

OCTOBER 2021

GCU

MAGAZINE

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Every Day is a Gift

It is hard to believe that three quarters of this year has passed. I do believe there is some truth to the fact that time goes by faster the older you get. For some of us, I bet that time cannot go by fast enough hoping that at some point our business and social schedules eventually return to some semblance of our pre-COVID past ways of life. Every day that God has granted to us is a gift to enjoy. I do know that life has a way about itself—presenting many challenges to us. Many very difficult situations in our lives occur in a “heartbeat” that change our lives forever. So, for our own health and well-being, we should always make time to enjoy our family and friends and all the positive experiences and beauty nature has to offer to soothe our souls.

Here in Western Pennsylvania, we had some great summer weather with an abundance of sunshine mixed in with rain to keep “Mother Nature” green. It is very unfortunate that many communities throughout our country were subjected to catastrophic weather due to hurricanes and wildfires. We thank everyone who participated in the GCU’s Mission of Giving by donating to the Special Matching Funds Program authorized by the Board of Directors.

The American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Catholic Charities will each be receiving checks of \$5,000.00 to assist their efforts to help those affected by the western wildfires and Atlantic hurricanes this year.

With some relaxed COVID-19 Center for Disease (CDC) and state & local guidelines, I do hope you had an opportunity to travel, relax and take some time to “Smell the Roses!” Autumn here in the north is such an amazing feat of nature as the landscape that surrounds us transitions into a piece of artwork that God provides for us to enjoy! So, take the time to make memories with you family and friends as there are so many fall activities to enjoy—hayrides, corn mazes, pumpkin patches, wine & beer festivals, fall cuisine and even just a good old ride in the country!

We express our appreciation to our lodge and district officers for all the activities planned throughout the year in Promoting Faith & Fraternalism and Strengthening Communities. We invite you to review the Fraternal section that highlights various events that were recently held starting on page 14.

As I previously reported in the August issue of the GCU Magazine, we continue to experience growth in assets and surplus while experiencing excellent net profit before refunds and realized gains & losses. Our life and annuity premium recorded through the first six months of 2021 exceeds 2020’s volumes and are on budget. The GCU continues to offer attractive rates on our fixed rate annuity products under the current low-rate interest environment. We are in the process of launching a new product that offers an opportunity to earn a higher rate of interest than our current fixed rate deferred annuity products with no



CONTINUED

risk of principal. We are in the process of dotting our “i’s” and crossing our “t’s” with more information on this product to be announced within the next thirty days.

The GCU’s second quarter financial statements are presented on page 4. Our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres, presents a detailed commentary on the 2021 second quarter results. Again, our sincere thank you to our members and agents that enable the GCU to continue on a path of financial success.

Congratulations are warranted for Mr. Tom Oslick who has been selected as the GCU’s 2021 Fraternalist of the Year. Tom is very active in his community and his Byzantine Catholic Parish of Holy Trinity located in Wall, PA.

An article appears on page 3 about Tom and his efforts throughout his community.

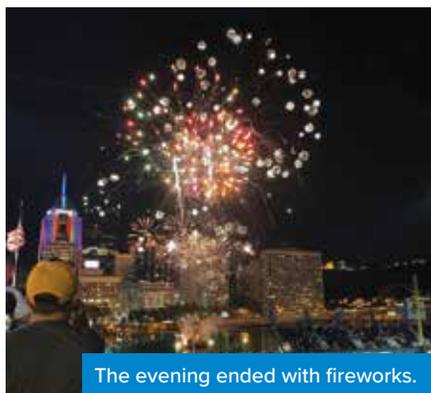
In closing, my continued thoughts and prayers for our health and safety as we continue to battle the challenges associated with COVID-19 and its variants. We thank our Lord and Savior and St. Nicholas, the patron saint of the GCU, that have inspired and provided the wisdom to the many individuals in developing a vaccine to combat this deadly disease as we also pray for this pandemic to end. GOODNESS IS GREAT!

George

GCU Home Office Staff/Guests Enjoy a Night at the Ballgame August 14, 2021



Clockwise (bottom center): Nicole Gailey, Gina Spickerman, Ryan Kislock, Anna Wilson, Kylie Todd and Ashley Guthridge.



The evening ended with fireworks.



Gina Spickerman, Nicole Gailey and Miranda Petro.



Steve & Jennifer Inman, Dave Fantone & Casey Bush.



Gary Paterini and Anna Wilson.



Kylie Todd, Dave Casterline and Ashley Guthridge.

THOMAS E. OSLICK SR.

GCU 2021 Fraternalist of the Year



The GCU Fraternalist of the Year

award recognizes an individual within GCU who embodies fraternalism. Someone who lives a life of service through their local lodge, church, and community.

After consideration of the candidates submitted to the committee, Thomas E. Oslick Sr., a retired accountant, was chosen as the 2021 GCU Fraternalist of the Year. He has been deeply involved with the GCU on the local and national level and is a very active volunteer in his church and local community.

Tom served as president of former GCU Lodge 3. He was first elected as a delegate to the GCU National Convention in 1976 and continued serving as a delegate for each successive quadrennial convention until the final one in 2016. When Lodge 3

was merged, Tom continued to serve as an officer in his new lodge, Lodge 255, which eventually would become the Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge where he continues to serve as an auditor. He also held various offices in the former District 1 including auditor, treasurer and athletic director.

Tom serves on the Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church Council in Wall, PA. He has been a regular volunteer at the church's annual Lenten Fish Fry and this year organized a Soles4Soles collection to benefit women in developing nations. Tom has been instrumental in assisting the parish to secure GCU Matching Funds for their fundraising activities. He also assisted Trinity Presbyterian Church in receiving GCU non-Byzantine Parish Matching Funds.

Within the local community Tom volunteers with the Collier Township Police Association. He was a driving force in beginning the associations annual Clay Shoot fundraiser. The



Tom Oslick receiving his Fraternalist of the Year award from Fraternal Communications Director Basil M. Wahal.

event is held annually in October at Seven Springs Mountain Resort and is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Tom also volunteers regularly at the Penn Hills Senior Center.

Tom will receive a plaque commemorating his achievement along with a \$500.00 donation award which he will split between Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church, Penn Hills Sr. Citizens Center and Lost & Found Pharmacy Inc.

Nomination forms for the 2022 GCU Fraternalist of the Year will be available for completion on the GCU website in January.



Tom with Director of Penn Hills Senior Center Phyllis Paciulli.



Tom with Rev. Fr. Don Bolls at Holy Trinity in Wall, PA.



Tom with Lost & Found Pharmacy directors Sean & Shannon Parsons.

Second Quarter 2021 Financials



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer

We are beginning to see light after experiencing the trials and tribulations brought on by the global pandemic. GCU successfully adjusted its business activities to maintain normal operations with least disruption to our members. We can withstand these challenges because of employee dedication and financial strength. GCU's surplus reached \$192 million as of June 30, 2021, a new high-water mark.

With the support of government assistance programs and the Federal Reserve, the economy has improved with lower unemployment levels and low mortgage rates. Operating in a low interest rate environment presents investment challenges particularly when market yields reach all-time lows for investment grade securities. Notwithstanding, we continue to prudently diversify our investment strategies to generate appropriate risk adjusted returns.

Highlights of the 2021 half-year results are as follows:

Income before net capital gains (losses) totaled \$14.0 million slightly higher than the \$13.8 million reported in 2020. Net realized capital gains were \$103.6 thousand in 2021 compared to realized losses of \$10.8 million in 2020 from impaired energy bonds. Net income after net realized gains (loss) was \$14.1 million in 2021 compared to \$3.1 million in 2020.

Total Assets increased \$104.8 million to \$2.306 billion at June 30 from \$2.201 billion at year-end 2020. The increase in assets reflect continued growth in invested assets from new business and excess operating cash flows. In the con-

tinued low interest rate environment, we are strategically focused on asset allocation and generating appropriate risk adjusted returns to support our life and annuity products. A key objective of this strategy is to complement our fixed income returns by modestly increasing exposure to public equities and alternative assets (investments in LLC's and limited partnerships).

Liabilities grew commensurate with life & annuity sales and totaled \$2.113 billion as of June 30 compared to \$2.018 billion at year-end 2020. The \$95.1 million increase in total liabilities is due primarily to a \$86.4 million increase in life and annuity reserves, a \$7.2 million increase in AVR, and a \$1.9 million increase in the IMR from deferred investment gains.

Total Income for the first half 2021 was \$212 million compared to \$181.5 million in 2020. Life sales increased over 96% from growth in our whole life single premium and final expense products. Annuity sales and exchanges increased \$24.4 million to \$149.8 million in 2021. Net investment income of \$54.3 million increased \$3.3 million from higher assets under management.

Operating expenses, before increase in reserves, totaled \$115.8 million versus \$99.4 million in 2020, an increase of \$16.4 million or 16.5%. Largely attributable to the pandemic, GCU paid \$16 million more in annuity benefits (death claims, full and partial withdrawals). Annuity exchanges decreased \$3.7 million which was mostly offset by the \$2.5 million increase in agent commission from higher premiums. General insurance expenses were \$765 thousand higher when compared to 2020.

The increase in reserves totaled \$82.1 million compared to \$68.2 million in 2020. Reserve changes are primarily a function of premiums received, death and annuity benefits paid out, and interest accumulation.

Surplus grew to \$192.3 million as of June 30 compared to \$182.7 million at year-end 2020. The \$9.7 million increase in

Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	<u>6/30/2021</u>	<u>6/30/2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Income	\$212,031	\$181,471	\$30,560
Total Expenses	197,875	167,521	30,354
Net Income (Loss)	14,092	3,087	11,005
	<u>6/30/21</u>	<u>12/31/20</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets	\$2,305,605	\$2,200,817	\$104,788
Asset Valuation Reserve	15,546	8,316	7,230
Interest Maintenance Reserve	23,030	21,124	1,906
Surplus (Net Worth)	192,309	182,648	9,661
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	208,006	191,114	16,892
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	109.9%	109.5%	0.41%

Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	
Beginning Surplus	\$182,648
Net Income/(loss)	14,092
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	4,086
GCU Holding Company & Other	(489)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(798)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(7,230)
Net Change in Surplus	9,661
Ending Surplus	\$192,309

surplus is attributable to the additions of net income and the change in unrealized gains of \$14.1 million and \$4.1 million, respectively, reduced by the change in AVR (\$7.2 million); (\$0.8 million) increase in non-admitted software development costs; and (\$0.5 million) reduction for GCU Holding Company's net loss.

Total Adjusted Capital (TAC) was \$208 million as of June 30, 2021. TAC starts with surplus of \$192.3 million and adds back the asset valuation reserve of \$15.6 mil-

lion and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000. TAC is a financial strength measure closely monitored by rating agencies. The solvency ratios based on TAC were 109.9% and 109.5%, as of June 30, 2021 and December 31, 2020, respectively. These ratios reflect the consistency of GCU's excellent financial strength.

Please be safe and stay healthy. Enjoy the beauty brought by autumn's color!

Tim

GCU INCOME STATEMENT

Six Months 2021 vs. 2020

INCOME (000's omitted)	6/30/2021	6/30/2020	Change
Life Premium	\$ 4,738	\$ 2,415	\$ 2,322
Annuity Premium	140,835	112,508	28,327
Annuity Exchanges	8,930	12,837	(3,907)
Accident & Health	268	319	(51)
Sub Total	154,770	128,080	26,691
Net Investment Income	54,301	50,991	3,310
Amort. of Int. Maint. Reserv.	1,063	1,129	(66)
Commission-Reinsurance	776	980	(204)
Other	1,121	291	830
Total Income	\$212,031	\$181,471	\$30,560
EXPENSES			
Death Benefits	\$ 2,250	\$ 1,549	\$ 701
Annuity Benefits Paid	91,578	75,584	15,994
Annuity Exchanges	8,930	12,636	(3,706)
Surrender Benefits	292	216	76
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	261	201	60
Commissions	7,206	4,721	2,485
General Insurance Exp.	4,795	4,030	765
Ins., Taxes, Licenses & Fees	314	269	45
Pension Expense	9	43	(34)
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	126	110	16
Sub-Total	\$ 115,761	\$ 99,358	\$ 16,403
Increase in Reserves	82,114	68,164	13,951
Total Expenses	\$197,875	\$167,521	\$30,354
Net Gain/Loss Before Refunds	14,156	13,950	206
Refunds to Members	168	146	22
Net Gain/Loss After Refunds	13,989	13,804	184
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	104	(10,717)	10,821
Net Income/Loss	\$ 14,092	\$ 3,087	\$11,005

BALANCE SHEETS

June 30, 2021 vs. December 31, 2020

ASSETS (000's omitted)	6/30/2021	6/30/2020	Change
Bonds	\$ 2,138,887	\$ 2,015,625	\$123,262
Preferred Stocks	35,626	40,562	(4,936)
Common Stocks	30,873	26,707	4,166
Alternative Investments	34,730	31,950	2,780
Cash/Short Term Investments	18,418	54,663	(36,245)
Mortgages	3,133	3,449	(316)
Certificate Loans	514	574	(60)
Real Estate	15,661	481	15,180
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	26,962	26,134	828
Other	801	672	129
Total Assets	\$2,305,605	\$2,200,817	\$104,788
% Total Change Year to Year	4.8%	3.5%	
LIABILITIES			
Life Reserves	\$ 78,365	\$ 75,466	\$ 2,899
Annuity Reserves	1,984,207	1,900,707	83,500
Accident & Health Reserves	164	177	(13)
Employee Pension Liability	7,767	7,464	303
Symposium Reserve	127	127	0
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Rfnd. Resrvs.	375	356	19
Pending Investment Trades	0	1,730	(1,730)
Accounts Payable	995	961	34
Refund Accumulations	2,718	1,739	979
Asset Valuation Reserv.-AVR	15,546	8,316	7,230
Interest Maint. Reserve-IMR	23,030	21,124	1,906
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,113,295	\$ 2,018,167	\$ 95,128
Surplus Fund	192,309	182,648	9,661
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$2,305,605	\$2,200,815	\$104,790
Solvency Ratio*	109.9%	109.5%	

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

Financial information is unaudited and presented on the statutory basis of accounting. Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



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

The Feast of All Saints

East & West and Halloween

The Church has honored those individuals whom we call saints from its earliest days. At first only martyrs, the Mother of God, and Saint John the Baptist were honored by a special day. Other saints were added when a regular process of canonization was established. Every Saint has his/her own proper feast, usually the day of death; but since the number of saints is increasing and will continue to increase, the church designates one day in the year on which the memory of all the saints is celebrated. Eastern Christians (both Catholic & Orthodox), Roman Catholics and Anglicans remember and thank God for, venerate and pray to the saints to intercede to God for us.

