

OCTOBER 2017

GCU



MAGAZINE



GCU GoGive! Projects
Page 8

Victor Bukovecky
Page 11

Where Are They Now?
Page 13

Inside This Issue

Volume 125 | Issue 5 | October 2017

- 1** President/CEO Report
- 3** Spiritual
- 4** CFO Report
- 5** Financials
- 6** Estate Planning
- 7** Tradition
- 8** GoGive
- 10** Our Members
- 14** Community
- 16** Fraternal
- 39** Announcements
- 42** Deceased Members
- 44** Remembrances
- 45** Sports

Board of Directors

Very Rev. Richard I. Lambert,
Spiritual Advisor

Gregory N. Vladika,
Chairman of the Board

George A. Kofel
Vice Chairman of the Board

Melanie Basl

Dorothy Ann Foran

Lisa Gulibon

Michael W. Karaffa

Barbara J. Kushner

David A. Oleksa

John W. Oslick

John J. Urban

George N. Juba,
Editor

Basil M. Wahal,
Managing Editor

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

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

Postmaster

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

**Monday, November 27, 2017 is the copy
deadline for the December GCU Magazine.**

Email copy to: bwahal@GCUusa.com or

Mail to: GCU Communications Dept.

Attn: GCU Magazine

5400 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

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

Phone:

1-724-495-3400

1-800-722-4428

FAX: 1-724-495-3421

info@GCUusa.com

www.GCUusa.com





George N. Juba
President
CEO

Focus

This time of year, I have mixed emotions as the summer season comes to an end! The “awesome” beauty and fragrance of the autumn season never seems to get old, that in some way makes up for my disappointment. Although I really enjoy Florida and all the “Sunshine State” has to offer, the sun, the beach, the palm trees, I do enjoy the change of seasons. Celebrating Thanksgiving and the Christmas season in a warm climate just doesn’t feel right for me, but I guess it all depends on what you are used to. As I attended the University of Miami of Florida for my undergraduate degree, I actually looked forward to coming back to Northeastern Pennsylvania to celebrate the holidays. I also looked forward to returning south, especially after a few weeks of sometimes bitter cold and snowy weather. So, no matter what the season, take the time to notice the spectacular landscape that surrounds us each and every day of our lives. God has created it for us to enjoy!

As I mention Florida, it continues to be important for us to keep in our thoughts and prayers the individuals and families affected by the recent natural disasters, namely Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. In support of the GCU’s Mission, the GCU Foundation is now accepting fully tax deductible monetary donations that will assist the American Red Cross and Salvation Army in their efforts to provide ongoing needs to the victims of these horrific storms. The Board of Directors

has created a Special Matching Funds Program that will match member donations up to \$ 10,000.⁰⁰ as the **“GCU Invests in Disaster Relief.”** Complete details appear on page 41 of this issue or you can visit the GCU’s website – www.GCUusa.com – that provides an opportunity for you to make a donation via credit card to this worthy cause. Just click on the banner at the top of the home page to get started. If you would prefer to donate by mail, please send your check payable to “GCU Foundation,” 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. Be sure to put Hurricane Relief on the memo line.

As I reported to you in my article published in the August 2017 issue of the GCU Magazine, we continue to experience excellent financial performance. Our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres presents his commentary and detailed financial statements for the first six months of 2017 on page 4 for your review. We are in the process of preparing our financial reports through the

third quarter and are projecting equally strong results with continued asset and surplus growth along with very good profitability. We once again commend our members and our agents for your continued support of the GCU—that plays a most important role in our Society’s financial stability.

In addition to our focus on financial strength, the GCU’s Board of Directors and Management has been addressing other key issues to assure the GCU’s future of continued success and stability. Risk Management and Strategic Planning are currently at the fore front as action is being taken on Board and Management levels in developing comprehensive plans for both initiatives. Risk Management has been and will continue to be a very “hot topic” amongst state insurance regulators. Potential risks are identified in each area of a carriers’ operation and a plan of action developed to mitigate each risk to protect the consumer.

In conjunction with our focus on financial strength, risk management and strategic planning, exceptional customer service remains a very high priority as well at the GCU. National Customer Service Week is held each year during the first full week of October. At GCU we recognize our entire Staff for the exceptional service they provide to our

The Board of Directors has created a Special Matching Funds Program that will match member donations up to \$ 10,000.⁰⁰ as the “GCU Invests in Disaster Relief.”

members and agents and the valuable role each of our employees play in support of our brand and reputation in the marketplace. Our assurance to you is that we will continually focus on how we may better serve our members and agents, with a goal of always hoping to exceed your expectations.

On the Fraternal side of the GCU's business model, we are continuing to address the challenges we are faced with. We need to continue to strengthen our current lodges and to develop programming to engage more of our members in the great volunteer and fundraising opportunities sponsored by the GCU and our local lodges and districts. We have initiated a new process

that will provide a better understanding to our new and existing members of what the GCU is and stands for, above and beyond a great annuity rate or competitive life insurance premium. We are the GCU – Investing in the Goodness of Community! More to come!

Again, I will continue to be scheduling meetings to address the Regional Lodge Concept in an effort to further strengthen our existing lodge structure. I am also looking forward to attending 125th Anniversary Celebrations that are being conducted by many of our lodges and districts as we honor such an astonishing milestone in the history of our Society.

In closing, the Board of Directors, Executive Officers, our General Counsel,

Department Managers and Support Staff extend to our members and agents our sincere thank you and appreciation for placing your life and annuity business with the GCU! You are the reason that the GCU exists and it is our pledge to you to provide continued exceptional products and services that will exceed your expectations!

GOODNESS IS GREAT!

George

President's Advisory Council



GCU President CEO George N. Juba, Brian Quaranta from Secure Money Advisors, Zellenople, PA accepting the 2016 President's Circle #1 Agent/Agency award and GCU Director of Agent Services David Ennis.



President's Council. Left side: Director of New Business & Underwriting George Lopata, Deb Tatro, Scott Luster, Brian Quaranta, Jeff Vallez. Right side: Director of Agent Services David Ennis, President/CEO George N. Juba, Joel Guthmann, Steve Kenyhercz, Randy Baden.

GCU Board of Directors Visits the Carpatho-Rusyn Society

During the recent August GCU Board of Directors meeting a special visit took place at the Carpatho-Rusyn Society headquarters in Munhall, PA. The Board enjoyed an evening of traditional ethnic fare and viewed the many exhibits on display. At right is GCU



President/CEO George Juba with C-RS President Maryann Sivak and C-RS Information Officer Alexis McCormick. Below GCU National Directors and C-RS representatives with retiring Munhall Mayor Raymond Bodnar (seated).





Very Rev.
Richard I. Lambert
GCU Spiritual Advisor

Seasons for a Change

Glory to Jesus Christ!

As I sit today at my computer to write this article, it is Saturday, September 23, 2017 the temperature here in Ohio is rising to a near record high in the 80's.

The article is due on Monday, and this weather is expected to remain the same at least until Thursday. By the time you read this issue of the *GCU Magazine*, the weather may very well be somewhat different, as we find ourselves a month into the season of Autumn.

The weather is only one issue that we all know will change, but we either don't want the change, or we can't wait until a new season approaches. So many other issues are left for us to deal with such as the new school season beginning and when will it end, our health is good or bad and when will that change for the worse or the better, we anticipate growing older until we reach an age when we dread our next birthday, and many other like issues.

This evening and tomorrow (August 23-24), are the dates in our Byzantine Metropolitan Church that we will begin "*seasons of prayer for vocations*" (my own designation). For the past two weeks, announcements have been made that a "**Travelling Vocation Icon**" would be available for families to take for one week at a time to pray for vocations. The icon will be available until

the Sunday of All Saints (the Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday May 27, 2018). During that time—throughout the seasons of fall, winter and into the beginning of spring, people in every one of our churches, in all four Eparchies across the United States that are participating in this program, will be taking the icon to their homes. There they are to place the icon in a proper place for the family to gather and pray for vocations. A pamphlet is included which contains prayers for the family to pray together. Scriptural passages, a prayer for each day and a closing prayer for the guidance of youth.

Each of us may be happy with our parish, or would like some change to happen, but no one would like our church to close. I have served in Byzantine Churches which fall within the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Youngstown and Pittsburgh. Both of these Roman Catholic dioceses, as well as many other dioceses, have seen parishes closed and combined with other parishes for some time, and this practice unfortunately will continue for years to come. Some are combining two or three parishes into one. Others are planning to combine even more into one, while closing some of the existing church buildings permanently. There are many reasons for this. People have moved from the area, while others only feel the need for a church for major holydays, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Neighborhood

churches may not always be in existence, as many people in the above mentioned Dioceses have found!

Some GCU members find themselves living in an area where there are no Byzantine Churches. All of us need the following seasons and years to continue to pray for vocations as one cure for being without a church to pray in. Whether we have a travelling icon in our homes or not, cut out the following prayer and say it with your family:

Heavenly Father, your divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his vineyard. Now we earnestly beg you to bless our Metropolitan Church and all the churches of the world with many priests, deacons, monastics and religious who will fervently love You and who will gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to your Son's Church under the guidance of your Holy Spirit. We pray that their lives may always be centered on your Son, Jesus Christ...

Bless our families and our children and choose from our homes and our parishes those whom you desire for this holy work. Strengthen them that they may respond with humility, patience, and obedience to your loving will. We ask this through the mercies of your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen

Thank you all in advance, and May God bless our churches!



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

2017 Second Quarter Financial Results

GCU is committed to serving its members and certificate holders. It is my pleasure to present the 2017 mid-year report on GCU's financial achievements.

Our financial strength continues to grow and surplus reached an all-time high at \$119.7 million at June 30, 2017. Net Income increased by \$2.5 million to \$14.1 million compared to \$11.6 million in 2016.

Assets totaled \$1.643 billion, an increase of \$93.2 million or 6% from year end 2016 that totaled \$1.550 billion. This increase can be attributed to continued positive cash flow from strong life and annuity sales, growth in investment earnings, and expense management. Our investment portfolio, consisting primarily of investment grade corporate bonds, increased \$96.1 million from \$1.526 at year end 2016.

Total Liabilities increased \$82 million to \$1.523 billion for the first half of 2017 compared to \$1.441 billion as of December 31, 2016. This increase is due primarily to higher life and annuity reserves of \$72.5 million from increased sales; \$5.9 million payable for securities purchased not yet settled; \$2.6 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve, and \$1.4 million Interest Maintenance Reserve.

Total Income for the period increased \$7.3 million or 4.3% to \$175.9 million compared to \$168.6 million in 2016. The increase is primarily due to continued growth in life and annuity sales increasing by \$3 million and net investment income by \$3.4 million.

Operating expenses before the change in reserves increased \$17.9 million or 24.4% for the first half of 2017 and totaled \$91.2 million compared to \$73.3 million in 2016. The increase is primarily due to higher annuity benefits paid of \$11.9 million, exchanges to other annuity products of \$4.3 million, and higher commissions paid to producers of \$1.9 million. We continue to control the growth in general insurance expenses which were \$3.3 million in 2017, slightly less than 2016 expenses of \$3.5 million.

The Reserves for Life and Annuities decreased by \$11.8 million for the six months to \$71.6 million compared to \$83.4 million in 2016. Reserves are established on new premiums and the emergence of claims.

Financial strength and stability is a foundational pillar of GCU. Surplus now stands at \$119.7 million compared to \$108.5 million at year-end 2016. The \$11.7 million increase in surplus is primarily attributable to net income of \$14.1 million reduced by a \$2.6 million increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve.

Total Surplus is the amount we set aside for unexpected losses from operations and financial protection against business volatility. Safety Funds that includes Surplus of \$119.7 million, Interest Maintenance Reserves of \$19.5 million, and Asset Valuation Reserve of \$20.1 million totaled \$159.3 million at June 30, 2017. This is an increase of \$27.0 million compared to \$132.3 million of Safety Funds reported as of June 30, 2016. The solvency ratio for the six months of 2017 is 107.9%. The solvency ratio including Special Reserves; the Asset Valuation Reserves (AVR) and Interest Maintenance Reserves (IMR) is 110.7%. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

The warmth of summer gives way to the brilliant colors of autumn!

Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	6/30/17	6/30/16	Change
Admitted Assets	\$1,673,179	\$1,451,037	\$222,142
Total Income	178,886	168,596	10,290
Total Operating Expense	164,813	156,988	7,825
Net Income	14,073	11,608	2,465
Surplus (Net Worth)	119,718	100,766	18,952
Asset Valuation Reserve	20,144	14,348	5,796
Interest Maint. Reserve	19,483	17,211	2,272
Surplus & Special Reserves	159,345	132,325	27,020
Normal Solvency Ratio	107.9%	107.5%	0.4%
Solv. Ratio Inc. Spec. Rsrvs.	110.7%	110.0%	0.7%

Reconciliation of Changes in Surplus

(000's omitted)	6/30/17
Surplus Previous Year 12/31/16	\$108,532
Net Income	14,073
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	617
GCU Holding Company & Other	(932)
Change in Non-Admitted Assets	15
Change in Asset Valuation Reserve	(2,587)
Net Change in Surplus	11,186
Ending Surplus 6-30-2017	\$119,718

GCU Balance Sheet Comparison

Assets

(000's omitted)	6/30/17	6/30/16	12/31/16
Bonds	\$1,526,487	\$1,339,606	\$1,430,407
Preferred Stocks	41,987	32,188	44,259
Common Stocks	11,428	12,139	11,797
Alt. Investments	13,868	10,354	11,945
Cash/Short Inv.	22,117	33,174	26,262
Mortgages	2,520	1,091	1,552
Certificate Loans	622	593	626
Real Estate-Home Office	560	503	591
Invest. Income Due & Acc.	22,349	20,501	21,432
Other	1,241	888	1,090
Total Assets	\$1,643,179	\$1,451,037	\$1,549,961

Percentage Total Change Period to Period 6.0%

Liabilities

Life Reserve Fund	\$ 67,415	\$ 64,301	\$ 65,078
Annuity Reserve Fund	1,397,763	1,243,868	1,327,609
Acc. & Health Rsrv. Fund	116	33	134
Employee Pension Fnd.	6,936	6,846	7,068
Convention Reserve	229	424	179
Adv. Prem. + Fut. Rfnd. Rsrvs.	368	326	345
Pending Inv. Trades	7,686	—	1,799
Accounts Payable	492	146	650
Refund Accum.	1,681	1,875	1,803
Overfunded Pension	1,148	893	1,148
Asset Valuation Rsrv.-AVR	20,144	14,348	17,557
Int. Maint. Reserve-IMR	19,483	17,211	18,059
Total Liabilities	\$1,523,461	\$1,350,271	\$1,441,429
Surplus Fund	\$119,718	\$100,766	\$108,532
Total Liab.+Surp.	\$ 1,643,179	\$1,451,037	\$1,549,961
Normal Solvency	107.9%	107.5%	107.5%
New Solv. Ratio*	110.7%	110.0%	110.0%

*Adds IMR & AVR to surplus.

