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CALL: (570) 824-0562

The mission of the Orthodox Christian JOURNAL is to educate the membership of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, to showcase the talents of its membership and, in so doing, to propagate the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith.
The Executive Board and Board of Trustees gathered for productive Spring Board meetings in mid-February at the Sheraton Hershey/Harrisburg, the site of the forthcoming 91st National Convention. A number of positive things are happening around the Fellowship. Our 2017 national events are in the final development stages and future plans extend well into the year 2020. I encourage you to make plans to actively participate and to motivate others to get involved.

With our active season closely approaching, now is a perfect time to focus our efforts on gaining and retaining members. I urge chapters to host an informal gathering to promote the good work of the FOCA and, yes, ask new people to join and former members to renew their membership. At our National Convention in Chicago, Bishop David remarked that the average life span of a charity is only 30 years, and “The fact that the FOCA has been around for 90 shows that it has the right idea.” In order to ensure our continued success, we need to solidify our membership base as well as encourage others to take on a more active leadership role.

Our seminarian assistance programs are still going strong after 17 years. A sincere thank you to those who supported this year’s St. Nicholas Wish List program which provided gifts to 22 families of married seminarians from both St. Tikhon’s and St. Vladimir’s seminaries, as well as sent over $2,000 in gift cards to married students at St. Herman’s. Three parishes are participating in the Adopt a Seminarian program for the current academic year.

As an update on the Married Students Housing Project at St. Tikhon’s Seminary, the proposed location has changed. Since renovating the former school building is no longer considered feasible, an alternate plan was developed to renovate the old orphanage building. This building is not only more conveniently located, but will cost less to renovate.

Lastly, I ask that you support our 2017 charitable efforts. Our St. Andrew’s appeal helps to fund educational scholarships and this year’s Gifts of Love funds will aid in the restoration of St. Nicholas Chapel, which is part of the Holy Assumption Russian Orthodox Church complex in Kenai, Alaska.

May you have a meaningful Lenten Journey and a joyous Pascha!
As I write these notes for the Journal’s winter issue, we in the Northeast are digging out of a mid-March snowstorm with over two feet in some places! Our cover story features St. Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow and Apostle to America, who consecrated several churches in the United States where Fellowship chapters are located. This year marks the 100th anniversary of his election and enthronement, and we carry an excellent summary of his episcopal service by the OCA department of history and archives (the well-known portrait on the front cover is by Victor Shilov). Relatedly, Metropolitan Tikhon led the opening of a special exhibit on the Russian Revolutions of 1917 – “Blood & Soul” at Villanova U. in suburban Philadelphia last month — included are his remarks and an overview — it’s a must see. And His Beatitude was the guest preacher at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, and fittingly he spoke on the mutual work of two American saints: Patriarch Tikhon and Bishop Raphael, who were contemporaries.

The FOCA has long assisted seminarians and their families, and we report on two: the Kolb family at St. Tikhon’s who have been “adopted” by St. Michael’s in Broadview Heights, OH and the Crivella family at St. Vladimir’s who visited St. John’s in Signac, NJ to receive their Christmas gifts — this clearly is among our most worthy projects. In other seminary news, the Fellowship’s own Andrew Nelko, president of St. Tikhon’s Seminary chapter, was ordained to the diaconate in December, and we have a story with photos. Axis! And we cover our executive board’s visit to that seminary where they gave a presentation to the student body.

This year was the 80th edition of the Novogodny Ball long-sponsored by St. Stephen’s OCF outside of Philly and yes, Larry Skvir assures us that the show will go on — Paul Fedoronko, who retired as chair after about 30 years, was rightly honored by Archbishop Mark, President Marge and his own chapter, and we have the details of the celebration, replete with the Mummer’s! Thanks to both Paul & Larry. The New Jersey District promotes the upcoming 91st national convention in Hershey/Harrisburg over Labor Day, and there is a piece on their recent beefsteak fundraiser in Passaic.

Our sports department has just about taken over this issue: we have promos and entry forms for basketball in Weirton, bowling in Baltimore and golf in Bethlehem. Plan to participate now! Leon Sheean, official Journal photog, briefs us on the Ohio District’s annual bowling tourney held in Columbus — thank you. Deadline for scholarships is May 25th and for the Celebration of Faith contest is May 15th — and please contribute to the Gifts of Love project & St. Andrew’s Fund. Details inside. And Matushka Theodora with a drawing from Sophia contribute a pussy-willow activity for Palm Sunday — it’ll be here in no time. There’s more but I’m running out of space. Wishing all a festive Holy Pascha/Easter . . . and, until next time, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

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Through the FOCA’s seminarian support program, Archangel Michael Orthodox Church and its Cleveland “R” Club in Broadview Heights, Ohio, have adopted the Kolb family who are currently at St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. The Fellowship works with the administration at our seminaries to identify families who are in financial need and then connects these families with churches, FOCA chapters, organizations and individuals who volunteer to commit a set amount of monthly financial support. Depending on the level of need, a family may be matched with several donors. Families are ranked in order of financial need and as each family’s needs are met, the family next on the list is matched with remaining donors. This is just one example of the Fellowship’s commitment to our seminaries and the growth of the Orthodox Church. Today’s seminarians are tomorrow’s priests, deacons and church workers!

On behalf of the Kolb family, Seminarian Timothy sent the parish the following thank-you letter and photos:

“Dear Very Rev. John and the Faithful of Archangel Michael Orthodox Church, Father bless! We thank God for you and your generous support. Our family of six greatly appreciates your financial assistance this academic year at St. Tikhon’s Seminary. We are Timothy (41), Elisabeth (41), Tikhon (16), Justice (12), Micah (11) and Emmelia (2), and are from St. Juvenaly and His Companion Orthodox Church in Wasilla, Alaska. We drove 4,500 miles over the course of 21 days in July and August to come to St. Tikhon’s. Wasilla is about 60 minutes north of Anchorage. St. Juvenaly is the second of two Orthodox parishes in Wasilla.

