

AUGUST 2020

GCU

MAGAZINE

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Board of Directors

Very Rev. Richard I. Lambert,
Spiritual Advisor

Gregory N. Vladika,
Chairman of the Board

George Kofel
Vice Chairman of the Board

Melanie Basl

Dorothy Ann Foran

Lisa Gulibon

Michael W. Karaffa

Barbara J. Kushner

David A. Oleksa

John W. Oslick

John J. Urban

George N. Juba,
Editor

Basil M. Wahal,
Managing Editor

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Memorable Moments

The year 2020 has proven to be filled with an array of “memorable moments,” that we all will never forget. The COVID-19 pandemic should certainly be placed at the top of the list—as our lives were placed into a “whirlwind.” I am sure this pandemic will be a thing of the past in the very near future.

No doubt it will be just a matter of time for a vaccine to be developed that will prevent, if not eradicate, this deadly virus.

We as citizens of the United States, are so fortunate to live in a country with the most advanced medical technology. God has blessed so many individuals instilling them with the wisdom and intelligence to provide solutions to overcome and prevent so many diseases the human race has been exposed to. My confidence in battling the COVID-19 virus lies within past history, that I personally experienced. Jonas Salk and Albert Bruce Sabin were pioneers in developing vaccines and for the most part have eliminated polio in the United States. I can to this day remember standing in line at the Dunmore Little League complex, a distribution center for the Salk Vaccine, and receiving the medication on a sugar cube. I do not remember when I received the smallpox vaccine, but I do have proof of receiving it, as I sport a scare on my upper left arm that provides proof of my inoculation. This vaccine was developed by a British physician Edward Jenner in 1796. Today, this disease is the only human disease that has been totally eradicated worldwide. I also recall being vaccinated with a jet gun as this method was used for administering the smallpox and tuberculosis vaccines.

In the modern-day era, from 1900 to 2020, the deadliest pandemics were the 1918 Spanish Flu and the HIV/AIDS outbreak. Each of us must do our part to protect ourselves and other during the COVID-19 pandemic. With each of us doing our part we can limit the spread of this virus by abiding by the Center for Disease Control guidelines and our state and local governmental directives. There has been some very positive news recently announced for a potential vaccine that shows promising laboratory results and has now gone to human trial—we must pray for its success.

Through the grace of God and oversight by the GCU’s patron saint, St. Nicholas of Myra, our Society has been fortunate to continue to operate under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Guidelines as our business was considered essential in servicing the needs of our members and agents. The GCU once again is operating under our modified Business Continuity Plan as the Governor of Pennsylvania Tom Wolf, mandated companies effective July 16th, transition to a “teleworking” environment unless it is not possible. Under this directive and our capabilities of staff

working remotely, it is pretty much “business as usual.”

GCU continues to achieve strong financial results despite our challenges under the current business environment. A financial update will be published by our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres, in the October issue of the *GCU Magazine*. We continue to grow assets and surplus as well as maintain strong profitability. We are experiencing issues with investments within the energy sector that will have a negative affect upon net income after capital gains/losses with no affect upon surplus. Our Asset Valuation Reserve will absorb most of the projected energy sector losses.

The GCU’s Mission of “**Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities**” is ongoing throughout each year. In support of this “**Mission**” and the current financial needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, on a national level the GCU’s Board of Directors approved various programs to assist the many individuals and organizations in need of financial support during this most difficult time.

A COVID-19 GO GIVE DIRECT PROGRAM was established that allows for a \$100 match of our members’ donation to an organization that provides assistance to individuals experiencing hardship as a result of this pandemic. More information on this program is presented on page 3.

The GCU is also very proud to support the American Red Cross in Western Pennsylvania. A \$10,000.⁰⁰ donation was made toward the purchase of a much needed Biomed Vehicle used for securing blood donations. Please review the article on this effort also located on page 3. We encourage you to support your local American Red Cross Chapters as they provide much needed relief support to individuals and families when a disaster occurs.

Unfortunately, our local lodge and district volunteer and fundraising efforts have been suspended at this time with very limited activities. To somewhat fill this void, a \$1,000.⁰⁰ grant was authorized for each of the GCU’s lodges and districts to support a local food bank in their area. Over \$35,000.⁰⁰ was donated. We thank each of our lodges and districts for participating in this effort.

A \$10,000.⁰⁰ grant was also awarded to each of the four Byzantine Catholic Eparchies to assist in defraying operational costs during this unprecedented time.

The membership of Seven Oaks Country Club also participated in efforts to raise funds to support essential medical staff, families and organizations in need, as over \$11,000.⁰⁰ was collected with \$10,000.⁰⁰ in additional Matching Funds pledged from the GCU to support this program.

CONTINUED

The GCU is looked upon as a very successful financial services organization. Such success continues to allow for the GCU to fund many community outreach programs such as those presented above on a national and local level. The founders of our Society would be most proud as we continue to carry on their vision and purpose in establishing the GCU!

We must also be thankful to all of the medical, first responder, law enforcement and food chain personnel that place their health at risk in serving our everyday essential needs. In addition to our military, these individuals are the “true heroes” we should honor!

The 2020 election of the GCU’s Spiritual Advisor and Board of Directors concluded on July 31, 2020 at 11:59 PM. For the first time in the history of the GCU all adult benefit (insured members) members had the privilege to vote for candidates that will lead our

Society over the next four years. The results of the election are presented below and certification of the results by General Counsel Theodore Trbovich, appears on page 3. My personal congratulations to the candidates that have been elected as I will look forward to working with the Board as we continue to “Forge the Future of the GCU” together!

In closing, my thank you to each of our members and agents for your continued business and support of our “**Mission**”! Stay safe and enjoy one of the most beautiful summers that God has provided. Despite the current challenge before us, please take the time to make some memorable moments with your family and friends.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concern.
GOODNESS IS GREAT!





Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc.
51 Mercedes Way
Edgewood, NY 11717
631-254-7400

GCU

2020 Election – GCU Spiritual Advisor and Board of Directors

AS REQUESTED, WE HAVE TABULATED THE VOTES CAST FOR THE 2020 ELECTION

Final Voting Results

THE RESULTS OF THIS TABULATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

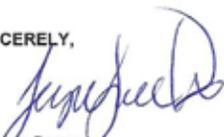
TOTAL QUALIFYING BALLOTS: 49,543

TOTAL VALID BALLOTS CAST: 7,925

	<u>VOTES RECEIVED</u>
Rt. Rev. John S. Kachuba, Spiritual Advisor	6,885
Melanie Basl	7,283
S. Ronald Bednar	1,362
Thomas J. Duch	1,230
Dorothy Ann Foran	6,797
John J. Gula	1,400
Lisa Gulibon	7,270
Michael W. Karaffa	6,770
George Kofel	7,200
Barbara J. Kushner	7,236
Joan Mahar	1,054
David A. Oleksa	7,208
John W. Oslick	7,037
John J. Urban	7,223
Gregory N. Vladika	7,080

IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CUSTOMARY PROCEDURES, WE HAVE EXAMINED THE BALLOTS RECEIVED, BUT DO NOT GUARANTEE THE GENUINENESS OF THE SIGNATURES THEREOF, OR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LEGALITY OF ANY BALLOT.

