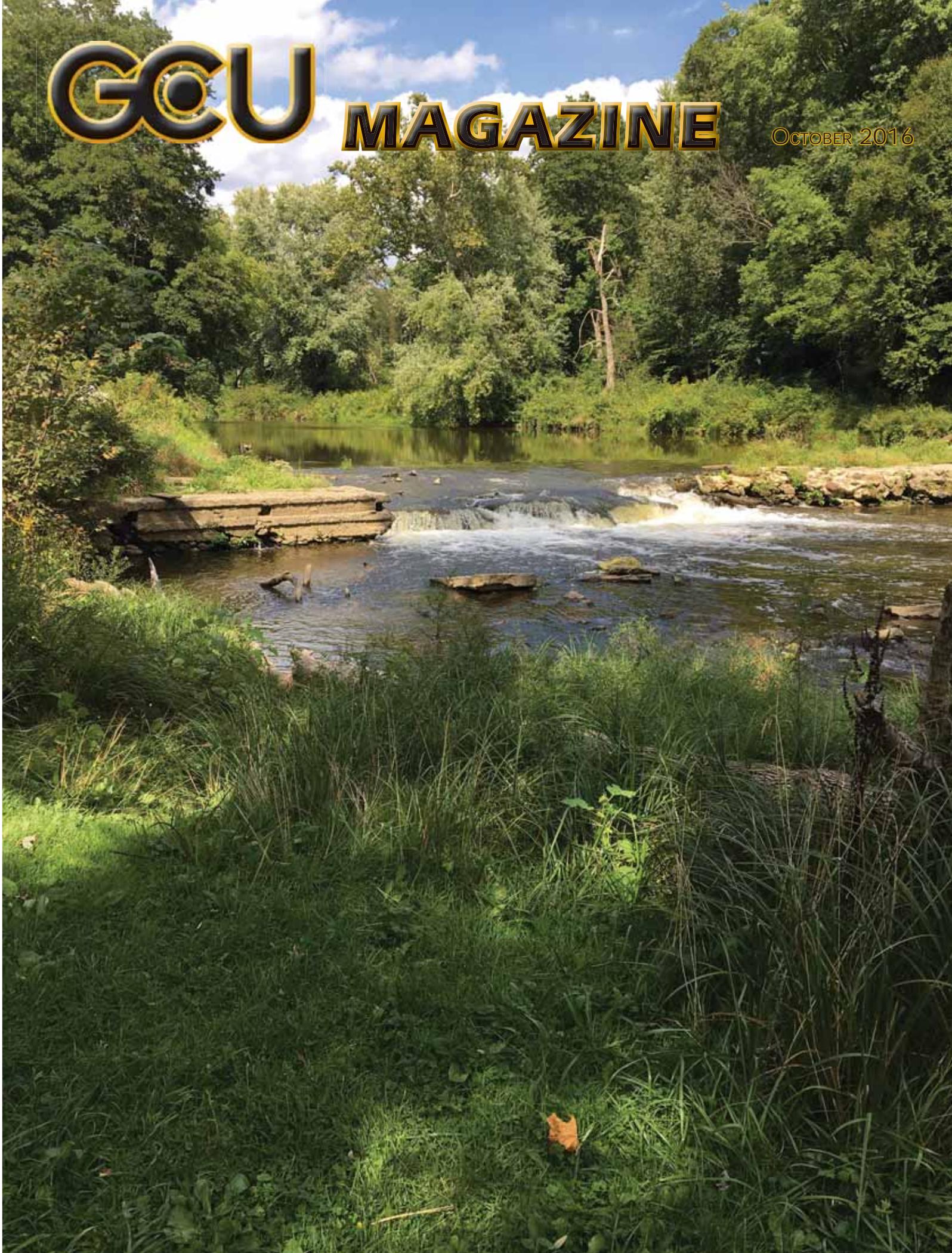


# GCU MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2016



Official publication of the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A., 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513. Issued the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, April, June, August, October, December.

Phone: 1-724-495-3400

1-800-722-4428

FAX: 1-724-495-3421

(E-Mail Address) info@gcuusa.com

(GCU Web Site) www.gcuusa.com

(Article Submission) bwahal@gcuusa.com

George N. Juba, President/CEO

Deborah Tatro, Executive Vice President/COO

Timothy Demetres/CFO

Theodore M. Trbovich, General Counsel

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Very Rev. Richard I. Lambert, Spiritual Advisor

Melanie Basl

Dorothy Ann Foran

Lisa Gulibon

Michael W. Karaffa

George A. Kofel

Barbara J. Kushner

David A. Oleksa

John W. Oslick

John J. Urban

Gregory N. Vladika

George N. Juba, Editor

Basil M. Wahal, Managing Editor

## THE GCU MAGAZINE

(USPS 227-900) (ISSN0895-5395)

Subscription Per Year: \$12

To Canada-Per Year: \$18

Periodical Postage Paid at Beaver, PA 15009 and at Additional Offices

Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
GCU Magazine

5400 Tuscarawas Road,  
Beaver, PA 15009

November 23, 2016 is the copy deadline for the December *GCU Magazine*.



**On Our Cover:** A late summer day along Neshannock Creek in Volant, PA. (Photo by Basil M. Wahal)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>FROM THE PRESIDENT</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Tim Demetres Appointed GCU Chief Financial Officer .....	3
Second Quarter Financial Report .....	4
<b>FINANCIAL FACTS &amp; FIGURES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>SPIRITUAL</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Lessons in the Law .....	6
Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary Choir Visits GCU Chapel.....	7
<b>GCU GIVES</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>FRATERNAL</b> .....	<b>9</b>
District 1 News .....	9
District 5 News .....	10
Greater Hazleton Area Regional Lodge .....	11
Bethel Park, PA Lodge 52; Carrick-Pittsburgh, PA Lodge 386 .....	12
More from Lodge 644: Beaver, PA Lodge 994 .....	13
Old Forge, PA Lodge 17; Pottstown, PA Lodge 69 .....	14
Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA Lodge 255; Aurora, CO Lodge 144 .....	15
Nanty Glo, PA Lodge 401; Jessup, PA Lodge 92.....	16
Rahway, NJ Lodge 340 .....	17
Mingo Junction, OH Lodge 268; Phillipsburg, NJ Lodge 316 .....	18
Binghamton, NY Lodge 47; Brownsville, PA Lodge 57 .....	19
GCU National Scholarship Information.....	20
Lyndora, PA Lodge 109.....	21
Brecksville, OH Lodge 302 .....	24
Indiana, PA Lodge 351 .....	25
Northern Cambria, PA Lodge 93 .....	26
Euclid, OH Lodge 336 .....	27
Southside-Pittsburgh, PA Lodge 28; Hillsborough, NJ Lodge 254 .....	28
Boardman, OH Lodge 442 .....	29
News From the Big Apple .....	30
Uniontown, PA Lodge 81 .....	31
Trenton, NJ Lodge 15; Weirton, WV Lodge 697.....	32
Conemaugh, PA Lodge 625; Statement of Ownership .....	33
<b>PEOPLE</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Bill & Barb Kushner; Albert Peters III; Genevieve Oslick; Jillian Martin.....	22
Jacqueline & Daniel Kutzfara; Mary & Jeff Brayer .....	23
<b>CHURCH NEWS</b> .....	<b>34</b>
Basilian Sisters Honor Jubilarians .....	34
Pilgrimage Thank You .....	35
<b>REMEMBRANCES</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>SPORTS</b> .....	<b>40</b>
GCU 2017 Athletic Scholarship Information .....	40
Christopher Meddaugh Golf Outing, 2017 National Tournament Dates .....	41
GHRL Back to School Bowling Party; District 1 Golf Tournament .....	42
District 15 Golf Tournament.....	43



**George N. Juba**  
President/CEO

September 25, 2016 was a very sad day here in Western Pennsylvania and throughout the golf and entire sports world as legendary professional golfer Arnold Palmer passed. In addition to his skill as a professional player, Arnie possessed the charisma, the personality and charm that made him such an iconic figure that complemented his skill as a professional player. He made an impression upon everyone he touched in his life no matter what their stature in life was. He made

the “little guy” feel just as important as the “big guy!” He always remembered his roots as he continued to call Latrobe Pennsylvania his home. Arnie grew the game of golf not only during the peak of his career but throughout his entire life. A quote of Arnie sums it up quite nicely on how he lived his life – *“It’s nice to be important, but it’s more important to be nice!”* Yes, he will be remembered as a player, winning seven major golf tournaments and ninety two championships in the U.S.A. and Europe, but in my opinion he will be remembered most for the thoughtfulness and kindness he exhibited throughout his life. The world no doubt would be a better place if we all followed in Arnie’s footsteps!

As I look out my office window, the weather is becoming more fall like here in Western Pennsylvania as God and nature are about to transform the landscape into an array of colors beyond belief which I feel should be considered as

another “*Wonder of the World!*” Even though the autumn season takes place each and every year, it never seems to get old having a fragrance of its own! As a native of North-eastern Pennsylvania and as we witness the beauty of Fall and the harvest season, I will always remember a saying by Manny Gordon, a past District Forester in Northeastern Pennsylvania seen on TV ads during my youth urging everyone to get outdoors. His famous saying and the tag line he was noted for was, *“Enjoy, Enjoy, the great outdoors of Northeastern Pennsylvania!”*

One item that is not changing is the continued financial success of the GCU! Through August 2016 the GCU continues to experience steady growth in assets which total \$1.486 billion. Surplus now exceeds \$100 million primarily fueled by excellent profitability with 2016’s year end profitability projected to equal 2015’s year end net income of \$22.1 million barring no unforeseen circumstances. We thank each of our members and agents for your continued trust and support of our Society—that is the force behind our success!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it gives me great pleasure to announce to you that the Board has hired Mr. Tim Demetres as the GCU’s Chief Financial Officer. The past 25 years of Tim’s career, experience and background have been within the insurance industry serving in various accounting executive roles. Tim’s bio is presented at the bottom of this page. The GCU’s second quarter financial results and detailed commentary are presented by Tim on page 5, which we invite you to review. My congratulations to Tim on his appointment as I am personally looking forward to working with him in continuing to improve upon our Society’s accounting processes and overall financial strength.

It’s hard to believe that we just ended three quarters of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Tim Demetres Appointed GCU Chief Financial Officer



**Tim Demetres**

The GCU Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Tim Demetres, CPA as the chief financial officer of the GCU. Mr. Demetres joined the GCU staff on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

Prior to his employment with GCU, Tim spent the last 25 years working within the insurance industry. He most recently served as vice president, chief accounting officer and corporate treasurer

with Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company in Horsham, PA. Prior to that he was employed by The Guardian Life Insurance Company in New York, NY as assistant corporate controller. He has also held positions within the industry with Nonprofit Insurance Alliance Group, Santa Cruz, CA; HCC Global Financial Products, Farmington, CT; First Capital

Group, Roslyn, NY and Stamford Financial Group, Stamford, CT. Tim began his career in public accounting before moving into the insurance industry.

A native of Long Island, NY, Tim is a graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the states of New York and Connecticut.

Mr. Demetres will oversee, monitor and report to the GCU Board of Directors on all accounting functions within the GCU and the GCU Holding Company. He will be working closely with the Executive Office and Board of Directors in all aspects of the GCU and the GCU Holding Company that involve accounting support and expertise. He will work with each department manager, reviewing, monitoring and evaluating the budget process as well as all aspects of each department that involve accounting functions.

We congratulate Tim Demetres on his appointment and wish him continued success as the new GCU chief financial officer.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

this year with year-end right around the corner! We are in the process of completing our third quarter results which are on target to meet our 2016 budget and exceed expectations in some areas of our operation. Financially as I noted we are projecting an excellent year. Our 2016 Business Plan is continually monitored and we are very satisfied with our progress in meeting the objectives of the plan. Our management team has already begun the process of planning for 2017, preparing our preliminary budget and business plan with a focus on risk, disaster recovery and in strategies that will continue to grow our business.

The year 2017 will also be devoted to improving and revamping our fraternal structure that will give the opportunity for more of our members and agents to be involved fraternally with our Society. We are especially excited about the GCU GO-GIVE Program that will be launched in January 2017. I invite you to read the story on page 8 of this issue and to visit the GCU website – www.gcuusa.com – to learn more about this new program.

As I mentioned in my article presented in the August 2016 issue of the *GCU Magazine*, the recent Convention held in June sported a theme of - “*Remembering our Past, Embracing the Present, Preparing for Our Future.*” We can

never rest upon our laurels and must be forever cognizant of the fact that we must continue to look forward and prepare for the future. The only constant in today’s business world is “change,” requiring sound fiscal and operational decisions to first and foremost protect our members’ interest and to assure the GCU’s continued success.

As I reported in the June 2016 issue of the *GCU Magazine*, a most important initiative in “*Preparing for Our Future*” is the rebranding of the GCU to make our Society relevant in today’ marketplace, giving our “look” a more modern feel that will be attractive to all generations. Phase II of this project has begun that involves our Corporate Identity, addressing logo design and style guide which is progressing on schedule. This phase also includes a total overhaul of our website as we will be focusing in on more social media as well! I am very much looking forward to our new brand and identity that is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2017.

In closing, as we are in the midst of the Fall Season, in Manny’s memory, I do hope that you have the opportunity to take some time and “*Enjoy*” the splendor of nature that God has created for us to “*Enjoy!*” As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

*George*

## Second Quarter Financial Results from Our Chief Financial Officer



**Tim Demetres**  
Chief Financial Officer

It is my pleasure to report on the stellar financial achievements of the GCU as of June 30, 2016. Highlights of the second quarter are as follows:

Assets totaled \$1.451 billion, an increase of \$96 million or 7.1% from the year end 2015 that totaled \$1.355 billion. This increase in assets can be attributed to continued positive cash flow due to outstanding annuity sales, strong earnings from investments and lower annuity paid benefits.

Liabilities totaled \$1.350 billion for the second quarter of 2016 compared to \$1.264 as of December 31, 2015. This increase of \$86 million is due primarily to increased annuity reserves as a result of increased sales of annuity certificates.

Gross Income for the first six months of 2016 totaled \$168.6 million compared to \$154.4 million in 2015 for the same period. This increase in gross income is primarily due to an increase in life and annuity sales of \$19.7 million, a decrease in annuity conversions of \$7.9 million and an increase in net investment income and other income in the amount of \$2.3 million.

Operating expenses in the first six months of 2016 before reserves totaled \$73.3 million. Operating expenses for the same period in 2015 totaled \$90.0 million. This decrease in operating expenses is primarily due to decreases in annuity and surrender benefits of \$10.3 million, annuity conversions of \$7.9 million, and an increase in general insurance expenses and commissions paid of \$1.1 million.

Reserves for life and annuities for the first six months increased \$30.4 million to \$83.4 million compared to \$53.0 million in 2015. Reserves are established as a function of premium, claims and actuarial assumptions. Life and annuity premiums have increased by \$19.7 million and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

### Summary of Financial Statistics

(000's omitted)	6/30/16	6/30/15	Change
Assets.....	\$1,451,037	\$1,264,024	\$187,013
Total Income.....	168,596	154,431	14,165
Total Oper. Expense .....	156,988	143,199	13,789
Net Income (Loss).....	11,608	11,232	376
Surplus (Net Worth) .....	100,766	81,644	19,122
Asset Valuation Reserve...	14,348	12,347	2,001
Interest Maint. Reserve...	17,211	15,649	1,562
Surplus & Spec. Resrvs...	132,325	109,640	22,685
Normal Solvency Ratio.....	107.5%	106.5%	1.00%
Solv. Ratio + Spec. Resrvs....	110.0%	108.7%	1.30%

the change in life and annuity reserves and benefits paid increased by approximately the same amount during 2016.

Net Income after refunds and net capital losses continues to be strong increasing 3.4% to \$11.6 million for the first six months of 2016 versus \$11.2 million in 2015. GCU is on pace for continued strong performance in 2016!

Surplus stands at \$100.8 million compared to 2015 year-end surplus of \$90.7 million. This reflects an increase in our surplus of \$10.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2016. Positive impacts to Surplus included the recording of Net Income of \$11.6 million. Negative impacts to Surplus were primarily attributable to the GCU Holding Company of \$.4 million and increasing the asset valuation reserve of \$1.1 million.

Safety Funds that include Surplus of \$100.8 million, Interest Maintenance Reserves of \$17.2 million, and Asset Valuation Reserves of \$14.3 million totaled \$132.3 million for the second quarter of 2016. This is an \$11.7 million or

<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
<b>Six Months 2016 vs. 2015 Results</b>			
<b>Assets</b>	<u>6/30/16</u>	<u>6/30/15</u>	<u>12/31/15</u>
<i>(000's omitted)</i>			
Bonds.....	\$1,349,960	\$1,200,199	1,268,001
Preferred Stocks.....	32,188	24,681	21,413
Common Stocks .....	12,139	12,441	12,314
Cash//Short Term Inv.....	33,174	6,143	30,815
Mortgages .....	1,091	965	1,120
Real Estate			
Beaver Home Office.....	503	426	401
Certificate Loans .....	593	668	659
Inv. Inc. Due & Accrd.....	20,501	18,343	19,501
Other .....	<u>888</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>703</u>
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$1,451,037</b>	<b>\$1,264,024</b>	<b>\$1,354,927</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Life Reserve Fund.....	\$64,301	\$63,865	\$64,800
Annuity Rsrsv. Fund .....	1,243,868	1,081,358	1,159,426
Acc. & Health Rsrsv. Fnd. ....	33	—	16
Emp. Pension Fund.....	6,846	6,356	6,549
Convention Reserve .....	424	356	406
Adv. Prem. + Fut. Rfnd. Rsrsv....	326	327	341
Accounts Payable .....	146	141	425
Refund Accumulations.....	1,875	1,441	1,378
Overfunded Pension ...	<u>893</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>893</u>
<b>Sub-Total Liabilities.....</b>	<b><u>\$1,318,712</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,154,384</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,234,234</u></b>
Asset Valu. Rsrsv.-AVR .....	14,348	12,347	13,218
Int. Maint. Rsrsv.-IMR ..	<u>17,211</u>	<u>15,649</u>	<u>16,735</u>
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b><u>\$1,350,271</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,182,380</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,264,187</u></b>
Surplus Fund.....	<u>100,766</u>	<u>81,644</u>	<u>90,740</u>
<b>Total Liab. &amp; Surplus..</b>	<b>\$1,451,037</b>	<b>\$1,264,024</b>	<b>\$1,354,927</b>

Note: The GCU quarterly report is unaudited but consistent with proper accounting procedure.

