

AUGUST 2021

GCU

MAGAZINE

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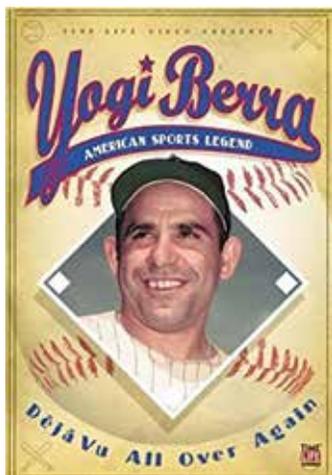
George N. Juba
President
CEO

It's Never Over til It's Over

I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the third largest city in the Commonwealth. I was raised in Dunmore, which is a contingent borough to the City of Scranton. As I mentioned in many of my previous articles, I was very fortunate to have such loving and caring parents. Yearly vacations and occasional weekend trips were something I really looked forward to. I still remember the trips we would take to New York City by a passenger train called the “Phoebe Snow”



departing from the Scranton Railroad Station and arriving in Hoboken, New Jersey. From there we would take the subway to Manhattan. We would attend holiday shows at Radio City Music Hall. My Mom would stand in line for hours to get tickets as my Dad, Brother and I would take in some sightseeing as we toured St. Patrick's Cathedral and Rockefeller Square. “The African Queen” starring Humphrey Bogart and Audrey Hepburn is one movie I recall viewing prior to the start of an Easter show. As to sports, I grew up a New York Yankee fan and again was fortunate to attend games at Yankee Stadium. I witnessed some of the greatest Yankee players of all-time, Micky Mantle, Roger Maris, Tony Kubeck, Elston Howard, Bobby Richardson, Joe Pepitone, Whitey Ford and so many more. Yogi Berra was one of my favorites. He was admired by all as a person and talented catcher. He was also known for his various quotes with the most popular one



I believe being “It's Never Over til It's Over!” How true as I witnessed so many last second victories in baseball, basketball and football games. I always remember “Yogi” each time this happens!

We were seeing some “Light at the End of the Tunnel” regarding the easing of the COVID-19 virus impacts. Unfortunately, it's “Not Over” yet, as we must continue to be cognizant of this deadly virus. I am a true believer in science as so many viruses and diseases are addressed by modern day medicine and research with hope that someday cures will be found. The COVID-19 virus and its variants may never be eradicated but certainly can be controlled. The only disease that has been eradicated worldwide is smallpox. We must all take heed of the medical experts in listening to their advice that will provide a much safer country and world to live in.

Another item that is “Not Over” is GCU's continued financial success! Assets have grown by \$104.8 million or 4.8% from year end 2020 and stand at \$2.306 billion. Surplus also reflects a \$9.6 million or 5.3% increase from year end 2020 totaling \$192.3 million through June 30, 2021. The largest contributing factor to surplus is net income as \$14.1 million has been realized through June 30, 2021. This has well exceeded budget thus far. Our solvency ratio by Total Adjusted Capital continues to increase as well and is at 109.9%, one of the highest in comparison to other carriers. We are in the process of finalizing our 2021 quarterly statement.

Our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres will be presenting our second quarter 2021 financial results with detailed commentary in the October issue of the *GCU Magazine*. Our sincere thank you to our members and agents for the continued trust that you have placed within our Society that allows for continued financial stability!

Despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are so grateful to the officers and members of our lodges and districts for the activities that were held in support of the GCU's Mission

CONTINUED

of **“Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities”**. We invite you to view the Community and Fraternal sections of the *Magazine*. They feature the many efforts put forth by our members and the good deeds done within our Byzantine & non-Byzantine parishes and within the various communities where the lodges are located. THANK YOU! We anticipate that our lodges will become more active in sponsoring fundraising, volunteer and social events as appropriate under CDC (Center for Disease Control), state and local COVID-19 guidelines.

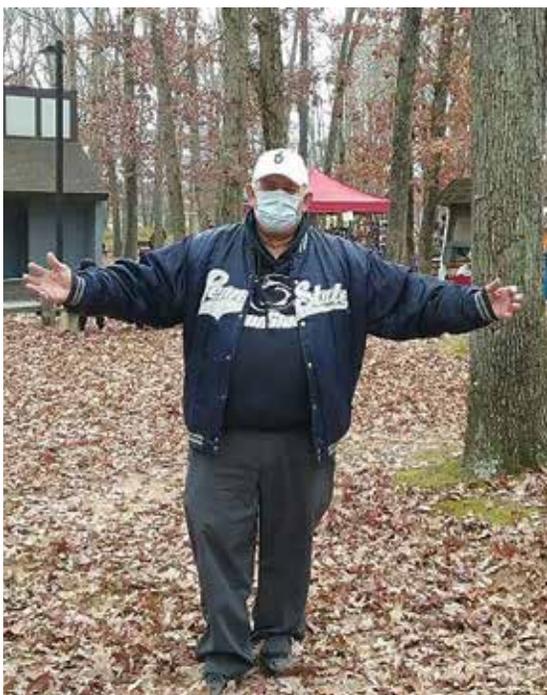
Although the GCU’s 2021 National Bowling Tournament had been cancelled, the National Golf Tournament was recently held at Treasure Lake Golf Resort in DuBois, PA. This event was sponsored once again by the GCU, Slovak Catholic Sokols and first time participant First Catholic Slovak Union. A great time was had by all!

It is with great excitement to announce that the GCU will be launching a new product at the end of August. This product will allow for a greater return potential than our very attractive current fixed rate annuities! More to Come!

In closing, I do hope that you and your family are returning to some semblance of a pre-COVID lifestyle! As we are now in the month of August there is a lot more continued fun in the sun to enjoy. We should all take time to appreciate our incredible outdoor surroundings that God has created! GOODNESS IS GREAT!



Volunteer Donation



Michael Homanko taking a break from volunteering at the 1st Hazle Township Fall Festival and Trail of Treats.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 at the time, we were unable to do an official check presentation.

The quarterly \$100 Volunteer donation award for Michael Homanko was given to the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization. Funds were used towards community events like the Hazle Township Trail of Treats, “Egg My Yard” Fundraiser, scholarships and more.



Miss Greater Hazleton Teen Jackie Snyder, Miss Commonwealth Caroline Jones and Miss Greater Hazleton Mackenzie Sherman.



Sisters of St. Basil to Celebrate 87th Annual Pilgrimage

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great are pleased to announce that on Sunday, September 5, 2021, the 87th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA. With the theme, “Mother of Perpetual Help, Our Gentle Protectress,” the Pilgrimage will be an in-person event and also live streamed. Weather permitting, liturgical services will be broadcast at www.sistersofstbasil.org.

Out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with local county CDC/health department officials, this year’s Pilgrimage will have the following guidelines and limitations:

All liturgical services will take place at the Shrine Altar. Due to the inability to accommodate large numbers indoors, the potential for postponement or cancellation of a liturgical service exists with the presence of severe weather conditions.

Boxed lunches/snacks will be available for purchase during this year’s Pilgrimage. Pilgrims wishing to enjoy a warm meal are encouraged to support the local restaurants on Route 40 directly across from the Mount.

Please see the list of local motels and hotels on the Sisters’ website if you wish overnight accommodations. There will be no overnight accommodations on the grounds of Mt. St. Macrina this year, which includes campers. A limited number of self-contained RVs are permitted by appointment only (contact Sr. Carol at 724-438-7149).

Pilgrims will be asked to wear masks when entering indoor shrines, as well as buildings such as the Religious Gift Shop, House of Prayer, restroom facilities, etc.

Visitors to the Monastery (Motherhouse) will be limited this year to Sisters’ family. There will be no shuttle service on the property.

The Sisters are very happy to welcome our beloved Pilgrims back to the grounds of Mt. St. Macrina this year. We encourage you to make the best, most prudent decision for yourself and your family members regarding traveling to Pilgrimage this year. For Pilgrims unable to attend in person, please participate via the livestream: www.sistersofstbasil.org.

Susan McCarthy | President



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 5

9:30 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Matins (TBD)

11 AM Divine Liturgy for Vocations

1:30 PM Children’s Procession

2:30 PM Bereavement Session

4 PM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

7 PM Parastas

The above services will take place at the Shrine Altar (weather permitting) and live streamed at: www.sistersofstbasil.org

Monday, September 6

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (TBD)

Mt. St. Macrina
500 West Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-8644

Holy Annunciation Monastery Sugarloaf, PA



All who volunteered with Mother Marija.



District 5 President Gina Keil presenting a donation to Mother Marija.



Ann Marie Betterly, Agnes Rohrbach and Judy Betterly making presentation to Mother Marija from GHRL.

On Saturday, June 19 GCU District 5 and the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL) had 28 volunteers at Holy Annunciation Monastery to help in any way they could.

Liturgy was held at 8 AM (Chaplain Rev. Scott Boghosian) and the work began at 9 AM.

All of the sisters were ecstatic to see us, since GCU volunteers were not there at all in 2020.

Mother Marija had a list of activities in different areas of the property. There was plenty of grass to be cut, weed whacking, flower gardens that needed tending, roof repairs to be done, rocks to be removed and trees to be cut down. For those who could not do outdoor work, there were plenty of bakery boxes to be made and also apricots to prepare for fruit cakes.

As usual, there was fresh coffee, homemade cookies and refreshments for the workers.

At noon, lunch was served—pizza, more delicious homemade cookies, ice cream and refreshments. Michael

Komishock offered the prayer before the meal.

Presentations were made to Mother Marija from District 5, GHRL and individuals. Everyone joined in chorus to wish Mother Marija a Happy & Blessed Birthday.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the t-shirts, hand sanitizer and sun screen wipes.

Save the day for the Fall Clean-Up—Saturday, October 9. Hope to see you then—there is always plenty of work to be done.

Agnes Rohrbach |
GHRL Activities Director



Volunteers and Sisters cleaning up rock debris.



Inside workers making boxes and preparing apricots for fruit cakes.



Mike Komishock and Tom Katchur working on the roof.

Mt. Saint Macrina Uniontown, PA



On Saturday, June 5, 2021 members of GCU lodges in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area, along with parishioners from local Byzantine Catholic churches joined together to assist the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown, PA. The volunteers came together for Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina to beautify the grounds of the monastery.

The day was under the direction of Sr. Joanne Lickvar with assistance from the GCU Fraternal Communications

Department. There was plenty to accomplish, with volunteers sticking to outside chores this year. Many helped clean up debris that had accumulated, in some areas over two winter seasons, with the cancellation of last year's event due to the pandemic. Volunteers also planted flowers in numerous flower beds spread across the sprawling property. There were trees to prune and additional areas to prepare in hopes of pilgrims returning this year to attend the annual Pilgrimage over Labor Day weekend.

If you missed the chance to help on June 5, there will be an additional day of preparation for the Pilgrimage on Saturday, August 21, with a rain date of August 28. If you have questions or would like additional information, please email GCU Fraternal-Communications Director Basil Wahal at bwahal@GCUusa.com.





Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest
John S. Kachuba
GCU Spiritual Advisor

BLESSINGS

What does it mean when we bless something, or to say we are blessed? We are all familiar with many blessings – food, homes, various objects as crosses and medals, and even personal blessings. What do these blessings mean? Is the blessing of a house or car an “extra insurance policy?” Is it safer than an “unblessed” house or car? This would be bordering on superstition.

To be blessed or to have an object blessed, we are presenting that person or thing to God so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, they would be set apart for God’s purposes. For example, a cross on a chain or a bracelet is a piece of jewelry, but after it is blessed, it is set apart for a different purpose than just to decorate our bodies or clothing. It will still be worn like jewelry, but the purpose for which it is worn has changed, it will now point to Christ and his death and resurrection. Today blessings are done either by the sprinkling of holy water or by making the sign of the cross. Originally blessings were done by words and formulas. Blessing is a declaration that something is good or sacred or a gift of God. To bless then means to see things as they really are, as all coming from God and as a sign of His Presence among us.

One blessing we do many times is the blessing of ourselves by making the sign of the cross. It is one of the oldest gestures of our faith and is written about in the second century. Originally, the cross was made on the forehead with the hand or finger to keep away demons. In the fifth century, monks made the sign of the cross on the forehead, shoulders, and breast as a sign of our complete consecration to God. In the sixth century, it was given a Trinitarian interpretation against a heresy of the time. The three fingers represented the Trinity and the two fingers the two natures in Christ. This is how we still make the sign of the cross today in the Byzantine tradition.