SINCERELY,



Jeremy Dzwonkus

GCU Investing in the Goodness of Community

GCU has truly taken the tagline “Investing in the Goodness of Community” to heart in the last several months.

COVID-19 Food Bank Donations

With the onset of the pandemic in March, the GCU was looking for a way to assist as many of the communities where members call home, as possible. The GCU Board of Directors approved a program providing \$1,000.00 donations to Food Banks in the local communities of all GCU lodges and districts. Lodge and district officers completed a request form and the check was mailed directly to their local Food Bank from the Home Office, noting that lodge or district as the donor. To date the program has provided \$38,000.00 to assist 38 communities across the United States.

American Red Cross Donation

GCU recently learned that the Beaver, PA area chapter of the American Red Cross was in need of a new Biomed Vehicle. The vehicle is used at blood drives throughout the area. Their current vehicle was no longer road worthy and the Red Cross had a real concern in transporting equipment and donations to and from blood drives in the Western PA area. In keeping with the GCU tagline of “investing in the goodness of community,” GCU stepped up to make a \$10,000.00 donation towards the purchase of a new vehicle. This donation, along with an anonymous donation from another foundation, will allow the Red Cross to purchase a new Biomed Vehicle. On Tuesday, June 23, 2020 GCU President George N. Juba (left) presented the donation to two Western Pennsylvania Red Cross representatives, Biomed District Manager Tony Baker and Regional Philanthropy Officer Christine Paiano.

Theodore M. Trbovich

ATTORNEY AT LAW

511 Greenfield Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Phone: 412-421-0191 Fax: 412-421-0199

August 10, 2020

TO: All GCU Adult Insured Members

RE: Certification of the GCU's 2020 Election Results of the Spiritual Advisor and Board of Directors

I have examined the final tabulation report as prepared by Broadridge Investor Communications Solutions, Inc.

Per Title VII - Qualifications and Election of GCU Directors, as Paragraph 67 states “All Directors are to be elected by plurality of the votes cast by all adult members” I declare the following candidates as elected:

Rt. Rev. John S. Kachuba, Spiritual Advisor

Melanie Basl

Dorothy Ann Foran

Lisa Gulibon

Michael W. Karaffa

George Kofel

Barbara J. Kushner

David A. Oleksa

John W. Oslick

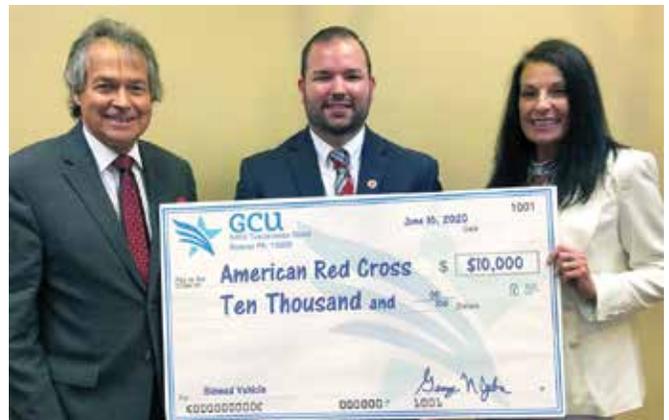
John J. Urban

Gregory N. Vladika

Sincerely,



Theodore M. Trbovich
General Counsel



GoGive! Direct COVID-19 Donations

In addition to the Food Bank donations above, the GCU Board also extended the GoGive! Direct program to include additional funding for the COVID-19 pandemic. GCU members making individual donations to organizations providing support to their communities during the pandemic, can have their individual donations matched up to \$100.00 for that organization. Even those members that have used the GoGive! Direct program for other donations this year, are eligible to take part in the GoGive! Direct COVID-19 program. Complete details and the submission form are on the GCU website www.GCUusa.com under the Giving Back tab at the top of the home page.



Very Rev.
Richard I. Lambert
GCU Spiritual Advisor

Change

For any person who is opposed to change, he or she has been and will be undoubtedly disappointed frequently... change is a constant. Families, neighborhoods, churches, cities, states, countries and the world witness change regularly. The GCU has experienced much change in its long history, even recently, and will continue to deal with change.

This year there was no Convention—there most likely would not have been one anyway! We all know how the COVID-19 Virus has changed almost every facet of our lives. The Board of Directors, in advance of all of these developments, began to prepare for the present elections. All adult members were to have received ballots in the mail. By July 31 all ballots were to have been returned.

AS I write this article, today is July 25, 2020 and we await the results of the election. One thing is certain—this will be my last letter to you as National Spiritual Advisor. I have decided to step down after having served the GCU

first as Chairman of the Supreme Tribunal for 8 years and as National Spiritual Advisor for the past 12 years.

I have had the opportunity to send messages to you and have had the pleasant responsibility of celebrating the Divine Liturgy one day each month for the past 12 years for all of you.

I do know one result, my successor will be Very Rev. John S. Kachuba, who has been a good friend since our first day at SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. I offer my best wishes to Fr. John as well as the elected members of the Board of Directors and Officers of our Fraternal Union.

I ask the favor of a prayer in return! God be with you all and God bless the GCU!

For any person who is opposed to change, he or she has been and will be undoubtedly disappointed frequently... change is a constant.

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 7th in observance of Labor Day.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009





Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Put Estate Planning on Your List

Below is a simple checklist I created to help determine if estate planning should be put on your action list of things that need done now. It's never too early or too late to get your affairs in order. This is one goal that everyone needs to consider. Make it a point to plan right now.

1) Review your will/trust. Are your documents current? Do you still have a relationship with that person you've appointed as your executor? Do you have established guardians for your kids? Can they be found?

2) Review your living will and your healthcare and financial powers of attorney. Who will make decisions for you if you are no longer able to? Who will make sure your bills are paid, your pets fed and your affairs kept in order?

3) Update your will/trust. If your children are adults, do you want to make provisions for them that are different from when they were minors? Have your assets changed? Who is going to get what? Has your estate been valued?

4) Update your living will and powers of attorney. Without good planning, decisions might be made that aren't what you would have wanted. Your voice will not be heard.

5) Review your real estate deed. There is specific language that needs to be included on your deed that if it isn't there means the inherited portion of the home will need to go through probate—even if you have a will. Title to the property may not automatically transfer to your spouse.

6) Update your deeds if necessary.

FRIENDLY REMINDER...

OCT 1

GCU SCHOLARSHIP

2020-2021 GCU Scholarship Programs

Applications for scholarships will be available on the GCU web site beginning October 1, 2020. All applications must be completed online.

GCUusa.com

Giving

Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch Parish Expansion

Burton, OH. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions made necessary by the Coronavirus, plans for the 2020 Miracle of Mariapoch Gala fundraising event were postponed until 2021—date to be determined. Fortunately, the event's generous benefactors donated over \$5000.⁰⁰ in pre-Gala funds to help ease the loss of

income from the Gala. With the assistance of the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds, the Chapel Renovation efforts at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch in Burton, OH, have continued.

These improvements include the relocation and re-installation of the marble altars and the Icon Screen from the closed St. Eugene Church in Bedford, OH to the Outdoor Chapel at Mariapoch. Future improvements yet to be funded will include a new Sacristy and Liturgical Item storage rooms at the Chapel. An ADA compliant totally accessible restroom addition for visitors praying at the Chapel is also planned, allowing for easy access to a clean, modern restroom facility.