The traditional date for this Feast was on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The first trace of the observance of this feast on the Sunday after Pentecost is found in Antioch. In the fourth and fifth centuries there is also mention of a common day in a sermon of Saint Ephrem the Syrian, and in the 74th homily of Saint John Chrysostom of Constantinople. There is a logical link between the Feast of All Saints and Pentecost. One of the works of the Holy Spirit is to help the Life of a Christian blossom and flower into the beautiful life of a saint. Holiness is the work of the Holy Spirit, and Christian Holiness is a fruit of Pentecost. All-Saints' Day is observed by Eastern Churches on the first Sunday after Pentecost, keeping the traditional date as celebrated in the early church.

The Church also solemnizes the anniversary of a martyr's death. Soon there were so many martyrs on the same day, the Church, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, appointed a common day for all. During Pope Gregory III's reign, the festival was expanded to include all saints and a chapel in St. Peter's church was dedicated for this purpose. In 835, Pope Gregory IV transferred the date from the Sunday after Pentecost to November 1st for the Latin Church and the name of this day is called the Feast of All Saints.

HALLOWEEN—The day before the Feast of All Saints, October 31st, became known as Halloween. Halloween as we know it is a mixture of pagan, Christian, civic and cultural influences. Some cultures have associated the day with witches, ghosts and goblins. Its roots can be traced

to an old Celtic festival when the Celts thought that on this night the souls of those who had died could cross over to the mortal world. When the Celts were converted to Christianity, this popular feast was moved from spring to fall and celebrated as the feast of the Eve of All Saints Day. Halloween comes from the word *hallowed* meaning "blessed" or "holy." So, Halloween is the night that anticipates the celebration of our connection with those who have gone to the Lord before us. It is then, that on the night before All Saints Day, we remember and celebrate in a special way our belief in the connection of the saints to our own life.

So how did "trick or treat" become connected to All Saints' Day? The practice of "souling," going from door to door on or about All Souls' Day to ask for gifts of food in return for prayers for the dead—evolved from a pagan ritual that was practiced all over Europe, possibly as early as the 10th century. As a Christian tradition it goes back to at least the 14th century when it is mentioned by Chaucer. It is still commonplace in many Catholic countries, notably Ireland, where soul-cakes are left out for the departed. In the United States during the late 1800s, children began going around their neighborhoods on Halloween night pulling pranks and doing mischief. To curb this mischief, in the 1920s parents encouraged the practice of children dressing up in costumes, going from house to house seeking peace offerings with the gentle threat: "Your choice, either a trick by us or a treat from you." In the busy culture of today, Halloween has become a time for families to spend some time together away from work and obligations, to decorate their homes in bright colors, and to enjoy each other's company. It has become another time for children to get together and have fun by playing "dress-up" and sharing with each other the candy and goodies they received from their neighbors.

On whatever date we choose to remember those who have gone before us, it is important that we pray for them. God doesn't look at time chronologically, but takes all time together, and so therefore we can pray for those who have already died. We can take care of our friends and relatives by praying for them, as they took care of us when they were with us.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Who's Taking Care of the Dog?

You're on the ball. You've got your will, your powers of attorney, and your living will in place. Everyone in your life has been provided for and your wishes have been made clear to those who are near and dear.

Did you forget something?

You've spent years providing for and loving your pet. You may have even thought to discuss its care with a close relative, should the unthinkable happen. But how can you be sure that what you want aligns with what will happen if you die?

I recall the story of a woman who had two dogs that she loved dearly. But while her pets were important to her when she was alive, her family didn't think it was important to care for them after she died and elected to turn them over to a

shelter. Because the woman had made a pet provision in her will, the executor stepped in to turn them over to the planned-for caregiver. Monies from her estate earmarked for the dogs' care were then granted to the caregiver.

A lot of people assume that a family member will gladly care for their pets if they die, but that isn't always the case. Money changes people, and pet care can be expensive.

There is a formula to determine how much money should be left to a caregiver to maintain the health and well-being of a pet. Your family might not like it, but nobody can challenge the provision once it's in place.

People who don't provide for their pets are more common than you think. The only way to be certain your beloved furry friends are taken care of after you're gone is with a pet provision in your will today.

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 Thursday & Friday, November 25th & 26th in observance of Thanksgiving.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009



Giving

SS. Peter & Paul BC Church Parish Expansion

Duquesne, PA. SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church held multiple fundraising activities in the first half of 2021 and received GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds for each. On Primary Election Day-Tuesday, May 18, a combination Haluski/Hoagie Sale was held. The event was supported by the local community members that use the church hall as a polling place. On July 4, the parish Men's Club held a cash raffle. The joint fundraisers raised a total of \$2,485.³¹, which was matched by GCU. Thanks to all that volunteered their efforts, the patrons and the GCU for making these events a success.

Ann Berezna



SS. Peter & Paul Parish Expansion



Braddock, PA. A GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds donation was recently presented to pastor Fr. Vitalii Stashkevych by GCU member Arleen Jama. A Buried Treasure Sale was held in May – June, 2021 and net income was matched by the GCU. The donation assisted SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church with their 125th Anniversary celebration on September 26, 2021.

Arleen Jama

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Expansion

Tom River, NJ. Our Lady of Perpetual Help BC Church parishioners were busy this summer organizing fund raising events to support the church's building fund. It started with an online Rada Cutlery sale—parishioners, family and friends placed orders for these beautiful kitchen utensils, seasonings, gift sets and party dips. Some people did early Christmas shopping while supporting the church.

Boscov's discount cards were also available for purchase with \$5.00 from each card going back to the church's building fund.

After several weeks of collecting, pricing and categorizing donated items, things were ready for the first ever Parish Garage Sale. On a very hot and humid, Friday, August 27, 2021 set-up for the sale began at 7 AM in the church parking lot. Thirty tables were filled with household, decorative & holiday items, as well as furniture, children's items, small appliances and vintage items. On Saturday, August 28, 2021 the sale was moved indoors to the church hall because of the extreme heat.

The thirty volunteers realized a profit of over \$4,000.00 to support the church's building fund. The GCU provided hand sanitizer for the volunteers. They were very much appreciated. The Very Reverend Francis Rella, pastor along with Pana Tammy and their family were there to lend a hand. Maryann Szticza, chairperson of these events, was very pleased with their success. We hope to make this GCU Parish Matching Funds event an annual activity.

Rada products are still available for purchase on the Our Lady of Perpetual Help website at olpht.org.

Mary Bannworth



St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



The jewelry fashionistas Bernie & Pat.

Carrick, PA. St. Pius X Byzantine Catholic Church held their annual rummage sale September 11, 2021.

Over 100 customers passed through the doors blessing the parish with over \$1,000.00 profit. The proceeds and matching GCU funds will be used toward renovations needed in the St. Pius rectory from winter water damage.

Many thanks to the dedicated & hard working volunteers and the GCU Home Office for helping us with posters, giveaways, and e-mail advertising for this project!

Beth Gulyasy

Holy Spirit Church Parish Expansion

Oakland, PA. Members of Holy Spirit Church and neighboring Pittsburgh area members enjoyed a successful Flea Market and Basket Raffle in September. There were 20 gift baskets for a variety of interests and a large flea market filled with items for the home, including furniture, toys, tools, clothes, decorations, kitchenware and books. All proceeds will be used for the church building maintenance and repairs. We greatly appreciate the additional funds provided by the GCU Home Office!

Mary Dzurichko



The many items at the Flea Market.



Bags of "Sunshine" Delivered To Loved Ones



Pictured are club members Susan Tatar, Joyce Griffin, Gretchen Nelson, Norma Harris, Carole Patton and Carla Gasser.

Wintersville, OH. At the August 2021, meeting the members of the Woodland Garden Club filled 32 bags of "sunshine." Each club member chose two people to visit. Some of the people that received a visit either had surgery, were housebound or could just use a friendly visit. The bags had snacks, fuzzy socks, hand soap, hand sanitizer, cream, etc. Funds

from the GCU GoGive program along with a donation from the club were used to purchase the items.

This program went over extremely well with the recipients but also with the club members.

Carla Gasser



Frank “Whitey” & Marianne Harbist Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 marked the 65th wedding anniversary of Frank “Whitey” and Marianne (nee Strahan) Harbist. They were married in the bride’s family church, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA. Following the wedding, the couple attended the groom’s family church, St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Ruska Dolina, Pittsburgh.

Marianne devoted her life to raising their children, Susan (Bill) Vanselow, John (Elizabeth) and Frank (Martha) Harbist. They have 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons. Frank retired from LTV Steel, where he finished his career as the electrical supervisor responsible for LTV’s Southside Works. In 2001 the couple moved to Beaver County, becoming members of St. Nicholas Chapel. They now reside at the residential area of Seven Oaks.

To celebrate this milestone anniversary, a family dinner was held at Seven Oaks on Sunday, September 26. Congratulations to Frank & Marianne and wishes for many more happy, blessed years. Mnohaja, blahaja litja.



Marianne and Whitey at Seven Oaks during their celebration gathering.



Marianne & Frank “Whitey” Harbist.

Bill & Barb Kushner Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



Barb and Bill at their Anniversary celebration.

Congratulations to Bill & Barb Kushner who celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 21, 2021. Their original vows were taken at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Church in Greenfield and they renewed their vows at St Michael Byzantine Church in Canonsburg, PA with Rev. Joseph Raptosh as celebrant. Family and friends gathered at Bistecca Steakhouse in the Meadows to celebrate the milestone.

Bill is a retired English teacher from Avella High School and member of VFW #191 Honor Guard. Barb is retired from Peoples Gas Marketing Department and currently serves on the GCU Board of Directors. They were blessed with two amazing children, Chris and Nicole, and wonderful daughter-in-law, Amy and son-in-law, Kevin. But their favorite activity is babysitting their four grandsons—Ethan, Andrew, Dylan and Grant—all proud GCU members! May the Lord bless Bill and Barb with many more happy years!

Daniel Kovachik and Francey McCall United in Marriage

Lodge 164 member and parish cantor Daniel Kovachik and Francey McCall were united in marriage on May 8, 2021 at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Youngstown, OH. Parishioners and friends witnessed the crowning ceremony with Very Rev. Richard Lambert as the celebrant. Mary Beth Byers, cantor at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Warren, OH sang the responses. Prayers and best wishes go out to them for a blessed and happy life together—God grant them many years!



Francey & Daniel Kovachik with Very Rev. Richard Lambert.

Two Couples from Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage



Carol & Thomas Shemansky.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Shemansky celebrated 50 years of marriage on Saturday, July 31, 2021.

They were married July 31, 1971 by the Rev. Carmen D'Amico at Our Lady of Grace RC Church in Hazleton, PA. Their attendants were the late Lorraine Santangelo Williams, Theresa Tarapchak, Shirley Witcowski, John Ginzo Gaudio, Edward Shemansky and the late George Ward.

Mr. Shemansky is the son of the late Walter & Anna Shemansky, Tresckow, PA. Mrs. Shemansky is the former Carol A. Gaudio,

daughter of the late Johnny & Marie Tootsie Gaudo, Hazleton.

They have one son, Thomas Scott, daughter-in-law Linda and a granddaughter, Lauren Elizabeth Shemansky.

