membership or will be classified as a guest.

Tennis Fees—\$10 per person



Membership card must be presented to Club personnel for every usage at the facility.

Restrictions do apply, please be sure to check with the Club before each visit for recreational and dining availability.

Contact Information

Temporary GCU/Seven Oaks Card—
724-495-3400 ext. 3810

Dining Reservations—724-495-3300

Golf Pro Shop—724-495-2770

Tennis Courts—724-495-3300 ext. 257

Website—www.sevenoaksc.com





2018 PIRATE OUTING



Saturday, August 18 at 7:05
Zambelli Firework Night
Members: \$20
Non-members: \$26
Sec. 325



800-722-4428

GCUusa.com

Events

Charity Golf Scramble

Saturday, September 15
10 AM Shotgun Start

Seven Oaks Country Club
132 Lisbon Road, Beaver, PA 15009

Applications will be mailed to previous participants and are available at GCUusa.com (Members-Events-September 2018) or call the GCU Frat.-Comm. Dept at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3924.

62nd Annual St. Nicholas Celebration

Sunday, December 9

St. John Cathedral Center
210 Greentree Road, Munhall, PA 15120

A Benefit of SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary.

Contact Frat.-Comm. Dept. at 1-800-722-4428.

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

No Tap Bowling Tournament

The annual No-Tap tournament was held on Saturday, April 21 at Bowl-Arena Bowling Alley in West Hazleton. Bowlers from GHRL and District 5 participated in the tournament.

There were 13 doubles partners and 27 single bowlers. The following were doubles event winners: 1st Place—Carolyn Koscuk & Terry Lindner (1212); 2nd Place—Mary Ellen Fichter & Josh Billman (1102); 3rd Place—Eileen Bunk & Scott Watkins (1090); 4th Place—Judy Kringer & Carol Shemansky (1035) and 5th Place—Ann Marie Barna & Robert Angelo (1028).

Singles winners—Men: 1st Place—Terry Lindner (277); 2nd Place—Scott Watkins (265) and 3rd Place—Robert Angelo (255). Women: 1st Place—Agnes Rohrbach (230) 2nd Place—Carol Shemansky (230) and 3rd Place—Carolyn Koscuk (211).

Low game winners: Greg Fetchko (88) and Janice Moyer (93).

Following the tournament, a banquet was held at Bonanza Restaurant where prize money was distributed.

Thanks to Erik at Bowl-Arena for setting up the tournament and to the GCU Home Office for the fraternal grants and the give-a-ways for all of the events.

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Activities Director



Deacon Larry Foran, Rev. Jerome Wolbert OFM, Rev Gregory Walser and Rev. Peter Donish at the No-Tap tournament.



Doubles winners. Front: Agnes Rohrbach, Ann Marie Barna and Robert Angelo. Back: Judy Kringer, Carol Shemansky, Carolyn Koscuk, Josh Bilman, Mary Ellen Fichter and Eileen Bunk.

Bowling League Finishes Season

The GCU'ers bowling league completed recently the season. Congratulations to Rena DeSpirito, Anne Berlitz and John Moyer for winning the championship. The league banquet was held on Wednesday, May 23 at Perkins Restaurant where all prize money was distributed to the winning teams. All members of the league received a t-shirt from the Bloomsburg, Danville-Berwick bowling association, as a courtesy of the association.

