FELLOWSHIP’S NATIONAL SPORTS TOURNEYS:

BASKETBALL IN WEIRTON

BOWLING IN BALTIMORE

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Back Cover: Calling All Kids to Hersheypark to Participate in the 2nd Annual Youth Council

Visit Our Website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org
PRESIDENT’S COMMENTARY

Marge Kovach
43rd National FOCA President

Some consider it a reunion of “my Church friends” and others refer to it as a chance to see “my Orthodox family.” Regardless of how you describe it, members of the FOCA are willing to spend precious hours raising funds and traveling considerable distances to participate in tournaments, conventions, camps, and other events simply because it means that much. Yes, it is what the FOCA is all about; it is coming together with other Orthodox Christians and sharing in fellowship, worship, and service to others and the FOCA annual spring tournaments didn’t disappoint.

The Weirton Orthodox Christian Fellowship hosted the National Basketball Tournament complete with spirited competition, fellowship, and worship. Basketball players and cheering fans of all ages traveled from as far away as Minneapolis to participate in a tri-state event with hotel accommodations in West Virginia, basketball courts in Ohio, and a banquet/dance in Pennsylvania. Worship services on Saturday evening and Sunday morning were truly inspirational with a choir, full of FOCA members, joyously singing the Liturgical Hymns of the Paschal season with Archbishop Melchisedek celebrating the Liturgy. It was also special to have St. Nicholas’s future rector, Fr. Andrew Nelko on hand for the weekend. Fr. Nelko, President of the FOCA Chapter at St. Tikhon’s Seminary, as well as an FOCA scholarship recipient, was assigned to the parish following graduation from seminary a few weeks later.

The following weekend, members of the Vladicon “O” Club graciously hosted the National Bowling tournament in Baltimore, Maryland. Bowlers of all ages and skill levels had a wonderful time coming together for singles, doubles, and team bowling. A host of prizes were distributed at the banquet which followed Vespers on Saturday evening. The weekend culminated with Metropolitan Tikhon celebrating Sunday’s hierarchal Divine Liturgy and the ordination of chapter vice president James Magruder to the deaconate.

Historically, FOCA members have also been extremely active in the Church serving as choir members, choir directors, parish council members, Sunday school teachers, clergy and hierarchs. Father Andrew and Deacon James are continuing this faithful tradition.

Lastly, I hope you will be one of those faithful who plan to experience it at the 91st National FOCA Convention over Labor Day weekend in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Conventions are much more than meetings for delegates. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the weekend of social events and liturgical services. Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you in Hershey!
Welcome to the latest issue of your Orthodox Christian Journal, now in its 91st consecutive year of publication! As you can tell by the front cover, this is the annual sports edition. Competitive athletics has long been an integral part of the Fellowship, and sportsmanship was on display this spring as Weirton hosted the basketball tournament and Baltimore the bowling tournament. As Michele Janiszewski points out in her story, not only was this Weirton’s first ever national FOCA event but the first to have taken place in 3 different states! She brings us the details, the scores, champs & all stars and our photog Leon Sheean provides lots of photos of the action. Kudos to Dr. John Schultz and his committee as well as to Sports Director Melanie Clark and hers! Just the next weekend, bowlers went to Baltimore and were hosted by the Vladicon “O” Club. Father Ted Boback, John Speraw and their group proved to be fine hosts. Phil Tesar of sports was on hand to award the prizes and the event culminated in the ordination to the diaconate of James Magruder, chapter VP, by Metropolitan Tikhon on Sunday. Congrats to all who played, watched and worked! And golfers are reminded to get together for their tourney on July 7-8 in Bethlehem, PA – details inside.

This issue also features Fr. Andrew Nelko, St. Tikhon Seminary FOCA chapter president who, in a matter of months, was ordained to the priesthood, played in the bball tournament (and named an all-star!), graduated from seminary and then assumed his new pastorate at St. Nicholas Church in Weirton. We have a photo montage of these events and wish him and Matushka Kaila all the best in their ministry. What a Fellowship-related success story and example for his fellow priests in the OCA! There is no better pastoral example than Fr. Igor Soroka, who recently announced his intention to retire after 58 years of service at St. Nicholas Church in Donora, PA. And for his six decades of liturgical music service FOCA member John Sutko has received the OCA Order of St. Romanos. We report on both of these outstanding “men of the Church.” Many years!