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

GCU Income Sheet Comparison

Six Months 2017 vs. 2016 Results

Income

(000's omitted)	6/30/17	6/30/16	Change
Life Premium	\$ 2,543	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,513
Annuity Premium	114,355	117,206	(2,851)
Annuity Exchanges	15,086	10,759	4,327
Accident & Health	257	99	158
Sub Total	132,241	129,094	3,147
Net Investment Income	40,916	37,498	3,418
Amort. Int. Maint. Reserve	1,244	1,212	32
Comm. Allowance Reinsure.	1,228	441	787
Other Income	257	351	(94)
Total Income	\$175,886	\$168,596	\$ 7,290

Expenses

Death Benefits	\$ 1,294	\$ 1,423	\$ (129)
Annuity Benefits Paid	64,486	52,626	11,860
Annuity Exchanges	15,086	10,759	4,327
Surrender Benefits	412	497	(85)
Acc. & Health Benefits Pd.	207	76	131
Commissions	5,748	3,864	1,884
General Insurance Exp.	3,327	3,495	(168)
Ins., Taxes, Lic. & Fees	197	293	(96)
Pension Benefits Paid	383	219	164
Interest on Accounts	35	34	1
Subtotal	\$ 91,175	\$73,286	\$17,889
Increase in Reserves	71,582	83,428	(11,846)
Total Expenses	\$162,757	\$156,714	\$6,043
Net Gain Before Refunds	13,129	11,882	1,247
Refunds to Members	(134)	(131)	(3)
Net Gain After Refunds	12,995	11,751	1,244
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	1,078	(143)	1,221
Net Income	\$14,073	\$11,608	\$2,465



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Are Your Ducks in a Row?

When it comes to estate planning there are a lot of misconceptions out there. Are all of your ducks in a row? Find out by taking this simple true or false quiz.

- 1) A will can help you avoid probate court.
- 2) Everyone needs a trust.
- 3) Everyone needs a living will declaration, durable power of attorney, and a durable power of attorney for finances.
- 4) A will does not take effect until you die.
- 5) A will supersedes payable on death accounts, transfer on death accounts, and accounts with named beneficiaries.
- 6) It's a good idea to put a child's name on your house along with your name.
- 7) Everyone has a will.
- 8) Everyone who has a will has a current and updated will.

And the answers are:

- 1) **False.** By its nature, a will must go through probate court in order to take effect.
- 2) **False.** A trust may help you to avoid probate court, but not everyone needs a trust. A good estate planner will review the pros and cons with you.
- 3) **True.** If you get sick, someone needs to be appointed as your agent to make medical and financial decisions.
- 4) **True.** Upon your death, a will takes effect after it has been filed with the probate court and the court appoints your named executor to carry out the terms of your will.
- 5) **False.** You can defeat the terms of a will by using a named beneficiary on an asset, or a transfer on death or payable on death designation.
- 6) **False.** You could lose that asset if your child gets sued, has tax problems, dies, or declares bankruptcy.
- 7) **False.** Only 41 percent of people over the age of 45 have a will.
- 8) **False.** Fifty percent of people who have a will need to have it updated or revised.

GCU Home Office

Extended 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.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009





Sisters of St. Basil Thanks You

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Pilgrimage 2017

Dear Friends,

Over the course of this past week, many of the external pieces of pilgrimage have slowly been packed away – the benches are back in the storage room; the tents which dotted the hillsides have been taken down; the candles have been moved indoors where they will continue to be burned in an ongoing prayer.

What continues to linger are the memories of so many spiritual blessings and memories. The remnants of Hurricane Harvey attempted to disrupt us in our celebrations on Saturday, but failed. So many faithful pilgrims refused to be deterred by the chill in the air, the strength of the breeze, or the intermittent showers.

Instead, the wind was a reminder of the breath of the Spirit, and the raindrops were so many blessings flowing from Mary, the Life-giving Spring. This faith and steadfastness brought forth the fruit of a lovely, sun-filled Sunday reminding us of the loving warmth of the Light of the World. Pilgrims of all ages filled the air with hymns and prayers blanketing the Mount with happy hearts and a palpable sense of peace and joy.

Be assured that all who came had an important part in making this pilgrimage a memorable and spiritually uplifting event. We will continue to pray for you each and every day, asking our dear Mother of Perpetual Help to watch over you and protect you. May the road of your life's journey lead you back to this holy Mount for pilgrimage 2018.

Sister Ruth Plante

With our love, prayers, and sincere gratitude,

Sister Ruth and the Sisters of St. Basil

2017 Year End Processing Cut Off Dates for Withdrawals, Distributions, Cash Surrenders

Our entire staff is committed to providing exceptional customer service to our agents and members. We are in the process of planning for our year end requests so that we can 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 December 15, 2017 for receiving Annuity Partial Withdrawal (including RMD & Inherited IRA distributions), Annuity Cash Surrender and Life Insurance Cash Surrender requests for processing by December 27, 2017. 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 Friday, December 15 it will be processed by Wednesday, December 27 for the 2017 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 27, but cannot guarantee processing before year end.

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

2017 GCU Holiday Closings

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 23

Friday, November 24

Christmas

Monday, December 25

Tuesday, December 26

19th Annual St. Vincent De Paul Golf Outing

On behalf of the members of the Beaver County St. Vincent DePaul Society I would like to thank all the golfers, sponsors and donors who helped make this years Golf Outing that was held on Friday, July 14 at Fox Run Golf Course, a huge success. We raised close to \$17,000.⁰⁰ this year bringing our 19 year total to over \$210,000.⁰⁰. Some of this money will be sent to the Maison Fortune Orphanage in Hinche, Haiti which we help sponsor. The rest will be used to help us with our work with those in need here in Beaver County.

John Dudo | President & Director of SVDP Golf Outing.



We raised close to \$17,000.⁰⁰ this year bringing our 19 year total to over \$210,000.⁰⁰.



8th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness & Research Run

On Saturday, July 29, 2017 the Teamster Horsemen Motorcycle Association along with the Union Iron Workers Motorcycle Club sponsored the 8th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness & Research Run. Over 150 riders with many more coming by car, enjoyed a buffet lunch served at the Ranch House Pavilion in North Park (Allison Park, PA.) after the ride. What started out to be a damp and dreary kind of day turned into a beautiful sunny summer day with over 250 attendees. Many prizes were awarded and the event raised \$7,200.⁰⁰ to be donated to

Allegheny General Hospital, to help in their fight against breast cancer. Slim Forsythe and the Nields Hotel Band provided the entertainment.

Mike E. Sklepko

Many prizes were awarded and the event raised \$7,200.⁰⁰ to be donated to Allegheny General Hospital to help in their fight against breast cancer.

Successful Event in Colorado

On Sunday, September 10, 2017 VRCC-Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Hospital, hosted 51 veterinary hospitals from around Colorado and Wyoming at The Battle of the Vet Hospital Stars at Clement Park in Littleton, CO.

The Battle is a field day event where all 51 hospitals compete against each other for bragging rights in the veterinary community. Team bonding and amazing prizes are a highlight of the day. The teams were dressed in creative and innovative costumes including characters from Star Wars, Oompa Loompa's from Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and Hungry Hippos. The teams competed all afternoon in 17 games that tested their athletic abilities from jousting to running relay races in flippers.

Now in its 6th year, the event raises money for PetAid Colorado, a nonprofit organization that provides low cost veterinary care to Colorado families and their pets. This year's event raised \$15,773.00 with a six year grand total of over \$82,000.00.



John E. Oslick of Lodge 144 presenting a check to Pet Aid CEO for \$15,238.00.

The Battle of the Vet Hospital Stars is the brainchild of John Eric Oslick, practice manager for Rocky Mountain Veterinary Neurology, in Englewood, CO. John is a member of GCU Lodge 144 and the son of National Director John W. and MaryEllen Oslick of Aurora, CO.

A huge thank you to GCU's GoGive! Program which donated \$250.00 to this year's event for production/start-up costs. It is programs such as GCU GoGive!, that enable the success of local fundraising events—thank you GCU!

John Oslick

GCU Home Office Staff Supports GoGive Program



Some of the Home Office staff recently showed off their DoGood GoGive shirts in support of the program.

GCU GoGIVE

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

Frank & Laurel Tombazzi Celebrate 25th Wedding Anniversary



From left: Anna, Laurel, Frank and Joseph Tombazzi.

Photo by Ed Vullo, Foremost Photography

Frank & Laurel Tombazzi recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at St. Emilian Byzantine Catholic Church on Saturday, July 22, 2017. Father Andrew Nagrant, pastor of St. Emilian's, was the main celebrant at the Divine Liturgy. A celebration in the church hall followed the Liturgy.

On July 18, 1992, Frank and Laurel were married at the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma, OH by Msgr. Robert V. Yarnovitz and Msgr. Basil Smochko.

The Tombazzi family is a 100% GCU family. Laurel's maternal grandfather Stephen Pusti, bought her first GCU policy when she was born. Frank joined the GCU after he married.

Laurel's mother, Florence Orris, bought GCU policies for her grandchildren Joseph and Anna Tombazzi when they were children. Both have been recipients of the GCU National & Academic Performance Scholarships.

God grant many years to Frank and Laurel!



Athena & Zachary Wahal of Moon Township, PA and GCU Lodge 255, welcomed their first child Ella Mae, on Tuesday, June 20, 2017.

Ella is the grandchild of Federico & Deanna Ablog of Monaca, PA and Basil & Barbara Wahal of Munhall, PA. She is the great granddaughter of Zefferino & Mary Scarsella of Monaca, Barbara & (the late Basil) Wahal of Pittsburgh, PA and Betty & (the late Clifford) Martin of West Homestead, PA.

She was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church in Monaca, PA on Saturday, September 9, 2017.

May God grant Athena, Zachary & Ella many happy & blessed years!



Ella Mae, Athena and Zachary Wahal.

Victor Bukovecky Celebrates Parish 100th Anniversary

It was a beautiful Sunday with blue skies and sunshine. A flood of parishioners streamed in to St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ – this wasn't an ordinary day, but one of reflection while commemorating and celebrating 100 years of devoted families; devoted to the church, their children and each other.

Much like other Byzantine churches, St. Mary was founded by Rusyn immigrants who had come to America to start a new life and “the first order of business, when Rusyns settled in a community, was to band together and solicit monies to build a new church.” That’s just what they did. The new parish of St. Mary in Manville, NJ was incorporated in 1917.

As a lifetime member and part of a founding family, Victor Bukovecky has many memories of growing up in the church. “We grew up with religion, we got up in the morning and looked at the steeple and had to say *Our Father* before going to school.”

Bukovecky was one of nine children whose parents, Anna and Dimitri, were both from Galicia, Ukraine. He enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and when he got out, purchased a tailor shop. He was out only a short time before the Korean War began. Victor chose to re-enlist and became a tailor for the Navy. He had the opportunity to meet Pope Pius XII and tour Vatican City. “I spent maybe 20 hours on my back looking up at the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel,” he recalled.

After marrying his wife Barbara in 1954 and having six children, Bukovecky needed to do something to provide for his family. That’s when he built Bucky’s Men’s Shop on South Main Street in Manville, NJ where Victor Bukovecky,

Jr. continues to run the family business.

Mr. Bukovecky has always been a staple amongst the Manville community. In addition to his business, he was the president of the Manville Fire Co., involved with their many fundraisers, and a fireman for 66 years.

Many people know him as the best ticket seller. “Victor is a character; a great guy. Loves his church, loves his people and is one of the best raffle ticket sellers around,” said Fr. Ed Cimbala, who was the pastor at St. Mary’s for 14 years.

Dr. Robin Lucas, a friend of the Bukovecky family, echoes similar thoughts: “Victor is full of energy and does everything and anything for his lodge and parish. He is incredibly active and dedicated.”

Along with being active in various societies and groups at St. Mary’s, Victor has always been involved with the GCU. “The Greek Catholic Union was good to me and the family,” said Bukovecky. He has been a GCU member for more than 80 years and was president of Lodge 254 for more than 20 years. “If it wasn’t for the GCU, I couldn’t give my family what I give them today.”

Mr. Bukovecky continues to be a role model in his church and most recently helped with the advertising of the centennial event. “He stepped in, in a pinch, and took over advertising and did an amazing job. He is an inspiration and role model to all us,” said Brian Bezick, a member of the parish and chairman of the centennial committee.