Prior to retiring, Mr. Shemansky was a mechanic at Penske Leasing for 33 years. Mrs. Shemansky was the payroll clerk at Columbia Footwear Corporation, bookkeeper at Village Furniture Mart and also worked at Hershey Corp. She is currently employed by Procure Personnel at the Hinkle Dial Corp.

The couple attended the wedding anniversary Mass on June 6 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton, PA. The principal celebrant was the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, bishop of the Diocese of Scranton.

A Mass in honor of their Anniversary was celebrated at Our Lady of Grace Church by the Rev. Anthony Generose.

The couple are members of GHRL and Carol bowls with the GCU league at Bowl-Arena.

John & Marie Kasarda celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary on Saturday, July 31, 2021.

They were married on July 31, 1971 at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church on Arthur Street in Hazleton, PA by the late Rev. John Sekellick.

Mrs. Kasarda is the former Marie Colombo. She was

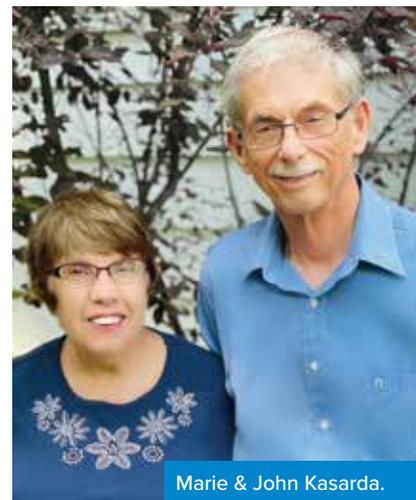
employed by Wagner Electric and Boscov's. John was a machinist for Barrett-Haentjens & Co. and was also employed at Dorr-Oliver. He retired from the Hazleton Area School District.

They are the parents of three children: John Kasarda and his wife Jamie; Lisa Gasper and her husband Brian and Brian Kasarda and his wife Jessica. They have six grandchildren: Grace & Gianni Kasarda, Macey & Kailyn Gasper and Caden & Kylee Kasarda.

The couple was honored at a celebration that was hosted by their children at Sand Springs Country Club and a Liturgy of Thanksgiving celebrated at St. John BC Church.

John and Marie are both members of GHRL.

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary, Athletic & Fraternal Director



Marie & John Kasarda.

Basilian Sisters Celebrate Anniversaries of Religious Life



Seated is Sr. Euphemia Kopa and Sr. Margaret Kapusnak. Standing is Provincial Superior Sr. Susan Sisko and Fr. Jerome Botsko.

Every July the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Uniontown, PA gather for community meetings and celebrations. As is customary, the Sisters commemorate the Jubilarians of the community. This year Sister Euphemia Kopa celebrated 75 years of religious life and Sister Margaret Kapusnak, 70 years.

The Jubilee Divine Liturgy was held Tuesday, July 20, at the monastery with Chaplain Father Jerome Botsko officiating. The Sisters renewed their vows in a spirit of thanksgiving amidst the prayers of all the community. A celebratory dinner followed with a program of remarks and reminiscences.

Sister Euphemia Kopa entered religious life from Assumption of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton, WV. Sister first served at the newly established St. Basil Home for Aged Women for two years and then dedicated her teaching years to the youngest children, kindergarten through second grade. Sister Euphemia was also a principal, administrator of the former St. Basil Home for Aged Women and served in the bishop's residence. Of late Sister has assisted in the monastery baking department and the medovniki project for the Pilgrimage as well as with hospitality.

Sister Margaret Kapusnak arrived from St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Johnstown, PA. Sister served as a teacher in the elementary and high school level for several years and was also the editor of *The Voice* magazine and Novice

Directress before she began ministry in the Passaic Office of Religious Education. Later, Sister served for six years in the General Administration of the Order in Rome. After her return she was elected Provincial Superior in Uniontown in 1990. Following her term in leadership, Sister taught English in Trebisov, Slovakia in the newly established high school of the Greek Catholic Eparchy. From 1997 to 2001 she was the Development Director for the Province, and since then, Sister has served as the Province Secretary at the monastery.

In his homily, Father Jerome referred to a statement of Pope Francis regarding women religious: "As Sisters you have been a leaven in this society that is irreplaceable, and you have carried the People of God forward." In congratulating the Sisters, Fr. Jerome also noted that it is possible to be faithful to a vocation for many years not so much because of us, but because the grace of God calls and sustains us.

At the festive dinner, Sister Susan Sisko, Provincial Superior, acknowledged the faithful service of these Sisters for a combined 145 years, as well as their diversity of talents offered joyfully to the Lord.

Susan McCarthy

Dorianna Williams Latona Named Paint Pittston Pink Unsung Hero for 2021

Dorianna Williams Latona, active member of Lodge 182, was named the Paint Pittston Pink Unsung Hero for 2021. Paint Pittston Pink was formed in 2014 with a mission to bring the community together to support a cure for ALL cancers. The unsung hero award was designed to recognize an individual whose efforts have gone above and beyond what is requested to make the annual series of events a success.

Dorianna, a graduate of Wyoming Area High School, West Wyoming, PA and Penn State University, currently serves as a coach for Evolve Fitness in Pittston, PA; as Senior Sales Executive at the Northeast Wine Company; as an entrepreneur in her own e-commerce business and as a full time mom to her dog, River. She currently lives in Jenkins Township, PA with her husband, Vincent Latona. She is the daughter of Marlene & Jonathan Williams, Harding PA, and the granddaughter of Mary Ann and the late John Evans, Kingston, PA.

Dorianna was presented with the Unsung Hero Award on Friday September 24, 2021 at the Lantern Launch in the Charlie Tripp Stadium, Pittston, PA. Congratulations Dorianna, a job well done!

Laure Marcin | Lodge 182 Secretary-Treasurer



Dorianna Williams Latona.

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
HIGHMARK
HOLIDAY POPS
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2021
8:00PM
HEINZ HALL
PITTSBURGH, PA
ORCHESTRA - CENTER
Members \$40
12 & under \$25
Non-members \$55
Please visit GCUusa.com for ticket information

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS
2022 OUTING
THURSDAY,
JANUARY 20, 2022
7:00PM PUCK DROP
PPG PAINTS ARENA
PITTSBURGH, PA
SECTIONS 117 & 118
Members \$60
Non-members \$75

District 5

Annual Golf Tournament | The annual District 5 Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, August 7 at Sugarloaf Golf Club. The 63 golfers in attendance observed all COVID-19 guidelines. The team of Ed Keil, Keith Hampton, Anthony Shaver and Ryan Hettes, last year's champs, repeated with a low gross of 58. The team took home trophies (engraved clocks), along with a monetary prize. First Flight—low net 1st place: Gary Norconk, Jim Gurnari, Frank Picchi & Lou Masgay; 2nd place: Mark Pegula, Chris Petigrew, Brian Hamilton & Tim Pane. Second Flight—low net 1st place: Jon Fiorelli, Ryan Cardoni, Dave Seman & Aaron Koval; 2nd place: Gary Nobel, Doreen Nobel, Denise Evans & Bob Faneck. Third Flight—low net 1st place: the Guarneri team of John, Lou, Bridget & Margaret; 2nd place was the Pezak team of Paul, Stanley, Gary & Corey.

Winners of proximity prizes were: Chet Studenski, Denise Evans, Anne Marie Neary, Sue Grohowski, Donna Zapotek, Collin Krokos, Joe Hardisky, Joe Castrogiovanni, Mike Seman, and Frank Picchi. Sixteen golfers hit the green on Hole 17, for a share in the Pot-of-Gold, Joe Carnevale, John Dolinish, Steve Doziak, Jon Fiorelli, Diane Grega, Lou Guarneri, Keith Hampton, Ken Killino, Collin Krokos, Bob Montville, Matthew Montville, Gary Nobel, Corey Pezak, Paul Pezak, Andrew Schukraft and Jim Slabinski.

One could not ask for a better day to be outdoors. The weather was perfect for golfing. The tournament concluded with the traditional pig roast with all the trimmings, followed by the presentation of tournament winners and a door prize for all. Thanks goes out to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant for door prizes, GCU bags with sunscreen, hand sanitizer and the preparation of entry forms. Thanks also to the hole sponsors and prize donors and all the participants. A special thank you to Pot-of-Gold and Hole-in-One verifier, Janice Dragan, who gave up her Saturday to sit on Hole 17. Save next year's date, Saturday, August 6, 2022.

Ed Keil | Athletic Director



John Paul Dolinish, Chuck, Anne Marie & Rick Neary with Mike Fiorelli.



Corey, Paul, Stanley & Gary Pezak.



Winners-Ed Keil, Anthony Shaver, Keith Hampton and Ryan Hettes.

District 15

Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company

Although it was an oppressively hot afternoon with the threat of rain, District 15 members and guests enjoyed the Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company event in late August. The wine tasting was informative and the food was delicious. Due to impending thunderstorms, the Flow Band canceled their show at the winery, which was a big disappointment to all. Twelve door prizes were awarded. Sara Gasser, George Seech, Sandy Condie, Kathy Kapaldo and Em Lopata took home a bottle of Black Dog wine. Paul Lebanik, David Konefal-Shaer, Karen Wansack, Nancy Hribar, Pam Kapaldo, Chris Sack and Nicole Watenpool won gift cards. There were many positive reviews of the afternoon. Therefore, plans to schedule next year's "Afternoon at the Wine Company" are in the works for early October 2022.

Luncheon and Bunco | Fifty-eight tickets were sold for the Luncheon and Bunco held on Saturday, September 25. Once again Kathy Kapaldo did an outstanding job to make this event fun and profitable! Many thanks to Cheryl Jablonski, Mike Spanik, Cindy Feher-Cherico, Diane Ketterer, Mary Ann Popovich, Pam Kapaldo and Jess Sevcik who helped with set-up, baking and/or selling chance tickets. The district is grateful to Mary Elizabeth Olack who baked cookies for the dessert boxes. Thank you to the GCU Lodges and National Directors & Officers who donated auction items and/or bought a table sponsorship. With GCU Community Matching Funds a total of \$3,000.00 was raised to split between the District 15 Scholarship Fund and Communicycle of Aliquippa.

Elizabeth Harbist | President



Rich Brooks, Ron Cairns, Charles Houser, John Maracek and Tim Seech.

Annual Golf Outing | The weather on Sunday, September 12 could not have been more perfect for golf! Once again Bill Uram took care of every detail to make the Annual Golf Outing enjoyable. Prizes were awarded for every flight.

Flight A low gross: Dave Sutherland; low net: Rob Haller and 2nd place (3-way tie): Nick Fejka, Scott Irons & Gerry Corbo. Flight B low gross: John Maracek; low net: Charles Houser; 2nd place: Ron Cairns; 3rd place (tie): Rich Brooks & Tim Seech. Senior Flight low gross: Jay Frederick; Low Net: Mike Mantsch; 2nd place: Ron Blough and 3rd place: Mike Kanai. Closest to the pin winners were: Ron Cairns, Gerry Corbo, Charles Houser and Rob Haller. Longest putt winners were: Nick Fejka and Mike Kanai.



Jay Frederick, Mike Mantsch, Ron Blough and Mike Kanai.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENT - CANCELED

Annual Meeting Has Been Canceled Sunday, November 7, 2021

Due to ongoing concerns about a possible Fall spike in COVID-19 cases, the officers have canceled this year's Annual Meeting. The GCU Board of Directors and Fraternal Department recently notified us that we are not required to hold a meeting this year, and in fact recommended that consideration be given to canceling any scheduled meetings. While hopeful that there won't be a Fall spike, the officers heeded the advice and canceled the meeting.

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



Communicycle Executive Director Lee Montanari and President Elizabeth Harbist.



A few of the Bunco tables.

Lodge News

Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

130th Anniversary of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary BC Church Celebration

Parishioners, GCU Lodge 15 members and guests from the Assumption of the Virgin Mary BC Church, Trenton, NJ, Saint Nicholas of Myra, Roebling, NJ and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Levittown, PA

enjoyed fellowship, food, games and music on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at the Liberty Lake picnic facility in Bordentown, NJ.

One day after the heat wave broke in New Jersey, 245 parishioners, lodge members and guests enjoyed the 60 scenic acres at the Liberty Lake facility. After His



Enjoying the band.



Lodge 15 Treasurer Thomas Petty Sr. presenting Fr. Yuriy Oros with a donation for the 130th Anniversary.

Grace Bishop Kurt Burnett offered a blessing and prayer, everyone enjoyed traditional picnic goodies while the Continental Gypsies had everyone singing, dancing and toe-tapping to timeless ethnic songs and polkas. One and all had lots of fun enjoying the amenities of Liberty Lake which included shady pavilions, two swimming pools, a seven acre lake, mini golf, athletic fields and children's playgrounds.

All in attendance agreed this was a wonderful way to celebrate the anniversary and to reconnect in faith and fraternalism!