The New Jersey District promises us a “Sweet Scene in ’17” as it sponsors this year’s national convention in Hershey/Harrisburg, PA over Labor Day weekend. We have a sneak preview and the full schedule of events, including the 2nd Youth Council for youth/Juniors. Plan now to visit Chocolatetown USA and be sure to bring the kids!

Speaking of youth, Matushka Theodora submits a word-related activity on the fascinating life of St. John the Wonderworker of Shanghai & San Francisco, a contemporary saint from Russia who served in China before coming to America. Sami invites us to enter this year’s photo contest with the theme “My Home.” Leon reports on May’s Alaska cruise sponsored by the New Jersey District for the benefit of this year’s Gift of Love project: St. Nicholas Chapel in Kenai, Alaska. Be sure also to support the St. Andrew’s Fund. There’s more inside, including Prez Marge’s message, but we’ll leave it at that. Have a good summer, see you in Hershey and, until then, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!
Deacon Andrew Nelko – a third-year student at St. Tikhon’s Seminary, president of its Fellowship chapter and outgoing president of the Student Government – was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Annunciation Day, March 25th, at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Weirton, West Virginia. Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania was the celebrant assisted by several clergy: Fathers Andrew Nelko (STOTS class of 1981), his father; William Evansky, diocesan chancellor; Samuel Smolcic (1979), Steven Voytovich, seminary dean; Nicholas Wyslutsky (1989), Emilian Hutnyan (1992) and Gabriel Bilas (2014). Deacon Peter Ilchuk, FOCA CP&O director, assisted as did Dr. John Schultz, past national president, as subdeacon. Prof. David Drillock, retired provost of St. Vladimir’s Seminary, directed the choir that included Father Andrew’s family members. His wife, Matushka Kaila, has been working at St. Tikhon’s Bookstore.

The Nelko’s returned to St. Nicholas Church over the weekend of April 28-30 for the national FOCA basketball tournament in which he played on a team in the senior men’s category; he also served vespers on Saturday evening and concelebrated Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Melchisedek on Sunday morning. Father Andrew then graduated from St. Tikhon’s Seminary (with a master’s in divinity degree) on May 27th in the 75th annual commencement exercises held during the annual Memorial Day pilgrimage to St. Tikhon’s Monastery. Both he and Matushka Kaila were busy working throughout the pilgrimage weekend. Father Andrew has been officially assigned to St. Nicholas Church effective mid-June. Axios, congratulations and many years!

– adapted from stots.edu/news with photos
Archpriest Igor Soroka Announces His Retirement after 58 Years at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Donora, Pennsylvania

For over 58 years Archpriest Igor Soroka has served as rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Donora, PA, about 20 miles south of Pittsburgh. He recently announced that this Pascha (Easter) would be his last as the parish priest because he intends to retire (although no formal date has been set). His extraordinary ministry was recently featured on the front page of the Easter Sunday edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in a story by Peter Smith. For a link to the story, see: http://www.post-gazette.com/local/south/2017/04/16/Rev-Igor-Soroka-will-spend-his-last-Easter-as-pastor-retiring-donora-parish/stories/201704160002/

Father Igor was one of four sons born to the Mitred Archpriest Gregory and Matushka Anastasia Soroka. Father Gregory came to this country as a choir director. Two of Father Igor’s brothers became priests, Fathers Vladimir and Leonid. The Soroka family members were prolific in setting Orthodox services into English chant settings for the first time; parishes throughout the Orthodox Church in America have used their music and service books for choirs, readers and parishioners for many years. Included is a photo of the well-known “Red Soroka Vespers” booklet which remains in print.