The Advisory Board and volunteers at the Shrine thank the GCU for its generosity as we continue efforts to make Mariapoch a center of prayer for peace in the world and in each life by offering the healing refuge of Our Lady of Mariapoch.

Deacon William Fredrick

Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch



Marble altar.



The beautiful Icon Screen.

Saint Andrew the Apostle Spring Pirohi Fundraiser

Gibsonia, PA. This spring we St. Andrew the Apostle BC Church sold out of pirohi. Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's pirohi project. The work began starting in January to fill orders for churches fundraisers and customers. A total of 4 weeks of work was involved. This year I created some excitement on the during the third work week by having a stroke in the middle of the preparation, which took 8 workers from that day. I want to thank everyone who was there and able to complete the work. I Thank the Lord that I was able to finish the final week of February 22 with you. We have a wonderful group of parishioners and friends who come to help my husband Steve and I, along with David Kostilnik as coordinators—we could not do it without you. This year I hope to finally update the



The wonderful workers.

front entrance way doors with the event's profits. We hope everyone is safe during the Coronavirus pandemic and are looking forward to the days when we will see you again.

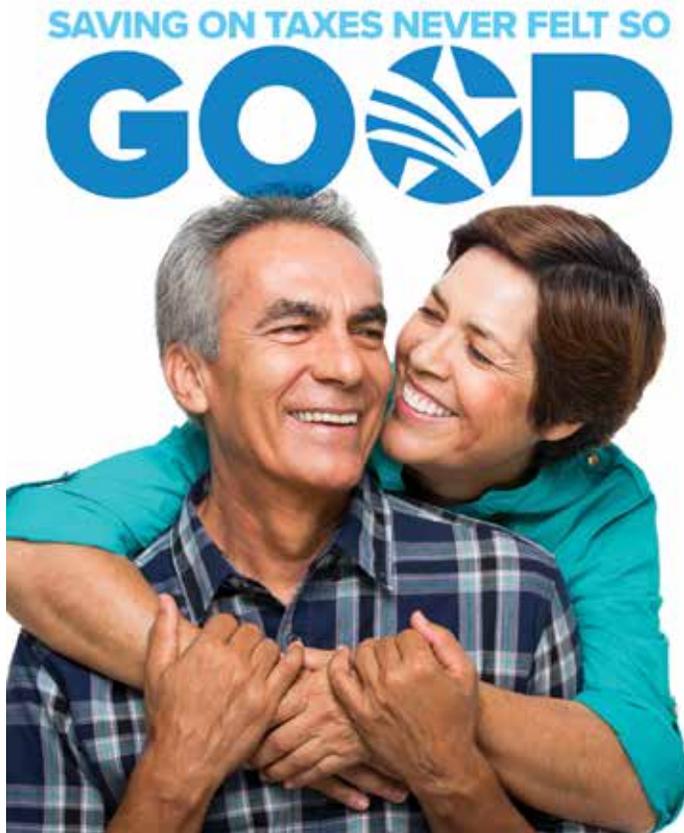
RoxAnn M. Savka | Pirohi Coordinator

St. Mary Byzantine Church Parish Expansion



Windber, PA. St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church held a basket party/spaghetti dinner on Sunday, July 12, 2020. Proceeds benefited the "Raise the Roof" campaign. A presale was held on Saturday, July 11 for anyone unable to attend on Sunday. All of the 160 tickets were sold. There were over 200 baskets donated and chanced off. This event was enjoyed by all who attended.

Theresa Valko



WHY PAY MORE IN TAXES WHEN YOU CAN USE YOUR IRA TO DO GOOD?

If you are 70½ you can roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA into the GCU Foundation to benefit the many wonderful GCU Charities.

You won't be taxed on the transfer, and better yet, it counts against your required distribution!

Best of all, it's easy!



Talk to your GCU agent or the GCU Call Center 1-855-306-0607



Jillian McDonnell Helps Fight COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, lifelong GCU Lodge 7 member Jillian McDonnell used her free time and sewing talents to make face masks. All profits from the mask sales were donated to the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. Jill's employer D'Errico Jewelry matched her \$800.00 donation. A submission to the GCU GoGive! Direct program increased the donation made to this wonderful charity by another \$100.00. Jillian also donated masks to ICU nurses at White Plains Hospital.

Debbie McDonnell | Lodge 7 Secretary-Treasurer



Jillian McDonnell making donation to Mt. Kisco Food Pantry.

GoGive! Assists with Dress A Girl Around the World

One GCU member has been making dresses benefiting the **Dress A Girl Around the World** charity for the past 3 years. She has made 185 dresses, thanks to the GCU GoGive! program. Another 24 dresses were recently completed. This worthwhile cause serves underprivileged girls around the world in 81 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Each dress has a label from the DAG foundation that alerts would-be sex traffickers that each girl is protected by an agency and this deters their activity. Thanks to DAG, these dresses may be the **ONLY** new dresses these girls receive in their lifetimes. Since the program's founding in 2009, over 1,000,000 dresses have been made and donated by women around the globe.



A few of the new dresses that were made.



One of the blessing bag nursing home deliveries.

Blessing Bags for Nursing Home Workers

During the Covid-19 pandemic our family was looking for a way to give back to those on the front lines. While many frontline workers were being thanked by other organizations, health care professionals in nursing homes who were working to keep the most susceptible to the virus safe, were doing so without much recognition. Nursing home workers care for our family members when we no longer have the ability to do so on a day to day basis. During this time when family visits were curtailed, they have had to step up in so many ways. Many of our family members work or have worked in nursing homes and we understand the toll that type of care can take on them. The way we decided to give back was to create blessing bags to be handed out to some of the nursing home caregivers to show they are appreciated and thought of. We set a goal of creating 25 bags and then reached out to friends and family on Facebook to sponsor a bag that we would fill. With donations from many family and friends as well as local businesses we were able to purchase and stuff 106 blessing bags to be distributed to four different nursing homes in the Pittsburgh area! The bags were an insulated lunch tote and were stuffed with a note pad, pen, stress relief tea bags, essential oil muscle rub, bag of chips, bottled water, orange, orange peeler, Chapstick, mints, gum, hand lotion, and hand sanitizer. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on shipping delays it was harder to get some of the items that we needed and therefore took longer to prepare the bags and deliver them than anticipated, however, seeing the joy that we brought to so many was worth it. We are so thankful to the GCU for the GoGive program which helped us jump start this project and enabled us to bless SO many more nursing home workers than we had initially hoped for. We even had a few leftover items which we used to create bags for some of the patients in one of the nursing homes.

Mark Niskach



Blessing Bag items.

Larry & Verna Rock Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary



Larry and Verna Rock.

Sixty years ago, on a beautiful Saturday, October 10, 1959 at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Leisenring, PA, Larry & Verna Rock pledged their love for one another and were united in Holy Matrimony.

They were blessed with three sons: Gregory, Vincent and Larry II. The blessings continued with three grandsons: Jason, Josh & Nick, a granddaughter Tanna and a great granddaughter Echo.