Greg Embley | President

2021 Year End Processing Cut Off Dates for Withdrawals, Distributions, Cash Surrenders

The entire GCU staff is committed to providing exceptional customer service to GCU agents and members. The staff is in the process of planning for all of your year end requests to assure that each request is addressed in a timely and efficient manner. Please be informed that the GCU has established a cut-off date of **Wednesday, December 15, 2021** for receiving Annuity Partial Withdrawal (including RMD & Inherited IRA distributions), Annuity Cash Surrender and Life Insurance Cash Surrender requests for processing by Tuesday, December 28, 2021. This includes requests received via fax, emails, web requests & mail via courier or the US Postal Service. **Please note that a W-9 Form will need to be completed and forwarded with any requests for withdrawals or surrenders.**

If the information is received and in good order by the end of business on Wednesday, December 15 it will be processed by Tuesday, December 28 for the 2021 tax reporting period.

If requests and all documentation are received after close of business on December 15, the GCU will work to complete the request by December 28, but cannot guarantee processing before year end.

Should you have any questions, please call the Member and Agent Service Staff at 855-306-0607.

2021 GCU Holiday Closings

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 25
Friday, November 26

Christmas

Friday, December 24
Monday, December 27

New Year's

Friday, December 31
Monday, January 3, 2022

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Annual Church Flea Market

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held their Flea Market the weekend of September 18 & 19. Items were marked down to half price on the 19th. The following Saturday, September 25, one could fill a box with items for a certain price. The event was held at the Social Center, garage and parking lot area. Since the flea market was not held last year, there were two years worth of collected treasures.

GCU lodge members assisted throughout, but most were in the kitchen where homemade foods were available. Menu items featured ethnic favorites, wimpies, pizza and hot dogs. The crowds were never ending and the food sold out early on the first Saturday. There was also a 50-50 fundraiser. The entire event was a GCU Parish Matching Funds project with proceeds going towards capital improvements at the church, including an electronic bell system and replacing the air conditioning. A special thanks goes out to the GCU Home Office for the Matching Funds and printing of the fundraising tickets.



Kitchen staff: Mike Mokay, Father Eduard Shestak, Ed Dolinish, Toppo Zayac, Ed Keil, Russell Helbing, Ilona Dolinish, Erik Helbing and Gina Keil.



Some of the thousands of flea market items.

Church Bake Sale

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church held a bake sale on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19 in conjunction with the St. Nicholas Flea Market. There was an enormous amount of homemade goodies including cakes, cookies, breads, kolachi and Amish made apple dumplings to choose from.

This was a Parish Expansion Matching Funds project with funds used to defray the cost of the new air conditioning system installed at St. Mary Church and hall. Thanks to all who baked and donated, as well as the Home Office for the GCU Matching Funds.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer



Bake Sale: Carol Granko, Marion Savinelli, Pat Oliver, and Maureen.



Daria Shierly and Janet Kumpon at the Meals-on-Wheels 5K.

The Buzz from Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

Lodge Members Making a Difference

A long-standing tradition to raise money for Meals-on-Wheels Western Broome continued this year with enthusiasm and friendly smiles. On August 14, 2021 Lodge 47 members Janet Kumpon and Daria Shierly participated in the 6th annual 5K Run/Walk to support the organization which is a private not-for-profit, dedicated to providing seniors with home-delivered meals and daily check-in visits to ensure their healthy independence. Immediately following this year's event, the attendees were invited to enjoy live music, snacks and light refreshments.

In a year of unprecedented events, The United Way of Broome County hosted their annual volunteer service day, Day of Caring, on Friday, September 10, 2021. The Day of Caring strives to bring volunteers together in an effort to honor and remember those who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001.

Annual Backpack Drive

Local television station WBNG-TV in Binghamton, NY sponsored their 6th Annual Backpack Drive this past August before the start of the 2021-22 school year. GCU Lodge 47 voted to purchase and donate backpacks for the cause. The purchase was made possible by an anonymous \$500.00 donation from a Lodge 47 member. A total of 34 backpacks were delivered to the drop-off point of Tioga State Bank on September 3, 2021. Thank you to all for helping our future generation!



Pictured accepting donated backpacks is Tioga State Bank Branch Manager Sherri Griffith, along with Fraternal Activities Director Pam Sufлита and President Bob Sufлита. This donation represented 6% of the total number of backpacks collected on this drive. The backpacks were subsequently distributed to needy school children in the Greater Binghamton area.



Lodge 47 member Bob C. Bakalar offered his day at Chenango Valley State Park. He joined a group of other volunteers clearing fallen trees, as well as branches and debris from various trails following damages from severe storms, wind, hail and recent flooding.

No project or event is successful without the time and talent of volunteers. As a volunteer, your dedication is never underestimated and it is an inspiration to others. Lodge 47 recognizes all volunteers. Wherever you are and whatever you're doing to help, thank you for all you do! Your time, commitment, hard work and amazing generosity are truly appreciated!

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer

Pam & Bob Sufлита | Fraternal Activities Director & President

Lodge 57

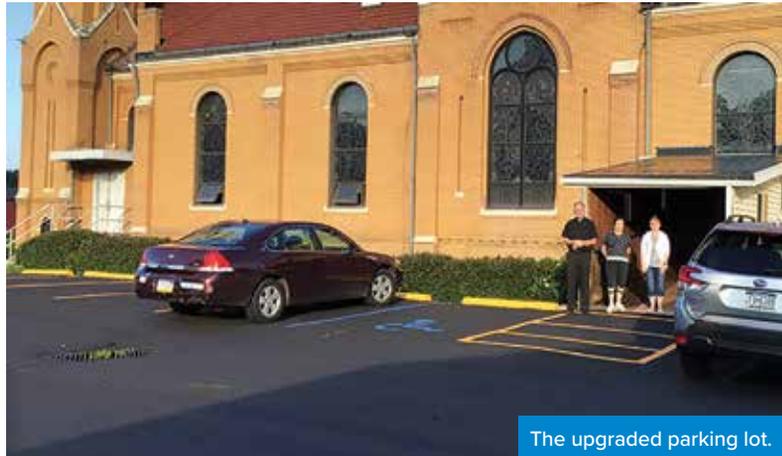
BROWNSVILLE, PA

Rummage Sale Fundraiser

September 7-12, 2021, saw the St. Nicholas BC Church community participate in a Rummage Sale Fundraiser. The fundraiser was held to help defray the cost of repairs/upgrades to the church. Following the fundraiser, remaining items were distributed throughout the community to those in need.



Fr. Christopher Burke, Genevieve Marszal and Melody Yeardie.



The upgraded parking lot.

Parking Lot Upgrade

At left: Looking over the repaired and upgraded parking lot at St. Nicholas are lodge chaplain Fr. Christopher Burke, lodge member Genevieve Marszal and Recording Secretary Melody Yeardie. The upgraded repairs were made possible through the generosity of GCU Parish Matching Funds.



Paul, Paul Andrew & Thomas Rubish with Steve Petruska.

Volunteering at Mt. St. Macrina

The rainy and wet conditions of Sunday, September 5, did not stop local ushers from volunteering at Mt. St. Macrina for the Labor Day Weekend Pilgrimage. Members of the Rubish family have been helping the Sisters at all the religious services for many years and all kinds of weather.

This year was no exception with Paul Rubish and his sons Paul Andrew & Thomas, who joined Steve Petruska from Lodge 81, Uniontown, PA as ushers.

Bernadette Karoffa | Publicity Director

Jean Mangini | Parishioner

Lodge 66

WHITING & MERRILLVILLE, IN

Parish Growth

GCU Lodge 66 is an active part of the renewal at St. Mary Byzantine Church in Whiting, IN. The parish has seen unprecedented growth in the last three years, with an over 40% increase in attendance at Sunday worship and a 78% increase in giving. Two GCU members have been essential to the renewal: Donna Tang and Peter Baranko. Donna Tang leads the group of “Holy Rollers” who help make nut rolls on the weekend. Both work with ten other parish members, as well as members from GCU Lodge 66 to make nut rolls.



Denise Seeger, Donna Tang, Lisa & Caitlin McEnery.

Pierogi Fest

St. Mary’s primary outlet to sell is Whiting’s Pierogi Fest. The third largest summer festival in the state of Indiana, Pierogi Fest sees over 100,000 people come to the town to enjoy Slavic foods, music, dancing, and fun. For the last several years, St. Mary’s Holy Rollers have been on the street selling their wares, offering church tours, and welcoming visitors to weekend services. With the assistance of GCU Lodge 66, St. Mary’s Holy Rollers rolled over 600 nut rolls to sell at Pierogi Fest, which sold out before the end of the three day festival.



Fr. Andrew Summerson and a Pierogi Bushka Lady.

Luncheon, Lecture and Donation

On Sunday, September 19 GCU Lodge 66 members attended the Sunday Liturgy at St. Michael Byzantine Church in Merrillville IN. Members gathered after Liturgy in the hall where Secretary-Treasurer Peter Baranko served homemade chicken soup followed by a salad. At noon they enjoyed a meal of Polish sausage and sauerkraut, broccoli, mini potatoes and dessert from Paul Kaderabak celebrating his birthday. After the luncheon Professor Stephanie Baranko Lincoln, a doctor in nursing education at Indiana University NW, gave a presentation on Insulin Resistance, then answered many questions. Following the talk, President Veronica Bodak, presented a check for \$5,000.00 to Father Andrew Summerson from St. Mary Byzantine Church in Whiting for their Pierogi Fest fund raiser plus GCU Parish Matching Funds.

Peter Baranko | Secretary-Treasurer



Lodge President Veronica Bodak presenting a check to Fr. Andrew Summerson.



The group enjoying the picnic.

Lodge 77

LORAIN, OH

Annual Picnic

On Sunday, August 29, GCU Lodge 77 celebrated their annual summer picnic at the Lakeview Park picnic gazebo. Family and friends joined members for burgers, hot dogs and sausage provided by the lodge. Everyone brought a side dish to share. The kids played football and even some canine friends came to enjoy the day.

Anne Dillon | Treasurer



Kaitlyn Knick with her dogs Lincoln and Leo.

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81 members concluded summer on a busy note with much parish and community involvement.

Community

Gerry Dorobish, Stephen Petruska and Bonnie Balas helped at the Uniontown Public Library Carnival on Thursday, August 5, which culminated the Summer Reading Program. Gerry distributed prizes and free books, Bonnie engaged many children in the parachute game/activity and Stephen set up the grounds for the carnival.

The Helping Hands Day Part II at Mount St. Macrina on Saturday, August 21, was for final pilgrimage preparation. Bonnie Balas helped Sr. Ruth and Sr. JoAnn clean up the courtyard, while Gerry Dorobish prepared the Shrine Altar area and readied the Religious Gift Shop for anticipated sales for the upcoming Pilgrimage.



Bonnie Balas with parachute activity.

As for the Annual

CONTINUED

UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENT

39th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration (Modified)

Sunday, October 31

Divine Liturgy 9 AM

12 NOON to 4 PM (or until sold out)

FREE

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

Take-Out ONLY. 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, raffles and more.

NO pre-orders will be taken! 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-byzcatch-uniontown.org/>; email: stjohnthebaptistuniontown@gmail.com; or phone: 724-438-6027 for updates.

Lodge 81 CONTINUED

Pilgrimage on Sunday, September 5, despite the rain, Lodge 81 members were actively involved. Stephen Petruska, James Mihalko, and the Rubish family assisted as ushers for the liturgical services. Bonnie Balas helped with the lighting of candles at Dormition and Crucifixion Shrines. Marcia Harrer, Bryan Ponzurick, and Christopher Kormanik, a student at West Virginia University, did car parking duty. Gerry Dorobish managed sales at the Religious Gift Shop.

Several parishioners attended the St. Nicholas parish festival in Perryopolis on Saturday, September 18. Bonnie Balas donated a basket and along with Joan Bridges attended to lend support to the fundraiser.

The 32nd Annual Rosary Walk for the Uniontown Catholic churches was held on Sunday, September 19. Gerry Dorobish led the 2nd decade while Bonnie Balas and Marcia Harrer sang Marian hymns before and after the Rosary recitation.



Marcia Harrer at parking duty.



Bryan and Helen Ponzurick with cousin/nephew Robby (behind).



St. Nicholas parishioners with Joan Bridges and Bonnie Balas.



Gerry Dorobish, Marcia Harrer and Bonnie Balas at Rosary Walk.



Bonnie Balas and Anna Gray at fundraising table.

Parish

The annual St. John parish picnic was held on Sunday, August 15. As part of St. John Social Ministry, which sponsored the catered event, Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas helped set up and sell fundraising tickets for the event.

The weekend of September 18-19 was quite busy for Lodge 81. The Annual Food Drive which was strictly monetary this year, yielded a significant amount to be donated to the local St. Vincent dePaul Food Bank. The Food Drive continued through October 3.

On Catechetical Sunday, Father Ron Larko, gave a special blessing to the ECF students and catechists. Teachers also completed registrations for students for the upcoming 2021-2022 year.