“We moved to Alaska from Michigan in December 2010 and entered the Church just before Pascha 2012. Prior to becoming Orthodox, Timothy was a Lutheran pastor from 2002-2011 serving congregations in Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan and Alaska. Each of our children was born in a different state. Timothy and Elisabeth met while they both attended Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota.

“Timothy is in his first year at seminary. Elisabeth is both a trained secondary education teacher and a certified nursing assistant. Currently, she is a stay-at-home mother and homeschools the children. She is a tutor with the nationwide homeschooling program “Classical Conversations.” Tikhon enjoys learning history and keeping up with current international events. Justice is the builder and the budding computer game programmer in the family. Micah serves in the altar with his dad on Sunday mornings. Emmelia is the princess and the center of attention. We all love the outdoors and enjoy camping together with our Samoyed, which is a good thing because we sure had our fill of it this past summer on our journey to Pennsylvania.

“We presently live in a rental home in Carbondale, but we will be moving at the end of the month to a large farmhouse about a mile from the seminary and monastery. Your continued prayers and support are greatly appreciated. Please know that you are included in our prayers as well. In Christ,

Reader Timothy, Elisabeth, Tikhon, Justice, Micah and Emmelia Kolb

God bless the Kolb family and all those who are supporting them spiritually and financially while they are at St. Tikhon’s!

Editor’s note: Samoyed is “a large breed of herding dog of Siberian origin.”
St. John’s Church & FOCA Chapter in Singac, New Jersey Present Christmas Gifts to the Crivella Seminarian Family

On Sunday, December 18th, St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Singac, NJ had several special visitors. We were honored to welcome the Crivella family from St. Vladimir’s Seminary which was our family for this year’s FOCA Seminarian Christmas Gift Program. Brian, Rose, Sarah, Kate, Irene and 2 week old Helen joined our church for Liturgy and our St. Nicholas Day Celebration. St. Nicholas himself arrived to the children’s voices singing “O Kto Kto” in the church basement after Liturgy.

Our chapter is grateful to Susan Fett and her family who have coordinated the Seminarian Christmas Gift Program for our chapter for many years. We had overwhelming participation from our parishioners. It was especially gratifying for our parishioners to meet the family they generously contributed gifts to.

Our new priest, Fr. Aleksey and his Matushka Natalie Paranyuk suggested inviting the Crivella family to visit our parish to receive their gifts. Fr. Aleksey, Matushka and their three children were recipients of the FOCA Christmas gifts project while attending St. Vladimir’s Seminary and they expressed how joyful and meaningful it was for their family to be recipients of this FOCA project.

Back Row: Fr. Aleksey Paranyuk, Susan Fett, and seminarian Brian Crivella
Front Row: Rose and Irene Crivella, St. Nicholas with baby Helen, Sarah and Kate Crivella
December 18, 2016 - Singac, New Jersey
80th Annual Novogodny Ball

The Tradition Continues???

Sunday, January 15 was a busy day for St. Stephen’s Cathedral and St. Stephen’s OCF (Chapter 82), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The day began at the Cathedral with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop Mark, our diocesan bishop. The service also saw the tonsuring of a reader, Nathan Clausson, and the elevation of our deacon, George Zlatkowski. Following the liturgy, His Eminence blessed the new icons on the iconostasis, all of which had been donated by parishioners. Each donor received a framed photograph of the donated icon to commemorate the occasion.

In the evening, the scene shifted once again to the Trevose Radisson Hotel – Philadelphia Northeast, the venue for the 80th Novogodny Ball. We were favored with good weather for the day, which made traveling to the Ball a breeze, and a good attendance by our friends from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Special thanks to Fr. Dan Kovalak and his group from Williamsport and to our faithful group of friends from St. Mark parish in Bethesda, MD.

This was a different Ball from prior years because Paul Fedoronko, our long-time chairman for most of the 30 years Chapter 82 has hosted the Ball, had previously announced that 2017 would be his final year as chairman. During the first dance intermission, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, pastor of St. Stephen’s, introduced Archbishop Mark who presented Paul with a primatial gramota from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, as well as a gramota from the OCA Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. These awards were presented to Paul on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America and the Diocese to thank him for his years as chairman of the Ball and for the fellowship it has provided for thousands of Orthodox over his chairmanship.

Dance music for the Ball was provided by the Kauriga Orchestra, a long-time supporter of the Ball, which has played great dance music for several generations. Since the 80th Ball was a milestone occasion, during the second intermission our guests were entertained by the Polish-American string band, which showed how Philadelphia rings in the New Year. As usual, the string band revved up the crowd and the dance floor was filled with folks doing the ‘M u m m e r ’s Strut.”
During the third intermission, Paul was honored twice; once by Marge Kovach, FOCA National President, who presented Paul with a thank-you proclamation from the FOCA Executive Board and by Larry Skvir, Chapter 82 President, who presented Paul with a framed picture signed by the chapter members. Lisa Lelo, who has assisted Paul as co-chair for several years, was presented with a floral bouquet to thank her for her work.

At 11:00, the balloons dropped and we officially welcomed in the New Year, albeit two weeks late. At this juncture, Paul would normally thank the orchestra and everyone who attended and tell them we would be looking forward to seeing them in 2018. That was not the case this year and guests were left wondering if this was the final Novogodny Ball since no one was stepping forward to assume the chairmanship.

But fear not!!! At the February meeting of Chapter 82, two of the younger members of the chapter – brothers Andre and Alex Cox – volunteered to chair the 81st Novogodny Ball!

We expect to see everyone who lamented the possible demise of the Ball with us next year. Please ring in 2018 at the Novogodny Ball with your friends.

Submitted by Larry Skvir, President, Chapter 82
FOCA National Executive Board Members Visit St. Tikhon’s Seminary

On December 6, 2016, members of the national executive board of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America visited St. Tikhon’s Seminary in South Canaan, PA. Father Theodore Boback, national spiritual advisor, Marge Kovach, national president, and Allison Steffaro, national vice-president, shared the FOCA’s mission, current work and future plans with seminarians. Archbishop Michael, seminary rector, again thanked the Fellowship for completing a $300,000 pledge to the seminary’s married student housing project during the 18th All-American Council in July 2015. In October 2015, Chapter #121 was re-established at the seminary with Deacon Andrew Nelko serving as president. Since that time, the seminary’s Fellowship chapter has engaged the greater community, including a fundraising dinner held at St. Michael’s Church in Jermyn, PA. Father Steven Voytovich, seminary dean, stated: “Since those who have been serving as the local FOCA chapter’s leadership this past year will be graduating in May, this visitation was timed well to pique the interest of newer students.” The Fellowship’s mission is to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example.

