

OCTOBER 2019

GCU



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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Indian Summer

The lazy days of summer are well behind us! Here in Western Pennsylvania we experienced very wet weather for the most part in May and June. However, since then the following months gave us one of the longest stretches I can recall, where we can truly be thankful for a most beautiful summer! “Nature” is truly breathtaking with all the color and landscape that God has provided for us to enjoy! I do hope you and your family had an opportunity to visit the many creations of nature—my favorite is always the beach!

Well it’s on to Fall and talk about colors! Although summer may be my favorite season, I do look forward to the incredible change in the landscape that occurs before our eyes as nature transitions into its “winter slumber”! I remain hopeful as we move into October that we will enjoy an “Indian Summer.” As a youth, I often heard discussion amongst my grandparents and parents about “Indian Summers.”

In my research, an **Indian Summer** is a period of unseasonably warm, dry weather that sometimes occurs in autumn in Northern America. In an article on the



“Nature” is truly breathtaking with all the color and landscape that God has provided for us to enjoy!

US National Weather Service’s website, weather historian William R. Deedler writes that **Indian Summer** is defined as “any spell of warm, quiet, hazy weather that may occur in October or even early November”^[1] It is usually described as occurring after a killing frost.^[1]

Late-19th century Boston lexicographer Albert Matthews made an exhaustive search of early American literature in an attempt to discover who coined the expression.^[2] The earliest reference he found dated from 1851. He also

found the phrase in a letter written in England in 1778 but discounted that as a coincidental use of the phrase.

Later research showed that the earliest known reference to Indian Summer in its current sense occurs in an essay written in the United States in the late 1770s (probably 1778) by J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur. The letter was first published in French. The essay remained unavailable in the United States until the 1920s.^[3]

Although the exact origins of the term are uncertain,^[4] it was perhaps so-called because it was first noted in regions inhabited by Native Americans, or because the Native Americans first described it to Europeans,^[5] or it had been based on the warm and hazy conditions in autumn when Native Americans hunted.^[4]

The GCU has been very fortunate,

CONTINUED

1. Deedler, William (Fall 1996). “Just What Is Indian Summer And Did Indians Really Have Anything To Do With It?”. Detroit/Pontiac, MI: National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office. Archived from the original on October 9, 2014. Retrieved September 24, 2014.

2. Matthews, Albert (February 1902). “The Term Indian Summer”. *Monthly Weather Review*. 30 (2): 69–80. Bibcode:1902MWRv...30...69M. doi:10.1175/1520-0493-30.2.69c.

3. Sweeting, Adam W. (2003). *Beneath the Second Sun: A Cultural History of Indian Summer*. New Hampshire. p. 14-15. ISBN 978-1-58465-314-1.

4. “Hints of an Indian Summer”. BBC. Retrieved September 19, 2015.

5. “Indian summer”. Online Etymology Dictionary. Retrieved September 19, 2015.

that no matter what the “season” may be, it has experienced sound growth and financial success! Enclosed in this issue of the GCU Magazine is a detailed 2019 second quarter report presented by our Chief Financial Officer, Tim Demetres, located on page 4. We continue to experience excellent asset and surplus growth in addition to generating excellent profitability.

On behalf of the GCU’s Board of Directors, our Executive Officers, Department Managers and Supervisors and our entire support Staff, I am proud to announce that as of July 31, 2019 the GCU now exceeds over \$2 billion in assets. We express our sincere gratitude to our members and agents for entrusting the GCU with your and your clients’ life insurance, annuity and Medicare Supplement needs!

Fraternally, the GCU and our members continue to uphold our Society’s Mission of **“Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, Strengthening Communities.”** We once again express our appreciation to our Lodge and District Officers for organizing a wide array of fundraising, volunteer and social events for our churches, communities and members.

The GCU’s 2019 National Golf Tournament was held this past August and was hosted by our own Seven Oaks Country Club. We once again partnered with Slovak Catholic Sokols attracting over ninety participants from both societies. Our sincere thank you to Basil Wahal,

As of July 31, 2019 the GCU now exceeds over \$2 billion in assets.

GCU Communications and Fraternal Director and Jim Matlon, SCS Director of Sports and Athletics and their respective support staffs in providing both society’s members a “great time” and for once again organizing a most successful event. I personally participated in the event and received very positive feedback from each of the participants. We are researching the prospects of scheduling the National Golf Tournament at Seven Oaks once again in 2020!

The GCU will be partnering again with the Slovak Catholic Sokols and the First Catholic Slovak Union for the 2020 National Bowling Tournament that will be held in the Cleveland area. More to come as to the details on both events for 2020!

As I mentioned in my prior article in the GCU Magazine, in an effort to encourage more GCU members to participate in the fraternal mission of the GCU, we will be initially testing the establishment of state lodges that will complement our current lodge system. Our test market will be Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northern New Jersey and select areas of New York as we identified these areas as having a large population of GCU members. This plan calls for the hiring of a Regional Fraternal Coordinator whose primary duty would be to en-

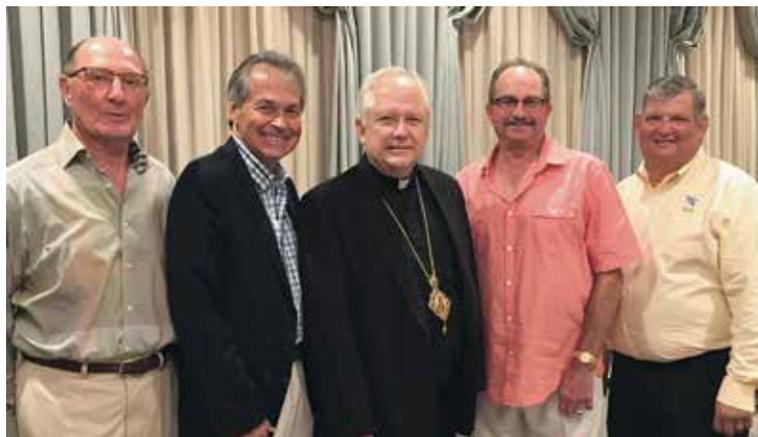
gage more GCU members in activities sponsored by the GCU or partnering with communities or organizations that already hold popular fundraising and volunteer events our GCU members may already be familiar with.

The GCU world is saddened by the passing of Very Reverend Archpriest Dennis M. Bogda. Father Dennis was a staunch supporter of the GCU as he served as Chaplain for several GCU lodges over the course of his assignments and was elected in 2004 as a member of the former Supreme Tribunal. A tribute to Father Dennis is located on page 44.

In closing, there are so many exciting things happening at GCU as we prepare for our future! We now have our sites set on reaching the \$3 billion mark as what we are planning today will allow the GCU to continue to prosper now and well into the future. I would like to once again share with you one of my “lines” that I have used over the course of my years serving as you President and CEO that never seems to become irrelevant in the business world as we know the only thing constant is “change” as we must continually **“Forge the GCU of Tomorrow – Today”!**

Enjoy the “Indian Summer”!

GOODNESS IS GREAT!



In conjunction with the National Golf Tournament, Archbishop William Skurla celebrated a Liturgy on Saturday evening, August 17. He is shown at left with GCU National Officers and Executives at the tournament banquet. From left: General Counsel Theodore Trbovich, President/CEO George Juba, Archbishop William, National Director Michael Karaffa and Chairman of the Board Gregory Vladika.



Gary Sorensen
Sales & Distribution
Management Director

Why Don't People Buy Life Insurance?

Let's face it, when most of us think about life insurance, the first thing to cross our mind is dying. There are a few reasons why most individuals do not purchase life insurance. First, the **preconceived notion of a hassle** to go through the process of qualifying for coverage. Second is the idea of spending money on something that won't be used without something bad happening to us. Finally, we live with the attitude that "nothing is going to happen to me." As the saying goes there are only two things certain in life, death and taxes.

Nobody wants to talk about death and most think that life insurance is only about death. I beg to differ and take a different approach to the subject. To every omega there is an alpha, for every winter there is a spring. Life insurance is about beginnings not endings.

The Real Purpose for Life Insurance!

- Life insurance is designed to give families time to learn how to move forward.
- Life insurance can be designed to protect your business and insure that it continues.
- Life insurance gives those who are grieving time to grieve and not have the bill collectors deciding when they must go back to work.
- Some life insurance policies build up equity inside of the policy that can be withdrawn or taken as a loan to pay for college, a down payment on a new home or a home improvement on your current home. Life insurance can be used for collateral when seeking a loan from a bank. Life insurance can have benefits that allow families access to dollars to pay for nursing home stays and doctor bills.

I could go on and on about the uses of life insurance, however a recent survey shows only 60% of Americans own personal life insurance. More so, of that group 40% state that

they do not have enough life insurance. Where do you fit? Are you part of the 40% who do not own life insurance? Or are you part of the 20% that needs more life insurance?

The top two excuses for not purchasing life insurance is they cannot find the time and they do not want to go through the hassle of underwriting process. These are the two most expensive excuses that you could ever have and that could affect your family's future.

I urge you to take the time to review the life insurance that you own to see if it meets your needs today. If you don't have life insurance make the time to inquire about how much life insurance you should consider.

No family has ever complained about receiving the benefits of life insurance, especially if it keeps the family moving forward.

There are many reasons why someone would consider buying life insurance, but the real reason is – **LOVE**.

**To every omega there is an alpha,
for every winter there is a spring.
Life insurance is about beginnings
not endings.**

Second Quarter 2019 Financials



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer
CFO

GCU is committed to the goodness of community and providing members with life protection and retirement benefit products. Notwithstanding the strength in the U.S. economy, we continue to see market interest rates drift to all-time lows from a slowdown in global growth and trade wars with China. Highlights of GCU's financial results for the six months ended June 30, 2019 are as follows:

Our financial strength maintains forward momentum with surplus reaching \$166.3 million, an increase of \$12.1 million from December 31, 2018. Net Income, after realized losses, was \$10.2 million in 2019 compared to \$12.4 million in 2018. In 2019, we sold certain energy related bonds at a loss of \$3.7 million to avoid further deterioration in value. In 2018, we recognized capital losses of \$1.2 million resulting in a year-over-year increase of \$2.5 million.

Assets grew to \$1.975 billion, an increase of \$84.3 million or 4.5% from \$1.891 billion at year end 2018. The increase is attributed to positive cash flows from product sales and investment earnings after covering operating costs.

Liabilities grew by \$72.2 million to \$1.808 billion at June 30, 2019 compared to \$1.736 billion as of December 31, 2018. This increase is due primarily to increased annuity reserves of \$81.7 million from net deposits and credited interest, an increase of \$1.1 million in life reserves from new sales, reduced by \$7.4 million for investment trades settled in the period and a net decrease of \$2.7 million in the asset valuation reserve.

Total Income increased \$14.8 million or 8.9% to \$181.6 million from \$166.8 million in 2018. Revenue from life and annuity premiums increased by \$11.0 million and net investment income increased \$4.6 million from the prior year.

Operating expenses, before the change in reserves, increased \$6.0 million or 7.6% for the six months of 2019 and totaled \$84.3 million compared to \$78.3 million in 2018. The increase is primarily due to higher annuity benefits paid and product exchanges of \$7.0 million reduced by \$1.3 million in lower pension plan distributions.

The Change in Reserves increased \$8.5 million for the six months and totaled \$83.3 million compared to \$74.7 million in 2018. Reserve changes are a function of premium deposits, mortality, payment of death and annuity benefits, and interest accumulation.

Financial strength and stability is a foundational pillar of GCU. Surplus now stands at \$166.3 million compared to \$154.3 million at last year-end. The increase of \$12.0 in surplus is primarily attributable to net income of \$10.2 million and an overall reduction in the Asset Valuation Reserve of \$2.6 million.

Total Surplus is the amount we set aside for unexpected losses from operations and financial protection against business volatility. Total Adjusted Capital increased \$9.4 million to \$183.1 million at June 30, 2019 compared to \$173.7 million at December 31, 2018. The solvency ratios based on total adjusted capital at June 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018 are 110.2% and 110.1%, respectively. These ratios reflect a strong and stable balance sheet.

As the summer daylight wanes, we begin to focus on the splendid colors of fall. Enjoy!