Fr. James Badeaux, the current pastor at St. Mary’s, said



Victor Bukovecky (seated) with his son Jeff Bukovecky.



Victor's business locations in Manville, NJ.

CONTINUED

OUR MEMBERS



Elias Zereva and Savanna Bezick.

Victor Bukovecky Celebrates....

CONTINUED

“Victor is a very young 91 year old and has a positive attitude about life.”

Despite a recent fall that left him injured and unable to walk, Victor would attend and take

part in the celebration. Nothing was going to stop him from commemorating St. Mary’s 100 years. “We built this church,” he exclaimed when asked if he was going to make it.

After the 100th Anniversary Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, which was celebrated by Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Eparchy of Passaic, guests made their way to the St. Mary Parish Center for a cocktail hour, dinner, and banquet program. A welcome was made by Marge Pavol, member of the centennial committee and toastmaster, then Victor Bukovecky and his son, Jeff, said the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment to be recognized as a story and lifetime came full circle; from a small boy to a distinguished member of the community and church.



Bishop Kurt Burnette blessing the faithful.

The evening continued with entertainment by the Adlers Band, Dana Draculin who sang and played the accordion in traditional Slovak attire, and a performance by the Saint Mary Youth Choir directed by Mr. Glenn Sedar.

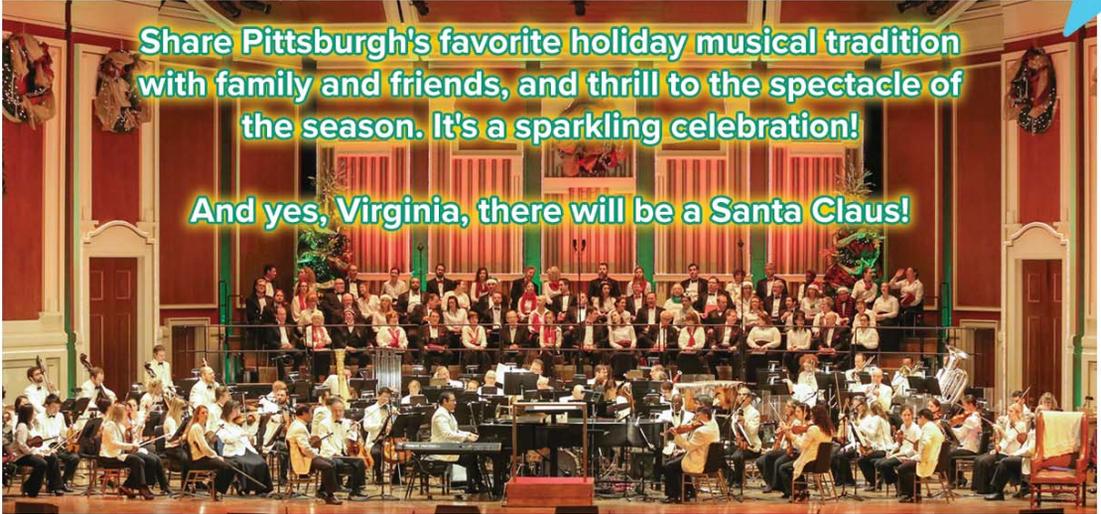
Saint Mary has a bright future if the youth choir is any indication. As Mr. Bukovecky put it, “We have to have the younger children of our parish get involved in the church as early as they can; in the societies and groups. That’s the only way our churches are going to survive.”

Congratulations to St. Mary’s church, congregation, religious, centennial committee, and everyone, past and present, who worked hard for the church to not only survive but thrive. May you have another 100 blessed years.

Stephanie Yackovich



Highmark Holiday Pops 2017 Family Outing



Share Pittsburgh's favorite holiday musical tradition with family and friends, and thrill to the spectacle of the season. It's a sparkling celebration!

And yes, Virginia, there will be a Santa Claus!

<p>Saturday December 16, 2017 8:00PM</p>	<p>HEINZ HALL</p>	<p>Great Seating! Orchestra Center</p>	<p>\$40 Members 12 & under \$45 Members 13 & up \$55 Non-members</p>
---	-------------------	--	---

ORDER TICKETS:

Call: 724-495-3400 ext. 3809

Online: <https://gcuusa.com/events/holiday-pops-with-the-pittsburgh-symphony-orchestra>



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

Pierogies, Bones, and Vampires: Part 1

“The 4:35 PM flight to Munich is now boarding.” The words of the flight attendant instantly made my stomach flip and my heart began racing. I picked up my bags, hands shaking slightly, boarded the plane, and began the first leg of my journey. My final destination—Drawsko, Poland.

My journey to Drawsko started months before the flight. In September 2016 I discovered a flyer for the Slavia Field School in Mortuary Archaeology. It was hanging in the hallway on my way to class at Rutgers University. The flyer promised experience in excavating human remains and the possibility of finding a vampire or two buried in a the 17-18th century cemetery.

That night I scoured the Internet for more information on the Drawsko vampires. I learned that during the time-period the cemetery was in use, Poland had a vampire scare similar to the Salem witch trials in the US. The Slavia foundation was working on profiling the individuals thought to be vampires to hopefully find a pattern in their skeletal remains. As someone interested in studying bones and Slavic culture, this was a gold mine.

As I filled out my application to the field school, I could see myself in Poland digging by day and stuffing my face with pierogies and holupki at night. Saying I was surprised when I received my notification of acceptance a month later, would be an understatement. After the initial shock and

excitement, I started preparing to be dropped in a country where I didn’t know the language and would be traveling alone for the first time in my life. I began booking flights, buying Polish to English translation books, packing my bags, and before I knew it, I was at Newark airport boarding a plane to Munich, Germany.

Fast forward to July 19. I arrived at the Poznan airport in Poland, incredibly jet-lagged, sleep deprived, and hadn’t had an actual meal in 24 hours. At that moment, I realized that I had never taken a taxi before and had no idea how I would get to my hotel. All the signs were in Polish and so were the kiosks for bus tickets. It started to seem like I would never get out of the airport. Luckily, my mom was just a phone call away and assured me that all I had to do was get in a taxi and tell them where I wanted to go.

The overwhelming sense of panic subsided and I finally arrived in downtown Poznan. With depictions of goats dominating the city’s décor, the fairytale-like quality of Poznan eased my nervousness. Soon I would be on a small bus talking to students from across the US and Canada. We were all wondering what we would find in the small farm town of Drawsko. I had no idea what adventures stood before me and it all started with a flyer hanging amongst hundreds, stapled to an old bulletin board at Rutgers.

To be continued in the December GCU Magazine.



Emily (right) removing a sub-adult skeleton after excavation with two fellow students.

Giving



St. John Byzantine Church Parish Expansion

LANSFORD, PA

Members of St. John Byzantine Catholic Church in Lansford, PA participated in a summer potluck dinner/basket fundraiser on Saturday, August 26, 2017. Prizes consisted of themed baskets, gift certificates, cash donations and sports tickets. St. John parishioners offer their thanks to the GCU Home Office for the assistance given via the Parish Expansion Matching Funds program.

Submitted by Susan Seaver

21st Annual Flea Market & Ethnic Food Weekend

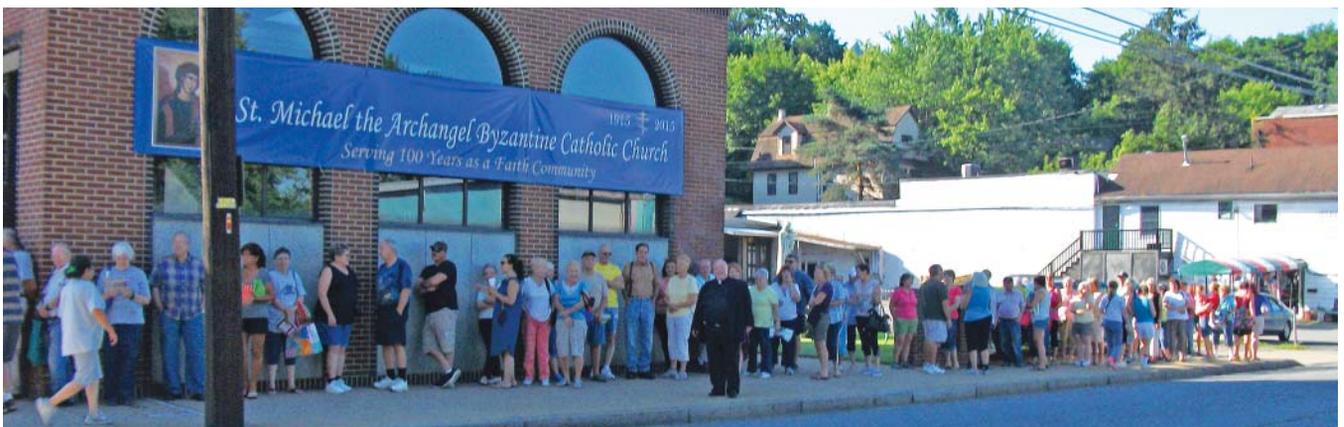
PITTSSTON, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Pittston held its 21st Annual Flea Market & Ethnic Food Weekend on August 5 & 6, 2017. This major fundraiser of St. Michael Church has become a tradition in the community, witnessed by the long line of patrons waiting for the doors to open.

The main attraction, of course, is the flea market collection, but an equally significant attraction is the ethnic food. Volunteers donate their time and talents to make this event an annual success. Patrons repeatedly compliment the parish's delicious ethnic food claiming, "St. Michael's has the best halupki in the area."

With a small parishioner base, the church continues to rely heavily on funds raised from this annual event for routine maintenance of the parish. St. Michael Church is grateful to all who contributed and to the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds program. The parish is served by pastor Very Rev. Gary Mensinger and Deacon Larry Worlensky.

Submitted by Linda Hando



Essay Finalists Share with Charities

As the GCU tagline states: “Invested in the Goodness of Community,” the four finalist in this year’s national scholarship essay competition received a little extra “goodness” to share with the charity of their choice. The subject of this year’s essay was “Community Service and You.” GCU made a direct donation of \$250.00 in the names of essay winners Michael Danovich and Aaron Gulibon to the charities of their choice. GCU also made \$150.00 direct donations to the charities of choice in the names of essay finalists Rachel Pawluszka and Leslie Peters.

The students’ name and a short description of the charities that received their donation appears below.

Michael Danovich—The service project at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Philadelphia, PA that benefits a soup kitchen, Cathedral Kitchen, in Camden, NJ. “Cathedral Kitchen serves over 100,000 meals per year to the impoverished inhabitants of the city of Camden. While I was a junior at St. Augustine Prep school, I had the opportunity to visit Cathedral Kitchen as part of a class retreat. It was very rewarding to experience the distribution of meals in addition to making them. Project “Cathedral Kitchen” is now in its 9th year of serving the homeless of Camden, NJ. Over the course of the project, the ECY has donated more than 25,000 meals to Cathedral Kitchen. On average, supplies including: bread, cheese, ham, turkey, and sandwich bags, cost \$150 per session. The members of Holy Ghost Church are responsible for funding the project in the form of monetary and supply donations.”

Aaron Gulibon—Gamecock Pantry, an organization that helps provide healthy meals for students in need. “Through the Harvest Hope volunteer project, and my first-year English course on food politics, I became familiar with the issues that affect society concerning food security and scarcity. When thinking about unmet needs in my university community, food security is definitely one that needs to be addressed. Despite what people think, many college students have trouble accessing good quality food. Students who are paying thousands of dollars for school, sometimes cannot afford the meal plans the university offers. This group is bigger than what many think, and has been widely overlooked in the fight against hunger. Students who have trouble paying for food options through the school resort to cheap, low quality options instead. These cheap foods often fail to fulfill nutrition requirements necessary to live a healthy life. Our University has an independent food bank that students can access, but is severely underfunded and underutilized. Over the next four years I would like to help

the Gamecock Pantry grow, and make the entire student body aware of the help they provide. The pantry created for students, by students, is always looking for donations to enhance the program and the community.”

Rachel Pawluszka—LAM Foundation, seeks safe and effective treatments and ultimately a cure for lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM), a rare lung disease. “My mother has this disease and the donation will go to great use. LAM is dedicated to serving the scientific, medical, and patient communities by offering information, resources, and a worldwide network of hope and support.”

Leslie Peters—Dollywood Foundation, fosters a love of reading. “I chose Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library because they send out free books to young children every month to encourage early childhood literacy. Growing up, books were a very large part of my childhood. During the summer, I would read anywhere from 20-40 books, I couldn’t get enough of them! By donating to Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, I hope to share my love of reading with others!” Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library was launched in 1995 to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee, USA. Dolly’s vision was to foster a love of reading among her county’s preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. Dolly’s Imagination Library became so popular that in the year 2000 she announced that she would make the program available for replication to any community that was willing to partner with her to support it locally. Since the initial program launch in the United States, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library has gone from just a few dozen books to over 80,000,000 books mailed to children in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom! Currently over 1,600 local communities provide the Imagination Library to over 1,000,000 children each and every month.

The subject for the 2017-18 National Scholarship essay will again be “Community Service and You” and the top essay finalist will also have the opportunity to name a charity to receive a donation in their name. Applications are now available on the GCU Website—www.GCUusa.com.



District 4

Regional Picnic | District 4 recently sponsored a regional picnic for area churches and lodges. After a threat of early morning rain, the skies cleared and sunshine remained for the rest of the day. The picnic was hosted by St. Anne's Byzantine Church in Clymer, PA.

The day started with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Fr. William Lascelles. After Liturgy lodge members, parishioners and friends adjourned to the church hall for lunch. A variety of food was served and desserts were plentiful. There were door prizes & GCU swag bags for the adults and prizes & games available for the children.