– adapted from St. Tikhon’s Seminary News with photos by Dn. Andrew Nelko

ATTENTION STUDENTS!!!
FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2017 EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is now accepting applications for the following 2017 national scholarships:

* Fred Lewis
* William Fekula
* John Klimkosky
* Nicholas Torsky (engineering students) and
* Mischa Michaelson (seminarians).

Last year $4,000 in national scholarships were distributed by the National Executive Board at the 90th National FOCA Convention in Chicago. Eligible to apply are those entering freshmen or enrolled undergraduate students in a 2-year, 4-year or certificate-granting institution or a seminary. Graduate students are also eligible for scholarship awards as are military academy students. Applying for a national scholarship also renders an applicant eligible for various district scholarships.

To be eligible, one must have been a member from July of the previous year (i.e., July 2016) and the year of application (2017). Sandra Kapelan, FOCA national administrative secretary, serves as scholarship program administrator. Full details and the application form are available on the FOCA website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org: look for the “SCHOLARSHIPS” link at the top of the home page, 2nd from the right. An application may also be obtained from the National FOCA Office by calling Sandy at (570) 824-0562 or by emailing her at orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com. This year’s deadline is May 25th. Applications must be post-marked on or before that date. Apply now!
In 2017, we mark the centennial anniversary of the tumultuous events that would radically alter the historical course of the Orthodox Church throughout the world, particularly in Russia and North America. The main cataclysmic event that precipitated these changes was the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in late 1917.

The key historical figure for Church life in both North America and Russia at this time was Saint Tikhon, Patriarch and Confessor of Moscow, Enlightener of North America. During his archpastorate in North America from 1898 to 1907, he tirelessly traveled throughout the continent and always made time to meet with local clergy and laity to discuss the most pressing issues of Church life. Out of these gatherings arose the idea of an assembly of clergy and laity from throughout the North American diocese. Held in 1907, this assembly, which would later become known as the First All-American Church Sobor (Council), focused its deliberations on the theme "How to Expand the Mission" and made crucial decisions regarding the administration. This Council was the prototype for the All-American Councils, which continue to be regularly convened as the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Orthodox Church in America. Saint Tikhon also laid out a vision for a locally, administratively united, autocephalous Orthodox Church in America ministering to all ethnicities. For a decade after Saint Tikhon's departure to Russia, it was only the Russian Church that continued to have hierarchs residing in North America. It was, in part, the events of 1917 in Russia that led to the appointment of an archbishop in America, in an address to the Local Council of North America and provided fatherly direction to the North American Church to the extent that circumstances would allow.

After leaving America, Saint Tikhon led the ancient Diocese of Yaroslavl for nearly seven years before he was transferred to Vilnius, Lithuania. After the fall of the Czarist Regime in early 1917, the election of diocesan hierarchs by dioceses was instituted; up to that point, hierarchs were appointed by the Czar upon the recommendation of the Synod. Saint Tikhon, then residing in Moscow after evacuation from Lithuania due to the ravages of World War I, was elected Archbishop of Moscow by a diocesan assembly in June 1917. He was raised to the dignity of Metropolitan in August of that year at the opening of the All-Russian Church Council, which was finally able to convene. This Council had been in preparation for more than a decade, but its convocation was opposed by the Czarist regime. Saint Tikhon was elected chairman of the Council. The most important decision of the Council was the restoration of the patriarchal system of Church governance that had been abolished by Czar Peter the Great two centuries earlier. Saint Tikhon was elected by lot on November 5/18, 1917 to be the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus and was enthroned on November 21/December 4. By then, the Bolsheviks had toppled the moderate provisional government and seized power. Saint Tikhon and the Russian Orthodox Church were soon faced with unspallable persecution by the new government. He humbly endured the oppression of the Church, but guided it through all difficulties with grace, dignity, and wisdom. Although most of the groundbreaking decisions of the All-Russian Council to restructure many elements of Church governance could not be implemented in Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution, the spirit of these decisions continues to influence the structure of Church life within the Orthodox Church in America.

The events of 1917 also would soon create dire consequences for the Church in North America. Communication between the North American Church and Church authorities in Russia became extremely difficult, and even impossible. Funding for the Church in North America from Russia was cut off. The North American Church was left to govern itself. The Second All-American Sobor was convened in 1919 to elect a new ruling hierarch for the North American Diocese. This election of Archbishop Alexander [Nemolovsky] was subsequently confirmed by Saint Tikhon, as was the election of Metropolitan Platon [Rozhdestvensky] three years later. Saint Tikhon continued to take a keen interest in the life of his former diocese in North America and provided fatherly direction to the North American Church to the extent that circumstances would allow.

The oppressive burdens of patriarchal ministry under the totalitarian Soviet regime undermined the health of Saint Tikhon, and he reposed in the Lord at the age of 60 on March 25/April 7, 1925. It is significant to note that despite controversies and divisions that enveloped the Church in the 20th century, Saint Tikhon was the one unifying figure who was considered irreproachable; he was respected and venerated by all sides. He was glorified among the saints by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) in 1981. During the Millennium celebrations of the Russian Orthodox Church held in Mosoc in 1988, Metropolitan Theodosius, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, in an address to the Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church, urged the Russian Church to officially recognize Patriarch Tikhon as a saint. Some in Russia, including hierarchs, criticized Metropolitan Theodosius for this public pronouncement, because they felt that the mere mention at that time of the possible glorification of Saint Tikhon by the Moscow Patriarchate could be perilous for the Church in the Soviet Union. However, less than 18 months later—in October 1989—conditions for the Church in Russia had changed and Saint Tikhon's glorification took place in Moscow.