Tim

Summary of Financial Statistics

<i>(000's omitted)</i>	<u>6/30/19</u>	<u>6/30/18</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets	\$1,975,140	\$1,801,951	\$ 173,189
Total Income	181,633	166,780	14,853
Total Expenses	167,523	153,032	14,491
Net Income (Loss)	10,231	12,420	(2,189)
Surplus	166,341	145,049	21,292
Asset Valuation Reserve	16,654	20,735	(4,081)
Interest Maintenance Reserve	21,885	23,164	(1,279)
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	183,146	165,784	17,362
Normal Solvency Ratio	109.2%	108.6%	0.60%
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	110.2%	109.9%	0.32%

Change in Surplus

<i>(000's omitted)</i>	
Beginning Surplus—12/31/18	\$154,269
Net Income/(Loss)	10,231
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(176)
GCU Holding Company & Other	(551)
Change in Non-Admitted Assets	(88)
Change in Asset Valuation Reserve	2,657
Net Change in Surplus	12,072
Ending Surplus—6/30/19	\$166,341

GCU INCOME STATEMENT

Six Months 2019 vs. 2018

INCOME (000's omitted)	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	Change
Life Premium	\$ 1,810	\$ 989	\$ 821
Annuity Premium	118,484	108,312	10,172
Annuity Exchanges	8,515	9,283	(767)
Accident & Health	363	346	17
Sub Total	129,173	118,929	10,244
Net Investment Income	49,366	44,724	4,642
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	1,419	1,490	(71)
Commission-Reinsurance	1,311	1,382	(72)
Other	365	255	110
Total Income	\$181,633	\$166,780	\$14,853
EXPENSES			
Death Benefits	\$ 1,151	\$ 1,715	\$ (564)
Annuity Benefits Paid	64,129	56,319	7,809
Annuity Exchanges	8,515	9,283	(767)
Surrender Benefits	467	626	(160)
Accident & Health Benefits Pd.	339	294	44
Commissions	5,309	4,966	343
General Insurance Exp.	3,997	3,559	438
Ins., Taxes, Licenses and Fees	265	167	98
Pension Expense	52	1,327	(1,275)
Int. on Contract & Deposit Accts.	37	39	(3)
Sub-Total	\$ 84,260	\$ 78,296	\$ 5,965
Increase in Reserves	83,263	74,737	8,526
Total Expenses	\$167,523	\$153,032	\$14,491
Net Gain/Loss Before Refunds	14,110	13,747	362
Refunds to Members	140	138	2
Net Gain/Loss After Refunds	13,970	13,609	361
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	(3,739)	(1,189)	(2,549)
Net Income/Loss	\$ 10,231	\$ 12,420	\$(2,188)

BALANCE SHEETS

June 30, 2019 vs. December 31, 2018

ASSETS (000's omitted)	6/30/2019	12/31/2018	Change
Bonds	\$1,840,498	\$ 1,762,021	\$78,477
Preferred Stocks	49,570	49,821	(251)
Common Stocks	14,782	13,990	792
Alternative Investments	20,762	15,908	4,854
Cash/Short Term Investments	18,383	18,882	(499)
Mortgages	5,012	4,770	242
Certificate Loans	573	648	(75)
Real Estate	485	490	(4)
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	23,131	23,960	(829)
Other	1,945	355	1,589
Total Assets	\$1,975,140	\$1,890,844	\$84,296
Percentage Total Change Year to Year			4.5%
LIABILITIES			
Life Reserves	\$71,133	\$70,023	\$1,110
Annuity Reserves	1,687,832	1,606,084	81,749
Accident & Health Reserves	191	200	(9)
Employee Pension Liability	6,647	6,311	336
Fraternal Symposium Reserve	279	279	—
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Ref. Resrvs.	357	367	(10)
Pending Investment Trades	—	7,415	(7,415)
Accounts Payable	1,166	985	181
Refund Accumulations	2,655	3,018	(364)
Asset Valuation Reserve-AVR	16,654	19,311	(2,657)
Interest Maint. Reserve-IMR	21,885	22,583	(698)
Total Liabilities	\$1,808,799	\$1,736,576	\$72,223
Surplus Fund	166,341	154,269	12,073
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$1,975,140	\$1,890,844	\$84,296
Normal Solvency	109.2%	108.9%	
Solvency Ratio*	110.2%	110.1%	

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

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

Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

FREE Money?

Do you want to give a gift to your church, the GCU Foundation or a charity of your choice and get a tax break too? We often say nothing is free, but with some planning there is a way to take money from an IRA or qualified annuity and not pay any taxes on the distribution.

As most people know, when you reach Age 70½, IRS rules require individuals to take annual distributions from their qualified plans—Required Minimum Distributions (RMD).

Individuals can now take a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from a traditional IRA or tax deferred annuity, free from federal taxes. The tax-free treatment of this distribution equates to a 100% deduction because an individual will not be taxed on a QCD under \$100,000.⁰⁰ annually.

IRS Publication 590 states: A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) generally is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA (other than a SEP or SIMPLE IRA) to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. You must be at least age 70½ when the distribution is made. Also, you must have the same type of

acknowledgment of your contribution that you would need to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution. The maximum annual exclusion for QCDs is \$100,000.⁰⁰. Any QCD in excess of the \$100,000.⁰⁰ exclusion limit is included in income as any other distribution. If you file a joint return, your spouse also can have a QCD and exclude up to \$100,000.⁰⁰. The amount of the QCD is limited to the amount of the distribution that would otherwise be included in income. If your IRA includes nondeductible contributions, the distribution is first considered to be paid out of otherwise taxable income.

The bottom line is that in most cases an individual can give a gift to their church, the GCU Foundation, or a charity of choice from an IRA or qualified annuity—FREE from taxes. There are tax laws on how you do this, so please consult a tax advisor for information before proceeding with a QCD.

If you would like to proceed with a QCD from your GCU qualified account(s), please contact the GCU Call Center at 855-306-0607 for information on your qualified accounts and to explore the possibility of taking advantage of a tax-free charitable distribution.

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

**The Home Office will be closed
November 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving.**

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009





Sisters of St. Basil—Thank You

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

September 2019

Dear Friends and Fellow Pilgrims,

How can we not be filled with joy after experiencing the peace and blessings of our 85th Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help!

Each Pilgrimage is like a wonderful concert. It begins as a single “note” as we meet to determine the theme of the pilgrimage. During the following weeks and months, additional “notes” are added, creating the melody of celebrants, homilists, programs and speakers. Come spring, the working “musicians” come to add their touch by cleaning, weeding, planting, organizing, ordering, and preparing the welcoming notes of hospitality in a spirit of service.

It all comes together with the arrival of our pilgrims from toddlers to teenagers, from young adults to seasoned seniors. They all add their blend of prayers and praise, petitions and needs. Finally, the spiritual concert rises from the prayerful grounds of Mount St. Macrina to the ears of Our Lord and his dear Mother, Cause of our Joy.

Thank you, sincerely, for being a part of this special “concert.” May its beautiful strains continue to echo within you throughout this coming year. Be assured that a daily prayerful “refrain” will be offered for you rising from the hearts of all of us, the Sisters of St. Basil. We will await your return for the 86th pilgrimage that will include a celebration of our century of service to the Byzantine Catholic Church.

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM

With our love, prayers, and gratitude,
Sister Ruth Plante, Provincial
and the Sisters of St. Basil

2019 Year End Processing Cut Off Dates for Withdrawals, Distributions, Cash Surrenders

The entire GCU staff is committed to providing exceptional customer service to our agents and members. We are in the process of planning for all of your 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 Monday, December 16, 2019 for receiving Annuity Partial Withdrawal (including RMD & Inherited IRA distributions), Annuity Cash Surrender and Life Insurance Cash Surrender requests for processing by Thursday, December 26, 2019. 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 Monday, December 16 it will be processed by Thursday, December 26 for the 2019 tax reporting period.

If requests and all documentation are received after close of business on December 16, the GCU will work to complete the request by December 26, but cannot guarantee processing before year end.

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

2019 GCU Holiday Closings

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28
Friday, November 29

Christmas

Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25

New Year's

Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Giving

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion



Parma, OH. Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, celebrated Slavic Fest on Saturday, August 3, 2019. The event was a great success with over 500 attendees. The Slavic Fest featured the music of three excellent musical groups: Sarena Tamburitza Orchestra, Fred Ziwich and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. Children and adults were able to observe and learn from fire and rescue vehicle crews brought by the City of Parma Fire Department for their entertainment.

Ethnic foods were catered by Wal-Tam's Catering, owned and operated by Wally Goralczyk. Pastries were baked by the members of Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Parish. Tours of the church were provided by Deacon Robert Cripps. Over 40 people toured the church and learned about the Byzantine Catholic tradition. The Slavic Fest would not have been possible without the hard work of the many volunteers: Laurel Bobik, Ann Patchan, Gloria Santoli, Joan Rozum, Frank Hanigosky, Thomas & Yolanda Sutyak, Elizabeth Hirko, Carol Szucs, Kathy Jurcisin, Damian Webb, Catherine Kalas, Brian & Carrie Wodzisz, Karen Kupchik, Rose Yurosko, Elnora Marko, Carter Maxim and Jim Neitzel.

Fr. Marek Visnovsky

St. Michael the Archangel Church Parish Expansion



Pittston, PA. St. Michael the Archangel Church, 205 N. Main Street, held its 23rd Annual Flea Market and Ethnic Food Event on the weekend of August 3 & 4. This community fundraiser combines an indoor flea market with a ziti dinner and bake sale. Visitors across the region return yearly for the well-known Rusyn and Slovak style foods made and served by parish volunteers.

Money raised by the event is targeted for church improvements and up-keep. A small number of volunteers with a range of skills, talents and time, make it a success. What started 23 years ago as a novelty has grown to become a long-standing summer activity for the parish. The flea market approach has even been adopted by other local churches as a great attraction.

The parishioners of St. Michael Church are always grateful to the greater Pittston community and beyond for support. St. Michael Church is unique in the way it serves as a hub parish for its members who come to worship from locations both near and far. New visitors are amazed when they enter and see the church's magnificent iconography and locally crafted iconostasis. It is a treasure of Byzantine ecclesiastical design worthy of historical preservation, for which the annual fundraiser is an essential part. Discover more at: stmichaelsbyzantine.com.

Linda Hando



John & Martha Rosko Celebrating 70 Years of Marriage

Congratulations to John & Martha (Geletko) Rosko of Clairton, PA who will be married 70 years on October 29, 2019. They were married in 1949 at St. Joseph Church in Clairton by Father Ribiki. Since then, they have been life-long members of the Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church, also in Clairton.

John was an engineer at the Westinghouse Bettis Plant in West Mifflin, PA and Martha worked at A.T. Spence & Son Insurance Agency in Wilson, PA.

Together the couple raised four children (David, Kathie, Linda and Robert). Two sons-in-law, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren complete the family.

In their earlier retirement years, John



Martha & John Rosko now and at right, on their wedding day.



& Martha were world travelers, visiting many countries around the globe, including their parents' homelands of Czechoslovakia and Poland. They also enjoyed golf & bowling and were very active in their parish.

A family celebration to commemorate this special occasion is planned at their granddaughter, Lyndsay and husband, Rob's home in Gibsonia, PA.

God has truly blessed them with a long and fulfilling marriage.

GCU Hosts AFA Event

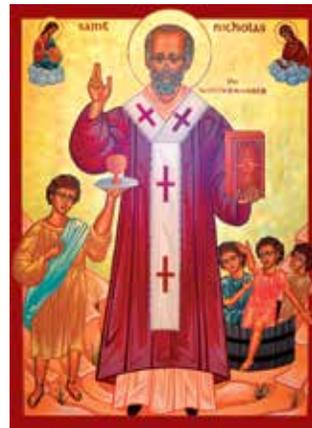
On Wednesday, July 10 GCU hosted the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) Meet & Eat at Seven Oaks Country Club in Beaver, PA. GCU is a member of the AFA, a national advocacy group of fraternal insurers. The event featured round table discussions on challenges facing all fraternal organizations.

Following the two hour sessions, AFA President Joe Annotti gave a short presentation. The over 60 attendees then enjoyed lunch and informal discussions amongst themselves.

Below a group of fraternal employees and executives take part in one of the three round tables discussions.



63rd Annual St. Nicholas Charity Dinner



Sunday, December 8
Moleben at 3 PM
Social Hour at 4 PM
Dinner at 5 PM
\$40 Adult
\$18 Age 12 and under

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center Munhall, PA. Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. Information available on the Events page of the GCU Website- www.GCUusa.com or call 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

Deadline is Monday, November 18

Jubilee Celebration at Mount St. Macrina

Uniontown, PA. In a spirit of gratitude and with great joy, the total community of the Sisters of St. Basil gathered in Uniontown to celebrate the 405 years of dedicated service to God by the communities Jubilarians on July 30, 2019. Each of the

Sisters in her own unique way expressed her commitment to be a praying, healing and life-giving presence in our Metropolitan Church and in the world beyond.

Sister Mary Ann Vasilchek, as the senior of the group, celebrated 75 years as a Basilian Sister. Sisters from the Monastery joined in celebration with Sister at Mt. Macrina Manor since failing health did not allow her to be present at the Monastery celebration. In the Manor Chapel an abbreviated service of the Akathist to Our Mother of Perpetual Help was sung by the Sisters. Following the service, all gathered in the Oaks Dining Room to congratulate Sister Mary Ann, to enjoy refreshments and to share stories.

70th Anniversary—Sister Theodosia Alishofski, Sister Theresa Bavol and Sister Petronilla Puhak marked 70 years of joyful service as Sisters of St. Basil. Serving for most of their religious life as teachers in the parish schools, each Sister then moved on to parish and/or pastoral ministry.

Sister Theodosia is presently serving in parish ministry in Wilkes-Barre, PA and surrounding parishes. While visiting the sick is the primary focus of her ministry, Sister also is involved in catechetical ministry in the parish. Sister Theodosia's gift as an iconographer is evident in the many icons that can be seen around the monastery.

After serving in parish schools for close to fifty years, Sister Theresa and Sister Petronilla are both now sharing their gifts of compassionate care at Mt. Macrina Manor. There, each Sister brings a ray of light to the residents who look forward to their presence. This same spirit also brings comfort to the



1st Row: Sr. Petronilla Puhak, Sr. Theodosia Alishofski and Sr. Theresa Bavol. 2nd Row: Sr. Elaine Kisinko, Sr. Ruth Plante (Provincial); and Sr. Carol Petrasovich.

families of residents, especially when the Lord comes to take their loved ones home to Himself. Both Sister Theresa and Sister Petronilla share with the residents of the Manor, the same loving presence that were theirs as teachers.

60th Anniversary—Sister Elaine Kisinko and Sister Carol Petrasovich also began their ministry as Sisters of St. Basil in the educational apostolate, both serving as teacher and principal for a number of years. Varied ministries then became part of their lives which included serving on the Provincial Council.