A special thank you to the GCU Home Office for the grant to help defray expenses and to everyone that helped make the picnic a success.

John J. Katana | President



The kids sporting GCU sun glasses.

District 5

Golf Tournament | The District 5 annual golf tournament was held on Saturday, August 5 at Sugarloaf Golf Club with 51 golfers participating. The team of Ed Keil, Joe Monka, Keith Hampton, and Mike Haley took home the 1st place trophies (engraved clocks) and monetary prize. First Flight Low Net 1st Place-Ed Dolinish III, Ryan Lis, and Paul Kania; 2nd Place-Jack Monick, Chris & Stan Shuster and Jason Loyer and 3rd Place-Paul Suche, Joe Carnevale, Carl Smith and Jerry Nash. Second Flight Low Net 1st Place-Greg Barkowski, Sr., Greg Barkowski, Jr., Sean Gaughan and Bob Zigmant; 2nd Place-Gary & Doreen Nobel, Denise Evans and Bob Fanick and 3rd Place-Chuck & Rick Neary and Mike & Jon Fiorelli. Proximity prize winners included Diane Grega, Keith Hampton, Mike Haley, Paul Pezak, Sean Gaughan, Mike Seman, Paul Suche and Carl Smith. Twelve golfers hit the green on Hole 17, for a share in the Pot-of-Gold.

The day concluded with a Pig Roast, presentation of tournament winners and a door prize for all. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the grant, golf towels, sunscreen, and preparation of entry forms and to our hole sponsors, prize donors, and all the participants. A special thank you to our Pot-of-Gold & Hole-in-One verifier, Mike Mokay, who gave up his Saturday to sit on Hole 17. Save next year's date, Saturday, August 4, 2018.

CONTINUED



Golf Tournament winning foursome, Joe Monka, Keith Hampton, Mike Haley and Ed Keil.

District 5 CONTINUED

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup | Saturday, September 2 was the 2nd Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup of the year. It was nice to have first timers Dr. John Evans and PSU Wilkes-Barre golfer Anthony Shaver. Thanks to the eight volunteers who showed up. One more clean-up will be held later this year. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Ed Dolinish, Jr. at 570-562-2678 if interested.

With Sympathy | Deepest sympathy goes out to the families of Irene Evans and John Kalinich, both passed away recently. Irene attend district bowling tournaments and social affairs. John had been a District 5 auditor for many years and participated in district social events. They will be sadly missed. Blessed repose and eternal memory!

Enjoy the fall with the leaves already turning. Remember everyone is always welcome at all of the district's events.

Ilona Dolinish | Publicity Director



Adopt-A-Highway workers: Jason Marcin, Colleen Evans, Ed Dolinish III, Ed Dolinish Jr., Ed Keil, Anthony Shaver and Dr. John Evans.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

Fall Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 28
9 AM

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 5
9 AM Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's Church, Kingston, PA

Breakfast Meeting following Liturgy

Touch of Class Catering, Wilkes-Barre, PA

No-Tap Bowling Tournament

Details will be available on the District 5 website

Our 50th St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards

Sunday, November 26
11 AM

Location is yet to be determined

All District 5 eligible college students are urged to apply for a district scholarship.



District 7

Annual Golf Tournament | Heavy early morning rain gave way to beautiful sunny skies on Saturday, August 5 at Green Pond Country Country Club in Bethlehem, PA for the District 7 Annual Golf tournament. Nine teams comprised of 32 golfers competed for first, second and third place prizes.

Third place went to Steve Bachovin, Robert Tisot, Jr. and Kevin Clarke. First and second place were decided via tie-breaker. Team Wasilick, comprised of Ray, Josh, Wade, & Ray Wasilick, finished in second place with Team Hanuscin taking home the first place prize. Longest drive was awarded to Josh Wasilick and the closest to the pin went to Rick Bridgeford.

Thanks to all who came out and helped make this a successful event. See you next year!

Mike Geles | Athletic Director



Robert Tisot and Steve Bachovin enjoy the day of golf.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

Annual Meeting & 125th Celebration

Sunday, November 12 - 1 PM

St. Mary Byzantine Church

1900 Brooks Blvd., Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Contact Mary Bannworth at 908-447-9212 for details.



Golfers enjoying the fundraising scramble for District 11 Scholarship Fund.

District 11

Golf Tournament | On Sunday, August 13th, District 11 held its annual golf scramble at Rammler golf course in Sterling Heights, MI. Thirty-two golfers (eight foursomes) enjoyed 18 holes of golf in this fund-raising event for the District 11 Scholarship Fund. The cost included cart, lunch at the turn, drinks and buffet dinner.

Participants received bags which included a GCU logo towel. The 1st place team of Nick Kovalcik Sr., Nick Kovalcik Jr., Jack Kovalcik and Dan Guess received \$25 gift cards from District 11. Additional prizes were donated by Jack Kovalcik and Jim Van Kula. Play included a skins game. The \$100 prize was kindly donated back to the district's scholarship fund by the winners!

All participants agreed that this successful event should return to Rammler again next year.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal Publicity Dir.

John P. Minarish | Athletic Director

CONTINUED

DISTRICT 11 CONTINUED

Tiger "Tail"gate Party and Ball Game Fun for Fans! | On Saturday, September 16, District 11 members and their guests boarded 2 buses at St. Nicholas Church parking lot in Clinton Township, MI, with the Tigers baseball game in downtown Detroit, as their destination. It was Star Wars night at Comerica Park and the beautiful weather made for a very nice evening.



District members and friends enjoy the tailgate food and fellowship.
Photo by Val Marszalec.

Though the game was a loss for the Tigers, the District 11 tailgate party and game event was a win for all who attended! Plenty of great pre-game fare, fun prize drawings and GCU

giveaways made for fan-tastic fun for game-goers and those who just came to visit, party and show their Tiger spirit!

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director

District 15



Some of the winners from the District 15 golf event.

Golf Tournament | Sunday, September 18, 2017 was the District 15 annual golf tournament at Seven Oaks Country Club. Fifty golfers enjoyed the beautiful late summer weather. Judging from the golf scores, the golf course was the big winner!

Thanks to the generosity of the GCU and numerous tee sign sponsors, everyone went home with a door prize. The golfers who won prizes for their golfing ability in their respective flights are: Women's Flight-Low Gross: Jean Karaffa (106); 1st Low Net: Carol Mertz (68); 2nd Low Net: Judy Kotula (80); 3rd Low Net: Christine Zupancic (81) and 4th Low Net: Sue Betres (82). Men's A Flight-Low Gross: Brian Cherry (84); 1st Low Net: Mike Kanai (68); 2nd Low Net: Robert Haller (74) and 3rd Low Net: Mike Karaffa (74). Men's B Flight-Low Gross: Guido Cadelore (80); 1st Low Net: John Zupancic (66); 2nd Low Net: Tim Seech (69); 3rd Low Net: Steve Prokopchak (69) and 4th Low Net: Don Leslie (71). Men's C Flight-Low Gross: Bud Miller (98); 1st Low Net: Ed Mertz (69); 2nd Low Net: John Kutzfara (69); 3rd Low Net: Timmy Seech (70) and 4th Low Net: Mike Mantsch (70).

Closest to the pin skill prizes were won by Jean Karaffa (#4), Mike Kanai (#8 and #11) and Bob Boyle (#14). Longest putts were won by George Smith (#9) and John Miller (#18).

A great day of fraternalism, golf, delicious food and a Steeler victory, were enjoyed by all.

Bill Uram | Athletic Director

Narcissi Winery | Sixty GCU members and 12 guests joined District 15 for an afternoon at Narcissi Winery in late August. A delicious lunch, wine tasting, corn hole, and live acoustic music contributed to the fraternalism and friendships. Unfortunately, the district had to turn away so many others who wanted to join in the fun. Plans for next year, include reserving more space for increased participation.

Motown the Musical | All tickets have been sold for this event!

Elizabeth Harbist | President

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENT

Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Sunday, November 5

Liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel at 10:45 AM

Seven Oaks Country Club at 1:30 PM

Brunch is available at Seven Oaks (adults \$25)

Contact Kathy Kapaldo to RSVP: kkapaldo@comcast.net

Lodge News

Lodge 2

MUNHALL, PA

Helping Hands Day

On May 26, 2017, Marty & Patty Bovee started the Lodge 2 helping hands project by preparing the flower beds and containers at St. John's Cathedral.

The lodge purchased all the plants to be bedded and the peat moss to be added. On Sunday, May 28, Lodge 2 members were ready to dig and plant.

The bright sunny day complimented the fun and laughter the volunteers enjoyed.

Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped to beautify the Cathedral grounds.

Father's Day & Flag Day Celebrations

After the 9 AM Liturgy on Sunday, June 18, Father Dennis Bogda bestowed a special blessing on all the fathers of the parish.



Helping Hands Day work.



Volunteers were Patty Bovee, Kris Janoscko and Carol Lawson at the Father's Day & Flag Day celebrations.

The congregation then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang "God Bless America" led by Cantor George Janoscko.

Lodge 2 invited all parishioners down to the lower level of the Cathedral for a brunch of egg casseroles, bagels, Danish, fruit, yogurt, coffee, and tea. It was a wonderful celebration of the two holidays.

Patty Bovee | Treasurer

Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

Autumn is upon us, but currently the local area is enjoying Indian Summer. With all the devastation from the hurricanes, let us all remember those who are suffering. You never know the fury of "Mother Nature."

Dream Lift

The Lodge 15 Matching Fund project benefitted the "Dream Lift" program of the Sunshine Foundation of Mercer County. A check in the amount of \$900.00 was presented to Cathy DiContanzo, president of the Mercer County Chapter.

Oros is from the Ukraine. Fr. Edward Cimbala of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Levittown, PA is serving as the administrator of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Church.

Annual Meeting

Lodge 15 officers would like to extend an invitation to local lodge members and fellow lodge members of St. Nicholas parish in Roebling, NJ and of OLPH Church in Levittown to attend the lodge's annual meeting. The meeting is Sunday, November 25, 2017 following the 10 AM Divine Liturgy at Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Church at the corner of Grand & Malone Streets in Trenton. The meeting will be held in the parish social center at the corner of Adeline & Beatty Streets in Trenton. Refreshments will be served.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Marcy Embley | Fraternal Director

Farewell and Welcome

A special "Thank You" goes out to Father Gregory J. Noga, the Lodge 15 chaplain, for all his support the past 15 years. Father Gregory was recently transferred to SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church in Minersville, PA. "Na Mnohaja I Blahoja Lita."

Lodge 15 sincerely welcomes Fr. Youriy Oros and his family as the new pastor of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Church in Trenton. Fr.



Donation made to Cathy DiContanzo, President of the Sunshine Foundation, Mercer County Chapter.



Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Flea Market

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held a Flea Market on Saturday & Sunday, September 16-17 in the Social Center. GCU lodge members assisted throughout, with their main responsibility being in the kitchen preparing and serving homemade holupki, piroghies, haluski, wimpies, pizza, and hot dogs. A special thanks to the Home Office for the ticket printing.

Helping Hands Postponed

Lodge 17 Helping Hands Project scheduled for Saturday, September 30 was postponed to a later date. The Chapel at St. Nicholas Cemetery is to receive a thorough cleaning in preparation for winter.

Ed Keil | Secretary Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENTS

Turkey Bingo

Sunday, November 12

Doors open at 12 NOON

Bingo Starts at 1 PM

Cost is \$3 Additional bingo cards available for purchase.

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Taylor, PA

Turkeys will be given away as bingo prizes with additional fundraising activities. This is a GCU Matching Funds event.

November Collections

Collection of food for the less fortunate in the area and used eyeglasses for the Lions Club will take place throughout the month of November..

Lodge 28

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Visits to Arden Courts Memory Care Center

Lodge 28 held two community events for the residents at Arden Courts Memory Care Center in Jefferson Hills, PA.

On Tuesday, August 1 lodge member Sarah Pavlick, a member of Baldwin High School Band & Orchestra, gathered a group of friends and students to create a musical performance to entertain the residents and staff. Fellow lodge member, Brent Kolesar, also entertained the group with his new piano-playing skills. He even encouraged a sing-a-long as the residents, workers and visitors enjoyed the performance. Afterward, the lodge passed out cookies and GCU giveaways.

On Monday, August 14, a hot dog cookout was held on the facility's covered patio. It was a beautiful night. Residents and workers were invited to grilled hot dogs, drinks, cookies and candy. The staff enjoyed the social as much as the residents.

Kim Kolesar | Secretary Treasurer



Logan, Erin, Sarah and Mimi.



Katie grills hot dogs.

Lodge 52

BETHEL PARK, PA

St. Gregory Golf Day

The men and women of Lodge 52 and St. Gregory's Church enjoyed a beautiful day of golf at Scenic Valley Golf Club on Sunday, August 20. The scramble format tournament concluded with lunch and George Tichi and Barbara Stasiuk presenting the prizes to the winners.

One of the youngest golfers, Rachel Hast, did quite well for her second time golfing. Everyone thanked Fr. Valerian and Chris Weber for delivering the cold water and pop to the folks on the course. A special BIG thank you to Tom Soroka for all his work in organizing the successful outing. Thank you to the GCU Home Office for the golf towels.

Rosemary Tomko | Publicity Director



Lodge 57

BROWNSVILLE, PA

Flea Market & Rummage Sale

In the beginning of August, a Flea Market/Rummage Sale Matching Funds project was organized by Lodge 57 Secretary Melody Yeardie. St. Nicholas Church hall was filled with new and slightly used clothing, books, small furniture, bed coverings, small electronics, purses, shoes and many other items. Profit from this sale was \$1,562.³⁶ which will assist with repairs to the church. Those who helped were: Treasurer Becky Thomas, Genevieve Marszal, Rose Kordich and Marge Cramer.