Father Igor graduated from St. Tikhon’s Seminary in 1946. He also graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and was a member of its famous Tamburitzans folk music/dance group (which will perform at this year’s national convention in Hershey, PA). After graduation he served as a choir director when he met and married his wife, Matushka Irene. They began their ministry at St. Nicholas Church on December 1, 1959, when Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, and had four children. This was his first — and only — parish assignment! Matushka Irene reposed in the Lord in 2004. He is now 91 years of age and has decided to retire.

Even while serving as parish priest at St. Nicholas, Father Igor continued his service as a church musician as did a number of his contemporaries with musical talent. He directed the Cathedral Choir of the OCA Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, retiring in 2013 after 50 years of service. He also served as national spiritual advisor of the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs and in many other capacities, including organizing the national choir conferences held for many years. Father Steven Voytovich, St. Tikhon’s Seminary dean, recalled encountering the Soroka family and many other church musicians while participating in the annual FROC choir conferences at the Ohio District (now St. Vladimir) camp in Farndale, OH: “These choir conferences were an inspiration to me in the 1980’s as a young church musician, encouraged by my parish priest and choir director to attend!”

In honor of Father Igor’s musical contributions to the Church, he was one of the inaugural recipients of the Order of St. Romanos (the Melodist) awarded by the OCA Holy Synod of Bishops in 2014. Recently, on Pentecost Sunday, Archbishop Melchisedek conferred on him the right to wear the mitre. Axios, congratulations and many years to Father Igor!

– adapted from stots.edu/news and oca.org (with photos; photo on top by Nate Guidry)
91st National F.O.C.A. Convention
Labor Day Weekend, 2017
Hershey/Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by the New Jersey District

It’s almost that time of the year again... convention time!

The New Jersey District is pleased to offer you a ‘sweet’ time on Labor Day weekend, September 1-4. The Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel has all of the essentials for a FOCA good-time. A restaurant, bar and pool are on site, and many additional restaurants are just a short walk away.

The room rate is $115 per night. Please make your reservations by August 11th. There will be no exceptions. Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA; 717-564-5511; mention FOCA for the convention discount rate; the hotel web site www.sheratonharrishurghershey.com

The Sheraton is just off Exit #2 of Interstate 283 on Lindle Road (Route 441) and only 2.3 miles from the PA Turnpike (Harrisburg East Exit #247), 6.4 miles from the Harrisburg International Airport (flyhia.com), and 5.6 miles from Harrisburg’s Amtrak station (Amtrak.com).

The weekend kicks off with the President’s Open on Friday at 10 AM at the nearby Dauphin Highlands golf course (a 5-minute drive and site of the 1999 national summer sports tourney).

Wait till you see what Friday night brings... a life-sized Candyland game, but of course it becomes Hersheyland! Our trivia questions are unique, consisting of FROC, FOCA and candy related information. You will enjoy it for sure.

On Saturday night, America’s Premier International Folk Ensemble, the Tamburitzans, will perform in the ballroom... Sweet!

Sunday follows our normal schedule of Divine Liturgy, the banquet and dance.

As you know, the program book is the main source of income. The recent mailing to the membership included an advertising order form and a ‘Hershey Bar’ Booster form. Please note the deadline, and your consideration of an ad/booster would be greatly appreciated.

The ticket form for the various events was also enclosed in the mailing. Please note there will be no book of tickets this year, just 3 separate events.
For the 2nd year, the Fellowship in cooperation with the Orthodox Church in America will sponsor a “Youth Council” for all youth/Juniors with the topic of “Gratitude & Giving” with sessions, outreach & social. Activities include trips to Hersheypark and Turkey Hill Experience, sessions with Archbishop Michael and Father Benjamin Tucci, FOCA junior department director, an outreach activity (Blessing Bags & Back-to-school Bags) as well as all the convention events. Have your kids sign up now!

In addition to the many Hershey things to see and do (Hersheypark, ZooAmerica, the Gardens and new conservatory, the Story interactive museum and chocolate tasting, Chocolate World –visit hersheypa.com), Harrisburg’s Kipona Susquehanna River festival runs all weekend with arts & crafts, music, food, an Indian pow-wow and more. And Pennsylvania Dutch Country in Lancaster County is only a half hour from the hotel.