May the example of Saint Tikhon's holy life and vision continue to guide the Church in the 21st century.

O Holy Father Tikhon, pray unto God for us!
On February 8, 2017 – a spring-like day – Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a memorial service for the victims of the 1917 Russian Revolutions and their aftermath, and then delivered opening remarks for a major exhibit at Villanova University in suburban Philadelphia, PA. Entitled “Blood & Soul: The Russian Revolutions of 1917,” the exhibit marks the two separate revolutions in Russia 100 years ago: the February revolution, when Tsar Nicholas II abdicated and the Provisional Government was formed, and the October revolution, when the Bolsheviks forcibly overthrew the Provisional Government, when the Bolsheviks forcibly overthrew the Provisional Government, the two separate revolutions in Russia 100 years ago: the February revolution, when Tsar Nicholas II abdicated and the Provisional Government was formed, and the October revolution, when the Bolsheviks forcibly overthrew the Provisional Government, the two separate revolutions in Russia 100 years ago: the February revolution, when Tsar Nicholas II abdicated and the Provisional Government was formed, and the October revolution, when the Bolsheviks forcibly overthrew the Provisional Government, when the Bolsheviks forcibly overthrew the Provisional Government, when the Bolsheviks forcibly overthrew the Provisional Government.

The memorial was celebrated in Villanova’s Corr Hall Chapel. His Beatitude was assisted by Father John Perich, co-curator of the exhibit, and Fathers Steven Hutnik, president of the Philadelphia Clergy Brotherhood, Daniel Ressetar, Dennis Bradley, Martin Browne, Nicholas Solak, James Weremedic, Timothy Hojnicki and Eric George Tosi. Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak also served. Liturgical responses were sung by a joint choir of seminarians from St. Tikhon’s Seminary and St. Vladimir’s Seminary under the direction of Christopher Rakowski of St. Vladimir’s. After the service, participants venerated the Imperial Icon of the Feodorovskaya Mother of God.

In his opening remarks at the university’s Falvey Memorial Library, Metropolitan Tikhon reflected on the life and ministry of St. Patriarch Tikhon during his years as bishop in North America and upon his return to Russia in 1907: “I would like to express my thanks to the University of Villanova for the invitation to participate in the opening ceremonies of this exhibition... This is not the first time that this fine institution has taken the initiative to address topics of such historical significance, especially those relating to the Christian Churches sojourning in those historical contexts. In particular, we are grateful to all those associated with the Falvey Memorial Library and the Russian Area Studies Program for their efforts in co-sponsoring this exhibit and a special thanks to Archpriest John Perich, who is curating a large portion of this exhibit and has provided many relevant archival and historical items from his own collection and from the Metropolitan Museum which is located at St. Tikhon’s Monastery in South Canaan, PA. This exhibit is taking place in this year when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the enthronement of St. Tikhon, the first patriarch of the restored Patriarchate of Moscow and All Russia, which had been abolished for two hundred years, since the time of Peter the Great. Even in the midst of the turmoil of the 1917 revolutions, and perhaps precisely because of the confusion that reigned in Russia at the time, the Orthodox Church saw fit to restore this ancient position of Patriarch, and by God’s providence, St. Tikhon was elected to fill it. Before he became [patriarch], St. Tikhon was a great missionary of the Orthodox Church in our lands and is now known as the Enlightener of North America. One of his greatest accomplishments was the founding of the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk.”

The exhibit includes a number of St. Tikhon’s personal items, including his family icon, vestments, relics from Moscow’s Donskoy Monastery, a signed granota and other items related to his tenure as bishop in North America. Also on display are period costumes, vestments, newspapers, flyers, books, jewelry (including Fabergé pieces), toy soldiers, military and imperial insignia, and icons. “The Russian Revolutions of 1917... enacted on the grandest stage possible the implementation of Marx’s philosophical scientific atheism, first by intimidation and then by raw terror,” reads the exhibit’s vision statement. “This exhibit instructionally portrays the secularization process by which the politically motivated Bolsheviks sought to replace the prior monarchist, divine right, religiously founded culture of Russia with the Marxist/Leninist utopian worldview possessing its own ‘salvation’ incentives, cultural expressions (calendar of holidays, artwork, clothing styles, service decorations, etc.) and communist order. But, as the Commissar of Enlightenment intimated in 1928, ‘Religion is like a sharp nail; the harder you hit it, the deeper it goes.’ The exhibit runs through September 1st with several lectures and presentations during its course. For updates, visit https://library.villanova.edu/ and enter “Blood and Soul” in the search engine.

— adapted from oca.org with photos
2017 Gifts of Love Project: St. Nicholas Chapel in Kenai, Alaska

This year’s project will raise funds to repair and restore the St. Nicholas Chapel, which is part of the Holy Assumption Russian Orthodox Church complex in Kenai, Alaska. This church is one of the oldest in Alaska – completed in 1896 – and the entire complex (church, chapel, rectory and cemetery) was declared a National Historical Landmark in 1970. As we reported in the last issue of the Journal, this chapel was built over the graves of Father Nikolai Militov, a Russian monk who served the parish under St. Innocent, his assistant and reader Markari Ivanov, and an unknown monk as a memorial to their heroic deeds in saving hundreds of lives of the Dena’ina people from smallpox by inoculation. It is across the street from the church overlooking the confluence of the Kenai River and Cook Inlet.

St. Nicholas Chapel unfortunately is in urgent need of repairs and restoration. Please consider donating to this most worthy cause and help preserve the Russian Orthodox legacy in Alaska for many years to come! Contributions may be made online at www.orthodoxfellowship.org (look for the “OUTREACH” link on the home page, 3rd from the right, and click on “Gifts of Love” from the drop-down box) or send a check payable to “FOCA” to our national treasurer, Michael Bowen, 2100 Lincoln Park East, #9ES, Chicago, IL 60614-4713 (note “Gifts of Love” in the memo). We hope to make a generous gift to Bishop David and the Diocese of Alaska at this year’s national convention in Harrisburg/Hershey.