In the month of August, we celebrate two great feast days in the Byzantine Church, The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, and the Dormition or Falling Asleep of Mary, the Mother of God. Because the Feast of the Trans-

One blessing we do many times is the blessing of ourselves by making the sign of the cross. It is one of the oldest gestures of our faith and is written about in the second century.

figuration occurs during the harvest season, in some places vineyards and grapes are blessed, and in others fresh fruits, to represent the “first-fruits” of the harvest. It is an expression of thanksgiving to God for his guiding hand during the growing season. The Feast of Transfiguration on August 6th is a fitting time to celebrate the manifestation of God’s presence, and to give thanks for His presence in our lives. Fruit, the symbol of the good things of life, is blessed to become the sign of God’s grace in life, and of His presence among us. This blessing is a sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in God’s Paradise, where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

On August 15th we bring flowers to church from our gardens on the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. Holy tradition tells us that all the Apostles, except for Saint Thomas, were transported mystically to Jerusalem to be with the Mother of God and to be present at her burial. When the Apostle Thomas arrived, the Apostles opened the tomb so that he could kiss her farewell. As the tomb was opened, the body of the Most Pure Virgin was missing, and the cave was filled with flowers and the sweet fragrance of Paradise.

To have an object or ourselves blessed is not superstitious but is another way God can touch our lives. It shows that all of us and all of God’s Creation, is set apart for a higher purpose, and to acknowledge that all creation comes from God. It is a way to give thanks and honor the Creator of all things.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Can You Find the Money?

Today's electronic environment is a challenge to the people trying to determine what are the assets of their deceased spouse or parent.

In one instance, Carol, the wife, died, and Bill, the surviving spouse, could not find out what assets were in Carol's name. The bank froze the account on death and the husband did not know her passwords.

In another case, both parents were deceased, and the children could not access their financial statements, since everything was being sent electronically to the parents. The children did not have access to the computer files, because they did not have the passwords.

In both cases, estates had to be opened through pro-

bate court in order to obtain the necessary court orders to access the accounts. Extra time and financial costs were incurred to obtain this information.

What to do? Make sure your spouse, children, or designated person has access to where the assets are located and what your passwords or the accounts are or where they are kept. In my case, I have a safe and this information is in it. I have given the safe combination to my children so they could have access to this information.

There are ways to avoid probate for every asset you own. Make sure you have discussed the ways to avoid probate with your estate planning lawyer. If you do it incorrectly, your Will or Trust may not work the way you thought it would work.

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 Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



Giving

St. Mary BCC Parish Expansion

Windber, PA. St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church held a community yard and bake sale on June 12, 2021. There were numerous donations from parish members and the Windber community. Parishioner William Koshute, made halupki and haluski to sell at the yard sale.

It was a wonderful community experience. Neighbors came together to make this a successful event. The money raised will go toward the parish house roof repair and fixing the leaking & damaged church basement hallway.

Thresa Valko



The many items at the yard sale.

Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch 5th Annual Miracle of Mariapoch Gala

Burton, OH. The 5th Annual Miracle of Mariapoch Gala fund raising event for the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch was held at the St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church “New Orleans” Party Center on June 26, 2021. Over 130 attendees were treated to a scrumptious small plate buffet offering many varied foods and desserts.

The event was a financial success due to the brisk ticket sales for the Raffle Baskets, generous bids on Silent Auction items and very generous cash donations. Attendees represented at least five different Byzantine parishes from Northeastern Ohio. A wonderful testimony to the spiritual and financial support that the Shrine of Mariapoch receives from the faithful in the Eparchy of Parma.

Thank you to the GCU for the Matching Funds contribution, it will help maintain the beauty of the Shrine and grow our evangelization efforts.

Nancy & Deacon William Fredrick



Miracle of Mariapoch display.

Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



Tom Oslick with some of the donated shoes.

Wall, PA. Holy Trinity Byzantine Church held a Soles4Souls fund raiser to create opportunities for women in developing nations to start and sustain a small business.

Under the guidance of Linda & Tom Oslick, boxes for collection were put in Holy Trinity BC Church, Resurrection BC Church, Jackson’s Hardware, Webb’s Gym and Morola Barber Shop with the help of GCU members.

Over 200 pairs of new and gently worn shoes were collected and sent to Soles4Souls.

Thanks to all who helped make this an overwhelming success. The parish is looking forward to next year with the hopes of sending more shoes to help these women succeed.

Linda & Tom Oslick

SS. Peter & Paul BCC Parish Expansion

Patton, PA. The SS. Peter & Paul Guild raised \$5,210.00 from a bake sale held on May 20, 2021. There were 390 nut, 51 apricot and 81 poppyseed rolls made and sold at \$10 per roll. Anticipating holding the normal Easter roll sale in 2020 the parish bought the materials in February 2020. When COVID-19 forced cancellation of the sale, the materials were stored or placed in freezers. Fortunately, all of the supplies were available for this event. Long-standing customers generously supported this May sale, the first time we have had a sale other than Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter. They were craving these great rolls. The church family coming together to make and bake the rolls has been a wonderful blessing for the church and community.

Paul Baran | SS. Peter & Paul Guild Treasurer



Volunteers making nut, poppyseed and apricot rolls.



St. Mary BCC Parish Expansion

Marblehead, OH. The restrictions of COVID-19 did not prevent the parishioner volunteers at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Marblehead from raising much-needed funds during the Spring and early Summer of 2021.

The parishioners combined a “take-out” fish fry with homemade bakery, halupki sales, and basket fundraisers every Friday during the Great Fast and twice a month from Easter until July. This winning combination generated over \$5,000.00 in net income for the parish. In addition, a “cameo” appearance by a food truck vendor and GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds added to the overall success of the fundraising efforts.

St. Mary Church thanks the GCU for its generosity and looks forward to restarting the fish fries and basket fundraisers twice monthly when the cooler weather of Fall arrives.

Nancy & Deacon William Fredrick

Trinity Presbyterian Church Parish Expansion

Clarksburgh, PA. On Saturday, June 19, 2021, members of the Breakfast Club—a youth group and GCU CPRL members, held a spaghetti dinner take out fundraiser. The funds raised will be used to benefit the elderly and shut-ins in the community with soup deliveries, the forever young thanksgiving dinner and religious retreats. Thanks to all the youth and GCU members of CPRL for their efforts to make the event a success.

Thomas E. Oslick Sr. & the Allshouse Family



Volunteers who helped with the take out dinners and basket fundraisers.



Youth members volunteer their time at the spaghetti dinner.



Nicholas Francis Brayer of GCU Lodge 8344 received the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist on Sunday, June 13, at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, PA. Following the Divine Liturgy, Reverend Dr. Thomas Schaefer of blessed memory administered the Mysteries. Godparents for Nicholas are John Francis Harbist and Stefanie Fejka Dybalski.

Born November 10, 2020, Nicholas is the son of Jeffrey & Mary (Harbist) Brayer. He is the first grandchild of GCU Compliance Director John Har-



John F. Harbist, Stefanie Fejka Dybalski, Nicholas and Mary & Jeffrey Brayer. At right is the late Rev. Dr. Thomas Schaefer and Nicholas Francis Brayer.



bist and his wife, Elizabeth (Tihey) Harbist. Nicholas' great-grandparents are Francis (Whitey) & Marianne Harbist of Beaver, PA. May God grant

Nicholas many happy and blessed years.

Elizabeth Harbist



Hayley Ann Planitzer

Hayley Ann Planitzer Graduates with Double Major

On Saturday, May 1, 2021, GCU member Hayley Ann Planitzer, daughter of John & Carol (Tihey) Planitzer, graduated summa cum laude from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania with double majors in Accounting and Professional Spanish. Hayley spent the Fall 2019 semester studying at the Universidad de Alcalá in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. A University Honors College student, Hayley was a member of the Student Accounting Society and served as Slippery Rock University Spanish Club Executive Board Treasurer for three years.

Hayley worked part-time at Friendship Village of the South Hills from August 2015 to May 2021, served as a Spanish tutor her freshman and sophomore years at Slippery Rock, and has tutored Spanish privately since October 2020. Hayley interned at the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA Program) and earned VITA/TCE Basic Tax Return and Advanced Tax Return Certifications. Hayley accepted a Risk Advisory staff position with Schneider Downs & Company, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA.

GCU Members Officiate at the 2021 PIAA Track & Field State Championships

Barb & Bill Dzuricsko were honored to represent Mercer County and District 10 serving as officials for the PIAA Track & Field State Championships, held at Shippensburg University on May 28-29, 2021. Barb and Bill were part of an eight-person crew, with officials from Districts 3 and 6, needed to officiate the Triple Jump. Members of the crew rotated through the positions of: Wind Gauge Operator, Flight Coordinator, Tape Puller, Recorder, Board Judge, Marker and Rakers (2). All of the officials helped checking-in and inspect the athletes and their spikes; tack down two runway tape measures, one for each jumping board and carefully placed two new boards at the appropriate distances with levels and shims. This is the sixth year for Bill and the third year for Barb, working the PA State Meet.

Barb and Bill are members of the Lawrence County Chapter of PIAA Track & Field (T&F) and Cross Country (CC) Officials. The Lawrence County Chapter serves the northern part of District 7, as well as the southern part of District 10. This year, the couple worked meets as far north in Pennsylvania as Meadville, Cochranton, Titusville and Jamestown, and as far south as Mohawk, Ellwood City and Seneca Valley. They also worked the 2019 PIAA Cross Country State Championships, as well as several NCAA Division II meets at Slippery Rock University, and T&F meets for the NCSAA (National Christian School Athletic Association) at Grove City and Geneva Colleges.



Barb (front row second from right) & Bill Dzuricsko (back row at right) with other members of the Triple Jump officials team.

Bill recently completed his 21st year of officiating Track & Field and his 10th year as the Rules Interpreter for the Chapter. He also worked the AA and AAA Girls Shot Put events at the District 7 meet this year. Barb has completed her 5th year as a T&F and CC official and is the former District 10 Meet Director for T&F (20 years) and CC (2 years). For the last four years leading up to the pandemic, they have attended a variety of T&F & CC workshops at the PIAA Officials Convention in Harrisburg, PA, and in 2016, Bill gave a one-hour PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Officiating the Triple Jump." Each year all Lawrence County Chapter officials attend six continuing education meetings and a mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting.

Barb & Bill Dzuricsko are members of GCU Lodge 258 and attend St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Hermitage, PA where Fr. Kevin Marks is the pastor. Bill is president of Lodge 258, a cantor and ECF coordinator at St. Michael.

Invested in
Education



2021-2022 GCU Scholarship Programs

Applications for scholarships will be available on the GCU web site beginning October 1, 2021. All applications must be completed online.

GCUusa.com

GCU Student Debt Program Continues in 2021

The GCU Board of Directors realizes that many young members complete college with significant Student Debt and has approved continuation of the GCU Student Debt Program. The budget established will provide up to 100 awards in 2021. The program assists GCU members with a portion of their Student Debt. The program is open to both new applicants and to those that received the award in 2018, 2019 and/or 2020.

Members that qualify are eligible for four annual awards of \$500.⁰⁰ each. Members are required to apply annually to receive the award. Requirements include: GCU membership as of 12/31/2020 with a permanent life insurance certificate or annuity with a current balance of at least \$2,000.⁰⁰. Proof of at least two years of payments on the student loan(s) and volunteer involvement will also be required. Complete details, program requirements and application are available at: www.GC-Uusa.com—Members—Member Benefits—Student Debt.

All applications must be completed online. Once membership requirements have been verified, the applicant will receive an email with the additional requirements. Awards are presented on a first come, first served basis, based on the date when all required information has been received and not initial application date.



District 5

Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery | On Saturday, June 19, a few members of District 5, along with the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge, assisted the Sisters of Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA for Helping Hands Day. Mother Marija took time to educate us on the history of the Icon of the "Theotokos of Sugarloaf." The Sisters are always so appreciative of any help we can give them. Please consider helping out for the Fall Helping Hands Day on October 9, 2021.

Annual Golf Tournament | District 5 held their annual Golf Tournament at Sugarloaf Golf Club on Saturday, August 7, 2021. The 8:30 AM shotgun start featured a four person Captain and Crew Tournament with a Pig Roast Dinner. A complete report will be in the October issue.

Looking Ahead | Information on the District 5 Annual Meeting and Scholarship Brunch will be forthcoming.

Ilona Dolinish | Fraternal & Publicity Director



Icon of the "Theotokos of Sugarloaf."