Presently Sister Elaine serves as secretary to Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla, the third Archbishop whom

she was called to serve in this capacity. Added to her responsibilities for the Archeparchy, Sister Elaine is the copy editor for the BCW.

Sister Carol, whose background is in Formative Spirituality, continues in her position as Director of the House of Prayer. Offering spiritual direction individually, retreats and workshops are the main focus of this ministry. Additionally, Sister Carol is the coordinator for the Annual Pilgrimage.

The epistle read at the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving was from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in which he speaks of the gifts of the spirit. In listening to this reading, one could not help but reflect upon the many gifts poured out in the lives of our Sister Jubilarians. At the festive dinner following the Liturgy, Provincial Sister Ruth, congratulated the Jubilarians and thanked them

for so generously offering the treasures of their gifts throughout these many years. For all of them, she wished that each could now draw interest from this treasury, as they continue to be a praying, healing and life-giving presence.

Susan McCarthy

Miss Czech-Slovak US 2019-2020 National Queen Anna Sophia Tombazzi

Many thanks for the encouragement and trust of GCU Lodge 302 President Judy Weitzel, who at the lodge's February 2019 meeting suggested sponsoring GCU member Anna Tombazzi, in her quest to obtain the Miss Czech-Slovak US 2019-2020 crown. Anna attained her goal being crowned as the first ever Miss Czech-Slovak US of Rusyn descent.

The journey to Anna's national title began as a member of the Cleveland, OH based Rusyn folk ensemble, Karpato-Rus' Ensemble in 2009. Anna was the lead violinist and a dancer. Her

mother, Laurel Tombazzi, was the ensemble director. Laurel received information about the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant, but the Pageant requires ladies age 16 to 26, the Karpato-Rus' Ensemble had no female performers old enough at the time.

In 2015, Laurel notice on the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant website that the nationalities of Czech, Silesian, Moravian and Slovak were listed on the pageant application. The winning contestant is awarded a trip to either the Czech Republic or Slovakia. Since Rusyns live in Eastern Slovakia, Laurel asked the pageant committee to add "Rusyn" to the application. (Rusyns live as a minority group in present day Slovakia and do not have a land to call their own.) The committee happily agreed and asked Laurel to be one of three judges to select a Queen that same year.

The Czech Days Festival has been ongoing for 58 years in Wilber, NE. The event draws over 50,000 people annually during the first weekend of August with the Pageant as a part of the festivities. The single female contestants are judged in four categories: private interview, on-stage interview, Kroj (costume) modeling and talent. Despite the huge crowd, contestants only need to impress the three judges during the two day Pageant.

Anna's maternal Rusyn lineage comes from her great-grandfather, Stephen Pusti from Šoma (now called Driencia) in Šaryš County near Prešov. Her great-grandmother, Anna Bittner Pusti was from Kamienska, in Spiš County. Both of Anna's great-grandparents came to America in the early 1900's.

Born and raised in Ohio, Anna was active in her Rusyn heritage from a young age: donating to an orphanage in East-



In the photo Anna holds two crowns in her hand while a third crown is on her head. She will wear these crowns during her reign as National Queen.

ern Slovakia, speaking on a Rusyn Radio program based out of Pittsburgh, PA and acting as a family's little girl in a traditional Christmas Eve Velija play in Youngstown, OH. Anna has also played her violin at multiple Rusyn cultural events and volunteered at other ethnic centered festival events.

A GCU scholarship awardee, Anna completed her Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Akron, OH in May 2018 with minors in mathematics, chemistry and business. Upon college graduation, Anna accepted a position at

The Spaceship Company/Virgin Galactic in Mojave, CA, as a Spaceship Propulsion Test Engineer testing the most powerful hybrid rocket motor in the world.

Anna received three individual awards at the Pageant: Oratory, Authentic Kroj and Grand Talent. Her authentic Kroj (costume) was from Ugoča County in the foothills of the Carpathian mountain range. Anna performed on her great-grandfather's violin "The Valleys of the Mountains," a Rusyn medley, as her talent.

Anna stated why she wanted to become Miss Czech-Slovak US "...As a rocket scientist with humble beginnings and Rusyn roots, I aspire to be Miss Czech-Slovak US because I want to be an ethnic face both in the scientific and to the rest of the world shattering the perceived segregation of being both strong culturally rooted and working on cutting edge technology..."

Anna belongs to a 100% GCU Lodge 302 family. She is the daughter of Frank & Laurel Tombazzi, younger sister of Joseph, granddaughter of Florence Pusti Orris, and niece to the lodge's Publicity Director Chris Bratnick. Anna is a member of the Proto-Cathedral of St. Mary in Sherman Oaks, CA.

As Anna begins a year of travel as National Queen, she is happy to share her Rusyn knowledge and gratefulness to the GCU for sponsoring her in this historic event. Congratulations Anna!

District 5

Golf Tournament | District 5 held its annual golf tournament on Saturday, August 3 at Sugarloaf Golf Club. Fifty golfers competed with the team of Ed Dolinish III, Ryan Lis, Paul Kania and Justin Blondo having low gross to take home the trophies (engraved clocks), along with a monetary prize. First Flight low net 1st place was the Batyko team, Paul Jr., Paul III, Phil and Chris. In 2nd place was the team of Chuck Neary, Rick Neary, Jon Fiorelli and Ryan Cardoni. Finishing in 3rd place was the team



District 5 Golf Tournament winners: Justin Blondo, Ed Dolinish III, Ryan Lis and Paul Kania.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

Fall Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 26
9 AM

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Volunteers are needed to help the Carmelite Sisters prepare their grounds for winter, along with assisting on some indoor work.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 27
9 AM

Divine Liturgy & Panachida at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Kingston, PA

A Breakfast Meeting follows immediately at The Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes-Barre, PA

52nd St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards Program

Sunday, December 1
11 AM

Followed by the presentation of scholarships and the Fraternalist of the Year award.

Location will be announced

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

Contact Dr. John Evans at 570-779-5619 for more information.

Please join us at some or all upcoming events.

of Ed Keil, Andrew Schukraft, Jack Baranski and Keith Hampton. Second Flight low net 1st place went to the team of Sue & Jerry Grohowski, Jim Slabinski and Mike Seman. In 2nd place was the team of Ed Dolinish Jr., Ken Killino and Mark Baron. The 3rd place team was Gary & Doreen Nobel, Denise Evans and Bob Faneck. Proximity prize winners included Chuck Neary (2), Jerry Grohowski, Sue Grohowski, Gina Keil, Mike Elward, Bob Pipcho, Mark Baron and Carl Smith. Nine golfers hit the green on Hole 17, for a share in the Pot of Gold: Sue Grohowski, Mike Seman, Paul Kania, Justin Blondo, Gary Norconk, Phil Batyko, Paul Batyko III, Bob Pipcho and Joe Carnavale.

It was a great day to be outdoors and the weather was perfect for golfing. The tournament concluded with a Pig Roast with all the trimmings, followed by the presentation of tournament winners and a door prize for all. A moment of silence was held for former District 5 golfers who have passed, including those since our last tournament, namely Walt Dorzinsky, Bill Dervin and Joe Monka. Thanks goes out to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant, the door prizes, golf towels, sunscreen and preparation of the entry forms. Thanks also to the hole sponsors and prize donors and all of the participants. A special thank you to our Pot of Gold and Hole in One verifier, Janice Dragan, who gave up her Saturday to sit on Hole 17. **Save next year's date, Saturday, August 1, 2020.**

Ed Keil | Athletic Director

District 7

Annual Golf Tournament | On Saturday, August 24, 2019 GCU District 7 had perfect weather for its annual golf tournament. Thirty-one golfers met at Green Pond Country Club in Bethlehem, PA to compete. Six additional members joined the golfers for the buffet dinner. Longest drive went to Rick Bridgeford and John Hoffman won closest to the pin. Third place went to Rich Kleinart and Joe, Jeff & Jay Hanuscsin. In second place was the team of Ed & Gina Keil, Scott Schukraft and Anthony Shaver. First place was awarded to Steve Bachovin, Dave Paskowski, Kevin Clarke, and Lief Matlack.

A fundraising event was held in conjunction with the event to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. District 7 lodges donated gifts as prizes. There was a Philadelphia Phillies basket, lottery ticket prize, a Calvin Klein backpack and a gift card golf club tree. This annual Matching Funds event included monetary gifts from the district membership. Donations of over two thousand dollars were collected and combined with Matching Funds for a nice donation to St. Jude's.

Thanks to everyone who supported this event and the St. Jude's fundraiser. A huge thank you to Athletic Director Michael Geles for making this event a huge success.

Mary Bannworth | President

Michael Geles | Athletic Director



Michael Geles, John Hoffman and Edward Geles.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 11 EVENT

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 10

Following the 11 AM Liturgy

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church
23300 King Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035

Luncheon will be served.

Contact President Gary Mozuras at 586-247-3518 or email him at gobble@bignet.net if you have questions.

District 15

An Afternoon at Narcissi Winery | On a sunny afternoon in late August more than 100 GCU members and friends gathered at Narcissi Winery in Gibsonia, PA for delicious food, great wine and fraternalism. Among those in attendance were GCU Executive Vice-President/COO Scott Schuetz, former National President Mike Roman, former GCU Secretary Treasurer Judy Gula and former National Director Martha Seech.

Martha Seech, Pam Kapaldo, Betty Warhol and Roxanne Savka were "Share the Wealth" winners. Door prizes, which included a few bottles of Narcissi wine and several gift cards, went to Veronica Mendenhall, Ted Trbovich, Andrea



Members enjoying the afternoon at the Narcisi Winery.

Malloy, John Kachayto, Pam Kapaldo, Maria Guthrie, Steve Savka, Jessica Sevcik, Stephanie Savka and Pam Gagen. A special thank you goes to CPRL member Kevin Beres, cantor at St. John Chrysostom Church in Ruska Dolina, who used his great voice to call winning ticket numbers.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Sunday, November 3

Liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel at 10:30 AM

Seven Oaks Brunch following Liturgy (Adults \$25)

Meeting to begin at 1 PM

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

Reservations for Brunch: contact Kathy Kapaldo at 412-951-8331 or kkapaldo@comcast.net

River City Brass Band Christmas Brasstacular

Thursday, December 19

6:30 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Concert

\$15 for GCU Members

\$20 for Non-GCU Members

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center
1 Lincoln Park, Midland, PA 15059

Refreshments before the show and during intermission will be provided by District 15 guests in the community room on the second floor of the theater.

Reservations: send check payable to GCU District 15 to Elizabeth Harbist, 215 Thornwood Ct., Moon Township, PA 15108

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



Melena Huller, Patricia Kutzfara, Sue Betres and Jean Karaffa.

End of Summer Golf Outing

On Sunday, September 15, District 15 held its annual golf tournament at Seven Oaks Country Club. Forty-five golfers enjoyed the beautiful weather and once again Seven Oaks came out the winner, bringing most of the players to their knees. Thank goodness for the "double par" rule or some of us would still be out there trying to get the ball in the hole!

Thank you to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant and the numerous national & district officers and area lodges for being hole sponsors, which helped to keep the outing affordable and allow the district to have door prizes for everyone.

Here is the list of winners: Women's Flight: Melena Huller—Low Gross 101; Patricia Kutzfara—Low Net 80; Sue Betres—2nd Low Net 82 and Jean Karaffa—3rd Low Net 84.

Men's A Flight: Don Huller—Low Gross 82; John Lanctot—Low Net 70; Nick Fejka—2nd Low Net 70; Mike Karaffa—3rd Low Net 73 and Brian Cherry—4th Low Net 73.

Men's B Flight: John P. Harbist—Low gross 86; John

CONTINUED

District 15 CONTINUED

Kutzfara—Low Net 70; Tim Seech—2nd Low Net 74; Tom Murtha—3rd Low Net 76; Bud Miller Jr.—4th Low Net 78 and Rich Brooks—5th Low Net 78.

Men's C Flight: Dan Kutzfara—Low gross 94; George Smith—Low Net 70; Mike Mantsch—2nd Low Net 71; Leo Liller—3rd Low Net 75 and Frank Bellay—4th Low Net 75.

Skill Prize Winners—Closet to the Pin and Longest Putt: #4 Judy Kotula; #9 Mike Karaffa; #8 Frank Bellay & Nick Fejka (tie); #18 Tim Seech; #11 John Lapinski and #14 Ron Franceski.

Following the completion of the round, golfers and guests, 49 in all, enjoyed a great dinner and fellowship.

Bill Uram | Athletic Director



John P. Harbist, John Kutzfara, Tim Seech, Bud Miller Jr., Rich Brooks and John Maracek.

Lodge News



Gretchen David, Mary Dickey, Elizabeth Harbist and Mary Elizabeth Olack.

Lodge 10 ALIQUIPPA, PA

Matching Funds Project

GCU Lodge 10 located at St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Aliquippa, PA had a Matching Funds event on Friday & Saturday, July 12-13. Members of Lodge 10 prepared and sold haluski with potato dumplings

and along with church parishioners, held a huge flea market and bake sale. Church and lodge members donated their unused treasures to the flea market and baked delicious goodies for the bake sale.

Parish Picnic

At the annual church picnic, Lodge 10 donated a "money tree" as a fundraising prize. During the picnic there was also a 50/50 drawing and silent auction. Of course, the lunch was great with everyone bringing a covered dish to share.

Thanks to all of the lodge and church members who helped in the kitchen, sold tickets and came to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship.