Hoping to see all of you as we gather in Hershey/Harrisburg for a Sweet Scene in 2017! Visit www.orthodoxfellowship.org for ticket & ad forms as well as more information and updates.

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**Schedule of Events**

**Friday – September 1**

President’s Open Golf Tournament – at nearby Dauphin Highlands Golf Club. Cost per player - $50, includes greens fees and cart. Tee off time scheduled for 10 AM.

Course website is www.golfdauphinhighlands.com. Contact Mark Marton, Golf Chairman, at mm21@optonline.net with any questions.

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**Saturday – September 2**

**Convention General Plenary Sessions** will begin at 9 AM and should conclude by early afternoon to allow some free time. Information on local activities will be provided at the time of your registration.

**Vespers** – 4:30 PM, in the hotel

Evening – “Tamburitzans… Sweet!” Join us in the hotel ballroom for a two hour performance of the world-renowned Tamburitzans Group. Founded in the 1930’s, they have performed throughout the United States and abroad. Please purchase your tickets ahead of time as seating is limited, and we expect a fair amount of local non-FOCA attendees. For more information on the group, visit their website at www.thetamburitzans.org.

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**Sunday, September 3**

**Divine Liturgy** – Join us in prayer and communion at 9 AM.

Afternoon – Free time to visit local attractions or just hang out at the pool (long range weather forecast is for sunny skies and in the low 80’s!)

**Fantastic Fare and Sweet Sounds** - Banquet and Dance – The doors will open at 5:30 PM for the banquet followed by entertainment by a local DJ.

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**Monday, September 4**

**Convention General Plenary Sessions** will reopen with unfinished business, concluding with the Election of Officers.

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Evening – “Welcome to Hersheyland” - Join us for our life-sized version of Candyland. Doors open at 8 PM. Pass on having dessert at your dinner earlier that evening and enjoy our sweets and treats, mingle with your friends and have some laughs as individuals compete for prizes by answering FOCA- and “sweets”-related trivia questions…and some are pretty difficult!
Youth Council/Junior Schedule of Events

A full schedule of activities is planned for youth/juniors as follows. Please note an all-inclusive price for the events listed below is $120.00 per youth/junior.

Friday, September 1

“Sweet Beginnings…A Meet & Greet Social”
Catch-up with old friends and make new ones! This year’s Youth Council Advisory Team will present the agenda for the weekend and will kick off the festivities by playing “Ice Breaker” games.

Saturday, September 2

“The Sweetest Place on Earth” – Before visiting Hersheypark…Attend morning prayers with Father Benjamin Tucci, enjoy a light breakfast and meet with Archbishop Michael (Diocese of NY/NJ) who will lead a discussion on the topic of “Gratitude and Giving.” The Junior Out-Reach Activity for this year will be putting together “Blessing Bags” & “Back to School Bags.” All bags created on this day will be donated to local charities where they will be distributed to the less fortunate.

The entire group will then be transported by bus to Hersheypark for an action packed, fun filled day! Everyone will receive a Lunch Ticket, which is redeemable at various food locations throughout the park. The entire group will return to the hotel by bus, where they will feast on pizza at the evening’s planned “Pizza Party” and then be escorted into the Ball Room to watch the amazing Tamburitzans perform.

Sunday, September 3

“Sweet Temptations” - After Divine Liturgy, join Archbishop Michael and Father Tucci for Brunch, and participate in Part II of the weekend’s discussion theme - “Gratitude and Giving.” In the afternoon, the group will take a short bus ride to the Turkey Hill Ice Cream Factory, to participate in the “Turkey Hill Experience” a factory tour and taste lab, where everyone can create their own ice cream flavor, and will return by bus to the hotel to get ready for the next event… “Fantastic Fare and Sweet Sounds” (Banquet & Dance).
A “Wild & Wonderful” National Basketball Tournament in Weirton

by Michele Janiszewski, Sports Committee

A “wild and wonderful” national basketball tournament was hosted by the Weirton “O” Club of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Weirton, West Virginia over the weekend of April 28-30. This was the chapter’s very first national event – the activities were a “slam dunk” thanks to event chair Dr. John Schultz, past national president, and his hardworking committee. It was also the Fellowship’s first “tri-state” national event ever held. Even with 3 venues in 3 different states, the convenience and proximity of everything were excellent (which way on Route 22??).