District 7

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, August 28, 2021

Shotgun Start / Scramble Format

1:30 PM

\$75 GCU Members

\$85 Non-Members

\$25 Buffet Only

Green Pond Country Club
3604 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020

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

District 11

UPCOMING DISTRICT 11 EVENT

Scholarship Applications Now Available to Eligible College Students

Deadline is September 7, 2021

District 11 offers two scholarship awards, each in the amount of \$500.00 to two District 11 college students. Applications can be found on the District 11 web page.

Contact President Gary Mozuras at 586-872-6142



District 15

Welcoming Back Events | Are you registered for An Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company? How about the District 15 Annual Golf Outing? District officers have worked hard to schedule events for all members. Whether swimming at the pool; sipping wine and listening to the Flow Band; hitting the links or shouting BUNCO, you're covered. Hopefully members can take advantage of the many events scheduled for late summer and early autumn. These are also great opportunities to introduce your friends to GCU.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company

Sunday, August 29, 2021

12 NOON-4 PM 12:15 PM Wine Tasting / 1 PM Dinner

Live Music by The Flow Band

\$15 GCU Members

\$20 Non-Members

Checks payable to: GCU District 15

Mail to: Elizabeth Harbist

215 Thornwood Court, Moon Township, PA 15108

(Please include phone number on your check) Limited Capacity

Annual Golf Outing

Sunday, September 12, 2021

12:30 PM with dinner to follow

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

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689

Ladies Luncheon and Bunco

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Lunch at NOON

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

Tickets available by contacting Kathy at 412-951-8331, Elizabeth at 412-913-1446 or Janet at 724-287-0689.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Brunch will be Available

Seven Oaks Country Club

132 Lisbon Road, Beaver PA 15009

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



District members who attended the pool event.

Pool Day at Seven Oaks | On August 1, District 15 held a Swim Day at Seven Oaks Country Club. GCU members who checked in with the district at the pool received a \$20 snack bar voucher, which was valid for August 1 only.

Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company | Sunday, August 29 from 12 NOON-4 PM, the district has rented their spacious tent for members to enjoy wine tasting and a delicious full-course Sunday dinner prepared by The Cooked Goose. Bocci, corn-hole and raffles will add to the fun. Wine tasting at 12:15 PM and dinner will be served at 1 PM. The Flow Band will add to the afternoon festivities.

To register contact Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446.

Annual Golf Outing | The annual Golf Outing will be Sunday, September 12 at Seven Oaks Country Club. GCU members \$50; non-members \$75 includes all golf fees, hot dog/sandwich at the turn and dinner. Bring a foursome or sign up as a single. Not a golfer? Come for dinner (\$30). Consider joining us for a fun day of golf and friendship. Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689.

Bunco Event | Tickets are now available for District 15 Luncheon and Bunco on Saturday, September 25, 2021. The cost of the ticket is \$30 and includes a delicious Seven Oaks lunch and game of bunco. There will also be a Chance Auction and Share the Wealth. Proceeds will benefit Communicycle of Aliquippa. This local non-profit is a community organization and ministry that uses bikes to connect individuals and other community organizations to each other. They collect used bikes and parts to provide a way for children and adults to have a fun and safe bike to ride. Repairs are made at no cost and individuals can learn how to repair their own bike or receive a bike by volunteering in their community.

Secretary Kathy Kapaldo chairs the event. You can contact Kathy 412-951-8331.

Annual Meeting | SAVE the Date! D15 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 7, 2021, at Seven Oaks Country Club. Brunch will be available. At this time, St. Nicholas Chapel is not open for Liturgies however, that may change by November. Updated information will be available in the *GCU Magazine* and on the D15 Facebook page.

Elizabeth Harbist | President

Lodge News

Lodge 7

YONKERS, NY

Spring Tag Sale Leftover Donation

The very successful Lodge 7 Spring Tag Sale was held over two weekends in May and June. A total of \$2,459.00 was raised to benefit St. Nicholas of Myra BC Parish in White Plains, NY. This event fosters lodge member camaraderie (especially post COVID), provides community outreach to the customers who enjoy shopping at bargain prices and donates leftover items to a very worthwhile charity, the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Debbie McDonnell | Secretary-Treasurer



Vietnam Veterans of America picking up leftover items.



Cindy Feher-Cherico, Cheryl Jablonski and Diane Ketterer.

Lodge 10

ALIQUIPPA, PA

Flea Market, Bake Sale & Haluski Sale

GCU Lodge 10 once again helped secure GCU Parish Matching Funds to sponsor a flea market, bake sale and haluski sale at St. George Byzantine Catholic Church. The well attended community event had many happy people in attendance purchasing items and ethnic foods.

There were plenty of treasures to be found at the flea market organized by St. George cantor and ECF leader Joann Hersh. Isabelle Maruhnich, Judy Dzumba and Mary Ann Popovich organized, priced and manned the bake sale of homemade items. Lodge 10 President Kathy Kapaldo along with her crew of Mary Elizabeth Olack, former National Director Martha Seech, District 15 President Elizabeth Harbist, Lodge 10 members Diane Ketterer, Cindy Fehr-Cherico & Mary Dickey, and family friend Cheryl Jablonski helped chop and cook the cabbage, make the potato dumplings and pack over 70 quarts of haluski. The event was helped greatly by former Slavjane performer Matt Razo.

St. George parish thanks the community for attending this annual event, everyone that baked the goodies, helped to price the flea market items and helped cook & sell the haluski.

Kathy Kapaldo | President



Bake sale volunteers.



The presentation of the Community Matching Funds check for the Notari Golf Tournament—Fr. Eduard Shestak, Madlyn Lesneski, Diane Notari and Ilona Dolinish.

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Helping Hands at Sugarloaf Monastery

It is a blessing that things are finally getting back to somewhat normal. On Saturday, June 19, several members of Lodge 17 assisted the Sisters at Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA for Helping Hands Day. The lawn was mowed and trimmed, the flowers were pruned, the beds weeded and boxes for their bake sales were made. Keep Saturday, October 9 open to help the Sisters again in the Fall.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENTS

St. Nicholas Flea Market

Saturday & Sunday, September 18 & 19
Saturday, September 25

St. Nicholas Church
 40 Church Street, Old Forge, PA 18518

Expect great bargains & hidden treasures at the flea market, along with delicious food, baked goods and a 50/50 fundraiser.

This is a GCU Parish Matching Funds event.

Volunteers in the kitchen are needed.

Contact Ed or Gina at 570-824-1264

Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Saturday, October 9
9 AM

Contact Ed or Gina at 570-824-1264

Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

Bowling League Concludes Season

The Binghamton GCU Bowling League held its year-end awards banquet on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. With the exception of a few snow days, league play rolled through COVID-19 and successfully completed its 30-week 2020-2021 season.

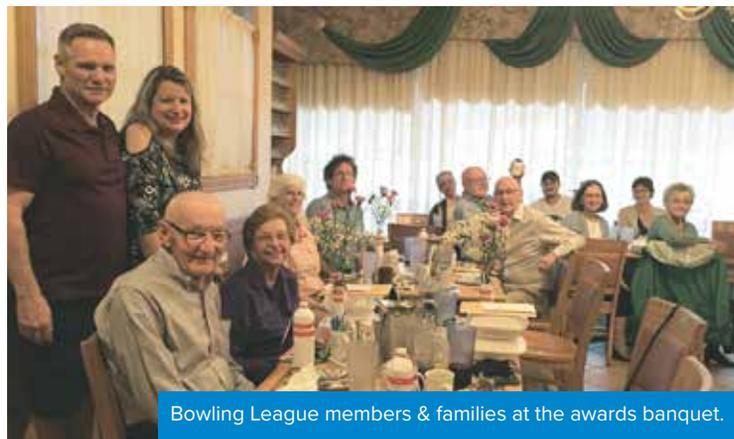
Bowlers, lodge members and families gathered to enjoy a delicious meal and dessert at Grande Restaurant & Pizzeria before awards and gifts were presented.

In addition to honoring the league champions, high average, most improved, high game and high series bowlers, the participants celebrated the fun and fellowship of bowling. The league is proud to have several bowlers that have been participating for over 30 years and happy to say that others have only joined the fun this year and are anxious to return in the fall for the start of the new season!

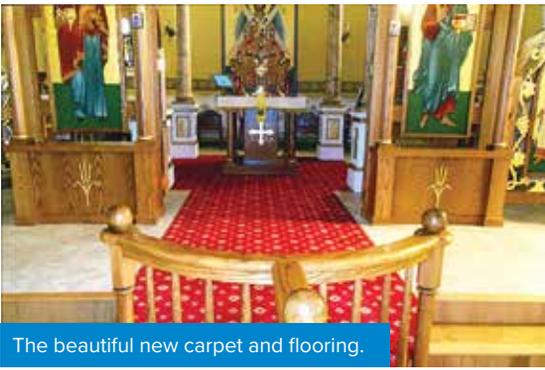
Thank you to everyone in the league for their dedication and cooperation. Even with the challenges this season presented, bowlers all stayed safe, healthy and had a great time.

Thank You to the GCU Home Office for their continued support and the promotional items they provided as part of the gifts to everyone in attendance at the banquet.

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer



Bowling League members & families at the awards banquet.



The beautiful new carpet and flooring.

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

New Carpet & Flooring

New carpet and flooring were installed in the sanctuary area of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church.

Thanks to GCU Parish Matching Funds and the making of hundreds of dozens of pirohi that made this project a success. The altar looks GREAT!

Thanks GCU and all the pirohi makers.



Helping Hands beauty.

Helping Hands Day

Flowers are blooming in abundance around the church thanks to the Helping Hands Day volunteers. They also laid stepping stones around the recently installed sign.

Thanks to the GCU Helping Hands Fraternal Grant for making it all possible and to the people that volunteered their time and talents.

Helen Meko | President

Julie Brocious | Secretary

Lodge 66

WHITING & MERRILLVILLE, IN

First Quarterly Meeting

After a long year where the lodge was unable to meet, it was great to invite members and guests to the first in person meeting of the year. Lodge 66 held a picnic style meeting on Sunday, June 13 at St. Michael Byzantine Church. The meal included hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, potato chips, strawberry short cake with whipped cream and beverages.

The meeting included an annual tradition of inviting the Merrillville firemen to the luncheon. The firemen share their experience in the department, the type of calls they receive and the equipment they use. Father Michal Bucko brought three families and their 11 children to meet the firemen.

After the talk the children had the opportunity to see the equipment on the fire truck. While the children were visiting the truck the lodge members held the meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer



Dennis McGee (right) accepting his volunteer award from Peter Baranko.



Merrillville firemen with some of the kids.

Peter Baranko discussed the volunteer time at St. Mary Byzantine Church making nut rolls, serving soup to sick & shut-ins and assisting in church activities. President Veronica Bodak discussed the volunteer work at the fish fry and the gifts sent to shut-ins and assisting with church activities. Dennis McGee was presented an award for his many volunteer hours of service to St. Michael Byzantine church and the Merrillville Fire Department. Esther Botsko represented St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, where she cleans the church each week. GCU members are active in assisting at the church.

At the closing Father Michal mentioned that St. Michael Church will celebrate their feast day on September 12, the day for the next scheduled lodge meeting. It was agreed to move the lunch and meeting to Sunday September 19 at 11:30 AM, accommodating the many members from St. Michael who attend the lodge meetings.

Peter Baranko | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 69

POTTSTOWN, PA

Helping Hands Day

GCU members and parishioners, spent time cleaning the church, cutting the grass, picking up leaves and other debris around the churchyard. A dumpster was rented to get rid of unwanted items. The area looks a little brighter.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Marie Pestrock taking debris to the dumpster while Mike Onifrek and Tom Hakun work outside.



Kids with their Easter bags.

Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

Easter Food Sale

GCU Lodge 77 together with the parishioners of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held an Easter food sale as a Parish Matching Funds Event.

During the course of two months, volunteers worked many hours cooking pierogi and baking nut, lekvar & apricot rolls and paska breads to be sold to parishioners and the general public. Many lodge members, young and old, volunteered their talents and time in the kitchen to teach and learn the art of making these special foods, so that many others can share in the traditions. The event was a huge success, with profits well over what was expected, not to mention all the wonderful foods everyone had to fill their baskets with for Easter Sunday blessing.

The money raised will go towards much needed repairs in the church.

Easter Treat Bags

Lodge 77 sponsored Easter treat bags for the children of the parish, filled with candy, games, coloring books and crayons. Everyone was very appreciative of the surprise they received after Easter Sunday Liturgy.

Kathy Knick | President

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Between church and community activities, Lodge 81 had a busy start to the summer.

Community

The annual Helping Hands Day at Mount Saint Macrina was held on Saturday, June 5. Only outside work was allowed in accordance with CDC guidelines and restrictions.