9.7% increase compared to 2015 year-end. In addition, the solvency ratio for the first six months of 2016 remained relatively unchanged compared to 2015 year-end at 107.5% that includes Asset Valuation Reserves (AVR) and Interest Maintenance Reserves (IMR). This ratio reflects a strong and stable balance sheet.

In closing, fall is upon us. Enjoy the change of season and fall foliage!

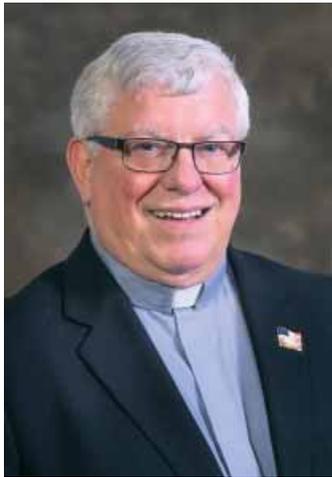
Tim



<b>Income Statement</b>			
<b>Six Months 2016 vs. 2015 Results</b>			
<i>(000's omitted)</i>	<u>6/30/16</u>	<u>6/30/15</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>Income</b>			
Life Premium.....	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,461	\$ (431)
Annuity Premium.....	117,206	97,042	20,164
Annuity Exchanges .....	10,759	18,677	(7,918)
Medi. Sup. Prem. (net)....	<u>99</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>99</u>
Sub Total.....	\$129,094	\$117,180	\$11,914
Net Invest. Income .....	37,498	35,628	1,870
Other .....	<u>2,004</u>	<u>1,623</u>	<u>381</u>
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$168,596</b>	<b>\$154,431</b>	<b>\$14,165</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Death Benefits .....	\$ 1,423	\$ 1,234	\$ 189
Annuity Benefits Paid.....	52,626	62,849	(10,223)
Annuity Exchanges .....	10,759	18,677	(7,918)
Surrender Benefits .....	497	570	(73)
Acc. + Health Bene. (net).....	76	—	76
Commissions.....	3,864	2,841	1,023
General Insurance Exp.....	3,788	3,746	42
Pension Benefits Paid .....	219	67	152
Other .....	<u>34</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>1</u>
Sub-Total .....	\$ 73,286	\$ 90,017	\$(16,731)
Resrvs.-Life & Anu.....	<u>83,428</u>	<u>53,068</u>	<u>30,360</u>
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b><u>\$156,714</u></b>	<b><u>\$143,085</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 13,629</u></b>
Net Oper. bef. Refunds....	11,882	11,346	536
Refunds to Members ...	<u>(131)</u>	<u>(128)</u>	<u>(3)</u>
Net Oper. after Rfnds. ....	11,751	11,218	533
Net Cap. Gain (Loss).....	<u>(143)</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>(157)</u>
<b>Net Income.....</b>	<b>\$ 11,608</b>	<b>\$ 11,232</b>	<b>\$ 376</b>

<b>Reconciliation of Change in Surplus</b>	
<i>(000's omitted)</i>	<u>6/30/16</u>
Surplus Previous Year 12/31/15.....	\$90,738
Net Income.....	11,608
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss).....	(62)
GCU Holding Company & Other .....	(387)
Changes in Asset Valuation Reserve.....	<u>(1,131)</u>
<b>Net Change in Surplus .....</b>	<b><u>10,028</u></b>
<b>Ending 06/30/16 Surplus.....</b>	<b>\$100,766</b>

Note: Small dollar differences in these reports are due to rounding.



## Flashback

Fifty years ago this past June I graduated from high school and soon learned that I would be embarking on another stage of my life. I was informed that my application to SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary (as our Byzantine Catholic Seminary was then known) was accepted. And so, fifty years ago soon after Labor Day I entered our Seminary as a freshman at

Duquesne University and college seminarian. Looking back now I am happy that I entered the seminary at that time, because it was the last year that the seminary was full of many young men studying.

Shortly thereafter we began our special classes at the seminary, besides those at Duquesne University, and were introduced to the seminary faculty who would be offering classes specific to our needs as future priests. One faculty member was +Msgr. Michael Hrebin, then pastor of Ascension Church in Clairton, PA and director of the seminary choir. We began seriously learning the music because we would soon be going out to perform in the diocese. During that year the new church for Holy Ghost parish in Charleroi, PA would be dedicated and we would sing the responses to the Hierarchical Liturgy and the blessing of the church. In December we would also be traveling to downtown Pittsburgh to sing at the annual St. Nicholas Banquet at the William Penn Hotel. We all thought this was really a big deal!

Move ahead to September 20, 2016 and I am now sitting in a pew in my parish and enjoying the concert of liturgical music presented by the seminarians of Blessed Bishop Theodore Romzha Theological Academy who travelled not

across or into town, but across the ocean to come here from Uzhorod, Ukraine. At this concert sung beautifully by 16 seminarians I thought back to the Divine Liturgy sung 50 years before by over 60 seminarians! There would never be another concert back then sung by so many seminarians, and now we are praying for our seminary to have at least 16 seminarians. We're almost there!

At the end of the first part of the concert this year the seminarians performed Christmas carols, and I recalled years ago singing at the St. Nicholas banquet. One of the seminarians stepped forward here to sing a solo, and I saw in this myself stepping forward at the William Penn Hotel to sing a verse of Silent Night (Jasna Zorja) while my brother "sems" hummed in the background.

Perhaps you were fortunate to hear these seminarians sing in your church, or at a nearby one this year. Perhaps a memory brought a tear to your eyes. I hope you had the enjoyment that I had listening to the beautiful hymns sung in Church Slavonic and the next day concelebrating with Bishop Nil the Auxiliary Bishop for Uzhorod, the Rector and Choir Director at that seminary, and Fr. Farynetz formerly from Uzhorod and now serving at parishes in Youngstown, OH. Unfortunately, their whirlwind tour this year could not cover all areas of our Metropolitan Province. Some of their performances have been posted on YouTube.

At the end of their concert, when I thanked them for coming to Youngstown, I told them that at the time I was in the seminary, I never dreamed that I would today be the pastor of my home parish. I said that perhaps someday one or some of them might have the opportunity to be assigned as pastor to this or some other parish here. That certainly is not as impossible as it may have seemed years ago, especially since we already have priests here who were students at that seminary before and who sang at our parishes during the first visit from their seminary eight years ago!

Remember them and all seminarians in your prayers!

**Very Rev. Richard I. Lambert, GCU Spiritual Advisor**

## Lessons in the Law

By GCU National Director Atty. John J. Urban

### Who Controls the Money?

"You can't buck the system." I know it's tempting to think you can circumvent the legal system when it comes to estate planning, but the truth is you just can't. To illustrate, here is a story of a local man whom I, coincidentally enough, met recently while vacationing on Anna Marie Island in Florida. I was on the beach talking to this guy and we got on the subject of estate planning.

He told me he didn't need a will or trust because he'd named his three children as the beneficiaries on all of his accounts. I asked the divorced dad how well he got along with his ex-wife and he quickly replied, "Not at all."

I explained to the man that because his children were

minors, his ex-wife would have control of all of his money - no matter how he'd listed his children on his bank account, IRA, and insurance documents.

In his case, we're going to create a trust and appoint a trustee to control the funds, in addition to creating the five critical documents he needs for a complete estate plan. Everyone has a different set of circumstances, and the solutions for one person might not be right for another. That's why it's important to schedule a review of your situation to help ensure the people you want to benefit from it, and that a person whom you don't want to have control doesn't have control. Contact your attorney today.



# Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary Choir Visits St. Nicholas Chapel



The Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary Choir from Uzhorod, Transcarpathia, Ukraine at St. Nicholas Chapel.

The seminary choir from the Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary from Uzhorod, Transcarpathia, Ukraine visited and sang in four-part harmony the responses to the Divine Liturgy celebrated at St. Nicholas Chapel in Beaver, PA on Monday, September 19, 2016. Celebrant of the Liturgy, entirely in Church Slavonic, was Bishop Nil Luschak, auxiliary bishop of the Eparchy of Mukachevo; with concelebrants Archimandrite Petro Beresh, the seminary rector; Father Myroslav Ryabinchak, seminary choir director; Father Mykhaylo Shkyndya, current administrator of St. Nicholas Chapel and a native of Mukachevo and graduate of Blessed Theodore Theological Seminary; and Father John Petro, past administrator of St. Nicholas Chapel whom Father Mykyaylo invited to concelebrate. Following the Liturgy, the choir sang six additional para-liturgical hymns, culminating in their singing, in appreciation and in English, “God Bless America.”

The GCU hosted the choir to a luncheon at Seven Oaks Country Club during the previous week and following the Divine Liturgy on September 19 provided the group with a “quick” pizza lunch as the group was on their way to a concert later that day in Parma, Ohio.

The Orientale Lumen Foundation sponsored the concert tour, “Sing Joyfully to the Lord: Sacred Hymns of the Carpathian Mountains,” from September 11 through October 2, 2016. The hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh and the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo had given their blessing and support for this special project. The choir visited Byzantine Catholic parishes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC over a three-week period. At each location, the group presented a concert of sacred music according to the singing tradition of the Carpathian Mountains of eastern Slovakia and southwestern Ukraine. Each concert included a combination of liturgical

selections and hymns in Church Slavonic. In addition to the concerts, the group sang at six Divine Liturgies in Church Slavonic at Byzantine Catholic parishes and also the Divine Liturgy celebrated in the Ruthenian Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Orientale Lumen Foundation, tour sponsor, is under the leadership of GCU member, Mr. Jack Figel of Fairfax, Virginia.

The Eparchy of Mukachevo, is the parent eparchy of our Byzantine Catholic Church in America, where from 1880-1920 many, many clergy emigrated to the United States, together with clergy from the Eparchy of Presov, Slovakia. The Choir of Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary previously toured the United States in 2008, also sponsored by the Orientale Lumen Foundation. One of their choir members at that time was Seminarian Mykhaylo Shkyndya, now Father Mykhaylo Shkyndya, current administrator of St. Nicholas Chapel. Approximately 20 priests of the Eparchy of Mukachevo are currently serving throughout the United States in Byzantine Catholic parishes of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh.



Concelebrants, shown after the Divine Liturgy. From left: Father Myroslav Ryabinchak, Father Mykhaylo Shkyndya, Bishop Nil Luschak, Father John Petro and Archimandrite Petro Beresh.

## GCU GoGive! Assists Sorority's Efforts

New Wilmington, PA. On Friday, May 6, 2016, the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha at Westminster College in New Wilmington held their spring philanthropy event "Eat for the Cause." They put together a spaghetti dinner at the New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, with all proceeds being donated to the sorority's philanthropy, Breast Cancer Education and Awareness.

With the help of a donation from GCU's program "Go Give," the sisters were able to kick start their event by using the money to buy supplies and other necessities. The event was a major success, ending with a donation to Breast Cancer Research of \$1,600.<sup>00</sup>

Maria Wahal, a member of GCU Lodge 255, is a sopho-



more at Westminster College and a sister of Zeta Tau Alpha. All of the sisters would like to thank the Greek Catholic Union for their generosity and for helping us to raise money for a cause that is near and dear to our hearts.

Maria Wahal

## What is GCU GoGive! ?

GCU GoGive! is a brand new funding program that will extend our fraternal helping hand and giving hearts to even more members and those in need!

All members are eligible to apply for GoGive! and receive \$250 seed money to get their project started. Think about a service project, fundraiser, or education workshop that would help your community, church or a cause close to your heart.

How it works:

1. Think about your cause and how you can help. Apply for GCU GoGive! online.

2. Rally the troops! Recruit volunteers, friends, family, neighbors, etc. to join the cause.
  3. Use your GoGive! card to purchase supplies for the event.
  4. Spread the word and promote your event!
  5. Report back to us on your success. Share pics on Facebook and social media to inspire other members!
- As long as you use the seed money for ingredients, materials, and supplies for your project (not a direct donation), the sky is the limit!

Think about how you can help and apply today!

## Parish Expansion Events

Pittston, PA. St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittston held its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Flea Market & Ethnic Food Weekend on August 6 & 7, 2016. This is an event that attracts people from the neighboring community and beyond each year and rallies church members together for the benefit of the parish.



St. Michael's has a special mission to its ethnic and religious heritage in a geographic area known as "Greater Pittston." The area is largely dominated by other ethnic cultures, a remnant of its immigrant past, but is also a community of contemporary diversity. In being the only Byzantine Catholic church among other faith denominations, St. Michael's has been working hard to maintain and grow its visibility. The Flea Market presents an opportunity to be a community presence and in doing so, gives others a chance to see and learn about the parish, and to evangelize the Byzantine Catholic faith in a general way. It is chance for parishioners to display their faith in action to others through service and sacrifice.

An outcome of this effort is evident in the number of return patrons at the event. They continue to recognize and express their gratitude for the consistent quality of ethnic food and baked goods the parish volunteers make, and the array of flea market items presented in an organized manner. The entire effort by parishioners takes months of preparation and on flea market weekend, at least 50 to 60 percent of active church members and friends of members volunteer, not including those who donate and help beforehand.



With a demographic profile that is becoming more challenging each year as with other parishes in the Northeast, St. Michael's parishioners remain determined in their effort to do all they can to support and maintain their church. With trust in God, the parishioners pray they can continue

to achieve success in this annual community activity and as a parish.

The parish received a GCU Matching Funds grant through the Parish Expansion side of the program.



Buffet.



Water balloon toss.



Karen Pavlick & Trish Roberts serve food.



Kitty Cherevka and friends.



At left: Brent Kolesar makes the selection with RoxAnn Savka (Lodge 94 basket fundraiser).



At right: the recipients Mary Bridge and Ted Trbovich smiling.



Frisbee toss.

**Afternoon at the Narcisi Winery.** On Sunday, July 31, 2016, District 1 held an afternoon at the Narcisi Winery, which is located in Gibsonia, PA. The day was warm, sunny and beautiful. Seventy-five people (the highest attendance of all the years), joined us to socialize and enjoy food, wine and music. The increase in attendance was due to the new way of publicizing the event: using a mass email instead of mailing postcards. The response of first-time attendees was amazing.

As everyone arrived, they were guided to the registration table. They had the opportunity to fill out a registration card in order to win one of three \$25 Amazon gift cards. The lucky recipients were: Veronica Mendenhall, Sandie Condie, and Esther Schreck. This was made possible from the Home Office as part of the special events subsidy.

This year, all the pavilions were booked for the summer. Therefore, there were three gazebos on the lawn adjacent to the public pavilion picnic area. This worked very well; the food, as well as the people, were able to stay in the shade. While everyone ate, drank and socialized, the Shari Richards Trio provided entertainment on the outdoor patio.

After everyone had a chance to relax, Publicity Director, Trish Rob-



Above: Members arriving at the winery.



At right: Narcisi outdoor pavilion area.



Friends Carolyn, Karen and Debbie socialize.

erts, invited all guests to try their luck at some fun, competitive games. This enabled people to move around. The first game was Frisbee toss. Mini Frisbees had to land within hula hoops. Different points were awarded. Steve Savka was the winner.

Game 2 was the ring toss; this involved partnership. One person tossed the rings while the other held the plunger. Eye/hand coordination was vital as you tried to help your teammate achieve a ringer. All this had to be done without stepping outside of the hula hoop boundary. Stephanie and Tabitha Savka were the team winners.

The third game was the water

balloon toss, played in two rounds. Being doused in water was not a bad thing due to the heat of the day. The group winners were Mark & Andrea Meloy and Rick & Theresa Goeller.

The last game played was the actual hula hoop. Women tried their luck at being the one to hula hoop the longest.

In conjunction with this event, Lodge 94 held a multiple basket fundraiser. This benefitted Mt. St. Macrina; with matching funds, a total of \$500 will be donated. Ted Trbovich and Mary Bridge went home happy after the drawing.

## DISTRICT 5 NEWS

BY ILONA  
DOLINISH



Adopt a Highway volunteers. From left: Greg Vladika, Ann Chai-ko, Paul Polanchik, Colleen Evans, Ed Keil, Jason Marcin and Ed Dolinich Jr.

Our annual golf tournament was on the morning of August 6, 2016 at Sugarloaf Golf Club with the start delayed due to heavy rainfall. However, the rest of the day was beautiful and rain free. We had 62 golfers with the team of Ed Keil, Joe & Dave Monka and Mike Haley having low gross and taking home the trophies (engraved clocks), along with a monetary prize.

Championship Flight Low Net 1<sup>st</sup> Place was the Batyko team of Paul Jr., Paul III, Phil and Matthew. Second place was Josh & Tom Billman and Alex Vincent, who hail from the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge. In third place was the team of Ed Dolinich III, Brandon Carling, Matt Mischello and Paul Kania.

First Flight Low Net 1<sup>st</sup> Place was Gary, Paul, Craig and Cory Pezak. Second place was Chuck & Rick Neary, and Tom & Jon Fiorelli. Finishing third was Gary Norconk,



The Pezak Family-Craig, Cory, Gary and Paul.