Friday evening saw a delicious buffet in the lovely church hall. An unexpected glitch was quickly remedied by the wonderful “chefs” who managed in short order to get boxed dinners to the road weary travelers from Minnesota. So great to see them make it to Weirton! And after dinner, players enjoyed games and improvised activities on the parish grounds.

Beginning early Saturday morning, the basketball games were played across the Ohio River at Steubenville High School (new & old gyms) in nearby Steubenville, Ohio. Father Andrew Nelko (who officially became pastor of St. Nicholas Church in June after graduating from St. Tikhon’s Seminary in May) led the opening prayer and singing of “Christ is risen.” The facilities were great but oh, those steps! The games were competitive and included several overtime thrillers! Melanie Clark, national sports director, ably ran the tourney (Editor’s note: assisted by Michele all the way from Florida). Players hailed from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey and even Minnesota as St. Mary’s Cathedral in Minneapolis sent a bus supervised by Father Benjamin Tucci, junior department director.

After the games (and a heavy thunderstorm), vespers was served by Fr. Nelko at the church (back in WV) with a full choir conducted by Lory Nescott of St. Alexander Nevsky’s. The banquet was then held in yet another state – Pennsylvania – at the Pepsi Roadhouse, a concert venue featuring autographed photos of musicians of all types. Clergy were well represented as were members of the FOCA executive board and board of trustees. Among the other clergy present were Fathers Bill Evansky and John Steffaro, past national spiritual advisors, and Father Andrew Nelko of Campbell, OH. Past national presidents Nick Vansuch and Michael Steffaro attended.

Dr. Schultz welcomed the crowd and thanked all for their participation and his committee for their efforts. National President Marge Kovach gave an inspiring speech, urging the youths to look around at the friends at your tables because they will be your friends for life; she also reminded everyone about the upcoming national convention in Hershey, PA over Labor Day weekend. Melanie and Michele announced the all-stars (as chosen by the referees) and awards were distributed. The dance floor then filled with young and old alike dancing to the tunes of a local DJ. They especially enjoyed the folk dances – albeit at a blistering pace!

On Sunday morning, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania (OCA) celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church assisted by Fathers Nelko and Tucci as well as Deacon Peter Ilchuk, CP&O director. Matushka Tanya Nelko directed the choir which included many ballplayers. The church was SRO. A bountiful brunch followed
liturgy in the fellowship hall, and then it was back to Steubenville for the championship games and awards. Sunday’s games lived up to championship expectations – there were nailbiters to the end! Congratulations to all of our players and our 2017 champs! A big “thank you” goes out to Weirton for a “Wild & Wonderful” weekend!

“FREE THROWS”

Very proud to say once again that our officials were impressed with our group’s sportsmanship and fellowship . . . Steubenville High staff liked us so much they said they would be happy to have us back . . . Who knew bus drivers kept such good track of time? . . . The Steffaro family seemed to enjoy their walk down memory lane . . . Never saw so many happy Senior men’s players when told they could only play half-court due to a roof leak from the rain deluge . . . Thrilled to see how players and coaches came together to play on makeup teams and fill in where needed on short-handed teams . . . Oh my, oh my – the three-point line! . . . Melanie, did you ever get that printer to work properly? . . . Met lots of friendly WV locals – free pizza anyone? . . . Saving the best for last – can’t tell you how heartwarming it was to hear the voices of our players break out into spontaneous singing of the FOCA anthem when leaving the dance – a special moment! . . . See you next year in Cleveland!