Larry and Verna have a love for travel, which led them to 42 states, 6 foreign countries and many lasting memories. The Rocks now reside in Golden, CO and are members of GCU Lodge 144.

May God grant them many more happy and blessed years together.

Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

Helen Meaders Celebrates 100th Birthday

Monday, July 27, 2020 was a big day for former Lodge 109 and District 15 officer Helen Meaders. Helen celebrated her 100th birthday. The officers and members of Lodge 109 and District 15 would like to wish Helen a Happy 100th Birthday—God Grant Her Many Blessed Years!

Elizabeth Harbist | District 15 President



Father Son Tae Kwon Do Black Belt Duo

Eight year old Alexander Oslick and his father Kevin successfully tested and achieved the status of a Tae Kwon Do Black Belt on June 27, 2020. In Korean terms Tae Kwon Do is defined as kicking, punching and the way of life. Martial Arts was developed thousands of years ago as a form of self-defense. Tae Kwon Do originated in Korea and in terms of technique differs from other martial arts by emphasizing kicks, making it ideal for improving balance, flexibility and endurance.

Alexander began his road to Black Belt as a five year old at Tiger Lee's World Class Tae Kwon Do School in Parker, CO. Later he was joined by his father Kevin and they both learned the disciplines of focus, goal setting, perseverance and respect needed to become a Black Belt. Tae Kwon Do students are taught to be humble, courteous, respectful along with being careful about where and when they practice their self-defense skills.

There are 11 belts which must be per-

fectured before earning Black Belt status. Each belt requires a different form and different Korean terms. To achieve Black Belt status Alexander and Kevin perfected each form and are able to respond in the Korean language.

Becoming a Black Belt instills a responsibility to ones self and others. This responsibility is to pass on knowledge, experience, motivation and encouragement to others without hesitation.

Having achieved Black Belt status both Alexander and his father Kevin will receive signed certificates from the National Federation of Tae Kwon Do in South Korea and their names will be forever etched in their books.

Alexander's sister Genevieve achieved her Black Belt at the age of 10.

Alexander is the grandson and Kevin is the son of GCU National Director John Oslick and his wife MaryEllen. They are a 100% GCU family and members of GCU Lodge 144 in Denver, CO.



Kevin and Alexander Oslick with their instructor Master Lee.

GCU Student Debt Program Continues in 2020

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 2020. 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 and/or 2019.

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 12/31/2019 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.GCUusa.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 11

UPCOMING DISTRICT 11 EVENT

Scholarship Applications Now Available to Eligible College Students

Deadline is September 8

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

Donations Made | In January District 15 Board members met and planned events for the new year. Then came March and the current pandemic. In an abundance of caution for our members and guests, District 15 Board members canceled all district activities through 2020. The district made two financial contributions to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, in addition to the contribution made on our behalf by the Home Office. By the first week of August we will donate to each Byzantine Catholic Church in District 15. We are awaiting guidance from the GCU Board of Directors regarding the Annual Meeting and our district's biennial election which is due this year. More information will be available in the October issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

Life Has Changed | The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has changed the world as we know it. Many of us began working from home, including me and my husband, John. I set up my office in the living room while John set up his office in our dining room. We both learned to navigate Zoom; speak a little softer to not interfere with each other's work; get up and walk around the house to avoid cramped muscles; and to quit at quitting time. (Working from home tempts one to prolong the work day, to "just get one more thing done" clearly an advantage for our employers and a definite disadvantage to our own stress levels!)

In person liturgies were replaced with streaming liturgies. We learned to tune in on time and worship remotely. It's something we are still doing in our house. Fr. Andrew Deskevich's homily on a recent Sunday morning, inspired by the Gospel of the 5 loaves and 2 fish, reminded us that Jesus is always with us no matter how dire the situation. As Christians we are called to be hopeful, for Jesus is here with us. Our glass is half full; we are blessed. Thank you, Fr. Andrew for the reminder.

John and I enjoy several daily walks with our dog. While it may seem that our dog has benefited most from the "stay at home" orders, that may not be entirely true. Our house and yard look as if we hired professionals; we didn't. I reached my year-long reading goal in early June; so I set a new one. I've knitted baby blankets and sweaters; first grandchild coming in December. We've tried lots of new recipes as well as Netflix series! We've learned to slow down; reassess what's important in our lives; and enjoy each other.

My daily prayer is for God's help to accept the changes and chances in life. He is doing just that. May you and yours stay healthy, happy and hopeful that super smart someones in the world will find a vaccine and a solution for this pandemic. After all, Jesus is with us all.

Elizabeth Harbist | President

Lodge News

Lodge 7 YONKERS, NY

Virtual Fundraiser

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lodge 7's annual fundraising luncheon benefitting St. Francis School and orphanage in Kenya was cancelled. Instead, a very successful virtual fundraiser was conducted, raising \$3,100.⁰⁰. Lodge 7 was happy to donate \$500.⁰⁰ which will sponsor one child for the entire year. In addition, the GCU Matching Funds program was used to increase the total donation for the school.

Father Miro Babic, OFM is a Franciscan missionary in Africa. Father

Miro is originally from Bosnia/Herzegovina and was ordained in 2004. He began his missionary career in Mbarra, Uganda.

Today, Fr. Miro is currently the Guardian of "Our Lady of Angels" convent and the Custodian of the St. Francis Secondary School in Lower Subukia, Kenya.

The St. Francis Secondary School is a boarding school that provides secondary education for local children. By educating girls from high-poverty, rural areas, the school has made a significant progress in gender parity in secondary education.



Fr. Miro Babic, OFM with some of the Kenya students.

The school also provides education and care for children with disabilities. Father Miro has also been successful in building and maintaining a local Health Center and the "Small Home Orphanage" in the same location.

Debbie McDonnell | Secretary-Treasurer



Fr. Christopher Burke, Lodge 57 President Ken Haftman and Secretary Melody Yeardie.

Lodge 57 BROWNSVILLE, PA

Sign Replacement

Lodge 57 is dedicated to helping with needed repairs at St. Nicholas BC Church in Brownsville. Recently the lodge was responsible for renovating the weathered sign in front of the church. Lodge 57 Secretary Melody Yeardie and parishioner Jean Mangini were instrumental in having this sign repaired, enabling the words to be read easier by those passing by.

Father Christopher Burke is the pastor.

Bernie Karoffa | Publicity Director



The tetrapod cross that was donated in memory of Julia (Dirda) Loya.

Donation Made in Memory of Julia (Dirda) Loya

Father Christopher Burke, pastor of St. Nicholas Church, was presented with a tetrapod cross in memory of Julia (Dirda) Loya, a Lodge 57 member who passed away in 2002. The cross was donated by her daughter Mary Ann Washlock, granddaughter Natalie Washlock (Lodge

644) of Hinckley, OH and a relative Mary Ann Conti of Pittsburgh. This tetrapod cross was purchased from Greece and blessed by Father Jan Cizmar at St. Emilian Byzantine Catholic Church in Brunswick, OH in the Parma Diocese.

Eternal memory and blessed repose to the servant, Julia!

Natalie Washlock

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81's activities have been curtailed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but members still managed to offer their service at St. John Parish and in the local community.