New Jersey District’s Beefsteak Fundraiser Dinner in Passaic

On Saturday, February 11th, the Fellowship’s New Jersey District held its annual beefsteak dinner at the Saints Peter and Paul Cultural Center in Passaic. According to Wikipedia, “a beefsteak is a type of banquet in which sliced beef tenderloin is served to diners as all-you-can-eat finger food. The dining style originated in 19th-century New York City as a type of working-class celebration...” The dinner, together with an auction for donated prizes, raised funds for the benefit of the charities supported by the district.
Friday, September 1:
“Sweet Temptations in Candy…Land”

Pass on dessert at your choice location for dinner and come and have dessert with us. We’ll have a contest in the Candyland game theme as competitors will decorate a piece of candy (or maybe themselves as candy) as they play our version of the board game for prizes. Come, root on the participants and enjoy our Viennese Table of desserts.

Saturday, September 2:
Tamburitzan’s… Sweet”

The world famous Tamburitzan’s will be providing the evening’s entertainment at the hotel in theatre-style seating. The troupe is celebrating their 80th season of providing music and dance celebrating cultural heritage. They have performed all over the United States, Canada and toured in Europe. Check out their web-site at www.thetamburitzans.org for more information on the group.

Sunday, September 3:

Join us in prayer at Divine Liturgy at the hotel. The banquet and dance, “Fantastic Fare and Sweet Sounds” will be held in the evening, also at the hotel. Kindly check out the FOCA web-site periodically for convention planning updates.
Ohio District Holds Yearly Bowling Tournament in Columbus

On Saturday, February 11th, bowlers from around the Ohio District gathered in that state’s capital city of Columbus for their annual bowling tournament. The tournament was sponsored by the Cap City “O” Club of Columbus, who served as the very gracious hosts for the day. After bowling, vespers was served at St. Gregory Orthodox Church in Columbus followed by a delicious banquet. Prizes were awarded after dinner. District members were very pleased to welcome their new district spiritual advisor, Father Nicholas Wyslutsky (Chapter #20/32, Akron) and his entire family to the event. Thanks again Cap City for the fellowship!

– submitted with photos by Leon Sheean, Journal photographer
On March 5, 2017, Metropolitan Joseph, leader of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, hosted Metropolitan Tikhon and other clergy at the annual Pan-Orthodox Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY. More than 40 bishops, priests and deacons from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, Orthodox Church in America, the host diocese and other Orthodox jurisdictions participated, including Archbishop Michael of New York (OCA) and Bishop John of Worcester (ADCA), as well as laity who filled the cathedral in a sign of our unity of faith. The “Spirit of Orthodoxy” choir from the New York area led by Aleksei Shipovalenikov and a Byzantine choir led by cathedral chanter Fadi Bevaiana sang the responses.

Metropolitan Tikhon, in his guest homily, recounted the history of Saints Raphael of Brooklyn and Tikhon of Moscow, reminding the faithful that just as they gathered to celebrate their common Orthodox Christian faith more than 100 years ago, again tonight in this historic cathedral we were gathering to do the same thing. When Bishop Tikhon first arrived in New York City in 1898, “he found a vibrant and ethnically mixed community of Orthodox that came to greet him as he got off the boat in Manhattan, and it was Russian and Arabic that dominated his first days in New York. The senior Orthodox priest in New York at the time was Archimandrite Raphael Hlawawen, who therefore had a leading role in greeting the new bishop, leading him from place to place and from service to service. During the next few days, Archbishop Tikhon encountered two other leading clergy, who in addition to Father Raphael, would in later years be canonized as saints: Father Alexis (Toth)... and Father Alexander Hotovitzsky, who built the Russian Orthodox Saint Nicholas Cathedral on 97th Street and was later martyred in the Soviet Gulag under Stalin.” (Editor’s note: Archbishop Tikhon would consecrate Father Raphael as bishop in 1904, the first Orthodox episcopal consecration in North America.)

“As we celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy, and reflect upon the blessings and struggles of the past,” His Beatitude continued, “let us be inspired by the true icons of the Kingdom, Saint Tikhon and Saint Raphael, who remind us to be grateful to our merciful God for the gift of one another and for the freedom to witness to the Orthodox Faith, which has been proclaimed in North America for more than 200 years. When the Russian Orthodox missionary monks arrived in Alaska from Valaam Monastery in 1794, the seeds of Orthodox witness were planted on this continent. These seeds have grown over the decades of the 19th and 20th centuries. Descendants of the Alaskan native peoples are today faithful Orthodox Christians. The immigrant communities of Orthodox people from the Middle East, the Balkans and Eastern Europe are now Americans. The numerous converts to Orthodoxy are a major presence in our Churches, with many serving as bishops, priests and deacons. We see Orthodox dioceses and parishes, monasteries and theological schools, organizations and agencies for education and charity, media ministries, prison ministries and campus ministries, as well as the publication of books and journals for the edification of Orthodox Christians and for outreach to all Americans.”

Vladyka Tikhon concluded: “By God’s grace, all of these accomplishments have been achieved through the various Orthodox Churches in North America and by the dedication and initiative of Orthodox Christian men and women of vision. We are grateful for what has been accomplished and are also mindful of the task still before us, with all its challenges and obstacles. Our proclamation of the Orthodox Faith must give priority to the proclamation of the Good News of Christ. What we are given in the treasury of the Orthodox Faith is not intended to be an end in itself, but rather as a witness to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. This is true about the holy icons, which are not ends in themselves but windows into the Kingdom of God. This is true about Orthodox theology, which is not an end in itself but rather a guide to communion with God. Our faith, our icons, our theology, all the gifts we have been given as a great treasury, are means for us to acquire a new and iconic way of seeing and of living.”