**BASKETBALL RESULTS**

**FOCA BASKETBALL 2017**

**Bantam Boys**

Game #1 – Canonsburg d. Nevsky/Cleve/NJ: 63-40
Game #2 – Canonsburg d. Nevsky/Cleve/NJ: 55-29
Championship – Canonsburg d. Nevsky/Cleve/NJ: 59-34

**All Stars**

John Bohurjak – Nevsky
Andrew Gresko – Canonsburg
Andrew Kovalak – Cleveland
Luke Phillis – Canonsburg
MVP Luke Phillis – Canonsburg

**Junior Girls**

Game #1 – Campbell d. Minn/NJ: 31-18
Game #2 – Nevsky d. Minn/NJ: 24-20
Game #3 – Campbell d. Nevsky/Canonsburg: 32-30
Championship – Campbell d. Nevsky: 30-28

**All Stars**

Marianne Johnson – NJ
Alex Korba – Minn.
Audrey Lane – Nevsky
Olivia Williams – Nevsky
Hannah Willison – Campbell
MVP Hannah Willison – Campbell

**Junior Boys**

Game #1 – Minn. d. Campbell: 60-54
Game #2 – Cleve/Weirton d. Campbell: 55-29
Game #3 – Cleve/Weirton d. Minn.: 71-66
Championship – Minn. d. Cleve/Weirton: 49-48

**All Stars**

Joe Clark – Campbell
Shannon Cotto – Cleveland
Aiden Gansert – Cleveland
Jackson Odegard – Minn.
Luke Stoughton – Minn.
MVP Jackson Odegard – Minn.

**Senior Men**

Game #1 – Cleve/Nevsky d. Campbell: 49-40
Game #2 – Campbell d. Makeup: 70-58
Game #3 – Makeup d. Campbell: 43-42
Championship – Nevsky/Cleve d. Campbell: 67-63

**All Stars**

Joe Deptowicz – Nevsky
Stephan Elash – Campbell
Kyra Molchan – Cleveland
Fr. Andrew Nelko – Weirton
Andrew Zelinsky – Campbell
MVP Matt Bohurjak – Nevsky
National Basketball Tournament

CHAMPIONS

1st Place Bantam Boys - Canonsburg

1st Place Junior Boys - Minneapolis

1st Place Senior Men - Nevsky/Cleveland

1st Place Junior Girls - Campbell

All Stars
Second Place Teams

National Basketball Photo Gallery
Alaska Cruise Benefits 2017
“Gifts of Love” Project

From May 13-20, 2017, some 27 Fellowship members and friends enjoyed a cruise in Alaska – America’s 49th, largest and northernmost state – aboard Holland America’s “The Eurodam.” It was sponsored by the New Jersey District and proceeds will benefit the restoration of the St. Nicholas Chapel in Kenai, Alaska, which is this year’s “Gifts of Love” project. The cruise sailed from Seattle, Washington and visited Juneau, Glacier Bay, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, British Columbia before returning to Seattle. The weather was good and the waters were calm, vacationers have reported. Coordinating the cruise were FOCA members Olga Baldowski of PTS Travel – ptstravel@optonline.net – and Carol Deerson. Thanks to Leon Sheean, official photographer of the Journal, for the photos and to those who sailed for the benefit of a good cause!
Vladicon “O” Club Hosts the 78th National Bowling Tournament

May 5-7, 2017 • Baltimore, Maryland

Over the weekend of May 5-7, bowlers gathered in the Baltimore area for the 78th annual national bowling tournament which was sponsored by the Vladicon “O” Club of St. Andrew Orthodox Church of Baltimore, Maryland at which Father Theodore Boback is rector (as well as the Fellowship’s national spiritual advisor). Participants were from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and Maryland. Team bowling was held at Country Club Lanes in Middle River, MD on Friday evening. Doubles and singles bowling took place on Saturday.

Father Ted celebrated great vespers at the church that evening and afterwards the awards banquet was held in the parish hall. Father Daniel Ressetar, past national spiritual advisor, blessed the food and attendees watched the Kentucky Derby during dessert, cheering on their favorite horses. National FOCA President Marge Kovach was on hand to welcome everyone and urged us to participate in this year’s national convention in Hershey/Harrisburg, PA. Phil Tesar of the sports department presented the prizes for the best bowlers in a variety of categories; immediate past president Becky Tesar also participated. Father Ted extended his greetings as did John Speraw, chapter president. And Walter Alesevich, Colonial District governor, announced the district stock awards. Thanks to Roxanne Yaroshevich, registration chair; Sue Stratton, program booklet chair; Sue Polacek and Hope Boback, Saturday banquet and Sunday farewell luncheon chairs; and Zina Dimirkow, Mindy Andreychek, and June & John McIver for hospitality and decorations.