Flea Market /Rummage Sale volunteers: Becky Thomas, Rose Kordich, Genevieve Marszal, Melody Yeardie and Marge Cramer.

American Hero Tribute Bus Trip

A bus trip was taken to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA and Quecreek Mine in Somerset, PA. This took place on Sunday, August 20, 2017. Thirty-three persons participated in this day tour. Light snacks, drinks and gifts were included, plus a buffet dinner. Bernie Karaffa organized the trip.

Donation to Mt. St. Macrina

At the end of August, St. Nicholas Church donated 5 roasting pans of haluski to Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown for the annual Pilgrimage. Cooks for this project were Rose Kordich, Becky Thomas, Genevieve Marszal and Marge Cramer. Lodge 57 members, Paul Rubish and sons, Paul Andrew and Thomas, volunteered their time during the Pilgrimage as ushers during the Sunday Liturgies.



Members at Flight 93 Memorial.

CONTINUED

Lodge 57 CONTINUED



Thomas Rubish at Mt. St. Macrina.



Haluski for Mt. St. Macrina: Genevieve Marszal, Rose Kordich, Becky Thomas and Melody Yeardie, not pictured, Marge Cramer.

Annual Turnover Sale

The hard-working Lodge 57 members and St. Nicholas parishioners were at it again, in the beginning of September they held the annual turnover sale. Rose Kordich and Becky Thomas took the lead selling and baking the apple, blackberry or cherry filled pastries. Many Lodge 57 members and parishioners assist with this project. Over 1,000 pastries were baked. Profit from this project was \$1,132.²⁰. Again, the profit benefitted St. Nicholas Church repairs.

Animal Shelter Collection

Lodge 57 held a collection for local animal shelters from August until the middle of September. Multiple bags of blankets, pillows, towels, old sheets and bags of dog & cat food were collected. Local churches in the area were asked to contribute. Melody Yeardie was in charge of this collection.

Annual Bazaar Prep Work

During the months of September and October, members prepared over 1,500 cabbage rolls and 40 heads of cabbage for haluski. The food was prepared in anticipation of the annual St. Nicholas Church Bazaar on Sunday, November 5, 2017.

Bernie Karoffa | Publicity Director



Turnover sale: Genevieve Marszal and lodge Secretary Melody Yeardie.



Friends of Animals collection: Melody Yeardie, Fr. Burke, Ken Haftman and Becky Thomas.



Deacon Steven White placing pavers.

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

Helping Hands Day

The Lodge 62 helping hands were very busy this summer at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Punxsutawney. The church was thoroughly cleaned, flowers planted, and weeds removed. Deacon Steve White laid pavers for an entry way to the hall ramp. Thanks to all the workers who volunteered as well as a the Home Office for the Helping Hands Grant.

Helen Meko | President



Lodge 69 members volunteering at the Ethnic Food Fest.

Lodge 69

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

Ethnic Food Fest

St. John's Ethnic Food Fest was held on Sunday, July 16, 2017 at St. John's Hall. The week before the food fest, volunteers prepared the food to be sold. Halupki, pierogies, halushki, potato pancakes and kielbasa sandwiches, were on the menu. Nut rolls, paska bread and donated baked goods were also sold.

Bingo was played and participants had a great time.

Families and friends gathered together for good food, entertainment, and fellowship.

Nancy Harding | Secretary

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81's involvement in parish and community events continued through the summer and early autumn. The lodge's third quarter meeting was held on Sunday, August 13 and included donations to the second Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina and the 36th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration (*details for this event can be found on the For Your Information page*).

Community/Parish Events

On Saturday, August 12, Janet Gaydos and Bonnie Balas attended the Eagle Scout ceremony of Nicholas Morgan at Third Presbyterian Church in Uniontown. Nicholas chose the remodeling of the St. John Social Ministry room as his Eagle Scout Project. Father Ron Larko gave the invocation at the celebration. The project materials were acquired through parishioner donations, weekly bake sales at pirohi sales, and a Lodge 81 contribution. Good luck and blessings to Nicholas as he enters college at Drexel University this fall.

The St. John Parish picnic was Sunday, August 20 with Lodge 81 members, Sisters of St. Basil from nearby Mt. St. Macrina and local priests in attendance.



Barbara Buchko, Nicholas Morgan and Janet Gaydos.



John Kashner, Bonnie Balas and Colin Svanda at St. Anne Shrine.

Pilgrimage

A highlight of the summer for Lodge 81 was the 83rd Annual Pilgrimage at Mount St. Macrina over the Labor Day weekend. GCU members adding a helping hand for the event included: Marcia & Richard Harrer, Gerry Dorobish, Bonnie Balas, Stephen Petruska, James Mihalko, and Paul Rubish. In addition, St. John Church contributed 300 dozen pirohi to be sold at the light lunch area. Among the pirohi makers were Lodge 81 members Ann Kormanik, Theresa Petruska, and Norbert Duritsa.

Busy Time

September 16-17 marked a very busy weekend for St. John parishioners and Lodge 81. It included the Lodge 81 Annual Food Drive, the Social Ministry's monthly

CONTINUED

Lodge 81

CONTINUED

birthday social, the commissioning of parish catechist and the 28th Rosary Walk. The local St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank and Charleroi Food Bank were the recipients of the Food Drive. Longtime Lodge 81 member George Patchan was one of the birthday honorees. James Mihalko, Gerry Dorobish, Marcia Harrer and Bonnie Balas were commissioned as catechist. Marcia Harrer, Helen Ponzurick and Bonnie Balas did their part at the Rosary Walk.



Marcia Harrer, Sister Barbara Jean, Bonnie Balas & Helen Ponzurick at the Rosary Walk.

Car Show

On Sunday, September 24 the 12th Annual Classic Car Show was held at St. John Church. The event hosted over 90 classic cars in the parish parking area. GCU members Stephen Petruska, James Mihalko, Paul Rubish, Marcia & Richard Harrer, Theresa Petruska, Bonnie Balas and Helen Ponzurick

contributed their talents to help make the event a success. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the fraternal grant towards the event.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President and Publicity Director



Stephen Petruska & James Mihalko judging cars.

Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

Friends of Bruce Semon Jr. Golf Outing

On August 26, Lodge 92 held its first ever Friends of Bruce Semon Jr. Golf Outing at Wemberly Hills Golf Course. Over 50 golfers battled it out in the captain and crew format.

The lodge, along with generous donations from local businesses and friends of Bruce Semon Jr., raised \$1,400.00 in Bruce's name, for the Carmelite Nuns in Sugarloaf, PA.

The outing was capped off with a dinner and presentation of prizes. A special thanks goes out to the family of Bruce Semon Jr. who were in attendance and helped to make the event a success in its first year.

Mark Barkowski | Publicity Director



Top finishers were lodge members Dr. Timothy Borick and Amy Borick, partner Carrie Peters and lodge member Greg Barkowski, Jr.

UPCOMING LODGE 92 EVENT

Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner

Sunday, November 5 from 11 AM to 1 PM
\$10 Donation (take outs only)

Holy Ghost Church Parish Hall, 309 First Avenue, Jessup, PA
 Proceeds benefit Holy Ghost Church

Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Library Benefits from Community Outreach

Lodge 93 donated to the local library as part of the lodge's community outreach program. This donation helped defray costs for their Oktoberfest. The lodge also donated books and a basket for their basket fundraiser.



Lodge Secretary John Katana making the donation to the Library.

Highlighting Good Works

In an effort to show the parish family of St. John Byzantine Church in Northern Cambria all of the good works accomplished through Lodge 93 and the GCU, a display was set up in the church social hall. The display highlights all the donations and volunteer efforts of the lodge. A smaller display is planned for the church vestibule.

John J. Katana | Secretary

UPCOMING LODGE 93 EVENTS

GCU 125th Anniversary Dinner Celebration

Saturday, October 21
Following 5:30 PM Liturgy

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church
Northern Cambria, PA

Basket Fundraiser

Sunday, November 5
11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church
Northern Cambria, PA

Recognition Luncheon

Saturday, December 16
Following 5:30 PM Liturgy

Lodge, parish volunteer recognition luncheon and Christmas Party

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church
Northern Cambria, PA



Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Bus Trip to Uniontown Pilgrimage

On Sunday, September 3, Lodge 109 sponsored a bus to the annual Pilgrimage to honor Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA. The pilgrims on board represented parishioners of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church and parishioners of neighboring Butler, PA churches.

On the trip to Mt. St. Macrina, Louis Pocchiari led the group in praying the Rosary, singing Marian hymns and he gave first-time travelers a brief lesson of the Pilgrimage's origins and 83 year history. The day was spent in prayerful reflection at the numerous shrines and grottos. Many of the pilgrims returned home with icons and other religious mementos to compliment the memories of their experience. Lodge 109 is grateful to its many friends and neighbors for joining in to continue to make this trip a meaningful and worthwhile tradition.

Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the grant which helped defray the cost of the bus and the traditional medoviki (honey cakes) distributed to each pilgrim for the return trip to Lyndora. Many thanks to Helen Meaders, the oldest pilgrim (97 years young), for her help in making this trip possible.

Janet Uram | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 144

DENVER, CO

Donation to Sisters of St. Basil

During the 2017 Otpust (Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA) Lodge 144 was pleased to present a donation to the Sisters of St. Basil. The donation will assist their ministry of providing authentic experiences of Eastern Christian Liturgical services and practices for the faithful.



Front: Olga Bodnar and Sister Christopher with Lodge 144 Auditor Audrey Peek and Sarah Peek.



National Director John W. Oslick with officers from Denver Police Department District 3.

Patriot's Day Thank You

On September 11, 2017, Patriot's Day, Lodge 144 was privileged to provide lunch for the police officers and detectives of Denver Police Department District 3 and the firemen of Denver Fire Department Station 2. Lodge 144 is deeply grateful to those brave men and women who serve and protect their communities every day. We remember the lives that were lost and the lives that were forever changed on that fateful day of September 11, 2001, when the world stood still.

Mary Ellen Oslick | President

Lodge 151

NEW YORK, NY

Matching Funds Luncheon

Lodge 151 held its Matching Funds Luncheon and third quarter meeting on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at St. Andrew Church in Westbury Long Island, NY. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Nicholas Daddona who was assisted by Brother Andrew and Brother Pedro from the Basilian Monastery in Glen Cove. A catered lunch and fundraiser along with Maureen Daddona's presentation on Sacred Symbols highlighted the day. It was nice to see GCU teen Paul Mamay and Eleanor & Patti Dietz in attendance. The lodge presented Father Nick with an icon of St. Nicholas as a gift of his ordination. Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. Andrew and the GCU members, over \$1,500.00 was raised for St. Andrew parish. The proceeds of the luncheon and the matching funds will be used to replace the handicap ramp.



CONTINUED

UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENTS

Parish Expansion Ethnic Dinner

Saturday, October 21
2 PM & 4:30 PM Seatings

Fundraising events will be available
Church of the Resurrection, Smithtown, NY

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 19
11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

The Cottage Restaurant, New York City, NY
Call Marge at 516-307-1016 if you plan to attend

Lodge 151

CONTINUED

St. Raphael's Pantry

It was a beautiful morning mission, bringing “sweetness” to all on Rosh Hashanah-Thursday, September 21. Lodge 151 members Ann Kandrato and Christine Hulak wanted to wish a sweet New Year to all visitors of St. Raphael's pantry. A festive and delicious breakfast of Cup O'Joe, juice and cookies greeted all. Books, notebooks, school supplies, gloves, coats, toys, cards, coloring books and crayons and GCU gifts were in abundance.

Thanks to Emily Panchuk for her handcrafted hats and to Laura Muhlfeld for her donation of rosaries. Thank you to Rev. Jerry Jecewiz for graciously allowing Lodge 151 to hold this event. An additional monetary gift was presented to Father to help supply the Pantry. Thank you to Elizabeth Ciro and her staff of volunteers for the warm greetings and assist in set up.

Most cherished this visit was the thunderous applause from pantry clients and volunteers for making this day very special.

Annual Breast Cancer Luncheon

The Lodge 151 breast cancer luncheon took place on October 13 at the Seasons in East Meadow, NY. Proceeds benefitted The Adelphi Hotline and Support Programs. A catered lunch, Adelphi Group speaker and additional fundraising events took place. A complete report will appear in the December issue.

Marge Pajer Russell

Christine Hulak

Ann Kandrato



Lodge members enjoyed interacting with the horses as they walk through the stables.

Lodge 250

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Night at the Races

On Saturday, July 22, 2017 Lodge 250 held their 8th annual “Night at the Races” at Hazel Park race track. Members enjoyed an evening of thoroughbred horse racing; a delicious all you can eat buffet dinner; a tour of the horse prepping area & walking circle; an interesting presentation explaining the preparation required before and after a horse competes in a race; a brief history of Hazel Park and a walk through the stables. Everyone enjoyed petting and feeding carrots to the horses generously provided by the race track. Looking forward to seeing everyone next year for the 9th annual “Night at the Races.”

John P. Minarish | Athletic Director

Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

Lodge 254 Pilgrimage Trip

On Saturday, August 12 members of Lodge 254 and choir members of St. Mary Byzantine Church in Hillsborough, NJ traveled to Sloatsburg, NY to the Dormition Pilgrimage. It was a celebration of the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the "Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate." Fr. James Spera, along with several priests & bishops celebrated the Divine Liturgy with the St. Mary's group, under the direction of Lodge 254 President Elias Zareva, leading the responses. Lodge 254 member, Savanna Bezick was soloist during communion.

Elias Zareva | President



Floyd Brzustowicz, Charlie Bazaral, Tom Upshaw, Rich Emiliano, Chuck Levitsky, and Andy Horun.