Kathy Kapaldo | President



Members at the picnic.

Lodge 15

TRENTON, NJ

Welcome to Fall!

Hope you've all enjoyed your summer vacations and are looking forward to the upcoming holidays.

Thank You

I had an interesting summer, having undergone quadruple heart bypass surgery and insertion of a pacemaker. I sincerely wish to thank all of you for your spiritual bouquets and cards. They surely brightened my day and helped with my recovery.



Sands Casino trip.



President Gregory Embley presents a check to Executive Director of Mercer County CYO Thomas Mladenetz along with other lodge members.

Matching Funds Events

The Lodge 15 Community Matching Fund project was a trip to Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA and a great success for the benefit of the Mercer County Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). A check in the amount of \$1000.00 was presented to Executive Director Thomas Mladenetz.

The lodge's Parish Matching Fund project was a trip to Delaware Park and Casino to benefit the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Church in Trenton.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!

Marcy Embley | Fraternal Director

UPCOMING LODGE 15 EVENT

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 10

Following the 10 AM Divine Liturgy

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Church Social Center at the corner of Adeline and Beatty Streets in Trenton, NJ

Your attendance is encouraged and welcome.
Refreshments will be served.

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Library Matching Funds Bingo

Members of Lodge 17 assisted the Taylor Community Library and the Abington Community Library with their American Girl and Lego Bingo on Sunday, August 18, 2019. The event featured American Girl Dolls and Legos as prizes for the 20 bingo games. There was a selection of food items for sale and a large assortment of homemade baked goods. There were also basket and 50/50 fundraisers. GCU coloring books and crayons were given to all of the children. This was a Matching Funds event. The event was part of the PA Forward initiative promoting the value of libraries in the 21st century.



Ilona Dolinish, Gina Keil and Taylor Community Library Director Jeanie Sluck.

Flea Market

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held their Flea Market on Saturday & Sunday, September 14-15 and Saturday, September 21 at the Social Center. GCU lodge members assisted throughout, and were responsible for the kitchen where homemade ethnic foods were available. The crowds were endless and the food sold out early. A special thanks goes out to the Home Office for printing the fundraising tickets.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENTS

Fall Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 26

9 AM

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Volunteers are needed to help the Carmelite Sisters prepare their grounds for winter, along with assisting on some indoor work.

Turkey Bingo

Sunday, November 10

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. Homemade food & baked goods for sale. This is a GCU Matching Funds event, please come and support.

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. Please contribute.

Lodge 47

BINGHAMTON, NY

Mom's House Project Presentation

Lodge 47 Fraternal Activities Director Pamela Suflita met with Mom's House Executive Director Kristine Cunningham on September 24, 2019 to present items that were collected and donated to Mom's House. This local community organization provides free licensed childcare, parent life-skills, workshops and parent tutoring to mothers in the greater Binghamton, NY area. A Matching Funds check for \$325.00 was also presented to Mom's House.

Donations of various child-care items (such as baby wipes, diapers, paper towels, and hand-soap) were generously donated by parishioners of Holy Spirit Church in Binghamton and SS. Peter & Paul Church in Endicott, NY. A sincere "thank you" goes out to all Lodge 47 members who participated in this charitable event.



Mom's House Executive Director Kristine Cunningham and Lodge 47 Fraternal Activities Director Pamela Suflita.



The Crochet Club.



Heart Warming Gifts

For at least the last three years, a group of 10-15 members of Lodge 47 and parishioners of Holy Spirit Church have lovingly gathered each week to share their enthusiasm for crochet.

The Crochet Club started under the direction of Pani Michelle Tomas, who enthusiastically offered the members her talent and guidance. The dedicated and spirited ladies enjoy their time together as they practice new stitches, work on different patterns and display their work for each other to see since a few are "beginners" and some are definitely more "advanced." All describe their weekly gatherings as relaxing and fun.

Initially the group crocheted hats which were donated to the Oncology Department at a local hospital. More recently with co-lead Dorothy Bakalar, the charitable reach has been expanded to VA hospitals and local nursing homes.

In addition to hats, the donated items now include colorful hand-crafted scarves, shawls and lap afghans. Rather than full size afghans, these smaller size blankets are preferred by nursing homes. The size is more suitable for patients who spend a lot of their time in wheelchairs.

The Southern Tier community and surrounding area are delighted to receive these beautiful gifts and everyone agrees that it is very satisfying when they hear that the appreciation felt by the recipients is extremely overwhelming. These charitable donations absolutely have a lasting impact.

Pamela Suflita | Fraternal Activities Director

Daria Shierly | Secretary-Treasurer

Helping Hands Day

Sporting their GCU t-shirts, hard-working Lodge 47 members and parishioners joined forces on Friday, September 20 to perform a variety of tasks which included: sweeping, mopping, cleaning bathrooms, washing windows, vacuuming and more at Holy Spirit Parish Center.

The volunteers worked as a team only breaking to share pizza, snacks and soda for lunch. Lodge 47 extends a sincere thank you to the Home Office for the t-shirts and Helping Hands Fraternal Grant which was used to purchase the necessary cleaning supplies as well as lunch. The lodge is grateful the continued support of all Lodge 47 projects.

A heartfelt **thank you** to all who participated in the cleaning frenzy – everyone definitely went the extra mile. Their time and "helping hands" were truly appreciated!



Volunteers at Helping Hands Day.



Parishioners Jean Mangini, Genevieve Marszal and Rebecca Thomas.

Lodge 57 BROWNSVILLE, PA

Lodge Members Assist at Pilgrimage

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church again helped with the pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA donating haluski for the Labor Day weekend event. Five roasters of the homemade noodles and cabbage were cooked by parishioners, Marge Cramer, Bill Maczko, Jean Mangini, Jackie Ducar and Lodge 57 members Genevieve Marszal & Rebecca Thomas.

Lodge 57 members, Paul Rubish

and his sons Paul Andrew & Thomas, volunteered as ushers for the religious services. The rainy weather did not deter them from completing the tasks assigned to them. Paul Andrew and Thomas have been training as ushers for the past several years, hoping to be the next generation to help the Sisters at this annual spiritual event. Both boys are also altar servers at their parish of Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks, PA.



Paul Andrew, Paul and Thomas Rubish at Uniontown Pilgrimage.

Annual Flea Market

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held its annual Flea Market for one week starting September 3, 2019. Items were donated, displayed and sold in the church hall. Food selections were available to the patrons for sale during the hours of operation. Melody Yearly organized this year's fundraiser. Proceeds will benefit St. Nicholas Church.

Father Christopher Burke is the pastor of St. Nicholas Church.



Flea market organizer Melody Yearly.

Bernie Karoffa | Publicity Director



Members and parishioners enjoying the breakfast.

Lodge 69 POTTSTOWN, PA

New School Year Breakfast

Members of Lodge 69 bought food, set up tables & chairs, decorated and cooked for a breakfast celebrating the beginning of the new year for the School of Religion at St. John Church in Pottstown. Parishioners enjoyed the food and fellowship on Sunday, September 15, 2019.

Nancy Harding | Secretary

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Lodge 81 continued parish and community activities throughout the summer.

Community

The 2nd Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina was held on Saturday, August 17. Final preparations for the annual Labor Day Pilgrimage were made. Bonnie Balas cleaned in the Trinity Center and Gerry Dorobish helped replenish stock in the Religious Gift Shop. Many Lodge 81 members also assisted at the 85th Annual Pilgrimage August 31 to



City Mission Director of Development Dan Sochko, Bonnie Balas and City Mission Property Manager Deborah Lakomyj-Doppelheuer.

September 1. The rain did not stop their dedication for volunteering at the event. Volunteers included: Gerry Dorobish, James Mihalko, Stephen Petruska, Bonnie Balas, the Rubish family, Robert Johnson and John Kashner. Mark Jesko donated an icon which he painted to be used at the St. Anne Shrine.

On Saturday September 7, Bonnie Balas represented St. John Ethnic Craft Club at a Craft Fair held to benefit the Masontown Volunteer Fire Department. On the following Saturday, September 14, she also participated in a Craft-Vendor Fair held at Calvary Baptist Church which benefited the City Mission for the needy of Uniontown.

The 30th Annual Rosary Walk which involves Catholic churches in the Uniontown area was held on Sunday, September 15. Marcia Harrer and Gerry Dorobish led the recitation of the 2nd Decade of the



Gerry Dorobish with Sisters at Gift Shop.



Jim Mihalko & family, Stephen Petruska, Rubish family and others as ushers.

Glorious Mysteries, while Bonnie Balas led the singing of Byzantine Marian hymns before and after the Rosary recitation.

UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENTS

38th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, October 27

Details appear on Page 40

4th Quarter Meeting

Sunday, November 24

Following Divine Liturgy

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church
201 East Main Street,
Uniontown, PA 15401



Picnic.



Stephen Petruska, Gerry Dorobish, Marcia & Richard Harrer and Bonnie Balas.

Parish

St. John Parish Picnic took place on Sunday, August 18 on the church grounds. Joan Bridges, Gerry Dorobish and Bonnie Balas donated prizes and Bonnie and Joan sold tickets. Although the heavy rains came on suddenly, those in attendance moved into the large parish garage for continued fellowship.

Lodge 81's Annual Food Drive was held the weekend of September 14-15 before and after the Divine Liturgies. On hand for the food/monetary collection were Marcia & Richard Harrer, Stephen & Theresa Petruska, Janet Gaydos, Gerry Dorobish, Helen Ponzurick, George Patchan and Bonnie Balas. Through the generosity of the St. John parishioners, the food items collected will be given to the local St.

CONTINUED

Lodge 81 CONTINUED

Vincent de Paul Food Bank, and the Food Pantry at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Charleroi, PA.

On Catechetical Sunday, September 15, Father Ron Larko commissioned ECF teachers Marcia Harrer, Bonnie Balas and Gerry Dorobish, as well as blessing the children attending the program. Marcia and Gerry arranged a meet & greet registration social for the children and their parents.

A highlight of Lodge 81's summer involvement was the 14th Annual Classic Car Show. Stephen Petruska and Janet Gaydos served on the planning committee. A GCU Fraternal Grant also helped defray the cost of the event. Bonnie Balas and Janet Gaydos donated baked items and prizes for the Byzantine Auction. Bonnie, Marcia & Richard Harrer, Stephen Petruska and James Mihalko all volunteered their time to help make this a successful parish event.



Quarterly Meeting

At the quarterly meeting held on Sunday, August 11, plans were made for the final Helping Hands Day and for the lodge's Food Drive. Donations were agreed upon to be made to the Mt. Macrina Pilgrimage.

Bonnie Balas | VP and Publicity Coordinator

Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

New Church Sign

Lodge 92 purchased a new sign for Holy Ghost Catholic Church as a result of the Easter Bake Sale held on April 13, 2019. Thank you to all who supported the event. The old sign was beyond repair after year's out in the elements.

Michaela Mancak | Secretary-Treasurer



UPCOMING LODGE 92 EVENTS

12th Annual Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner

Sunday, November 3

11 AM-1 PM

\$10 Take Out ONLY - Dinner includes stuffed chicken breast, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

LaSalle Auditorium Hall
309 First Avenue, Jessup, PA

Benefits Holy Ghost Church renovations

For ticket information: call Michaela Mancak at 570-489-1304 or Greg Dick at 570-489-8723.

Limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

St. Nicholas Children's Party

Sunday, December 1

12 NOON

FREE

LaSalle Academy Hall
309 First Avenue, Jessup, PA

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Pilgrimage Participation

On Sunday, September 1, Lodge 109 sponsored a bus for the 85th Pilgrimage to honor Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA.

Thirty-two pilgrims from St. John the Baptist BC Church in Lyndora and neighboring Catholic churches made the trip to participate in a day of spiritual reflection, despite the on-again, off-again rain showers.

The day ended after the Pontifical Liturgy at 4 PM which was the highlight of the trip. However, many pilgrims made the trip home soaked to the skin by the deluge of rain which brought all

activity to an abrupt halt. The Lodge 109 group enjoyed snacks provided by pastor, Fr. Radko Blichar and medovniki (honey cakes) paid for by the lodge on the bus ride back to Lyndora.

Thanks to the GCU for a Fraternal Grant and to the generosity of Helen Meaders, the group's 99 years young pilgrim, for making the journey possible.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer



The bus load of pilgrims stopped for a group picture after receiving a blessing upon arrival at the Mount.



Derek Burns, in striped shirt, performed the honor of carrying the Church cross in the afternoon procession prior to Liturgy.

Invested in Education



GCU believes that our young people are tomorrow's leaders... the people carrying our faith and traditions forward.

The GCU scholarship program allows us to invest in their education and our future.

GCU offers scholarship opportunities for high school seniors and full time college students.

New membership requirements allow for all members as of December 31, 2018 to apply for GCU Scholarship assistance.

Applications are available for completion **ONLINE ONLY**, through **December 31, 2019**.

Go to www.GCUusa.com, click on the **Member** tab at the top of the page and choose **Member Benefits** for complete details and application!

GCUusa.com



Lodge 144 DENVER, CO

Volunteering at Mt. St. Macrina

Lodge 144 members Auditor Audrey Peek and her daughter Sarah Peek took a working vacation and volunteered at Mt. St. Macrina. The pair helped the Sisters with various projects to prepare for the opening of the 85th Otpust (Pilgrimage) to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. From washing windows to serving in the kitchen, nothing was too hard or too “dirty” for

these ladies. The Sisters were grateful for their service.