On Sunday morning, Metropolitan Tikhon, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and the Fellowship’s spiritual leader, celebrated the hierarchal Divine Liturgy at St. Andrew Church assisted by Fathers Ted and Joseph Toroney and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak. His Beatitude tonsured James Magruder, who is the chapter vice president, to reader and then ordained him as subdeacon and to the deaconate. Deacon James is a 2003 graduate of St. Vladimir Seminary and received his doctorate in art history from Johns Hopkins University in 2014; he is also parish council secretary and church school director. Axios! The tournament’s farewell luncheon followed in the church hall. Thanks to Vladicon for their warm hospitality and continuing a great tradition of Orthodox fellowship and sports!
### National Bowling Tournament Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>WOMEN Singles HDCP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kate Cox</td>
<td>484</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOMEN Singles HDCP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Donna Tesar</td>
<td>513</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOMEN Singles Actual</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOMEN Singles Actual</td>
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<td>Miriam Markvan</td>
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<td>MEN Singles HDCP</td>
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<td>John Kostecka</td>
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<td>Stephen Wasilewski</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Clyde/Cox</td>
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<td>Tesar/Blind</td>
<td>960</td>
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<td>Tesar/Tesar</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Kostecka / Daniels</td>
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<td>Markvan / Markvan</td>
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<td>1098</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>1994</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>St. Stephen’s</td>
<td>2058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Lelo/Markvan/Yaroshevich/Blind</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOMEN Team Actual</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>1560</td>
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<td>St. Stephen’s</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>MEN Team HDCP</td>
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<td>Wasilewski/Alesevich/Tesar/Schultz</td>
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<td>MEN Team Actual</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Garden State</td>
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<td>All Events Women HDCP</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Mark Marton</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Bob Markvan</td>
<td>1725</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Phil Tesar</td>
<td>1739</td>
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<td>Women High Game</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elena Marton</td>
<td>222, G2 Doubles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men High Game</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bob Markvan</td>
<td>235, G2 Singles</td>
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Orthodox Christian JOURNAL • Spring 2017
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 Fall 2016 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.
Noted Church Musician John Sutko Receives the Order of St. Romanos

John Sutko, choir director emeritus at St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Church in Burr Ridge, Illinois was awarded the Order of Saint Romanos (the Melodist) by the Orthodox Church in America for his extraordinary contributions to the field of liturgical music. On behalf of Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest presented the order at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy at the church on May 6th. In addition to serving as choir director at the church for over six decades, Mr. Sutko is well known for his musical arrangements of classic as well as recently composed liturgical hymns. His entire life has been dedicated to the Church, her services and her musical traditions.

A member of Fellowship chapter #96, Mr. Sutko directed the music for all the 90th national convention services and events in Chicago last year. He had also directed the choirs at five other national conventions, and numerous district conventions and bowling tournaments. John served on the staff of many of the FROC national choir conferences in Ohio and Pennsylvania as a teacher and music director. He continues with the psalm: “I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live and I will sing to my God while I have being.”

The joy of the day’s liturgy was amplified by the ordination to the holy priesthood of Mr. Sutko’s grandson, Father Alexander Koranda, a “native son” of the parish and graduate of St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, South Canaan, PA. Among those concelebrating were Fathers John Adamcio, John Baker, Paul Jannakos, Andrew Bartek, Herman Kincaid and Gabriel Monforte; Protodeacons Robert Northrup and George Potym; and Deacons David Kenny, Mark Sauskojus and Theophan Warren. A deanery-wide choir sang the responses under the direction of Philip Sokolov. Metropolitan Tikhon had planned to present the award personally to John but bad weather on the East Coast cancelled his flight. At last year’s convention, His Beatitude remarked that before becoming Orthodox, the very first voice he heard in an Orthodox Church was John’s when he attended a service at the former church in Chicago!

