

JUNE 2021

GCU

MAGAZINE

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George N. Juba
President
CEO

Taking Things for Granted

Have you ever taken anything for granted? I think that we all have at some time in one way or another. Memorial Day was recently celebrated, as it is every year. It is a time to reflect upon the many sacrifices that our service men and women have made since our country's official founding on July 4, 1776. The individuals that served and are currently serving in various arms of the military are "Our True Heroes." We must never forget, especially those that gave their life in the ultimate sacrifice, in protecting our freedom that we may "take for granted." Over the course of the past year, this pandemic allowed me to watch some war movies that provided very graphic events of war that really triggered a "take for granted" moment for me. I invite you, if you have not already, to watch "Saving Private Ryan," "Band of Brothers" and "We Were Soldiers." The history books that we read over the course of our education inform us at a high level the various wars our Country has been in and involved with. They really do not do justice to the real sacrifices our military personnel make. So, as we are about to celebrate the Fourth of July, we should once again honor all individuals that serve and have served our country that also makes this celebration possible year after year!

At GCU we are very fortunate that we can also celebrate our continued financial success. As we informed you in the April Annual Report issue of the *GCU Magazine*, we have "weathered another storm" (the pandemic). The issue presented for your review a sound balance sheet and income statement for year end 2020. Through the Grace of God and oversight by our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas of Myra, we are also off to a great start for the first five months of 2021. Our first quarter 2021 financial performance of key components reflects admitted assets increasing 2.3% or \$49.9 million from year end 2020 and now totaling \$2.25 billion. Net income from operations after refunds and before capital gains and losses increased \$1.8 million or 36% in comparing the first quarter of 2021 versus 2020. Surplus increased \$4.5 million or 2.5% from year end 2020. Detailed financial reports and commentary on the GCU's first quarter financial results of 2021 are presented on page 4 by our CFO, Tim Demetres. Again, we express our sincere thank you for your trust and confidence in placing your life and annuity business with the GCU. Our sincere appreciation to our agents as well in promoting the GCU and the various products we currently offer.

I say currently offer as we have launched a new Fixed Indexed Annuity Product (FIA) in June. We are most confident that this product will generate additional annuity premium that will offer to our members an opportunity to seek a greater return compared to our fixed rate annuity products offered. Additional information on this product will be available on the GCU website and through various select agents.

As we anticipate additional annuity premium from our new Fixed Indexed Annuity product, we are experiencing excellent increased premium within our current life and annuity products for the first five months of 2021. Life premium reflects a 60% increase in total pre-

CONTINUED



mium through May 2021 compared to the same period of 2020. We anticipate this percentage to increase throughout the year as various pandemic guidelines are relaxed or terminated allowing for our agents to meet personally with prospective members. Our fixed rate annuity premium is also exceeding our projected budget through May as well—annuity premium reflects a 19% increase in new money deposits. We cannot express our sincere thank you enough to our members and agents for your continued support of the GCU.

It has been “tough sledding” on the fraternal side of our business. We are eagerly anticipating that our lodges and districts will be able to increase their various activities as more of the population continues to get vaccinated. We once again express our gratitude to the lodges and districts that were able to schedule some activities within their churches and communities. On a National level, the GCU National Bowling Tournament was canceled for this year. However, our National Golf Tournament will take place August 6-8, 2021 at Treasure Lake Golf Resort located in DuBois, PA.

This event will once again be sponsored by the GCU, Slovak Catholic Sokol and the First Catholic Slovak Union. We invite you to participate and we can certainly guarantee a weekend of great golf and camaraderie!

As everyone has “cabin fever” due to the events of this past year, travel and outdoor leisure activities are anticipated to spike this summer. As we are in the midst of the spring season, it is certainly appropriate that the reprieve from this pandemic is occurring simultaneously as we see nature awaking from its winter slumber, seeing more activity, socializing with our friends and patronizing at many of our favorite places to visit, with much less fear. So, in closing, my best wishes to you and your family for a safe, fun and relaxing summer! Enjoy the spring and summer landscape that God has provided!
GOODNESS IS GREAT!

George

Volunteer Donations



A check presentation was given on Saturday, April 3, 2021 to the food pantry of St. Vincent de Paul Society Mission located at the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in San Antonio, FL. From left: John Mochel, GCU and St. Vincent de Paul Society member; Ruthie Mochel, GCU and St. Vincent de Paul Society member; John Dolac, St. Vincent de Paul Society President; Geetha Jacob, St. Vincent de Paul Society Secretary and Arlene Madigan, Client Aid Coordinator.

In an effort to capture information on how all of our members volunteer time within their communities, GCU began an online program allowing members to record their volunteer time each month. As a thank you to those members that submit their volunteer hours, a drawing for Amazon gift cards is held. In addition each quarter, all the members that have submitted volunteering information are placed in a drawing for two \$100.00 donations to be made in their name to an organization they volunteer with by GCU. The fourth quarter 2020 drawing winners were: John & Ruth Mochel of Florida and Michael Homanko of Pennsylvania.

The Mochels chose the local St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry as the recipient of their \$100.00 donation. Mr. Homanko chose the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization as his charity.

To learn more and to record your volunteer hours please visit the GCU website www.GCUusa.com and click on the Member Benefit tab at the top of the home page.



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Surrender charges may apply to withdrawals made during the surrender charge period. Interest rate is as of June 1, 2020 and are subject to change without notice. This product is not guaranteed by any bank nor insured by FDIC or NCUA. Not a deposit. Not insured by a federal government agency. Restrictions apply. May only be offered by a licensed insurance agent.

First Quarter 2021 Financials



Tim Demetres
Chief Financial Officer

GCU continues to generate positive operating results and surplus growth. With implementing our risk management practices early on, it appears we are turning the corner from the global pandemic with minimal adverse effect to our financial condition. I am pleased to report to you our first quarter 2021 net income was \$6.8 million contributing \$4.5 million in surplus growth. Surplus reached a new high at \$187.2 million.

Highlights for the first quarter 2021 results are as follows:

Income before net capital gains (losses) totaled \$6.8 million in the first quarter 2021 compared to \$5.0 million reported in 2020. Net realized capital gains (losses) were \$112 thousand in 2021 compared to (\$4.0 million) in 2020.

Total Assets increased \$49.9 million to \$2.25 billion at March 31 from year-end 2020. The increase in assets is primarily attributed to investing excess cash flows in investment grade bonds, preferred and common stocks. We also invested \$15 million to purchase an income producing real estate property. Our investment strategy is keenly focused on credit quality and diversification, key components of producing a competitive return during a period of sustained low interest environment.

Liabilities grew commensurate with the increase in premium volume and totaled \$2.06 billion at March 31, 2021 compared to \$2.02 billion at year-end 2020. The \$45.4 million increase in total liabilities is due primarily to a \$35.3 million increase in life and annuity reserves and a \$1.3 million increase from deferring net investment gains

to the interest maintenance reserve (IMR). The asset valuation reserve (AVR) increased \$3.8 million to set aside additional funds for potential future credit losses. Unsettled investment trades also increased \$3.4 million trades.

Total Income in first quarter 2021 was \$101.2 million compared to \$91 million in 2020. The \$10 million increase reflects the growth in life and annuity premiums and investment income. Life premiums increased 67% from adding new agent relationships as well as expanding whole life products.

Operating expenses, before increase in reserves, totaled \$59.2 million in 2021 versus \$51.8 million in 2020, increasing \$7.3 million or 14.0%. This represents a \$9 million increase in life insurance claims and annuity benefits (death claims, full and partial withdrawals) reduced by \$2.6 million in annuity conversions. General insurance expenses and agent commissions increased \$460 thousand and \$589 thousand, respectively, from increased premium written.

The increase in reserves in the first quarter totaled \$35.3 million compared to \$34.2 million in 2020. Reserve changes are primarily a function of premiums received, death & annuity benefits paid out and interest accumulation.

Surplus increased \$4.5 million to \$187.2 million at March 31, 2021 compared to \$182.7 million at year-end 2020. The increase in surplus is attributable to: a) net income of \$6.8 million; b) a \$2.1 million increase in unrealized gains from the sale of a limited partnership interest and improved equity valuations; c) (\$0.3 million) charge for an increase in non-admitted assets from software development costs; d) (\$0.3 million) reduction for GCU Holding Company's net loss; and e) a (\$3.8 million) charge to increase the AVR.

Total Adjusted Capital (TAC) at March 31, 2021 was

Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	<u>3/31/21</u>	<u>3/31/20</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Income	\$101,202	\$91,011	\$10,191
Total Expenses	94,417	86,000	8,417
Net Income (Loss)	6,806	967	5,839
	<u>3/31/21</u>	<u>12/31/20</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets	\$2,250,733	\$2,200,816	\$49,917
Asset Valuation Reserve	12,141	8,316	3,825
Interest Maintenance Reserve	21,679	21,124	555
Surplus (Net Worth)	187,176	182,648	4,529
Total Adjusted Capital (TAC)	199,467	191,114	8,354
Solv. Ratio by Total Adj. Capital	109.7%	109.5%	0.21%

Reconciliation of Change in Surplus

(000's omitted)	<u>3/31/20</u>
Beginning Surplus	\$182,648
Net Income/(loss)	6,806
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	2,093
GCU Holding Company & Other	(262)
Changes in Non-Admitted Assets	(283)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve	(3,825)
Net Change in Surplus	4,529
Ending Surplus	\$187,177

\$199.5 million. TAC starts with surplus of \$187.2 million and adds back the asset valuation reserve of \$12.1 million and one-half the dividend liability of \$150,000. TAC is used as a financial strength measure by rating agencies. The sol-

venity ratios based on TAC at March 31, 2021 and 2020 were 109.7% and 109.5%, respectively. These ratios reflect the continued financial strength and stability of GCU.

Please continue to be safe and healthy.