Get well wishes are extended to Coleen Dubitsky.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8344 Reba Abraham, Philadelphia, PA
302 Barbara J. Adams, Salem, OH
8344 Elena Adzima, Pittsburgh, PA
18 David Alberts, Connellsville, PA
8358 William J. Altmann, Marshfield, WI
994 Andrew Amygdalos, Beaver Falls, PA
8358 Joan Arft, Neenah, WI
8344 Magdaline Ballow, Johnstown, PA
390 Michael Barbush, Pittsburgh, PA
288 Mary Barr, Elizabeth, PA
8344 Thomas Barrett, Butler, PA
255 George John Baysura, Fort Myers, FL
625 Harry B. Beam, Johnstown, PA
8344 Mildred Belch, Ambridge, PA
336 Elaine M. Bellisario, Brooklyn, OH
2 James A. Bernard, Murrysville, PA
994 Louis J. Better, Monaca, PA
8344 Elizabeth Bishop, Delaware Water Gap, PA
92 Mary Ann Bisignani, Dickson City, PA
271 Norman W. Bloom, Prior Lake, MN
8344 Ronald P. Blose, Slatedale, PA
697 William T. Bonar, Proctor, WV
8344 Lue Verne R. Bowser, Beaver, PA
164 Margaret Bresko, Granger, IN
8344 Jules J. Brigode, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Paul W. Brown, Warren, PA
999 Mary Anne Buchmeier, Mesa, AZ
252 Eleptheria Butchko, Poland, OH
15 Margaret Carmichael, Bordentown, NJ
8344 Robert W. Casedy, Vandergrift, PA
999 Audrey Y. Cedor, Glendale, AZ
8344 Roman Chawryluk, Pittsburgh, PA
2 Paul Chekan, Munhall, PA
999 Hertha Chellevoid, Mesa, AZ
2 Peter Cherak, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Mary Cicolini, Cheswick, PA
999 William Cies, Dixon, IL
8344 Lois M. Clowes, Freeport, PA
8344 Diane M. Connelly, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Thomas Copper, Ellwood City, PA
8341 Nancy Corpus, Oakwood, OH
8344 James Cowan, Pittsburgh, PA
8309 Margaret Cox, Port Charlotte, FL
211 Steve Vendel Csigi, Scranton, PA
8344 Rita M. Cupak, Murrysville, PA
8358 Patricia A. Czarnowski, Racine, WI
8341 Elizabeth Datko, Grafton, OH
644 Norene Deamon, Twinsburg, OH
8358 Margaret DeBruin, Menomonee Falls, WI
8344 Leo Delozier, Cresson, PA
8358 Geraldine Despina, Verona, WI
69 Veronica L. Detwiler, Royersford, PA
390 Ronald Deutsch, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Roland E. Dunkelberger, Elizabethtown, PA
8344 Arlene Eberwein, Slatington, PA
8344 Theresa M. Eder, McKees Rocks, PA
8344 Nancy Edwards, Lansdale, PA
8344 Helen M. Eells, Hatboro, PA
8309 Frank Eles, Boynton Beach, FL
994 Robert Estok, Monaca, PA
53 Louis Falzone, Wilkes Barre Twp, PA
93 Peter Fedorko, Midland, PA
8344 Phyllis M. Feick, Chestnut Ridge, PA
665 Kenneth Felix, Easton, PA
8344 Rose Ferguson, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Margaret L. Filbert, Wapwallopen, PA
8344 Jean Flaim, Pottsville, PA
8344 Frank Fortunato, Canonsburg, PA
390 Pauline C. Gaydas, McKees Rocks, PA
15 Olga Gerding, Trenton, NJ
8344 Nicholas Gicie, Butler, PA
625 David Goff, Johnstown, PA
8341 Helen Graybeal, Salem, OH
8327 John Greene, Northfield, MN
15 Dixie Grover, Ewing, NJ
8344 Minnie Guaragno, Coraopolis, PA
255 Margaret F. Gunn, Wilkinsburg, PA
8344 John Hajzus, Colver, PA
8344 Samuel Hamilton, Butler, PA
8357 Robert W. Hamrick, Morgantown, WV
360 Raymond D. Hanuscak, Youngstown, OH
109 Jack Hayes, Butler, PA
8344 George M. Heiser, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Genevieve P. Helhowski, East Vandergrift, PA
994 Lewis Herdt, Conway, PA
302 Joseph Hliviak, La Habra, CA
8344 Ellen Hornburg, Warren, PA
8344 Anna Horvath, Pittsburgh, PA
860 Zachary G. Horvath, Troy, MI
8344 Margaret L. Hoy, Schuylkill Haven, PA
8344 Calvin Huff, Indiana, PA
8344 Katherine Iwanonkiw, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Julia Jaecks, Pittsburgh, PA
15 Edward Jenkins, Drexel Hill, PA
8358 Elaine E. Jensen, Waukesha, WI
8344 Donald R. Johnson, Pittsburgh, PA
8358 Shirley Johnston, Menasha, WI
255 Nancy Jopinko, Cranberry Township, PA
8344 Catherine Jurgill, Allentown, PA
336 Richard Kamenar, Racine, WI
83 Cindy M. Kapura, Tulsa, OK
10 Mary Katus, Carnegie, PA
8344 Shirley Kenney, Masontown, PA
271 A John Keyzer, Rolling Meadows, IL
8326 Ghada Khoury, Lansing, MI
8315 Frank A. Kimmel, Huntingburg, IN
8344 Mary Jane Kirr, Latrobe, PA
8315 Katherine Klawiter, Chesterton, IN
8344 Bertha G. Kline, Indiana, PA
360 Dorothy Korchnak, Campbell, OH
8344 Helen Koretski, Butler, PA
8341 Theodore Kormanik, Barberton, OH
8344 John J. Kossitch, Nazareth, PA
8344 Blanche M. Kovach, Masontown, PA
164 Margaret Kovacs, Dickinson, ND