The September birthday coffee social sponsored by St. John Social Ministry, resumed after a long pandemic hiatus. Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas served those in attendance following safety guidelines.

At the quarterly meeting held on Sunday, August 22 future endeavors were planned. Donations to the Pilgrimage and future events: the 15th Annual Car Show, Annual Food Drive, holiday events, the modified 39th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration and Veterans' Recognition (postponed from Flag Day) were discussed. The next quarterly meeting is planned for mid-November.

Bonnie Balas | VP & Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 92 EVENT

14th Annual Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner

Sunday, November 7, 2021

11:30 AM-1 PM

\$12 Take Out & Drive Thru ONLY - Dinner includes stuffed chicken breast, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

LaSalle Auditorium Hall
309 First Avenue, Jessup, PA

Benefits Holy Ghost Church renovations

For ticket information: call Michaela Mancak at 570-489-1304; Greg Dick at 570-489-8723 or Tim Keller at 570-878-2481.

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Trash to Treasure

One man's trash is another man's treasure, so St. Anne BC Church in Clymer, PA holds a Trash to Treasure event in August that attracts buyers from the surrounding communities. This fundraiser is always the perfect way to wrap up the summer and start thinking about the fall and holidays ahead.

Lodge 93 members along with parishioners of St. Anne searched their homes from under the beds

to attics and basements, cupboards to closets and storerooms to

garages. The searches provided 2 days of gently used goods at bargain prices in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. Whether it's antique or something new, customers always leave excited because of the great deals. All items under the outdoor pavilion were FREE. So everyone went home with something.

In addition to all the wonderful bargains, buyers were able to purchase a delicious lunch and homemade baked goods.

A highlight to the event was the Basket Raffle that offered a large collection

of unique items including cash, lottery, coolers, holiday themed items, food specialties and gift cards to name a few.

All the events planned this year will contribute to the paving of the church parking lot.

The next fundraiser is scheduled for October with haluski as the featured item.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the Parish Matching Funds program.

Connie Strittmatter |
Fraternal & Publicity Director



Volunteers organize a few of the many baskets that were donated.



Trash to treasure items.

Lodge 144

AURORA, CO

Honoring Local Police Officers and Firemen on 9/11

GCU Lodge 144 was privileged to provide lunch for local community heroes, the police officers and detectives of Denver Police Department District 3 and the fire fighters of Denver Fire Department Station 2.

Lodge 144 is grateful to these brave men and women who protect and serve the community every day. Let us never forget the lives that were lost and the lives that were forever changed on that fateful day of September 11, 2001.

John Oslick



Above: fire fighters of Denver Fire Department Station 2 with GCU National Director John W. & Mary Ellen Oslick. At left: a police officer of Denver Police Department District 3 with GCU National Director John W. Oslick.

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Sharing Fun Summer Memories

Lodge 151 would like to share a few summer memories about activities members enjoyed over the summer. Marge Russell and daughter Suzanne visited granddaughter Lauren in her new apartment in Massachusetts. On the way home they stopped to visit Marge's grandson, Paul a senior at the Coast Guard Academy. The adventures continued with a trip to Buffalo to visit Marge's daughter Nancy and her family. Amagansett was next on the list to visit her other daughter Patti and her family. While there the family visited beautiful beaches, Montauk lighthouse, and shopped in East Hampton. It was a great month of August for Marge and her family.



Marge with grandchildren Jack & Emma.



Marge with daughters Patti & Suzanne.

Chrissy LoBello enjoyed the summer in Long Beach, Long Island. She invited many of her GCU friends to spend the day at the beach with her. Cathy & Dennis Walsh, Chris Hulak, Ann Kandrato and Laura Muhlfeld were among those who visited. Everyone had a great time.

Laura Muhlfeld wasn't ready to travel by air or stay at hotels, but felt she had to get away. Fortunately, she was invited to visit and stay with

friends on Long Island. She also attended her second cousin's wedding in Pennsylvania. It was great seeing family and friends she has known since childhood. These unexpected trips, so graciously offered by good friends and family made this a memorable summer for her.

Cathy & Dennis Walsh revisited The Sons of Italy meeting this year. While there, President Andrew Montelione and other members acknowledged their strength and recovery from their accident. Cathy and Dennis are looking great and keeping very active.

Chris Hulak writes "Swimming, knifing through the brilliant day water. Seeking the comfort of cool white clouds and endless sky. Celebrating with each stroke. Summer 2021." Her happy place this summer of 2021 was endless laps at her sister's spa-like Lifetime facility in Florham Park, NJ. Lap lanes in glistening blue waters offered great exercise and joy for hours. Chris' sister and brother-in-law graciously opened their beautiful home to her, with Chris' promise to take out Chinese food.

Ann Kandrato "rediscovered" - "it's a beautiful world" just outside her door. This beautiful world is Kissena Park, a veritable urban forest of stately maples, oaks, ginkgoes, Japanese cherry trees and "two roads diverged in a wood." Ann reveled in its shade many a summer day. She enjoyed the lake denizens, turtles, fish, a pair of swans, ducks, a lone pheasant on shore and the omnipresent Canadian geese, "seeing the world in a grain of sand."

Giving Back

With respect to Alberto Rios' poem, "When Giving Is All We Have," we give because someone gave to us." So once again volunteers sojourned to St. Raphael in Long Island with food, school supplies, summer shoes, hats, gloves, clothing and rosaries for distribution.

"We are better for it... the giving. It has changed us all ...for many years." Giving has many faces— teaching high school students to reach out to others, the faces

of compassionate older volunteers, the faces of new young people willing to pack bags, soldiers ready for the weekly pickup.

Lodge 151 members Christine Hulak, Ann Kandrato and James Hulak recognized these luminous volunteers with deliveries of pizza and drinks, to acknowledge their time and talent in service to others.

"Together, hand in hand, we hope to make something greater!"



Chrissy LoBello at Long Beach home.



Mama Mia! Pizza for all at St. Raphael's.



Ann and Chris (standing behind basket) donated a basket for Breast Cancer fundraiser.



Krissy Elias with one proud grandfather Mike Knapp.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Krissy Elias for her 11th place finish at the U.S. Figure Skating National Solo Dance Final for her Silver Pattern Dance. She also took home a silver medal for Pre-Gold Shadow Dance with her fellow skater and good friend.

With Sadness

Lodge 151 is saddened by the passing of Eleanor Dietz. She was the wife of past Athletic Director Peter Dietz. Eleanor was a very active GCU member and officer of Lodge 151 for many years and will be missed. Vicnaja pamjat! Her obituary appears on page 40.

Matching Funds Luncheon

The Church of the Resurrection in Smithtown, NY had its annual Matching Funds luncheon on September 26, and it was a huge success. It was a beautiful day for a picnic. Some people ordered their food and took it home, whereas many stayed and enjoyed the great lunch outdoors. Fr. Vladyslav, Deacon Bob Knapp and family enjoyed the day. Mrs. Vladyslav and the children made beautiful fall wreaths and sold them at the picnic. It was a great day.

Lodge 151 is hoping to have an annual meeting but at this time is unsure of a date. For more information call Marge at 516-307-1016.

Marge Russell | President

Christine Hulak | Treasurer



Lodge members supported Church of the Resurrection spaghetti dinner.

Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA

Celebrating 70th Anniversary

St. Mary's Pokrova Byzantine Catholic Rosary Society, recently celebrated their 70th anniversary with a Divine Liturgy for living members and a panachida for deceased members. Officers of the Rosary Society are President Mary Ann Evans, Vice President Catherine Lynch, Secretary Mary Ann Mehm and Secretary-Treasurer of Lodge 182 Laure Marcin. The Rosary Society has been a staple at St. Mary BC Church in Kingston. The society is especially known for its delicious holubki dinners. Saint Mary's Rosary Society would like to thank Mary Ann Savage, member of Lodge 182, for coordinating the event and obtaining the beautifully wrapped icons, given as gifts to each of the members.

Laure Marcin | Secretary-Treasurer



Row 1: Maria Terza, Mary Ann Savage, Mary Ann Evans, Laure Marcin, Catherine Lynch, Mary Ann Mehm, Joan Natishan. Row 2: Jenn Terza, Barbara Morris, Thea Seasock, Ivanna Prodanets, Mary Ann Wright, Lora Seasock and Marlene Williams. Row 3: Deacon Rich Terza, and Rev. Father Mykhaylo Prodanets.



Fr. Mychail Rozmarynowycz blessing the flag.



Altar Server, Deacon Paul Latcha, Fr. Mychail Rozmarynowycz, Lodge President John L. Minariah and John P. Minarish.

Lodge 250

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Flag Day Celebration

Lodge 250 honored the country's flag on Sunday, June 13. Following the 10 AM Liturgy at St. Basil the Great BC Church, everyone was invited to congregate around the flag for a short program. Lodge President John Minarish welcomed guests. Fraternal Activities Director John P. Minarish was on hand to assist in lowering the flag for a blessing by Fr. Mychail Rozmarynowycz. Deacon Paul Latcha was also in attendance. Following the program, refreshments were provided by the lodge for everyone's enjoyment.

Anita Cipa | Treasurer

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

Memorial Day Service

Every year, Lodge 302 proudly sponsors a Memorial Day Service at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church. Active service members and veterans from all branches come together to attend Liturgy and the service. Most veterans are GCU members, but all are welcome. After Liturgy, a service is held outside on the oval in front of the church. Crosses and American Flags are placed in remembrance of the fallen. Fr. Bruce Riebe led the prayer service and a few brief remarks were made by President Judy Weitzel.

This year, two brothers from the Brecksville High School Marching Band, a local school district, played "Echo Taps" while two lodge members raised the American Flag. It is always a very moving moment in the program. Thanking those in attendance, President Weitzel invited all to enjoy a light luncheon in the church hall.

We thank all the Lodge 302 members who prepared the luncheon and made the event possible.

First Annual Bishop's Golf Classic

Lodge 302 was well represented at the *Eparchy of Parma's First Ever Bishop's Golf Classic* held at Medina Country Club on August 23, 2021. Title Sponsor was the GCU and President/CEO George N. Juba and National Director Michael Karaffa, were among the participants. Over 90 golfers participated in the first-time event. It was a beautiful day for golf and a delicious luncheon was served as well.

The Bishop's Golf Classic will directly impact the four established eparchial funds: 1. Development of Parishes; 2. Promotion of Vocations & Seminary Education; 3. Pension Fund for Priests and 4. Apostolate Work. Many thanks to the GCU in their continued generosity to strengthen the church.



President George N. Juba (center), GCU National Directors Mike Karaffa (in green) and John Urban (in blue) with Lodge 302 golfers.



Veterans before Liturgy.



Flag Raising & the playing of Taps.

14th Annual Fr. John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing

Numerous Lodge 302 members participated in the *14th Annual Father John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing* on September 11, 2021 at Copper Top Golf Club. A fun day of golf and prizes was provided. Many of the golfers were generous in returning their prize money back to St. Emilian Byzantine Catholic Church in Brunswick, OH, host of the event.

Christine Bratnick |
Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 31
Approximately 11:45 AM

St. Joseph Church parking lot behind Activity Center, Brecksville, OH 44141

Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, November 14
Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

Activity Center Hall
St. Joseph BC Church
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH 44141

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 44141

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.

Holiday Cash Giveaway Fundraiser

Drawing: Sunday, December 19, 2021
Following 10:30 AM Liturgy in the church hall

Prizes: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$100, 3rd-\$75

Benefits: Joel's Place for Children

Contact: cbratnick@sbcglobal.net for tickets and info

Lodge 316

PHILIPSBURG, NJ

Christopher Meddaugh Memorial Golf Outing

After a one year hiatus due to the pandemic, Lodge 316 again joined the Christopher Meddaugh Foundation in a Community Matching Funds Project to raise funds for scholarships to Notre Dame High School students in Bethlehem Township, PA. This was the Foundation's 10th annual golf outing and it was held on Saturday, August 20 at the Green Pond Country Club in Bethlehem Township. The four-golfer scramble had skill prizes for hit the green, longest drive and closest to the pin. Thirty-three golfers took part in this year's event. Golfers received a backpack with snacks, golf balls, sunscreen, lip gloss and hand sanitizer. Thanks to the GCU and Shop Rite for these donations. Following golf, additional friends and family attended a delicious buffet and fellowship. Prizes were awarded and everyone agreed it was a great day!

The success over these ten years has allowed the Foundation to provide scholarships to both high school graduates and returning students. To date \$36,000.00 in scholarships have been awarded and donations of \$2,500.00 to Notre Dame High School for upgrades to the science labs and \$3,600.00 to the Immune Deficiency Foundation for education and research were made. These donations and scholarships were all made in memory of Christopher Meddaugh. Thank you to everyone who has supported the event over these ten years!

Kathleen Meddaugh | Secretary-Treasurer



Golfer and volunteers had a great day!



Gary & Kathleen Meddaugh register golfers and hand out GCU backpacks with snacks and gifts.



Holy Communion.