Lodge 254 Members at District 7 Golf Event

Members and friends of Lodge 254 in Hillsborough, NJ attended the District 7 golf outing at Green Pond Country Club Bethlehem, PA.

Charlie Bazaral Jr | Vice President



Golf winners.

UPCOMING LODGE 255 EVENT

Annual Steeler Tailgate

Sunday, November 12

Doors open at 12 noon

Cost is \$10

Steelers vs. Indianapolis Colts

St. John Chrysostom Church
506 Saline Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Questions? Contact
gculodge255@gmail.com or
call 412-521-3963

Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH, PA

Gene Tarabek Open and Fun Day at Seven Oaks

On Saturday, August 12, 2017 Lodge 255 held its Annual Golf Outing this year in conjunction with the past District 1 Gene Tarabek Golf Outing. In Gene's honor, a donation was made to the American Heart Association. The event was held at Seven Oaks Country Club with a dinner following golf. Congratulations to all the winners. Those not interested in golf spent the day relaxing at the pool and enjoying dinner in the Grille Room. Win or lose, everyone enjoyed a beautiful summer day.

Pirate Game at PNC Park

Friday, August 18, 2017 Lodge 255 in conjunction with the Home Office held the annual PNC Park outing to watch the Pirates play the St. Louis Cardinals on a fireworks night. While it was a tough loss, the Lodge 255 members, Home Office employees and other GCU members in attendance, enjoyed the evening of fraternalism.

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director



Matt Basl, Kendall Niskach and National Director Melanie Basl.

Lodge 288 CLAIRTON, PA

Matching Funds Event

Lodge 288 held a Matching Funds event in September to raise funds for the parish field trip in November. Dean & Carla Maksin donated a 32" TV as a prize. A drawing was held at the annual parish picnic on September 10, 2017. The winner was Don Buchina and his family. Don was also the winner 2 years ago, making him a "very lucky" winner!

Looking Forward

Lodge plans for the last quarter include a Harvest Pot Luck, a collaborating food drive with the local Rite Aid store, assisting with the parish St. Nicholas party and a fund raiser for the local Canine Corp in Clairton.

Trish Roberts | President



Dean & Carla Maksin (left) and Don Buchina & family.

Lodge 302 BRECKSVILLE, OH

Outstanding Youth Members

GCU member Madeline Karaffa, a GCU scholarship recipient, spoke at the September quarterly meeting. Madeline is attending Kent State University majoring in fashion design with a minor in marketing. She is also one of the "angelic" communion singers at St. Joseph Byzantine Church. God grant her many years!



Madeline Karaffa

Brooke Weitzel, a senior at Chagrin Falls High School, and granddaughter of Judy Weitzel, is on the rise as a midfielder on The Cleveland Futbol Club's 18-and-under girl's team that finished as a semifinalist during the US Youth Soccer National Championships Series on July 25-30 in Frisco, TX. Brooke plans to continue her academic and athletic career at DePaul University in Chicago in the 2018 fall season. The Weitzel family has 100% membership in GCU. Congratulations to Brooke Weitzel!

Holiday Cash

Lodge 302 is having a Holiday Cash drawing for the benefit of the church's capital improvement fund. There are cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100. Drawing will take place on December 17 after Liturgy at St. Joseph Church. GCU members will be selling tickets for \$2 each!

Diane Richey | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church parking lot

Adults bring candy to distribute from the trunk of their car to children "Trunk or Treating." Halloween Costumes recommended but not required – children should bring a bag/pumpkin to collect their goodies!

"The Addams Family: Do or Die" Murder Mystery

Saturday, November 4

6 PM Doors Open

Show starts at approx. 6:30 PM

Ticket price \$35

Includes appetizers & buffet dinner

Cash Bar—beer & wine (No outside food or drink permitted)

St. Joseph New Orleans Party Center

Benefits the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation

Contact Judy Weitzel at jw1049@aol.com or

440-526-8395 or Diana Simpson at

dilynnsi@yahoo.com or 330-205-0476

4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 5

Immediately following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

CONTINUED

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Food Drive & Banner Sunday

Saturday & Sunday, November 18-19

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

St. Nicholas Pot Luck & Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 3

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

Thomas the Tank Engine

In July, Thomas the Train made its annual visit to Phillipsburg. Families from all over the East coast come to ride the train and enjoy the many activities based on the Thomas the Tank Engine stories. A church member graciously offered

her property as a parking lot for the many visitors. This is a great fundraiser, with all of the proceeds going to the church. Lodge 316 also uses this as a Matching Funds project, which greatly enhances our profit. Thank you to the GCU for this great program!



Family members Brent Maczko, Doug Maczko, Joel Scardelli and Jackson Maczko enjoy the day of golf.

Lodge 316

PHILLIPSBURG, NJ

Ole Town Festival

Lodge 316 and SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church participated in Phillipsburg's Ole Town Festival on June 23 & 24. The annual festival is held at Walter's Park. Activities included a softball game, musical performances, games and rides for the children, swimming, vendor sales, and a variety of good food. Our group sold homemade perogies which were a huge success. Many of the patrons said they look forward to them every year. The GCU Fraternal Grant was greatly appreciated!



7th Annual Christopher Meddaugh Memorial Golf Outing

Lodge 316 partnered with the Christopher Meddaugh Foundation on Saturday, July 22 to sponsor a golf outing at Green Pond Country Club. Proceeds from this outing are used for scholarships at Notre Dame High School in Easton, PA (Christopher's alma mater). Chris was the son of Gary & Kathleen Meddaugh (nee Maczko) of Belvidere, NJ and the grandson of life long GCU member Margaret Maczko of Phillipsburg, NJ and the late John Maczko. Kathy currently is the secretary-treasurer of Lodge 316, and treasurer for District 7.

Golfers received a "goodie bag" with extra golf balls, snacks, and a golf towel supplied by the GCU Home Office. There were 56 participants in the four-person scramble and another nine joined the golfers for the buffet that followed golf. The "Hit the Green" contest, was a favorite as always. A few sprinkles as golf was ending, did not dampen anyone's spirits. Special gift baskets were auctioned to help raise a few extra dollars during the buffet dinner and prizes were awarded for the event and skill prize winners.

Thank you to the volunteers that did a tremendous job in helping to make the event a success.

This past spring, the Foundation awarded \$5,000.⁰⁰ in scholarships to students at Notre Dame, a result of last year's outing. Similar awards are anticipated from this year's event.

Both Lodge 316 and the Foundation are grateful to the GCU Matching Funds for helping make this event an annual success.

Kathleen Meddaugh | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 340

RAHWAY, NJ

Annual Tricky Tray Charity Table

This year the annual Tricky Tray charity event took place on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Lodge 340 will donate the proceeds to “The Homeless Bus.” The Homeless Bus, is literally a bus, that has been heading into New York City from New Jersey every Saturday night for 25 years. Founders Mark & Anna Landgrebe, provide quick food options, toiletries, blankets and much more to homeless individuals on the streets of New York City.

On Sunday, August 27, 2017, St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church community in Rahway, NJ

had the opportunity to hear Anna Landgrebe speak after the Sunday Liturgy. She explained that there are more than 60,000 homeless people in NYC, approximately 22,000 of them are children and 30 percent are veterans. All were humbled by her presentation. It was a great kick off to the Lodge 340 charity event!

This was Lodge 340’s eighth annual

charity/matching funds event at the St. Thomas Church Tricky Tray. Prizes awarded from the Lodge 340 table included a \$200 gift card, donated by the lodge, a Tommy Hilfiger leather bag and a pair of Tommy Hilfiger sunglasses, both donated by Leigh Mary Bannworth.

Mary K. Bannworth | President



Anna Landgrebe speaking to our group.



The group of students being blessed at the parish picnic.

Lodge 360

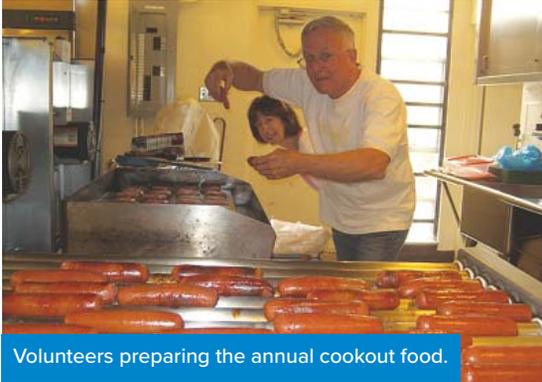
CAMPBELL, OH

Many Milestones to Celebrate

GCU Lodge 360 and St. Michael’s Parish recently had the opportunity to celebrate several joyous occasions. Wednesday, July 26 was the 88th birthday of retired pastor, Msgr. Victor Romza. Parishioners had the opportunity to visit and celebrate with him. God grant him many happy and blessed years.

Sunday, August 20 St. Michaels held its annual parish picnic. The day commenced with an outdoor Liturgy followed by the blessing of students and teachers for the upcoming school year. Parishioners and lodge members enjoy great food and fun activities. The picnic included celebration of the church’s 95th anniversary, the GCU’s 125th anniversary, altar server Adam Macala’s 21st birthday and Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas’ 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to all for these many milestones reached.

Lisa Romito | Secretary-Treasurer



Volunteers preparing the annual cookout food.

UPCOMING LODGE 386 EVENT

UPMC/GCU Lodge 386 Health Screening Event

**Saturday, November 18
10 AM– 12 NOON**

St. Pius X Church Auditorium
2336 Brownsville Road, Carrick, PA 15210

Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Screening, Weight/BMI and Ask the Expert

Lodge 386

PITTSBURGH, PA

Annual Cookout

On Sunday, August 6, St. Pius X Church with support from Lodge 386 held its annual cookout for fraternalism and to benefit St. Paul Monastery Food Bank

located in the South Side of Pittsburgh.

Attendees enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, kolbassi and delicious side dishes prepared by the parishioners.

Over \$100.00 in cash was collected as well as four cartons of non-perishable items. This will assist local families in need as the school year begins.

Many thanks to the GCU for the giveaways & grant money to support this event and most of all a big thank you to those who kindly donated items for the food bank!

Beth Gulyasy | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 390

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Meeting & Seminar

Lodge 390 held a GCU product seminar in conjunction with the second quarter meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017. A luncheon was served and door prizes were awarded. There were 60 people in attendance who all brought food items to donate to a local food bank.

There were 6 lucky winners of \$25 gift cards and Mary Jo Galiyas won a 10 inch computer tablet. The grand prize winner of a 50 inch TV was Marge Dzuro.

Thanks to GCU Agent Randy Baden who presented the seminar.

Randy Baden



Lodge 401

NANTY GLO, PA

Ham & Holupki Dinner

Volunteer members of GCU Lodge 401 were back in the kitchen of home parish, St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, to rattle the pots & pans and prepare a fundraiser dinner.

Sunday, April 30 was the second annual Ham & Holupki Dinner. Last year the dinners were sold out 1 ½ hours early. With extra preparation this year, there

was enough for the staff to enjoy dinner once everyone was served.

Only one guest, local Methodist Pastor John Weaver, had a complaint and it was that second helpings weren't served. A visit from Pastor Weaver is always welcome and all enjoy his wit. Rumor has it that he did have an extra dessert.

The lodge would like to express a special thanks to all the patrons and to the volunteers for all the hard work.

Gene Ostinowsky | Vice President



Volunteers Mary Lou Straple and Veronica Melcotti.



A young member searches for the perfect refreshment for the bus ride to Kennywook Park.

Lodge 442

BOARDMAN, OH

Kennywood Day

Once again, Lodge 442 sponsored the Byzantine Family Day Tailgate Party on Thursday, July 27, 2017 for the Youngstown, OH area. Lodge members, parishioners and guests from Lodge 252, Youngstown, OH and Lodge 164, Campbell, OH joined Lodge 442 for a gathering in the parking lot of Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church. Snacks, brochures and GCU give-aways were enjoyed by all ages. GCU Byzantine Family Day is held annually at Kennywood Park, an amusement park in West Mifflin, PA. Special thanks to Rev. Michael Farynets, pastor of the church.

Matching Funds Community Project

The Lodge 442 "Move the Mission" Donation Drive for the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley is off to a great start and runs through the end of October. A list of most needed items, donation boxes and brochures on the good works of the Mission are located in the Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Church vestibule. Please give generously.

Elaine Chacko | Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 442 EVENTS

4th Quarter Meeting

Sunday, October 29

Following 9 AM Liturgy

Infant Jesus of Prague Church
7754 South Avenue, Boardman, OH

The lodge will sponsor a coffee and donut social for all parishioners and guests prior to the meeting.

Childrens Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10

Following 9 AM Liturgy

Infant Jesus of Prague Church
7754 South Avenue, Boardman, OH

Kids up to age 14. Sign-up sheet will be available in the church vestibule. Fun, food and gifts from St. Nicholas!

Annual Christmas Bake Sale

Saturday & Sunday, December 16 & 17

Following 9 AM Liturgy

Infant Jesus of Prague Church
7754 South Avenue, Boardman, OH

Kolachi, strudel and season favorites. Co-sponsored with the Altar and Rosary Society of the parish. The lodge's proceeds will go towards our Matching Funds Projects.



Some of the participants at the Bowling Party.

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

I cannot believe that as I am writing this article that it is the first day of Autumn. Where did the summer disappear to? But, once again Mother Nature will create a spectacular view of Fall foliage—hopefully it will be breath taking as it usually is.

3rd & 4th Quarter Meetings

The GHRL 3rd quarter meeting was held on Sunday, August 13 at St. John's BC Church hall. Distributions were made to some of the Matching Funds recipients, (Holy Dormition Friary-Catholic Social Services and the Disabled Veterans Association). The rest of the funds were distributed in person to Holy Annunciation Monastery, Meals on Wheels, Helping Hands Association. All organizations were very grateful for the monetary donations. Thanks to the GCU for such a great project.