Tim

GCU INCOME STATEMENT

Three Months 2021 vs. 2020

INCOME (000's omitted)	3/31/2021	3/31/2020	Change
Life Premium	\$ 2,374	\$ 1,421	\$ 953
Annuity Premium	67,298	57,897	9,401
Annuity Exchanges	2,992	5,613	(2,621)
Accident & Health	134	164	(30)
Sub Total	72,798	65,095	7,703
Net Investment Income	27,349	24,703	2,646
Amort. of Int. Maint. Resrv.	531	564	(33)
Commission/Reinsurance	392	515	(123)
Other	132	133	(2)
Total Income	\$101,202	\$91,011	\$10,191
EXPENSES			
Death Benefits	\$ 1,567	\$ 783	\$ 784
Annuity Benefits Paid	48,762	40,543	8,219
Annuity Exchanges	2,992	5,613	(2,621)
Surrender Benefits	155	150	4
Accident & Health Bene. Pd.	139	157	(18)
Commissions	2,909	2,320	589
General Insurance Exp.	2,425	1,965	460
Ins., Taxes, Licenses & Fees	137	181	(44)
Pension Expense	4	39	(35)
Int. on Contract & Dep. Accts.	64	55	9
Sub-Total	\$ 59,154	\$ 51,807	\$ 7,347
Increase in Reserves	35,263	34,193	1,070
Total Expenses	\$94,417	\$86,000	\$ 8,417
Net Gain/Loss Before Refunds	6,786	5,011	1,774
Refunds to Members	92	75	18
Net Gain/Loss After Refunds	6,693	4,936	1,757
Net Capital Gains (Losses)	112	(3,970)	4,082
Net Income/Loss	\$ 6,806	\$ 967	\$5,839

BALANCE SHEETS

March 31, 2021 vs. December 31, 2020

ASSETS (000's omitted)	3/31/2021	12/31/2020	Change
Bonds	\$2,083,543	\$2,015,625	\$67,918
Preferred Stocks	38,875	40,562	(1,686)
Common Stocks	27,423	26,707	716
Alternative Investments	32,785	31,950	835
Cash/Short Term Investments	19,886	54,663	(34,778)
Mortgages	3,205	3,449	(244)
Certificate Loans	569	574	(5)
Real Estate - Home Office	15,762	481	15,281
Inv. Income Due & Accrued	27,877	26,134	1,743
Other	809	672	136
Total Assets	\$2,250,733	\$2,200,816	\$49,917
LIABILITIES			
Life Reserves	\$ 76,788	\$ 75,466	\$ 1,322
Annuity Reserves	1,934,720	1,900,707	34,013
Accident & Health Reserves	333	177	156
Employee Pension Liability	7,591	7,464	127
Convention Reserve	127	127	0
Adv. Prem. & Fut. Ref. Resrvs.	374	356	18
Pending Investment Trades	5,173	1,730	3,443
Accounts Payable	1,418	961	457
Refund Accumulations	3,212	1,739	1,473
Asset Valuation Resrv.-AVR	12,141	8,316	3,825
Int. Maint. Reserve-IMR	21,679	21,124	555
Total Liabilities	\$2,063,557	\$2,018,168	\$45,389
Surplus Fund	187,176	182,648	4,529
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$2,250,733	\$2,200,816	\$49,917
Normal Solvency	109.1%	109.1%	
Solvency Ratio*	109.7%	109.5%	

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

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

Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.



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

Don't Forget To Pray

Yeah—summer is here! Time for playing sports, going to baseball games, swimming, golfing, vacationing, lying in the sun and visiting friends. I think we all look forward to summer activities, but wait, is there any time left to pray? We all like vacations, but do we take a vacation from God in the summer? Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance at the Divine Liturgy during the summer months went down, unless of course your parish is in a vacation spot.

We may say I don't have time, or I'm too tired to go to church and attend the Divine Liturgy, or I fell asleep watching TV and missed my night prayers. I must take my child to a soccer or baseball game, after all I want my child to be a well-rounded individual. There is a myriad of excuses that I have heard as a pastor.

We all have a responsibility to give thanks to God, to pray for those God has put in our life and to glorify Him. We can do this in several ways since there are many ways to pray. The ultimate prayer is the Divine Liturgy. Here is the reality of Christ being present where two or three are gathered in His name. Christ is present among us and uniting Himself to us in Holy Communion. When I question someone why they haven't gone to the Divine Liturgy for a long time, I often get the response: "Father John, God is everywhere so I can pray to Him wherever I am." It is true that God is everywhere, but the paschal mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection is especially shown in the Divine Liturgy. It is here that Christ unites Himself to us in Holy Communion. So, when you are out golfing, or maybe just sleeping in on a Sunday morning, you are missing another opportunity to have God dwelling inside of you in the form of the Holy Eucharist.

St. Paul tells us to "never cease praying" (1 Thess 5:17). An easy way to do this is to recite the Jesus Prayer: "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." This prayer came to us from the Desert Fathers in the fourth or fifth century. In our fast-paced life this is a prayer we can say anywhere. We can also use it as a form of meditation, or a way to slow down our life, slowly reciting this prayer as we breathe in and breathe out.

It may be easier for you to pray by accessing our rich Byzantine Catholic prayer resources on the Web. One such site is *Eastern Christian Publications* (ecpubs.com) where The Byzantine Daily Office can be accessed. There are also many resources on <https://godwithusonline.org/>, an outreach project of the Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) and the Eastern Catholic Bishops in the United States. Every religious denomination has resources on the Internet, all I ask is that you find one that will add to your prayer life this summer.

As we enjoy our summer activities and the nice weather God bestows on us, there is time to pray, there is time to participate in the Divine Liturgy and there is time to grow closer to God. I hope you have a most restful, peaceful and prayer filled summer.

We all have a responsibility to give thanks to God, to pray for those God has put in our life and to glorify Him.



Atty. John J. Urban

Lessons in the Law

Who Is Your Beneficiary?

Recently, I received a call from a client concerned about her dad's estate. He was terminally ill and his son had recently died. The father had not updated his beneficiaries on his various accounts.

I met with her dad and reviewed the significant portfolio he had with an investment company. He had both his children as beneficiaries but now one of the children was deceased. The question was what would happen if dad died before updating the beneficiary information? I explained to him what the law was and who would inherit. However, the financial company had a written policy that was different from the law. In this case, the deceased son's share would be paid out per the son's Will with a result that was unacceptable to the father.

We all must be aware of who we name as beneficiaries and they must be updated when things change.

The GCU Bylaws provide: "that if a beneficiary is deceased, then the insurance proceeds are payable to the decedent's estate which means the decedent's Will or Trust will control the distribution."

We all must be aware of who we name as beneficiaries and they must be updated when things change.

Your Will and/or Trust does not have any effect on a named beneficiary or the company's default position. Make sure you review and update your beneficiary information regularly.

In my client's case, we were able to update the beneficiary information so that it was acceptable to her father before he died.

Those of us that were in the military heard about the five "P's": "Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance."

Now is the time to review your estate planning and make sure everything is up-to-date.

GCU Home Office Hours of Operation

The GCU Home Office (800.722.4428) is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The Call Center (855.306.0607) accepts calls Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7 PM EST and Fridays 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The Home Office will be closed Monday, July 5th.



This year's theme was **"Invested in FRIENDSHIP"**

2021 Art Contest Winners



First Place Age 6 & Under
Mariah Cherevka, Munhall, PA SEPRL

Picking flowers & flying balloons with friends is fun.



First Place Age 7-9
Vivienne Pentz, Somerset, NJ Lodge 254

Friendship is like a rainbow of wonderful things.



First Place Age 10-12
Michael Novotnak
West Mifflin, PA SEPRL

Hanging out with my Slavjane friends.



Second Place Age 6 & Under
Scarlett Revilak, West Mifflin, PA SEPRL



Second Place Age 7-9
Michaela Revilak, West Mifflin, PA SEPRL



Second Place Age 10-12
Emanuel Revilak, Munhall, PA SEPRL

This year's theme was "Invested in FRIENDSHIP"

2021 Photo Contest Winners



Honorable Mention Age 13-15
Brent Kolesar, West Mifflin, PA CPRL

3 types of flowers, yellow daffodils, white daffodils and pink irises, are growing together peacefully as one. They are showing friendship in the plant world.



First Place Age 16-18
Catherine Macon, Towson, MD Lodge 8324

My guinea pig Toby peers out at his wild rabbit friend, who in turn is looking back at him.



First Place Age 19-23
Sarah Pavlick, Pittsburgh, PA CPRL

Always a PURRfect day to cuddle with my friend on her favorite blanket.



Second Place Age 16-18
Tommy Charnie, Weirton, WV Lodge 697



Second Place
Age 19-23
Christopher Lewis,
New York, NY
Lodge 20



Basil M. Wahal
Fraternal-Communications
Director

2021 Scholarships

The GCU National Scholarship Committee met via teleconference on Monday, May 3 and announced the awarding of 16 National Scholarships (15—\$1,750.⁰⁰ and 1—\$1,250.⁰⁰) together with 40 Academic Performance Scholarships (51—\$1,000.⁰⁰ and 1—\$500.⁰⁰). Awardees appear over the next four pages.

Scholarship Committee members include: GCU National Directors Dorothy Foran-chairperson, Melanie Basl, Barbara Kushner and David Oleksa; Patricia Dietz of Lodge 151, Judith A. Gula of CPRL, Jack Mendenhall of Lodge 10 and Connie Strittmatter of Lodge 93.

GCU National Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and submit a collage showing them volunteering within their community focusing on “Community Service and You.” First place winner of the John Katana Memorial Collage Award is Caroline Susco of L8354, she will receive an additional \$500.⁰⁰ award for her winning collage. A second place \$250.⁰⁰ award was awarded to Jason Roman of L8344. Three of the national awardees this year will receive an additional \$500.⁰⁰ award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA: Jennifer Durica of L625; Nikolas Dowell of L360 and Sarah Eperesi of NWPRL.

Six APS Scholarship recipients have continued to maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA and will receive an additional award of \$250.⁰⁰: Brooke Bonaparte of L10; John Durica of L625; Hunter Gray of L8344; Rebecca Harhai of SEPRL; Jolie McDonnell of L7 and Heather Witherow of L62.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients!

4.0 GPA Winners



Nikolas Dowell
Hubbard, OH—L360
Youngstown State University
Major: Political Science



Jennifer Durica
Johnstown, PA—L625
Penn State Univ. Altoona
Major: Kinesiology



Sarah Eperesi
Mars, PA—NWPRL
Slippery Rock University
Major: Marketing

The John Katana Memorial Volunteer Collage Winners



Caroline Susco - 1st
Clifton, VA—L8354
Virginia Polytechnical
Institute and State
University
Major: Human Nutrition,
Food, and Exercise



Jason Roman - 2nd
Baden, PA—L8344
University of Notre Dame
Major: Accounting



Danielle DeProspo
South Park, PA—CPRL
The Ohio State
University
Major: Architecture



Rostyslav Fedorko
Rutherford, NJ—L10
Texas A&M
Major: Engineering



Payton Karaffa
Grafton, OH—L302
Ohio University
Major: Exercise
Physiology



Sarah Kumpon
Endwell, NY—L47
Niagara University
Major: Biochemistry/
Actuarial Science



Ryan Pajer
Plainview, NY—L151
Quinnipiac University
Major: Civil
Engineering



Sophia Patchan
Haymarket, VA—L8354
James Madison
University
Major: History



Ryan Roberts
Punxsutawney, PA—
NWPRL
Penn State University
Major: Business
Management



Zachary Rossi
New Prague, MN—
L258
Penn State Harrisburg
Major: Kinesiology



Robert Soyka
Ebensburg, PA—L401
Elizabethtown College
Major: Engineering



Darby Stranko
Albuquerque, NM—
L994
Duquesne University
Major: Marketing



Brooke Weitzel
Chagrin Falls, OH—
L302
DePaul University
Major: Health Sciences

Academic Performance Scholarships

4.0 GPA Awardees

Brooke Bonaparte

Prosper, TX—L10
Texas Women’s University
Major: Speech Language Pathology

John Durica

Johnstown, PA—L625
Coastal Carolina University
Major: Master of Science in Coastal Marine & Wetland Studies