Chuck Neary, Jon Fiorelli, Tom Fiorelli and Rick Neary.

Frank Picchi, John Bubblo and Kevin Reilly. Proximity prize winners included Sue Grohowski, Paul Pezak, Michele Beleastro, Jason Marcin, Tom Billman, Joe Monka, Gary Pezak, Jonathon Williams and Carl Smith. Fifteen golfers hit the green on Hole-17, for a share in the Pot of Gold.

The day concluded with a Pig Roast with all the trimmings, followed by the presentation of tournament winners and a door prize for all. Thanks goes out to the GCU Home Office for the grant for door prizes, the sleeves of golf balls, and the preparation of entry forms. Thanks also to our hole sponsors and prize donors, and all of our participants. A special thank you to our Pot of Gold and Hole-in-One verifier, Dr. Louise



Champions-Joe Monka, Dave Monka, Mike Haley and Ed Keil.



Jonathon, Meghan & Krissy Williams and Josh Pardini.



Gerry Nash, Paul Suche, Joe Carnevale and Carl Smith.

Breakstone, who gave up her Saturday to sit on Hole-17. Save next year's date, Saturday, August 5, 2017.

Saturday, September 3 was our second Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup of the year. We were happy to see first timer, Jason Marcin lend a youthful hand. Thanks to the eight volunteers who showed up. One more clean-up will be held later this year. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Ed Dolinich Jr. if interested (570-562-2678).

Our annual meeting is scheduled for October 23 with Divine Liturgy at 8:30 AM, at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Old Forge, PA. The breakfast meeting will be held at Lucca's in Taylor, PA immediately following services.

Please consider helping out the Carmelite Sisters on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf, PA. We will be helping the Sisters prepare their grounds for winter, along with some indoor work.

Look for information regarding our annual No-Tap Bowling Tournament. Applications and details will be available on the GCU District 5 website.

Our 49<sup>th</sup> annual St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards Program will be held on Sunday, November 27, 2016 at the Radisson, Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton, PA. All District 5 eligible college students are urged to apply for a district scholarship. Brunch begins at 11 AM, followed by the presentation of scholarships and the Fraternalist of the Year award.

Enjoy the fall with the leaves already turning. We would love to see you at some of our upcoming events.



John Evans, Jason, Jeff & Laure Marcin.

**Hazleton, PA** One cannot believe that the summer season is over—but what a beautiful summer we had. I think it broke all types of records temperature wise. Now we get to watch Mother Nature take her course one more time and to see the beautiful fall foliage that is already appearing on some of the landscapes.

Our Matching Funds were raised through the sale of our fundraiser calendars and our lodge made donations to the following organizations: Holy Annunciation Monastery, Holy Dormition Friary, Catholic Social Services, Helping Hands Association, Salvation Army and the Disabled Veterans Organization (to take people to their appointments). Thanks to the GCU, many groups benefitted.

In honor of Mother Marija's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a Carmelite Nun, our lodge made a monetary presentation to her along with a fruit basket.

Our third quarter meeting was on Sunday, August 14 at SS. Peter & Paul in Beaver Meadows, PA. Roman Baran and James Spare gave a presentation in regards to the Disabled Veterans program and our officers presented the Matching Funds check to them. In recognition of their dedication and hard work the lodge presented gifts to GCU Director Dorothy Ann Foran and Lodge Secretary Agnes Rohrbach. Members voted to have our annual St. Nicholas dinner at Capriotti's this year. Tickets will be distributed at the fourth quarter meeting.

The lodge had a bus trip to the Sands Casino on August 23; a Back to School Bowling party at Bowl-Arena on Sunday, August 28 and on September 10 a group of us went to Sight and Sound Theatre to see the play "Samson" followed by a home style dinner at Good-n-Plenty Restaurant. The show was excellent and the dinner was delicious. Afterwards, people had a chance to shop in the bakery and gift shops. Next year's show is "Jonah" and requests have already been made to make reservations for the show.

The GCU'ers bowling league started their regular season on Wednesday, September 7. We now have 4 teams of 4 people and we are glad to welcome our newest member Rena DeSpirito. Maybe this year, one of our bowlers will reach the ultimate 300 game. We celebrated National Denim Day on Wednesday, October 12 and a free will donation was taken and sent to the Home Office to include in their donation towards breast cancer research.

Congratulations to Leslie Peters who won the 2016 GCU Junior Bowling Scholarship. Best of luck in your future endeavors. Also, kudos to the younger champs who placed in their age divisions. Way to go!

We still have a few more activities planned for bus trips: Sunday, October 23 we are going to the Sands Casino, and on Saturday, November 5 we are



Some of the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge members that attended the bus trip to Sight and Sound Theatre.



National Director Dorothy & Deacon Larry Foran and Agnes Rohrbach presenting check to Mother Marija.



From left: Ann Marie Betterly, Monica Sluck, Cathy Cramond, Deacon Larry & GCU Director Dorothy Foran, Pat Gallagher, Paul Kowalczyk, Agnes Rohrbach, Ann Marie Barna and Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM with check for Catholic Social Services.



At left: Sharon Horvath, James Spare, Roman Baran, Deacon Larry Foran, Rick Hoppey and Agnes Rohrbach donation to Veterans of Foreign Wars.

going to the Christmas show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. If weather permits, we may plan another casino trip the middle of November.

"Lest We Forget"- let us all take a few moments for a prayer of silence and remember all those who have given their lives for our safety and well being. If you see a veteran, shake their hand and say "Thank You."

Last but not least, here is wishing everyone a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. Take some time to enjoy the day with family and friends.

Sometimes, due to circumstances beyond our control, dates and activities are subject to change. If you are in doubt about an event or meeting, please give me a call at (570) 454-4869 or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates.

Till next time, take care and may God bless.

**Agnes Rohrbach**

Athletic & Activities Director

At right: Deacon Larry and Dorothy Foran presenting check to Fr. Carmen Scuderi, OFM for Holy Dormition Friary.



## Upcoming GHRL Activities

**October 23**—Bus Trip-Sands Casino.

**October 29**—Helping Hands Day at Holy Annunciation Monastery.

**November 5**—Christmas Show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

**December 11**--St. Nicholas Dinner at Capriotti's @ 1 PM.

## Lodge 52 Members Assist with Flea Market



From left: Dorothy Mayernik, Leslie Coval, Kathy Kranack and event chairperson Michelle D'Angelo.



From left: Mary Taylor, Michelle D'Angelo and Kyle Lyn Coval.

Upper St. Clair, PA. Lodge 52 along with the parishioners of St. Gregory Byzantine Church conducted a flea market fundraiser on Saturday, August 13, 2016. The event was a great success with GCU Matching Funds the total raised from the event was over \$6,400.<sup>00</sup>.

The items for sale were donated by parishioners and lodge members. The event has a reputation for clean and good working items for sale. The line for admittance began forming around 7 AM. Many of the shoppers left with smiles, happy with the purchases they made.

Rosemary Tomko



Shoppers browsing the rows of items.



Nancy Pillar at the jewelry table.



From left: John Tomko, Michelle D'Angelo and Mike Pillar presenting a check to Fr. Valerian Michlik.

## Lodge 386 "Cookout" Held Indoors

Carrick-Pittsburgh, PA. Lodge 386 of St. Pius X Church in Carrick helped support the annual Parish Cookout on Sunday, August 7. Although we did "cook out," we actually held the event indoors because of the very hot and humid weather. That didn't put a damper on the great food and fraternalism we enjoyed.

Many parishioners we haven't seen in a long time joined us and it was great to be together. There were about 60 people in attendance! Burgers, dogs and of course kielbasi, all grilled to perfection, matched up with delicious side dishes prepared by those who attended. In addition to our lunch, we held a food bank drive to support St. Paul of the Cross

Food Bank in the South Side of Pittsburgh. Over \$100 will be given to the food bank!

Many thanks to our GCU Home Office for the giveaways and financial help to make this a success.

Beth Gulyasy, Secretary/Treasurer



Attendees in the church hall.



Kitchen help taking a break.



Food Bank donation table.

## MORE FROM LODGE 644

BY JOHN  
KEBLESH



Soup kitchen volunteers.

**Akron/Barberton, OH.** On Thursday, August 18, Lodge 644 sponsored a dinner in Barberton, OH to feed those in need. Not only was it well attended but we had many enthusiastic volunteers. Along with our lodge members a number of parishioners from St. Nicholas Church came forward to help. We commend President Sue Irving for organizing the charitable event, but it took the volunteers to make it a great success



The kitchen crew.

## Lodge 994 Veterans Enjoy Plane Ride

**Beaver, PA.** Lodge 994 members Andy Zeedick and John Schweich were recently treated to a ride aboard a Biplane. The plane is owned by the Angels Aviation Dreams Foundation, which offers rides aboard the aircraft to veterans.

The event took place at Beaver County Airport on August 22, 2016. The rides lasted approximately 20 minutes and featured an unparalleled view of Beaver County from an open cockpit. The aircraft served as a trainer for Army Air Corps pilots in the early 1940s.

Lodge 994 is a regular supporter of various veterans' projects. At its third quarter meeting, members agreed to donate \$300 in support of twice yearly (May and October) bus



John Schweich (center) presents a check for \$300 to Jerry & Lydia Fisher, organizers of the Veterans Bus Tour. The tour transports Beaver County veterans for annual visits to key memorials in Washington DC. The presentation occurred at the Air Force Reserve Base at Pittsburgh International Airport.

trips to Washington, DC to visit the World War II and Korean War memorials which are provided gratis to approximately 45-50 Beaver County

by providing meals for the less fortunate. In addition, we express our gratitude to the Home Office for the grant which helped defray the cost of this community outreach.

This was our only activity during the summer months and possibly the hot weather had much to do with this. In fact, Akron broke a record in having its hottest August since they began keeping records in the nineteenth century. Most people spent the time indoors thanks to air conditioning.

September marks the end of summer vacation, the resumption of school activities and looking forward to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations as well as church and lodge activities.



veterans, many of whom would be unable to make the trip otherwise. Lodge 994 also allotted \$300 to Air Heritage, an organization that operates an aircraft museum and restoration facility at the Beaver County Airport. Air Heritage members presently are restoring a WW2 C-47 named "Luck of the Irish."

Beaver County is home to the largest community of veterans in the State of Pennsylvania.

**John Schweich & Georgia Zeedick**

## Lodge 17 Assists with Parish Event

Old Forge, PA. St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held their Flea Market on Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18 in the Social Center. GCU lodge members assisted throughout, but were responsible for the kitchen where homemade foods were in abundance. Menu items included holupki, pirohi, haluski, wimpies, pizza and hot dogs. A special thanks goes out to the Home Office for printing our fundraising tickets.

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Taylor, PA will be holding their Turkey Bingo with the assistance of GCU Lodge 17 on Sunday, November 13, 2016. Turkeys will be given away as bingo prizes. In addition to the bingo, there will be several other fundraisers and homemade food for sale. This will be a matching funds event. Please come and support.

During the month of November, Lodge 17 will be collecting food for the poor in our area and collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Club—please contribute.

Ed Keil, Secretary



Above: Kitchen help at St. Nicholas Flea Market. Ed Keil, Mike Mokay, Russell Helbing, Beverly Pihulski and Gina Keil. Missing from the photo, Ilona Dolinish.

At right: Flea Market offerings.

## Lodge 69 Supports Parish Events

Pottstown, PA. Lodge 69 was pleased to assist our parish with their Ethnic Food Fest on Sunday, July 17 at St. John's Hall. The week before the food fest, volunteers prepared the food to be sold. Holupki, pierogi, halushki, potato pancakes, kielbasa sandwiches, nut rolls and paska were popular items. Donations of baked goods added to our excellent sales. Attendees played bingo as families and friends gathered together for good food, entertainment and fellowship.

The lodge also was a sponsor of the Vacation Bible School held at St. John's in July. A very nice thank you letter was received from the participants acknowledging the lodges support.

Judith Petro, Treasurer



Members preparing food.



The youth preparing cabbage for halushki.



Irene Horosky selling baked goods.



Pat Olock and Pam Tarapchak collecting money from Gene Harding who was paying for food.



Customers waiting to buy food.



Vacation Bible School participants.

## Lodge 255 Has a Busy End of Summer



Minute to Win It winners.



Dinner in the Seven Oaks Country Club Grille Room following the Lodge 255 golf outing.

**Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA.** On Saturday, August 13 Lodge 255 held its annual golf outing at Seven Oaks Country Club followed by dinner in the Grille Room. Those who did not wish to golf were able to enjoy the beautiful day by the pool. Congrats to all winners!

Saturday, August 20 was the fourth annual Minute to Win It event. Par-

ticipants from Lodge 255 and St. John Chrysostom Church in Greenfield were combined into teams to compete in this fun event. Congrats to all the winners... but win, lose, volunteer or just enjoy the fun as a spectator, the evening is always a great time for all.

On Sunday, September 11 Lodge 255 held its lodge meeting at Seven Oaks. The day began with Liturgy

in the GCU St. Nicholas Chapel, followed by brunch which was subsidized by the lodge and finally our meeting. Patty Niskach led with a beautiful prayer remembering 9/11 and we celebrated Jay Gula's birthday. We look forward to holding another meeting at Seven Oaks and hope to see even more in attendance next time!

**Melanie Basl, Publicity**



Above Lodge 255 Brunch/Meeting at Seven Oaks.

At left: Lodge 255 golf winners.

## Lodge 144 Remembers Police & Firemen

**Aurora, CO.** On September 11, 2016 GCU Lodge 144 was honored to provide lunch for the firemen of the Denver Fire Department Station 2 and the police officers and detectives of the Denver Police Depart-

ment District 3. The members of Lodge 144 are grateful to those who serve and protect every day.

Lodge 144 does this in memory of all the valiant men and women who lost their lives in the terror at-

tacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. We shall not forget the lives that were lost and the many lives that were forever changed on that fateful day.

**Mary Ellen Oslick**  
Lodge President



Police officers of Department District 3 with GCU National Director John Oslick and Alexander and Genevieve Oslick.



Fireman of Station 2 with GCU National Director John Oslick and Alexander, Genevieve and Kevin Oslick.

## Lodge 401 Holds Third Annual Picnic

**Nanty-Glo, PA.** The third annual summer picnic for GCU Lodge 401 and members of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church was on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at the Nanty-Glo Park & Pool.



Veronica Melcotti, Anne Morey and Millie Fenchak.

It was nice to set aside a day to relax and enjoy a casual get together with good food and good friends. There were over 50 people in attendance.

We gathered at one of pavilions at the park & pool area. Thank goodness for pavilions. Around 1 PM it began to rain. It was not a summer

shower, it was probably the biggest downpour the area experienced all summer. Did this dampen our spirits? Not at all! The minute the kids got permission from their moms to play in the rain, they were off and running. It was quite entertaining to watch them and I am sure everyone



Montagnese kids-Jonah, Cecelia, Sam and Lucy.

was thinking of the days when they too played in the rain.

The lodge provided the hamburgers and hot dogs, buns, drinks and tableware. Those attending brought a covered dish. This added to the



Katie Soyka.

selection of foods that ranged from haluski, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, hot sausage, fresh fruit and vegetables, homemade blackberry pie, cakes, brownies and more.

A special thanks to Steve & Lori Bender who spearheaded the setup and cleanup. Thanks to the Home Office for providing items for the kids. Most of all thanks to everyone who attended and made the day so memorable and special.

**Eugene Ostinowsky**  
Vice-President

## Update from GCU Lodge 92

**Jessup, PA.** Lodge 92's summer was full of fairways and greens. The lodge sponsored holes at three different golf tournaments: District 5, District 15 and the Carbondale YMCA. Lodge 92 also had three members participate in the charity golf tournament for the Sisters of Saint Basil and District 15's golf outing both held at Seven Oaks Country Club. President Greg Barkowski Sr., Greg Barkowski Jr. and Dave Pawlikowski made the journey out west to Seven Oaks and challenged a course that certainly lives up to its reputation.

In early November, the lodge will sponsor a chicken dinner with proceeds and matching funds going to the Holy Ghost Byzantine Church in Jessup, PA. Lodge mem-



Lodge 92 golfers at the District 15 Golf tournament in Beaver, PA. From left: Dave Pawlikowski, Greg Barkowski Jr. and President Greg Barkowski Sr.

ber Timothy Keller will serve as chairman of the event and tickets will be sold for \$9.

The lodge will also be request-

ing a grant to distribute goodie bags to local senior centers in time for Thanksgiving. This is a new project that Secretary Michaela Mancak introduced as a way for Lodge 92 to be more active in the community. This will be in addition to the annual Saint Nicholas Children's Christmas Party that will be held on Sunday, December 4.

President Greg Barkowski Sr. also mentioned that Lodge 92 will be helping another family in need this year for the holidays. This donation has been occurring for the past few years and the lodge looks forward to helping make the holidays special for another family again this year.

Lodge 92 would like to wish the entire GCU nation a Happy Thanksgiving and sends a reminder to be grateful for all the blessings that we have received.

**Mark Barkowski**  
Publicity Director

## Lodge 340 Honors the Mother Of God

Rahway, NJ. On Sunday, August 14, 2016 St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church had a Divine Liturgy in honor of the Dormition of the Mother of God with a procession with the shroud and the traditional blessing of flowers for the feast day. A blue carnation, supplied by the GCU lodge was presented to each individual prior to the procession. This feast day commemorates the death/falling asleep of Christ's Mother Mary and her being taken up into heaven. Everyone had an opportunity to venerate the shroud at the conclusion of the service.