Bonnie Balas and other parishioners cleaned benches, Stephen Petruska worked at cleaning around the Trinity Center and Gerry Dorobish along with her sister Linda Zungri planted flowers. This was in preparation for the 87th Annual Pilgrimage to be held on Sunday, September 5. Through the summer Gerry also continues her services at the Religious Gift Shop and maintaining and weeding the flowers on the grounds.

As part of the Fayette County Fitness Program, the second Walk for Fitness was held on Wednesday, June 23, at Mount Saint Macrina. Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick directed the walking tour. Over 100



Nadine Morgan & Bonnie Balas cleaning benches.

participants were very enthusiastic to learn about the history of the monastery and its buildings. Bonnie Balas took photos



Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick gives info during the walk tour.



Gerry Dorobish, Bonnie Bales, Sr. Barbara Jean with visitors from St. Mary BCC in Windber.

for Sister Barbara Jean and Gerry Dorobish was on hand for Religious Gift Shop sales.

Bonnie Balas and Gerry Dorobish have continued with the Sunday Rosary Group and have welcomed visitors from other churches. Some have even come from West Virginia and also from the Windber, PA parish.

On Thursdays during July and August Gerry

Dorobish continues to be involved in the Uniontown Public Library Summer Reading Program. Gerry has participated in the program for many years. She reads to groups of children, does craft projects with them, tracks their summer book reading and distributes free books.



Gerry Dorobish (left) with Uniontown Public Library assistant Sherry.



Bonnie Balas and Mark Jesko at Doors Open Pittsburgh.

Greater Community

On Saturday, June 26, Mark Jesko and Bonnie Balas participated in "Doors Open Pittsburgh," a program whose mission is to educate and stimulate the exploration and appreciation of Pittsburgh's architecture and history. This event featured Homestead, PA with exhibits in historic buildings and churches. The Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center (the former Cathedral of the Byzantine Archdiocese) was the fourth site on the list of structures to visit that day. Bonnie displayed, demonstrated, and sold Carpatho-Rusyn embroidered basket covers and cookbooks, while Mark Jesko demonstrated, displayed and sold drop-pull design pysanky. Maryann Sivak coordinated the event which proved to be a wonderful cultural experience.

CONTINUED

UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENTS

Assist at 87th Annual Pilgrimage

Sunday, September 5

Volunteers are needed

Annual Rosary Walk

Sunday, September 19

Annual Food Drive

To be announced

15th Annual Classic Car Show

Sunday, September 26

Details appear on Page 38

38th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, October 31

Details appear on Page 38



Mark Jesko with icon by Peter Pearson's class at St. Vincent College display.

Lodge 81 CONTINUED

Mark Jesko and Judy Shaul attended an icon painting retreat in Waymart, PA with master iconographer Peter Pearson, from July 11-15. The icon was "the Washing of the Apostles' Feet." Mark plans on donating his finished icon to a church or a monastery.

Parish

Memorial Day services were held on Sunday, May 30 at St. John BC Church Cemetery with many Lodge 81 members in attendance. Stephen Petruska led the responses for the Panachida service.

Bonnie Balas | VP & Publicity Coordinator



Fr. Ron and Stephen at cemetery.



Volunteers wearing their new aprons and showing the large home-made meatballs

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA

A Tasty Tradition Continues

Lodge 93 teamed up with St. Anne Byzantine Catholic Church in Clymer, PA to help continue its tasty fundraiser of hand rolled large meatballs made from their secret recipe. These large meatballs are great for sandwiches or perfect added to any favorite pasta dish. The smell of simmering meatballs wafted in the air and enticed more call in orders from the community.

Decked out in their newly designed personalized “Byzantine Beauties” aprons, the cooks could be found carefully weighing each meatball before they were cooked to perfection.

All of the proceeds from this event will benefit the paving of the church parking lot. A Trash to Treasure and basket raffle are scheduled for August; once the cabbage is ready, homemade haluski is planned for October.

The parishioners of St. Anne Church extend their gratitude for the good works of the GCU in providing monetary assistance through the Parish Matching Funds programs.

Presently, under the administration of Father Wesley Mash, St. Anne maintains a small choir, ECF classes with three teachers, altar servers, lector, handmaidens and parish advisory council. Under the patronage of Saint Anne, grandmother of the Lord, the parish continues to grow in faith, membership and dedication.

Connie Strittmatter | Fraternal & Publicity Director

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Helping Hands Day

During the first week of June, the grounds of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Lyndora were prepared for the annual Spring clean-up, prior to the planting of new annuals. In addition, planters were planted to beautify the entrances of the church, a window box and hanging plant were also placed in front of the rectory. Mulch and landscape fabric were purchased for the on-going landscaping project to remove or replace old over-grown shrubs that obscure the exterior beauty of the church.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the Helping Hands Day Fraternal Grant that assisted with the purchase of the plants and supplies.

Flag Ceremony & Luncheon

On Sunday, June 13 Lodge 109 held its annual Flag Day ceremony at the Lyndora Veterans War Memorial followed by a luncheon at St. John the Baptist BC Church.

The event began with a welcome by master of ceremonies Lodge 109 Vice President Bill Uram followed by the raising of the flag by the Honor Guard of American Legion Post 778 and VFW Post 249. The National Anthem was led by Lou Pocchiari. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joey Stavish. Joey and his fellow ECF students under the direction of Deacon Paul Simko also presented a variation of the pledge with a salute to Old Glory.

The invocation was given by Deacon Paul followed by a moment of silent meditation for Helen Meaders who began these flag ceremonies over 50 years ago and retired Lt. Col. Gary Kuhn who participated in many of these events—both passed away recently. Bill Uram then recognized



Some of the planters that were placed in front of the memorial to deceased veterans who were members of St. John the Baptist.



Kate Blicchar, Janet Stetzer, John Pocchiari and Helen Musko: the “helping hands” who did the pulling of weeds and planting of flowers. (Missing from photo are Janet & Bill Uram who were also a part of the crew.)

special guests: State Rep. Marci Mustello; Butler Twp. Commissioners: Sam Zurzolo and Jim Lockhaiser, Jr.; Zeke Zelinski and Leroy Bunyan, Butler Co. 2020 Veteran of the Year. They were invited to say a few words if they chose and several added to the program with their comments.

The program was then turned over to the Honor Guard whose part included the proper care and folding of the flag and meaning of each fold. They concluded with a rifle volley and the playing of “Taps.” The event concluded with the singing of “God Bless America” led by Lou Pocchiari. All then returned to St. John BC Church for lunch. Door prize drawings of hanging plants from the GCU and PA State & U.S. Flags from Marci Mustello’s office were held and gift bags were given to the children who participated at the ceremony.

Lodge 109 wants to express thanks to the GCU Home Office and the American Legion for the Flags that were handed out to the public and to the GCU for the Fraternal Grant which helped pay for the food and other expenses.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



Flag ceremony participants and guests: Jim Lockhaiser, Jr., Marci Mustello, Dan Zarnick, Sam Zurzolu, Jim Bianchi, Lou Pocchiari, Leroy Bunyan and Bill Uram, Jr.



Eva Babick, Addison & Henry Koch, Patrick Babick, Joey & Ben Stavish, Deacon Paul Simko and Michael Babick. Missing from photo is Kevin Fizer.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Congrats to our Youth Members

Phillip Barrigato was awarded his Eagle Scout Badge recently at a Boy Scout Court of Honor. He is the eldest grandson of Fr. Nick & Dr. Maureen Daddona. Philip's Eagle Scout project benefited the Sisters of St. Benedict and residents of St. Joseph Home for the Aged in Huntington, Long Island. He directed a crew of eager Scouts and his family in the construction and installation of three benches for the facility's walking path, their prayer garden and cemetery. His landscaping design added plants and helped to beautify the location. He also revitalized the existing stone statue foundation. The benches provide a place of prayer and meditation for the Sisters, residents, and visitors. Philip will be attending Siena College in the fall.

On June 13, GCU member Nicholas Mamay graduated Calhoun High School in Merrick, Long Island.



Fr. Nick & Dr. Maureen Daddona with grandson Philip.

Nick played lacrosse and football. He participated in the school's program "Athletes helping Athletes." He went to various elementary schools and spoke to student athletes to help them make smart life choices. He will be attending The Ohio State University and will be part of the School of Business Honors Program majoring in finance. His family is very proud of his accomplishments.



Kate Elias.

GCU member Kate Elias is the Michigan State champion swimmer for girls 11-12 years old. Six for six gold medals, all AAAA times and all personal bests! She's now a 2 time MI State Champ! Gold medals were in the 500 free, 200 free, 400 IM, 200 IM, 200 back and 200 butterfly. Her parents and grandfather Mike Knapp are very proud of her accomplishment.



Nicholas Mamay graduation from Calhoun High School.



Winners of the Flag Day activities.

Flag Day Celebration

Flag Day was celebrated at the Seasons on June 14. About 50 people brought their chairs to listen and sing along to Ed Silver playing patriotic songs on his saxophone and guitar. There was a trivia game about the US Flag with winners receiving scratch off tickets and wine as prizes. It was a very patriotic day.

Returning to a Normal

Laura Mulhfeld states that things are returning to normal at St. Nicholas Church in Whitestone, NY. More people are attending services in person and parishioners who have been vaccinated no longer have to wear masks in church. On Sunday, July 4, the parish resumed its traditional coffee hour following Liturgy. In honor of Independence Day, the parish had a holiday picnic. Seats were available at the outside picnic area and in the church hall. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, an array of salads, fresh fruit, brownies and cake were served. American Flags and pins were distributed to those present. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the nation's birthday.

Golf News

Marge Russell has been enjoying the summer golfing with her grandchildren Ryan Pajer, Paul & Nicholas Mamay and her son Russ.

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

Her son in law Mark Lalley was golfing at a tournament in Buffalo, NY and scored a hole in one. It was a par 3 - 172 yard hole. What an awesome accomplishment.



Mark Lalley hole-in-one.



Ryan, Marge and Paul.



Mike Knapp and Paul Dietz.

Catching Up with Paul Dietz

Lodge 151's Paul Dietz retired last year and now drives a school bus. At the end of the school year, he took a 17-day, 6,300 mile road trip through 19

states. The purpose of the trip was just to get away after COVID. Paul visited the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, AZ and a couple of tourist railroads. Along the way he visited his cousin Mike Knapp who recently moved to Michigan. They had a great time reminiscing about family, friends and the New York Sokol Sunday Bowling

League. He also visited his niece Renee Dietz and his nephew Eric Dietz during his travels.

His immediate family is doing well. His wife Margie continues working at an assisted living facility, his son George and his wife Liz are in Salem MA, where he works as an arborist. Daughter Martha and her husband Tim are moving

to the Greensboro, NC area, where Tim recently accepted a new job. His youngest son Andrew, is still at home and has started his own business called SLAB Lab Wood Working, making furniture and other wood items such as custom cutting boards.

Looking Ahead

Lodge 151 is planning on having its third quarter meeting on September 12. Save the date and you will be notified where the meeting will be held. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Marge Russell | President

Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Donations Made

A group of 123 players enjoyed 20 games of bingo and many pull-tab games on Sunday, May 16 at St. Mary Assumption Center in Youngstown. Net receipts from the event of \$2,440.00 were matched by the GCU Community Matching Funds program to double the amount. Three Charities benefited from the event. GCU Lodge 164 Secretary Diana Danko presented Veterans Outreach Executive Director Teri Ely with a \$1,627.00 check from the bingo fundraiser. The presentation took place on Thursday, June 17.

Presentation of another \$1,627.00 check was made to St. Vincent dePaul Society Kitchen on Thursday, June 17, 2021. Dining Hall Coordinator Margaret Kidd accepted the donation from the bingo fundraiser.



Dr. Tom Sopkovich, St. Vincent dePaul Society Dining Hall Coordinator Margaret Kedd accepts donation along with Diana Danko.



Diana Danko with Executive Director Teri Ely from Veterans Outreach accepting Lodge 164 donation.

Father's Day Bingo

On Sunday evening, June 20, 2021, Lodge 164 & St. Mary BC Church held a fundraiser to benefit the church & social center. A group of 110 players attended, with 14 lodge members and 6 non-GCU members working the event. After 20 bingo games and many pull-tab games, the net profit was \$1,042.00. GCU giveaways of personal sanitizer & jar grippers were enjoyed by each player.

This was a Parish Matching Funds event.



GCU members & bingo volunteers: Sharon MacDonald, Dave & Karen Muransky, Francie & Dan Kovachik, Dr. Tom Sopkovich, Jackie Leson and Bill Campy.