Hunter Gray

Pittsburgh, PA—L8344
Thiel College
Major: Mathematics & Secondary Education

Rebecca Harhai

West Homestead, PA—SEPRL
Ohio University
Major: Communications

Jolie McDonnell

Dobbs Ferry, NY—L7
Johns Hopkins University
Major: Applied Mathematics & Statistics

Heather Witherow

Reynoldsville, PA—L62
Pennsylvania State University
Major: Secondary Education Social Studies

Lily Balcerek

Indian Trail, NC—NWPRL
Clemson University
Major: Communications

Melanie Bates

Morrisville, PA—L20
La Salle University
Major: Chemistry & Biology

Nicholas Benson

Canfield, OH—L442
Youngstown State University
Major: Master of Nursing

Brandon Bonaparte

Prosper, TX—L10
Arizona State University
Major: Sports Journalism

Andrew Borsh

La Crescenta, CA—SEPRL
Arizona State University
Major: Sports Business & Journalism

Maile Erwin

Quakertown, PA—GHRL
Temple University
Major: Health Professions

Sarah Foran

Vestal, NY—L47
Georgia Southern University
Major: Doctorate of Psychology PsyD Program

Sarah Fullard

Pittsburgh, PA—NWPRL
California University of Pennsylvania
Major: Elementary/Special Education

David Gulibon

Souderton, PA—L321
University of South Carolina
Major: Public Health

Rachael Harris

Pittsburgh, PA—NWPRL
Allegheny College
Major: Computer Science & Political Science

April Hope Kibalo

Hillsborough, NJ—L254
The College of New Jersey
Major: Economics

Elyse Kostelnik

Aliquippa, PA—L697
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
Major: Public Health - Pre-Physician Asst.

Emma Lalley

Buffalo, NY—L151
University of Notre Dame
Major: Business Technology

Veronica Martonik

Conyngham, PA—GHRL
Elizabethtown College
Major: Occupational Therapy

Jessica Palakovich

Freedom, PA—L994
Community College of Beaver County
Major: Aerospace Management & Professional Pilot

Gina M. Palasz

Naperville, IL—L271
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Major: Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management

Sarah Pavlick

Brentwood, PA—CPRL
The Ohio State University
Major: Chemical Engineering

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Marina Pegula

Dunmore, PA—L92
 Marywood University
 Major: Exercise Science

Marlena Pegula

Dunmore, PA—L92
 Keystone College
 Major: Secondary Math Education

Corey Pezak

Archbald, PA—L92
 Immaculata University
 Major: Biology

Hayley Planitzer

Venetia, PA—CPRL
 Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
 Major: Accounting & Professional Spanish

Lucy Race

North Huntingdon, PA—L994
 Penn State University
 Major: Kinesiology

Maci Raybuck

Punxsutawney, PA—L62
 Pennsylvania State University
 Major: Animal Science

Courtney Roman

Baden, PA L8344
 Penn State University
 Major: Elementary & Early Childhood Education

Star Rosnick

Pittsburgh, PA—CPRL
 Washington and Jefferson College
 Major: Economics & Spanish

Alexandria Shirilla

Brunswick, OH—L302
 Univ. of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
 Major: Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine

Sarah Slusark

Duryea, PA—L17
 Temple University
 Major: Recreational Therapy

Diane Smith

Export, PA—SEPRL
 West Virginia University
 Major: Masters in Speech Language Pathology

Kassandra Smith-Green

Oakland, MD—CPRL
 Frostburg State University
 Major: Education

John Soyka

Ebensburg, PA—L401
 Dickinson College
 Major: Political Science

Christopher Susco

Clifton, VA—L8354
 University of Notre Dame
 Major: Electrical Engineering

Nathan Taggart

Aliquippa, PA—L697
 Kent State University
 Major: Nursing

Michael Tomchak

Coraopolis, PA—NWPRL
 Robert Morris University
 Major: Cyber Security

Caitlin Weitzel

Chagrin Falls, OH—L302
 Ohio University
 Major: Communications

2021 Athletic Scholarships

The GCU Fraternal/Athletic Committee, consisting of five GCU National Directors, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Athletic Scholarship. The awardees were selected from 8 applicants for this year's awards. Abigail Kutchma of Cranberry Twp., PA (NWPRL) & Angelo Biondo of Cuyahoga Falls, OH (Lodge 644) will each receive a \$1,500.00 scholarship to assist with their first-year expenses of post-secondary education.

Abigail is a Level 10 Gymnast, a seven time state champion and a regional champion. Abigail volunteers in her community and recently helped beautify the local municipal

building planting and mulching the flower beds around the outside of the structure.

Angelo is an excellent bowler and has a long list of bowling accomplishments already to his credit. He assists at a local bowling pro shop and the proprietor states: "Angelo is quite an ambassador for the sport and has the talent at age 16 to compete against the top bowlers in the world."

Will you be the 2022 Athletic Scholarship awardee? Online applications for high school senior athletes will be accepted at www.GCUusa.com beginning on October 1, 2021.



Abigail Kutchma



Angelo Biondo



Giving

St. Michael BC Church Annual Nut Roll Fundraiser Parish Expansion



Canonsburg, PA. Even though COVID-19 guidelines have filled our lives with daily challenges, St. Michael BC Church volunteers in Canonsburg decided to meet those challenges and sponsor their annual nut roll fundraiser for 2020-21. Every Monday morning beginning in September, GCU, church and community volunteers gathered in the church hall, put on their masks, sanitized their work surfaces and stayed 6 feet apart while making the best nut rolls east of the Mississippi! Chairlady Judy Shuba and Mary Ruozzi mixed up the dough—three to five batches each Monday and then turned it over to the rollers, nut spreaders, wrappers and dishwashers. Very Rev. Joseph Raptosh stopped by each week to monitor progress and praise workers. The parishioners encourage everyone to visit the church any Monday between September & May to buy their family a special treat before visiting Sarris Candy for candy and ice cream.

Barb Kushner | GCU Director

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Expansion

Lorain, OH. GCU Lodge 77 together with the parishioners of St. Nicholas BC Church, recently held an Easter Food Sale as their first Matching Funds Event of 2021.

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

The money made will go towards needed repairs of the church.

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

Kathy Knick | Lodge 77 President



St. Paul Parish Expansion



Guy Holmes from St. Paul RC Church and Marilyn Charnie.

Weirton, WV. Lodge 697 President Marilyn E. Charnie, presented a \$1,000.00 check to Guy Holmes of St. Paul Roman Catholic Church to add to the profits from their recent Lenten Fish Fry fundraising. The parishioners of St. Paul Church would like to extend their gratitude to the GCU for the generous donation through the Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion Matching Funds program.

Marilyn Charnie | Lodge 697 President

St. Mary Magdalene BC Church Parish Expansion

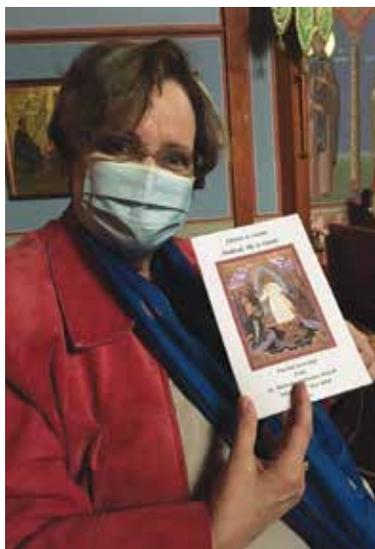


Deacon Dan Surniak the parish administrator, with his 92 year old mom Veronica Surniak the parish's oldest pirohi pincher and GCU National Director John Urban.

Fairview Park, OH. St. Mary Magdalene BC Church in Fairview Park was pleased to receive Matching Funds for their pirohi project. GCU National Director John Urban, a parishioner at the church, assisted the parish with receiving the additional funding through the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds program.

John Urban | GCU Director

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Parish Expansion



Laura Muhlfeld holding Easter card.

Whitestone, NY. The pandemic has forced everyone to find new and creative ways to reach out to one another and raise funds for their parish church. This year, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Whitestone chose to sponsor a parish Easter card to help pay for the church lavatory renovations.

The parish Easter card provided a way for parishioners to extend Easter greetings to one another while simultaneously contributing money to the church. Parishioners contributed ten dollars per line to have their names and/or the names of family members and the names of deceased family members listed on the card, which was later distributed to all who participated.

The parish response was greater than anticipated. It turned out parishioners were happy to find a way to reach out to one another. The card contained nine pages of names and well wishes.

Fr. Nicholas Garklavs and members of St. Nicholas Church are very grateful to the GCU for the generous Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion Matching Funds they received. The support helped the parish make needed repairs to an aging church structure.

Laura Muhlfeld | Lodge 151 Secretary

Jason Marcin Honored at Boston College

Jason Marcin, a junior at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA was selected student leader for the month of March 2021. Jason serves as vice president of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) and has been selected for the same position in his upcoming senior year. CAB is a student-led programming board that coordinates campus-wide events. Activities include: concerts, homecoming, trivia nights and off campus trips to Boston and beyond. The mission of CAB is to create diverse events, programs, and activities that foster personal development, school spirit and community development.

Jason has reached another great achievement. He has been named a member of the Dean's Scholars, Class of 2022. He was honored at a celebration held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

Jason is a lifelong member of the GCU. He has served as auditor for District 5, standard bearer of Lodge 182 and currently serves as sergeant-at-arms in Lodge 182.

Congratulations on your achievements, Jason—keep up the hard work!



Jack Lalley and Emily Torrente Make Lodge 151 Very Proud



Jack Lalley at his graduation.

Congratulations to Jack Lalley who received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University. The ceremony was held in person with his parents, Nancy & Mark Lalley in attendance on Sunday, May 9. It was a great Mother's Day present.

Emily Torrente graduated cum laude from the University of Notre Dame on May 23, 2021 with a bachelor of science in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Engineering Corporate Practice. She is a Notre Dame Merit Scholar and a member and secretary of Pi Tau Sigma, the Mechanical Engineering Honor Society. This summer she will be moving to New York City to begin her career as a Valuation Advisory Analyst at Stout Risius Ross. Emily's parents are Peter & Patricia Torrente. They are all very proud of her accomplishments.

Grandma Marge Russell is very proud of both of her grandchildren.



Emily Torrente at her graduation.

Taylor Chamberlain & Spencer Snyder Wed

On Saturday, April 24, 2021 Taylor Chamberlain and Spencer Snyder were united in marriage at The Gathering Place, Darlington, PA. The outdoor ceremony beside Darlington Lake was performed by Dan Kibler.