Service to Church & Community

Stephen Petruska has been reliably cantoring Sunday and feast day services and Liturgies. On Sunday evening, July 18 he cantored the St. Elias Vespers and the blessing of vehicles. A woodcut icon of St. Elias was made by the St. John Ethnic Craft Club for the feast day celebration.

Gerry Dorobish has faithfully assisted Sr. Ruth Plante in the Mt. Macrina Religious Gift Shop on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday from 12:30-3:30 PM. (*Hours of operation have been reduced due to the pandemic.*)

Gerry, several member of her family and Bonnie Balas have kept up with weeding and watering the flowers on the Mount St. Macrina grounds.

Bonnie continues assisting shut-ins with groceries and other shopping purchases.

On Sunday evenings Gerry and Bonnie have continued the praying of the Rosary at Mount St. Macrina Lourdes Grotto with faithful from local Roman Catholic parishes.



Fr. Ron Larko blessing Mark Jesko's car.



Bonnie Balas holding woodcut icon of St. Elias which she helped make.

Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is planned for mid-August after the 9 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Car Show Canceled

The Annual Car Show at St. John Church has been canceled for September and parishioners are waiting to see if the 39th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration planned Sunday, October 25, 2020, will also be another COVID-19 pandemic cancellation. Please check the parish website for any information regarding this event: <http://www.stjohnbaptist-byz-cath-uniontown.org> or email: stjohnthebaptistuniontown@gmail.com.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President and Publicity Director



Group praying Rosary at Lourdes Grotto at Mount St. Macrina.

Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

Hose Co. #2 Midway Food Festival

Lodge 92, like so many GCU lodges, is trying to do something to assist in their community during these Covid-19 times!

Jessup Hose Co. #2 was unable to hold their annual fire company fair, so they thought they would bring the flavors of the fair to the area with a “Midway Food Festival,” held Tuesday, July 14 through Sunday, July 19. Along with great food they held a Basket Raffle to help generate additional working capital for the department. Lodge 92 donated a basket as well as did some lodge members.

Michaela Mancak | Secretary-Treasurer



Tim Keller (Lodge 92 and Jessup Hose Co. #2 member) accepts the Lodge 92 basket donation from Michaela Mancak, (Lodge 92 Secretary-Treasurer and Honorary member of Jessup Hose Co. #2).



The completed retaining wall at St. John Church.

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA

Retaining Wall Completion

Lodge 93 is proud to announce the completion of the collapsed retaining wall at St. John Byzantine Church. Lee Concrete of Windber was the main contractor. Many donations, GCU fundraisers and loans contributed to the completion of this needy project. Thank you to the GCU Home Office for providing Matching Funds. Lodge 93 will continue to work to help reduce the loan debt.

Food Bank Donation

Just as the nation's food banks were being struck by shortages, the GCU Board of Directors initiated a \$1,000.00 grant to support food banks in all GCU lodge and district communities. The local area food bank, Good Samaritan Food Pantry, is grateful for this generous gift that helps stretch donations by buying in bulk directly from suppliers. In addition, Good Samaritan has had to balance double duty, adjusting to a new food distribution protocol to prioritize safety and avoid contamination while at the same time creating a sustainable operation that lasts beyond COVID-19.



Very Rev. Vasyl Polyak

Lodge 93 Bids Pastor Farewell

Lodge 93 members and parishioners of St. John the Baptist BC Church recently bid farewell to Very Reverend Vasyl Polyak. Father Polyak, a Carpatho-Rusyn and native of Uzhorod in the western Ukraine, arrived in the US in 2014. He was assigned to SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church in Patton, PA along with St. John Church in Northern

Cambria. We thank him for generously serving the people of God and being such a noble part of our lives. Father Polyak has been reassigned to SS. Peter & Paul parish in Tarentum, PA. GCU members have all experienced pastoral changes and we must do our part to continue to pray for vocations.

Connie Strittmatter | Sec.-Treas. & Frat. Director

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Flag Day Celebrated As Pandemic Restrictions Ease

This spring, New York City was one of the major hot spots for COVID-19. The pandemic thwarted many of Lodge 151's plans for late winter and spring events. Like most of the country, lodge members stayed in touch through phone conversations and social media.

By June, New York City and State finally relinquished some of the restrictions and the lodge took full advantage of the opportunity to celebrate together. It was with great enthusiasm that Lodge 151 decided to celebrate Flag Day with several events.

The day began with a tribute to America and the Flag held at The Seasons. Flags were distributed to all residents and a sing along featuring patriotic songs

was held in the community center. One of the residents of the community and a veteran, accompanied the singing on saxophone. These songs took on special meaning to those present in light of the crisis we had just experienced. It was a touching homage to Old Glory.



Flag Day flag distribution.

Helping Hands Day

The icon and sign in front of St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church was damaged when an intoxicated driver crashed into it. It is presently being repaired. Given this unfortunate situation, the lodge felt it especially important to hold the annual Helping Hands event at the church. Marge Russell purchased the flowers from a local nursery and they were planted in front of the church to help beautify the area.



Lodge members at Helping Hands Day event.



Lodge 151 President Marge Russell presenting a Parish Matching Funds check to Fr. Nicholas Daddona, who thanked the GCU. Proceeds were the result of the virtual and curbside bake sale.

Quarterly Meeting

Lodge officers deliberated long and hard to decide how and where to hold the second quarter meeting scheduled for Flag Day. After taking into consideration the GCU and Governor Cuomo's recommendations for residents and debating the benefits of holding a zoom meeting vs. an actual meeting—it was decided to meet in person in a spacious garden where everyone could effectively socially distance. It was a beautiful sunny day and participants enjoyed the ability to talk to one another face to face after three and a half months of quarantine. Following the meeting, a picnic lunch comprised of individually wrapped items to avoid contamination, was held.



Curbside Bake Sale.

Bake Sale

Many activities this year had to be adjusted to accommodate social distancing requirements. After parishioners and lodge members made pirohi and other baked goods in anticipation of St. Andrew's Annual Easter Bake Sale, it had to be canceled due to the virus. In May, items were sold via a virtual bake sale then distributed through curbside delivery. People were very generous and the sale was a huge success. The event was also a Parish Matching Funds event for St. Andrew BC Church which allowed the proceeds of the sale to be doubled.

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

Congratulations

Ryan Pajer, a Lodge 151 member, recently graduated from Plainview—Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School. During his time at Plainview he was a member of the Varsity Men’s Volleyball Team (Nassau county champions), served as the treasurer of the Best Buddies Club, public relations chairperson of the Robotics Club (national championship participant) and captain of the Men’s Varsity Golf team (Nassau County championship participant.) While balancing all his extra-curricular activities, Ryan achieved honor roll for all quarters of his four year high school career. At such a young age he has already worked an internship with SJ Electric where he found his passion for engineering. He will be continuing his education at Quinnipiac University pursuing a degree in (Civil) engineering. Congratulations and best of luck in his future endeavors.



Ryan Pajer.

Third Quarter Meeting

Tentative plans were to have the third quarter meeting on Friday, August 14. Details on place and time were dependant on City and State directives concerning social distancing.

Laura Muhlfeld | Secretary

Marge Russell | President



Treasurer Sharon MacDonald presenting \$200.00 Easter donation check to Fr. Richard Lambert for St. Mary BC Church.