Non-GCU volunteers: Rita Swisher, Alice White, Judy Knight and Barb Fleet.



Bingo Managers Bob Democko & Don Danko present Fr. Richard Lambert a \$2,084.00 check to benefit the church at the lodge's 3rd quarter meeting.

3rd Quarter Meeting

The Lodge 164 third quarter meeting was held on July 18, 2021, at St. Mary's Social Center. The 22 attendees enjoyed a buffet luncheon & edible door prize. Six of the 8 guests are bingo workers that work every Sunday along with lodge members. After the business meeting, Fr. Lambert was presented a \$2,084.00 check to benefit the Church. This was from the Father's Day Bingo Fundraiser and included GCU Matching Funds of \$1,042.00.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

Scholarship Awards

On Sunday, June 13, 2021, at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, GCU Lodge 254 presented \$500.00 scholarships to three high school graduate parishioners.

The scholarship awards were presented to the recipients before the 8:30 AM Liturgy with Father James Badeaux, pastor, and announced by Lodge President Professor Elias Zareva.

The recipients of the GCU Lodge 254 Scholarships were:

Brandon DiCorcia—a graduate of Hillsborough High School. He has volunteered with various high school fund raisers, the Special Olympics and Becca’s Friends. He

has been an altar server and is a member of the ByzanTeens. He has been a parish volunteer delivering Paska baskets to the homebound and assisted with the Tricky Tray fund raiser. His family are active church members. Brandon plans to attend Lincoln Technology Institute with the goal of becoming a welder.

Nicholas Hlinka—a graduate of Voorhees High School where he has been active in playing tennis and ice hockey. He has been an altar server at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church for ten years. Nicholas plans to attend Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, MA to major in biomedical engineering.

Andrew Kibalo—a graduate of County Prep High School in Jersey



Scholarship recipients Andrew Kibalo, Nicholas Hlinka and Brandon DiCorcia, with Professor Elias Zareva and Fr. James Badeaux.

City, NJ where he was a member of the Math Honor Society and the Internet Club. He was a volunteer for the York Street Project and is a member of the Civil Air Patrol, having been named the AFA Cadet of the Year. Andrew has been a volunteer for church bingo on Saturdays. His father, Paul Kibalo, is an active member of the church, as were his grandparents. He plans to

attend The College of New Jersey or the US Air Force Academy and his goal is to major in finance and become a financial advisor or manager.

After the awards introduction and Liturgy, a lovely reception followed in the Fellowship Hall for the the awardees, their families and fellow parishioners.



Tatiana Hlinka and President Elias Zareva.



Fr. James Badeaux.

Congratulations to Two of Our Members

Lodge 254 presented graduating 8th grader **Tatiana Hlinka** with a floral bouquet as thanks for her work in coordinating the recent Clothing Drive at St. Mary for her Girl-Scout Troop. Tatiana was also recently recognized by her middle school for her many achievements during the school year. Among the many citations received (15) were awards in academic excellence, community service, music, student council and orchestra. Tatiana raises bees, carrying on a family tradition & was assisted by her grandfather Vasil Hlinka. She is also a member of the church choir. Congratulations Tatiana.

During the Scholarship reception on June 13, Lodge 254 presented Fr. James Badeaux with a cake to celebrate his 22nd year of ordination. Congratulations Father Jim. May God grant you many years!

Elizabeth Pentz | Publicity Director

Elias Zareva | President

Lodge 258

HERMITAGE, PA

Helping Hands Day

On Saturday, June 12, members of Lodge 258 and parish volunteers gathered to improve the landscaping at the St. Michael Social Center. The group trimmed hedges, weeded flower beds, weed whacked edges, put down new brown mulch and worked on the “Burning Bush Island,” near the flagpole. Thank you to the GCU Home Office for providing the colorful pink t-shirts for the volunteers! Also, thank you to Lodge 258 for providing financial support through a Helping Hands Fraternal Grant. Thank you volunteers for all the hard work!



Randy Tomko and Alyssa Vasil.



Randy Tomko, Bill Dzuricko, Mike & Norbert Vasil.

Surprise Birthday Celebration

On Saturday, June 26, following the Divine Liturgy, members of St. Michael BC Church held a surprise birthday for their pastor, Rev. Fr. Kevin Marks. It was such a well planned surprise, that Fr. Kevin was unaware and unable to attend because he was concelebrating an ordination in Pittsburgh. So the parishioners sang, “Happy Birthday,” recorded it on a cell phone and sent him the video so that he could enjoy the surprise! The attendees then enjoyed cake and lemonade. When Fr. Kevin returned on Sunday morning for the 9 AM Divine Liturgy, the parishioners sang “Happy Birthday” again, and presented him with a gift card and a beautifully decorated large card signed with well wishes from the parishioners. Fr. Kevin blew out his candles and everyone enjoyed another round of birthday cake and coffee. Special thanks to GCU Lodge 258 for providing the refreshments. Happy birthday Fr. Kevin and thank you for all that you do for our parish and the Archeparchy!



Fr. Kevin looking over his large birthday card.

Bill Dzuricko | President



President Bill Dzuricko giving Fr. Kevin a birthday gift.



Veteran Norbert Vasil & Jon Dowell raise the flags.



Fr. Kevin blessing the flags.

Flag Day Celebration

During the weekend of June 12-13, GCU Lodge 258 sponsored a Flag Day Celebration at St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church. After the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Divine Liturgies, parishioners were treated to “grab and go,” individually wrapped, iced sugar cookies in the shapes of the US Flag and red, white and blue stars from DiLorenzo’s Bakery in Sharpsville, PA. GCU giveaways including US Flag lapel pins, large blue plastic cups, sunglasses, and M&M snack bags. At the end of the Sunday Liturgy, Rev. Fr. Kevin Marks blessed the new US and Vatican Flags purchased by Lodge 258 and donated to the church. Parishioners and guests then gathered at the Social Center flagpole for a ceremony and to raise the new flags. The program ended with the singing of the always emotional, “God Bless America.”

Special thank you to Mike & Alyssa Vasil for taking and contributing all of the wonderful pictures of all of these activities. They also made arrangements with the local Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department to help replace the old flag pole rope with a new rope which will serve the parish for years to come!



Cathy Risdon and Mark Gasser planting flowers.

Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

Helping Hands Day

Lodge 268 recently held a Helping Hands Day. New flowers were planted in the planter boxes, fresh mulch was added, along with general cleanup around the church. After all the work was done everyone was invited for hoagies. The lodge made sure members no longer able to assist with this type of work, were invited for lunch to show appreciation for all their efforts in past years. A great day was had by all.

Carla Gasser | President



Members enjoying the appreciation lunch.

Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK & HOMER GLEN, IL

ByzanTEEN Yard Sale

This year the ByzanTEEN Yard Sale was held on Friday & Saturday, June 11-12, 2021. Donations from parishioners were collected for weeks prior to the event including plenty of kid's games & toys, seasonal decorations, crafts and household items. The yard sale also serves many of the elderly in the parish as it allows them to downsize their households with little effort while helping the youth. The event was a great success with a slow but steady flow of traffic on both days despite the heat and humidity on Saturday. Thanks again to Cathy Baranko for helping organize the event.

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Painting With a Twist

Thursday, September 30

7 PM-9 PM

\$40 per person

Painting with a Twist
15225 Pearl Road, Strongsville, OH

Deadline is Thursday, September 23

Contact Jean Karaffa at 216-513-3854

Halloween "Treats" Social

Sunday, October 31

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

New Orleans Party Center at
St. Joseph BC Church
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 31

Approximately 11:45 AM

St. Joseph Church parking lot behind Activity Center,
Brecksville, OH

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Saturday, November 20

Sunday, November 21

Collection box will be placed in the church vestibule at
St. Joseph Church
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

Benefits St. Mary's Hospitality House (operating out of
Holy Spirit Church in Parma).

We kindly ask you to please check the expiration dates
on your donated items.

UPCOMING LODGE 401 EVENTS

Annual Picnic

Saturday, August 28

11:30 AM - 3 PM

St. Nicholas Church Hall
1191 2nd Street, Nanty Glo, PA 15943

Chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs drinks and paper products will be provided by the lodge. Please bring your favorite covered dish to share with everyone.

Church Walk Thru Basket Party

Saturday, September 25 from 10 AM-4 PM

Sunday, September 26 from 10 AM-3 PM

Drawings at 3 PM

Benefits St. Nicholas Church Winter Fuel Fund

St. Nicholas Church Hall
1191 2nd Street, Nanty Glo, PA 15943

Baskets, Big Prizes, 50/50, Baked Goods for sale.

For information on either event: call Stephen Bender at
814-749-0087 or email him at
buddybender831@comcast.net

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

One of the adventures of living in Pennsylvania is waiting to see what Mother Nature has in store. Currently, all of the valleys and mountains are a lustrous green, the flowers are blooming, but not too far in the distance another season will be bringing changes.



Monica Washko cleaning the glass.

Helping Hands Day

Saturday, June 5 was Helping Hands Day at St. John BC Church in Hazleton. It was time to get the church refreshed and cleaned!

With rags and spray bottles of Murphy's Oil Soap in hand, the church pews received a good cleaning. It was amazing to see the volume of dirt that was taken off the pews.

With a cleaning crew of 5 people, a lot of work was

accomplished in a short period of time. All the pews, the Icon Screen and the windows & woodwork were cleaned as well as the church door windows.

Thank you to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant, t-shirts and hand sanitizer.

Bowling League

The GHRL bowling league will be starting this year on Wednesday, September 1. A preseason meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 22 at Bowl-Arena at 2 PM to review the schedule for the year and a small no-tap tournament among the bowlers is planned. Hopefully, the league will get to bowl the entire season this year.

Lottery Calendars

The lottery calendars for the month of September are really a big hit! The benefactors from this Matching Funds project will be Catholic Social Services and the Beaver Meadows Food Pantry. Thanks to all the volunteers for selling the tickets—you are all appreciated for doing what you can with the pandemic circumstances.

Fall Helping Hands Day

On Saturday, October 9, GHRL volunteers will be heading down to Holy Annunciation Monastery for the fall Helping Hands Day. Liturgy will be at 8 AM and work will be from 9 AM to 12 NOON. Come join the lodge and help in this fall cleanup at the monastery. The more hands helping, the more that can be done.



John Kasarda, Agnes Rohrbach, Monica Washko, Anita Keselicka and Mark Kokinda.

Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 10, a quarterly meeting is scheduled for 1 PM at St. John's BC Church Hall. Participants will review the happenings of the past year and hopefully a tentative schedule for 2022 will be ready. Election of officers will also take place. If mandates are put back by the state, these will be followed at the meeting.

Looking Ahead

Members have been asking about bus trips and other activities. Some of the places that GHRL usually goes are not open as of yet or not accepting buses. Officers are still a little hesitant about having some of the trips to certain places because of the variants of COVID. Officers will keep everyone up to date as soon as everything gets back to normal. One of the trips being worked on is to Sight and Sound Theater to see "David" next year. Additional information will follow in the next *GCU Magazine*. The current plan is to do the trip during the week instead of on a weekend.

Save the date, Sunday, December 12—GHRL is (hopefully) planning on having the St. Nicholas Dinner at Capriotti's.

Keep in your prayers all that have been in some sort of devastation, the COVID volunteers and medical professionals and also all that have lost their homes or lives due to natural disasters!

As always, GHRL tries to keep everyone updated on a list of activities, if you are computer savvy check out the GCU website for updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to call: 570-454-4869 or e-mail: agnes@ptd.net.

Until next time, take care and May God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL)

GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Community Fundraiser

During the second quarter of 2021, Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge held a Community Matching Funds event for Soles4Souls. The collection took place at St. John the Baptist BCC-South Side, St. John Chrysostom BCC-Greenfield and St. Pius X BCC-Carrick. Soles4Souls provides relief by distributing shoes throughout the U.S. and around the world and fights poverty by helping people launch and sustain their own business thereby empowering them.

The response for new and gently-used shoes was overwhelming. A total of 408 pairs of shoes were contributed. A smaller amount of clothes were also collected. Soles4Souls collects clothes, but shoes are their main goal.

A dollar amount was assigned to the shoes. This amount received Matching Funds and was then divided among several local non-profit organizations to spread help even further. The recipients of the 2021 Community Matching Funds



Donations.

were: St. Paul's Monastery Food Bank, Whitehall Library, Foster Love Project and Fishes & Loaves.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause!

Kim Kolesar | Trustee



Beautiful flowers at St. John Cathedral.