164 Robert J. Kovacs, Dickinson, ND
 360 Joseph Matthew Koval, Pittsburgh, PA
 8344 Francis Kovalick,
 Beaver Meadows, PA
 390 Julia Kowalchick, Mckees Rocks, PA
 8344 Grace Krespan, Warren, PA
 8344 Marie Krostyne, Pittsburgh, PA
 235 Helen Kruczek, Kensington, CT
 8358 Nadine Krueger, Waukesha, WI
 271 Susan Kujawa, Fairview Heights, IL
 8344 Rose K. Kulbitsky,
 New Philadelphia, PA
 8358 Richard P. Kurlinski, Milwaukee, WI
 8344 Emma Kushmeider, Media, PA
 8359 Marilyn M. Lang, Greensboro, NC
 15 Theresa Latzanich, Newtown, PA
 8344 Peggy Leibold, White Oak, PA
 8344 Madeline Leonard, Rural Valley, PA
 8335 Stella Lesnevec,
 Little Egg Harbor Twp., NJ
 255 Edward Lewczyk, Boca Raton, FL
 8344 John Lindberg, Warren, PA
 8344 George J. Lipshaw, Port Carbon, PA
 8327 Joan A. Lohberger, Waldorf, MN
 8344 Helen Lowchy, Brooklyn, NY
 8341 Mary Macko, Barberton, OH
 8344 Joseph Mager, Lansdale, PA
 8337 Janet Mains, Brooklyn, NY
 8344 Sophia M. Majewski, Pittsburgh, PA
 8358 Olivia H. Malamphy, Milwaukee, WI
 8344 Leona Malloy, Plains, PA
 8344 Joan Manor, Rochester, PA
 258 William C. Marks, Farrell, PA
 8344 Louise Mayo, Jeannette, PA
 8344 Marie McCloskey, Telford, PA
 8358 Robert McGarvey, Rice Lake, WI
 66 Wanda J. Metrick, Hammond, IN
 8358 Stig E. Meyer, Westby, WI
 8335 Wallace More, East Brunswick, NJ
 8344 Francis Myers, Ebensburg, PA
 66 Mary A. Myers, Crown Point, IN
 8344 Violet Nichols, Uniontown, PA
 8358 Sylvester M. Nieznanski,
 Greenfield, WI
 8309 Robert Noble, Lakeland, FL
 252 Maria E. Nolasco, Youngstown, OH
 8344 Grete Novitsky, Millersville, PA
 8344 Anastazia N. Ohorodnyk, Beaver, PA
 8344 Michael Olix, Bethel Park, PA
 10 Priscilla A. Ozimok, Lewis Center, OH
 81 Eleanor Palchak, Perryopolis, PA
 8344 Victoria Paschis, East Vandergrift, PA
 302 John Pashel, Seven Hills, OH
 8324 Sonia Paslawsky, Oxon Hill, MD
 302 Sophia Pelyak, Parma Heights, OH
 8344 Larue Penman, Orangeville, PA
 8344 Joseph F. Pepkowski, Pipersville, PA
 8344 Mary Peroney, Belle Vernon, PA
 8344 Florence Pfab, Carnegie, PA
 8344 Juliana Piazza, Southview, PA
 8324 Edward Pikulski, Ocean City, MD
 8344 Regina Pisecsko, North Wales, PA
 316 Catherine Pokrifcsak, Easton, PA
 62 Anna Przestrzelski, Punxsutawney, PA
 8344 Dorothy R. Reinauer, Reading, PA
 8344 Barbara A. Restelli, Pittsburgh, PA
 8344 Lois G. Richards, Ellwood City, PA
 340 Alma Rokita, Fords, NJ
 8344 Lillian Ross, Tarentum, PA
 28 Sophia Rouda, Puyallup, WA
 999 James A. Rowe, Sumter, SC
 386 Andrew J. Rubacky, Pittsburgh, PA
 302 John Rudwell, Tallmadge, OH
 2 Derek Sabol, Pittsburgh, PA
 8344 Helen Sagusky, Allentown, PA
 8306 Cath Samorajczyk, Stratford, CT
 255 Frances Schaner, Pittsburgh, PA
 8344 Rosemarie Schmitt, Pittsburgh, PA
 8358 Herbert A. Scholbe,
 Menomonee Falls, WI
 8358 Patricia R. Schultz, Ripon, WI
 8344 Norman J. Schwartz, Pittsburgh, PA
 182 Mary Selepak, Plains, PA
 8344 George Senita, Gibsonia, PA
 250 Mary M. Sidor, Pittsburgh, PA
 390 Anthony Silvestri, Moon Twp., PA
 8344 Charles Siulborski, Sewickley, PA
 999 John C. Sizer, Phoenix, AZ
 8344 Mary Ann Skrobot, Butler, PA
 336 Helen L. Skully, Avon Lake, OH
 271 George S. Slaboch, Chicago, IL
 8341 Edmund Smith, Canton, OH
 288 Melvin L. Smith, Washington, PA
 8309 Paul D. Smith, Deland, FL
 8344 Helen Snyder, Bath, PA
 8344 Evelyn Socey, Altoona, PA
 697 Mary M. Solomon, Weirton, WV
 8315 John Soltis, Chardon, OH
 47 Anthony Stepneski, Johnson City, NY
 8344 Marie Stuver, Greenville, PA
 255 Edward R. Sudzina, Severna Park, MD
 8344 Francis Susanin, Malvern, PA
 8344 Sarah J. Svane, Harleysville, PA
 8344 Virginia Sweeney, Saxonburg, PA
 8360 Lazzaro Tantalo,
 Hilton Head Island, SC
 994 Ronald J. Territo, Baden, PA
 8344 Philip J. Thomas, Germansville, PA
 8344 Edward J. Thornton, Sarver, PA
 53 Michael J. Tirpak, Swoyersville, PA
 254 Stephen Tivald, Hillsborough, NJ
 8344 Jerome Tomko, Bear Creek, PA
 8344 George Toth, Phoenixville, PA
 8344 Guy A. Turturice, California, PA
 8315 Mary Urcan, East Chicago, IN
 360 Terrence Vansuch, Louisville, OH
 8344 Dino J. Vopli, King of Prussia, PA
 8344 Lucile Walker, Kittanning, PA
 8344 Leona Wallace, Greensburg, PA
 8341 Michael Wasdovitch, West Lake, OH
 8344 Sophie Wattras, Pittsburgh, PA
 15 Charles Yastishock, Harrisburg, PA
 8344 Myra Yester, Pittsburgh, PA
 8344 Eleanor Yuditsky, Mahanoy City, PA
 7 Veronica Yurus, Ellenville, NY
 164 Majorie J. Zatchok, Youngstown, OH
 255 Michael Zihal, Pittsburgh, PA
 319 Michael Zofchak, Flushing, MI
 8344 Barbara Zyski, Monongahela, PA
 8344 Sylvia A. Zywiolok, Pittsburgh, PA