Lodge 321

BRADENVILLE, PA

Youth Receive Reconciliation and Holy Communion

Just as all other parishes have had to deal with the pandemic, so has St. Mary BC Church home of GCU Lodge 321. Three young parishioners received the Sacrament

of Reconciliation in March. They received Holy Communion as a group on May 2. Special thanks to their instructor Sherrie Wood, who prepared the students to receive the sacraments. Lodge 321 presented the recipients with a Byzantine cross on a chain to commemorate the reception of their Holy Communion.

The students are Stephen Soltis, Mila Almanza and Brady Metarko.

The parish's pastor, Rev. Joseph Borodach, has been assisted this year by Rev. Athanasius Cherry, OSB as he was awaiting hip surgery.

Looking Ahead

Later this fall, the lodge is planning a fundraiser to help to offset donations lost when people could not attend church due to the pandemic.

Laurene Kristof |
Fraternal & Publicity Director



Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Helping Hands Day

Lodge 351 again participated in the Helping Hands Day at St. Jude BC Church in Ernest, PA. Theresa Frederick, Stryker Little, Addy Little, Monica Kowalski and Patty Yamrick planted flowers at the St. Jude statue, as well as in planters in the back of the church. An interesting note is that a corn stalk has grown up among the flowers planted by the statue. There is one ear of corn

waiting to be picked. No one is sure how this corn stalk ended up among the flowers, but it added to the overall beauty. Campbell and Son Lawncare LLC was on hand to help with some of the more difficult planting jobs. Andy, Bethany, and Cosby Campbell worked to plant four hydrangea plants at the Ernest Veteran's Memorial located on the parish grounds. Campbell and Son



Bethany, Cosby & Andy Cambell.

donated their efforts in honor of the veterans, leaving some extra money that was used to buy additional plants and flowers for St. Jude's. The lodge hopes that God sends some special blessings down on Campbell and Son for their generosity.



Love Basket: front Addy Little and Stryker Little and back: Monica Kowalski holding Isabelle Little.

Love Basket Program

During the month of July, Lodge 351 participated in the Love Basket program. It is sponsored by the local churches in Indiana County to collect non-perishable food items to assist when food sources become low at local food banks. The collection was held in June and July. This year the lodge collected more items than usual. The items were delivered on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Stryker, Addy, Zoe & Isabelle Little and Monica Kowalski were on hand to help with the delivery.



Fr. Vasyl Kadar and Addy Little.

First Confession & Communion

On April 4, 2021, Easter Sunday, Addaleine Little, one of the young members of Lodge 351, received her first confession and communion at St. Jude BC Church in Ernest. Father Vasyl Kadar, administrator at St. Jude, held a beautiful Divine Liturgy for this special Easter Sunday for Addaleine. She is the daughter of Christopher & Kathryn Little, and sister to Stryker, Zoe and Isabelle. God Bless Addaleine with many blessed years as she grows in holiness.

Ernest Miner's Memorial

Lodge 351 completed the Community Matching Funds for the rendering of the Ernest Miners' Memorial. The \$2,000.00 raised will cover the costs of the rendering. Lodge 351 is very grateful to all those who contributed to this fundraiser. A committee was formed earlier in the year and they are working with Barb Hauge from UpStreet Architect's of Indiana, PA to complete finishing touches to the rendering. The committee: Kate Little; Sandra Waldenville, mayor of Ernest; Mark Broskin, the administrator of the Ernest Mine Site on Facebook, and Monica Kowalski, has been meeting regularly to develop the plans. The project received approval by the



Barb Hauge (Upstreet Architects) Katie, Isabelle, Zoe & Addy Little, Mark Broskin and Karen (Intern at Upstreet Architects from Penn State).

Ernest Borough Council, and the Ernest Miners' Memorial will be located at the Old Mine Office Site in Ernest, PA. Once the plans are completed, the committee is looking toward pursuing additional grant funding that is available to complete the memorial site. Katie Little is

spearheading this project, and members of Lodge 351 thank her for coordinating the meetings.

Patty Yamrick | Fraternal Activities Director

UPCOMING LODGE 360 EVENT

Food & Personal Care Items Drive

October 17-November 21, 2021

Non-Perishable Food

New Personal Care Items

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church
463 Robinson Road, Campbell, OH
44405

Benefits—Our Community Kitchen Food Pantry
551 Mahoning Avenue, Youngstown, OH
44502

A Holiday Item and Gift Card raffle will be held on Sunday November 21st after Liturgy. Any one donating items is eligible for 1 free entry into the raffle. Additional tickets will be sold for 6 for \$5.⁰⁰.

For more information: call Secretary-Treasurer Lisa Romito at 330-881-8171.

Lodge 401 NANTY GLO, PA

Annual Flower Planting

Earlier this year Beverly Chekan and her daughter, Andrea Sheesley embarked on their annual project of planting flowers around the statue of the Blessed Mother on the front lawn of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Nanty-Glo, PA. Their talent with flowers has enhanced the area around the statue for several years. We thank them for volunteering their time and effort.



Andrea Sheesley (kneeling) and Bev Chekan.



Michael Tatarko Jr., Brian Soyka, Brenda Cassol Turous, Lori Tatarko and Steve Bender.



Karen Tummino and Lori Bender.

Basket Party Fundraiser

With the relaxing of restrictions brought on by COVID-19, GCU Lodge 401 held its first fundraiser. It was a basket party that had been canceled in the early part of 2020. A community event with proceeds going to the St. Charles Cemetery Committee in Twin Rocks, PA to construct a chapel near the cemetery in memory of Dr. Michael Tatarko. Dr. Tatarko a well-known area physician who died in January 2020, was a member of the

cemetery committee. Dr. Mike and committee members were in the early planning stages for a chapel.

The event finally materialized on July 11, 2021 at the Nanty-Glo Fire Hall. It was a group effort with members of Lodge 401, the Tatarko family, volunteer firemen and many friends. Donations included 187 gift baskets, six homemade quilts crafted by Dr. Mike's late sister, Mary Ann, and numerous extra large gift baskets. Enough homemade cakes were donated to provide a complimentary slice of cake and a beverage to over 300 guests. Hamburgers and hot dogs were also available.

With the Community Matching Funds from the Home Office, this event netted over \$20,323.⁰⁰ towards the chapel fund—the most successful fundraiser to date.

The success of this event was due to the cooperation of so many people. Whether at church or in the grocery store, people would stop and say they were donating a basket,



Shown are the many baskets at the fundraiser.

CONTINUED

Lodge 401 CONTINUED

volunteering to help at the event or sending a monetary donation.

While the proceeds raised were significant the committee was equally pleased with the camaraderie of working with people within the community and other churches.

Lodge 401 extends a thank you and blessings to all who made this event special and successful in so many ways.



Annual Flea Market

Lodge 401 in conjunction with the Ladies Guild of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, held their annual two-day flea market September 10 - 11, 2021. Profits from the event will be used for much needed extraordinary repairs in the church and social hall. A special thanks goes to Veronica Melcotti for being in charge of the event and to all her helpers and patrons. Thank you to the GCU Home Office for providing Parish Matching Funds.

Gene Ostinowsky | Vice President



Flea Market coordinator
Veronica Melcotti.

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

It has been a beautiful summer (a little rainy at times), but now it is time for Mother Nature to show off. All the splendor of colors for the fall foliage will soon adorn all the hilltops and mountains. If you get a chance, take a road trip and enjoy the many splendid colors, because after that everything will be barren and ready for winter! (Ugh)

Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage

Congratulations are extended to the Kasarda and Shemansky families for their celebrations of 50 years of marriage on July 31, 2021. Stories appear on page 11. May God bless and grant them many, many more years.

Bowling League Update

The GHRL bowling league was prepared to start on Wednesday, September 1, but Mother Nature had other ideas. The area was surprised with over 5 inches of rain and damaging winds pushing back the start of the season to September 8. Hopefully, instead of only getting nine weeks of bowling as happened last year, the league will get the entire scheduled 30 weeks of bowling in this season.

Helping Hands

On Saturday, October 9 volunteers headed down to Holy Annunciation Monastery for the fall Helping Hands Day. Liturgy was at 8 AM and work continued from 9 AM to 12 PM. Thanks to all that came out and helped in the fall cleanup.

Looking Ahead

A new craze locally is axe throwing. A few GHRL bowlers took part in this new adventure and said it was very relaxing and they had a great time. Maybe it will be one way of getting rid of your frustrations. The lodge will perhaps consider an outing for this activity in the future.

Questions about bus trips and other activities continue to be asked. Some of the places that GHRL usually visits

are not open as of yet or are currently not accepting bus trips. There are still many who are hesitant about traveling to certain destinations because of the COVID-19 variants. GHRL will keep everyone up to date as everything slowly returns to a little more normalcy. One of the trips being planned is to Sight and Sound Theater to see "David" next year. More information will follow after discussions with the theater, dinner reservation plans and bus company details are worked out. A lot of the places continued to be marked as TBD.

Save the date, Sunday, December 12—planning continues for the St. Nicholas Dinner at Capriotti's Restaurant. Although tentative at the moment, changes will be published as they become available.

Do not forget, that Thursday, November 11 is Veterans Day. If you happen to know or see a veteran, give them a salute and thank them for their service for our great country.

Here is wishing all GCU members a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. May God bless all with good health, friendship and hopefully the end of this dreaded pandemic. Please give thanks to all who have helped get the country through these difficult times and keep in your prayers and thoughts those who have been devastated by the pandemic and natural disasters through this past year.

As always, I try to keep everyone updated on the GHRL list of activities. If you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 570-454-4869 or email me at agnesr@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

Night at the Races

On Saturday, July 21 a long-anticipated Night at the Races took place at St. John Chrysostom's Hall in Greenfield. The event benefited St. John the Baptist BC Church on Pittsburgh's South Side. Lodge favorite Jim Reynolds, continues to be as entertaining as always as the race caller. Food was excellent (kudos to the chefs). Lots of laughter, fun, shouts of joy and groans of defeat. Raffle baskets were all donated and unbelievably

amazing. The 50/50 drawing netted the winning person \$172.⁰⁰. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event. A special thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make the event a success. A cake for lodge member, Clay Cato, celebrating his 83rd birthday was also enjoyed. It was great to see everyone. Until next year—Adios!

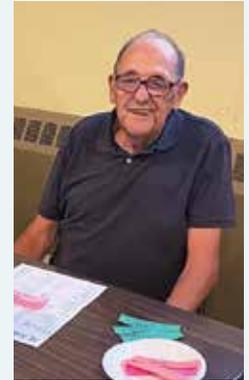
Barbara Rebovich



Members enjoying the event.



Basket Raffle.



Clay Cato.

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL) CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

Hoagie Sale

Munhall Central Volunteer Fire Co. held a hoagie sale at St. John Cathedral Center at the end of July.

The firemen along with SEPRL members Fr. Andrew Deskevich and the Bovee family made almost 300—16 inch Italian hoagies and 100 turkey hoagies.

The firemen were able to raise over \$4,000.⁰⁰ to buy much needed equipment for the department.

Thanks to all who helped and to those who purchased the VERY fresh hoagies.

Patty Bovee |
Treasurer & Fraternal Publicity Director



The assembly lines making hoagies.



Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA

Saint Andrew Bakeless Bake Sale

Based on a suggestion by their pastor Father Radko Bilchar, the Saint Andrew BC Church parishioners were notified of the bids received for the new front entrance doors and windows. A Bakeless Bake Sale flyer was sent to them with information on the three bids. The parishioners in turn donated \$5,800.00 towards the cost. A GCU Parish Match added another \$5,000.00 towards the approximate cost of \$13,000.00. The work was estimated to take up to 19 weeks. A follow-up photo showing the completed project will be placed in the *GCU Magazine* when the work is completed.



Donation made to Fisher House.



Juliana & Roman Carr, with Amanda Galiyas.

Fighting FORE Roman Golf Outing

The 6th annual Fighting FORE Roman Golf Outing took place on August 21, 2021 at Quicksilver Golf Course in Midway, PA. The Fighting FORE Roman Golf Outing is a charity golf outing that raised money for the Neurofibromatosis Clinics Association of Pittsburgh (NFCA). The NFCA is a local non-profit organization dedicated to serving people with NF and their families in the Pittsburgh area. GCU Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge has been a very supportive sponsor of this event. The golfers loved receiving the GCU drawstring bags, sunscreen, and hand sanitizers. This 2021 event was another tremendous success raising \$14,000.00 for the NFCA. We are very thankful for the GCU NWPRL's continued dedication and generosity that helps make this event so successful!

Fisher House Donation

This summer the NW Pittsburgh Regional Lodge in cooperation with three parishes held their third annual collection program for the Pittsburgh VA Hospital Fisher House. Fisher House provides accommodations and general living supplies for the families of those receiving treatment at the Pittsburgh VA hospital. They have an ongoing need to replenish the supplies used.

Roxanne Savka | Vice President

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer

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NWPRL fall fundraiser.