Lodge 164 YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Easter Donation

A delayed Easter donation of \$200.00 was presented to Fr. Richard Lambert for St. Mary BC Church on Wednesday, June 24 (due to COVID-19 pandemic) by Treasurer Sharon MacDonald.

Bingo to Resume

St. Mary’s Bingo resumed on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 with COVID-19 rules in place to protect workers and bingo players as required by the State of Ohio. Bingo is held on Sunday and Wednesday evenings starting at 6:45 PM, with doors opening at 5 PM. Hope everyone can enjoy the rest of Summer.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

Lodge 258 HERMITAGE, PA

Flag Day Celebration

On Sunday, June 14, 2020, Lodge 258 held a Flag Day Ceremony at the Social Center of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church in Hermitage. At the end of the 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Fr. Kevin Marks blessed the new US and Papal Flags which were purchased for the church by Lodge 258. After the Liturgy, a group of about 25 people walked over to the flagpole at the Social Center to raise the new flags. Lodge President Bill Dzuricsko welcomed the group and began the program with a moment of silence to remember all of the deceased veterans, parishioners and members of Lodge 258. The group led by Joan Walker and Lucy Mallick then sang, "America: My Country Tis of



Fr. Kevin Marks blessing the US and Papal Flags.

Thee." President Dzuricsko then reminded everyone about all of the details of the symbolism of both the US and Papal flags as they were being attached to the rope of the flagpole. Then the group sang, "America, the Beautiful" while Norbert Vasil, Jon Dowell and Mike Vasil, attached the flags and began to raise them. Next the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present. Finally, the

group paid tribute to the flags proudly flying against the clear sky of blue by singing, "God Bless America."



Most of the plants in full bloom, especially the red and yellow rose bushes near the front doors of the Social Center.



Bags of mulch resting in the landscaping.



Fresh, brown, mulch neatly laid around the landscaping.

Helping Hands Day

GCU Lodge 258 used their Helping Hands Grant to beautify the Social Center of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church. Lodge 258 purchased 58 bags of brown mulch, 8 bags of topsoil, several plants, and Spectracide grass and weed killer. The bags of mulch and topsoil, as well as the plants, were used to improve the appearances of the side and front entrances of the social center. It was originally planned to be a group activity, but with the pandemic Mike Vasil, Alyssa Vasil and Bill Dzuricsko

followed social distancing recommendations and took several days to complete the job. The grass and weed killer will be used to take care of the pesky weeds at the church and social center parking lots, curbs and sidewalks throughout the summer! Thank you to the GCU and Lodge 258 for "sprucing up" the landscaping at St. Michael!

Bill Dzuricsko | President

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

Congrats to Youth Members

Congratulations to the following Lodge 302 members who were awarded 2020 GCU Scholarships: Alexandria L. Shirilla, University of Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine—Osteopathic Medicine; Kristi M. Karaffa, Kent State University—Early Childhood Education and Caitlin A. Weitzel, Ohio University—Communication Studies. Caitlin was also a 2020 Photo Contest winner.

Food Bank Donation

Although meetings and events have been placed on hold/or canceled, with the help of the Home Office and GCU Board of Directors, Lodge 302 was still able to show support to the local community during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing the special GCU COVID-19 Food Bank program the lodge was able to donate \$1,000.00 to the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.

Christine D. Bratnick | Publicity Director

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Run Ranger Run

Lodge 351 participated in the Run Ranger Run program during the month of February. United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Chris Little again lead Team Leadfoot. He is the husband of Lodge 351 member Katie Little. This year Chris completed all of the 567 miles that are required. Theresa Frederick added 109.50 miles and Patty Yamrick walked 50.02 miles. Chris participated in sunny California, while Theresa and Patty combated the winter weather in

Maryland and Pennsylvania. The three of them and Stryker Little raised \$1,020.00, which was matched by the GCU through the Community Matching Funds Program. There were plans to continue to raise funds including a fundraiser in July, but due to the COVID-19 restrictions these plans were canceled. Run Ranger Run is a program through the Gallant Few that raises funds for military men and women transitioning to civilian life. Plans are in the works for participating again in February 2021.



Run Ranger Run: Theresa Frederick.



Chili Walk: Bethany & Crosby Campbell.

Indiana County Walking Decathlon

Lodge 351 was one of the sponsors for the Indiana County Walking Decathlon which is held during the months of February through June. This program provides activities during the winter months to get people up and moving. The Chili Walk to Warm Up Winter Blues, Recycling Center Tour and Christmas Tree Capital Walk all took place during February and the first two weeks in March. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, all other events were canceled. There were many fun and educational walks planned for the other months, but these will be rescheduled for next year or possibly in the fall. Lodge 351 is looking forward to partnering with the Indiana County Walking Decathlon again in 2021.

CONTINUED

Lodge 351 CONTINUED

Food Bank Donation

The members of Lodge 351 held a food collection for the local United Methodist Church food bank in Creekside, PA. A food collection for the Indiana County Love Basket Program through St. Jude Byzantine Catholic Church in Ernest, PA took place during July. This drive benefited the emergency food assistance program. The Love Basket is a non-profit that fills in the gap for food for those in need in Indiana County.

Helping Hands Day

As Lodge 351 contemplated Helping Hands Day at St. Jude's Byzantine Catholic Church in Ernest, PA, officers and members had to become creative with social distancing. Campbell and Sons Landscaping located in Ernest PA, was a new start up business and with this new business Lodge 351 had its answer. Lodge members donated additional money toward the Helping Hands grant and hired Campbell and Sons to complete a beautiful landscaping job in the front and back of the church rectory, removing all of the old mulch and laying landscaper cloth and new mulch. Keeping in mind the required social distancing, members of Lodge 351 will plant additional flowers at the statue of St. Jude and in the flowerpots to complete the work.



Helping Hands: Andy Campbell.

Making A Positive Impact

Although, many plans have been put on hold, Lodge 351 is continuing to look for ways to serve the community. Though prayers for the military and those impacted by COVID-19, members are channeling resources in a more spiritual way as well as developing future plans that will have a positive impact on the local communities in Indiana County.

Patty Yamrick | Publicity Director



Above: Rev. Kevin Marks blessing the flags while lodge member Ray Tirpack raises them.

At right: Veteran Dr. John Galida and Ed Stanko.



Lodge 360

CAMPBELL, OH

Flag Day Celebration

Lodge 360 celebrated Flag Day with the parishioners of St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church. Lodge 360 donated new Papal and American flags, shown being blessed by Rev. Kevin Marks and raised by lodge member Ray Tirpack. Lodge member and veteran Dr. John Galida and Lodge 360 President Ed Stanko recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lisa Kinnick Romito |
Secretary-Treasurer

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

The lazy, hazy days of summer are upon us, but due to COVID-19 a lot of activities and events had to be canceled or pushed out to further dates. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will begin to see the light of day. It is best to be very cautious and take one step at a time.

Stay Safe, Stay Home and Stay Healthy!

The June fund raiser for Community Matching Funds was a huge success—thanks to all who sold the calendars for this event. A check was sent to the No. 9 Coal Mine and Museum in the amount of \$3,126.⁰⁰. Thanks to all the volunteers for their efforts in selling the tickets during the pandemic.