Audrey and Sarah also presented a Lodge 144 check to the Sisters of St. Basil during the event. This donation will assist in the very special ministry of the Sisters which reaches thousands of people, not only those who attend the pilgrimage, but many more who count on their prayers.



Sarah Peek and Audrey Peek at Mt. St. Macrina.



Sister Christopher with Lodge 144's Audrey and Sarah Peek.



Alzheimer's Association Walk

Not only did Lodge 144 member Sarah Peek volunteer behind the scenes but when that work was done, she then participated in the two-mile Alzheimer's Association “Walk to End Alzheimer's” in memory of her grandfather James Jama and her aunt Nancy Tomasic.

There are more than 5 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and that number is expected to grow to 16 million by 2050.

The Alzheimer's Association is the largest nonprofit voluntary health organization dedicated to accelerating the progress in prevention, cure and living with Alzheimer's Disease.



GCU National Director John W. Oslick and Lodge 144 Auditor Audrey Peek with firemen from Denver Fire Department Station 2.



GCU National Director John W. Oslick and Lodge 144 Auditor Audrey Peek with police officers from Denver Police Department District 3.

Remembering 911

GCU Lodge 144 was privileged to provide lunch for the police and detectives of Denver Police Department District 3 and the firemen of Denver Fire Department Station 2.

The lodge is grateful to these men and women who protect and serve the local community daily. May all of us never forget the lives that were lost and the lives that were forever changed on that fateful day of September 11, 2001.

Mary Ellen Oslick | President



St. Francis House residents Bobby and Tony with Director Joe Campo and James Hulak.

Lodge 151 NEW YORK, NY

St. Francis House Visit

Mission accomplished! A letter of appreciation from Joseph Campo, director of St. Francis House was sent to thank the GCU for its donation of \$200.00 to support their mission of providing a safe haven for young men who are looking to start a new life and

receive guidance in order to change their lives. The home is over 100 years old and in need of repair.

Christine Hulak, Ann Kandratino and James Hulak visited the home and the young men who live there.

St. Raphael's Visit

The Lodge 151 visit to St. Raphael began months before. The visit was filled with "summer donations" of backpacks, bags of sandals, summer blouses, books, pens, pencils, socks, shoes, shirts and Emily Panchuk's beautifully crafted hats.

Christine Hulak, Ann Kandratino and James Hulak offered chilled orange juice and lemonade, cookies, donuts and coffee as refreshments. This visit featured four tables of donations. One table reflected the religious basis of the morning: medals, rosaries, prayer books and as always the morning opened with a prayer circle!

Volunteers cherish the warm reception received when the participants applaud the group's efforts as the doors open.



Lodge members visit St. Raphael's.

UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENTS

4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 24

10 AM Liturgy

Meeting & refreshments to follow

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
15th Street, New York City, NY

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016

Two Matching Funds Events

Annual Ethnic Dinner

Saturday, November 2

The Church of the Resurrection
Edgewater Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787

St. Nicholas Day Celebration

Sunday, December 8

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
15th Street, New York City, NY

Contact Marge Russell at 516-307-1016



Martha & Tim Hanson.

Martha & Tim Hanson Wedding

Lodge 151 would like to congratulate Martha Dietz and Tim Hanson on their marriage on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Martha is the daughter of Margie & Paul Dietz. The wedding was performed at Holy Ghost Church in Philadelphia, PA. Fr. Ed Higgins did the Ritual of Marriage with Divine Liturgy. It was a beautiful solemn ceremony. Martha's aunt, GCU Honorary Officer Patricia Dietz, was part of the great music presentation. Martha, the granddaughter of Eleanor Dietz and the late Peter Dietz, former National Athletic Director, looked beautiful as she walked down the aisle with Tim. Eleanor Dietz also made the beautiful crowns which were worn throughout the Liturgy. During the reception Martha and Tim sang a beautiful love song to each other. A Slovak tradition of dancing with the bride was held and appreciated by all. Family and friends from many parts of the United States participated in the ceremony and reception. Lodge 151 wishes Martha and Tim many happy and blessed years.

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

Choral Event

The Church of the Resurrection in Smithtown, NY recently held a choral singing program. Father Tyler introduced the Lyra Vocal Group touring from the music conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. They sang religious, secular, and folk songs. The group travels around the US and are enjoyed by many people including those in attendance at this event.

Quarterly Meeting

The Lodge 151 quarterly meeting was held in August. Thanks to Fr. Nicholas Daddona for attending. The lodge annual meeting will be held at St. Mary Church in NYC on November 24. Liturgy will be at 10 AM with meeting and refreshments following. The lodge is also sponsoring St. Nicholas Day on Sunday, December 8, 2019, also at St. Mary, as a GCU Parish Expansion program. A parish expansion ethnic lunch and dinner is planned for the Church of the Resurrection in Smithtown on Saturday, November 2. For more information call Marge at 516-307-1016.

Marge Russell | President

Christine Hulak | Treasurer

Congratulations

Hard work does pay off. Krissy Elias placed third in her juvenile combined event at the 2019 United States Figure Skating National Solo Dance Finals in Provo, UT. The top 6 skaters from three regions across the country qualify for nationals. This was her first year competing at this event. She was elated to not just qualify but to make the podium in Provo. Congratulations Krissy!



Lodge 164 YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Donation Made

On Thursday, August 15, 2019, following the Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos at St. Mary's annual picnic held in the church social hall, Lodge 164 presented Fr. Richard Lambert with a check for \$6,034.⁰⁰. The donation was the result of the lodge's Father's Day Bingo and Basket Fundraisers. GCU Matching Funds of \$3,000.⁰⁰ were included in the donation towards the maintenance of the church and social hall. Thank you to the GCU for their generosity.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



Earlier this year Lodge 182 collected donations and made Easter baskets for the children residing at the Catherine McAuley House a sponsored work of the Sisters of Mercy. The home offers a support system, lifeline and bridge towards self-reliance for homeless women and their families. Lodge 182 Treasurer Mary Ann Evans & Secretary Laure Marcin delivered the Easter Baskets.

Lodge 182 KINGSTON, PA

A Day at Knoebels Park

Members of Lodge 182 and their families enjoyed a day out at the Annual GCU Byzantine Family Day at Knoebels Amusement Park on Sunday, June 2, 2019. The food was delicious, the rides were thrilling and the company was unbeatable. The weather held out this year for most of the day and a great time was had by all.

Laure Marcin | Secretary



Lodge 182 members enjoying the day at Knoebels Park.

GCU Student Debt Program Continues in 2019

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

Members that qualify are eligible for four annual awards of \$500.⁰⁰ each. Members are required to apply annually to receive the award. Requirements include: GCU membership as of 12/31/2018 with a permanent life insurance certificate or annuity with a current balance of at least \$2,000.⁰⁰. Proof of at least two years of payments on the student loan(s) and volunteer involvement will also be required. Complete details, program requirements and application are available at: www.GCUusa.com—Members—Member Benefits—Student Debt.

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





Drew & Anita Cipa helping with the Pascha project at St. Basil.

Lodge 250 STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Pascha Baking

This year has already been a busy one for members and friends of Lodge 250. Matching Funds were received by the parish of St. Basil the Great in Sterling Heights following a pascha baking day at the church. Proceeds and Matching Funds gave the parish over \$2,000.⁰⁰.



Lodge members and parishioners help to beautify the grounds at St. Basil.

Helping Hands Day

As summer began, the lodge's Helping Hands Day was planned in June to work on the grounds at St. Basil. Trimming, weeding, mulching, and planting were on the agenda for the day. A pizza luncheon was served to all participants and Helping Hands t-shirts were provided by the Home Office for the team of workers.

Flag Day

In June, a Flag Day celebration was planned to honor the Nation's Flag. After a short program, all recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem. Refreshments were served in the church hall.



Flag Day.



Welcome sign at Faith Night.



Drew Cipa along with Austin, Ben and Jim Radell.

Faith Night at Jimmy John's Field

July 12 marked the first coordinated trip to Jimmy John's Field in Utica, MI for Faith Night. Lodge 250, along with the parish of St. Basil, enjoyed a fun evening out. Former Detroit Lions kicker Eddie Murray, along with former Detroit Tiger Andy Dirks, spoke prior to the ball game about the influence

of their Christian faith in their lives on and off the field. All enjoyed the speakers, the ball game, fireworks, and music at the ballpark.

Anita Cipa | Treasurer

Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

Paul West Elevated to Diaconate

On Sunday, May 19, Bishop Kurt Burnett ordained Paul West to the diaconate. The event took place at St. Michael Eparchial Cathedral in Passaic, NJ.

Friends, family and clergy were in attendance to congratulate Deacon Paul. A celebratory dinner followed. Lodge 254 president Elias Zareva presented Paul with a gift to mark the occasion. Paul is a member of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ where Father James Badeaux is the pastor. St. Mary is the home parish of Lodge 254.



Fr. James Badeaux, Natalie Quinn, Karen DeLuca, Elias Zareva, newly ordained Deacon Paul West, Elaine Sotack, Savanna Bezick and Deacon Alex Kubik.



Lodge President Elias Zareva and pastor Fr. James Badeaux, presenting the 2019 scholarship award to Ethan Dietzman.

Scholarship Winner for 2019

Ethan Dietzman, a member of St. Mary Church, was the recipient of the 2019 Lodge 254 Scholarship for high school seniors. The presentation was made by lodge President Elias Zareva and Father James Badeaux, pastor.

Ethan is graduating Bridgewater Raritan High School and will be attending Rutgers University where he plans on studying cell biology and neuroscience.

In the past 4 years, Ethan has served as the president of the St. Mary ByzanTeens, an assistant teacher in the St. Mary ECF program, a camp counselor at St. Mary Vacation Bible School Camp and a worker at the annual Tricky Tray fund raiser.

A reception for family and friends followed sponsored by GCU Lodge 254.

A special thank you to Ms. Margaret Pavol, chairperson for the scholarship program.

St. Mary Slavic Dinner

Every month, September 2018 thru June 2019, Lodge 254 members held an all-you-can-eat dinner to raise funds in support of the Church.

An authentic East European menu featuring holubky, pirohy, kielbasa & sauerkraut, cabbage & noodles and much more were served buffet style. The volunteers were proud to serve 150–250 dinners each month.

People traveled from all over the area to enjoy the specialties—reminiscent of grandmother’s kitchen.

Charles Bazaral | Vice President

Alberta Folsome | Auditor



Volunteers who prepared and served Slavic dinners.



Mark Gasser working at Helping Hands Day.

Lodge 268

MINGO JUNCTION, OH

Helping Hands Days

Lodge 268 had two Helping Hands events. The first was in June to clean around the church grounds and weed the flowerbeds. On Saturday, September 14 the second Helping Hands event was used to trim the shrubs and clean out the flowerbeds. The planters were filled with mums for the fall. Thanks to the GCU for the Helping Hands Fraternal Grant.

Carla Gasser | President



Fr. Thomas Loya (standing at left) talking to one of his neighbors.

Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK, IL

Prairie Fest

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer Glen, IL held its 12th annual Prairie Fest on Friday, August 9 through Sunday, August 11. The fest featured music, art, food, education and evangelization. There were prairie & church tours, wood painting, a mini car show, pets up for adoption by NAWS Humane Society of Illinois, a wine pull, fundraisers and a great bakery. The music had a little something for everyone. The bands included Kaleidoscope Eyes, Common Allies, Five Guys Named Moe, JT Acoustics and culminated with New Phaze on “Polka Sunday.” The fest also had plenty of children’s activities including a jumpy area, face painting, crafts and a magician. Several Disney Princesses and Captain America stopped by to say hello to the kids! Thanks to Homer Glen Junior Women’s Club and many parents for volunteering with Youth Coordinator Cathy Baranko. The fest also welcomed back Tata’s Pierogi as the event’s traditional ethnic food vendor and welcomed first time local vendor Big Joe’s Backyard BBQ.

Over the years Prairie Fest has grown from a church event to a community event. Summed up best by Rev. Father Thomas Loya, pastor at Annunciation, “It’s a way for us to open our heart and our home to the community.”

Lodge 271 has been a main sponsor of the fest over the years as well as having its members volunteer throughout the weekend event. Already looking forward to next year’s event set for August 7, 8 and 9, 2020. **SAVE THE DATES AND HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Halloween “Treats” Social

Sunday, October 27

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

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

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27

Approximately 11:45 AM

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

4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 3

Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph Church
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

Painting Party Social

Thursday, November 7

7 PM-9 PM

\$35 per person

Painting with a Twist
15225 Pearl Road, Strongsville, OH

Deadline is Tuesday, November 5

Contact Jean Karaffa at 216-513-3854

Banner Sunday Food Drive

Saturday, November 23

Sunday, November 24

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

Will benefit St. Mary’s Hospitality House (operating
out of Holy Spirit Church in Parma).

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

Lodge 316

PHILIPSBURG, NJ

9th Annual Christopher Meddaugh Golf Outing

Green Pond Country Club in Bethlehem Township, PA was the venue for the 9th Annual Christopher Meddaugh Golf Outing on Saturday, July 20. The Christopher Meddaugh Foundation joined with Lodge 316 to raise money for scholarships to Notre Dame High School (Bethlehem Township) students, and donations to the educational services of the Immune Deficiency Foundation. Undaunted by the 97-degree temperatures, the golfers arrived ready for friendly competition, fellowship, and good food.

The 1:30 PM shotgun start featured a four-person scramble format, with a variety of contests during the round. Golfers competed for longest drive, closest to the pin, and “Hit the Green.” At registration, each golfer received a backpack with a sleeve of golf balls, a GCU golf towel, snacks and sunscreen packets. Lots of bottled water and Gatorade were available throughout the round to assist the golfers in fighting the extreme heat. A delicious buffet followed golf.