Remembrances

Sister Maria Petruska, OSBM

Having fallen asleep in the Lord late in the evening of Apr. 11, 2018, +Sister Maria Petruska (formerly Sister Juvenalia) woke to a new dawn in the heavenly kingdom. In the last years of her life, Sister was a resident at Mt. Macrina Manor, and it was from here that she took her final steps into eternity.

The daughter of the late Andrew & Mary (Ciparik) Petruska, Sister Maria, was born in the village of Ruska Nova Ves in what is now Slovakia. She entered the community from St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Mahanoy City, PA, on January 15, 1942 making her Final Profession on January 8, 1950.

Her life in active ministry was comprised of teaching from the elementary to secondary levels within the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Province. At the college level, she taught at the Fayette Campus of Penn State. Her teaching ministry on the college level then led her to seek broader experiences, taking her to Bethlehem University, to Guam, Japan and Tanzania. These experiences of teaching in foreign countries were among her fondest memories.

Retiring from this active ministry, Sister Maria then became involved as a tutor at the Intermediate Unit I Adult Learning Center in Uniontown, PA. Because of her teaching experience in foreign countries, Sister Maria stated that the choice to tutor for the learning center came naturally. As a native of Slovakia, she had an empathy for those lacking proficiency in English. For her, teaching English as a second language was a joy, not a job. Some of the

friends she made through this work kept in contact with her over the years.

Sister Maria had a great love for her Byzantine Catholic heritage in all its aspects, and she took great care in passing on this love to her students. She wanted to be remembered for this.

Since the weather was cold and snowy, Metropolitan William, in his homily, drew an analogy from the film *Dr. Zhivago*. In the film, there are flashbacks to moments in Zhivago's life. In Sister Maria's life, these flashbacks can be said to begin with her coming to this country from Slovakia, settling in Mahanoy City and then entering the community. Her life in community, which spanned 76 years, revealed her to be an independent thinker, always clear about what she wanted from life, and always faithful to the Byzantine Catholic faith, the faith of her parents.