We had a list of activities planned up to and including September, but as of now, everything is still on hold due to the crisis that we are in.

Regarding the GCU Bowling league, as of the writing of this article the local bowling lanes were still closed. Hopefully, by the time bowling season is here, we will be able to get back in the groove.

A Shout Out to Our Youth Members

Jessica McClellan—Congratulations to Jessica on her great feat of scoring a hole in one. She is a 2019 graduate of Mining & Mechanical Institute in Freeland, PA. See the entire story on page 26 of this issue.

Thomas Betterly—Congratulations to Thomas a 2020 graduate of Marian Catholic High School. He is a very active member of the GCU and assists at Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery, the GHRL Jr. Bowling Tournaments, the Holupki Open Golf Tournament and is a great asset at St. John's Bingo. Whenever, help is needed, he is there to lend a helping hand. He placed third in his graduation class! He was a member of numerous school clubs and organizations during high school and very involved in his community.

Thomas has served the community as a part of the Hazleton City Junior Council. Thomas also loves to sing in his Church Folk Group at weekly masses. He has been a part of the MPB Players Theater Group for the past 9 years. He loves to take part in the annual concerts and performances. Thomas has been awarded the Diocese of Scranton Bishop's Youth Award twice. He also had the pleasure to do summer maintenance work at Holy Family Academy.

He was honored to serve as Student Council president during his senior year. He has been a part of the Council as a class officer since his freshman year. Thomas always enjoyed helping the school in any way he could.

As a sports manager for the school's Cross Country Team and Track & Field Team, he assisted the coaches in making the season a success. He helped with the administrative duties and the behind the scenes work of the team which gave him the



Thomas Betterly.

opportunity to spend time with his friends on the team.

He loved being a part of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Club. The club allows members to make connections with other students from around the state and around the country. While a part of this club, Thomas had the opportunity to compete in business competitions with his peers. While competing, he earned awards on the State Level and had the opportunity to compete on the National Level in San Antonio, TX. Thomas has also been recognized by the State and National offices for his involvement and dedication to FBLA. He served as his high school's Chapter President and as the Regional Secretary.

Thomas was also part of the PJAS (The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science) Club—where students create and execute scientific experiments. He participated in this club since he was in 7th grade consistently winning awards on the Regional and State Level including first and perfect score awards. He was recognized for having the best project on the Regional Level in 2020 and the best State Project for 2019 in his category of competition. Thomas has earned several scholarships through his participation in this organization.

Other accomplishments include singing at his school's weekly mass as a part of the Rock Music Ministry—the school's mass chorus. He led the Catholic Schools' Week Committee, was a member of the Green Club, a Student Ambassador and a member of the Academic Team. Thomas served the Athletic Department by operating the football and basketball scoreboard for all Marian home games. He also served as a Eucharistic Minister for the school. Thomas has consistently been named to the school's Honor Roll for his academic performance. He was nominated to be a part of the National Honor Society as well as the Spanish National Honor Society for his scholastic performance and service commitments.

Thomas plans on attending Saint Joseph University

CONTINUED

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge CONTINUED

in Philadelphia, PA studying secondary education and mathematics, with plans to become a high school math teacher. Thomas is hoping to begin classes on the Philadelphia campus this Fall, pandemic permitting.

Notes

GHRL is tentatively planning to have a quarterly meeting on Sunday, August 30 at 2 PM in St. John BC Church parish hall. Agnes will alert all to any changes!

Keep in your prayers and thoughts all those who have been devastated (both living and deceased) by the COVID-19 virus and hopefully we will all come out of this pandemic very soon. If your church is open for prayer, stop by and take the time out

to say a prayer for everyone the virus has affected—especially the EMT's, nurses, doctors, health care professionals and all essential workers. May God Bless us all!

As always, the GHRL officers will try 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 free to call Agnes at 570- 454-4869 or email her: agnesr@ptd.net.

Until next time, take care and May God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Event & Seven Oaks Pool Day

Saturday, July 18 was the annual Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Tournament at Seven Oaks Country Club and Day at the Pool hosted by CPRL. The beautiful weather made for a wonderful day. Participants practiced social distancing at the pool as well as during the golf event. Fraternalism, followed by dinner and awards at Seven Oaks, concluded the day.

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director



JD Basl and Barb Wahal hanging out poolside.



Skill and Flight winners from the Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Outing.

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge MUNHALL & CLAIRTON, PA

Sanitize/ Helping Hands Day

As churches began to reopen, volunteers stepped up to prepare for parishioners to come back. At St. John the Baptist BC Cathedral in Munhall, Andrea Harhai, Shannon Katanick, Martin Bovee and Andrea Guthrie joined Father Andrew Deskevich in cleaning and sanitizing surfaces inside the church on Saturday, May 23. At Ascension Church in Clairton, Mike Sowko and Caroline Nista spent a day preparing for everyone’s return making sure all surfaces were disinfected and the church cleaned.

Upcoming SEPRL Events

Planning for events has been up and down as SEPRL makes every attempt to follow the state and county guidelines to keep everyone safe. At St. John Cathedral, the annual Clothing Drive is scheduled for September and the annual Food Drive for November—both are Community Matching Funds events. The parish, with assistance from SEPRL members, recently held a Stuffed Cabbage sale and will be selling food at the Cathedral’s car shows on Tuesday, August 18 and Tuesday, September 15. These fundraising activities are all Parish Matching Fund events toward a new air conditioner for the church.

Ascension Church lodge members received Community Matching Funds for their food drive in the spring. A check was sent to Clairton Emergency Food Bank. A Parish Matching Funds event for care of the church cemetery is currently in progress and has received a positive response.

Helping Hands Day was delayed due to the extreme hot weather but plans to reschedule in early fall are being discussed.

A Community Matching Funds donation event is in the planning stages for Sisters Place, which helps young families receive support and training in parenting and assistance with housing.

A fall meeting is tentatively scheduled at St. John Cathedral on Sunday, September 13 at 1 PM.

Trish Roberts | President

Patty Bovee | Treasurer



Sanitize / Helping Hands Day at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall.



The Hilzendeger family at the June car cruise.

Lodge 625

CONEMAUGH, PA

Food Bank Donation

Wow, the past three months have definitely been a challenge for all of us. First, Lodge 625 would like to thank GCU President George Juba and the Board of Directors for making the \$1,000.00 grant available for lodges to donate to their local food bank/pantries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lodge 625 chose the Society of St. Vincent dePaul Food for Families, Inc. program. Food for Families has been providing food stock to over 18 food pantries and congregate sites in Cambria County for more than 37 years. Each month through this network of pantries over 7,000 individuals are assisted with a food box.

Helping Hands Day

Lodge 625 has had to cancel or postpone the majority of scheduled social and fundraising activities so far this year. However, the lodge did manage to hold its annual Helping Hands Day on May 23, 2020 at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Cemetery. Seven lodge and parish members assisted with clean-up in the cemetery. One unexpected challenge was the sinking of the headstone of the parish's first pastor in the cemetery circle. With the help of everyone and a backhoe volunteers were able to move the stone, fill in the gap and place the stone back in its proper place. Thanks to the Home Office for making the annual Helping Hands Fraternal Grant available.



Helping Hands Day at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Cemetery.