– adapted from antiochian.org and oca.org with photos
**FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA**  
**78th ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

**NET & HANDICAPPED** - Open to FOCA Members and all Orthodox Christians  
**May 5-6, 2017**; **Banquet Sat., May 6 at Saint Andrew Church Hall following Vespers**  
**Reservations**: Hampton Inn, 8225 Town Center Drive, Baltimore (White Marsh) MD, 21236  
**RATE**: $139 per night – Reference FOCA Bowling for rate – Firm Deadline of April 5, 2017  
**Sponsored by**: VLADICON “O” Club, Chapter 131  
For Information Contact: Roxanne Yaroshевич (Chair); (410) 276-3422; rmyaro@gmail.com

**AMF Country Club Lanes, 9020 Pulaski Highway, Middle River, MD 21220; (410) 686-2556**

**Banquet**: Sr. $40 / Jr. $25 (Jr. participants covered by the John Sutyak Fund)  
**PRIZE FEE RETURNED** – 100%; All entrants must buy Banquet Ticket

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**TOURNAMENT RULES – PLEASE READ**

1. USBC rules will prevail throughout the operation of this tournament as will the FOCA sports rules.
2. No person may bowl more than once.
3. The winners of each event will be proclaimed National FOCA Champions and shall receive trophies and cash in net and handicap divisions.
4. Failure to report for bowling at a designated time will be cause to forfeit all entry fees and be eliminated from tournament.
5. Use current USBC average as of April 1, 2017. A bowler bowling in more than one league must use his or her highest league average regardless of the fact that her may participate in this tournament with the team from the league in which his or her average is lowest. (Minimum of 18 games). If a bowler has no average for this season, he is permitted to use average and further, if he has no average for either, then he is permitted to use the previous year’s concluded average “14-15. Those bowlers not having an established average are permitted to enter at an average of 160 for Men, 125 for Women. Bowlers need to be familiar with average adjustment requirements of USBC Rule 319e.
6. Handicap will be 70% between average and 200 for men and 190 for women.
7. Failure to use proper average or make a correction prior to completion of first game of a series shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than actual average or base winnings on submitted average if it is higher.
8. All bowlers must report to alleys at least 1/2 hour before schedules bowling time.
9. Substitutes may be used if their name appears on entry blank.
10. Violation of above rules by team or bowler will subject the same to a one year suspension from FOCA tournaments.
11. Prize Ratio will be at least one prize for each five entries in each event, except All Events which may be 1-10. (USBC Rule 308 requires at least one of each ten for each event and 1-20 for All Events.)

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**TEAM** – Friday, 6:30 PM  
**DOUBLES** – Saturday, 10:00 AM  
**SINGLES** – Saturday, 12:30 PM

I CERTIFY that the people listed on this entry form are FOCA members or Orthodox Christians.  
I CERTIFY that the averages indicated are accurate and that any discrepancies in the averages will result in **DISQUALIFICATION**.

Applicant Signature

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 5, 2016**  
Make all checks payable to:  
**VLADICON “O” Club**  
**LATE ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED**  

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Send Banquet Ticket Order Form and Entry Form along with Fees To:
St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Fellowship
c/o John Schultz
11 Ralston Lane
Weirton, WV 26062
Focaball17@gmail.com
Questions about tournament play or rosters, contact Melanie Clark,
Nat'l Sports Director
My3sons831@hotmail.com or 330-398-3700

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2017 NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
Open to FOCA Members and all Orthodox Christians
April 28-30, 2017
Sponsored by:
Weirton Orthodox Christian Fellowship - FOCA Chapter #58
For Information Contact: John Schultz:
Focaball17@gmail.com or 304-479-5071/304-748-1223
All entrants must buy Banquet Ticket
Sr. $40 – Jr. $35
(FOCA Junior member participant banquet ticket covered by the John Sutay Fund)

Lodging:
Holiday Inn - Weirton
350 Three Springs Drive, Weirton, WV 26062
Call 304-723-5522
Reservation code: OBB
Room Rate $107.00
Hotel Deadline (FIRM) is April 1, 2017
Alternate Lodging:
Fairfield Inn – Weirton ~ 304-723-0088
Rate: $99.00 ~ Deadline: March 27, 2017
Code: Orthodox Church Basketball Tournament

|-------------|-------------|---------|---------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|

Submit separate entry forms and fees for each division

Team Name __________________________________________ District/Orthodox Parish ______________________ Chapter No. _______ Coach/Mgr ______________________
Address __________________________________________ City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______

E-Mail __________________________________________ Phone (_______) ________________________________

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<th>Player’s Name (player may only be on one roster)</th>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>FOCA Member Y/N</th>
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COACH SIGNATURE:

New Grade Cutoffs:
8th and Under – Bantams
9th to 12th – Junior
Post 12th – Senior/Women
Age 35 & up – Super Seniors

Entry form Deadline APRIL 15, 2017

**Games will be played at Independence Fieldhouse

**The FOCA sponsoring chapter cannot take responsibility for any accident to, from, and during the Tournament.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Weirton “O” Club

Entry Fee - $100 per team…………………………... $ ____________
Make-Up Team Fee - $15 per person ………………... $ ____________
Late Fee: $15.00 after April 15, 2017 ……………… $ ____________
TOTAL…………………………………………………………... $ ____________
FOCA Summer Sports Tournament
2017
Annual Golf Outing

Hosted by St. John's Senior "O" Club
Chapter #212, Alpha, NJ

Friday & Saturday - July 7th & 8th
Starting Tee Times: 10 A.M. - Both Days

Green Pond Country Club
Bethlehem, PA

Check it out @ www.greenpondcc.com

Play both days for $120
Includes: Green Fees, Cart, and prizes

(All Orthodox Welcome - foursomes, singles, men, ladies, & youth)

Banquet for golfers & non-golfers to follow Saturday's round at Green Pond Country Club.
Approx. Start Time: 4:00 P.M.

Hotel accommodations will be at the View Inn & Suites
3191 Highfield Drive
Bethlehem PA

$80/night - Deadline is June 8, 2017
610 865 6300 Code: FOCA Summer Sports

If you have any questions or want additional information - Contact Gary (267 -347 - 3020)

Entry Forms and Ad Forms are available at www.orthodoxfellowship.org
SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
Anthony Schultz
4877 Founders Dr.
Groveport OH 43125
(614) 830-0492
anthpschultz@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2017 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT
July 7-8, 2017
Sponsored by: St. John’s Sr. “O” Club, Alpha, NJ
Chairpersons: Gary Leło (215-538-5321) and Frank Beruta (908 – 319 – 3443)
Open to all FOCA/Orthodox Christians
All Saturday entrants must purchase Banquet Ticket
Junior participants covered by the Sutyak Fund

DEADLINES
Hotel Reservations Deadline
June 8, 2017
**AFTER THIS DATE, BOTH
THE ROOMS & RATES MAY
NOT BE AVAILABLE

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<th>Name</th>
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Please Read
TOURNAMENT RULES- General Golf Rules
1) Rules on score card will be followed
2) Special rules will be given before tee-off
3) All FOCA and District rules will be followed
4) Golfers will be flighted by Handicap or Age depending on the number of entries.