Taylor is the daughter of Chris Chamberlain and Clint & Marcy Chamberlain and Spencer is the son of Tracey & Tony Johnson and Bryan & Rachael Snyder. Chris is a member of the Fraternal Communications Department staff at the GCU Home Office.

A reception followed with 200 in attendance.

The couple honeymooned at Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park and Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park. They make their home in New Springfield, OH where Spencer is a volunteer fireman with the New Springfield Township Fire Department. Taylor is a member of Lodge 994.



Spencer & Taylor Snyder.

Sarah Slusark Graduates From Temple University



Sarah Slusark.

Sarah Elisabeth Slusark of Duryea, PA graduated in May from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Sarah made the Dean's list during the Spring 2021 semester. Sarah graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree through the Therapeutic Recreation program in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences.

Sarah will further her education this Fall at the University of Scranton working towards her Master's Degree in Health Care Management.

While at Temple, Sarah was involved in the "Love Your Melon" organization. Profits from the group's efforts assisted disabled children. Sarah also worked at summer camps in NJ assisting blind children. She was employed at Temple University in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences as a student assistant to the professors throughout her four year collegiate career and recently accepted a position in the University of Scranton's Department of Health Care Management.

Sarah is a member of Lodge 17 and has been a recipient of the GCU scholarship throughout college. She resides with her parents Elaine & Joseph Slusark and her brother Joe in Duryea, PA.

District 5

It has been a while since District 5 held an event to write about. Now that the pandemic has eased up somewhat, maybe activities can return to something closer to normal.

Helping Hands at Holy Annunciation

Monastery | Mother Marija from Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA thought that Helping Hands Day could be held on Saturday, June 19, 2021. With most of the activities outdoors, volunteers can be kept safer. Church services will be held at 8 AM and work will begin at 9 AM. Please consider giving a few hours to the Sisters to help with cleanup of their outdoor grounds. There will be a few indoor projects as well, such as folding boxes for baked goods. Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge will also be participating. The Sisters are always so appreciative of any help they receive.

Annual Golf Tournament | District 5 will be holding their annual Golf Tournament at Sugarloaf Golf Club on Saturday, August 7, 2021 with an 8:30 AM shotgun start. The four-person Captain and Crew Tournament will conclude with a pig roast dinner. Entry fee is pre-pay only. Applications will be available in the Events section of the GCU website shortly. Please plan on attending.

Events Not Being Held | Unfortunately, it was decided not to have the annual tailgate and RailRider baseball game outing this year. Hopefully, the district can resume this enjoyable event next year.

Stay safe!

Ilona Dolinish | Fraternal & Publicity Director

District 7

UPCOMING DISTRICT 7 EVENT

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, August 28, 2021

Shotgun Scramble Format

Time will be announced

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

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

District 15

Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company | Sunday, August 29 from 12 NOON - 4 PM. The district has rented their spacious tent for members to enjoy wine tasting and a delicious full-course Sunday dinner prepared by The Cooked Goose. Bocci, corn-hole and raffles will add to the fun. Cash bar (wine, cocktails and PA brewed beers).

Black Dog Wine Co. is located in Oakdale, PA, minutes from the Parkway West and US 22/30 intersection, convenient for guests coming from Beaver, Pittsburgh, Butler and lodges in Weirton, WV and Mingo Junction, OH. There is ample parking, too!

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

District 15 Secretary Kathy Kapaldo chairs the event. You can contact Kathy at 412-951-8331; Elizabeth Harbist at 412-913-1446 or Janet Uram at 724-287-0689 for tickets.

SAVE the DATE! | District 15 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 7, 2021, at Seven Oaks Country Club. Brunch will be available. At this time, St. Nicholas Chapel is not open for Liturgies however, that may change by November. Watch for updated information in the *GCU Magazine* and on the D15 Facebook page.

Deepest Sympathy | Deepest condolences to Andy Zeedick, former District 15 President, and past GCU Vice President and Board Member, on the death of his wife Georgia (nee Stecik) Zeedick who passed on Thursday, April 29. In addition to Andy, Georgia is survived by a daughter Danielle; a son John; a daughter-in-law Karen and granddaughter Linnea. An extremely intelligent and engaging woman, Georgia was mentor and role model for many young women. A professional writer, she worked for many Pittsburgh companies during her career, including an assignment in Ostrava,



Photo taken at one of the recent Communicycle bike give a ways.

Czech Republic for ICF Kaiser. Georgia and Andy were founding members of Seven Oaks Country Club and Chairs of the Russian Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh. Faith was central to Georgia's life, and she served as a Basilian Lay Associate with the Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA. Georgia's funeral service was celebrated by Reverend Father Valerian Michlik at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, Pittsburgh, PA. May God grant Georgia blessed repose and eternal memory.

Elizabeth Harbist | President

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Afternoon at Black Dog Wine Company

Sunday, August 29, 2021

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

Live Music by The Flow Band

\$15 GCU Members

\$20 Non-Members

Checks payable to: GCU District 15

Mail to: Elizabeth Harbist

215 Thornwood Court, Moon Township, PA 15108

(please include phone number on your check) Limited Capacity

Annual Golf Outing

Sunday, September 12, 2021

12:30 PM with dinner to follow

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

Contact Bill Uram at 724-287-0689

Ladies Luncheon and Bunco

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Lunch at NOON

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

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

Lodge News

Lodge 7

WHITE PLAINS, NY

Easter Bake Sale

What a blessing—the St. Nicholas of Myra Easter Bake Sale returned for 2021! GCU Lodge 7 members and others helped to make it a great success.

Debbie McDonnell | Secretary-Treasurer



Volunteers working and showing the finished product.



Committee members for the Basket/Prize Raffle: Dr. Rob Notari, John P. Argonish, Tim Notari, Diane Notari, Nikole Jeffers, Domenica Argonish, John M. Argonish and Rick Notari. Missing from photo is Madelyn Lesneski.

Lodge 17

OLD FORGE, PA

Annual Big Blue Golf Classic

GCU Lodge 17 assisted with the Basket/Prize Raffle at the 10th Annual Big Blue Golf Classic for the Richard P. Notari Sr. Scholarship Fund. The event was also a Community Matching Funds project. This event was held on May 15, 2021 at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club, Mountain Top, PA. During the past decade, this tournament has raised almost \$150,000.⁰⁰. The funds raised go directly to 50 scholarships for students in the Old Forge School District who excel in mathematics and leadership.

Mr. Notari was a mathematics teacher in the district who died of cancer. At various times in his career, he was the golf coach, freshman football coach, bowling coach, and Director of Athletics at Old Forge High School. He was a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge, where he taught catechism and sang in the choir. Several members of the Notari/Lesneski/Argonish family are members of GCU Lodge 17.

One could not ask for a better day to hold a golf tournament—sunny and warm. The field sold out at 212 golfers. Prizes for the raffle included several TV's, baskets of cheer, golf bags, golf balls, hats, watches, sunglasses, signed memorabilia, football jerseys and more. Thanks to all who made this tournament a huge success.

Ed Keil | Secretary-Treasurer



Some of the basket chances.



John Marko preparing the dough.

Lodge 53

WILKES BARRE, PA

Nut & Poppyseed Roll Sale

Members of Lodge 53 and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church held a nut and poppyseed roll sale prior to Easter. Over 120 rolls were made to be enjoyed during the paschal season. Lodge 53 was able to earn \$1,270.00 from the sale. Thank you to everyone that made the project a success!

John Marko | Secretary

Lodge 62

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA

Annual Fundraiser

Although COVID-19 has brought many restrictions to everyday life, Lodge 62 still found a way to come together with the parishioners at SS. Peter & Paul BC Church for the benefit of all.

The group gathered together for one of the parish's annual fundraisers while enjoying each other's company making delicious pirohi.

The money that was raised, along with the GCU Parish Matching Funds, will help to refurbish the floors of the sanctuary and sacristies of the church. Thank you GCU Home Office for matching our fundraising effort!

Julie Brocious | Secretary



Pirohi pinching experts.

Lodge 81

UNIONTOWN, PA

Spring Activities

Lodge 81 kept going with its usual activities during the holy seasons of Lent, Pascha and Pentecost.

Community

Gerry Dorobish continued her assistance at Mt. St. Macrina religious Gift Shop, in addition to helping with clean up on the monastery grounds and planting flowers. She also helped her sister, Linda Zungri with First Holy Communion classes at the local Roman Catholic churches. Gerry, Sister Barbara Jean and Bonnie Balas have once again joined in the Sunday Rosary group that meets at Lourdes Grotto at Mt. St. Macrina.

On Saturday, May 8, Bonnie Balas participated in a fundraiser for the Masontown Volunteer Fire Department. Representing St. John Ethnic Craft Club, she sold crafts, church cookbooks and more.



Bonnie Balas at Masontown Fire Department fundraiser.



ECF teachers & students with pictorial display.

Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting was held on Sunday, May 16, after the Divine Liturgy. Lodge 81 made a donation to the church for use of the meeting room. Plans were discussed for attending the Helping Hands Day at Mt. St. Macrina on Saturday, June 5. Lodge 81 opted to forego a Flag Day program and instead to have a Patriotic/Veterans' Day activity in November due to current restrictions for COVID-19.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President & Publicity Coordinator



Gerry Dorobish and Bonnie Balas doing Easter Craft with students.



Allie Mihalko, Gerry Dorobish, Marcia Harrer and Noah Mihalko at First Penance Breakfast.

Parish

During the Great Fast, GCU members and parishioners continued to help at the weekly pirohi sale at St. John BC Church. Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas sold and distributed Colebrook Easter candy as part of the Social Ministry fundraiser.

Bonnie Balas assisted with the paska baking project, preparing orders and distributing the paska bread. Stephen Petruska cantored Lenten and Holy Week services and assisted Father Ron Larko with the Paschal basket blessing held in the church parking lot. Lodge 81 also contributed for mention of the deceased members of Lodge 81 in the All Souls' Liturgies. Many well wishes went to Helen Ponzurick on the celebration of her 94th birthday on May 5.

Several Lodge 81 officers are also ECF teachers at the parish. For Easter, Marcia Harrer prepared gift bags, Bonnie Balas made mini paskas for each child and Gerry Dorobish led the students in preparing a stained glass-type cross craft item. First Solemn Reconciliation was held for Allie & Noah Mihalko on the Saturday, April 10 before Thomas Sunday under the direction of Gerry Dorobish. A mini celebration was provided by St. John Social Ministry on Thomas Sunday which included only immediate family members. Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas helped set up and serve those in attendance. Marcia Harrer, ECF coordinator, and Gerry Dorobish presented gifts to the children on behalf of the parish. Lodge 81 provided the end of year pizza party for the ECF students and their families. Gerry Dorobish created a pictorial display which included photos of all student activities for the catechetical year.

Lodge 81 made a significant donation through GCU Parish Matching Funds to a new handicapped ramp along the east side and front of the St. John Church. This ramp will especially assist with funerals and is quite an asset to the parish. Stephen Petruska installed a new U.S. Flag in the church which was acquired by Lodge 81. Stephen also cut branches from linden trees to be used for the display of green for the Feast of Pentecost. Bonnie Balas helped Kay Breakiron prepare the arrangements and place them in the church sanctuary.