Family members worked hard to make the outing a success.

This year, \$4,000.00 was raised for scholarships and \$500.00 was donated to the Immune Deficiency Foundation, bringing the event’s total donations to \$33,100.00. A gracious and sincere “THANK YOU” to the golfers—many who have supported this effort for years, the volunteers, donors, the GCU and the Shop Rite Corporation. This year’s golf outing was Lodge 316’s Community Matching Funds event. Thank you to all!

School Supplies Collected

During the month of August, Lodge 316 along with members of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church collected school supplies for children. The supplies were donated to the Early Childhood Learning Center in Phillipsburg.

The Early Childhood Learning Center serves children in the pre-K through kindergarten age group. The educational curriculum is enriched by family and community partnerships.

The many items collected included backpacks, pencil cases, crayons, glue sticks, scissors, single subject notebooks, folders, erasers and tissues. The focus of the collection was for students in the youngest age groups.

Lodge 316 is grateful to all those who donated and to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant.

Kathleen Meddaugh |
Secretary-Treasurer



Master teacher Virginia Sacchi and parent liaison Sara Darmstadt are thankful to receive donations from Lodge 316’s Kathleen Meddaugh (left).



Ullia Kadar, Stryker Little, Vasyi Kadar, Addie Little and Zoe Little.

Lodge 351

INDIANA, PA

Love Basket & School Bash Donations

Lodge 351 participated in several local donation drives during the month of July. Love Basket – a non-perishable food drive sponsored by the local church communities and the School Bash – which collects school supplies for low income students in the Indiana County area. These are two very worthwhile projects held during the summer months in the Indiana, PA area.

Run Ranger Run

Lodge 351 once again sponsored Team Leadfoot in Run Ranger Run, the fundraising program of the Gallant Few that helps to transition veteran's into civilian life. During the month of February, Team Leadfoot participated in raising funds and awareness of the issues that our veterans face as they assimilate back to civilian life. Team members were challenged to walk, run, and/or bike 568 miles in 28 days. This year Team Leadfoot went above and beyond the required miles and logged in 1,562.73 miles.

USMC Staff Sergeant Christopher Little was once again Team Leadfoot's fearless leader. He is stationed in Camp Pendleton, CA. He is the husband of Lodge 351 member Kate Little. Jaden Perez, the youngest member of the group, not only raised the most money but also logged the most mileage. Jaden, who lives in CA near Chris, set the standard high for those braving the cold and snow in the Northeast. Needless to say, Lodge 351 members couldn't even come close in mileage to the California counterparts. Lodge 351 members continued to raise money throughout the summer months, as temperatures warmed up in Pennsylvania. A Strawberry Social was held with donations going to Team Leadfoot.

Chris has fully recovered from injuries suffered in a motorcycle

accident and is returning to active duty with the USMC. God heard the many prayers offered for his recovery by Lodge 351 members. Lodge 351 will once again participate in the Run Ranger Run fundraising program in February 2020. Additional information on forming a team or joining Team Leadfoot will be available on the website <https://runrangerrun.com/about-rrr/> in January 2020. Until then, please keep the country's veterans and active duty military in your hearts and prayers.

Patty Yamrick | Publicity Director



Staff Sergeant Chris, Kate, Stryker, and Zoe Little.

UPCOMING LODGE 401 EVENT

Ham & Halupki Dinner

Sunday, November 3

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Adults \$10 / Children age 6-12 \$5 / age 5 & under FREE

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

For info call Stephen Bender at 814-749-0087 or email him at buddybender831@comcast.net

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

HAZLETON, PA

Once again it is time for Mother Nature to take us from the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer to the glorious fall foliage of Northeastern, PA. The trees are already changing colors in some areas—if you have a chance, take time to enjoy Mother Nature’s finest show.

Third Quarter Meeting

The GHRL third quarter meeting was held on Sunday, August 11 in St. John BC Church hall. The Parish Matching Funds check was presented to Fr. Wolbert, OFM. The agenda also featured discussion on a fund raiser for the month of November for both Community & Parish Matching Funds. A presentation was made to Anthony Maguschak who finished his Eagle Scout project—a mosaic cross in SS. Peter & Paul BC cemetery at the graves of seven priests and a Franciscan brother. Anthony put in a total of over 150 hours doing the work at the cemetery.

A list of activities was presented for the rest of the year. Plans for the St. Nicholas Dinner will be discussed at the fourth quarter meeting. Believe it or not, GHRL already has a show booked for August 8, 2020 to see “Queen Esther” at Sight and Sound Theater.

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

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

Saturday, October 26

9 AM

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

Casino Trip to Wind Creek (Sands)

Sunday, October 27

Miracle of Christmas Show

Saturday, November 2

Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

St. Nicholas Dinner

Sunday, December 1

1 PM

Capriotti’s



Carol Shemansky, Tom Shemansky, Agnes Rohrbach, Mary Ellen Fichter, Claire Kaschak and Carolyn Kosciuk.

Hunterdon Hills Bus Trip

On Saturday, August 10 GHRL took a bus trip to Hunterdon Hills to see the play “I Do I Do.” Thanks to the Home Office for the Fraternal Grant and the great giveaways. A good time was enjoyed by all who attended, especially the miniatures in the dessert room.



GHRL Secretary Agnes Rohrbach, Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM & GHRL President Deacon Larry Foran.

September Activities

The lodge’s bowling league started on Wednesday, September 4 and we would like to welcome out newest bowler Roy Paisley. Everyone’s goal this year is to bowl a 300—hopefully in one game and not three games.

A bus trip was held on Sunday, September 22 to Hollywood Casino. There were a few lucky winners on the return trip.

In Sympathy

Our deepest condolences to the family of Al Kringer who went to his eternal rest on August 6. Al was an auditor for the former District 6 and GHRL. He was an active member of the lodge, an avid bowler with the GCU and always golfed in the Holupki Open. Al could always be counted on to lend a helping hand whenever needed. He was also a delegate for a few of the National Conventions. Blessed repose & eternal memory.

Notes

Monday, November 11 is Veteran’s Day, if you happen to know a vet or see one, kindly give them a handshake and salute them for their service. They deserve a lot of thanks for all that they did to help protect the good old USA.

Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 28, take time to give thanks for one another and to spend some quality time with family and friends.

As always, remember dates are subject to change. If you are in doubt about a meeting or an event, please give call Agnes or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU Website for updates or new postings.

Until next time, take care and May God Bless!

Agnes Rohrbach | GHRL Activities Director

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

CARRICK, GREENFIELD & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Tournament and Pool Day!

The Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Tournament and Pool Day were held simultaneously on Sunday, August 4 at Seven Oaks Country Club. While the golfers were out playing, family and lodge members relaxed and enjoyed a beautiful day at the pool. Golfers shared a buffet dinner while the pool goers had dinner in the Seven Oaks Grille Room.

1st Place Winners included: Women: Lori Burns (gross) and Sandy Cibulka (net); Seniors: Ted Trbovich (net) and Mike Mantsch (gross); A Flight: Jeff Siesky (gross) and Guido Candelore (net) and in the B Flight: Charlie Houser (gross) and John Kutzfara (net).

A donation was made to the American Heart Association in Gene's name. Thanks to all who donated hole sponsorships, beer and monetary contributions in Gene's name!

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director



UPCOMING CPRL EVENT

Annual Steeler Tailgate XVII

Sunday, November 24

11:30 AM - End of Game

1 PM Kickoff

\$15 Adults & \$5 kids (age 5-12)

Steelers vs. Cincinnati Bengals

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

Big Screen TV, Plenty of Food & Drink (BYOB), Football Pools, Chinese Auction & Fundraising Activities.

Donations Welcome.

Event will benefit the local Food Bank and St. John Chrysostom Repairs & Projects.

Pre-Sale ONLY—No tickets will be sold at the door

Questions? Contact gculodge255@gmail.com or call 412-849-2945 or 412-521-3963.



Two of CPRL's youngest members Dylan Watenpool and JD Basl at the pool.

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
Alex Bodner
Anna Bodrog
James I. Campbell
Mary K. Colangelo
Frank Danko
John Deak
Joan DeMarco
Anna Dutko
Joann Gabor
Norman S. Gajda
Peter George
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
Mary E. Mulvey
Charlene Nagy
Theresa A. Naro
Brenda A. Oberding
Julia Olijar
Jose Oritz
Christine Pasterick
Robin S. Phillips

Robert A. Pinchak
Mary Piripavel
Helen Pisko
Geraldine Pondok
Angela D. Radocesky
Geraldine Sabol
Gloria J. Shifra
Amber Jill Smith
Ann Marie Smith
John Soga
Carole Tiskiewicz
Arthur Visokey
Rev. George Zuback

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge MUNHALL & CLAIRTON, PA

St. John's Cathedral Parish Picnic

Sunday, July 14 was a beautiful hot summer day, perfect for a picnic. That's exactly what lodge members and parishioners at St. John's Cathedral did.

Hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled, watermelon sliced and a nacho bar assembled. All brought delicious covered dishes and desserts to share.

The kids played lawn games, water balloons and corn hole toss while the adults participated in a grab bag.

At the end of the day, ice cream was served with all the toppings for all to enjoy!



Linda Stofko with grandchildren Kylie & Kash Kovatch.

Summer Bling Event

Ladies and girls from the church and community were welcomed to Ascension Hall for a "Summer Bling" event on Sunday, August 25. Yvonne Opalenik was the guest speaker and entertained everyone with a very interesting history of the locket traced back to the Civil War. Guests thoroughly enjoyed the stories and the humor in her presentation that included hats from different eras, a mustache and an oversized locket she created for modeling by Trish Roberts. A buffet lunch included a dessert bar with a variety of delicious sweets, tea and punch. The children had an opportunity to create a bracelet, choosing different designs of beads. Later in the program, Yvonne demonstrated lockets of different styles with Origami Owl and invited everyone to design their own unique locket or other jewelry pieces. Attendees also enjoyed bingo, games and prizes. The program closed with door prize baskets and fresh flowers being given away.



Summer Bling event.



Officer Beere, Bear and Fr. Ivan Mina.

Ascension Church Parish Picnic

Ascension Church's annual picnic was held on Sunday, September 22 at Ascension Hall. Father Ivan Mina gave the blessing and guests headed to an amazing food buffet! Two extra tables were added to accommodate the large variety of homemade covered dishes. Volunteers grilled hot dogs, burgers and kolbassi. Halushki, halubki, stuffed hot peppers, chicken, salads and vegetable casseroles along with desserts were among the choices.

A Chinese auction, 50/50 and TV giveaway were held along with bingo games. There were a lot of excited winners!

A 50" Flat Screen TV was donated by Dean & Carla Maksin and won by Rich Sovich.

Clairton Police Officer Duane Beere was invited to present a demonstration of police work with canines. He introduced himself and his dog Bear and provided a background on his police work and Bear. One interesting fact was that Bear was born and trained in the Czech Republic and responds only to Dutch commands by his handler. Bear can locate drugs and track human scent when the police need his assistance. "Bear" provided a demonstration of a drug search. Other Clairton police officers participated in a demonstration as Bear was ordered to attack an aggressive criminal (officer in a padded protective suit). After an exciting presentation, "Bear" enjoyed interacting and playing ball with the kids and meeting the audience. The police officers joined the group for lunch and socialized with the crowd.

Patricia Bovee | Treasurer

Trish Roberts | President

Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge

MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Fisher House Collection

During the Summer of 2019, the NWPRL in cooperation with three parishes, held the second annual collection program for the Pittsburgh VA Hospital Fisher House. Fisher House provides accommodations and general living supplies for families of those receiving treatment at the Pittsburgh VA hospital. They have an ongoing need to replenish the supplies. If you would like to help the Fisher House, a complete list of needed items can be found on the Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge web page.

Holy Ghost Northside-Pittsburgh, PA, St. Andrew Gibsonia, PA and Holy Ghost McKees Rocks all stepped up and collected over \$1,500.00 worth of much needed material. Fisher House was most grateful to receive the delivery from NWPRL President Tina Burns on Monday, August 5.

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer



A few of the volunteers at the Flea Market.

Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge

UPPER ST. CLAIR

St. Gregory Flea Market Fundraiser

WHAT A GREAT DAY! The Flea Market at St. Gregory was a huge success due to the skill, hard work and organization of event director Michele D'Angelo. Thank you Michele! Thank you to the committee and the amazing help of all the parishioners who gave many hours of service and support setting up, pricing and helping customers during the day of the sale. Plenty of work and fun went into preparing for this event.

A wide range of items were presented for sale: sports equipment, household items, books, baby clothes, toys, Christmas decorations, pictures, dishes, purses, bedspreads and jewelry.

The Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge members are proud to be a part of this annual sale, which always draws a large response from the community, because of the quality of the items sold.

Rosemary Tomko | Publicity Director



Lodge members with VA Hospital Fisher House donations.

UPCOMING NWPRL EVENT

Election of Officers

Sunday, November 17

2 PM

Holy Ghost Church
225 Olivia Street, McKees Rocks, PA 15136

NOT Local, no problem-join by phone!

The lodge offers a telephone conference bridge for members out of the Pittsburgh area that would like to participate in the general meeting. Dial-in number: 605-472-5351 Access Code 451303.

Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

Flood City Music Festival

Summer was a busy season for Lodge 625. On Friday & Saturday, August 2-3 the lodge participated in the Flood City Music Festival with a food booth. Lodge members made pirohi, halushki, halupki and gobs during the month of July and sold them at the event. Proceeds from the event were matched by the Home Office enabling the lodge to donate \$2,100.00 to the Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church roof fund. We thank the Home Office for the Matching Funds.



Music Festival.



Mary Romanko, John Dubay, Chuck & Patty Webb and Mary Dubay enjoying the food at the picnic.

Parish Picnic

On Sunday, August 18, the lodge along with Holy Trinity parish held its annual picnic on the parish grounds. Divine Liturgy was held at 11 AM followed by the picnic. More than 60 members of the lodge and parish attended, sharing a variety of covered dishes. The afternoon included fellowship and bingo games. The lodge thanks the Home Office for providing small gifts, gift cards for door prizes and special subsidy to offset the cost of the event.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

Swiss Steak Dinner

Sunday, November 17

11 AM to 2 PM

Holy Trinity Church Hall
217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 24

Following Divine Liturgy

Approximately 10:15 AM

Holy Trinity Church Hall
217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

St. Nicholas Social Hour

Thursday, December 5

Following Divine Liturgy

Holy Trinity Church Hall
217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

Slavic Festival

As summer comes to a close, the lodge participated in the 5th Annual Slavic Festival at the Discovery Center in Johnstown, PA. The lodge made and sold pirohi, halushki, pagach and gobs to support Holy Trinity's roof fund. This event is the final Matching Funds event for the parish and we are grateful to the Home Office for the continued generosity.



Slavic Festival.

Lodge Notes

Heading into the fall season, the lodge will be working on fund raisers to support local community organizations. Last year with the support of the Matching Funds program, the lodge was able to donate a total of \$3,000.00 to 14 organizations.

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. Like the lodge on Facebook GCU Lodge 625.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 644

BARBERTON, OH

Fr. John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing

Lodge 644 members were busy winding up the summer. The annual Father John Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing was a success. Thank you to all who participated. Special congratulations go out to his parents John & Pat Keblesh, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past September. Mnohaja lita!



Mike Meador, Mary Tulenko, John Keblesh and Fr. Jan at the annual Fr. Keblesh Memorial Golf Outing.



Rick Schen, Tom Blike, Sue Irving and Joan Clapsadle preparing the fruit for the ECF Breakfast.

ECF Breakfast

On Sunday, September 22 GCU Lodge 644 hosted a breakfast at St. Nicholas Church in Barberton. The breakfast was in honor of the teachers and students who started their ECF classes. Ninety-one meals of sausage, eggs, biscuits, hash browns and fruit were served.

Matching Funds Benefit St. Emilian Church

St. Emilian Church put the Matching Funds they received from GCU towards the purchase of a floor scrubber and pirohi machine. Thanks to the GCU Matching Funds the equipment will assist the parish in their fund raising activities.

Rick Schen | Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 644 EVENTS

4th Quarter Meeting

Sunday, October 27
11 AM

St. Nicholas Church
1051 E. Robinson Avenue, Barberton, OH 44203

Rummage Sale

Saturday, November 2
11 AM-4 PM

St. Nicholas Church
1051 E. Robinson Avenue, Barberton, OH 44203

Ethnic Food Sale at Voting Poles

Tuesday, November 5
During voting hours

St. Emilian Church
1231 Substation road, Brunswick, OH 44212

Ethnic Food Sale

Saturday, November 23
9 AM-1 PM

St. Emilian Church
1231 Substation Road, Brunswick, OH 44212

Lodge 945
DUNMORE, PA

Community Matching Funds

Lodge 945 along with parishioners from St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church in Dunmore, PA participated in a GCU Community Matching Funds project to benefit The Griffin Pond Animal Shelter in South Abington Township, PA. GCU National Director and Lodge 945 member George Kofel, who served as event coordinator, presented a check in the amount of \$1,100.00 to the shelter which equated to the total monies and supplies donated along with the \$550.00 matched by GCU.



George Kofel with animal shelter personnel.



Mariann Evanko, Brian McGoff, Andrew Drozdik, Rev. Leonard Martin and GCU National Director George Kofel.

Parish Expansion Matching Funds

Lodge 945 sponsored a GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds Project for St. Mary of the Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church in Scranton, PA. The church held their fundraiser, a Slavic Festival, on August 16, 17, and 18, 2019 on the parish grounds.

UPCOMING LODGE 945 EVENTS

Fall Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 26
9 AM

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

Volunteers are needed to help the Carmelite Sisters prepare their grounds for winter, along with assisting on some indoor work.

Community Halloween Party

Saturday, October 26
9 AM

With Sherwood Youth Association

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party

Thursday, December 5
5:30 PM

Sibio's Restaurant
1240 Quincy Avenue, Dunmore, PA 18510

Reservations are a MUST: call George Kofel at 570-241-2256 before December 2.

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 8
Following 9 AM Liturgy

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



Christina Schultz and Paul Dunda.

SCS/GCU National Golf Tournament

Lodge 945 was represented at the 2019 SCS/GCU National Golf Tournament at Seven Oaks Country Club and Blackhawk Golf Club in Beaver, PA on August 16 & 17. President Paul Dunda and member Christina Schultz participated as golfers in the event, and George Kofel was a spectator. Congratulations to Christina, who finished tied for 1st place in the women's division in her first ever tournament and visit to Seven Oaks.

Newspaper Drive

A newspaper drive to benefit the Mini Horse Corral at Holy Annunciation Monastery is underway and will continue until Friday, October 25, 2019. Anyone wishing to donate their old **newspapers** can bring them to St. Michael Parish Hall in Dunmore on

Saturdays between 4:30 and 6 PM, or on Sundays between 8:30 & 10 AM. You can call George Kofel at 570-241-2256 for details. As a reminder, only newspapers can be used—no magazines, books, or shiny paper inserts.

Thanksgiving Feed a Friend Drive Matching Funds

GCU Lodge 945 will conduct a Community Matching Funds Drive to benefit the Scranton Rescue Mission from October 27 through December 1, 2019. Both food items and monetary donations are being accepted and will be given to the Scranton Rescue Mission to help feed those in need. Food items may be brought to St. Michael Church. Those making a monetary donation, please make checks payable to: GCU Lodge 945, c/o 411 Reeves Street, Dunmore, PA 18512.

CONTINUED



Mike Karaffa and Greg Vladika watch George Juba retrieving his golf ball.

Lodge 945 CONTINUED

In Closing

It has been said that great pictures are the results of being in the right place at the right moment. It also has been said that a picture paints a thousand words. Well, at the GCU National Golf Tournament this past August, my camera (phone) caught a GCU photo moment too good to pass up. Though it wasn't a thousand words, by looking at the expressions of Greg Vladika and

Mike Karaffa, I believe the caption of this photo should read: "*President Juba, you hit it in there; you gotta get it outta there!*" I'm still puzzled why Greg didn't get his ball retriever out of his bag?

George Kofel | Publicity Director



Movie goes.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Brunch and a Movie

On Sunday, August 25, Lodge 999 offered brunch following Liturgy at St. Stephen Church and then members and guests traveled to Harkins Theatre to watch the movie "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." All in attendance had a great time.

Thanksgiving Turkey Fundraiser

Tickets are now available for a chance to win a turkey just in time for Thanksgiving. Four winning tickets will be drawn on Sunday, November 24 to receive turkeys as the prize. The fundraiser will benefit St. Stephen ECF program and the Lodge 999 Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased from Joanie Mahar 602-920-0607 or any other Lodge 999 officer.

Joanie Mahar | President

UPCOMING LODGE 999 EVENTS

Fall Harvest Fest

Saturday, November 2

2 PM to 8 PM

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

St. Stephen Cathedral

8141 North 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Benefits 40 Days for Life / Maggie's Place

St. Nicholas Dinner

Sunday, December 8

Following 11 AM Liturgy

St. Stephen Cathedral

8141 North 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Cookie Exchange 2019

Sunday, December 15

11 AM to 2 PM

\$5

St. Stephen Cathedral

8141 North 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Benefits Andre House

Contact Joanie Mahar for more info on any of these events at 602-920-0607.

For Your Information

Events

The History of the Byzantine Rite & the Ruthenian Church

Sunday, October 20
2 PM-3 PM
FREE

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, 4815 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. A lecture by Fr. Ivan Mina, Ph.D. Registration call Phyllis O'Donnell at 412-523-5106.

A Christmas Market

Sunday, November 10
12 NOON - 6 PM

St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church
 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA 15120

Start Christmas Shopping, enjoy a stuffed cabbage or chicken paprikas lunch/dinner. St. Elias specialties will also be available, such as nut, poppyseed, apricot, apricot/nut and lekvar rolls and csoroge. Call 412-461-1712 or email steliabccc@google.com.

38th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, October 27
Divine Liturgy 9 AM
12 NOON to 6 PM
FREE

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

Featuring ethnic foods such as holubki, pirohi, halushki, kolbasi & sauerkraut, soup, potato pancakes, pagach, baked goods and much more. Slavjane Folk Ensemble—3 PM; a Rusyn folk music group—12:30 & 4 PM; and a speaker/video presentation at 1 & 4 PM on Rusyn culture and customs. (*subject to change*). The Carpatho-Rusyn Society will have a display of artifacts, authentic costumes, photographs, documents and will assist in genealogical questions. There will be assorted vendors and much more. Handicapped accessible. Admission is free. For info call 724-438-6027 M-F 9 AM-3 PM, (leave message.)

Please check parish website www.stjohnbaptist-byzcatch-uniontown.org or call 724-438-6027 the week of the event for a possible change in location.

Available

The Carpathian Cookery Cookbook

From St. John Byzantine Catholic Church in Uniontown, PA now in its 18th printing.-over 18,000 sold. This cookbook is in the Library of Congress ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, 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 and the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.⁰⁰ plus \$4.⁰⁰ postage and handling (\$18.⁰⁰). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$28.⁰⁰ U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401-3688, or call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9 AM - 3 PM – leave message), for additional information. You may also contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.

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1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	0	0
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-s- Basil M. Wahal, Managing Editor

2020 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
CLEVELAND, OH
FRIDAY, MAY 15 &
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

2020 PENGUINS OUTING
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 18
7:00PM
PPG PAINTS ARENA
SECTIONS 222 & 223
\$50 MEMBERS
\$65 NON-MEMBERS

SCS & GCU Golf Tournament Results

Seven Oaks CC & Black Hawk GC—August 16-18, 2019

A Flight

Tom Iskra Sr.—1st
Frank Dano III—2nd
Frank Dano IV—2nd

B Flight

Thomas A. Petrus—1st
Matt Burfield—2nd
Zachary Oravetz—3rd
Dusan Dorich—4th
Tony Rasimas—4th
Ryan Burfield—6th
Tom Hoenninger—6th

C Flight

Corey Shedlock—1st
Jake Pontoriero—2nd
Kyle Karaffa—3rd
Jesse Sadowyj—4th
Shawn Brennan—5th
Jeff Recker—6th
Nick Tirpak—6th
Nathan Keagy—8th
Benjamin Moeller—8th

Callaway Flight

Frank Lipski—1st
Joseph Hvozdovic Jr.—1st

Senior Flight

Dave Blazek—1st
James Bart—2nd
Robert Macurak—3rd
Michael Petrus—4th
Albert Suess Jr.—5th
Theodore Trbovich—6th
Robert Hritz—7th
Edward Baker—8th
Stephen Skorupka—8th

Women Flight

Christina Schultz—1st
Nancy J. Crouthamel—1st
Terri Palchanis—1st
Kelly Palchanis—4th
Mary Ruth Savikis—4th
Jean Karaffa—5th
Linda Frank—5th
Gail Etter—5th
Stephanie Skorupka—5th