Lodge 644

AKRON & BARBERTON, OH

Fr. John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing

Coppertop Golf Course in Valley City, OH provided the perfect venue to host the 14th Annual Fr. John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing on September 11, 2021. Mother Nature added a beautiful sun filled day for the 60 men and women to tee it up and enjoy an afternoon of golf. The event concluded with a buffet dinner, prizes and games of chance. GCU members were among the golfers also pitched in to sell tickets at the ball drop, raffle prizes and pull-tab board. The event was a great success and a GCU Matching Funds event for St. Emilian BC Church in Brunswick, OH.

Sue Irving | President



Sue Irving selling pull tab tickets.



Joe & Matthew Olesik.



Donna Bodnar selling door prizes & raffle tickets.



St. Emilians temporary priest Fr. Bob Kelly with golf organizer Mike Gagle.



John Faulkner and team.

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-s- Basil M. Wahal, Managing Editor

UPCOMING LODGE 999 EVENTS

Fall Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 30, 2021

3 PM to 8 PM

\$5-Hayride, Trunk or Treat + Fire Pit

St. Stephen Cathedral

8141 North 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Benefits The Sisters of St. Basil, Uniontown, PA

50/50 Drawing Tickets

Winner drawn on Sunday, October 31, 2021

\$5 per ticket or 6 for \$25

Benefits The Sisters of St. Basil, Uniontown, PA

Tickets can be purchased from any Lodge 999 Officer

For Your Information

Events

64th Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

Sunday, December 5
Moleben at 3 PM
Social Begins 4 PM
Dinner at 5 PM

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center
 Munhall, PA

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

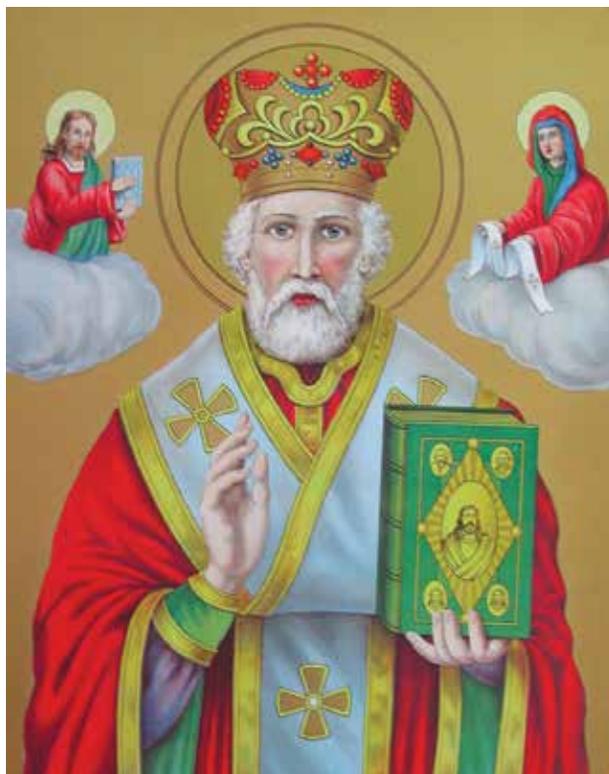
Having sold nearly 18,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 20th printing and was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs 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.



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.



International Golf Tournament-Treasure Lake Golf Resort, DuBois, PA August 6-8, 2021



Edward Savikas, Mary Ruth Savikas, Thomas Gmiter and GCU member Ted Trbovich.



Ronald Cairns, Charles Houser, Michael Mantsch and John Miller.



Michael W. & Bryan Karaffa, George N. Juba and Greg Vladika.



Cathy & Carol Macko and GCU members Janice & Kesley Karaffa.



Tom & Matt Hoenninger with Benjamin Jones.



Robert & Greg Macko and GCU members Joe & Kyle Karaffa.

Participant	Hdcp. Total	Scratch Total	Place	Fraternal
"A" Flight Winners				
David Degol	144	154	1st	FCSU
Greg Vladika	144	158	2nd	GCU
Zachary Oravetz	145	165	3rd (T)	SCS
John Rosa	145	167	3rd (T)	FCSU
Gary Watkins	145	159	3rd (T)	SCS
Dave Iskra, Sr.	146	158	6th	SCS
Adam Macurak	149	167	7th	SCS
"B" Flight Winners				
Ryan Burfield	140	168	1st	SCS
Matt Hoenninger	143	171	2nd	GCU
Kyle Karaffa	145	181	3rd (T)	GCU
Ronald Cairns	145	183	3rd (T)	GCU
Tom Iskra, Jr.	150	184	5th	SCS
Rusty Groner	151	177	6th (T)	FCSU
Derek Johnston	151	181	6th (T)	FCSU
Peter Underation	151	189	6th (T)	SCS
Tom Hoenninger	152	178	9th (T)	GCU
Bob Macko	152	180	9th (T)	SCS
"C" Flight Winners				
Hvozdovic, Jr.	135	193	1st	SCS
Moeller	143	185	2nd	SCS
Fareri	151	193	3rd	SCS
Papcun	153	197	4th	SCS
Pogorelec, Jr.	154	196	5th	SCS
Recker	155	201	6th	SCS
Macko	156	204	7th	SCS

Participant	Hdcp. Total	Scratch Total	Place	Fraternal
"Callaway" Flight Winners				
Joseph Murry	140	147	1st	SCS
Frank Pipak, Jr.	145	181	2nd	FCSU
John E. Pastorek, Jr.	147	189	3rd	FCSU
Ronald P. Harr	151	222	4th (T)	FCSU
Greg Macko	151	202	4th (T)	SCS
Thomas Pipak	151	226	4th (T)	FCSU
Carter Kovalcik	152	191	7th	SCS
Joseph R. Burkhart	153	243	8th (T)	FCSU
Joshua Smith	153	202	8th (T)	SCS
Luke Underation	153	227	8th (T)	SCS
Steve Vargo	153	206	8th (T)	FCSU
"Senior" Flight Winners				
Albert Suess, Jr.	140	160	1st	SCS
John Metarko	146	178	2nd	FCSU
Robert J. Shedlock	147	193	3rd	SCS
Steve Pogorelec, Sr.	148	170	4th	SCS
Joe Burfield	149	175	5th	SCS
David Sinagra	151	189	6th	FCSU
Frank Lipski	152	186	7th (T)	SCS
Michael Mantsch	152	192	7th (T)	GCU
Martin P. Finklestine, Sr.	153	175	9th (T)	FCSU
Keith Shedlock	153	189	9th (T)	SCS
Robert Macurak	154	192	11th (T)	SCS
David Pcsolar	154	200	11th (T)	GCU

Participant	Hdcp. Total	Scratch Total	Place	Fraternal
"Women" Flight Winners				
Mary Jo Goss	148	190	1st	SCS
Mary Margaret Starr	151	211	2nd	SCS
Linda Frank	152	239	3rd (T)	SCS
Janice Karaffa	152	235	3rd (T)	GCU
Loretta Smith	152	209	3rd (T)	SCS
Carol Macko	153	228	6th	SCS
Kayla Kopchak	154	241	7th (T)	SCS
Mary Ruth Savikis	154	241	7th (T)	SCS
Stephanie Skorupka	154	199	7th (T)	SCS

2021 GCU Fall Golf Classic Winners

Monday, September 20

at Seven Oaks Country Club

Golfer, City/State & Prize

Gerry Corbo, Medina, OH—A Flight 1st Place Gross
 Michael W. Karaffa, Strongsville, OH—A Flight 1st Place Net
 Nick Peklansky, East Mckeesport, PA—A Flight 2nd Place Net
 Jim Pecnik, Scville, OH—B Flight 1st Place Gross
 John Niskach, Pittsburgh, PA—B Flight 1st Place Net
 Zachary Wahal, Moon Twp., PA—B Flight 2nd Place Net
 Joseph Greco, New Brighton, PA—C Flight 1st Place Gross
 Tyler Smith, West Mifflin, PA—C Flight 1st Place Net
 Roger Champlin, Copley, OH—Senior Flight 1st Place Gross
 David J. Pcsolar, Irwin, PA—Senior Flight 1st Place Net
 Frank Yurkovich, West Mifflin, PA—Senior Flight 2nd Place Net
 Bill Uram Jr., Butler, PA—Senior Flight 3rd Place Net
 Jean Karaffa, Strongsville, OH—Women 1st Place Gross
 Karen Adamcik, West Mifflin, PA—Women 1st Place Net
 Patricia M. Kutzfara, Elizabeth, PA—Women 2nd Place Net



David Pcsolar with Matt & Tom Hoenninger.



John Laymen, Christopher Kovalyak & Stephen Suchan.



Fred Peters, JoAnn Patross and Nancy Crouthamel.



Dave Hughes, Charles Reich, Steve Gattuso and Joseph Greco.



Frank Yurkovich, Albert Peklansky, Wayne Macuga and Nick Peklansky.



George S. Smith, Shawn Posey and Bill Uram Jr.



Matt Basl, John & Pat Kutzfara and John Niskach.



Bob Macko, Jim Pecnik, Joe Karaffa and Roger Champlin.



Jean & Mike Karaffa and Gerry Corbo.



Karen Adamcik, Cheryl Fischer and Lorene Burns.

Basil Wahal, Tyler Smith and Zack Wahal.



James Straley, Ray Alexander, Paul R. Lebanik and John Maracek.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- GHRL Ethel Adams, Longs, SC
10 Thomas Alexander, Aliquippa, PA
8344 H. David Aliskowitz, Sewickley, PA
8344 Irene Andrachek, Monessen, PA
8324 Anna M. Aquila, Eldersburg, MD
8344 Katherine J. Bachtell,
Hollidaysburg, PA
8306 Michael Balascak, Devon, CT
8344 Mary G. Barbera, Warren, PA
SPRL William John Barker, White Oak, PA
8344 Esther F. Bauman, Milesburg, PA
8344 Margaret Behunek, White Oak, PA
271 Maria A. Birkenbach, Kildeer, IL
8344 Joanne M. Brodrick, Export, PA
8304 Goldie Brustein, Mission Viejo, CA
8344 William H. Buchholz, E. Apollo, PA
351 Stephen Budinsky, Canonsburg, PA
8344 Wilmer Campbell, Moon Twp., PA
8309 Linda L. Capobianco, Orlando, FL
8304 Sheri M. Carrillo, Carson City, NV
258 Paul Alan Cefrick, Pulaski, PA
8344 Donna M. Chapman, Portage, PA
CPRL John Chromey, Pittsburgh, PA
302 Beatrice S. Chrusic,
Maple Heights, OH
319 Elizabeth A. Chupp, Constantine, MI
340 Lisa J. Cianciulli, Elizabeth, NJ
994 Matthew Cirilli, Export, PA
8359 Mildred M. Cope, Candler, NC
8359 Evelyn M. Costella, Wilson, NC
8344 Anna Cranmer, Butler, PA
994 Gertrude M. Cummings,
Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Mary Louise Cummings, Irwin, PA
8344 William Curran, Indiana, PA
302 Nick Danculovic, Kirtland, OH
8344 Catherine Dangelo, Warren, PA
8309 Lottie C. Davenport, Deland, FL
NPRL Thomas B. Devlin, Pittsburgh, PA
644 Carl Dicarolo, Warren, OH
8344 Julia DiDomenico, Carnegie, PA
151 Eleanor Dietz, Staten Island, NY
8344 Vincenzo Dinunno, Coraopolis, PA
8359 Julia E. Dixon, Charlotte, NC
8344 Ruth E. Dohler, Perry, GA
CPRL Patricia Dubchak, Pittsburgh, PA
62 Harold Dubensky, De Lancey, PA
GHRL Stephen J. Dusheck, Hazleton, PA
401 Mike Fenchak, Nanty Glo, PA
182 Albert Ferkel, Kingston, PA
8304 Everett E. Frye, Carlsbad, CA
8344 Denton Fulmer, Indiana, PA
NPRL Arvilla J. Galuschik, Patton, PA
8344 Phillip Gasper, Bellefonte, PA
8327 Jerome Glowacki, Sauk Centre, MN
8344 Eleanor Goehring, Verona, PA
8326 Rolland E. Gokey, Interlochen, MI
62 Helen J. Gomola, Marion Center, PA
8304 Fern Goodrum, Perris, CA
8315 J. Klein Goodwin, Chesterton, IN
8344 Helen Gretkowski, Exton, PA
NPRL Herman J. Grottenthaler,
Pittsburgh, PA
NPRL Mary Hadzima, Euclid, OH
8344 Gladys Hall, Snow Shoe, PA
999 Philip A. Hamilton, Gilbert, AZ
8344 Pauline Hardy, Danielsville, PA
CPRL John Herb, Pittsburgh, PA
18 Paul J. Homer, Dunbar, PA
336 Barbara Hrapchak, Mentor, OH
254 Joseph Hudicka, Manville, NJ
8344 Elizabeth Johnson, Nanty Glo, PA
8344 Gary W. Johnson, Warren, PA
271 Mary Johnson, Bend, OR
8309 Susan C. Johnson, Ocala, FL
8344 Stephen Kanner, Easton, PA
8358 Oakley Kelty, Manitowoc, WI
8344 Charles Kendlick, Washington, PA
8344 Franklin Kisenwether, Drums, PA
401 Michael Kisic, Belsano, PA
8344 Mary Klark, Tionesta, PA
8344 Caroline Kolich, Johnstown, PA
340 Theresa Konar, Hopelawn, NJ
GHRL Dolores Kowalski, Drums, PA
81 Andrew Kushner, Uniontown, PA
GHRL Eleanor Lahutsky, Barnesville, PA
8358 Glenwood D. Larson, Middleton, WI
SPRL John F. Lazar, Elizabeth, PA
GHRL Jeanette M. Lohin, Minersville, PA
8344 Patricia J. Lumley, Jamestown, PA
81 Norma Lutes, California, PA
8344 Kenneth MacRae, Fenelton, PA
8304 Myrla E. Mapel, Yorba Linda, CA
211 Gerald J. Marcinek, Peckville, PA
92 Michael Marek, Throop, PA
644 Gregory Marhevka, Brunswick, OH
8344 Judith M. Markley, Walnutport, PA
8344 Barbara A. Martin, Apollo, PA
319 Cynthia Marzonie-Nichols,
Canon City, CO
8344 Robert May, Drexel Hill, PA
10 Shawn M. McMillen, Aliquippa, PA
8344 Bruce G. Mehus, Indiana, PA
8358 William F. Meis, Stratford, WI
8341 Arlene J. Michalka, Strasburg, OH
8370 Mary R. Mihalik, Alberta Canada, AB
999 Savina Mikus, Phoenix, AZ
10 Robert Miles, Aliquippa, PA
8312 Jerome V. Moffitt, Post Falls, ID
8344 Bernice Mondy, North Cambria, PA
8344 Edith Mountain, Trafford, PA
8344 Patricia Musante, Warren, PA
8344 Peter A. Nelson, Murrysville, PA
271 Jean Neuman, Yorkville, IL
8344 Amy L. Newhouse, Greensburg, PA
8304 Joyce M. Nolte, Simi Valley, CA
316 Priscilla M. Nor, Allentown, PA
15 Mary Nucera, Bordentown, NJ
164 Mary Passek, Farmdale, OH
8344 Janet L. Patteson, Annville, PA
NPRL Elizabeth I. Pavelick, Gibsonia, PA
8344 Terry E. Pepper, Wampum, PA
8344 Mary V. Pepkowski, Pipersville, PA