An **Appreciation Picnic** was sponsored by GCU Lodge 340 in the patio room following the service. Lodge 340 was grateful to be able to show their appreciation to the church members by funding this event with their prize money that was awarded them at the National Convention. More than sixty people were in attendance. Jim Stasicky grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and kielbasi, and Joe Rudo prepared beautiful slalina (slab bacon) open face sandwiches with onion, peppers, tomatoes and of course extra bacon. Everyone brought their favorite picnic food to share, including: potato salad, macaroni salad, olive salad, coleslaw, baked beans, deviled eggs, baked ziti, cheese & crackers, chips & dips, cakes, brownies, rice pudding, chocolate lollipops and watermelon.

There also was the awarding of door prizes. The prizes included a silverware set, jewelry, candles and baking utensils. Gloria Ryan and Joan Gautreau assembled survival kits to help us through life as favors. The Home Office supplied pens and eyeglass/computer screen wipes for the group.

Linda Cweikalo presented a program on the Special Olympics. The Special Olympics was our lodge's charity event this year at the St. Thomas Church's annual Tricky Tray held on October 5, 2016. Special Olympics is the world's largest sport organization for children and adults

with intellectual disabilities. We will have an article on the event in the December issue.

**Mark Bannworth Honored.** This year Lodge 340 presented our "Membership Service Recognition Award" to Mark Bannworth at our picnic. Linda Cweikalo, "The 2012 National GCU Fraternalist of the Year," made the presentation. Linda presented a certificate and gift to Mark for his over fifteen years of behind the scenes, unselfish service to Lodge 340 and St. Thomas Church. She listed some of Mark's contributions including: organizing the Helping Hands mum planting each year, delivering food to Food for Friends numerous times, delivering hundreds of pairs of shoes to Soles for Souls, picking up bread and pies for our sales, picking up flowers and palm crosses for Altar Rosary sales, and pancake mix for our festival each year, cooking at our pancake breakfasts, playing St. Nicholas at the District 7 Christmas parties, submitting all our pictures to the *GCU Magazine*, making all our posters, tickets and flyers for our events throughout the years, organizing a Men's Club bus trip to the Sands Casino and constructing a model of our church



Mary & Mark Bannworth with Linda Cweikalo.

to be used for the Bethlehem Carolers. He is truly our St. Nicholas.

**Icon Donation.** Lodge 340 member Gloria Ryan and her two friends, Betty Kampo and Peter Wislocki got together to donate an icon of Christ to St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church. The Right Rev.

Archpriest James Hayer blessed the icon at the presentation on Sunday, July 24, 2016 immediately following the Liturgy. Gloria, Betty and Peter are all workers at the St. Thomas Church bingo each Monday night.

**Birthdays Celebrated.** We served a cake in honor of Fr. Hayer's and Joseph Rudo's birthdays on July 24, 2016 in the St. Thomas Church's patio room after the Sunday Liturgy.



Betty Campo, Gloria Ryan and Peter Wislocki donate icon of Christ to St. Thomas Church.

Everyone sang Happy Birthday to the two gentlemen and enjoyed a piece of delicious cake.

Fr. Hayer and Joseph Rudo are both members of Lodge 340. Fr.



Joseph Rudo and Fr. James Hayer.

Hayer is the pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, as well as, chaplain of the lodge. Joseph Rudo serves as the sacristan at St. Thomas Church. May God grant them both many years of peace, health and happiness.

**Mary Bannworth**, President

## Lodge 268 Helping Hands Day

**Mingo Junction, OH.** In June Sara Gasser organized a Helping Hands Day with some of her neighborhoods in South Side, Pittsburgh, PA. She asked Lodge 268 to help with the event. In July, Lodge 268 had a Helping Hands Day at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church. Volunteers weeded all the flower beds, spread new mulch and did a general clean-up of the parish grounds. Thanks to the GCU for the Helping Hands Day



grant—we were able to purchase a new lawn mower.

**Sara Gasser, Publicity Director**



Lodge 268 members are shown (left) picking up debris from the church grounds and (above) pausing for a group photo after a rewarding day of work.

## Lodge 316 Members Enjoy Summer Activities



Lodge 316 members assisting at and enjoying the Phillipsburg Ole Towne Festival.



**Phillipsburg, NJ.** This has been a busy summer. On the weekend of July 8-10, Thomas the Train came to Phillipsburg. This is an annual event that draws thousands of visitors to town. In addition to rides on Thomas, visitors could also take a second train which traveled south of town to an abandoned mine which was once a ruby mine. After returning to Phillipsburg, everyone had the opportunity to visit a petting zoo, play mini golf, have their picture taken with Thomas, or visit a refreshment stand.

This year, Lodge 316 teamed with members of SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church to operate a parking lot. Using property graciously donated for the weekend by a church member, cars were able to park for all three days of the event. The volunteers worked different shifts for the three days and had to endure unusually hot temperatures.

This was a matching funds event which raised \$4,000 for the church. We wish to thank all the volunteers who donated their time, as well as the GCU for making this such a successful event.

**Phillipsburg's Annual Ole Towne Festival** was held on July 15 and 16. This was the 29<sup>th</sup> year for this celebration. The Festival was held on two days this year as opposed to the usual three day event. On Friday, there were concerts in the downtown section of town, as well as food vendors and an antique car show.

On Saturday, festivities were held in Walters Park. There were local bands playing a variety of music genre, tethered hot air balloon rides, a charity softball game, a youth soccer competition, delicious food provided by local restaurants and non-profit organizations, and fireworks.

Lodge 316, along with members of SS. Peter & Paul once again sold pierogies. Sales were brisk and the proceeds, as always, went to the church. The lodge would like to thank all the volunteers for their time, and hard work. The Fraternal Grant program is greatly appreciated.

Our next event was the golf outing at Green Pond Country Club on August 13. We joined forces with the Christopher Meddaugh Foundation to raise money for Notre Dame High School (Green Pond) scholarships, and the Immune Deficiency Foundation. This was a matching funds event and was a successful outing. See the event report on page 41 of this issue.

**Kathleen Meddaugh, Secretary/Treasurer**



## Lodge 47 Matching Funds Donation



Binghamton, NY. With assistance from the GCU Fraternal Communications Department, Lodge 47 was

able to make a sizeable donation to Holy Spirit Byzantine Church in Binghamton, NY. The lodge sponsored a calendar fundraiser which resulted in a profit of \$2,772.<sup>34</sup> The calendars were printed by the GCU which also contributed \$1,250 in Matching Funds. The final profit for the entire project came out to be \$4,022.<sup>34</sup>

At left Lodge 47 President Bob Sufлита is shown presenting a check in that amount to a smiling Father Peter Tomas, pastor at Holy Spirit Church. Father Peter expressed his gratitude to everyone at the Greek Catholic Union Home Office for their generosity.

**Robert Sufлита, Lodge 47 President**

## Lodge 62 Says Thank You with Dinner



Punxsutawney, PA. GCU Lodge 62, with the help of a fraternal grant from the Home Office, held a thank you dinner at SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Church in Punxsutawney. The dinner was a thank you for all those that assisted with the parish festival. The festival takes weeks of preparation and a lot of hard work. The thank you dinner allowed everyone to relax and enjoy an evening together.

**Elaine Koromaus, Secretary**

## Lodge 57 Efforts Benefit Sisters of St. Basil

Brownsville, PA. Lodge 57 members and other parishioners were hard at work making five aluminum roasters of haluski for the Labor Day Weekend, which they donated to the Sisters at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA for their annual Pilgrimage.

Lois Dirda and Margaret Cramer were preparing the noodles while Rose Kordich and Helen Geiselman were at the stove boiling water and frying the cabbage. Lodge 57 Treasurer Becky Thomas and Secretary Melody Yeardie were busy chopping the raw cabbage and overseeing this worthwhile project. Father Chris Burke helped anywhere he was needed.

This annual donation is given to the Sisters at Mt. St. Macrina to help



Above: Thomas Rubish helping with the collection.

At right: Paul Andrew Rubish and his dad, Paul.

feed the many pilgrims and visitors who come there each year. The Sisters appreciate the donation and surely the ones eating the haluski enjoy it!

**Lodge 57 members Paul Rubish,**



and sons, Paul Andrew and Thomas, volunteered as ushers during the pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina this past Labor Day weekend. One of the Sisters commented that Paul Andrew was “an usher in training” as he helped with the collection baskets at the 10:30 AM Liturgy on Sunday. Later that day, during the 4 PM Liturgy, he again helped with the collections and assisted his father in holding a cloth as others received the Eucharist from the priest. His younger brother, Thomas, was glad to help with the collection basket, as well. Their dad, Paul, has been ushering for the pilgrimages for many years. Now his sons, with their dad’s leadership, are enthusiastically following in his footsteps! Keep up the good work!

**Bernie Karoffa, Publicity Director**



Haluski makers (from left): Helen Geiselman, Rose Kordich, Becky Thomas, Melody Yeardie, Lois Dirda, Margie Cramer and Fr. Chris Burke in the back.

## 2016-2017 GCU Scholarship Programs

GCU is pleased to announce the scholarship opportunities and requirements for the 2016-2017 scholarship program. Visit [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com) for more information.

**Online scholarship applications will be available October 3, 2016 – December 31, 2016.**

### Membership Requirements for all GCU Scholarships

To be eligible for a GCU scholarship, the student must be a member of the GCU for at least five years (as of January 30, 2017) with either:

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

Membership requirements must be maintained throughout the application and award process in order to receive any scholarship award.

### Opportunities for College Students

The **National Scholarship is a \$1,500.00 award** for members who:

- are attending college (or other post-secondary education) as a full-time student
- maintain a 2.75 GPA
- meet all application and eligibility requirements

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- essay (at least 500 words)
- letter of recommendation from a parish priest, college chaplain or other clergy
- fall 2016 grade transcript (unofficial transcript accepted)
- photo

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

- previously received the National Scholarship
- maintain a 3.3 GPA as a full-time student
- meet all application and eligibility requirements

This award can be received a total of four times; does not have to be consecutive years.

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- fall 2016 grade transcript (unofficial transcript accepted)

### Opportunity for High School Seniors

The **Athletic Scholarship is a \$1,500.00 award** for one male and one female member who:

- are high school seniors
- participated in at least one organized sport
- participated in at least one community service or volunteer activity
- maintain a 2.3 GPA
- will be seeking a degree program in the following academic year

Along with an online application, applicants must submit:

- letter of recommendation from coach/instructor/organizer of each sport the student has participated
- letter of participation from organizer of at least one volunteer activity the student has participated
- school photo
- photo of student participating in sporting activity or in sports uniform
- current grade transcript

Applications for any of the above scholarships must be completed and submitted in one session by 11:59 PM EST on December 31, 2016 to be eligible.

Once the online application is received and membership requirements are verified, the student will receive an email within 10 business days confirming acceptance of the application and requesting **supporting documents be submitted by Monday, January 30, 2017.**

Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt email for supporting documents. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL.**

The GCU Scholarship Committee will meet at the end of April 2017. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement email by **May 12, 2017** informing them if they received a scholarship award.

## Lyndora Pilgrims Make Trip to Uniontown



From left: Pat Tarcha, Bernice Goepfner, Helen Musko and Janet Uram.



From left: Louis Pocchiari, Mary Seibel, Diane Onnen and Bill Uram Jr. in front of the Lourdes Grotto.



Deacon Mike Meaders with his wife Cindy.

**Lyndora, PA.** On Sunday, September 4 Lodge 109 in Lyndora sponsored a bus for the annual pilgrimage to honor Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA. The Lyndora lodge was only one of two this year who chartered a bus for the trip. There were 38 pilgrims on board who represented parishioners of St. John The Baptist Byzantine Church in Lyndora, their friends and family, and parishioners of neighboring churches in Butler, PA who were invited to join us.

On the trip to Mt. St. Macrina, Louis Pocchiari led the group in praying the Rosary and singing the various Marian hymns as well as giving first-time travelers a brief history of the 82 years of the Pilgrimage and its origin. The day was spent in prayerful reflection and intention at the numerous shrines and grottos on the extensive grounds of the Mount. Many pilgrims also took home icons and other religious mementos from

the gift shop to complement the memories of their experience. Lodge 109 is grateful to its many friends and neighbors for joining with us to continue to make this trip a meaningful and worthwhile tradition.

We would also like to thank the GCU Fraternal Department for the grant which helped to defray the cost of the bus for this trip and for the shopping bags used to carry our purchases home from the Mount.

**Janet Uram**

Lodge 109 Secretary-Treasurer



Lodge 109 pilgrims pause for a photo.

### IMPORTANT CHANGES TO REPORT TO THE GCU IT ONLY TAKES A PHONE CALL!

Help us to keep your account information current. Please contact GCU Member Services at 1-855-306-0607 with any of the following changes:

- ✦ Marital Status
- ✦ Address Changes
- ✦ Banking Changes for Deposits or Withdrawals
- ✦ Request for IRA Minimum Distributions

## Kushners Celebrate 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On Sunday, August 21, 2016 Bill & Barb Kushner celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a Liturgy at St. Michael's Byzantine Church in Canonsburg, PA celebrated by Very Rev. Joseph Raptosh, pastor. In 1971 the late Rev. John Boradach united them in matrimony at St. John Chrysostom

Byzantine Catholic Church in Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA.

Bill is a retired teacher and Barb is recently retired from People's Gas and serves as a GCU national director.

Both Bill and Barb bowled and golfed in many GCU events and currently participate in GCU activities and volunteer projects.

They are the parents of a son, Christopher and his wife, Amy, and a daughter, Nicole and her husband, Kevin Watenpool. They have three grandsons—Andrew & Ethan Kushner and Dylan Watenpool. The Kushners wrapped up their anniversary celebration at the North Shore Hyde Park Steak House with family.

May God grant them many years!

Nicole Watenpool

## Genevieve Oslick Medalist

On July 27, 2016 Genevieve Oslick traveled to Houston, TX to compete in the 50<sup>th</sup> AAU Junior Olympic Championship in the sport of speed stacking (also known as cup stacking). On the first day of prelims seven year old Genevieve competed in each of the individual events consisting of the cycle, the 3-6-3 and the 3-3-3. Genevieve qualified for finals in all three events with her personal best times.



Genevieve Oslick

At finals Genevieve received bronze medals in the 3-6-3 and the cycle. In the 3-3-3 Genevieve outstacked her competition to win the gold medal and stand atop the podium in first place.

Genevieve is the granddaughter of MaryEllen & John Oslick, GCU national director of Aurora, CO. Genevieve along with her brother Alexander and parents Kevin & Michelle are members of GCU Lodge 144 in Denver, CO. A 100 percent GCU family. Congratulations Genevieve!

MaryEllen Oslick, Lodge 144 President

## Albert C. Peters III Commissioned

Albert C. Peters III (Trip), former member of GCU District 2, was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy on August 12, 2016, at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Pittsburgh, PA. A recent graduate of Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, Ensign Peters is stationed at Norfolk Naval Base on the destroyer USS Mitscher.



Ensign Albert C. Peters III

Ensign Peters is a member of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church of Harrisburg, PA. He is the son of Albert C. & Meribeth (Psak) Peters II of Mechanicsburg, PA. Trip is the grandson of Mildred and the late John Psak of Charleroi, PA. John served on the USS Halsey Powell during World War II. Both John and Mildred served as past lodge and district officers and as delegates to past GCU Conventions.

Ensign Peters has been a recipient of the GCU National and Academic Performance Scholarships and currently is a member of the Greater Hazelton Regional Lodge.

## Jillian Martin Doctor of Pharmacy

Jillian Renee Martin recently graduated *cum laude* from the pharmacy school at West Virginia University. She graduated with a Doctorate of Pharmacy.

Jillian is the daughter of Robert & Diane Martin and the sister of Ryan and Kaylee Martin. She is the granddaughter of Elizabeth and the late Clifford Martin of West Homestead, PA and Mary Ann and the late Donald Hallygan of South Side-Pittsburgh, PA. She is a member of Saint Andrew's Byzantine Church in Gibsonia, PA and GCU Lodge 255.



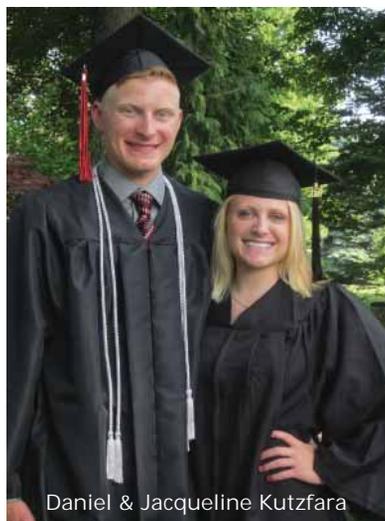
Jillian Martin

While studying at the WVU School of Pharmacy, Jillian was a member of the WVU chapter of the American Pharmacists Association - Academy of Student Pharmacists and the Beta Eta chapter of the Kappa Psi co-educational pharmaceutical fraternity.

She was a recipient of the Nona Fay and CM Hamlett Scholarship and the National Association of Chain Drug Store Education Foundation Scholarship.

Jillian has accepted a position with Rite Aid in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

## Kutzfara Family Celebrates Dual Graduations



Daniel & Jacqueline Kutzfara

John & Patricia (Wahal) Kutzfara of Elizabeth Township, PA celebrated two of their children's graduations earlier this year.

Their daughter Jacqueline Marie Kutzfara, graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania on May 7, 2016 with her bachelor of science degree in developmental psychology and a minor in sociology. She

completed an internship this spring with General McLane

School District in which she worked under the school psychologist. Jacqueline is currently employed at The Children's Institute in The Day School and plans to obtain her master's degree in the future. Jackie was a GCU National and Academic Performance Scholarship recipient.