The 4th quarter/annual meeting was held on Sunday, October 8 at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Beaver Meadows, PA. Election of officers took place and final preparations for the St. Nicholas dinner, where scholarship winners-Stephen Betterly and Leslie Peters will be honored, were made.

A Busy Month for GHRL

GHRL has been busy during the last month, beginning with the back to school bumper bowling party on Sunday, August 27. The GCU'ers resumed bowling on Wednesday, September 6—welcome back to bowlers Josh and Agnes. The league has 18 bowlers, (6 teams-3 bowlers on each team). The Sands Casino bus trip was held on Sunday, September 17 and the trip to see "Jonah" at Sight and Sound Theater was on Saturday, September 23.

Donations Made

GHRL recently made two donations, one to the Holy Dormition Friary and Catholic Social Services and the other to the Disabled American Veterans.

Prayers and Condolences

Please keep in your prayers and thoughts all those who have been devastated by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma & Maria and also the victims of the

earthquakes.

Condolences are extended to the Durkay Family, Adela (former Athletic Director of District 6) entered into eternal rest on August 19. She was always very active at SS. Peter & Paul in Beaver Meadows, making pirohi and always lending a helping hand. Eternal memory and blessed repose.

Here is wishing everyone a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. Take the time to spend this special holiday with family & friends and to be thankful for what you have.

Remember that sometimes dates are subject to change, and if you are unsure about a meeting or an event, please give me a call at 570-454-4869 or if you are computer savvy-check out the GCU website for updates.

Until next time, take care and may God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Secretary/Activities Director

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

Sands Casino Bus Trip

Sunday, October 22

Fall Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 28 at 9 AM

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Warm Heart-Cold Hands Clothing Drive

November 1-15

St. Nicholas Dinner

Sunday, December 3 at 1 PM

Capriotti's



At left: GCU National Director Dorothy Ann Foran, Deacon Larry Foran, Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, Rick Hoppey, (back) Ann Marie Betterly and Agnes Rohrbach make GHRL presentation to Holy Dormition Friary and Catholic Social Services. At right: (front) Agnes Rohrbach, Mike Komishock, GCU National Director Dorothy Ann Foran, Ann Marie Betterly, John Kanyak, Deacon Larry Foran and Rick Hoppey with donation for Disabled American Veterans.



Festival Volunteers.

Lodge 625 CONEMAUGH, PA

Community Matching Funds Event

Lodge 625 had the opportunity to participate in the local Music Festival on August 4 & 5 selling halupki, halushki, pirohi and gobs. Funds raised from the event will benefit the community. Thanks to the Home Office for the Matching Funds to benefit the lodge's local charities.



Some of the kids enjoying the picnic.

Parish/Lodge Picnic

Sunday, August 20, the Lodge combined with Holy Trinity Parish for a picnic at Highland Park in Johnstown, PA. The weather cooperated and over 60 members and their families participated in the event. There was plenty of food and fun for those who attended. The lodge thanks the Home Office for the subsidy to assist with the event.



Georgia Lehman, Fr. Robert Oravetz and Paul Yackulich.

Matching Funds Check Presented

On September 3, 2017 President Paul Yackulich, Jr, and Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Lehman presented a \$3,700.00 check to Father Robert Oravetz, pastor at Holy Trinity Byzantine Church. The donation was from the Jackson Heritage Festival Matching Funds food sale.

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

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

Children's Halloween Party

**Saturday, October 28
2 to 4 PM**

Holy Trinity Church Hall
Conemaugh PA

Swiss Steak Dinner

**Sunday, November 12
11 AM to 2 PM**

Holy Trinity Church Hall
Conemaugh PA

Annual Meeting

**Sunday, November 26
Following Divine Liturgy
Approximately 10:15 AM**

Holy Trinity Church Hall
Conemaugh PA

More from Lodge 644

AKRON/BARBERTON, OH

Breakfast is Served

On Sunday, August 6, Lodge 644 prepared and served breakfast for clergy and parishioners of St. Nicholas Church in Barberton. Bishop Milan Lach, the Apostolic Administrator of Parma, celebrated Liturgy at St. Nicholas that morning and attended the breakfast with his brother Rev. Peter Lach. Bishop Milan has celebrated Liturgy at a number of parishes since his welcoming at the Parma Cathedral on July 21.

Visit to the Lourdes Grotto

On Thursday, August 17, Lodge 644 members visited the Lourdes Grotto at St. Joseph Church in Randolph, OH. The church was established in 1831 and when Rev. Edward Spitzig became pastor in 1926 he observed the formation of land behind the church and envisioned a grotto similar to the one in France. He presented a plan to the bishop and the completed grotto was dedicated by Bishop Schrembs on August 14, 1927.

People who have visited the grotto in France have commented on how closely this shrine resembles the original. In fact, the Ohio shrine contains a stone from the Lourdes Grotto in France. It is interesting that the lodge visited on the week of the 90th Anniversary of the shrine. Even after 186 years the church

and property are in pristine condition, a testimony to the hard work and dedication of the parishioners.

With summer now a memory preparation begins for the upcoming

holidays. Thanksgiving Day affords everyone an opportunity to remember and offer thanks for God's many blessings.

John Keblesh | Publicity Director



Rev. Peter Lach, Bishop Milan Lach, Rev. Miron Kerul'-Kmec and his wife Marcela.



Lodge 644 members praying the rosary at the Lourdes Grotto Shrine.



St. Joseph Church



Lodge members and parishioners gather around to witness the proper disposal of a U.S. flag. Photo by Val Marszalec.

Lodge 860

DETROIT, MI

Flag Day Program Features Ceremonial Retirement of Old Glory

The highlight of this year's

Lodge 860 Flag Day event was the ceremonial retirement of a U.S. flag by proper and reverent burning. The event was held on Sunday, June 11, at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township, MI. The flag had previously flown atop the flagpole on the parish grounds.

Lodge members and parishioners gathered around while lodge member and former U.S. Marine Duane Vancil carefully lit Old Glory on fire in a metal container. Lodge VP George Nagrant led the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America." Lodge Fraternal/Publicity Director Val Marszalec read a moving official explanation of the 14 folds of the American flag. Afterward, participants shared flag-themed cakes and fellowship in the parish social hall.

Val Marszalec | Fraternal & Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 860 EVENT

Trivia Night (age 18 & up)

Saturday, November 11

Doors open at 7 PM with a light supper buffet, Game begins at 7:30 PM

Cost is \$2

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church
23300 King Drive, Clinton Twp., MI

Snacks & non-alcoholic beverages provided (BYOB)

Contact Anne Nagrant 248-948-1953

Lodge 945

DUNMORE, PA

Those living in the Northeastern United States are fortunate to enjoy some of the most beautiful of God's works. As one wonderful season closes, another begins. The autumn season will bring the incredible transformation of green to colors of gold, red, and orange. This beautiful change of seasons is a definite bucket list item for those who have never been to the northeastern states. Unimaginable beauty at its best. For those living here, it's worth that Sunday afternoon drive, just for the view. Treat yourself to nature at its very best.

Local Animal Shelter Donation

During the month of August, members of Lodge 945 and St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church partnered in support of raising awareness of the need of a local animal shelter, Griffin Pond Animal Shelter in Waverly, PA. Utilizing the GCU Matching Funds program a total of over \$300.00 in



Lodge 945 members presented Griffin Pond Animal Shelter with a monetary donation and items collected during the month of August. From left Sharon Kofel, shelter board member-Dan Mahoney, Paul Dunda, Myron Fedor, George Kofel and Cheryl Shihinski.

needed goods and a check for \$450.00 was presented to the shelter. Lodge 945 would like to thank the parishioners of St. Michael's for their on-going support of Lodge 945 projects, lodge members, the GCU Home Office and the Fraternal-Communication Department for their assistance.

Please check for additional activities and updates on the GCU website.

Elsie Kolecun | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 945 EVENTS

Fall Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 28
9 AM

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Walking Trail Clean-Up

Saturday, November 4
9 AM

Dunmore Heritage Walking Trail

4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 19
Following 9 AM Liturgy

St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Church
511 East Drinker Street, Dunmore, PA 18512

District Five St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards

Sunday, November 26
11 AM

Location to be announced

All District 5 eligible college students are urged to apply for a district scholarship.

UPCOMING LODGE 994 EVENTS

Holiday Honor/Memory Tree

Monday, October 16 through Saturday, November 11
\$5 per Ornament

This Holiday Season, you may honor someone who has impacted your life by purchasing a personalized ornament to be displayed on a specially designated Honor/Memory Tree placed among the beautiful Christmas trees in the Seven Oaks Country Club lobby.

Benefits "Canines for Vets"

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

Food Drive

Sunday, October 15 through Wednesday, November 15

Benefits the local Four Mile Church Food Bank

Donation box will be located in the lobby at Seven Oaks C.C.

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

For Your Information

Events

Fall Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA
Saturday, October 28
9 AM

Contact Agnes at 570-454-4869

36th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, October 29
Divine Liturgy 9 AM
12 NOON to 6 PM
FREE

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

Call 724-438-6027 for information

Ethnic food, activities & entertainment will all make for a great day. The Carpatho-Rusyn Society will have a display of artifacts and assist with genealogical questions. There will be pysanky, iconography, wood burning, bobbin lace making, folk art demonstrations, music, church tours, children's activities (including egg art, cookie decorating, coloring/craft projects, and storytelling), crafts, parish cookbooks, raffles, videos, and much more. Handicapped accessible.

"Come and See" Retreat of Discovery

Friday-Sunday, November 3-5, 2017
The retreat, meals, and lodging are FREE
Application Deadline is October 19

Byzantine Catholic Seminary of
 SS. Cyril & Methodius

Men, ages 18 to 35, single or married, who may be considering a vocation to the priesthood in the Byzantine Catholic Church. The atmosphere will be prayerful, positive, and fraternal. More information can be found at the Seminary's website www.bcs.org.

If you would like more information about this topic, please call the Seminary Office 412-321-8383 or e-mail at office@bcs.edu.

61st Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

Sunday, December 3
Moleben at 4 PM
Dinner at 6 PM

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center
 Munhall, PA

Information available on the Events page of the GCU Website-www.GCUusa.com or call 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

Available

Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

Having sold over 17,000 copies, the cookbook has entered its 18th 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 \$27.⁰⁰ 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) 208-6771 (M-F 6-8 PM) or email carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



For Your Information

Can You Help Us?

In the process of updating contact information for all of our members, GCU has uncovered the following members that we have totally lost contact with. If you can assist us with an address or phone number for any of the members listed here, please call the GCU Call Center at 855-306-0607.

- Mary Baka
- Anna Bodrog
- James I. Campbell
- Dennis Chuba
- Mary K. Colangelo
- Frank Danko
- John Deak
- Joan DeMarco
- Anna Dutko
- Joann Gabor
- Norman S. Gajda
- Sarah C. Gajewski
- Peter George
- Barbara Grunza
- William R. Haywood
- Jane F. Healey
- Basil Hilnich
- Michael Hilton
- Sharon K. Hrinko
- Catherine Hrisisce
- Katherine S. Keogh
- Joseph Kobal
- Edward Kraly
- Paul M. Kraves
- Ann Marie Lengyel
- Charles D. Lewis
- Joseph Lovrencevic
- Lisa H. Lovrencevic
- Robert Malnar
- Margaret Mateja
- Ann M. Mihalko
- Dorothy Miller
- Nancy Mitchell
- Karen M. Moran
- Mary E. Mulvey
- Charlene Nagy
- Brenda A. Oberding
- Julia Olijar
- Jose Ortiz
- Christine Pasterick
- Jessica L. Petrizza
- Robin S. Phillips
- Robert A. Pinchak
- Helen Pisko
- Geraldine Pondok
- Angela D. Radocesky
- David J. Roth
- Geraldine Sabol
- Gloria J. Shifra
- Amber Jill Smith
- Ann Marie Smith
- John C. Smoley
- John Soga
- Alfred Taylor
- Carole Tiskiewicz
- Arthur Visokey
- Michael C. Yusko
- Rev. George Zuback

Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation

1. Title of Publication: The GCU Magazine
2. Publication No. 227900
3. Date of Filing: September 15, 2017
4. Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 6
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12.00
7. Location of known office of publication: 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513.
8. Names and complete addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Greek Catholic Union of the USA, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
9. George N. Juba, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
Basil M. Wahal, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
10. Owner: Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A., 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and other Security Holders owning or holding 1% or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or other Securities: None
12. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal Income Tax purposes have not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Title: GCU Magazine
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: August 2016
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: GCU Members + Subscriptions

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed	12,187	7,073
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	0	0
2. Mail Subscriptions	11,404	6,523
C. Total Paid Circulation	11,404	6,523
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier or other means	0	0
E. Total Free Distribution	0	0
F. Total Distribution	11,404	6,523
G. Copies not distributed	783	550
H. Total	12,187	7,073
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: October 2017
17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

-s- **Basil M. Wahal**, Managing Editor



GCU Hurricane Relief Fund

Our Mission

**“Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism,
Strengthening Communities”**

As we have witnessed over the last several weeks, the wrath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria have created great hardships to thousands of individuals that were unfortunate to lie in the path of these horrific storms. There is a great ongoing demand for essential life sustaining needs as efforts to rebuild the many communities decimated by these hurricanes, continues.

GCU is asking for your financial support to assist those in need. The Board of Directors has established a Special Matching Fund Project that will match member donations up to \$10,000 total. Donations are fully tax deductible through the GCU Foundation and will be allocated between the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army to assist their efforts in the affected areas. The GCU Foundation will be accepting tax deductible donations now through October 31, 2017. Please visit the GCU Website and click on the Hurricane Relief banner on the home page to make a donation using your credit card.