Joan Bridges at Paschal basket Blessing.



Stephen Petruska with new church flag and Gerry Dorobish watering at Mausoleum.

Lodge 92

JESSUP, PA

First Holy Communion

On Sunday, May 2, Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church held First Holy Communion. Sophia Julian and Clayton Barkowski were the recipients. While Lodge 92 could not give them the traditional Communion Breakfast due to the pandemic, the lodge presented them with gifts and officially welcomed them into the parish.



Sophia Julian and Clayton Barkowski.



Lodge President Mark Pegula, Ronald Mancak, Lodge Secretary-Treasurer Michaela Mancak and Michael Mancak.

Jessup Hose Co. #2 Basket Donation

GCU Lodge 92 helped the Jessup Hose Co. #2 by donating a basket "Raking in the Cash" for their Midway Food Festival. It was held from Wednesday, May 26 to Sunday, May 30. This is a volunteer organization and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, they always responded. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Michaela Mancak | Secretary-Treasurer



Patrons making their choices at the basket raffle.



Lodge 93

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Basket Raffle

Lodge 93 and St. John BC Church have a tradition of outstanding basket raffles. The first raffle of 2021 offered the community another opportunity to support the church and its projects. The social hall was abuzz Saturday & Sunday, April 17 & 18 as event goers, complete with face masks and social distancing complying with CDC guidelines, perused the wares at the spring event. A surprise feature was the availability of homemade pies that were boxed, sealed and ready to purchase.

All basket items were sanitized and wrapped. Winners did not need to be present for the drawing. Curbside pickup was arranged for winners to collect their baskets. A big thank you is extended to the workers who volunteered to deliver baskets. This event gave everyone in the community a boost to start the spring season and a fun way to welcome the warm weather.

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed wonderful gift items to help generate financial success. The parish and lodge are forever grateful to the GCU Home Office for continuing the Parish Matching Funds program.

Connie Strittmatter | Fraternal & Publicity Director

Lodge 109

LYNDORA, PA

Easter Treats for the Kids

On Palm Sunday, GCU Lodge 109 treated the children of St. John parish to Byzantine crosses given out by lodge President Janet Stetzer, who donned her bunny ears for the event. This treat was done in memory of Helen Meaders, who started the practice a number of years ago, in lieu of the annual Easter Egg hunt, which was suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Quarterly Meeting

The lodge held a quarterly meeting on Sunday, May 16 to plan for Helping Hands Day on the church grounds and for the annual Flag Day ceremony held on Sunday, June 13 at the Lyndora War Memorial and followed by lunch at St. John Church. The Honor Guard of the American Legion and the VFW were in charge of the program.



Parish children line up for their treat from the "Easter Bunny."

Matching Funds Hoagie Sale

Tentative plans were discussed about having a Matching Funds Hoagie sale in the fall. A definitive date was postponed to a later time depending on the success of the COVID mitigations in effect.

Janet Uram | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 151 NEW YORK, NY

Blessed to have Strong Leadership

On April 23, 2021, **Father Nick Daddona** celebrated four years in the priesthood and as pastor of St. Andrew BC Church in Westbury, NY. With all the current difficulties it is nice to recall the good things that have happened with Fr. Nick as the parish's administrator. During his four years, St. Andrew's parishioners were enriched by guest speakers, Sr. Katrina OSB and Brother Vincent Adams of the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn. The parish participated in the Toys-for-Tots Program, Meal in a Bag for St. Bridget's Pantry and donations to the Life Center of Long Island. A celebration was held with the seminarians and rector of Douglaston House of Formation. The parish donated supplies to the Seminarian Midnight Run for the Homeless in NYC. Fr. Nick created a lending Library and re-established the pre-school Eastern Christian Formation Program. It is great to be returning to church and to see Fr. Nick for the Divine Liturgy and the reception of the Holy Eucharist.



Laura Muhlfeld and Fr. Garklavs.

Fr. Nicholas Garklavs, the pastor at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, is a fourth-generation priest, who has energized the church through his good deeds and fine example. Father Nicholas live streamed services on Facebook throughout the pandemic bringing several new parishioners to the church. He encourages charitable donations and has set up different projects, including an annual Toys-for-Tots drive and a food donation station for a local food pantry. Father's deep faith is evident in his sermons, Bible study classes for adults and teens and Zoom classes. His deep religious convictions and compassion are an inspiration for everyone he meets. Under his leadership, the parish has undertaken several projects to repair and improve the church. A GCU Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion Matching Funds project, requested by GCU Lodge 151 officer and parishioner Laura Muhlfeld, assisted with these repairs. See details on page 15 of this issue.

Ann Kandrato says the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Transfiguration is blessed to have Fr. Waczeslaw as pastor. Father, a native of Poland, has increased the parish's revenue with television and movies filming in Brooklyn. Father saw an opportunity to increase the church's income by renting out the church hall to these production crews. Father has an infectious enthusiasm and is dedicated to preserving the landmark Cathedral. When the pandemic prevented in person attendance,



Celebrating Fr. Nick's 4 years as a priest.

Fr. Waczeslaw enlisted tech savvy youth of the parish to provide live streaming. Matushka Elizabeth proved to be an invaluable lifeline to many parishioners through weekly bulletins.

The Saint Francis House

A small humble home in Greenpoint-Brooklyn, NY is a safe haven for young men who are looking for a new start in life and who have been disenfranchised from family. The home provides hope for the future, a structured home life and guidance to facilitate change. Under the leadership of Joe Campo, SFO, the home offers a Christ-centered foundation, where over the decades, hundreds of young men have found their purpose in life.

During the pandemic, the boys created a "pizza business," making and selling pizza from their own brick oven.

The Saint Francis House is the crown jewel of Greenpoint! A sincere thank you to Marilyn & Will Cofnuk, Ann Kandrato, Mary Ellen Kandrato Hedson, William Hedson, James Hulak, Christine Hulak and John Michnya for their recent donations and ongoing support to The St. Francis House and use of the GCU GoGive! Direct program.

"Glory to God"

Chris Hulak writes "Glory to God" from the parishioners of The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church. The parish is slowly returning to normal and was very pleased to have their pastor's weekly church bulletin as a lifeline throughout the pandemic. The parish recently celebrated its Sviachenne, their annual communal Easter meal and relished the 62 years old parish tradition. We give thanks to the GCU for the Non-Byzantine Parish Expansion Matching Funds the event raised for the church.

CONTINUED

Lodge 151 CONTINUED

Helping Hands Day

Helping Hands Day at St. Andrew Church was held on Ascension Thursday, May 13. Flowers were planted around the church grounds with an assist from the parish children who helped bring the plants outside.



Chris Hulak presenting the Parish Expansion Matching Funds check.



Helping Hands Day at St. Andrew.

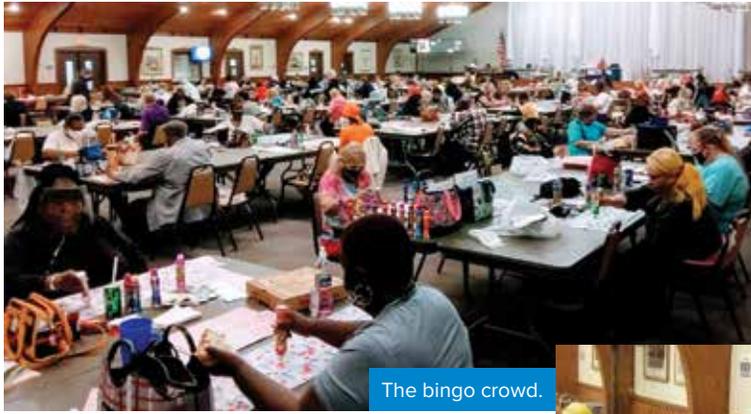
Congrats to Our Graduates

Congratulations to Jack Lalley and Emily Torrente who both graduated from College. More info can be found on Our Members page 16. Congratulations to both of them along with all other members who graduated this year. Our lodge is proud of you.

Looking Ahead

Hopefully the lodge's 3rd quarterly meeting will be held with more members attending either at the end of August or in early September. Enjoy the summer—looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Marge Russell | President



The bingo crowd.

Lodge 164

YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Spring Bingo Fundraiser

Lodge 164 held their Spring Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday evening, May 16, 2021. GCU members and parishioners worked the bingo selling sheets, pull-tab games and food in the kitchen.

A smaller crowd than expected, 123 players, enjoyed the 20 games of bingo. Total income from all sources was \$6,344.⁰⁰ with expenses including prizes and security of \$3,904.⁰⁰ for a net profit of \$2,440.⁰⁰. This was a GCU Community Matching Funds event and will benefit several local charities.

GCU giveaways of a personal hand sanitizers and stick-on GCU calendars were passed out to each player.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President



Francie Kovachik calling back a bingo.



Participants at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Lodge 182

KINGSTON, PA

Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt was held for the parish children of St. Mary's BC Church on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. The rain that attempted to ruin the day did not dampen the festivities or the excitement of the hunt! Each child was asked to find 6 eggs in 6 different colors and then turn those eggs in for their prizes. Each participant was also asked to bring a donation of a toy to fill an Easter basket or a monetary donation to be used in the making of baskets for the children in residence at the Catherine McAuley House for homeless women and children. The day was a huge success. Special thanks to the GCU Home Office, members of Lodge 182 and St. Mary's ECF teachers.

Donation to Catherine McAuley House

Lodge 182 made their annual donation to the Catherine McAuley House. This house serves as a homeless shelter for women and their children who find themselves in crisis and have become homeless. It is located in Plymouth, PA.

Easter baskets were made specifically for each child residing there and dropped off on Holy Saturday, just in time for the Easter Bunny to deliver them. Thank you to all the participants of St. Mary's Easter Egg Hunt and to all who donated. The baskets were a great way to give back and to help make Easter a little better for the children.

Laure Marcin | Secretary



Colleen & John Evans dropping off baskets at Catherine McAuley House.

Lodge 254

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ



ECF children, standing in front of sold chocolate boxes, holding up decorative Easter cookies along with 2nd Grade Holy Communion teacher, Janelle Kelderman (on left) and ECF Director, Julie Klikus (on right).



Tatiana Hlinka and Grace Klikus, 8th Grade ECF graduates.

Easter Church Activities

The Easter season at St. Mary BC Church in Hillsborough was active with Liturgies, worship, preparation and teaching of the parish children about this glorious holy day—the most deeply religious and joyous celebration of the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Each Sunday, the children learn about the Byzantine Catholic Religion in their ECF classes.

On Palm (Flowery) Sunday, March 28, the younger ECF children, including some GCU members of Lodge 254, stood with the many boxes of chocolates they sold from their Gertrude Hawk Chocolates fundraiser. The proceeds of this fundraiser benefit the ongoing and successful ECF program which is coordinated by GCU member Julie Klikus. Thank you to all for the generous support.