Their son Daniel Carl Kutzfara, graduated with honors from Elizabeth Forward High School on June 1, 2016. He was a four-year letterman for the boys' varsity soccer team and served as captain his senior year. Daniel was also a two-year letterman for the boys' varsity baseball team. Daniel plans to pursue a career as a heavy equipment operator.

Daniel and Jackie also have a brother John B. They are the grandchildren of Donna and the late Carl Kutzfara of Elizabeth and Barbara and the late Basil Wahal of Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA. They are members of Saint John Chrysostom Church and GCU Lodge 255, both in Greenfield.

## Mary Harbist & Jeff Brayer Wed

Mary Harbist and Jeffrey Brayer were married on July 30, 2016, by Very Reverend Andrew Deskevich. Reverend Dr. Thomas Schaeffer concelebrated. The wedding was celebrated at St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Ruska Dolina (Greenfield-Pittsburgh, PA), where Mary, her siblings and parents were baptized, and her parents were married. Responses were sung by the Byzantine Archieparchial Choir under the direction of Mrs. Darlene Fejka. The epistle was chanted by Mr. Gregory Fejka. A reception followed at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Moon Township, PA. The couple honeymooned in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, with stops to see the Hoover Dam, the Grand Canyon and Sedona, AZ.

The bride is the daughter of GCU Membership Director John P. Harbist and his wife, Elizabeth. She is the granddaughter of Frank & Marianne Harbist and the late Frank & Mildred Tihey. Jeffrey Charles Brayer, a native of Rochester, NY, is the son of Kathy DiBella and F. Charles & Patty Brayer, all of Rochester.

Katherine Harbist, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Andrew Kitzenberg, college friend and business partner of the groom, was the best man. Bridesmaids included sisters of the groom Kaitlin Brayer of Rochester, and Marcia Brayer of Brooklyn, NY; Alexandra Bel-

lay of Washington, DC; Julie Solar of Philadelphia, PA; Jamie Williams of Denver, CO; and Lindsay Champ of Pittsburgh. Groomsmen were stepbrother of the groom,

Thomas Guiler of Wilmington, DE; Timothy Rigoni of Rochester; brother of the bride, John F. Harbist of Pittsburgh; Christopher Knight of Boston, MA; Mark Magro and Mark Rothwell both of Rochester.

Jeff and Mary met in the summer of 2008, far from home in the Mediterranean Sea, out in the middle of the ocean. They were both passengers aboard the MV Explorer, a surprisingly well equipped cruise ship that ferried 500+ college students on a 101 day cruise. Mary and Jeff were both enrolled in Semester at Sea, earning college credits while visiting 11 countries in Europe.

Mary is a 2010 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, with degrees in biology, chemistry and history. A member of Lodge 10, Aliquippa, PA Mary is a past recipient of District 15 Senior Awards and GCU National Scholarship awards. Mary is a

high school science teacher at The Pingree School in South Hamilton, MA, where she also coaches field hockey and lacrosse. Jeff, a 2009 graduate of Babson College in Boston, is the Director of Sales for OnHand, a tech accessory company headquartered in Boston. Mary and Jeff are members of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Salem, MA, where the couple will make their home.



Photo by Melanie Grady Photography

Jeff & Mary Brayer

# Lodge 302 Autumn Update



Members at the game.



Diane Richey and Jean Karaffa modeling their GCU hats.



The Ciresi family enjoying the picnic.

**Brecksville, OH.** It was a phenomenal day of comradery, great food and baseball at the annual GCU Night at Progressive Field on Saturday, July 30. Members and guests attended a picnic tailgating party at the St. Joseph Byzantine Church picnic pavilion. Everyone then boarded the bus which went directly to Progressive Field where the Indians won the game playing against the Oakland As. After the game, everyone enjoyed spectacular fireworks at the stadium before heading back to the church. A big thank you goes out to Jean Karaffa for organizing this well attended event and the Home Office for all the give-away gifts. We all love our hats and visors!

**Hot! Hot! Hot!** It was a scorcher of a day, but the Lodge 302 Golf Outing took place on Sunday, August 28 at Briarwood Golf Club, Broadview Heights, OH. Prior to tee off, members and guests gathered at Jeff & Diane Richey's home and enjoyed barbequed chicken and ribs. All attendees received prizes at the event. Thank you to Jean Karaffa for organizing the event and to the Richey's for hosting!

**Estate planning—**are you pre-

**pared?** On Sunday, September, 18, 2016 Lodge 302 held an Estate Planning Seminar in the Orleans Party Center at St. Joseph Church. The seminar was attended by 26 interested parishioners. The day began with an "Introduction to GCU and GCU Products" presented by GCU Sales Agent and Tribunal Member Judy Weitzel. In addition to Judy's presentation, a table was set up with GCU literature and a few giveaways. Judy took questions about GCU products as well.

The main speaker for the event was GCU National Director Atty. John Urban. John's talk included sharing his experiences with clients over his 40 year career of practicing law in the area of Estate Planning. He discussed documents and Ohio law, real estate deeds, the probate process, pros and cons of joint survivorship property, rules concerning Medicaid planning/estate recovery act and planning for pets.

Discussion after the event with attendees indicated the seminar was a success and a real eye opener for some. One attendee stated that "even if you have your documents in order,

doesn't necessarily mean that they are in line with changes in the law. Great seminar."

**Get ready for Trunk or Treat** being held on Sunday, October 30 after 10:30 AM Liturgy at St. Joseph Church. Adults participating should bring candy to distribute from the trunk of their car to children "Trunk or Treating." Halloween Costumes recommended but not required – children should bring a bag/pumpkin to collect their goodies!

GCU Lodge 302 will be holding a Holiday Fundraiser as their 2016 Parish Matching Funds project. There are actually two fundraisers—a stocking full of goodies for children and a Basket of Cheer for the adults. The kids prize will be awarded in conjunction with the parish St. Nicholas Pot Luck Dinner/Children's Christmas Party. The adult prize will be awarded on Sunday, December 18, 2016 immediately following the 10:30 AM Liturgy. Tickets for both events are available from lodge officers. Proceeds from the fund raiser

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Rita and Ralph Contapelli with Bonnie Ciresi and Jean Karaffa.



Golfers Rachel Arrowood, Adrienne Reiger and Jean Karaffa.



Jeff Richey tasting the last morsel of barbequed ribs.

## Lodge 351 Supports Community Effort



Indiana, PA. Lodge 351 of District 4 helped to sponsor the kick-off walks for WalkWorks Ernest, PA and WalkWorks Glen Campbell, PA. The lodge provided water, protein bars and pedometers for walkers who wanted to be a part of walking the new routes that were established in these two communities. The PA WalkWorks Program is coordinated through the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health-Center for Public Health Practice, PA Department of Health and the Indi-

ana County Department of Planning & Development.

Barbara Hauge, the WalksWorks Program Manager in Indiana County, was on hand to explain the reasons for the development of the program in the state of Pennsylvania. Indiana County is one of the counties in the state which participates in this program due to our above average obesity and obesity related chronic diseases. Currently, Indiana County has seven routes that walkers can choose as a means to increase their activity.

Each route has a walking leader, and set times for walkers to meet each week to walk the path. All walkers are welcome to join any one of the walking groups in Indiana County.

Additional information for the WalkWorks Program in Indiana County can be found on the following webpage <http://www.icopd.org/indiana-county-walkworks-program.html>. Information about the WalkWorks program in Pennsylvania can be found at [www.pawalkworks.com](http://www.pawalkworks.com).

Patty Yamrick

## GCU Lodge 302...

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

will benefit St. Joseph Byzantine Church.

### Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 30—Trunk or Treat, St. Joseph Church following 10:30 AM Liturgy.

Sunday, November 6—Fourth Quarter/Annual Meeting, St. Joseph's Activity Center immediately following 10:30 AM Liturgy.

Saturday/Sunday, November 19 & 20—Banner Sunday and Food Drive, St. Joseph Church.

Sunday, December 4—St. Nicholas Pot Luck Dinner/Children's Christmas Party, St. Joseph's Church Hall following 10:30 AM Liturgy.

Diane Richey & Jean Karaffa



GCU Director Atty. John Urban and Tribunal Member Judy Weitzel making their presentations at the Lodge 302 Estate Planning Seminar.



## Lodge 93 End of Summer Report



Lodge 93 member Walter Rogal along with some of the Helping Hands crew presenting a donation to Fr. Vasil.

**Northern Cambria, PA. Helping Hands Day St. John's Byzantine Church.** It seemed that Helping Hands Day was a summer work in progress. The work included the cleaning of the church, chapel and the social hall. Then it was the repair of the choir walls and the ceiling and wall of the sacristy. Volunteers applied sealant to the back parking lot and sections around the church and chapel. Mary Susick, our resident iconographer, is repainting the window icons in the chapel.

The church grounds were also landscaped with the trimming of the trees and cutting of the grass. Sections of the handicap entrance outside the church were cemented. New carpets were placed at the inside entrance leading to the church social hall. Thank you to all the lodge members and parishioners that volunteered their help and services for a job well done. Fr. Vasil Polyak is pastor of St. John's Byzantine Church.



**Flag Day.** Lodge 93 donated 100 dozen USA flags to the local American Legion. The smaller flags were distributed to viewers along Veterans Day and Memorial Day

parade routes. The larger flags were placed on the graves of veterans where needed.

**Father's Day Social.** Lodge 93 sponsored a Father's Day Social at St. John's in Northern Cambria. A Divine Liturgy was celebrated for all our living and deceased fathers. Afterwards parishioners and friends proceeded to the social hall for a light luncheon of meatball sandwiches, side dishes, coffee and cake. A good time was had by all.

**Annual Patron Saints Dinner.** Lodge 93 helped sponsor and support the annual dinner at St. John's and



SS. Peter & Paul's in honor of their patron saints. This year the dinner was held at St. John's. We invited Metropolitan William Skurla who celebrated the Divine Liturgy with Fr. Vasil. After the Liturgy parishioners and friends proceeded to the church social hall for the annual patron saints dinner. Metropolitan William gave the blessing. The dinner included roast beef, parsley potatoes, mixed vegetables, a variety of side dishes, coffee and a welcome cake for Metropolitan William. A thank you to all that attended. A special thanks to all the volunteers that helped with set up, food preparation and clean up. This was most appreciated. A thank you also to Metropolitan William, Sister Elaine and Sister Valeria as our special guests.

**Heritage Day.** Lodge 93 sponsored a vendor booth during this day long regional festival of activities. There were 110 vendors lined along Main Street. There was an entertainment section, vendor section and many activities for the children. This was an excellent venue for GCU promotion and exposure.

The event started at 9 AM and ended with a fireworks display at 10:30 PM. A thank you to all the volunteers that helped in the booth. Plans are being discussed to expand next year's event to an additional day.



**Pizza Party.** Lodge 93 sponsored a Pizza Party for all the volunteer workers that helped with Helping Hands Day, Patron Saints Day Dinner and the Heritage Festival. A thank you to all that made these activities a success. A job well done. Keep up the good work.

**Anniversaries, Birthdays and Icon Exhibit.** Lodge 93 sponsored the monthly coffee & cake social along with a pizza party at St. John's Byzantine Church, Northern Cambria to recognize all parishioners that celebrated their anniversaries and birthdays. An icon exhibit was also displayed in the social hall to view, discuss and learn about icons. Everyone enjoyed and said, "what a great idea" to display the icons.

**Annual Picnic.** St. Anne's Byzantine Church Grounds, Clymer, PA was the location for the annual picnic. District 4 helped support and sponsor the event with all lodges and area churches in the region invited to attend. The day began with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Fr. William Lascelles, pastor at St. Anne. The Liturgy was well attended. A basket fundraiser, door prizes, children's games and GCU promotional items were part of the day's activities. The weather was very cooperative with blue skies and temperatures in the 80's. The pavilion and large erected tent acted as a much needed oasis for shade during the festivities.

There was a variety of food from holupki, pulled pork,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Lodge 336 Spring & Summer Activities Update

**Euclid, OH. Spring Tri-Fecta Matching Funds Benefit for St. Stephen's Parish.** Lodge 336 had a Spring Trifecta matching fundraising event. There were three prize levels. First prize of \$300 went to George Zeglen. Second prize of \$200 went to Helen Andrews. There were two third prizes consisting of \$100 each, that we presented to Larry Koval and Kelly Mazur.

**Spaghetti Dinner Fraternal Event.** Lodge 336 Spaghetti Dinner

held on April 17 was both a social and fraternal event held at St. Stephen's Church in Euclid. The lodge members served authentic Italian spaghetti and homemade meatballs to about 70 people. GCU agent Randy Baden joined us that day and gave a brief presentation on the current GCU products. Randy was kind enough to provide several gift certificates that were given as door prizes.

**Flag Day Commemoration and Coffee Social.** Lodge 336 held its

annual Flag Day Commemoration and coffee social on Sunday, June 5 at St. Stephen's. Once again we had rainy weather and were unable to have a formal outdoor flag raising ceremony, but we did not allow it to affect our patriotic spirit. Lodge members, together with parishioners from St. Stephen's joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of God Bless America. The flag ceremony was followed by coffee and doughnuts.

Pat Comai, President



Above: parishioners enjoying the Flag Day commemoration sponsored by Lodge 336.

At left: photos of the Lodge 336 Spaghetti Dinner volunteers and attendees.



## Lodge 93 Report...

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers and many assorted side dishes. My compliments to all the cooks for the excellent food.

A thank you to all those that helped make the picnic a success. A special thank you to St. Anne's for being a wonderful host and helping combine the various area churches. Approximately 140 attended plus children. Everyone commented on the idea of having the picnic on church grounds which is more centrally located than in the past. Looking forward to next summer's picnic.

A special thank you to the GCU Home Office for the multiple grants that assisted with several of the above events.

John J. Katana, Lodge 93 Secretary



Lodge donation to Fr. Vasil for interior painting project.

## Lodge 28 Liturgy Plus Picnic



Father Tom celebrating Liturgy in the cemetery chapel.

**Southside-Pittsburgh, PA.** On Saturday, August 20 Lodge 28 organized a Sunday-anticipated Liturgy and summertime picnic on the St. John the Baptist cemetery grounds. Instead of driving to church on the South Side, participants went to Castle Shannon, PA where the cemetery is located.

Father Tom Schaefer celebrated a beautiful Liturgy at the chapel. Following the service, we moved the chairs outside into the sunshine and grass. Everyone then had a chance to enjoy the picnic and socializing.

After eating, a group of participants created a circle to play the Left-Right game. In addition, the bouquet of flowers that adorned the altar was taken home as a door prize.

The day was a nice change of pace—visiting the



Top: Joan Koman, Dorothy Overlingas and the Fugas.

Center: Group enjoying the food.

At left: Famous artist Andy Warhol's grave is located in the cemetery.

graves of the deceased of the parish while simultaneously enjoying Liturgy, a picnic and a different landscape.

**Kim Kolesar, Secretary**

## Happenings at Hillsborough

**Hillsborough, NJ.** Recently Lodge 254 presented two scholarships to seniors James Suseck and Nicolle Swindell. Each student was awarded \$500 to defray the cost of college tuition. Both students have been life-long communicants at St. Mary's.

Nicholle graduated from Manville High School and plans to attend Raritan Valley Community College for two years to earn her Registered Nursing degree. She then plans to attend a 4-year university to earn her bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN). Nicolle is active in the church choir, and has cantored the daily Divine Liturgy during the summer as her work schedule permits

James began taking classes at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ prior to high school graduation. He plans on pursuing a degree in finance. James has attended Liturgy every weekend since his childhood. His father consistently encouraged him to make time to worship. All

through high school James volunteered as an assistant ECF teacher which helped to further his knowledge and deepened his faith.

Congratulations to two outstanding young people as they start this next new exciting phase of life.

On Tuesday, July 12, fifty GCU members, parishioners and friends rode to Lancaster, PA to experience *Samson*, the latest production of Sight and Sound Theatre. Following this amazing presentation, the group had a "Pennsylvania Dutch" style dinner at the Bird in Hand Restaurant. The day's activities concluded with a guided tour of an Amish country-side farm.

Special activities were planned for our parish picnic and centennial celebration that began in August.

**Elias Zareva, President**



Lodge 254 bus trip to Sight and Sound Theatre.

## Lodge 442 Fun & Successful Summer Activities



Lodge 442 members and parishioners of Infant Jesus of Prague Church boarding the bus for Kennywood Park and Byzantine Family Day.

**Boardman, OH.** GCU Lodge 442 and members continue to take an active part in promoting GCU through sponsored events.

The first ever SS. Peter & Paul Ethnic Food Festival was held on Saturday, June 25 at the Infant Jesus of Prague BC Church pavilion. Ethnic food and a silent auction for donated baskets highlighted the event. Our members donated many of the baskets as well as bake sale items.

Tillie & Elaine Chachko represented Lodge 442 as delegates to the 42<sup>nd</sup> GCU Convention in Atlantic City, NJ at the end of June. They presented a synopsis of the convention at our July 17 third quarter meeting.

The lodge membership tailgate party was held at 8:30 AM on Thursday, July 28 prior to our parish bus leaving for Byzantine Family Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA. Current membership was updated on new products while prospective members received information on GCU products and fraternal benefits. Despite the rainy weather, everyone enjoyed the day and Sister Barbara offered a prayer of thanksgiving on the bus ride home.

The annual picnic for our home parish of Infant Jesus of Prague was held on Wednesday, August 3. Lodge 442 along with the Altar & Rosary Society and the Byzantine Social Club is an annual sponsor of the event.

Lodge 442 members helped to supply the parish's bake sale tent at the Vatra sponsored by the local Carpatho-

Rusyn Society on Saturday, September 10. The Vatra was held at the Infant Jesus of Prague pavilion. GCU Agent Randy Baden was there to provide information to prospective members. Randy also awarded three \$25 gift cards to those that completed the information card. Winners were: Becky Dubic, Mark Cefcik and Chris Cassidy.