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

8358	Adam Adams, Williams Bay, WI	182	William John Dervin, Edwardsville, PA	8344	Patricia A. Kelly, West Mifflin, PA
8344	Dorothy P. Adams, Reading, PA			8358	Shirley V. Kempf, Kewaskum, WI
NPRL	Alexander Alman, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	Lloyd L. Detweiler, Birdsboro, PA	644	Mary Jean Kennedy, Akron, OH
8344	George Ammirato, East Longmeadow, MA	8344	Betty L. Dietz, Orwigsburg, PA	8344	George Kimak, Bluffton, SC
GHRL	Marcia Amspacher, Shrewsbury, PA	CPRL	Diane DiTano, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	Andrew J. Klanica, Natrona Heights, PA
8344	Barbara Barch, Belle Vernon, PA	8344	Charles E. Ditmar, Birdsboro, PA	CPRL	Helen Kloss, Lakewood Ranch, FL
999	Carmel Barela, Mesa, AZ	8344	Caryn Evers-Whitaker, Lebanon, NJ	271	Robert C. Knoll, Harvard, IL
8344	Ronald R. Beal, Dilliner, PA	8309	Ahmad Farahmand, Glen Mills, PA	8344	Frances Kochaba, Nesquehoning, PA
8344	Wilma Beall, Dilliner, PA	8309	Gerald R. Fedorek, Largo, FL	625	Donata Kormanik, New York, NY
CPRL	Pauline Benedik, Pittsburgh, PA	109	Mary Ferguson, Clearwater, FL	8344	Mary Koshut, Duquesne, PA
8344	Edward Benton, Leechburg, PA	8344	Mary Fizer, Lyndora, PA	62	Esther Kotula, Saint Marys, PA
CPRL	Karen D. Berkowitz, Port Orange, FL	69	Fern L. Flynn, Hazle Twp., PA	66	Marguerite M. Koval, Carmel, IN
8358	Robert Berndt, Neenah, WI	8344	Margaret Foley, Pottstown, PA	250	Nicholas Kovalcik, Rochester Hills, MI
8344	Carl Billow, Hershey, PA	8344	Francis Frasca, Jenkintown, PA	SPRL	Lillian Kozloski, Martinsburg, PA
151	Daniel Bitsko, New Britain, PA	8344	Mary E. Gardner, Warrington, PA	8344	Joseph Kratovil, Tarentum, PA
8344	Shirley J. Blair, Duncansville, PA	8344	Leanne C. Garvey, Cranberry Twp., PA	8344	George C. Kraynak, Coraopolis, PA
8344	Rita Bobarsky, Mahanoy City, PA	360	Madeleine Gottchalk, Stroudsburg, PA	GHRL	Alois Kringer, Hazleton, PA
999	Irene Borak, Sun City, AZ	109	Richard Gozur, Campbell, OH	8358	Verna G. Kristianson, Eagle River, WI
8344	Arlynne Bossar, Trafford, PA	999	Mitchell Habil, Butler, PA	8344	Jacob M. Kutchma, Shohola, PA
SPRL	Barbara A. Brannan, Glenshaw, PA	8344	Joan M. Hall, Tucson, AZ	8344	Twila Lamison, Latrobe, PA
66	Ruth E. Breclaw, Merrillville, IN	8344	Mary E. Hallman, New Tripoli, PA	8344	Ivanka Lapajne, Pittsburgh, PA
8344	Patricia Brown, Warren, PA	8344	Mary Hambor, Bethlehem, PA	8344	Mahala J. Lardin, Gibsonia, PA
8344	Joseph E. Buckeye, Belle Vernon, PA	8344	Mary Jane Hammer, Pottsville, PA	8344	Dennis Long, Bloomsburg, PA
8344	Rita M. Burgman, Murrysville, PA	8341	Patricia A. Hampton, Dayton, OH	10	Olga Mackin, Pittsburgh, PA
8309	Charles Burke, St. Augustine, FL	8344	Lester Hemphill, Ebensburg, PA	8344	Bernadine Maga, Bridgeport, PA
8344	Margaret Burnsworth, Masontown, PA	10	Lyla Hilfinger, Beaver, PA	109	Pauline Maillet, Butler, PA
321	Marion C. Carle, Jeannette, PA	8304	Patricia Hilton, Ventura, CA	8349	Mary Martin, Live Oak, TX
8304	Edith Carrozzo, Fullerton, CA	8309	Gwendolyn P. Hooper, Palm Coast, FL	321	Larry McBryar, New Florence, PA
8304	William Coble, Tuscon, AZ	235	Stephen J M. Hrabcsak, Danbury, CT	8344	William H. McDonald, Pittsburgh, PA
8344	Helen F. Coffman, Avalon, PA	8344	Joseph W. Hrinda, Girard, PA	999	William A. Mead, Sun Lakes, AZ
8344	June Collins, Pottsville, PA	8344	Jean Hvozdek, Glassport, PA	271	Sylvia B. Mikulecky, Hickory Hills, IL
8344	Nancy Confer, Howard, PA	69	Angeline Jendrus, Pottstown, PA	SPRL	Mary Milliken, West Alexander, PA
CPRL	Michael Constantin, Meadville, PA	8344	Ann Juszczak, Rochester, PA	8344	Lois J. Milnes, Ellwood City, PA
8344	Russell A. Crescini, Grindstone, PA	8344	Della A. Justilio, Point Marion, PA	17	Alan G. Morohovech, Taylor, PA
316	Marie Curran, Cherry Hill, NJ	182	Philip J. Kachmar, Kingston, PA	8344	Richard Morrison, Warren, PA
8344	Matthew D. D'Aversa, Johnstown, PA	8344	Marie Kase, Reading, PA		
8344	Donald Dennis, Berwick, PA	93	John Katana, Northern Cambria, PA		

994	Ralph Morrow, Coraopolis, PA	8344	Marlene Sprence, Beaver Falls, PA
8344	Betty A. Mott, Warren, PA	8344	Bernard N. Stallard, Seneca, PA
66	Robert Murray, Elkhart, IN	8344	Marcia Stillwagon, Chalfont, PA
8358	Catherine Narloch, Milwaukee, WI	8344	Robert R. Stockman, East Stroudsburg, PA
NPRL	Andy Nazak, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	8344	Betty E. Stover, Salina, PA
8309	Thomas C. Nemish, The Villages, FL	999	Anthony M. Stramiello, Astoria, OR
8344	Jean Nerkowski, Pittsburgh, PA	92	John Surma, Jessup, PA
8344	Joan F. Obeldobel, Latrobe, PA	57	Margaret Sveda, Fayette City, PA
81	Juanita Onesi, Uniontown, PA	109	Michael Sychak, Camp Hill, PA
8344	Margaret Palmer, King of Prussia, PA	8344	Ruth J. Szklanka, Philadelphia, PA
CPRL	Barbara S. Papich, New Kensington, PA	8344	Gladys J. Thompson, Wampum, PA
8344	Helen M. Park, Warren, PA	271	Ludene Thompson, Swansea, IL
8344	Shirley M. Patterson, Harwick, PA	8344	William Tretyak, Liberty Boro, PA
8344	George I. Pearce, Indiana, PA	CPRL	Vera Truxell, Pittsburgh, PA
8344	Robert Peters, Butler, PA	8304	Wilma Turner, Yorba Linda, CA
10	Thomas Plasko, Conway, PA	8344	Clara Uhron, Indiana, PA
8344	Barbara J. Pleger, Shippenville, PA	8358	Ann M. Vickman, Green Bay, WI
SPRL	Robert Pliska, McKeesport, PA	8344	Anna Watro, Hazleton, PA
81	John Putanko, West Mifflin, PA	8344	Ruth Wensing, Uniontown, PA
8344	Donna M. Quallich, Burgettstown, PA	8344	Iris Whitman, Titusville, PA
8358	Ann Raskin, Milwaukee, WI	8344	Robert J. Wojcik, Altoona, PA
8344	William P. Rathfon, Palmyra, PA	8344	Robert M. Worthington, Reading, PA
SPRL	James Reitnauer, Claysville, PA	8344	Margaret Yalich, Murrysville, PA
8344	Charles Reph, Allentown, PA	8315	Betty M. Zelenak, Highland, IN
994	Mary Roksandich, Midland, PA	8344	Margaret Zihal, Mars, PA
8344	Doris B. Sames, Telford, PA	CPRL	Carol A. Zupko, White Oak, PA
697	Dominic D. Schell, Weirton, WV		
8344	Thelma M. Shaulis, Somerset, PA		
164	Stefani Sheppa, Piscataway, NJ		
8344	Lon E. Shockley, Kittanning, PA		
8346	Margaret Sileck, Marietta, GA		
8341	Margaret Skubiak, Campbell, OH		
8344	M'Liss M. Smith, East Stroudsburg, PA		
8344	Ronald A. Smith, Pottsville, PA		
8344	Ruth Ann Smith, West Newton, PA		
8344	Clarence C. Smoyer, Vandergrift, PA		
8358	Joan E. Soucie, Milwaukee, WI		

Remembrances



Very Reverend Archpriest Dennis M. Bogda
Past Supreme Tribunal Member

Very Rev. Archpriest Dennis M. Bogda, former member of the GCU Supreme Tribunal, passed away on September 21, 2019 at the age of 78.

He was born in Homestead, PA on June 7, 1941, the eldest child of the late Michael & Mary Bogda. He entered SS. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in 1959, to pursue studies for the priesthood. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Duquesne University in 1963 and was ordained to the priesthood on April 23, 1967. In 1978 he received a Master's Degree in Theology from Duquesne University. A second Master's Degree in Community Counseling was achieved from Youngstown University.

Archpriest Dennis Bogda served in Byzantine Catholic parishes in Euclid, OH; Brownsville, PA; Duquesne, PA; Monroeville, PA; Youngstown, OH; Lyndora, PA and as rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA. He also served the Archeparchy as: Syncellus for Deacons; Committee of Consultors, Secretary; Presbyteral Council; Renewal and Vitalization; Vocations, Director; Vocations Committee, Chair; Vocation Interview Board and St. Cyril &

Methodius Seminary, Board of Directors, Secretary. He was conferred the title of Archpriest by Metropolitan Basil Schott.

Father Dennis served as chaplain for several lodges and districts before being elected to the GCU Tribunal at the 2004 GCU National Convention and reelected at all of the following Conventions through 2016. He continued to serve on the Tribunal until it was dissolved earlier this year.

His obituary, published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, truly highlighted how he lived his life, "It is with Great Thankfulness that the servant of God, the Archpriest Dennis Bogda has returned to his Heavenly Father whole and renewed. He fought and conquered multiple illnesses due to his strong spirit and desire to serve in the Priesthood of Christ. He was a wonderful witness of the suffering of Christ."

Survivors include his sister, Elaine Bogda and cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Ann Bogda; uncles, Rev. Michael Kushner and John Bogda; and grandparents, Andrew & Anna Kushner and John & Ann Bogda.

Visitation took place at St. John the

Baptist Cathedral in Munhall on Sunday, September 29. His Funeral Liturgy was celebrated at the Cathedral on Monday, September 30 with Most Rev. Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla as celebrant. Concelebrants included: Bishop Kurt Burnett, Archpriest John Petro, Archpriest Eugene Yackanich, Rev. Robert Karl, Very Rev. Ron Larko, Very Rev. Frank Firko, Rev. Kevin Marks and Deacon Paul Simko. He was laid to rest at the Cross in St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cemetery, Munhall, along with other priestly vocations from his home parish of St. John the Baptist Cathedral.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.

Sister Ann Fedyszak

Very early in the morning of Monday, August 12, 2019, Sister Ann Fedyszak (formerly Sister Aloysius) completed her earthly life and awoke to the dawn of her new life in the heavenly Kingdom. Sister Ann had been a resident of Mt. Macrina Manor just shy of seven years.

Sister Ann was born in Warren, OH, the daughter of the late Elias & Anna (Volchko) Fedyszak. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown on September 15, 1954 from SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Warren. Sister Ann made her Final Profession of Vows on August 21, 1960 in the presence of the late Very Rev. Msgr. John Gernat.

Sister Ann's life as a Sister of St. Basil spanned 65 years of dedicated service in a variety of ministries. For about 18 years, she served in the teaching apostolate. Sister Ann was then assigned to help establish the Office of Religious Education in Pittsburgh where she was noted for her significant contribution to the Catechetical Ministry. This ministry which was well-loved by Sister took a back seat when she was elected as Assistant Provincial for the community.

Retreat Ministry then engaged Sister's energy for seven years until she was called to part-time ministry in both the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office and Holy Ghost Parish in McKees Rocks, PA. This part-time ministry in McKees Rocks developed into full time Pastoral Ministry for ten years. At a time when physical disability would cause many to retire, Sister Ann's strong will stood her in good stead as she continued to give her all to this ministry.

In 2006, when it became apparent that she could no longer do so, Sister Ann returned to the monastery; however, continuing to serve in Pastoral Ministry at the Manor for another five years. Finally, as a resident at the Manor, Sister Ann was known for ministering to others. Sister Ann wanted to be remembered for her deep faith, and it was surely this that was the hallmark of her life.

In his homily, Archbishop William noted that Sister Ann, strengthened by her spirit of prayer and meditation, lived in the hope of Resurrection. It was evident that this spirit formed her life and ministry, forming and shaping the lives of many who came into the orbit of her influence. Like Sister Ann, we are all called to become wise and faithful stewards of the gifts given to us by God, inspiring generations to come to walk in the way of the Gospel.

Sister Ann was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Mary (DeSantis) and her brother John. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by

her brother Joseph and her sister, Sister Margaret.

Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich celebrated the Parastas Service on Sunday, August 18 with concelebrants Rev. Jerome Botsko, Monastery Chaplain and Rev. Robert Karl. Present and in attendance were Most Rev. John M. Kudrick, Very Rev. Archpriest John G. Petro and Very Rev. Ronald P. Larko.

Archbishop William C. Skurla celebrated the Funeral Divine Liturgy on Monday, August 19. Concelebrants were Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Rev. Jerome Botsko. In attendance were: Very Rev. Archpriest John G. Petro, Very Rev. Ronald P. Larko, Very Rev. Leo Schlosser, OSB, Rev. Joseph Borodach, Rev. Frank Firko, Rev. Robert Karl, Rev. James A Spontak, Rev. Christopher Burke, Rev. Robert Oravetz and Rev. Stephen Wahal. Seminarian Kyprian Wojciechowski was altar server.

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

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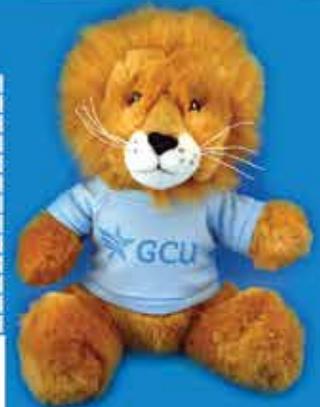


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4	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 497.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 794.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,387.00
8	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 548.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 891.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,582.00
12	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 603.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,005.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,810.00
16	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 666.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,132.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,064.00
Male Age	Coverage	Total	Coverage	Total	Coverage	Total
0	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 504.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 807.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,414.00
4	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 553.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 906.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,611.00
8	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 611.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,022.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,843.00
12	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 678.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,156.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,112.00
16	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 749.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,298.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,396.00

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