Following social distance, Father James Badeaux, pastor, blessed Easter food baskets after the Divine Liturgy on Easter Sunday. Assisting were Deacon Nick Sotack and Professor Elias Zareva, cantor emeritus and Lodge 254 president.

Holy Communion Celebration

On May 15, four wonderful children celebrated their Solemn Holy Communion at St. Mary's. May God grant them peace, health, and happiness for many years!

Elizabeth Pentz | Publicity



Fr. Badeaux, James Kucenski, Leila Redler, Ava Henyecz, Victoria Como with their instructor Janelle Kelderman (back right).

Lodge 271

ORLAND PARK & HOMER GLEN, IL

Sports and Spirituality

GCU Lodge 271 held its annual fundraiser for the NFL's big game to start off the 2021 calendar year. The event not only raised funds for the church but resulted in a mix of community fun, jesting and even a little spirituality! There was also a March Madness 2021 fundraiser as well. These are events everyone is happy to have back in the parish—as things are getting back to normal.



Participants at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

It was another cool weather day when Lodge 271 celebrated St. Thomas Sunday with the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 11. Quite a few children attend this fun event. Ken Krown, the hunt's fearless leader, had all the children line up to start the search. Once they were sent out to collect eggs, they headed for the tables to pick out toys and some goodies. Once again everyone had a great time. Thanks Ken & Karen Krown for arranging this joyful event and lodge officers Secretary Sharon Dorencz and Vice-President Vicki Blidy for helping out everywhere in between.

Vicki Blidy | Vice President

Lodge 302

BRECKSVILLE, OH

GCU & The Rusin Garden

Last fall, members of GCU Lodge 302 who are also members of the Cleveland Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, planted dozens of daffodil bulbs in the Rusin Garden of The Cleveland Cultural Gardens. This spring, the flowers emerged and graced the garden with bright yellow blooms as evidenced by the accompanying photo.

John Krenisky and Marcia Benko are active members in the Carpatho-Rusyn Society who volunteer to maintain the Rusin Garden. Numerous members of Lodge 302 have volunteered to maintain the beauty of the garden over the years. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the garden. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens of which the Rusin Garden is a part, are a collection of public gardens located in Rockefeller Park in Cleveland, OH. The gardens are situated along East Boulevard & Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. If you are in the area, please take a trip by to see this beautiful garden.

Christine Bratnick | Publicity Director



Marcia Benko and John Krenisky of Lodge 302 at the Cleveland Rusin Cultural Garden.

UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Lodge Meeting

Sunday, August 1, 2021

After the 10 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph BCC Activity Center
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH 44141

Lodge Meeting

Sunday, November 14, 2021

After the 10:30 AM Liturgy

St. Joseph BCC Activity Center
8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH 44141

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge (GHRL)

HAZLETON, PA

There is an old saying that says that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully, at the end of the current tunnel is the final end of this pandemic, so that life can get back to normal (have meetings, bus trips and activities).

Bowling News

Because of the pandemic, our bowling league only bowled nine weeks for the season. On Sunday, May 16 all members of the league got together and had a small no-tap tournament among the players. The top three bowlers were: Diane Green, Anne Berlitz and Agnes Rohrbach. Cash prizes were given to all the bowlers that participated and the money for the short-lived season was also distributed to the teams. Since the league had no banquets for the past 2 years, a get together was held on May 25 at Pizza Pie-O-Near Restaurant. Plans for the 2021-2022 season were discussed!



Happy Independence Day

Sunday, July 4th is Independence Day and this great country will be celebrating its 245th birthday. Hopefully, this year everyone will have a chance to spend time with family & friends joining together for this great celebration.

Looking Ahead

There have been questions from members about bus trips and other activities. Some of the places GHRL usually visits are not open as of yet or they are not accepting buses. GHRL will keep everyone up to date and hope to have some things planned as soon as everything gets back to a little more normalcy. One of the trips in the planning stage is to go to Sight and Sound to see "David" next year—more information will follow in the next issue. Save the date, Sunday, December 12 for the return of the GHRL St. Nicholas Dinner at Capriotti's.



Mother Marija and Secretary Agnes Rohrbach at Matching Funds presentation.

Matching Funds Calendar

The Matching Funds Lottery Calendar for April was a huge success. A check from the proceeds was presented to Mother Marija at Holy Annunciation Monastery by Secretary Agnes Rohrbach. The lodge will be having a lottery calendar for the month of September for another charitable organization (to be determined). This will be a Matching Funds project. Calendars will be sent to all the representatives of the lodge.

Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery

Since quite a few restrictions have been lifted, the annual Join Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery will return on Saturday, June 19 at 9 AM. Church services will be held at 8 AM and then it will be off to help the Sisters with the chores. There will be plenty to do since the event was canceled last year due to the pandemic.

As always, keep everyone in your prayers and hopefully by the end of the summer the world will be rid of this dreaded COVID-19 pandemic. Here is wishing all fathers, both living and deceased a very Happy Father's Day.

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

Until next time, take care and May God Bless.

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director

Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (CPRL) GREENFIELD, CARRICK & SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Make It Take It

On Saturday, May 22nd CPRL hosted another successful Make It-Take It Party at St. John Chrysostom BC Church in Greenfield-Pittsburgh. Miriam from *Out of the Woods* was a great painting instructor and helped everyone design either their own artwork or a large outdoor welcome sign. Over 30 projects were completed and everyone had a great time.

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director



Em & Vicky Lopata showing their artwork.



Everyone busy working.



Donna Bittner, Barb Rebovich and Beverly Rebovich.

Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (SEPRL)

CLAIRTON & MUNHALL, PA

Annual Craft Show

The annual Spring Craft Show at St. John Cathedral returned this year, but due to the pandemic the regular table layout and offerings had to be changed.

Only 42 table reservations were accepted to allow for social distancing. The take-out only food menu consisted of St. John's homemade hoagies, a baba plate of dumpling halushi, stuffed cabbage and kiebasi with a roll and homemade soups.

The lodge booth at the show sold bird baths/feeders made out of cups and saucers, the Cathedral's famous Cathedral Kolache, cinnamon bread, paska bread, cinnamon rolls, poppyseed cake, raspberry and apricot tortes and a few assorted cookies.

A great crowd started at 10 AM and went strong until 3 PM.

All the pre-planning proved worthwhile as the event raised a nice profit. GCU Parish Matching Funds helped to boost the income even more. This funds will be used to update lighting in the church parking lot.

Annual Food Drive

The annual food drive for the local food bank took place during March and April. The donations will go a long way to setting up the food bank in a new location that will be easier for everyone to access. Many thanks to all who helped with this project.



The children with Fr. Ivan.

Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg hunt took place at Ascension Church hall on Palm Sunday. The event was planned for outdoors, but weather forced the participants inside. Alexandria Lassige volunteered to help fill eggs with candy and prizes and hid them throughout the hall. The Easter Bunny arrived after Liturgy to help the children find the hidden eggs. After the hunt and photo's, the children received a box lunch and gift bag to take home along with a special treat. Father Ivan and his brother Michael surprised the kids with an edible bunny car! It was made with a Twinkie, Oreo wheels and marshmallow bunnies were in the driver seat!



Diane Stecik, Trish Roberts and Mary Zaken on Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Liturgy

GCU members recognized Mother's Day before Liturgy with beautiful carnation corsages. One mom was so appreciative, she said it was the "sunshine" that was missing on that rainy morning!

Patty Bovee | Treasurer & Fraternal
Publicity Director

Trish Roberts | President

Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge (NWPRL)

MCKEES ROCKS & GIBSONIA, PA

Pirohi Project

Holy Ghost BC Church McKees Rocks pirohi have long been recognized as among the best in the Pittsburgh area. For the 2021 Lenten season the team was able to implement processes to keep both workers and customers safe for the annual Great Fast sales on Fridays. Gratitude is expressed to all who volunteered for this project. NWPRL was pleased to sponsor the fund raiser for Parish Matching Funds increasing the projects benefit to the church.



Youth Group Candy Sale

The 2021 pandemic pushed the annual Holy Ghost Youth Group candy sale online once again. Sarris Candy launched a fundraising website allowing tracking of orders to any group. The online portal allowed everyone to get home delivery of Sarris treats and support the Youth Group preparations for the biennial Youth

Rally originally organized by the Byzantine church for July 2020 and moved to July 2021. NWPRL has consistently supported the youth of their home parish to assist them in attending the ByzanTEEN Rally. Holy Ghost Youth Group is looking forward to this year's event.

Steve Puluka | Secretary-Treasurer

Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

Annual Cash Bash

Lodge 625 held its 2nd Annual Cash Bash on April 17, 2021. There was a great turnout and everyone had an enjoyable evening. With the support of GCU Parish Matching Funds, the lodge will be presenting over \$10,000.00 to Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Parish. Lodge 625 is very grateful to the Home Office for making Matching Funds available for this event.



Cash Bash items.



Lodge members and Holy Trinity parishioners at the Cash Bash event.



Rita Hall and John Sokach painting the parking lot.

Helping Hands Day

On May 22, the lodge held its annual Helping Hands Day at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church. Members worked on projects around the parish and rectory grounds—planting and painting. Thanks to the Home Office for making the Helping Hands Fraternal Grant available to the lodge for this project.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead Lodge 625 will be participating in the annual Jackson Heritage Festival in July and the Johnstown Slavic Festival in September by selling pirohi, halushki, halupki and gobs.

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

Georgia Lehman | Fraternal & Publicity Director

Lodge 945

DUNMORE, PA

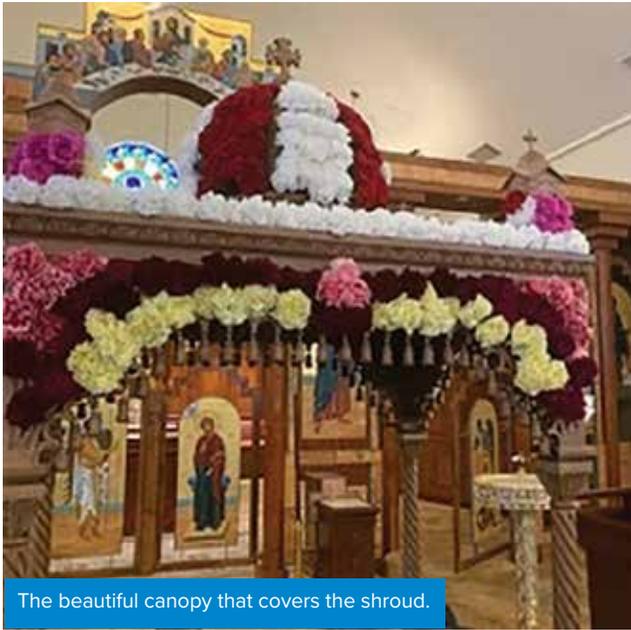
Donation Made

George Kofel, GCU Vice-Chairman of the Board and member of Lodge 945 presented a \$5,000.00 check to Mother Marija of the Byzantine Nuns of the Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA. The donation is from the lodge's recent Parish Expansion Matching Funds project—the Easter Baked Goods Sale at the Carmelite Kitchen. Lodge 945 along with Mother Marija wishes to thank all who purchased baked goods to make the Matching Funds project a success.