8344 Carol G. Pfister, Schwenksville, PA
8344 Patricia L. Phillips, Lebanon, PA
GHRL Theresa Pilo, Huntingdon Valley, PA
625 Thelma A. Popp, Mineral Point, PA
8344 David Powers, Butler, PA
8344 Irene Reagan, Pleasant Unity, PA
81 Donald Riggle, Bentleyville, PA
8344 Barbara Riley, Johnstown, PA
8344 Raymond D. Rolewski, Pittsburgh, PA
SPRL John Rosko, Edinburg, PA
8344 Thomas H. Ross, Lewisburg, PA
8344 Maria Roth, Pittsburgh, PA
8304 Sherry A. Rubalcaba, La Puente, CA
8344 Dolores J. Rupani, Burgettstown, PA
8344 Raymond Rykaczewski, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Marsha B. Sachais, Tannersville, PA
8344 James Saieva, Muse, PA
8333 Marlene Sandor-Boucher, Henderson, NV
8344 Mary O. Sarneski, Duncansville, PA
CPRL Thomas Schaefer, Pittsburgh, PA
SPRL Esther V. Schreck, Needville, TX
271 John F. Schultz, Willow Springs, IL
81 Norma Scott, Hopwood, PA
8344 William J. Scott, Tarentum, PA
8349 Glenn C. Scrivner, Lipan, TX
8344 Gerald S. Seary, Pottsville, PA
SPRL Grace M. Seeman, West Mifflin, PA
8344 Herbert R. Sellers, Johnstown, PA
994 Joan Shawgo, Grove City, PA
8304 Carol Sherwood, Ojai, CA
665 John A. Sillup, Worcester, MA
GHRL Mary Soltis, Drums, PA
8344 Paul Starinsky, Washington, PA
8344 Daniel F. Stauffer, Bloomsburg, PA
SPRL Mary Stein, South Park, PA
8341 Donna R. Stewart, LaGrange, OH
69 Gloria Stickel, Bryn Mawr, PA
8344 Richard M. Stofan, Beaver Falls, PA
8358 Louis A. Sworske, Colgate, WI
CPRL James Takach, Pittsburgh, PA
109 Gerald Tarcha, Butler, PA
8344 Harold C. Thomas, Orwigsburg, PA
SPRL Veronica V. Thompson, North Huntingdon, PA
8344 Anthony Tomassoni, Warren, PA
8344 John T. Troyer, Milroy, PA
994 Norma Tullio, Crescent, PA
10 Mamie Vallecorsa, Pittsburgh, PA
8326 Andrew W. Van Beelen, Monistee, MI
8304 Kees P. Van Rees, Carson, CA
8344 Joann Walker, Cecil, PA
57 Martha Walters, Madison, WI
CPRL Carol E. Watkins, Triangle, VA
8344 John Watro, Hazleton, PA
8344 Vera S. Weidemoyer, Harleysville, PA
271 Carlton Wilke, North Aurora, IL
8344 Jeanne M. Wolf, Ebensburg, PA
8344 Richard D. Yancich, Dilliner, PA
10 Donald E. Yasick, The Villages, FL
8344 George C. Yates, Canonsburg, PA
8344 Lois J. Young, Point Marion, PA
8344 Oscar A. Zeiler, Schuylkill Haven, PA
8341 James M. Zelinko, Northwood, OH
8344 Dorothy L. Zook, Casper, WY
57 Mary Zuchowski, Daisytown, PA
151 Joseph Zutelis, Valatie, NY

*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

Eleanor Dietz

Eleanor Dietz, 90, of Staten Island, NY and a member of GCU Lodge 151, passed away on August 21, 2021 peacefully at home, following a short illness.

Born in Perth Amboy, NJ the daughter of the late George & Anna (Mikulka) Himich. After several years the family moved to New York City and attended St. Mary Church located on 13th Street, where she met her husband, Peter Dietz. They eloped and were married at Fort Sill, OK on January 6, 1951 while Peter was serving in the Army.

As a dedicated GCU member, she served as an officer of GCU Lodge 151 and as Secretary-Treasurer of District 7 for many years. She attended several conventions as a lodge delegate. She

bowled in both the NY GCU Mixed Bowling League and the District 7 Travel League. Although she never played golf, she could usually be seen sitting near the 18th green at District 7 and National Golf Tournaments waiting patiently for family and friends.

She enjoyed all kinds of needlework, sewing, knitting, reading, crossword puzzles and classical music. She shared a love of travel with her husband and delighted in traveling with her children and grandchildren all over the world.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband Peter. She is survived by her children Richard (Carol) of Denver, CO; Patricia of Staten Island, NY; Paul (Marguerite) of Glenmoore, PA; 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren; a

brother George (Elaine) Himich of West Palm Beach, FL and other relatives.

The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Thomas the Apostle Church by Right Rev. Archpriest, James Hayer, Rev. John Zeyack and Deacons Charles Laskowski & Thomas Shubeck. Also in attendance was Rev. John Custer. The responses were sung by her daughter, Patricia, with the assistance of three of her grandchildren and others. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.

Sister Salome Yanochko

In recent years, when Sister Salome was asked what she was doing in her retirement, she would reply, “Waiting for the Lord.” Her time of waiting ended on the evening of Wednesday, September 29 when the Lord came to take Sister to her heavenly home.

Sister Salome (Helen) Yanochko was born in Freeland, PA, the daughter of Andrew & Mary (Sakosky) Yanochko. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown on September 15, 1950 from St. Mary BC Church in Freeland, PA and made her Final Profession of Vows on January 1, 1956 in the presence of the late Very Rev. George Bonchonsky.

From 1953, when she was first assigned to teach, Sister Salome was busy shaping the lives of first and second graders. She loved teaching and spent 59 years in this ministry, 24 at St. Mary School in Cleveland, OH. Sister brought to her classroom the gift of her gentle ways and her enthusiasm for any advances in methodology. She took great delight in learning and using whatever technology was available to help those entrusted to her care.

During the summers, Sister’s artistic talent came to the fore when she spent hours faithfully decorating the large “medovniki” hearts which were so much a part of the annual pilgrimage. Each year she varied the decorations, always adding her significant touch of beauty to them. Probably

her favorite pilgrimage ministry was at the ice cream stand; there she enjoyed greeting the pilgrims from the side window with a smile.

After retiring from the teaching ministry, Sister Salome returned to the Monastery. Almost immediately, looking to be helpful, she assisted the sacristan in several ways. There are many small “duties” in a monastery, and Sister Salome took care of some of these in her quiet and unassuming manner. Among these was her careful tending to the peace plants that can be found in the foyer or corridor. We know they will miss her touch. No less will her absence be felt in her lively conversation at table, in her subtle sense of humor and in her smiles. In all, the hallmark of her work and presence was her cheerful disposition.

Sister Salome wished to be remembered for her deep faith and prayer, and her Sisters in community can attest to this. It was a rare occasion for Sister Salome’s place to be empty in the chapel. As for being remembered for her love of teaching, her many students over the course of her career can surely attest to this.

Metropolitan William noted that Sister’s teaching career covered three generations. We cannot measure the effect of her teaching on the lives of those who passed through her hands. So many changes occurred during these years in her life and in the lives of her students. These changes re-

sulted in the transformation of her own life as a Sister of St. Basil. By her lessons, as well as by her own deep faith, she laid the foundation for her students to be formed in a rich spiritual tradition. We can only rejoice with Sister in the years she gave wholeheartedly to the Lord. Her memory lives forever in our hearts.

Sister Salome was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers John, Michael & Nicholas Yanochko and her sister Mary Kusmider. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by her brother Andrew and her sisters Anna Yanochko and Irene Larkin. Rev. Will Rupp celebrated the Parastas Service on Friday, October 1 at the Monastery Chapel. Archbishop William C. Skurla celebrated the Funeral Divine Liturgy on Saturday, October 2 with Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain, as concelebrant. Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mount Macrina Cemetery.

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



Invested in
Education

2021-2022 GCU Scholarship Programs

GCU is pleased to announce the scholarship opportunities and requirements for the 2021-2022 scholarship program. Visit www.GCUusa.com under Member Benefits for more information.

Online scholarship applications will be available October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.

Membership Requirements for all GCU Scholarships

To be eligible for all GCU scholarships, the student must be a member of the GCU by December 31, 2020 with either:

- ★ a permanent life certificate or
- ★ an annuity with a minimum balance of \$2,000.⁰⁰

Membership requirements must be maintained throughout the application and award process in order to receive any scholarship award.

Opportunities for College Students

The National Scholarship is a \$2,000.⁰⁰ award for members five years and longer; members under five years \$1,500.⁰⁰ award:

- ★ are attending college (or other post-secondary education) as a full-time student
- ★ maintain a 2.75 GPA
- ★ meet all application and eligibility requirements

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- ★ Collage of volunteer activity
- ★ photo
- ★ letter of recommendation from a parish priest, college chaplain or other clergy
- ★ Fall 2021 grade transcript (unofficial transcript accepted)

The Academic Performance Scholarship is a \$1,500.⁰⁰ award for members five years and longer; members under five years \$1,000.⁰⁰ award:

- ★ previously received the National Scholarship
- ★ maintain a 3.3 GPA as a full-time student
- ★ meet all application and eligibility requirements

This award can be received a total of four times; does not have to be consecutive years.

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- ★ Fall 2021 grade transcript (unofficial transcript accepted)

Opportunity for High School Athlete Seniors

The Athletic Scholarship is a \$2,000.⁰⁰ award for one male and one female member who:

- ★ are high school seniors
- ★ participated in at least one organized sport
- ★ participated in at least one community service or volunteer activity
- ★ maintain a 2.3 GPA
- ★ will be seeking a degree program in the following academic year

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- ★ letter of recommendation from coach/instructor/organizer of each sport participated in
- ★ letter of participation from organizer of at least one volunteer activity participated in
- ★ school photo
- ★ current grade transcript
- ★ photo of student participating in sporting activity or in sports uniform

Applications for any of the above scholarships must be completed and submitted online in one session by 11:59 PM EST on December 31, 2021 to be eligible.

Once the online application is received and membership requirements are verified, the student will receive an email within 10 business days confirming acceptance of the application and requesting supporting documents be submitted by Monday, January 31, 2022.

Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt email for supporting documents.

All email correspondence will be done through applicant's email address **PLEASE DO NOT CALL**. The GCU Scholarship Committee will meet in April 2022 Applicants will receive an acknowledgement email by the first week of May 2022 informing them if they received a scholarship award.



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