A parish Corn Roast was held on Wednesday, September 14 at the pavilion. It was a fun end of summer event featuring a Corn Hole Tournament. Winners included Dick Prest and Father Michael. Mike Vasilchek, Paul Kasper and Father Michael also



Corn Hole Tournament participants.

won our fundraising drawing.

The annual combined dinner of St. Nicholas and Infant Jesus of Prague parishes took place on Sunday, October 2 at the Byzantine Grove in Youngstown, OH. The lodge along with the Altar & Rosary Society sponsored a door prize for the event.

Lodge 442 is sponsoring our annual matching funds event "A Month of Sundays." Tickets are \$5 and proceeds will benefit the Infant Jesus of Prague Building and Grounds Maintenance Fund.

**Elaine Chachko**  
Activities Director

### Interest Rates Effective October 1, 2016

**New Annuity Accounts.** The interest rates for all new GCU Annuity accounts effective October 1, 2016 are as follows. One-Plus-Four Annuity will earn 1.25%APY; Triple Advantage accounts will earn 2%APY; 5-Year Advantage accounts will earn 2.85%APY and Flex-8 accounts will earn 3.35%APY.

**GCU Option "A" Annuities.** Annual interest rates on Settlement Option "A" (interest only, minimum deposit \$5,000) annuities is 1%APY.

**Please Note:** Total deposits into new One-Plus-Four, Triple Advantage and Option "A" Annuities are limited to \$100,000 combined per member, per calendar year. Total deposits into 5-Year Advantage Annuities are limited to \$500,000 and total deposits into Flex-8 Annuities are limited to \$1,000,000 per calendar year.

## News from the Big Apple

New York, NY. Fine food... engaging entertainment... fabulous friends and riveting fundraisers... all part of the Matching Funds Luncheon at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Westbury, NY. Kudos and many thanks to Marge Pajer-Russell for spearheading a luxurious and wonderful afternoon of GCU friendships.

Our church family and GCU family donated much time, talent and their treasures to form this successful gathering. We cannot name all of those who made this event special but want to thank Ed Matusiewicz, our chef extraordinaire, for creating our delicious cuisine and Marie Turner (age 7) who did a great job in leading the people in the singing of God Bless America.



Marie Turner

Following the lunch Maureen Daddona spoke on "An Aha Moment with God." With a visually interesting PowerPoint presentation, she explained how our brains are hard-wired for God to receive answers we struggle to find. She stated we are very fortunate that our Byzantine Catholic faith engages all our five senses to show us that **God Is With Us**: sight - icons that surround us; taste - receiving the holy Eucharist; smell - incense; sound - singing; touch - blessing ourselves.

She shared her personal "Aha" moment with God. She was doing research for her doctorate in neuro-



Matching Funds Luncheon attendees.

ogy working on the answer to a complex problem facing US Navy SEALs, who experienced adverse effects, other than the bends after their dives. The answer stubbornly eluded her. Praying before her favorite icon, Rublev's Holy Trinity, she prayed to God for His help. She "let go and let God" during the period she called incubation. She asked her mentor for help, but was simply told to clean out the chemical closet in the lab. One element stood out, "Ruthenia Red." (Coincidentally, Ruthenia is the homeland of many Byzantine Catholics and Rusyns). She used this element in her research and successfully earned her doctorate. God had spoken.

Marge Russell visited the GCU complex in Beaver, PA twice during the summer. It was great seeing how the development continues to grow and prosper. GCU members Russell Pajer and son Ryan loved playing the challenging golf course at Seven Oaks. Mike Knapp was very impressed with the GCU complex, the food, the friendly people, and the beautiful St. Nicholas Chapel.

What a beautiful Labor Day weekend it was for the Mount St. Macrina annual Pilgrimage in Uniontown, PA. Marge Russell attended the weekend with her brother GCU member Michael Knapp. They attended the



Marge Russell and Mike Knapp



Deacon Nicholas and Maureen Daddona.

Slavonic Liturgy in which Lodge 151 members Patricia Dietz and Martha Dietz, led the people in the singing. It was great seeing the Dietz family, George and sister Martha, Renee and brother Eric and friends Amanda,



Martha and Patricia Dietz cantoring at the Pilgrimage.

Liz and Tim at the pilgrimage. The Sisters of St. Basil spent a lot of time and energy in making this event very religious and prosperous. The food, and cookies, were delicious. Thanks for all your hard work.

Our Fraternalist of the Year donation to the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Fresh Meadows, NY was joyously received.



Very Reverend Fr. Zbigniew Brezicki receiving a check from Chris Hulak.

Chris Hulak presented a check to the Very Reverend Fr. Zbigniew Brezicki, pastor. The money will be used to repair the front steps of the church.

Lodge 151 will hold its annual meeting on November 20 at the Cottage in NYC at 12:30 PM. Please call Emily Panchuk at 718-894-3377 if you will attend. Thank you! Hope to see you there.

Sadly, on September 19, 2016, John Sikoryak fell asleep in the arms of the Lord. He was a longtime member of the GCU, devoted to his family and friends, a Korean War Veteran and a #1 Yankees fan. Vicnaja Pamjat'!

**Ann Kandrato & Marge Russell**

## Lodge 81 Concludes Busy Summer

**Uniontown, PA.** At Lodge 81's quarterly meeting on Sunday, August 28 those present agreed to make donations to the Mount Saint Macrina Pilgrimage, the Seminary Concert Tour, and the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration. Also discussed was information regarding any changes that came about at the GCU 2016 National Convention.

**Parish Picnic.** Lodge 81 members participated in many church and community events through the summer. The St. John Parish picnic, August 21, was enjoyed by all who attended. Gerry Dorobish, Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas donated baskets and gifts for the fundraiser. They also helped with planning and serving at the event. Due to heavy rain, the picnic had to be held in the Social Hall.

**Labor Day Pilgrimage.** For the Mt.



Fr. Ron Larko and Helen Ponzurick making pirohi for the Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina.

St. Macrina Helping Hands Day, final preparation on Saturday, August 27, Gerry Dorobish assisted in the Religious Gift Shop, while Bonnie Balas put finishing touches in the Trinity Center by sweeping and dusting the furniture. On Tuesday, August 30 St. John parishioners, including Lodge 81 members: Ann Kormanik, Helen Ponzurick, Theresa Petruska, Norbert Duritsa and Mary Ellen Harden helped make 300 dozen pirohi, which were donated for the Pilgrimage. At the Pilgrimage itself, Rich & Marcia Harrer helped with parking cars, Bonnie Balas along with John Kashner and Colin Svanda worked at St. Anne Shrine. Gerry Dorobish and Linda Patterson helped with Religious Gift Shop sales. Stephen Petruska, James Mihalko, Bry-

an Ponzurick and Paul Rubish served as ushers for the services.

**Seminary Concert Tour.** St. John parish was blessed by being asked to host the Seminary Concert Tour



Bonnie Balas (left) and Marcia Harrer present a check to Bishop Nil Luschak.

on Wednesday, September 14. Janet Gaydos, Cathy Phillips and Bonnie Balas, as part of St. John Social Ministry Committee, planned the dinner and reception for the Uzhorod seminarians. Lodge 81 presented a check to Auxiliary Bishop Nil Luschak for the Blessed Theodore Romzha Theological Academy. The seminarians were very appreciative of the gracious welcoming they received and reciprocated by socializing and singing Rusyn folk songs, a real treat for those who attended the reception.

**September 17 Activities.** On September 17, Catechetical Sunday, Marcia Harrer, Gerry Dorobish and Bonnie Balas, all Lodge 81 officers, and ECF teachers were commissioned as cat-



Bonnie Balas and Helen Ponzurick at the Rosary Walk.

echists for the 2016-17 year. Marcia Harrer, ECF coordinator, gave a brief presentation to the students and their parents about the Year of Mercy, while Gerry Dorobish assisted with student registration. Bonnie Balas was in charge of the September Coffee Social held on Sunday, September 17. Among the birthday celebrants was George Patchan. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Rosary Walk was held also held on the same day. Helen Ponzurick led the praying of the second decade and Bonnie Balas led the singing of Byzantine Marian hymns for the 150 plus who attended from the Uniontown area Catholic churches.

**Car Show.** The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Car Show held on Sunday, September 25, was quite a success. About 125 cars were registered. Lodge 81 received a GCU grant to help with expenses for the event. GCU members who helped with this event were Stephen Petrus-



Car show entrants fill the parking lot at St. John's.

ka and James Mihalko, who registered vehicles, Janet Gaydos, who took care of baked goods and the food area, and Bonnie Balas and Cathy Phillips who took food orders and cashiered. Theresa Petruska prepared food, and with Helen Ponzurick helped sell the \$5 tickets for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration. The GCU Home Office kindly donated these tickets.

As summer concluded and autumn began, Lodge 81 looked forward to the Annual Food Drive held on the weekend of October 8-9. The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration will be held on Sunday, October 30 Lodge 81 members will once again be an integral part of the event.

**Bonnie Balas**  
VP and Publicity Director

## Lodge 15 Fraternal Grant Assisted Event

Trenton, NJ. Patron Feast Day Dinner. In 2003 Rev. Gregory J. Noga, pastor of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Byzantine Catholic Church asked members of Lodge 15 if they would be interested in preparing a dinner honoring the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. We gladly accepted. The commemorative dinner continues to this day, being prepared by parishioners with dedication and devotion.

Fr. Gregory invited Fr. Edward Cimbala, a vocation of the parish, to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition and Fr. Ed gave an inspiring homily. Fr. Cimbala is the newly assigned pastor of Our of Perpetual Help Church in Levittown, PA.

Lodge 15 presented a fraternal grant to Fr. Noga to enhance the Feast Day celebration, where in approximately 18 members were among those attending.

The making of Medovniki (honey cakes) for this feast day has been a long tradition of the parish and continues to the present. Lorraine Scranton and Lavena Haumann, Lodge 15 members, made a generous amount of Medovniki this year which resulted in a sizeable donation to benefit the parish.

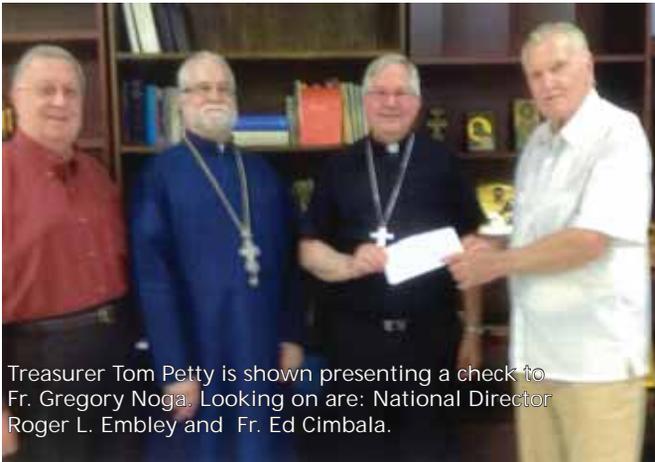
A thank you to all who made the event successful and we look forward to this tradition continuing for many years.

**Annual Meeting.** The annual

meeting of Lodge 15 will take place on Sunday, November 27 in the social hall of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church following the 10 AM Divine Liturgy. The church is located on the corner of Grand & Malone Streets in Trenton. The social hall is located on the corner of Adeline & Beatty Streets in Trenton. We invite all members including those from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Levittown, PA and St. Nicholas Church in Roebing, NJ to this important meeting for the election of officers and the planning of 2017 events. A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

We would like to wish all the GCU a Happy Halloween and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Marcy Embley, Publicity



Treasurer Tom Petty is shown presenting a check to Fr. Gregory Noga. Looking on are: National Director Roger L. Embley and Fr. Ed Cimbala.



GCU members who attended the feast day dinner.

## Lodge 697 Supports Flood Victims of West Virginia

Weirton, WV. The parishioners of St. Mary's Byzantine Church in Weirton together with the members of Lodge 697 held a Bakeless Bake Sale to raise money for the flood victims of West Virginia that were afflicted by the June 22 storms. We were able to collect donations for a period of six weeks. In that time, our lodge members and parishioners generously donated \$1,000. The GCU Home Office matched the funds we raised to give us a grand total of \$2,000 towards our community. The donation went to Catholic Charities

of West Virginia, specifically to their Disaster Relief fund.

Thank you so much to our lodge members who donated and also to our St. Mary's parishioners who donated to this worthy cause. We are West Virginia Strong!

**Rachel Lahita Shank**

Lodge 697 Secretary-Treasurer



Flooding in one of the communities affected on June 22 in West Virginia.

# Lodge 625 Summer Happenings

**Conemaugh, PA.** Lodge 625 hosted its second annual Lodge/Parish Picnic on August 21, 2016 at Highland Park in Johnstown, PA. A total of 84 individuals attended and even though the weather did not cooperate as we had hoped, all had a good time. We shared in picnic food, played bingo, the children were treated to a goody bag with treats and hunted for nickels and candy in the hay. We would like to thank the Home Office for providing giveaway items and gift cards for our special subsidy event.

Our third quarter meeting was on August 28 following Divine Liturgy at 10:15 AM in the church social hall. A recap of the GCU National Convention was presented and discussed.

We will once again be hosting a Halloween Party for the children of



Children hunting for candy and nickels!



Bill Dubovecky and Paul Yackulich Jr., our chefs for the afternoon.



BINGO!



Mary Romanko and Chuck Webb.

the lodge on October 29 and will be providing treats to the community during Trick or Treat night when it is announced by the Borough.

Our annual Steelers Tailgate Party will be held this year on November 20 with a 1 PM kick-off. Lodge members and their families are invited to watch the game on our 55 inch TV and enjoy food and fellowship. There will also be surprises throughout the event.

As a reminder, members of Lodge 625 who have email addresses are asked to email them to the lodge so that we can compile a distribution list to keep members informed of upcoming events and activities. The email address is [GCULodge625@yahoo.com](mailto:GCULodge625@yahoo.com).

Georgia Lehman

## Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation

1. Title of Publication: The GCU Magazine
2. Publication No. 227900
3. Date of Filing: September 22, 2016
4. Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 6
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12.00
7. Location of known office of publication: 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513.
8. Names and complete addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Greek Catholic Union of the USA, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
9. George N. Juba, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513  
Basil M. Wahal, 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
10. Owner: Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A., 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009-9513
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and other Security Holders owning or holding 1% or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or other Securities: None
12. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal Income Tax purposes have not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Title: GCU Magazine
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: August 2016
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: GCU Members + Subscriptions

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed	12,785	8,096
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	0	0
2. Mail Subscriptions	11,723	6,696
C. Total Paid Circulation	11,723	6,696
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier or other means	0	0
E. Total Free Distribution	0	0
F. Total Distribution	11,723	6,696
G. Copies not distributed	1,062	1,400
H. Total	12,785	8,096

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: October 2016
17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

-s- Basil M. Wahal, Managing Editor

## Basilian Sisters Honor Sister Jubilarians

Uniontown, PA. The Sisters of Saint Basil of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province, recently honored their Sisters who were observing jubilees and significant year anniversaries. On Sunday, July 24, 2016, the Sisters, their associates, families and friends gathered in the monastery chapel as Metropolitan Archbishop William

C. Skurla celebrated a Divine Liturgy of thanksgiving for Sister Stephanie Baval, OSBM, a 75-year honoree and for Golden Jubilarians Sisters Janet Decker, OSBM and Sister Joanne Lickvar, OSBM. Sister Stephanie, a resident at Mt. Macrina Manor, was unable to be present.

In his homily Metropolitan William spoke of the faith that can move mountains. Situations that seem impossible or insurmountable can be overcome with determination, faith, prayer and fasting. With faith, life changes the way that people think and they come closer to Jesus Christ.

Metropolitan William congratulated Sisters Stephanie, Janet and Joanne and thanked them for their lives of service to the church, for all those whom they taught, and for the countless lives that they touched.

After the Liturgy, the celebration continued with a festive dinner in the monastery dining room.

St. Mary Church in Trenton, NJ was the home parish for Sister Stephanie. As a very young Sister, she remembers an early ministry in the residence of Bishop Basil Takach. Her specialty in teaching was the primary grades for twenty-five years. She then developed her talent for iconography and art design, and she became an accomplished and well known iconographer. The icon that she wrote depicting the Call of the Apostles became the vocation icon for the Eparchy of Passaic.

Sister Janet entered the community from Saints Peter and Paul Church in Lopez, PA. Her years of ministry were mainly dedicated to education as a teacher and principal. After St. John School in Wilkes-Barre, PA was closed, Sister Janet continued to serve there in pastoral ministry. Presently she serves as assistant at the Cemetery Office, and she offers her clerical and organizational skills wherever needed.

Sister Joanne came to the Sisters from St. John the Baptist Parish (now the Cathedral Parish) in Cleveland, OH. She, too was, committed to education as teacher and



Above: Sister Joanne Lickvar and Sister Janet Decker.

At right: (front) Sister Euphemia Kopa, Sister Jean Marie Cihota and Sister Margaret Fedyszak. Back: Father Michael Huszti and Sister Ruth Plante, provincial.



principal in schools staffed by the Sisters. She served the community as education consultant and when assigned to the chancery in Phoenix, she worked for the eparchy in the finance office and as coordinator of the Safe Environment Program. The years from 2007 to 2013 found her in Rome after being elected Vicar General for all of the Sisters of the International Order of the Sisters of Saint Basil. She was elected to the Provincial Council in 2015, an office she holds today.