Prizes will be based on number of entries.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I will abide by all the sports rules of the FOCA

Applicant Signature

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make all checks payable to St. John’s Sr. “O” Club
Include Banquet Tickets for each name listed on this form.

Housing
The View Inn & Suites
3191 Highfield Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18020
Phone: 610 - 865 – 6300
Rate is $80 per night

Reservation code: FOCA Summer Sports Deadline: June 8, 2017

GOLFING
Green Pond Country Club – 3604 Farmersville Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18020
www.greenpondcc.com Phone: 610 – 691 – 9453
Tee Time will begin at 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday
Banquet immediately following golf at Green Pond Country Club (Approx: 4 p.m.)
2017 National FOCA Basketball
A Wild and Wonderful Tournament
April 28-30, 2017 ~ Weirton, West Virginia

It’s time to start planning to travel to “Almost Heaven” West Virginia and the Tri-state Area where you will have a Wild and Wonderful time at the National Basketball Tournament.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Our Primary Hotel will be the:
Holiday Inn - Weirton
350 Three Springs Drive, Weirton, WV 26062
Call 304-723-5522
Reservation code: OBB • Room Rate $107.00
Hotel Deadline (FIRM) is April 1, 2017

There are also a limited number of rooms at:
Fairfield Inn – Weirton ~ 304-723-0088
Rate: $99.00 ~ Deadline: March 27, 2017
Code: Orthodox Church Basketball Tournament

BASKETBALL
The games will be played across the Ohio River at Steubenville High School.

FOR INFORMATION
John Schultz
304-479-5071 (cell) or 304-748-1223 (home)
Focabball17@gmail.com
See more information on: FOCA Website: orthodoxfellowship.org

FRIDAY NIGHT
Participants will enjoy an evening of fun, food, and games on the grounds of St. Nicholas Church.

BANQUET
The Banquet and Dance will be Saturday immediately following Vespers. It will be held down the road in Pennsylvania at the Pepsi Roadhouse. The evening will feature a buffet meal and a fun-filled dance.

LITURGICAL SERVICES
Vespers will be served at 5:30 pm at St. Nicholas Church a few minutes from the hotel.

 Divine Liturgy will be Sunday morning at 9:30 am and will be celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop MELCHISED Eck.

SUNDAY BRUNCH
Will be served at St. Nicholas Fellowship Hall attached to the Church.

ADS AND SPONSORSHIPS
See FOCA Website: orthodoxfellowship.org

78th Annual FOCA National Bowling Tournament
May 5-7, 2017 ~ Baltimore, Maryland

You are invited to join the 78th National FOCA Bowling tournament sponsored by Vladicon “O” Club, Chapter 131, Baltimore, Maryland from May 5 - 7, 2017. The tournament for 2017 will be headquartered at:

BOWLING:
Country Club Lanes, 9020 Pulaski Highway, Middle River, Maryland 21220

HOTEL:
Book by April 5th: You can call 1-800-HAMPTON to make reservations by referring to the group code: FOC. The hotel is Hampton Inn Baltimore/White Marsh, 8225 Iown Center Dr . Baltimore, Maryland 21236. Or you can use the web address: http://l iamptoninn.liilton.com/en/l1p/groups/pcrsonal- ized/l3/BALWMMHX-FOC- 20170505/index.jhtml?WT.mc.id-POG

Junior Bowling will be held on Saturday, May 6 beginning at 12:00 PM. Junior must be registered with Roxanne Y aroshevich. Junior participants will be paid for by the Sutyak Sports Fund.

Great Vespers will be celebrated at Saint Andrew Orthodox Church at 5:00 PM on Saturday. Following Vespers the banquet will be held in Saint Andrew Hall. Saturday Banquet prices are: $40.00 adult and $25.00 for junior. For non bowler reservations and junior tickets, please call or email Roxanne Y aroshevich at rmyaro@gmail.com.

Please email completed registration form not later than April 5, 2017 to Roxanne Yaroshevich. Please complete the ad book information and return to Sue Stratton not later than April 12, 2017. NO!E: Please indicate when submitting your registration form if any of the banquet attendees require a vegetarian dinner.

See you at the COUNTRY CLUB LANES!
Transitions: Winter 2017

DEPARTED: Margaret Boldish, 97, passed away at her home on December 19, 2016 in Sharpsville, PA. Born in Blacklick, she was a graduate of Sharpsville High School and married Michael Boldish in 1946; he died in 1998. Margaret enjoyed knitting, crotchetting, reading and doing all kinds of puzzles, including crosswords. She was an active member of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Campbell, OH, where she was its oldest member, and its Ladies Altar Society, the sisterhood and “O” Club. Survivors include daughter Nancy Tusinac (Ronald), sons Michael (Patricia) and Stephen (Christina), sister Johanna Wagner (Jim), grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at her church with burial in the parish cemetery. May Margaret’s memory be eternal!

Dr. Andrew Keith Massey, Ph.D. Ordained to the Holy Diaconate
On Sunday, January 8, 2017, the Most Reverend John, Bishop of Naro-Fominsk and administrator of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchal Churches of America, ordained Dr. Andrew Keith Massey to the holy diaconate. His ordination took place during the Divine Liturgy celebrated at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral on 97th Street in New York City. Father Deacon Dr. Massey has been assigned to serve at Holy Cross Russian Orthodox Church in Hackettstown, NJ, which has a Fellowship chapter known as the Hackettstown “O” Club. We congratulate Father Deacon Andrew and Preoteasa (Matushka) Adrianna Massey and wish them many, many years — Mnogaya Leta!