George Kofel | Publicity Director



George Kofel presenting Mother Marija a Parish Expansion Matching Funds check.



The beautiful canopy that covers the shroud.

Lodge 999

PHOENIX, AZ

Helping Hands Day

On Good Friday, April 2, six Lodge 999 members volunteered to clean and decorate the church for Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter. There were 600 flowers that were purchased to decorate the canopy that covers the shroud.

Andre House Donation

Over 600 cinnamon rolls were made and delivered to Andre House by lodge members on Holy Saturday. Each was cut and packaged individually with a piece of candy to be enjoyed on Easter Sunday. Andre House presented the volunteers with aprons in appreciation.

Mother's Day Tea

On Saturday, May 8 the lodge together with The Daughters of America held a great event where not only mothers, but fathers and families enjoyed good food, fun games and lots of prizes. Even Bishop John Pazak of the Eparchy of Phoenix joined in the fun.

Joanie Mahar | President



Lodge volunteers with cinnamon rolls for the Andre House.

For Your Information

Events

2021 International Golf Tournament

Friday-Sunday, August 6-8, 2021

Friday is a practice round

Saturday & Sunday Tournament Play

8 AM Shotgun Start

Entry deadline is July, 9

Treasure Lake Golf Resort

DuBois, PA 15801

Additional information on back page of this issue and applications are available on the Events Section of the GCU Website.

100th Anniversary Celebration "Save the Date"

Saturday, August 21, 2021

Sunday, August 22, 2021

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

Contact the Parish at 586-791-1052

www.stnicksdetroit.com

stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com

Facebook

First Ever Bishop's Golf Classic

Monday, August 23, 2021

Medina Country Club

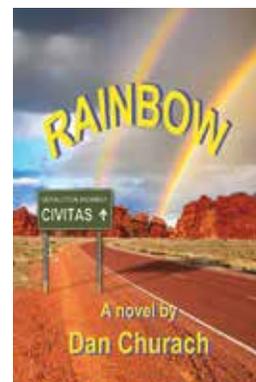
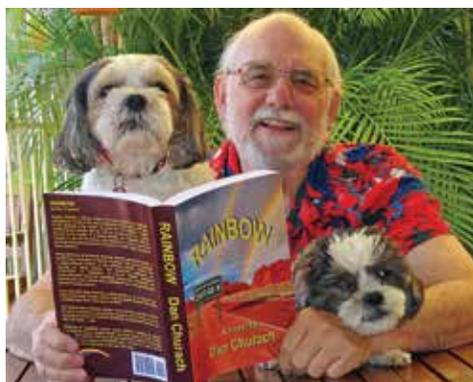
5580 Wedgewood Road, Medina, OH 44256

Registration form may be found online at <https://parma.org/bishops-golf-classic>. Please contact Judith Matsko at 216.741.8773 x1225 or jmatsko@parma.org with questions. We hope to see you on there!

Annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina

It is our hope that, with the guidance and approval of local health authorities, we can offer a "hybrid" version of our annual Pilgrimage this year, details of which will be forthcoming. Please follow the Sisters of St. Basil the Great on Facebook and www.sistersofstbasil.org for updates.

Available



Dan Churach with his faithful "assistants" Bomber on the left and Rocky, with a copy of his new book *Rainbows*. Learn more about Dan and his novels on his website, www.churach.com. All his books are available in both paperback or electronically from www.amazon.com or through www.churach.com.

Discount Amusement Park Tickets

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



Opportunity Realized Vol. II

The GCU has published a second volume of its history *Opportunity Realized Volume II—The Journey Continues*. This new publication chronicles the years 1992-2017. Follow the GCU journey as it navigates the calm waters of the end of the 20th century and struggles through the turbulent first decade of the 21st century—emerging as a strong \$1.5 billion financial institution by its 125th birthday in 2017. Like its predecessor, *Opportunity Realized*, this volume features photographs and illustrations throughout, bringing the organization's members and their accomplishments to life. The publication was researched and written by retired GCU Editor and Communications Director Frederick M. Petro. Proceeds from the sale of *Opportunity Realized Volume II* will go to the GCU Foundation in support of the Foundation's mission of promoting the Byzantine Church, the Rusyn culture and other charitable purposes. Books are \$20. To order your copy, go to www.GCUusa.com to order with a credit card or checks payable to GCU Foundation can be mailed to GCU History Book, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009. Books will be sent via UPS.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

- 8360 Willie Adams, Aiken, SC
151 Mary Antico, Frederick, MD
999 Rose Ann Appleby, Sun City, AZ
8344 Betty Babcock, Pittsburgh, PA
57 John Babilya, West Newton, PA
8324 Karen L. Baker, Harpers Ferry, WV
SPRL Evelyn Balint, McKeesport, PA
994 John Bandula, Aliquippa, PA
8313 Margaret Baran, Joliet, IL
8358 William E. Baran, Waukesha, WI
8344 Gregory Barnhart, Laughlintown, PA
8344 Judith A. Beaumont, Jeannette, PA
994 Linda Belic, Rochester, PA
SPRL Michael A. Bence, West Mifflin, PA
860 Eleanor Benko, Washington, MI
8344 Doris Benninger, Chicora, PA
8327 Richard Billmeier, Wright, MN
999 Thor Bisgaard, Phoenix, AZ
8344 Helen H. Block, Laflin, PA
93 Louise Bobik, Northern Cambria, PA
8358 William Boeck, North Port, FL
8326 Jerry E. Boone, Roscommon, MI
18 Debra Breakiron, Connellsville, PA
8344 Geraldine D. Breaux, Masontown, PA
8344 James D. Breth, Cheswick, PA
66 Norma R. Brown, Walton, IN
8344 Mary M. Campbell, Butler, PA
8344 Mary Jean T. Campbell, Souderton, PA
8344 Jerry D. Canney, Leetsdale, PA
20 Justin J. Carbone, Phoenixville, PA
8344 Frank M. Chalmers, Butler, PA
316 Sarah Chando, Phillipsburg, NJ
66 Thomas Chelle, Hobart, IN
994 Raynette B. Clark, Waldorf, MD
999 Anthony Colella, Scottsdale, AZ
8359 Larry Collins, Maxton, NC
8358 Rita Cordts, Livingston, WI
8359 Athena E. Creswell, Belmont, NC
994 James R. Crudden, New Brighton, PA
271 Harley Davis, Belleville, IL
8344 Marposa K. DeHaven, Lehighton, PA
316 Charles Dewey, Midlothian, VA
999 Gerald Dino, Phoenix, AZ
PSRL Elizabeth M. Donnelly, Bethel Park, PA
8344 Aniceta M. Donovan, Trafford, PA
8327 Robert Doornbos, Park Rapids, MN
8344 Gordon Lee Downey, North Apollo, PA
8358 Robert K. Dutkiewicz, Caledonia, WI
57 Valentia A. Elenri, Uniontown, PA
8344 Ruth Emberg, Mars, PA
271 Irene Erdmann, Western Springs, IL
8326 Robert J. Fairchild, Niles, MI
8304 Vladimir J. Fajnor, Ventura, CA
8344 Sara Y. Fellabaum, New Castle, PA
53 Daniel Fetch, Harding, PA
NPRL Frank J. Fetsko, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Marilyn Fey, Warren, PA
GHRL Clara Marie Foran, Hazleton, PA
945 Jennifer Gabriel, Dunmore, PA
SPRL Dolores Gala, North Huntingdon, PA
SPRL Doris Ganzy, Irwin, PA
57 Helen R. Gaskey, Brownsville, PA
GHRL Mary Gasper, Hazleton, PA
360 Elizabeth George, Murray, UT
109 Diane Givan, Cabot, PA
8344 Mildred Goston, Greensburg, PA
8344 Alice F. Grannas, Williamsburg, PA
302 Michael L. Grocky, Muskegon, MI
CPRL Dorothy Cox Halahan, Lexington, NC
8344 Patricia L. Hallman, Telford, PA
360 Edward J. Halus, Campbell, OH
254 Theresa Havrilla, Monroe Twp., NJ
8315 Clifford D. Hensel, La Porte, IN
8344 Joan Hollis, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Neddie C. Hollis, Monroeville, PA
8344 Sylvia M. Holloway, Perkasio, PA
8344 Coleman Horvath, Pittsburgh, PA
8341 Angeline Howard, Youngstown, OH
211 Louise J. Hudak, Stroudsburg, PA
999 Barbara C. Humeston, Santa Ana, CA
8327 Marvin F. Johnson, Fertile, MN
CPRL Linda Jopinko, Pittsburgh, PA
271 Carole Jurevich, West Chester, IL
665 John Kalapos, Alpha, NJ
8326 William Kalbfleisch, Petoskey, MI
268 Margaret Kasper, Bridgeport, OH
8359 Wilma L. Kish, Mint Hill, NC
8304 Elizabeth Klotz, Buena Park, CA
302 Bertha Kopinsky, Walton Hills, OH
360 Edward P. Kovach, Youngstown, OH
66 Ronald Kovach, Laporte, IN
182 George Kozar, Glen Lyon, PA
8309 John F. Krasinski, Ocala, FL
8344 Rohma Kropf, Pittsburgh, PA
8327 Audrey Kuefler, Maple Grove, MN
235 Helen Kurilec, Trumbull, CT
8304 Maurice E. Landford, Murrieta, CA
999 Karen E. Lange, Phoenix, AZ
NPRL Eugene Langham, Lower Burrell, PA
8344 Mary L. Laurich, Warren, PA
8344 Catherine Lawrence, Greensburg, PA
8344 Kathryn M. Legat, Johnstown, PA
994 Mark Leskanic, Beaver Falls, PA
8344 Karen J. Liebner, Port Carbon, PA
999 Gloria Lodice, Sun City West, AZ
NPRL Peter Longstreth, Oakdale, PA
271 Joanne Madeline, Fairview Hts., IL
10 Sally Marich, Aliquippa, PA
999 Barbara J. Markert, Tucson, AZ
8344 Hazel C. Marthinsen, Zelenople, PA
8344 Hazel Marthinsen, Zelenople, PA
994 Patricia Matthews, Beaver, PA
8344 Rita M. Mayercsik, Johnstown, PA
625 Agnes McConaughy, Johnstown, PA
8344 Bernard McCoy, Lower Burrell, PA
8358 Robert McMahan, Middleton, WI
SPRL Michael J. Meharr, Pittsburgh, PA
GHRL Andrew Metrick, Allentown, PA
PSRL Irene Milasincic, Pittsburgh, PA