Established by the OCA in 2014, the Order of St. Romanos has been awarded to influential arrangers, composers, teachers and conductors including Fathers Sergei Glagolev and Igor Soroka, Prof. Dr. David Drillock, Walter Shymansky, Archimandrite Roman (Braga), Dr. Vladimir Morosan and Aleksei V. Shipovalnikov. Congratulations and many years to Maestro Sutko!

Sources: Cynthia Koranda, choir president, St. Peter & St. Paul Choir and oca.org (as adapted with photos)
2017 PHOTO CONTEST

This year’s theme is: “My Home”

Show us your favorite nature photo, what home is for you, what you like best about the area you live in, or the beauty you see in a nearby city!

Start taking pictures now or go through pictures you’ve already taken.

Participants (must be an F.O.C.A. member) can send in up to five (5) photos, preferably 3x5 or 4x6. Judging will take place at the 2017 National Convention. Participants need not be present at the National Convention to win. Awards will depend on the number of entries in the following age categories: 12-17, 18-45 and 46+.

Entry Form

Important! Photos must be received by Saturday August 20, 2017. Entry fee is $2.00/photo. Make check payable to F.O.C.A.

Please print

Name_________________________ District___________________ Chapter________________

Address__________________________________________________________________________

City________________________________ State_________ Zip_________ Phone (      ) __________

Age category 12-17 18-45 or 46+ Number of photos x$2.00 each = $_________ entry fee

Mail photo(s) with entry fee check to: Samantha Exler *316 McIntosh Drive, Moon Twp. PA, 15108

Paper Icon Drive

Donate your unused paper icons today! Our fellow Orthodox Christians in Kenya have a great need for more icons, so please consider helping them out.

Send your icons and any additional monetary donations for the church in Kenya to:
Saint Nicholas Cathedral
c/o Liza Kotar
1714 13th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122

Thank you for your support!

FOCA CALENDAR 2017

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
July 16: Orthodox Family Day, Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg, PA sponsored by the Central PA District
August 5 & 6: Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA — Annual Pilgrimage
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
St. John the Wonderworker of Shanghai & San Francisco

St. John (Maximovitch) was born in southern Russia on June 4, 1896. In baptism he was given the name Michael. As he went on in his religious life, St. John became an Orthodox bishop and was sent to China. There he helped complete the unfinished cathedral in Shanghai. He did much charitable work and had a love for orphans. St. John would seek them out in the alleys of the city and take them to his orphanage to be raised and educated. He began with only 8 children but in 15 years, he lovingly helped feed and house as many as 3,000 orphans. St. John then came to San Francisco and died in 1966. He was made a saint (canonized) in 1994. You may venerate his relics at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Mother of God “Joy of All Who Sorrow” in San Francisco. We honor his memory on July 2nd, the date of his death. St. John the Wonderworker, pray unto God for us!

1. St. John was born in___________________   _____________________.
2. His baptismal name was _______________________.
3. As a bishop, he was sent to__________________________.
4. He completed a__________________________ in Shanghai.
5. He had a__________________________ for orphans.
6. He would seek the orphans out in the_____________________ of Shanghai.
7. He began with only__________________________ children.
8. He helped feed and__________________________ as many as 3,000 orphans.
9. After his death, he was made a_________________________ in 1994.
10. We ___________________________ St. John’s memory on July 2nd.

Illustration of St. John by Gabriela Moustardas from  
the booklet published by Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, NY (2004)
Calling all Kids to HERSHEY PARK

to participate in the 2nd Annual Youth Council
(Sessions, Out-Reach & Social)

This year’s Topic: “GRATITUDE & GIVING”

LABOR DAY Weekend Sept. 1 through Sept. 4
at The Sheraton in Harrisburg/Hershey, PA

Sponsored by the F.O.C.A.

Weekend activities include:

• Group trips to Hershey park and the Turkey Hill Ice Cream Factory
• Sessions/Discussions with Archbishop Michael of NY & NJ Diocese, and Rev. Benjamin Tucci,
• FOCA Junior Department Director
• Group participation in a local out-reach project
• Additional events at the Sheraton Hotel throughout the weekend