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL)

CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

Helping Hands Day

St. John Cathedral. This year's Helping Hands Day at St. John Cathedral took place over Memorial Day weekend, May 29-30.

Flowers were planted in the flower bed outside of the front door, in the pots outside the side door and outside the front and office doors at the parish house. Mulch was spread and deer repellent was sprayed to protect all of the hard work.

Ascension Church. The weather was great for a couple of the Helping Hands projects at Ascension Church in Clairton. The first project was weeding the parking lot and treating the sidewalks and curbs around the church, hall and rectory. Afterwards, the ECF children joined volunteers to plant a small flower garden of marigolds near the church. Some finishing touches needed to be added, but they were anxious for Sunday to come so everyone could see their work. Volunteers were invited to enjoy a Kentucky Fried Chicken dinner after their hard work.

CONTINUED



Helping Hands Day at Ascension Church.

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL)

CONTINUED

Honoring Mothers and Fathers

On Mother's Day, Fr. Andrew Deskevich invited all of the women of the Cathedral parish to accept a carnation and a cookie in appreciation for all their time, talent and treasures. On Father's Day, Fr. Andrew thanked the men of the parish with a cookie for all of their help over the past year. It was great to know that all were appreciated on these two special days.

With the start of summer upon us, Helen Sowko and Trish Roberts celebrated Father's Day at Ascension Church, by greeting the dad's with cookies and carnations to honor their day. It was nice to be able to see their smiles as the flowers were pinned on their lapels!



Above: carnations and cookies at St. John Cathedral. At left: Mike Sowko, Don Buchina, Bob Bell, Trish Roberts, John Kohan and Helen Sowko (front) on Father's Day at Ascension Church.

Thank You Fr. Andrew

Even though everyone experienced the pandemic year and were unable to be together as a community in church, parishioners of the Cathedral were able to pray together through the Internet with Fr. Andrew. There were several fund raisers that Fr. Andrew was able to accomplish with the help of a small number of parishioners. Thank you Fr. Andrew for your dedication in serving the church and your parishioners.



Book Vending Machine

Kelly Gomolak-Bandik, a teacher at Clara Barton Elementary School in West Mifflin, PA, approached the lodge with a donation request to help purchase a book vending machine for her class. With the lodge's assistance, she achieved her goal. However due to the pandemic, delivery was delayed for months. After much anticipation, the book vending machine finally arrived! Kelly sent a photo of her excited class and the unique machine that adds to the fun of reading as children drop in their coins and choose a book. Such an encouraging idea to expand their reading opportunities.

Patty Bovee | Treasurer & Fraternal Publicity
Director

Trish Roberts | President

One of the students trying out the book vending machine.

UPCOMING SEPRL EVENTS

3rd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, September 12
12 NOON

Ascension Church
318 Park Avenue, Clairton, PA 15025

Clothing/Coat/Sweater/Food Drive

More information will be announced soon

If questions contact Trish at 412-233-7814 or trishala2@earthlink.net

Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (NWPRL)

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA

Flag Day 2021

NWPRL marked this year's annual Flag Day with a short program. President Tina Burns welcomed members and guests reminding them to pray for those who serve the country and those who gave their lives defending the freedom the US Flag represents. Military veterans and NWPRL members raised the flag and at 7:00 PM the assembly joined in the "Pause for the Pledge" originated in 1980 at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore, MD. The assembly concluded the celebration with patriotic songs.

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING NWPRL EVENT

Fisher House Collection

Collecting needed consumable items and supplies. See WISH list at GCUusa.com / Lodge & District / Find a Lodge / NWPRL

Contact Steve Puluka at 412-897-4650 or email steve@puluka.com

Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge (PSRL)

BETHEL PARK, PA

Helping Hands Day

A Helping Hands Day event was held at St. Gregory BC Church followed by lunch for the volunteers. Thanks to all who pitched in to beautify the church.

Flag Day Ceremony

The Flag Day ceremony followed an outdoor Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 13. As the Liturgy was concluding, the sky got dark and it started to rain, moving the ceremony into the church hall. PSRL members then invited everyone to enjoy a "Make Your Own Sundae" table. The children of the parish particularly loved it!

Dorothy Mayernik



Helping Hands Day.



"Make Your Own Sundae" was a hit!



Flag Day celebration.

Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

Birthday Wishes

On May 30, Lodge 625 hosted a social hour in honor of Father Robert Oravetz's 80th birthday (June 1). In addition, Father Oravetz and a number of lodge/parish members visited Barbara Slavich at her home to celebrate her 99th birthday on June 11.



Lodge member Barbara Slavich celebrating her 99th birthday.



Rita Hull, Mary Dubay and Margaret Webb at the Jackson Heritage Festival.



President Rita Hull, Fr. Robert Oravetz and Secretary-Treasurer Georgia Lehman with a check representing proceeds from the 2nd Annual Cash Bash.

Check Presentation

On June 27, President Rita Hull and Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Lehman presented a check to Father Oravetz for \$10,563.00. The donation represented the proceeds from the 2nd Annual Cash Bash held in April and included the Parish Matching Funds from the Home Office. The money will be used for Holy Trinity Parish renovations.

A Busy June & July

On July 4, the lodge hosted a coffee hour for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in July.

Lodge 625 members were busy during the month of June and July preparing for the Jackson Heritage Festival held July 9-11, 2021. Members made over 100 dozen pirohi, 250 halupki, plenty of halushki and dozens of gobs. The event was very successful for all involved. The food was sold out by the end of Saturday evening. Thanks to the Home Office for Community Matching Funds from this event—proceeds will benefit a number of community non-profits.

Georgia Lehman | Fraternal & Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENT

3rd Quarter Meeting

Sunday, August 22

Following Liturgy (approx. 10:15 AM)

Discussion will be on the next major project, a Slavic Dinner slated for November 7, 2021.

Holy Trinity Church Hall,
217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the lodge's email list are asked to send an email to: gculodge625@yahoo.com or they can like us on Facebook—GCU Lodge 625.



Members of all ages enjoyed the bowling party.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Father's Day Bowling Party

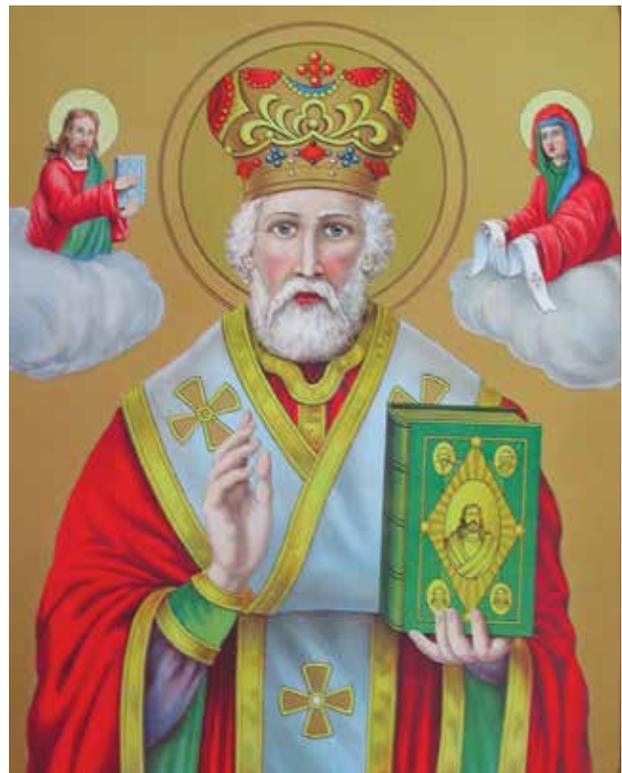
On Sunday, June 20, 2021 lodge members gathered at Let It Roll Bowl & Entertainment Center. All fathers bowled for free. A light lunch followed Liturgy which was followed by bowling. All had a great time!

Joanie Mahar | President

St. Nicholas Virtualthon

A GCU Community Outreach Event to Benefit the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary

The St. Nicholas Celebration to benefit Ss. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary is planned for Sunday, December 5, 2021 at St. John Cathedral Center in Munhall, PA. In an effort to provide a way for those who would like to support the Seminary but are too distant to attend the event in person, the GCU Board of Directors has once again instituted the St. Nicholas Virtualthon—A GCU Community Outreach Event to Benefit the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary. This is a Matching Funds event with the GCU Board pledging to match up to \$5,000.⁰⁰ in total donations. If you would like to donate to this effort, please visit our website to pay by credit card at www.GCUusa.com or if you prefer to pay by check, please make payable and mail to: St. Nicholas Virtualthon, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. Donations received by Monday, November 22, 2021 will be acknowledged in the program booklet for the event.



Mother Marija Shields, OCD Marks 75th Anniversary



Mother Marija, Agnes Rohrbach and Bishop Kurt Burnette.



Ilona Dolinish, Gina Keil, Topsy Zayac and Judy & Ann Marie Betterly.

Sugarloaf, PA. Friday, July 23, 2021 was a day of celebration at Holy Annunciation Monastery in honor of Hegumena Mother Marija Shields, OCD. The day marked the 75th Anniversary of consecrated life as a Discalced Carmelite.

The Pontifical Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Most Reverend Kurt Burnette (cele-

brant) and Reverend Scott Boghosian & Reverend Jude Peters, OCD concelebrants. Reverend Peters was the homilist. Hegumena Mother Marija entered the Carmelites on July 22, 1946 and her Investiture date was January 25, 1947.

A luncheon was served on the grounds of the monastery, gifts were presented to Hegumena Mother Marija

and was attended by various pastors of the area and a large list of invited guests joined the festivities of the day.

Thanks to the Lord our God for her gifts and grace of 75 years of consecrated life as a Discalced Carmelite. Congratulations and may God continue to bless her!

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary

Blessing of New Icon at SS. Peter & Paul BC Church

On Sunday, July 4, 2021, Rev. Edward Pyo and the parishioners of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Patton, PA blessed a new Icon of the Theotokos for the shrine built on church property in 1965 by Mr. Edward Julick. The icon, written by Ms. Joyce Mitchell, Mr. Julick's daughter, is of the Protection of the Mother of God and commemorates her feast day on October 1 and the death of the shrines builder Mr. Julick.

Vickie Soyka



Michael Dautlick, Vickie Legros Dautlick (Mr. Julick's cousin and goddaughter), Bob Williams, Irene Williams (Mr. Julick's sister), Joyce Mitchell, Rev. Edward Pyo, Deacon Raymond Zadzilko and Altar Server Jack Soyka.

Bishop Milan Lach cordially invites you to an



6:00 PM ~ SATURDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2021

HOLIDAY INN
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**EVENING
OF HOPE**

to benefit the EPARCHY OF
PARMA

Our Sponsors



Join us on Saturday, October 23, 2021 for the “Evening of Hope” at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South Independence. Father Mitchell Pacwa, SJ will be the keynote speaker. Father Pacwa is a host on EWTN Live, a scripture scholar and a bi-ritual priest also celebrating with the Maronite Church. Father Pacwa will serve as the homilist at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at the Dormition of the Mother of God, Cleveland, OH. All sponsors and attendees will receive free parking, dinner, cocktails, live auction, fund-a-need and more. We are in need of your support to help the Eparchy accomplish its goals.

Your gift will directly impact the four established eparchial funds: 1) development of parishes; 2) promotion of vocations and seminary education; 3) the eparchial pension fund for priests; and 4) works of the apostolate.

A detailed sponsorship and event registration form may be found on the Eparchy of Parma website at <https://www.parma.org/evening-of-hope>. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Judith Matsko at 216-741-8773 x 1225 or jmatsko@parma.org with any questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.

Thank you to our very generous sponsors as of July 22, 2021—CBIZ Retirement Plan Services; The Fedeli Group; GCU and William & Mary Strippy.

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South for those needing overnight accommodations. Please contact the hotel directly at 216-524-8050 to reserve your room by mentioning the Eparchy of Parma.

For Your Information

Events

87th Annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina

Sunday, September 5, 2021
Monday, September 6, 2021

Mt. St. Macrina
500 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA
15401
724-438-8644

More info & schedule of events appear on page 3.

Fall Golf Classic

Monday, September 20, 2021

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

Applications will be mailed to previous participants and are available in the Events Section on the GCU Website.

Contact GCU Fraternal-Communications Department at 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

15th Annual Classic Car Show

Sunday, September 26
Registration at 12 NOON
Concludes at 4 PM—Rain or Shine

\$10 Registration Fee

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Parking Lot
185 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

The first 150 cars will receive dash plaques and gifts.