Along with Sister Stephanie, other Sisters with special anniversaries who are residents of Mt. Macrina Manor were honored earlier that week. They are 80 years, Sister Emma Pauline Fedorchak, OSBM and Sister Leona Trudich OSBM; 70 years, Sister Leonora Kondrach OSBM; and 60 years, Sister Josetta Kriss OSBM.

Sisters also honored at the monastery on another day that week were: 70 years, Sister Euphemia Kopa OSBM; and 60 years, Sister Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM and Sister Margaret Fedyszak, OSBM.

Saint Michael in Donora, PA is the home parish of Sister Emma Pauline Fedorchak, OSBM. She likewise was dedicated to the ministry of teacher and principal for many years. Then for a long while she was appointed to pastoral ministry at St. George parish in Linden, NJ. Upon her return to the monastery she devoted time as a volunteer at Mt. Macrina Manor, visiting the sick and offering comfort to them.

Lansford, PA was home for Sister Leona Trudich, OSBM, and St. John Church there was her parish. She offered her services in various parochial schools as teacher, principal, and in later years, as library aide. With Sister Leonora she served in pastoral ministry at St. John in Hazleton, PA until that ministry was discontinued. Her retirement years have been devoted to the ministry of prayer.

Sister Euphemia Kopa, OSBM, joined the Sisters from

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Basilian Sisters...

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

St. Mary Parish in Weirton, WV. Following the prime apostolate of the Sisters at that time, she too was a teacher and principal.

Many former students can remember her as their second grade teacher. She also served in the bishop's residence and as administrator of the former St. Basil's home. She has worked as assistant to Sister Vladimir in the monastery baking department and the medovniki project for the Pilgrimage, a ministry which she continues today.

Sister Leonora Kondrach, OSBM, entered from St. Mary Parish in Freeland, PA. Most of her 60 years as a Sister were devoted to the apostolate of education as both teacher and principal. When St. John School in Hazleton, PA was closed, Sister Leonora continued there in pastoral and catechetical ministry. Then she helped as a teacher's aide at St. Mary School in Cleveland, OH and at the House of Prayer at Mount St. Macrina.

Sister Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM, came from St. Nicholas Parish in McKeesport, PA. She has been dedicated to the ministries of elementary education, religious education, pastoral ministry, community administration as assistant provincial, and vocations. She has also fulfilled appointments as Assistant Director of Vocations for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and as a member of the Intereparchial Vocations Commission. Since 2006, her ministry has been in the chancery of the Eparchy of Phoenix where she is also the Eparchial Safe

Environment Coordinator.

Sister Josetta Kriss, OSBM, left her home parish of St. Michael in Canonsburg, PA when she answered the call to the consecrated life. Many of her years of ministry were devoted to educating children both as teacher and principal in the parochial schools of the Archeparchy and of the Eparchies of Parma and Passaic. She was also named as Provincial Counselor, Province Treasurer and as director of the Byzantine Seminary Press in Pittsburgh.

The parish of SS. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio is the home parish of Sister Margaret Fedyszak OSBM. Her ministerial specialty was culinary arts at the monastery, SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, the former St. Basil's Home, and at various convents of the Metropolitan Church. She is a certified massage therapist, and she has offered that talent at Mt. Macrina Manor, where she also worked in the Activities Department.

Susan McCarthy



September 2016

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Dear Friends,

As we share memories of our recent Pilgrimage in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, two words seem to be repeated over and over – joyous and peaceful. It seems that everyone experienced a sense of calm which touched both body and spirit. The grand "reunion" of our Byzantine Catholic family and friends was a source of joy and encouragement while old friends and new friends shared their faith. It seems that everyone appreciated the reprieve from being bombarded with tales of violence, immorality, and politics.

The weather was certainly the most visible "miracle" with flooding and hurricane winds to our south and threatening storms to the north while we enjoyed warm sunshine and bright blue skies for the entire weekend.

The meaningful liturgical services and the uplifting homilies touched the hearts of many. The cheerful presence and tireless service of our Basilian Associates and generous volunteers, certainly has been pleasing to Jesus and his Most Holy Mother.

We also know that many pilgrims experienced miracles of the heart. Some of the words they shared with us were transformation, forgiveness, freedom, peace, energy, love, comfort.... The full details of each story are only known by Jesus and each pilgrim.

Be assured that we will be remembering you fondly in our daily prayers throughout this year. May each day hold a special blessing for you, and may Jesus lead you back to our holy Mount for Pilgrimage 2017.

With our love, prayers, and deep gratitude,

*Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM*

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM

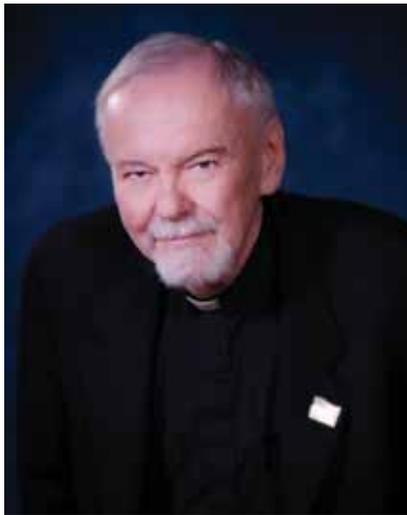
and the Sisters of St. Basil

## FATHER ROBERT BARTER Tribunal Member 1996-2016

Father Robert Barter, 80, a member of the GCU Supreme Tribunal from 1996-2016, died September 15, 2016 following an illness. Father Barter, a native of New York City, was a member, national officer, longtime supporter and friend of the GCU. Ordained in 1961 by Bishop Nicholas T. Elko, he served briefly at parishes in Passaic, NJ Cleveland, OH and Detroit, MI before being assigned in 1964 to the relatively new Byzantine Catholic parish of St. John Chrysostom in Columbus, OH where he would serve for the next 23 years.

In Columbus Father Barter guided the fledgling community through the construction of a multi-purpose building, a rectory with classrooms for catechesis and then the current church, built in the spirit of Byzantine architecture, and noted for its attractive dome and adherence to Eastern Christian building motifs. Father Barter was a staunch advocate of Byzantine Catholic theology and traditions as he advocated his strong convictions through his homilies, presentations, discussions and informal gatherings.

In 1987 he became pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Detroit where he would serve until his retirement in December 2014 due to health. With the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup>



+ Father Robert Barter

century and new millennium, Father Barter and the parish community of St. Nicholas realized that their location in Detroit at that time was not as suitable to the faithful as a suburban site to the north along Lake St. Clair. Deeply committed to this cause, he and the faithful of St. Nicholas parish worked tirelessly and were successful in locating an existing Roman Catholic Church that was being closed as part of a greater reorganization plan within the Archdiocese of Detroit. He and the St. Nicholas parishioners then worked to transfer liturgical art and artifacts as they redesigned their new location to adhere to Byzantine traditions. They celebrated their first official Divine Liturgy at the new site

on October 11, 2009.

Father Barter supported the GCU through local Lodge 860 at St. Nicholas parish where he was a longtime member; through GCU District 11-Michigan activities and events; and on the national level where he attended numerous National Conventions, being elected to the Supreme Tribunal at the 1996 Convention in San Antonio, Texas. When the GCU National Bowling Tournament took place in the greater Detroit area on several occasions, Father Barter cheerfully accepted the invitation to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the hotel where bowlers were staying. On one occasion, he not only brought his chalice, vestments and other altar appointments, but also large icons of Christ and Mary the mother of God, to create a mini-iconostasis. Although a section of the main ballroom had been set up for the Liturgy, Father Barter noticed and preferred the very large, semi-circular atrium area outside the ballroom. Commenting that the atrium area was architecturally and spatially more appealing suited to liturgical celebration, he asked GCU bowlers to move the temporary altars and chairs from the ballroom to this area. Noticing this, the hotel officials readily agreed that the new location was more “church-like.”

In addition to his parish assignments Father Barter was a member of the Parma Eparchial Liturgy Commission for many years and a religion teacher at the former Byzantine Catholic High School in Parma, OH. He was a strong supporter of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and attended the annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA over the Labor Day weekend throughout most of his priestly years.

Metropolitan William Skurla was the celebrant for the second night Vigil Service for a Departed Priest and retired Bishop John Kudrick was celebrant of the Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial for a Priest, together with clergy of the Eparchy of Parma at St. Nicholas Church in Clinton Township.

Eternal memory and blessed repose.



**GCU** Foundation

### BISHOPS MEMORIAL FUND ASSISTS SEMINARIANS

**MEMORIAL FUND IN MEMORY OF THE BISHOPS WHO HAVE SERVED THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH.** This memorial fund has been established for the purpose of assisting Seminarians' educational and other expenses in attending the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril & Methodius.

**SUSTAINABLE DONATIONS...** The GCU FOUNDATION now gives you the opportunity to make a lasting contribution to education of the seminarians at the SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary by making a sustainable donation. What this means is that a predetermined donation, *(the amount chosen by you the donor)*, is automatically debited from your checking account each month and deposited directly into the Bishops Memorial Fund.

**ONE TIME DONATION...** Please consider making a one time donation to the Bishops Memorial Fund.

**TO LEARN MORE...** about THE GCU FOUNDATION, one time donations or making a sustainable donation, call 724-495-3400 or write to: 5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009.

## MICHAEL KARAFFA

Michael Karaffa, age 90, of Seven Hills, OH passed away at home on Thursday, August 11, 2016 surrounded by his family after being diagnosed nine days earlier with an aggressive form of leukemia.

He was born in Toronto, OH on August 29, 1925 and married Mildred "Millie" (Szerbin) on July 15, 1951 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Munhall, PA. They moved to Cleveland shortly thereafter.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and retired from the Teamsters Local 52 where he worked in health & benefits.

A very devoted man, he served at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

in Brecksville, OH as cantor, choir director and member of the Men's Club. Additionally, he sang in the eparchial choir for nearly 40 years.

Michael was a lifelong member of GCU and was treasurer of Lodge 302, Brecksville, OH for 30 years. He served as a delegate to several of the GCU National Conventions and participated in both national and local bowling and golf tournaments.

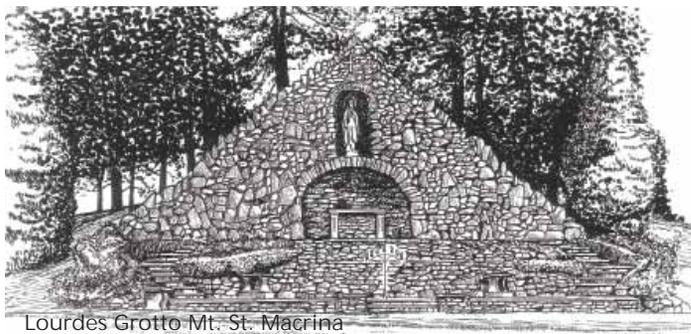
Father Bruce Riebe, pastor of St. Joseph's, described Michael as "a pastor's dream" rarely missing Liturgy including holy days and Lenten services. "He was a steward of time and talent," said Fr. Bruce.

In addition to his wife of 65

years, he was the dearest father of GCU National Director Michael W. (Jean), Rosanne, Joseph (Janice) and Gregory (Kim). Loving grandfather of Janine Laule (Dave), Bryan, Kara, Nathan (deceased), Kelsey, Kyle, Kristi, Madeline, Payton, Emma, Gregory, Alayna and Brynn.

The Divine Liturgy of Christian burial was held on Monday August 15, 2016 at St. Joseph's with Fr. Bruce Riebe officiating. He was laid to rest at Mount St. Macrina Cemetery Uniontown, PA.

May God grant his servant Michael blessed repose and eternal memory.



Lourdes Grotto Mt. St. Macrina

## SISTER VLADIMIR CHABALA, OSBM

On the morning of August 4, 2016, Sr. Vladimir (Mary) Chabala, age 95, made the final surrender of her life to the Lord in whose service she spent herself for over 70 years. Until the last two weeks of her life, Sister was a familiar figure around Mt. St. Macrina Monastery, and most frequently, she could be found praying at her place in the chapel. Her poor health in her later years did not prevent Sister from either doing what she could or from carrying out the duties of her religious vocation.

Sr. Vladimir was born in the village of Kobylnice in Slovakia, the daughter of the late John and Helen (Onufer) Chabala. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil from St. Mary's Church, New York, NY. Sister brought to the community her special gift in the culinary arts, which she generously offered in service to the community. Besides caring for the Sisters' needs in the various parishes of

where the Sisters served, Sr. Vladimir also worked at St. Basil's Home for Aged Women, at Maria Manor in Ebensburg, PA, and at the Archbishop's Residence in Pittsburgh, PA.

In addition to baking throughout the year, Sr. Vladimir brought her unique abilities to the "medovniki" project for the annual Pilgrimage. Over the years, Sr. Vladimir fine-tuned this particular ministry down to its minutest details, and all were in awe of her skills in organizing this project. In fact, for this last round of baking, she still oversaw the preparation of icing. For many years, Sister also added another flavorful touch to the Pilgrimage through overseeing the preparation of the "holupki" (cabbage rolls) which are a popular item with the pilgrims. When Sister Vladimir was no longer able to do this, she was consulted and then gave her stamp of approval to the caterers who now make this ethnic treat.

Sr. Vladimir was also responsible for preparing the Holy Chrism which is consecrated for use in all of our churches, another ministry to which she was devoted for quite a number of years. Much more could be said of Sister, whose life journey took her from her small village in Slovakia, to New York City where she worked at Schrafft's, to Mt. St. Macrina.

The last surviving member of her immediate family, Sr. Vladimir was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Michael and John and her sisters Anna Evan and Sr. Olga, OSBM. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by several nephews and nieces and their families.

The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on August 11, 2016 in the Monastery Chapel by Archbishop William Skurla with Very Rev. Andrew Deskevich and Rev. Michael Huszti as concelebrants. Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mount Macrina Cemetery. Eternal memory and blessed repose.