- 8344 Joan Miske, Johnstown, PA
8344 Alvan Morse, Stroudsburg, PA
994 Frances Moss, Carnegie, PA
8344 William R. Muller, Doylestown, PA
697 Grace V. Mynuk, Lewisburg, WV
999 Carl Nyberg, Apache Junction, AZ
8344 Nancy J. Oliphant, Russell, PA
316 Michael Osifchin, Phillipsburg, NJ
8344 Patricia Pastirik, McKeesport, PA
8344 Gerald Pawlowski, Auburn, PA
SPRL Christopher Phares, Munhall, PA
8344 Barbara A. Pierce, Harleysville, PA
8304 Doris B. Pierno,
Huntington Beach, CA
8344 Marie Pingar, West Chester, PA
SPRL Mary Piposar, Phoenix, AZ
697 John L. Plesa, Brecksville, OH
8337 Mary Polacko, Ballston Spa, NY
66 Gwendolyn Porter, Merrillville, IN
8358 Eugene Prien, Dolby, WI
8315 Gloria Y. Ptacek, Schererville, IN
GHRL Michael Rayno, Weatherly, PA
8344 Richard D. Reiter, Greensburg, PA
8357 Jo K. Robinson, Weirton, WV
644 John G. Rohaley, Streetsboro, OH
340 John Rokita, Fords, NJ
8341 Michael Sabo, Willoughby, OH
8344 Jacalyn Sandak, Johnstown, PA
8309 Margaret Sandvik, Burlington, NJ
8357 Lois B. Sanetrik, Morgantown, WV
8344 Pauline Santini, Venetia, PA
CPRL Carol Sargent, Pittsburgh, PA
302 Helen Sasala, Chagrin Falls, OH
8337 Margaret Scalise, Clarence, NY
8344 Mary Schlosser, Lewisburg, PA
8344 Frances M. Schmalzel, Easton, PA
8304 Robert Scott, Rancho Santa
Margarita, CA
8344 William Setnar, Butler, PA
8341 William Simich, Toronto, OH
8341 Margaret M. Simon, Westerville, OH
8344 Eleanor Simoni, Aliquippa, PA
625 Paulett Simunich, Johnstown, PA
NPRL Gerald Skalka, Hunker, PA
8344 Barry E. Skelly, York, PA
860 Marie Sloff, Clinton Twp., MI
SPRL Richard Smiley, Homestead, PA
8358 James K. Smith, Marshfield, WI
15 Helen Snyder, Levittown, PA
8344 Jennie Spath, Stroudsburg, PA
8357 Frederick M. Straka, Weirton, WV
625 Ronald Strayer, Johnstown, PA
CPRL William Sulanowski,
Baldwin Borough, PA
CPRL Thomas E. Sutton, Pittsburgh, PA
8344 Michael Swartz, Uniontown, PA
8344 Thelma Taylor, Export, PA
SPRL Margaret M. Tima, Pittsburgh, PA
47 Frances Tita, Binghamton, NY
8344 David Tocci, Harleysville, PA
92 Barbara J. Treanor, Manchester, NJ
15 Helene Uhaze, Hightstown, NJ
8344 Evelyn Unterberger, Beaver, PA
8344 John Urban, New Cumberland, PA
8344 Henrietta Urbanic, Gibsonia, PA
8344 Felicia Vallese, Bridgeport, PA
360 Dennis J. Vansuch,
New Middletown, OH
442 John T. Vasko, Youngstown, OH
GHRL Olga Viola, Reading, PA
8344 Adeline Weatherbee, Warren, PA
8309 Marilyn Whieldon,
Tarpon Springs, FL
8359 Betty J. Whitten, Thomasville, NC
66 Mary J. Zakutansky,
Sun City West, AZ
8344 John Zias, Black Lick, PA
8304 Donald A. Zollo, Vista, CA
109 Mary Ann Zulick, Renfrew, PA
235 Richard J. Zuraw, Shelton, CT
- GHRL—Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge*
CPRL—Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge
SPRL—Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge
NPRL—Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge
PSRL—Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge

Remembrances

Michael 'Mike' Osifchin, Jr.

Michael 'Mike' Osifchin, Jr. (95) the oldest living resident of the hamlet of Brainards, NJ, and veteran of WWII, fell asleep unto the Lord at his home on April 13, 2021. He was surrounded by family and friends and his beloved wife of over 70 years, Margaret (Chanda). Mike was born in the Carpatho-Rusyn village of Udol, Slovakia. He was the first-born son of Michael Osifchin, Sr. and Anna Sokol Osifchin. In 1927, he and his mother made the arduous journey to America through Ellis Island to rejoin his father in Brainards. Mike attended Belvidere High School but left to help support his family as a printer at Phillipsburg Mills.

In December 1943, Mike enlisted in the US Navy and entered boot camp at the Naval Station Great Lakes north of Chicago. He fondly remembered seeing the river turn green for St. Patrick's Day and celebrating with his pals before assignment on the USS Constant, a Naval Mine Sweeper, patrolling the Panama Canal Zone in the Pacific Theater. While in the Navy he joined the wrestling and boxing teams and completed fireman training. The highlight of his tour of duty was meeting First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and American actress and singer, Kitty Carlisle. In 1944 while in an active war zone, he was severely injured when an explosion threw him against the ship's bulkhead. He was removed to a mobile hospital and transported to Naval Hospitals at Pearl Harbor and then San Diego. After hospitalization, he returned to his assignment where he honorably served until the end of the war. He was discharged

from ALNAV 76-46 and awarded the Pacific Campaign Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal.

Upon return, Mike completed correspondence courses in welding and TV repair. He went to work with his father at the Alpha Portland Cement Company in Martin's Creek, PA, as a welder and later a machinist. In 1966 he was hired as a machinist by the Rock Drill Division of Ingersoll Rand in Phillipsburg, NJ. Upon retiring from Ingersoll Rand, Mike was not ready to stop working. He went on to work as a machinist until his early 70s at American Paper Products in Alpha, NJ. During this time, he and his wife took on the responsibility of lovingly raising their granddaughter, Paige.

Mike was a beloved fixture in his hometown and forged valuable friendships with new neighbors as the community transitioned from one generation to the next. He had many interests: an avid reader of historical military & nonfiction literature, a gardener and home repairman. He loved being outdoors hunting and fishing. He taught his children life's practical skills such as auto maintenance, home improvement, gardening and landscaping. He leaves a legacy by example of important values of Integrity – Honesty – Perseverance - Commitment.

Michael was a member of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Phillipsburg, NJ, a member of GCU Lodge 316, Local Steelworkers Union 5503, Brainards Rod and Gun Club, West Easton Fire Company Social

Club, and American Legion-Belvidere and helped organize the Harmony Volunteer Fire Company.

Mike is survived by his devoted wife, Margaret; daughters, Susan Connochie and her partner Lloyd Hayes, Donna Voag and her partner Patrick Conley, both of Bethlehem, PA; sons, David; Steven and his husband David Wentz of Culpeper, VA; Gary and his husband Wesley Wolfe of Chicago; beloved daughter/granddaughter, Paige and her fiancé Andrew Durholz of Harmony, NJ and great-granddaughter Isla Margaret Durholz; beloved grandsons, Christopher Voag of Bethlehem, PA and Daniel (Julie) Connochie of Ann Arbor, MI; his siblings Olga Donat of Allentown, PA; Edward Osifchin of Phillipsburg, NJ; and Robert (Sandra) Osifchin of Chalfont, PA. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Evelyn Keown.

A special thanks to his dedicated neighbors and friends, including Kevin & Denise and Joe & Kristi and to his special nephew Butch (Jennie) Chanda.

A graveside service with military honors was held on Monday, April 19, 2021 at SS Peter & Paul BC Cemetery in Alpha, NJ. In lieu of flowers, in loving support of his wife, memorial contributions to the Alzheimer Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001, would be greatly appreciated.

Georgia Zeedick

Georgia Zeedick of Mt. Lebanon, PA, formerly of Whitaker, PA and Beaver, PA, passed away on April 29, 2021. She was the daughter of the late Mary Ann (Suba) Stecik & George Stecik.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh (Bachelor's Degree) and Point Park University (Master's Degree), Georgia spent many years in journalism and public relations working for firms in the Pittsburgh, PA area. She was a reporter for *The Messenger*, a Homestead, PA based newspaper. She also served as anchor for a local cable news channel prior to cable news coverage becoming mainstream. Georgia also worked as Coordinator of Conferences and Scheduling of University Activities at Duquesne University, where she also was a member of the Council on Student Services. She worked as a public relations director at Baker Engineers at their Beaver office and as an editor for an environmental engineering magazine. Her work with ICF Kaiser took her to Ostrava, Czech Republic where she documented processes and improvements at Nova Hut, AS, a steel mill. A daughter and grand-

daughter of steel workers, the assignment was especially important to her.

Georgia and her husband Andy, both longtime members of GCU, were among the founding members of Seven Oaks Country Club. Georgia and Andy also served as chairs of the Russian Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh. Her Slovak heritage was very important to her and she maintained traditions of her faith and culture throughout her life, passing these customs on to her children. She published several articles on Slovak Easter and Christmas meal preparation and traditions. She served as a Basilian Lay Associate with The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil and assisted with their annual Day of Reflection in Uniontown, PA.

Georgia is survived by her husband of 59 years, Andrew, a former GCU National Vice President and Board Member; her children Danielle and John; a granddaughter, Linnea and her first cousins who she grew up with and considered sisters, Geraldine, Roberta and Andrea.

Georgia will be remembered for her outgoing nature, intelligence, gener-

osity of spirit, and encouragement of others to always try new things. She spent many hours volunteering at GCU District 1 & 15 events and attending GCU National Conventions as a delegate.

A Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Gregory of Nazianzus Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St. Clair, PA. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery in Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.

PRESENT

THE 66th INTERNATIONAL

GOLF

Tournament

FRIDAY,
AUG 6, 2021
 THRU
SUNDAY,
AUG 8, 2021



@ Treasure Lake
Golf Resort
 DuBois, PA

APPLICATION &
FEE DEADLINE
JULY 9, 2021

USGA 36 Holes
 MEN - 5 FLIGHTS
 WOMEN - 1 FLIGHT

Full Golf Package	Double Occupancy	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>	<u>Hampton Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 295.00	\$ 295.00
Full Golf Package	Single Occupancy	<u>Fairfield</u>	<u>Hampton</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 415.00	\$ 415.00
Golf Only Package	Package Fee:	\$ 130.00	
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 160.00	
Banquet Only	Banquet Fee:	\$ 25.00	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 25.00	
Non-Golf Package	Double Occupancy	\$140.00	\$140.00
	Single Occupancy	\$265.00	\$265.00

All hotel reservations to be made directly through the
 Fairfield Inn & Suites, DuBois, PA, 814-371-2260 or
 Hampton Inn, DuBois, PA, 814-375-1000

Entry Forms and
more information:

GCUusa.com