If you would prefer to donate by mail, please send your check payable to “GCU Foundation,” 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. Be sure to put Hurricane Relief on the memo line.

If you have questions please email us at events@GCUusa.com or call 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3809.

Thank you for assisting us in our disaster relief effort.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

83	Paul Anderson, Beaver Falls, PA	250	Genevieve M. Coe, Ypsilanti, MI	83	Helen Hahn, Ellicott City, MD
8304	Virginia Anderson, Temecula, CA	83	Leona Collins, Pittsburgh, PA	8304	Bill Hahs, Fallbrook, CA
644	Nathaniel Angeletti, Stow, OH	83	Dora Cooper, Jamestown, PA	255	Robert Frank Halahan, Delray Beach, FL
83	Edwin D. Armstrong, New Galilee, PA	28	Irene D. Davis, Whitaker, PA	225	Dorothy Hallman, North Hampton, PA
83	Eleanor Aubrey, Andreas, PA	83	John C. Delic, Johnstown, PA	401	Betty Haman, Portage, PA
665	John Babish, Colonia, NJ	83	Clara Dell Angelo, North Wales, PA	999	Donald J. Hamilton, Spring Hill, TN
83	Letitia Bailey, Marlboro, NJ	GHRL	John R. Demjanish, Hazelton, PA	442	Mary Hamrock, Youngstown, OH
83	Bonnie Baker, Charleroi, PA	83	Irene L. Detar, Apollo, PA	83	Gwendolyn G. Harris, Homer City, PA
360	Gladys Balas, Poland, OH	8309	Larry Deuermeyer, Clermont, FL	83	Loretta Hauger, Somerset, PA
83	Steven Balog, Piscataway, NJ	83	Ernesto DiGenova, Bridgeport, PA	83	Teresa K. Hayes, Cranberry, PA
53	Michael J. Barna, Swoyersville, PA	83	Susan Dopira, Summit Hill, PA	83	Gerard W. Healey, Pittsburgh, PA
83	Reatha Barrett, Dayton, PA	360	Jane Drumm, Bloomsburg, PA	83	Carol Heinlein, Oakdale, PA
8327	Roger W. Bartelt, Rochester, MN	390	Stephen Dubos, Campbell, OH	390	Bert Heyz, Connellsville, PA
83	Theresa J. Battistelli, Carmichaels, PA	15	Frances Dufalla, Elizabeth, PA	83	John Hite, Martinsburg, PA
83	Mary Bellicini, Monongahela, PA	83	Eleanor Dzurisin, Hamilton, NJ	83	Robert E. Hite, Penn, PA
211	Mary Ann J. Benitez, Eynon, PA	151	Paul F. Evans, Tarentum, PA	8358	Marilyn Hokenson, Two Rivers, WI
15	Mary Berish, Mercerville, NJ	83	Anna Falletta, Staten Island, NY	83	Jean C. Houston, Beaver, PA
271	Vikki A. Bilowich, Chicago, IL	83	Sophie C. Farina, King of Prussia, PA	83	Helen Hrabowski, Langhorne, PA
8358	Norbert K. Bloes, St. Francis, WI	93	Mary Fayak, Mentor, OH	GHRL	Karlene Hughes, Pine Grove, PA
255	Edward Boyda, Pittsburgh, PA	999	Marilyn M. Fellows, Tempe, AZ	83	Jean N. Hunter, Pittsburgh, PA
8360	John Bragg, Roebuck, SC	8344	Yolanda Ficerai, Saxonburg, PA	8358	Gilbert Hurtis, Marathon, WI
8344	Kenneth W. Bright, Birdsboro, PA	83	Liviu Filip, Seven Hills, OH	83	Thomas Johns, Midland, PA
83	Karl T. Brosky, Northampton, PA	8304	Gerald Fischer, Topanga, CA	83	Lila Jones, Bridgeport, PA
83	Dolores J. Brown, Mifflinville, PA	83	Lucy Fowler, Warren, PA	271	Dolores Jurgovan, Orland Park, IL
83	Mabel F. Bruno, Navarre, FL	83	Nikitas Garyfallou, Tobyhanna, PA	83	Katherine Kacik, Monessen, PA
83	Alan Burgess, Mentcle, PA	999	Wolfgang H. Gellrich, Litchfield Park, AZ	945	Pauline Kahanick, Clarks Summit, PA
83	Michael Burka, Baden, PA	83	Sheila A. Gerhart, Birdsboro, PA	83	Alice M. Kappas, Pittsburgh, PA
401	Dennis G. Burke, South Fork, PA	252	Mary Getsy, Campbell, OH	8304	Teruko Kawai, Mission Viejo, CA
83	Richard Butler, Bedford, PA	83	James Giles, Townsend, DE	83	Thomas C. Kearns, Pittsburgh, PA
8309	David A. Cantini, Fernandina Beach, FL	83	Eleanor Golby, Masontown, PA	83	Anna Kerrigan, Trafford, PA
83	Lucy Capacasa, Mount Laurel, NJ	GHRL	Martha Gower, Freeland, PA	8304	Leroy King, Santa Ana, CA
255	Elizabeth Capps, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Ruth O. Graff, Gibsonia, PA	83	Michael Kish, Ocean City, MD
8324	Joseph D. Chisarick, Rockville, MD	83	Lillian L. Graham Law, Greensburg, PA	57	Margaret Klamorick, Murrysville, PA
83	Anna Chonko, Altoona, PA	83	Charles J. Gray, Russell, PA	GHRL	Carl Klein, Danville, PA
83	Barbara A. Chumrik, Johnstown, PA	83	Agnes Guzewicz, North Versailles, PA		

77	Michael A. Kocak, Pittsburgh, PA	83	Theresa B. Piekarski, Pittsburgh, PA	255	Eugene Tarabek, West Mifflin, PA
83	Wallace Koch, Ellwood City, PA			57	Barbara A. Timo, Bentleyville, PA
83	Robert W. Koebley, Gibsonia, PA	8344	Peter Povich, Johnstown, PA	66	Michael T. Toth, Aiken, SC
316	Stephen Kopach, Phillipsburg, NJ	83	Alex Pribis, Butler, PA	83	Theresa Trisick, King of Prussia, PA
211	Rose Kordish, Peckville, PA	83	Margaret L. Price, Ellwood City, PA	8358	Melvin Vandevelde, Green Bay, WI
83	Jean Kovach, Butler, PA	83	Katherine Quarve, Lake City, MN	860	John T. VanSicklen, Commerce Twp, MI
151	Richard Kovalcik, Edison, NJ	340	Margaret Quirk, Rumson, NJ		
2	John Kuklinca, Grove City, PA	17	Gerald G. Race, Taylor, PA	52	Mary Vehar, Holbrook, PA
20	Eleanore S. Labik, Collegeville, PA	83	Charles Remo, Canon City, CO	8358	Ruth A. Verhage, Madison, WI
321	Anna Leason, Bradenville, PA	8344	Sophia C. Rench, Mahanoy City, PA	271	Elizabeth Walsh, Fairview Heights, IL
83	Daniel Lenart, Bridgeville, PA	83	Norene S. Rice, Slatington, PA	8304	Victor N. Winter, Fullerton, CA
83	Gerald R. Lenavitt, Kittanning, PA	625	John Romanko, Johnstown, PA	83	Thelma D. Wisler, Royersford, PA
83	Arlene K. Lewis, Columbus, OH	8358	Beatrice Rosner, Coleman, WI	258	Theresa P. Wolfarth, Sewickley, PA
83	Junnie L. Lindsey, Sheffield, PA	83	Kitty Ross, Imperial, PA	66	Robert W. Wood, De Motte, IN
8344	Joseph J. Locke, East Stroudsburg, PA	994	Margaret Ross, Beaver Falls, PA	83	Dorothy Yambrick, Novi, MI
109	Sophia Love, Sarver, PA	83	Mary A. Russo, Warren, PA	319	George Yambrick, Frankenmuth, MI
15	Michael Macinsky, Morrisville, PA	10	Charles Sabol, Beaver Falls, PA	255	Michael J. Yaremko, Riverview, MI
83	John Malie, Whitehall Borough, PA	10	Janet H. Salopek, Baden, PA	66	Jerry Yoder, Sherwood, MI
20	John Mallick, Quakertown, PA	321	Joseph R. Samella, New Alexandria, PA	8358	Norma Young, Oak Creek, WI
860	John J. Marhevko, Hudson, FL	999	Joseph Scafoglio, Scottsdale, AZ	83	Gloria J. Zampelli, Shoemakersville, PA
83	Marie Matteo, Cape Coral, FL	8344	Donald J. Schlemmer, New Castle, PA		
83	Dorothy McClintick, Ellwood City, PA	2	Anna Secko, East McKeesport, PA		
83	Hazel McCracken, Ligonier, PA	8344	Martha J. Shaffer, Bobtown, PA		
258	Lynne Metz Schwartz, Lake Elmore, VT	390	Lily Shearer, Pittsburgh, PA		
83	Romayne L. Miller, Warren, PA	255	Elmer Shuty, Greensburg, PA		
390	Mary Minnici, Beaver, PA	8327	James Sibley, Rochester, MN		
8344	Julia Morales, East Stroudsburg, PA	83	Gwenda R. Slack, Jefferson Hills, PA		
8344	Kathryn Nemeth, Lewes, DE	83	Claire J. Sminko, Monongahela, PA		
8344	Vincent Niederberger, Allison Park, PA	83	Donna Snare, Ellwood City, PA		
83	Edward Novak, Ebensburg, PA	83	Susan M. Stanton, Philipsburg, PA		
83	Henry Oslosky, Export, PA	83	Elizabeth Stariha, Tarentum, PA		
83	Ereka Panesi, Carnegie, PA	83	Ethel Stiles, Creighton, PA		
12	Helen Pelczar, Gillette, NJ	83	James L. Strouse, Pottsville, PA		
8344	Fred T. Perry, Philadelphia, PA	164	Marjorie Sudimack, Warren, OH		
225	George Petro, Bethlehem, PA	8358	Victoria P. Sullivan, Kaukauna, WI		

Remembrances

John Kuklinca

John Kuklinca, 96, of Grove City, PA and formerly of West Homestead, PA, died on August 25, 2017. He was a longtime member and former officer of Lodge 2 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Munhall, PA, a member and promoter of the former District 1 in Western Pennsylvania, a delegate to GCU National Conventions through the years, and a past member of the GCU Supreme Tribunal.

John Kuklinca's easy going mannerism and his outgoing personality were a perfect fit for GCU fraternalism. He would lend his talents and services at any and all functions when called upon. He accepted duties as assigned and he came forward whenever the call for help went out.

He responded in the same way at St. John's Cathedral where he was a lifelong parishioner. John served as a parish usher, a member and former officer of the CAMEO Club and a volunteer for many years at St. John Cathedral Center. GCU retired Fraternal Communications Director Fred Petro recalls his first encounter with John Kuklinca. It was June 1971 and Fred was just hired as the new cantor for the Cathedral. When he walked into the old Cathedral on Dickson Street in Munhall for the 6:30 AM Sunday Liturgy, the first person that he met was John Kuklinca who was on usher duty. Kuklinca introduced himself and was the first person to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to the 23 year old new cantor. It's a moment that both

would recall many times over the next 45 years.

John Kuklinca and Irene DiPaolo (deceased May 16, 2008) were married and became parents of three daughters, Marianne (William) Lopata, Janet Kuklinca and Susan (Paul) Miklos, and grandparents of Michele (Tom Gregg) Miklos, John Miklos, Alex Miklos and Julie Miklos. Also surviving are a sister, Anna Jane Camino. Predeceasing him in addition to his wife was a sister, Mary Orosz.

The Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.

2017 Junior Bowling Scholarship Winners



Austin Malutic

Congratulations to our 2017 winners of the GCU National Junior Bowling Scholarship!

Each of our winners will be awarded a \$1,000.00 toward further education.

Our female winner in the Age 16-18 category is Leeann Harris. Leeann is a member of GCU Lodge 255.

Our male winner in the Age 16-18 category is Austin Malutic. Austin is a member of Lodge 442.



Leeann Harris

Join us for an Eastern
Conference Final rematch!

2018 Penguin Outing



Tuesday
February 13, 2018
7PM
PPG Paints Arena
Pittsburgh, PA
Section 234



GCUusa.com

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



800-722-4428 ext. 3809



Invested in Education

2017-2018 GCU Scholarship Programs

GCU is pleased to announce the scholarship opportunities and requirements for the 2017-2018 scholarship program. Visit www.GCUusa.com under Member Benefits for more information.

Online scholarship applications will be available October 2, 2017 – December 31, 2017.

Membership Requirements for all GCU Scholarships

To be eligible for all GCU scholarships, the student must be a member of the GCU for at least five years (as of January 30, 2018) with either:

- ✦ a permanent life certificate or ✦ an annuity with a minimum balance of \$2,000

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 \$1,500.00 award** for members who:

- ✦ 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:

- ✦ essay (at least 500 words) ✦ photo
- ✦ letter of recommendation from a parish priest, college chaplain or other clergy
- ✦ Fall 2017 grade transcript (*unofficial transcript accepted*)

The **Academic Performance Scholarship is a \$750.00 award** for members who:

- ✦ 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 2017 grade transcript (*unofficial transcript accepted*)

Opportunity for High School Athlete Seniors

The **Athletic Scholarship is a \$1,500.00 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, 2017 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 Wednesday, January 31, 2018.**

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 March 2018. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement email by **March 31, 2018** informing them if they received a scholarship award.