More than 25 trophies, including one large trophy—"Father Ron's Favorite," will be awarded.

Classes include: 1900-1930, 1931-1950, 1951-1960, 1961-1965, 1966-1970, 1971-1976, 1977-1987, 1988-2001, Street Rod/Modified, Trucks 1959 and older and 1960-2001. No judging for 2003 and newer.

Arnie Amber-Oldies DJ, fundraisers, Byzantine Auction, and food will be featured. A golf cart shuttle will be available. Delicious foods, sandwiches, soups, halushki, baked goods and more.

Proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church Maintenance Fund.

Contact info: 724-438-6027.

Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Saturday, October 9
9 AM

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at
570-454-4869

39th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration (Modified)

Sunday, October 31
Divine Liturgy 9 AM
11 AM to 4 PM (or until sold out)
FREE

St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall
201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA

Walk-In/Take-Out Ethnic Food. Menu items: Ethnic Platter (pirohi, holubki, halushki, kolbasi); Kolbasi sandwich, pirohi, holubki, halushki & pagach. Variety of baked goods: long rolls, kolachi, cookies, cakes, breads, and more. Raffles! Pre-orders accepted call: 724-434-5355 Thursday-Saturday, October 28-30. On site ordering until sold out. For information call: 724-438-6027 M-F 9AM-3PM Please leave message. Check parish website: <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byz-cath-uniontown.org/>; email: stjohnthebaptistuniontown@gmail.com; or phone: 724-438-6027 for updates.

64th Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

Sunday, December 5
Moleben at 4 PM
Dinner at 6 PM

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center
Munhall, PA

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

For Your Information

Available

Discount Amusement Park Tickets



Discounted Amusement Park tickets for 2021 are available to GCU members for online purchase. The parks include Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA; Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA; Hershey Park, Hershey, PA; Idlewild Park, Ligonier, PA & Waldameer Park, Erie, PA. Visit the GCU website at www.GCUusa.com.

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold nearly 18,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 20th printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$4.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$18.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$28.⁰⁰ U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-6027 (M–F 9 AM–3 PM please leave a message) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



Opportunity Realized Vol. II

The GCU has published a second volume of its history ***Opportunity Realized Volume II—The Journey Continues***. This new publication chronicles the years 1992-2017. Follow the GCU journey as it navigates the calm waters of the end of the 20th century and struggles through the turbulent first decade of the 21st century—emerging as a strong \$1.5 billion financial institution by its 125th birthday in 2017.

Like its predecessor, ***Opportunity Realized***, this volume features photographs and illustrations throughout, bringing the organization's members and their accomplishments to life. The publication was researched and written by retired GCU Editor and Communications Director Frederick M. Petro. Proceeds from the sale of ***Opportunity Realized Volume II*** will go to the GCU Foundation in support of the Foundation's mission of promoting the Byzantine Church, the Rusyn culture and other charitable purposes. Books are \$20. To order your copy, go to www.GCUusa.com to order with a credit card or checks payable to GCU Foundation can be mailed to GCU History Book, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. Books will be sent via UPS.



2021 GCU Spring Monday, June 7, 2021



Jo Ann Patross, Marilyn Fenati, Gail Etter & Mary Ann Dunkin.



Michael Banchemo, Ray Alexander & Paul Lebanik.

Golfer, City/State & Place

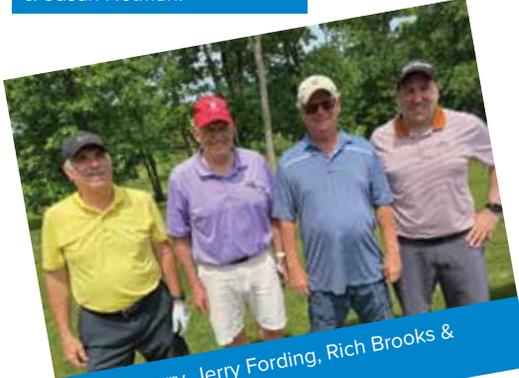
- Michael Banchemo, Beaver, PA—A Flight 1st Place Gross
- Bryan Karaffa, Strongsville, OH—A Flight 1st Place Net
- Roger Champlin, Copley, OH—A Flight 2nd Place Net
- Nick Peklansky, East McKeesport, PA—A Flight 3rd Place Net (tie)
- Jacob Saathoff, Wadsworth, OH—A Flight 3rd Place Net (tie)
- Jerry Fording, Moon Twp., PA—B Flight 1st Place Gross
- Gerry Corbo, Strongsville, OH—B Flight 1st Place Net
- Brian Cherry, Beaver Falls, PA—B Flight 2nd Place Net
- Bryce J. Varhola, Munhall, PA—B Flight 3rd Place Net
- Mark Chekan, South Park, PA—B Flight 4th Place Net
- Paul Royba, Beaver, PA—B Flight 4th Place Net
- Joseph M. Karaffa, Wadsworth, OH—B Flight 5th Place Net
- Greg Duvall, McKees Rocks, PA—C Flight 1st Place Gross
- Rich Brooks, Monaca, PA—C Flight 1st Place Net
- Zachary Wahal, Moon Twp., PA—C Flight 2nd Place Net
- Tim Germ, Murrysville, PA—C Flight 3rd Place Net (tie)
- Jim Pecnik, Seville, OH—C Flight 3rd Place Net (tie)



Paul & Rachelle Royba, Brian & Susan Notman.



Aiden & Bryce Varhola, Kevin & Ryan Dunay.



Brian Cherry, Jerry Fording, Rich Brooks & Gennaro Marsico.



Mike Karaffa, Jacob Saathoff, Bob Macko & Jim Pecnik.



Mike Ryan, Larry Yanyo, Frank Yurkovich & Nick Peklansky.



Roger Champlin, Joe Karaffa, Ron Campagna & Tom Grassi.



Nick Wilson, Tom Sykes, Greg Duvall & Nathan Galiyas.



Gordon Short, Ben Rababy, Gerry Corbo & Bryan Karaffa.



Robert Davis, Rich Posch, Mark Chekan & Matt Hinds.

Golf Classic Winners At Seven Oaks Country Club

Golfer, City/State & Place

Matt Hindes, South Park, PA—D Flight 1st Place Gross
 Ronald Cairns, West Mifflin, PA—D Flight 1st Place Net
 James Cebula, Wake Forest, NC—D Flight 2nd Place Net
 Rich Posch, McMurray, PA—E Flight 1st Place Gross
 Charles Houser, Duquesne, PA—E Flight 1st Place Net
 Matthew Basl, Munhall, PA—E Flight 2nd Place Net
 Bill Uram Jr., Butler, PA—Senior A Flight 1st Place Gross
 Ernie Varhola, Munhall, PA—Senior A Flight 1st Place Net
 Tim Friday, Jefferson Hills, PA—Senior A Flight 2nd Place Net
 Larry Yanyo, Munhall, PA—Senior B Flight 1st Place Gross
 William Druga, Polk, PA—Senior B Flight 1st Place Net
 Ronald Blough, Allison Park, PA—Senior B Flight 2nd Place Net
 Robert Chambers, Smicksburg, PA—Senior B Flight 3rd Place Net
 Patricia M. Kutzfara, Elizabeth, PA—Women 1st Place Gross
 Sheryl Reisker, Sewickly, PA—Women 1st Place Net
 Clara Chambers, Smicksburg, PA—Women 2nd Place Net
 Mary Ann Dunkin, Allison Park, PA—Women 3rd Place Net



Tom Hoenninger, Steve Suchan & Tim Germ.



Clara Chambers, Jean Karaffa, Sheryl & Brian Reisker.



John Harbist, Zack & Basil Wahal.



Bill Uram, George Smith, Mike Kanai and Ron Blough.



Tom Blike, Bill Meeks, Joe & Sam Blike.



Russ Parolski, Diane McConville, Mary Ann & Ernie Varhola.



Jim Matlon, Paul, Stanley & Gary Pezak.



Robert Chambers, Robert Kovach, Jim Cebula & Jeff Gomori.



John & Pat Kutzfara, Matt Basl & John Niskach.



John Miller, Ron Cairns, Charles Houser & Mike Mantsch.



Bob Druga, Tom Hart, Lou Towchik & Tim Friday.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 401 Therese Adams, Cresson, PA
360 Ann D. Agnesi, Campbell, OH
8344 Roberta Andersen, Orwigsburg, PA
8344 Dolores J. Anderson,
Schwenksville, PA
8344 Robert M. Armstrong, Pittsburgh, PA
8304 Lois Arnold, N. Las Vegas, NV
8344 Mary Ellen Avolio, Schwenksville, PA
8344 Valerie R. Banks, Ellwood City, PA
8309 Helen Barczak, Deltona, FL
109 Adella C. Barr, Mars, PA
109 Angeline Bartoli, Bethel Park, PA
8344 Naomi R. Beach, New Enterprise, PA
8309 Lynette Belford, Orlando, FL
10 Dorothy Bergman, Hilton Head, SC
8358 David H. Blonien, Viroqua, WI
8344 Lucy P. Boron, Pittsburgh, PA
CPRL John Bosak, Pittsburgh, PA
316 Mark S. Bowser, Minotola, NJ
8344 Rose M. Brough, Butler, PA
994 Shirley Buchholz, Beaver, PA
8344 Michael Caleca, Whitehall, PA
8344 Marcel Chauvet, McDonald, PA
CPRL John Chemsak, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Larry Christner, Somerset, PA
8326 Thomas C. Corby, Howard City, MI
8344 Linda Csigi, Scranton, PA
57 Peter Culyba, Belle Vernon, PA
644 Gertrude M. Dann, Akron, OH
8358 Kenneth R. Datka, Rudolph, WI
8304 Richard C. Davis, Riverside, CA
8358 Janice DeHorn, Rhinelander, WI
NPRL Helen Dorcak, Monroeville, PA
8341 Martha A. Drapcho, Berea, OH
8344 Barbara A. Druce, Douglassville, PA
8344 Bruce Durka, Rostraver Twp., PA
999 Melvin Elliott, Peoria, AZ
8358 Lois A. Endres, Evansville, WI
8326 Cynthia A. Eoll, Indian River, MI
8344 Louella I. Evans, Pottsville, PA
20 Robert C. Ewing, Ridley Park, PA
8344 John Figler, Natrona Hts., PA
8344 Ruth L. Foster, Collegeville, PA
8344 Rita A. Freuchtel, Delmont, PA
8344 Viola Fusciardi, Stroudsburg, PA
8358 Patricia Gastreich, Brookfield, WI
8344 Craig M. Geiger, Birdsboro, PA
8344 Carol J. Gifford, Home, PA
8344 John L. Graham, Butler, PA
8335 Marilyn Greenfield, Bernardsville, NJ
CPRL Evelyn Gregory, Monongahela, PA
8344 Arlene S. Gross, Harleysville, PA
109 Helen S. Grystar, Butler, PA
8344 Jean Guerriero, Bridgeville, PA
8344 Phillip Hayes, California, PA
151 William Hedson, Hudson, FL
8344 Rudi H. Held, Pittsburgh, PA
271 Matthew J. Hendle, Chicago, IL
8344 John Hight, Ebensburg, PA
8302 William Horwood, Peoria, AZ
665 John Hreha, Linden, NJ
SPRL Gabriel Hrico, W. Mifflin, PA
NPRL George Hudanick, Glenshaw, PA
8344 Lillian S. James, Cresson, PA
66 Jean Jewett, Cedar Lake, IN
15 Walter O. Johnson, Toms River, NJ
8358 Selistia A. Kallies, Pound, WI
8358 Jean Kamps, Hortonville, WI
8344 Raymond Karoly, Northampton, PA
8344 Richard Kehs, Lehighton, PA
CPRL John Kepich, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Edward Kern, Oakmont, PA
8344 Jean Killeen, Pittsburgh, PA
SPRL Eleanor Kondis, W. Homestead, PA
53 Andrew Kopcho, Wilkes-Barre, PA
360 Nancy Kovach, Youngstown, OH
8344 Andrew G. Kranyc, Windber, PA
109 Dorothy Kriley, Fair Lawn, NJ
GHRL Helen P. Kusko, Nesquehonong, PA
625 John J. Kuzmiak, Johnstown, PA
8344 Charles Lapinsky, Enola, PA
999 Alyce R. Lees, Sun City, AZ
8344 Norman F. Lengel, Orwigsburg, PA
8341 Robert J. Lisica, Boardman, OH
8344 Mary J. Long, Shamokin Dam, PA
8309 Iris G. Lowe, Clermont, FL
360 Edward Lucas, Campbell, OH
47 Mary T. Malnic, Columbia, SC
109 Jean A. Mamula, Butler, PA
8344 Joseph Manchor, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Lillie M. Martin, Russellton, PA
8309 Lola Martinez, Riverview, FL
GHRL Barbara Martinick, Glen Mills, PA
CPRL Sonia McCarthy, Pittsburgh, PA
999 June McCormick, Phoenix, AZ
336 Florence V. Medvic, Watauga, TX
SPRL Raymond Merisko, West Mifflin, PA
8344 Dorothy Miller, Coulter, PA
CPRL Robert Mitrik, Pittsburgh, PA
81 Myron Mitro, Donora, PA
8344 Joanne Mravintz, Ligonier, PA
8344 Kay F. Mulgado, Duquesne, PA
8344 Gary N. Muniz, Monongahela, PA
8344 Veronica Nagy, Greenville, PA
8358 Richard A. Novitske, Appleton, WI
8358 Frieda E. Nowland, LaCrosse, WI
8304 Dorothy J. Ochs, Rancho Mirage, CA
258 Geanine M. Osso, Darlington, PA
999 Richard Ouimette, Sun City, AZ
8344 Paul Pancio, Norristown, PA
15 Agnes Papp, Trenton, NJ
164 Dorothy Pehanich, Warren, OH
271 Gordon M. Pierce, South Holland, IL
8341 Frank Pishotti, Warren, OH
8344 Mary Lynn Pivarnik, Clairton, PA
8344 Richard Platt, Pittsburgh, PA
994 Donna Platz, Ambridge, PA
860 Edmund F. Pokorski, Troy, MI
109 John Prokopchak, Butler, PA
10 Patricia A. Pudik, Aliquippa, PA