As is evidenced by the many places Sister Maria served, new avenues of ministry were sought and welcomed. Metropolitan noted that, in the same way, we are called to look at our own lives, to go where the wind takes us, always trying to be faithful to the Easter message—an invitation held out to all of us.

Sister Maria was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters, Helen & Margaret Petruska, and her brothers, Rev. Gregory & Andrew Petruska. In addition to her members in community, she is survived a brother, Rev. Christopher Petruska, a sister Theresa (Bill) Ortmann and several devoted nieces & nephews and their families.

The Parastas Service was concelebrated on Wednesday, April 18 by the Very

Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Monastery Chaplain Rev. Peter Leigh. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Thursday April 19 at 10:30 AM in the Monastery Chapel by Archbishop William C. Skurla. Concelebrants were Bishop John S. Puzak, Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Rev. Peter Leigh. In attendance were Very Rev. Ronald P. Larko, Abbot Leo Schlosser, Rev. James Spontak and Rev. Stephen Wahal.

May God grant to his handmaiden, Sister Maria, eternal memory and peaceful repose.

Sister Paula Dzurisin, OSBM

The wonderful gift of her vocation was an exciting challenge for her to live life to the fullest.

In the early days of the community, Sister Paula would awake from sleep to prepare for morning prayer in the Monastery. On the morning of April 28, she awoke instead to a new life, a life where she was welcomed into the embrace of the Lord she served so faithfully for over 70 years.

Sister Paula (Anna) Dzurisin was born in Pittston, PA, the daughter of the late George & Mary (Kizlin) Dzurisin. A member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Parish in Pittston, she entered the Sisters of St. Basil the Great on June 23, 1947. Sr. Paula made her Final Profession of Vows on August 28, 1953, in the presence of the late Bishop Daniel Ivancho.

As with many of those who entered at the time, Sr. Paula spent a good number of years as a teacher and principal in the parish schools of the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh. She also taught business courses at Mount Macrina Academy. There for only one year, the impression she made was such that her students were sure to visit her during the Alumnae reunions.

After almost a half century in the teaching ministry, Sr. Paula returned to the Monastery where she spent a year volunteering in pastoral visiting at the Manor. She was a great conversationalist, and her interest in people was mutually enriching in this ministry.

Her background in business education, however, led to her next assignment, that of managing the Card Department at the monastery for the next eight years. When it was necessary to lessen her responsibilities, Sr. Paula continued to assist in that same ministry for another eight years, graciously handing over the management to another Sister. It

was only after this full life in active ministry that Sr. Paula was admitted to the Manor due to declining health.

In her vocation story, Sister wrote that her response to God's call came only after she repeatedly would say, "No, this isn't for me, but the call continued to haunt me." Having finally said "Yes" to her call, she wrote, "The lived experience of my call became like a precious container filled with love that increased the desire within me to share this love with others. This wonderful gift, my Vocation, has been, is, and will continue to be an exciting challenge for me to live my life to the fullest."

Archbishop William began his homily by noting that Sr. Paula had hoped to enter eternity during the Easter time, and this hope was fulfilled. Though we are sad at her parting, we rejoice that she has entered heaven, and we now have another person there to pray for us.

In continuing, Archbishop noted the similarities between her life and that of Saint Theodosius, the saint of the day. The saint was a monk who initiated reforms for his Studite monastery, and these reforms eventually went beyond his monastery to many communities which came after. Likewise, though Sr. Paula's life went from active days of teaching to a quieter time of communication and solitude, her influence always spread from her monastery to the people in the places where she served.

Concluding his remarks, Archbishop William mentioned that the Dzurisin name was well known in the Passaic Eparchy. Both Sr. Paula's sister, Sr. Philip, and her brother, Monsignor George served there. Her brothers were cantors with excellent voices, and their ministry has been continued into the second generation.

Sr. Paula was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Rev. Monsignor George, Joseph, Michael, and John and her sisters, Sr. M. Philip and

Mary Wascavage. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by her brother Paul (Dorothy) and many devoted nieces and nephews.

The Parastas Service was concelebrated on Wednesday May 2 by the Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Rev. Peter Leigh, Monastery Chaplain. Rev. James Ragan was in attendance. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Thursday, May 3 in the Monastery Chapel by Archbishop William C. Skurla. Concelebrants were Very Rev. Ronald P. Larko and Rev. Peter Leigh. In attendance were Very Rev. Archbishop John G. Petro, Very Rev. James A. Spontak and Rev. Stephen J. Wahal.

May God grant to his handmaiden, Sister Paula, eternal memory and peaceful repose.

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