Susan McCarthy

# ✚ DECEASED MEMBERS ✚

(Lodge-Name-Residence)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 999 Joseph Allred, Show Low, AZ                      | 83 William Fowler, Monongahela, PA         | 644 Adel Lukats, Barberton, OH             |
| 83 Edward Andryka, Rural Valley, PA                  | 83 Martha Franchek, Imperial, PA           | 83 Jessie M. Lunnie, Plains, PA            |
| 10 August Antonini, Ambridge, PA                     | 83 John Fratrich, Fairbank, PA             | 83 Kathryn Lusk, Monongahela, PA           |
| 83 Mary M. Barber, Hiller, PA                        | 750 Anita J. Gady, Dakota, MN              | 254 Charles Lutzko, South River, NJ        |
| 83 Roy Barrett, Dayton, PA                           | 442 Elizabeth A. Gavura, Canfield, OH      | 83 Ernest F. Magario, Brownsville, PA      |
| 83 James C. Bechtel, Warminster, PA                  | 77 Jerome H. Geier, Struthers, OH          | 83 Gordon Main, Greenville, PA             |
| 252 Elizabeth Biddlestone, Poland, OH                | 83 Jennie Geneva, Murrells Inlet, SC       | 83 Donald T. McCann,<br>Bentleyville, PA   |
| 83 Shirley Bishop, Martinsburg, PA                   | 83 Dorothy Gera, Frackville, PA            | 83 Elizabeth McFadyen, Pittsfield, PA      |
| 83 Mary M. Bistle, Bentleyville, PA                  | 83 Marilyn Gouldey, Pipersville, PA        | 182 Beverly McTavich,<br>Sugar Notch, PA   |
| 255 Martha Bitsura, Verona, PA                       | 10 Ruth Gratton, Palmyra, PA               | 7 Franklin Medrick, Merrimack, NH          |
| 83 Mona Blackwood, Beaver, PA                        | 83 Joanne M. Grecco, Butler, PA            | 83 Patrick T. Melia, Burgettstown, PA      |
| 83 Donna Marie Blasko,<br>Johnstown, PA              | 255 Michael Hahalyak, Murrysville, PA      | 81 Anna Michaels, Monessen, PA             |
| 83 Arbutus Blose, Indiana, PA                        | 255 William Hallman, Homestead, PA         | 83 Mary Mika, McKeesport, PA               |
| 83 Billy R. Blystone, Blairsville, PA                | 999 Marion Hamilton, Tucson, AZ            | 164 Barbara Miller,<br>New Waterford, OH   |
| 83 Betty Jane Bolinger, Indiana, PA                  | 83 Doris M. Hawke, Lancaster, PA           | 900 Burton T. Model, Milwaukee, WI         |
| 83 Frances Borlie, Cresson, PA                       | 83 Lucille Heberling, Clymer, PA           | 83 Marilyn Moeller, Pittsburgh, PA         |
| 255 Dorothy Bouch, Tarentum, PA                      | 83 Gloria Heemer, Saxonburg, PA            | 600 Michael Nemesh, Freeland, PA           |
| 83 Marilyn S. Bunch, Malvern, PA                     | 83 LaMar F. Heim, Ligonier, PA             | 83 Lester N. Nero, Youngsville, PA         |
| 83 James Bunger, Beaver, PA                          | 83 Henrietta J. Heyl, South Park, PA       | 750 Richard F. Noll, Mahanomen, MN         |
| 83 Ida J. Bussard, Kittanning, PA                    | 83 Marian E. Hofmann,<br>Doylestown, PA    | 10 Dorothy C. Ohorodnyk, Beaver, PA        |
| 2 Mary Butko, Munhall, PA                            | 211 Robert Hosko, Stroudsburg, PA          | 83 Kathleen M. O'Neill, P<br>ittsburgh, PA |
| 66 Rose E. Callahan, Beech Grove, IN                 | 83 John J. Huchrowski,<br>Belle Vernon, PA | 83 Oscar M. Ostlund,<br>Hollidaysburg, PA  |
| 83 Frances Canali, Pittsburgh, PA                    | 83 Helen C. Hull, Girard, OH               | 994 Rita Ostrander, Industry, PA           |
| 83 Robert J. Capriani, Indiana, PA                   | 83 Kathleen Hyser, Pittsburgh, PA          | 83 Mary J. Paciga, Wilkes Barre, PA        |
| 83 Umberto Cataldo, Warren, PA                       | 83 Dorothy Ihnat, Royersford, PA           | 109 Sallie Packer, Zelienople, PA          |
| 994 Leona M. Cerasi, Industry, PA                    | 83 Robert L. Jones, Blairsville, PA        | 83 Florence M. Palmaioli, Plains, PA       |
| 20 Brenda J. Chedrick-Niman,<br>Plymouth Meeting, PA | 66 Cecilia Jubera,<br>Woodland Hills, CA   | 21 William Palmer, Del Mar, CA             |
| 83 Margaretta Chulick, Sidman, PA                    | 302 Michael Karaffa, Seven Hills, OH       | 316 Annetta Pataki,<br>Winston Salem, NC   |
| 271 Cecelia A. Cocanig,<br>Orland Park, IL           | 83 Dorothy Kenyhercz, Pittsburgh, PA       | 994 Andrew Patterson, Elizabeth, PA        |
| 83 Earl C. Cochran, Duncansville, PA                 | 83 Harold Kibler, Hanover, OH              | 386 Mary Ann Perrino, Pittsburgh, PA       |
| 83 Nancy Cox, McMurray, PA                           | 83 Anna Marie Killian, Springdale, PA      | 83 George Petrisko,<br>Montgomeryville, PA |
| 83 Fanchon L. DeFrank,<br>Uniontown, PA              | 83 William Kim, Hawk Run, PA               | 83 William Pett, Fredericksburg, VA        |
| 994 Frank Del Bosco, Eustis, FL                      | 83 Jane Kison, Butler, PA                  | 83 Joseph Petzko, Boynton Beach, FL        |
| 994 Italia DiGiorno, Aliquippa, PA                   | 83 Marie M. Klein, Pittsburgh, PA          | 625 Josephine Piatak, Johnstown, PA        |
| 255 Regis V. Dinger, Pittsburgh, PA                  | 83 Donald Knoll, Chicora, PA               | 83 James E. Picard, Palm City, FL          |
| 83 Carol A. Doman, Pricedale, PA                     | 386 Peter Kolesar, Bethel Park, PA         | 83 Laveta Piemme, State College, PA        |
| 83 Mary Dorko, Fleetwood, PA                         | 401 Steve Kopenitz, Johnstown, PA          | 321 Michael Polochko, Latrobe, PA          |
| 83 John Drakulich, Hurron, OH                        | 18 George Kornick, Uniontown, PA           | 83 Constance Powers, Springdale, PA        |
| 83 Frances Dreves, Pittsburgh, PA                    | 83 Mary Kotyk, Glen Allen, VA              | 601 Catherine F. Prater, Charleston, SC    |
| 83 Carol Duchon, Indiana, PA                         | 83 Sabina Kovich, Springdale, PA           | 600 Eleanor Puhak, Hazleton, PA            |
| 83 Virginia Eder, Lincoln Univ., PA                  | 10 Lindsey Kowalyk, Aliquippa, PA          | 83 Samuel H. Quigley, Verona, PA           |
| 600 Kathleen Eisenhower,<br>Lehighton, PA            | 83 Doris Krchell, McKeesport, PA           | 83 William J. Rebar, Johnstown, PA         |
| 750 Bernice Entinger, Belle Plaine, MN               | 10 Nofrey J. Lalama,<br>Valley Stream, NY  | 83 John Rondinelli, Oil City, PA           |
| 83 William Evancho, Monessen, PA                     | 12 Agnes Lampione, Wayne, NJ               | 390 Elizabeth Rosko,<br>McKees Rocks, PA   |
| 83 William L. Ewart, Pittsburgh, PA                  | 271 Helen Langlois, Lisle, IL              | 18 Michael Rubish, Fayette City, PA        |
| 83 Mildred C. Farren, Harwick, PA                    | 83 Margaret Lanterman, Lafayette, NJ       | 83 Mary T. Ruby, Imperial, PA              |
| 994 Mary Lou Ferrario,<br>Beaver Falls, PA           | 2 Mildred Larko, West Mifflin, PA          | 83 Robert Runkle, Pottsville, PA           |
| 442 Joseph Field, Struthers, OH                      | 83 John LeFever, Beaver, PA                | 66 Catherine Rusnak, El Cajon, CA          |
| 83 Florence G. Fosnight,<br>Warren, PA               | 83 Anthony Leone, Harleysville, PA         | 83 Rose Ryan, Minersville, PA              |
|  | 57 Joseph Lesko, Brownsville, PA           |  |
|  | 83 Nancy Jean Losko, Fort Pierce, FL       |  |

## JOSEPH LESKO

On Saturday, July 30, 2016, a deep sadness fell upon the parishioners of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Brownsville, PA, as their beloved cantor of more than 50 years, Joseph Lesko, passed away.

Joe was born February 20, 1919 in Kojsov, Spis County, present-day Slovakia, to the late Michael and Maria Petrov, Lesko. Joe worked many jobs in the Brownsville area and later owned a business known to the locals as The Antique Grill in downtown Brownsville. His kindness and generosity to his clients and other visitors was always shown and anyone coming into his business was treated as a friend.

Joe was a man of many interests and if you had a conversation with him you could tell he was knowledgeable about many different topics. He especially loved to share stories about his early life in Europe. In June 1990, the

Brownsville Chamber of Commerce honored Joe as, "Man of the Year," sponsoring a special dinner cruise on Gateway Clipper Fleet of Pittsburgh. In spite of this honor and attention, Joe remained humble and continued serving his community tirelessly.

St. Nicholas Church benefited by his presence over the years as Joe worked for any fundraiser, such as the weekly bingo, bazaars, church picnics, printing the weekly bulletin, heading the cemetery committee or just attending any of the many other functions. It was evident Joe truly loved his church and especially his Byzantine Catholic faith!

He was always glad to train those interested in cantoring and over the years he was selfless in helping others sing for the church services. Everyone knew they could count on Joe's reliability when he was needed for any service. For years he also

volunteered his time in singing the Liturgy at the nursing home chapel at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA, where, as his health declined, he became a frequent resident.

Joe was predeceased by his parents and sister, Maria. He made his home with his sister, Anna, who survives him.

The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Monday, August 1, 2016, at St. Nicholas Church by his pastor, Father Christopher Burke, along with the former pastor, Father Jerome Botsko and Deacon John Hanchin. Father Ronald Larko was also in attendance. Interment was in St. Nicholas Cemetery, Brownsville, PA.

Joe was a long time member of GCU Lodge 57 and will surely be missed.

Eternal memory, Joseph!

**Bernie Karoffa**

## ✝ DECEASED MEMBERS ✝

*(Lodge-Name-Residence)*

2 Helen Sabol, West Mifflin, PA  
 999 Bette Samuels, Sun Lakes, AZ  
 360 Rose M. Savka, Santa Monica, CA  
 83 Ann Schick, New Kensington, PA  
 83 Dorothy M. Schnupp,  
 McKees Rocks, PA  
 83 Judith Schrader, Pittsburgh, PA  
 384 Melvin F. Schragg, Ceresco, MI  
 900 Germaine Schroedl, Durand, IL  
 860 Eugene F. Schull, Three Rivers, MI  
 66 John D. Seering,  
 Rolling Prairie, IN  
 900 David L. Silbaugh, La Crosse, WI  
 255 Catherine Sivy, Pittsburgh, PA  
 83 John Sivulich, Parma, OH  
 83 Edward Skelly, Marblehead, MA  
 130 Roman Skoczek, St. Augustine, FL  
 83 Emul E. Skorich,  
 West Brownsville, PA  
 600 Michael Skreptach,  
 Beaver Meadows, PA  
 83 Richard J. Slezak, Johnstown, PA  
 83 Evelyn L. Snyder, Vandergrift, PA  
 83 Andrew Sobczak, Port Vue, PA

77 John Sopko, Amherst, OH  
 83 Roberta M. Squiric, Niles, OH  
 83 Catherine States, Commodore, PA



2 Joseph E. Stavor, West Mifflin, PA  
 83 Amelia Stawovy, Scottdale, PA  
 83 Lenore A. Swanlek, Home, PA  
 994 Rev Henry Szarnicki, Sarver, PA

83 Mary L. Tabacchi, Cheswick, PA  
 254 Kathleen Terepan, Manville, NJ  
 83 Eleanor Toback, Frackville, PA  
 254 Frank Tortorello, Boynton Beach,  
 FL  
 83 Wayne Trice, Latrobe, PA  
 255 Michael J. Turi, Pittsburgh, PA  
 252 Michael Uhrain, Bristolville, OH  
 20 Patricia A. Valentini,  
 Phoenixville, PA  
 994 Jennie G. Vilee, Beaver, PA  
 109 Anna Vojna, Ford City, PA  
 83 Mary Volkavich, California, PA  
 83 Mary Vrabel, Union, KY  
 83 William M. Wappler, Freedom, PA  
 15 Andrew Waselus, Yardley, PA  
 83 Lillian Weibel, East Brady, PA  
 83 Barbara A. Wilkins, Pittsburgh, PA  
 83 Robert E. Wissinger, Indiana, PA  
 83 Mark J. Wojton, Pitcairn, PA  
 83 Lorna Woomer, Altoona, PA  
 83 George Zganich, Santa Fe, TX  
 94 Joseph F. Zlacki, Freedom, PA

## GCU 2017 Athletic Scholarship Program

A scholarship opportunity for High School Seniors ...read on for the details!

### Requirements

- Student must be a current GCU member and have been a member for at least 5 years with either a permanent life insurance policy or an annuity with a minimum balance of \$2,000 at the time of request for application and maintain membership status throughout application and approval/payment process.
- Applications will be accepted for students currently completing their final/senior year in High School. Applicant must be seeking a degree program (Bachelor's or Associate) in the following Academic year.
- Student must have participated in at least one fraternal (volunteering/community service) activity during his/her junior or senior year, and provide documentation from the organizer of the event.
- Student must have participated in at least one competitive athletic activity during his/her senior year. The athletic activity may be as part of a school team, local or community club or league.
- Student must provide a letter of recommendation from the coach/instructor/organizer of each sport in which the student has participated. Letter must be on the school/organizer's letterhead and/or must be mailed, faxed or emailed directly from the group leader. Letters cannot be sent to the GCU through the student unless on letterhead.
- Student must submit his/her school photo as well as at least one photo of him/her participating in a sporting activity or in a sports uniform.
- While this is not an academic scholarship, the applicant must hold a cumulative GPA 2.3 on a 4 point scale at the time of application.
- A Committee chosen by the Board of Directors will review all applicants and award 2 scholarships, to one male and one female student.

### Awards

One male and one female student will be selected to each receive a \$1,500 award.

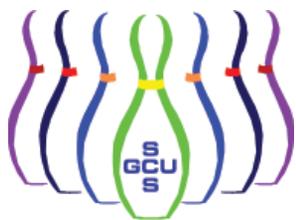
**Please Note:** All scholarship applications must be completed online at [www.gcuusa.com/scholarshiprequest.html](http://www.gcuusa.com/scholarshiprequest.html).

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS DECEMBER 31, 2016.**

Questions may be addressed to:

*events@gcuusa.com or please call: 1-800-722-4428 Ext. 3809*

## 2017 National Tournament Dates & Locations



### GCU/SCS National Bowling Tournament

Friday & Saturday, May 19 & 20, 2017  
Chacko Lanes in Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Hotels—Best Western Genetti Hotel &  
Conference Center and Holiday Inn  
For information call 800-722-4428 Ext. 3808



### SCS/GCU Golf Event Friday, August 18- Sunday, August 20

Treasure Lake in DuBois, PA  
Hotels—Fairfield Inn and Hampton Inn  
Cost will be \$285 which includes: practice  
round, 36 hole tournament, prizes, Friday  
Hospitality, Saturday Banquet and  
hotel (based on double occupancy).

## Sixth Annual Christopher Meddaugh Memorial Golf Outing



Volunteers for the tournament.

On Saturday, August 13, 2016 GCU Lodge 316 partnered with the Christopher Meddaugh Foundation to sponsor a golf outing (a matching funds event) at Green Pond Country Club. The purpose of the outing was to raise funds in Christopher's memory for scholarships at Notre Dame High School in Easton, PA. Christopher was the son of Gary & Kathy Meddaugh of Belvidere, NJ, and the grandson of Margaret and the late John Maczko of Phillipsburg, NJ.

Upon registering, each golfer was given a "goodie bag" containing golf balls, some snacks, and other useful items. We are grateful to the GCU, the local ShopRite, and Sun Life Financial for their donations. The format of the outing was a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. Forty-two golfers participated. Prizes were award to first and second place foursomes, and closest to the pin. Ironically, this year's first place winners were the only twosome. The special "Hit the Green" contest re-

mained very popular with the golfers.

Following the competition, golfers were joined by those who attend for the buffet and our volunteer helpers for a wonderful hot meal and some jovial fraternalism. Our ten volunteers, truly made the outing run smoothly. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

This was the sixth annual outing for the Foundation. To date, it has raised over \$20,000 in scholarships for Notre Dame students, and grants to the school for upgrades to the science labs. Additionally, the Foundation has made a contribution to the Immune Deficiency Foundation for educational programs. The IDF sponsors programs for children with primary immune deficiencies. Lodge 316 and the Christopher Meddaugh Foundation are grateful for the generous support of the GCU for contributing to the success this event.

**Kathleen Meddaugh**  
Lodge 316 Secretary-Treasurer



Golfers and guests relax following the tournament.

## Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge Back to School Bowling Party

Hazleton, PA. On Sunday, August 28 sixteen children participated in the annual Back to School Bowling Party that was held by the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge at Bowl-Arena in West Hazleton.

All bowlers bowled 2 games (bumper bowling). Each child also received a gift card from McDonald's and candy.

All that attended were treated to refreshments, (your choice of pizza or a hot dog) chips and a drink.

Thanks to the Home Office for the fraternal grant and the candies.

**Agnes Rohrbach**  
GHRL Athletic Director



Above: Gavin, Connor, Kaitlyn and Alison McAlarney.

Top right: Riley Nahay waiting her turn.

At right: Part of the group that bowled.



## Final District 1 Golf Tournament Held



Winners from left: Frank Rajchel, Lori Burns, John Adamcik, Karen Adamcik, Ron Cairns, Jim Asmonga, Mark Cherpak, John Kutzfara, John Niskach and Chuck Dunlap.

the GCU for the opportunity to serve as the AD for the last seven years and all the golfers and bowlers who participated in the district events.

A special thanks to all the employees at Seven Oaks and the GCU Home Office. I appreciate all their assistance to me while serving the district.

I hope things will carry on as to benefit all the athletic events for the coming years. Thank You

**Charles Robinson**



This year 30 golfers participated in the District 1 Gene Tarabek Golf Tournament held on Saturday, July 23, 2013 at Seven Oaks Country Club. A putting contest, golf, lunch, dinner and prizes provided a full day of enjoyment for all in attendance.

This was a happy day for all golfers but also a sad one since this was the last Gene Tarabek annual Golf Tournament sponsored by District 1. As you know District 1 has chosen to close at the end of this year.

This is my last year as District Athletic Director. I thank



# District 15 Annual Golf Tournament



Left, center and above, golfers relax after a hot day on the course.

On Sunday, August 28, 2016 District 15 held its annual golf tournament at Seven Oaks CC with 35 participants. The temperature hit 90 degrees and the humidity was very high. The golfers were all thankful when the lightning detector went off shortening the golf round to 15 holes instead of the usual 18. Because of the impending storm, the Golf Shop chose to give the golfers pars on their remaining holes and call it quits for the day. *(Easiest pars we ever scored.)*

These are the results of the shortened tournament: Women's Flight: Low gross—Carol Mertz; Low Net—Christine Zupancic; Second Low Net—Beth Harbist and Third Low

Net—Grace Taucher. Men's A-Flight: Low gross—Trent Karlick and Low Net: Brighton Karlick; Second Low Net—Mike Kanai and Third Low Net: Whitney Harbist. Men's B-Flight winners were John Zupancic, Michael Carr and Lloyd Cranmer. Men's C-Flight winners were Dave Pawlikowski, Tim Seech, Nathan Galiyas and Mike Suray.

Skill prizes winners included: Closest to the Pin: #4-Trent Karlick #8-Steve Prokopchak and #11-Dave Pawlikowski and Longest Putt on #9-Don Leslie.

In addition to golf, District 15 also hosted an end of summer fun day for District 15 members & their guests at Seven Oaks Pool the same day. We had a beautiful day

to enjoy the pool and used lots of sunscreen. A great poolside lunch, ice cold drinks & ice cream were provided to each guest. Sand buckets full of goodies were given to each of the children. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to hosting this event again. A special thank you to the GCU Home Office for providing a grant to us for this fun event.

After a great dinner at Seven Oaks, each golfer received a door prize. Special thanks to the GCU for the fraternal grant and to the national and district officers and lodges that purchased tee signs to support the event making it a success.

Bill Uram & Laura Seech



While the golfers were out sweating those that chose to stay back and swim, had an enjoyable day beating the heat.



# GCU

## **RAKE IN SAVINGS!**

**At GCU you have several options when choosing your savings rate.**

**1 Year Annuities - 1.25% APY**

**3 Year Annuities - 2.00% APY**

**5 Year Annuities - 2.85% APY**

**8 Year Annuities - 3.35% APY**

**Call your GCU Agent  
or the GCU Marketing Department for  
additional information at 1-800-722-4428**

Rates subject to change.