— submitted by Dorothy Young, secretary, Hackettstown “O” Club

Matushka Juliana Schmemann Reposes in the Lord
Matushka Juliana Schmemann, 93, wife of the late Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann, lifelong educator in New York girls’ schools and former headmistress of the Spence School in Manhattan, fell asleep in the Lord at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale, NY on January 29, 2017. She was born in 1923 to a family of White Russian émigrés, the Ossorguine’s, in Baden-Baden, Germany, where they had moved after the Russian Revolution. Her son, Serge Schmemann, a member of the New York Times editorial board and for many years a foreign correspondent and a winner of the Pulitzer Prize, wrote a book, “Echoes of a Native Land,” tracing 200 years of Russian history through the former Ossorguine family estate south of Moscow. Her family soon moved to Paris where she was educated. In 1943 she married Alexander Schmemann, who was subsequently ordained to the priesthood and became a widely-acclaimed theologian and writer. They moved to New York in 1951 where she began a long teaching career at the Chapin School, the Spence School and the Brearley School. Father Alexander was first professor of liturgical theology at St. Vladimir’s Seminary, now in Yonkers, NY, and became dean in 1962, a position he held until his death in 1983.

Matushka Juliana is warmly remembered by generations of women whom she taught French and Russian, and to whom she was always “Madame Schmemann.”

The French government awarded her the Palme d’Argent medal for service to French culture. In retirement, Matushka Juliana was active in church affairs and wrote two books, “My Journey with Father Alexander,” and “The Joy to Serve,” which discussed the challenges of being an Orthodox Christian in the modern world. She also traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada lecturing to women’s groups. She is survived by three children: Matushka Anne Hopko (late Father Thomas), Serge and Matushka Mary (Father John) Tkachuk; 9 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; and her sister, Sophie Ozerov. Funeral services and the Divine Liturgy were celebrated at Holy Trinity Church in Yonkers led by Metropolitan Tikhon and assisted by many clergy. Later, a panikhida was celebrated by Father David Cowan and other clergy at St. Tikhon’s Monastery Church in South Canaan, PA with interment next to her beloved husband in the cemetery. May Matushka Juliana’s memory be eternal!

— adapted from oca.org with photo

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL • Winter 2017
Paschal Greetings for 2017

The Orthoadox Christian Journal thanks those individuals and groups who support our publication through their patron ad listings. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Central Pennsylvania District
Harrisburg “O” Club, #199
St. John’s Sr. “O” Club, #212
Gary and Pat Lelo, #212
Walter C. Alesevich, Esq., #79
Trenton “R” Club, #78
Paul and Betty Kavchok, #78
Henry Pishko, #2/9

St. Gregory Palamas “O” Club, #246
Cleveland “R” Club, #4/6
Melissa Tesar, Ohio District Governor
Becky Tesar, Immediate Past President
Nicholas D. Ressetar, Journal Editor
Passaic “O” Club, #66
Phoenician “O” Club, #219

2016 NATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

We found it! This is the winning photo of Andrea Davies in the 45 age plus category from last year’s national photo contest held at the 90th annual convention in Chicago. The theme of the contest was “God’s Creations: Nature.” The other winner was Becky Tesar whose photo appeared in the last Journal. Congratulations to both Andrea and Becky and thanks again to Samantha Exler for conducting the contest!

FOCA CALENDAR 2017

Sun. April 16: HOLY PASCHA
April 28-30: National Basketball Tournament, Weirton, WV sponsored by the Weirton OCF Chapter
May 5-7: National Bowling Tournament, Baltimore, MD sponsored by the Vladicon “O” Club
May 13-20: Alaska Cruise to benefit the 2017 Gifts of Love project
May 15: Deadline for entries for 2017 Celebration of Faith arts contest
May 25: Deadline to apply for national FOCA scholarships
May 26-29: Annual Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, PA
July 7 & 8: National Summer Sports Tournament, Bethlehem, PA sponsored by the St. John’s Senior “O” Club, Alpha, NJ
July 9-15: Junior Olympics, St. Vladimir Camp & Retreat Center, Farmdale, OH
September 1-4: 91st National FOCA Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Hershey/Harrisburg, PA sponsored by the New Jersey District

For updates and detailed info, visit www.orthodoxfellowship.org
On Palm Sunday in Orthodox Churches, palm and pussy willow branches are blessed by the priest in memory of Jesus Christ’s entry into Jerusalem where he was met by many people carrying palm branches and crying out: “Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!” Because many of our ancestors come from countries where it is not warm enough for palm trees to grow, they cut down pussy willow branches which are the first to blossom in the spring. The pussy willow “flowers” look like catkins because they resemble tiny kittens climbing up on a branch.

You can trace these branches and glue little bits of cotton on the flowers. With a pink marker, make a dot of color on the bottom of the catkins. Palm Sunday this year will be celebrated on Sunday, April 9th, the Sunday before Pascha (Easter). Western Christians also will be celebrating Easter on the same Sunday as we are, April 16th. It is a pious custom to take the blessed palm and pussy willow branches home and to place them behind the icons in your house; the old ones should be burned outside in a safe place.
Calling all Orthodox youth to celebrate your faith and participate in the………..

2017 Celebration of Faith

The Topic:
(Luke 10:29) “Who is my neighbor?”

The Task: Create and submit a project in any of the following areas:
Literature • Musical Composition • Photography • Visual Arts

Participants are encouraged to refer to The Parable of the Good Samaritan to get a better feel for the topic.

A detailed list of rules for each category and the entry form may be found on the FOCA website in the Juniors Section under Celebration of Faith:

www.orthodoxfellowship.org

Deadline for entries is May 15, 2017

Mail entries to: F.O.C.A. Celebration of Faith
c/o Danielle Kovach • 8 Ginesi Drive • Clark, NJ 07066
dkovach517@aol.com

All entries will be displayed and awards will be presented at the F.O.C.A. National Convention in Hershey, PA from September 1-4, 2017.

This contest is sponsored by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.) and is open to all youth who are communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America.