8344 Nancy Purcell, Shenandoah, PA
8358 Sylvester S. Racinowski, Estero, FL
8344 Ralph W. Richt, Ellwood City, PA
8304 Donald Ritchie, San Clemente, CA
8304 Gwendolyn Ritchie,
San Clemente, CA
8358 LaVon Ritchie, Fitchburg, WI
57 George Rizak, Coal Center, PA
8324 Theresa Roberto, Pasadena, MD
8309 Jo Ann Roberts,
Indian Harbour Beach, FL
8344 Richard R. Rogg, Freedom, PA
8341 Louis E. Roscart, Warren, OH
8326 Edward W. Rose, Alanson, MI
999 John Ross, Tucson, AZ
8358 Douglas D. Samolinski, Antigo, WI
8344 Rosamond Sandiford,
Stroudsburg, PA
21 Mary C. Santos, Middlebury, CA
8344 Mildred Schneider, Sellersville, PA
8344 Dolores Schuette, Hampstead, MD
8344 Marian K. Schweikert, Leechburg, PA
NPRL Anna May Sejka, Oakdale, PA
302 Mary J. Shaver, Seven Hills, OH
258 Mary Shemancik, Aliquippa, PA
81 Gertrude Shirilla, New Salem, PA
NPRL Joseph A. M. Simelis, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 John G. Sivi, Murrysville, PA
302 Waldemar Skolny, Fort Myers, FL
8309 Mary Smith, Deland, FL
8344 Richard C. Smith, Sewickley, PA
NPRL Mary Sovak, McKeesport, PA
8344 Claire D. Spratt,
Plymouth Meeting, PA
8326 Robert E. Steinke, Hillman, MI
93 Helen Stoll, Elizabeth City, NC
8358 Sharon L. Stott, Franklin, WI
8344 Mary Jane Stover,
New Kensington, PA
8344 Harvey A. Suter, Somerset, PA
57 George Sutyak, Finleyville, PA
8358 Margaret Swan-Baehler,
West Bend, WI
PSRL Mary Talausky, Pittsburgh, PA
8358 Donna A. Thilmany, Rhinelander, WI
8358 Dorothy Thompson, Janesville, WI
18 Matilda Timko, Washington, PA
8344 Geraldine L. Toncini, Vandergrift, PA
8344 Florence D. Urban, Saltsburg, PA
8309 James Vaughn, Collinsville, MS
351 Kathryn Voyten, Homer City, PA
8344 Harry F. Weber, Burgettstown, PA
8359 Carolyn T. Weddle, Great Falls, SC
66 James Robert West,
Baton Rouge, LA
8344 Charles Wilson, Harwick, PA
8326 Sheila M. Wilson, Boyne City, MI
8344 Georgette Zastawa, Pittsburgh, PA
SPRL Dorothy Zavasky, Erie, PA
PSRL Georgia Zeedick, Pittsburgh, PA
8341 John Paul Zeliinko, Northwood, OH
8358 Rudolph Zoromski, Thorp, WI

GHRL—Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

CPRL—Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

SPRL—Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

NPRL—Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

PSRL—Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge

Remembrances

Gertrude Shirilla

The parishioners of Assumption of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in New Salem, PA were saddened by the loss of their beloved cantor, Gertrude Shirilla. She passed away on May 11, 2021 at the age of 94.

She was born on January 13, 1927 in Newboro, PA to the late Walter & Helen Molek Sheroke. Gertrude was a member of St. Mary Church and led the rosary there for over 50 years. She was a volunteer at Mt. St. Macrina since the age of 26 and a member of the 3rd Order of St. Francis (SFO) for 50 years. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Shirilla, a brother Richard Sheroke, and her sisters Helen Ondrish & Elizabeth Sheroke. She is survived by her children; Gregory Shirilla (Kimberly); Mary Tiberi (Joseph); Helene Biller (Francis) and Christina Simmons (Robert); seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren and brothers Walter & Theodore Sheroke.

Father Christopher Burke, pastor at St. Mary Church, said in his homily, that it is a great honor for a cantor to lead the congregation of a church in singing God's praises here on earth.

He believes Gertrude will now continue singing His praises with the angels in heaven. Former pastor, Father Jerome Botsko, spoke of Gertrude's many hours of work for her church and of the kindness she had shown him over the years.

Not only will her beautiful voice, singing the many hymns in English and Old Slavonic be missed, but her many other talents of caring for the altar linens and decorating the church throughout the year—especially during the Easter season, will also be missed.

Her two nephews, Nick Lizanich and Tim Shirilla, both cantors in the Parma Eparchy in Ohio, sang the responses at the Funeral Divine Liturgy and all the other services. Interment was in Mount St. Macrina Cemetery, Uniontown, PA. Vicnaja pamjat, Gertrude!

Mary Tiberi & Bernie Karoffa
St. Mary's Assumption B. C. Church

Rev. Thomas G. Schaefer

Reverend Father Thomas G. Schaefer of Pittsburgh, PA unexpectedly fell asleep in the Lord on July 3, 2021 while vacationing in California. He was born in Pittsburgh on July 7, 1951, the only child of the late Gerard & Josephine (Sobczak) Schaefer. Father Tom was the beloved cousin of the Golembiewski, Janosko, Sobczak, Zebracki, and Schaefer Families and a caring and special friend to many.

His early education was at St. Vincent dePaul Elementary School and St. Francis DeSales High School in McKees Rocks, PA. He attended St. Mary Seminary University in Baltimore, MD where he received a BA in Language and Literature in 1974. He spent 9 years in the Peace Corps in Central Africa, and attended the Major Seminary in Emile Biayenda, Congo in 1981 and 1982.

He received his first Masters Degree in teaching French and English as a second language at the School of International Training in Brattleboro, VT in 1981.

Father Thomas entered the Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) in 1982 and on July 24, 1982, he was ordained a priest in the chapel at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

With further graduate studies at Duquesne, Father Thomas earned a Masters Degree in Liberal Studies in 1987; a Masters Degree in Formative Spirituality in 1989 and a Doctorate (PhD) in the Science of Human Formation in 1997.

During 1983 & 1984, his responsibilities at Duquesne University included

Campus Ministry, Vocations Office, and Director of the Spiritan Pre-Novitiate Program. From 1991 through 2001 he served as Dean in the Office of Domestic Admissions and International Affairs.

During this time Father Thomas was also named assistant priest at St. Anthony Church and pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in the Strip District of Pittsburgh.

Father Thomas left the Spiritan Fathers on March 1, 2001 and was received as a priest of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. His pastorates included the parishes of Nativity of the Mother of God, Greenfield-Pittsburgh and St. Mary, Ambridge, PA. He then served as pastor at St. John the Baptist and St. John Chrysostom in Pittsburgh, until his death. He served on several committees and boards at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary.

In 2002, Father Thomas began a faithful and dedicated time of ministry to La Roche University in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. Among other contributions to programs of global interest and language, his offices included Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dean of Domestic Admissions and International Affairs and Director of External Relations, Pacem in Terris Institute.

Until his passing, he was contributing in various board member capacities to Sage Scholars, Philadelphia; Pittsburgh Regional Science Initiative; Holy Family Institute; Sister Thea Bowman Foundation and Hobson's Digital Media Inc.

A scholar and academician, Father Thomas held many professional memberships, and was the author of various publications. He loved people, music, learning, and everything international – especially African. He deeply appreciated the beauty of music and the arts. He was proficient in French, Spanish, Sango and Latin languages; had a working knowledge of Polish; and was currently studying Arabic and Hebrew.

There was a viewing for Father Thomas at the Chapel of the Sisters of Divine Providence on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 followed by a Roman Catholic Mass. A viewing then followed at his final pastoral assignment at St. John Chrysostom BC Church in Pittsburgh PA, where the funeral service for a priest was prayed.

His funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla on Friday, July 16 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, PA. Interment followed at St. Mary Cemetery, McKees Rocks.

The family encourages donations to Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh 15212 or to St. John Chrysostom Church, 506 Saline Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207.

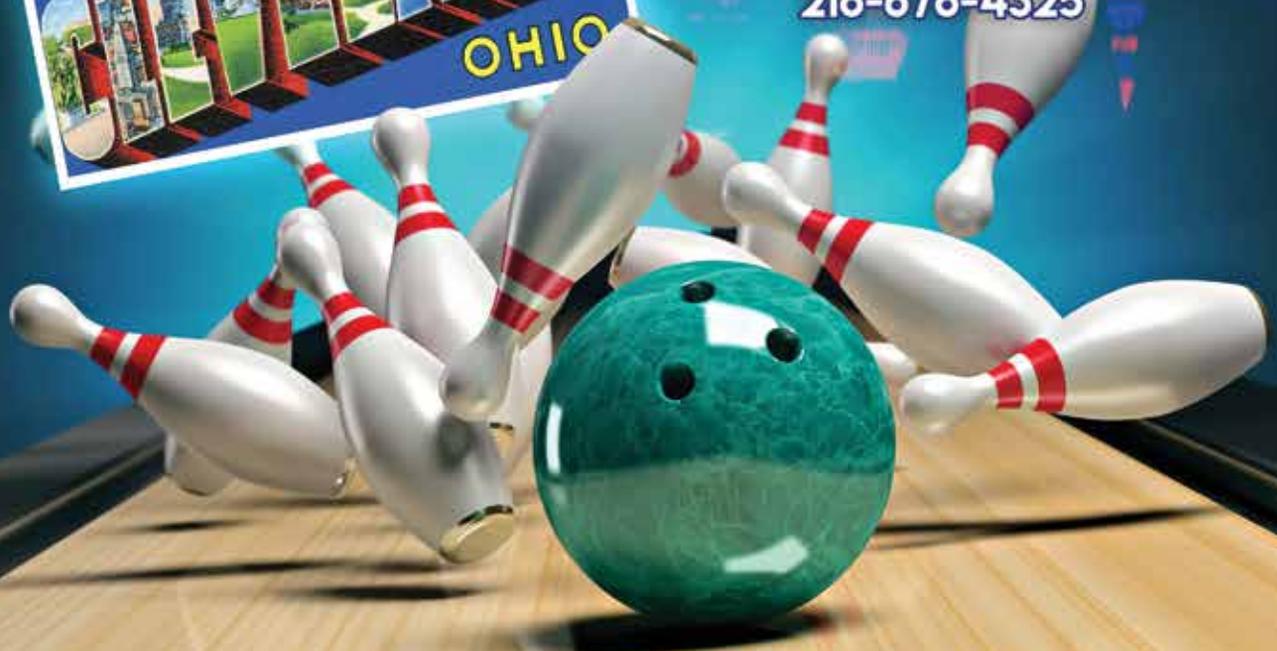


A JOINT FRATERNAL EVENT FOR
FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS MEMBERS



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**2022 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
CLEVELAND, OH
FRIDAY, MAY 13 & SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022**

LODGING



CROWNE PLAZA
7230 Engle Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
440-243-4040

Block Code:
SNB