2nd Quarter Meeting & Upcoming Events

On June 28, 2020 the lodge held its 2nd quarter meeting. With so many upcoming events in limbo, it was decided to conduct a survey of parish and lodge members to determine if any of the events would be feasible, with social distancing in effect. The results were tallied and indicated that the Lodge/Parish annual picnic would not be held in August. The annual basket party will be held Sunday, September 13, 2020 from 2-4 PM, with CDC guidelines and social distancing. The lodge will prepare ethnic specialty foods for the Slavic Festival slated for September 18 & 19. If the event is canceled, the lodge will hold a carry out sale of the food items following Sunday Liturgy on September 20. The Easter Cash Bash is NOW a Halloween Cash Bash and will be held Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 6 to 9 PM at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church. Anyone who currently holds a ticket or tickets should contact Georgia Lehman at 814-242-2083 for more information and event details.

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. Please also like us on Facebook at GCU Lodge 625.

Stay safe everyone!

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 644

AKRON/BARBERTON

Snack Donation

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the local area churches of Barberton, OH have canceled their soup kitchens for the remainder of the year. Every summer Lodge 644 hosts a soup kitchen at one of the churches in Barberton. Due to the pandemic, this year the lodge used funds to purchase snack items such as juice boxes, potato chips, etc. The items will be used to fill sack lunches for distribution to area children in need of adequate nutrition. Lodge 644 President Sue Irving was in charge of dropping the items off at the church. Special thanks go out to the GCU for assisting with the purchase of these items with a Fraternal Grant.

Rick Schen | Publicity Director



Sue Irving dropping snack items off.



Marilyn Charnie and Community Bread Basket Program Administrator Tara Sheperd.

Lodge 697

WEIRTON, WV

COVID-19 Foodbank Donation

In conjunction with the GCU Board of Directors COVID-19 Food Bank Donation program, Lodge 697 President Marilyn E. Charnie is shown with Tara Sheperd of the Community Bread Basket (CBB) in Weirton, WV. Tara is accepting the donation on behalf of CBB. Lodge 697 is based at St. Mary BC Church in Weirton. Tara expressed her gratitude to the GCU for the generous donation.

Marilyn Charnie | President

Lodge 860

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI

Parish Matching Funds

The annual Lodge 860 co-sponsored Lenten Fish Fry Fundraiser was cut short this year by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, from the two Fridays before everything shut down, and from several very generous donations, and together with GCU Parish Matching Funds, \$4,800.00 was raised for St. Nicholas BC Church in Clinton Township (Detroit), MI.

Of note was a donation of \$500.00 to the fish fry made in memory of Bob Stefano, Lodge 860 president and long time fish fry volunteer, who passed away this past fall (11/22/2019) at the age of 76. Please remember him in your prayers.

Michael Nagrant | Publicity Director



Lodge officers George Nagrant (left) & Bob Kulasa (right) present \$4,800.00 check to Fr. Joseph Repko, pastor of St. Nicholas Church.

Photo by: Val Marszalec



Lodge members and parishioners enjoying a day of bowling.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Father's Day Luncheon and Let It Roll Bowling

Lodge 999 held a luncheon and bowling event on Father's Day Sunday, June 21, to bring families together for some fun. What a hit! Everyone that attended enjoyed themselves and hope to do it again next year. Pizza, soda and desserts were served for lunch at the church, then participants went to a local bowling alley, where they bowled for 2 hours.

Joanie Mahar | President

Jessica McClellan Records First Ace

GHRL member and MMI Prep graduate Jess McClellan has secured a summer internship at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Bandon, OR, rated as the #1 golf resort in North America by Golf Digest. A PGA Professional Golf Management major at Penn State University, where she has attained a 4.0 GPA for the Spring 2020 Semester making the Deans List. McClellan was scheduled to intern at Royal Dornoch Golf Club in Scotland this summer, but that internship was canceled due to the Coronavirus.

While playing golf on July 8, 2020 with co-workers at Bandon Dunes the former District 2 and PIAA Eastern Regional Class AA golf champion recorded her first career hole-in-one. McClellan aced the 220 yard 12th hole on the Bandon Trails course, using her driver.

Presently she is doing a 7 month internship at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort and will be completing her fall semester studies online while in Bandon. She is the daughter of Bruce and Patti McClellan Freeland PA.

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary



Jessica McClellan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Your Information

Events

Golf Classic

Monday, September 21
9:30 AM Shotgun Start

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

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

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

86th Annual Uniontown Pilgrimage- **CANCELED**

Labor Day Weekend

This year's event will be held virtually due to the pandemic. The virtual pilgrimage will include: Welcome from Sr. Ruth; Marian Hymns; Akathist to the Mother of God; Divine Liturgy; Panachida for all Deceased Pilgrims; Children & Teen Programs Tune into our YouTube channel—Basilians - Uniontown PA. For further information, follow the Sisters of St. Basil on Facebook or visit sistersofstbasil.org.

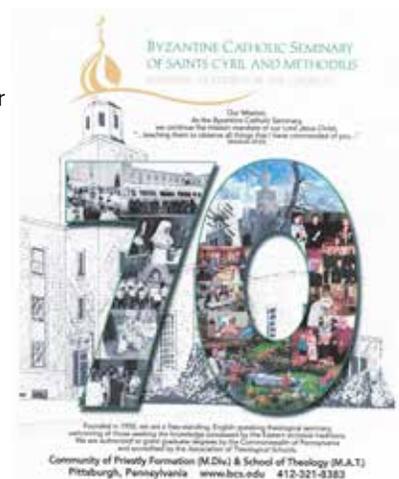
64th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration- **CANCELED**

Sunday, December 6

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

A virtual Matching Funds event will be held to replace the Banquet. Donors will have the opportunity to donate online or through the US Mail. This will benefit SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary during their 70th anniversary year.

Complete details will be available on the GCU website and in the October *GCU Magazine*.



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



Brookgate Lanes

14950 SNOW ROAD
BROOK PARK, OH
216-676-4325

2021 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
CLEVELAND, OH
FRIDAY, MAY 14 & SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

The 11th
GCU
Byzantine Family Day



Knoebels

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021

The 100th
GCU
Byzantine Family Day

Kennywood

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

GCU & Kennywood... a partnership of family fun over a century in the making!

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8304 Judith M. Anderson, San Diego, CA
8344 Geraldine Anthony, Mt. Pleasant, PA
8304 Amy Babcock, Laguna Woods, CA
8344 Jean P. Beaver, Telford, PA
336 William E. Beifuss, Willowick, OH
8344 Audrus Benson, Warren, PA
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999 Joseph Bogad, Sun City West, AZ
CPRL Anna Bogdon, Pittsburgh, PA
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8358 Wayne Bublitz, Cedarburg, WI
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Arlington Heights, IL
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999 Michael Gula, Scottsdale, AZ
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CPRL Terence Holzwarth, Pittsburgh, PA
109 John Homa, Butler, PA
8344 Fred Hone, Grindstone, PA
994 Michael Hornick, Industry, PA
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Downingtown, PA
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SEPRL Thomas Janus, Verona, PA
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8344 Elizabeth Johnson, Ferndale, WA
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182 Bernadine Oakley, San Diego, CA

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