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Life Insurance

main topic of my article published in the August issue of the GCU Magazine centered on the GCU's founding as a life insurance carrier and the importance of having life insurance. At least a minimum amount should be considered for covering your final expenses. The average cost of a funeral today is between \$7,000.00 and \$10,000.00. Are you prepared??

Each September is Life Insurance Awareness Month which focuses on highlighting the importance of life insurance and providing more in-depth education on various life insurance products offered.

The GCU is committed to educating our existing and potential members on this topic, not only during Life Insurance Awareness Month, but throughout the year!

Statistics show the need for greater awareness of life insurance and its benefits:

- Four in 10 adult Americans have no life insurance at all.
- Insured Americans, on average, have only about three-and-a-half times their annual income in life insurance coverage. Many insurance experts believe that people's true need for coverage is 10 times their gross annual income, and sometimes more.
- Only 35 percent of adult Americans have individual life insurance. Many rely on insurance provided by their employers, leaving many employees without coverage if they were to lose their job or change jobs.

- Each year, a significant number of Americans (600,000) die prematurely. In fact, the chances a 25-year-old male will die before reaching the retirement age of 65 is nearly 1 in 5; for a female, the odds are 1 in 9.
- When a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on
 the part of the insured results in 75
 percent of surviving family members
 having to take measures to meet financial obligations, such as work
 additional jobs or longer hours, borrow money, withdraw money from
 savings & investment accounts, and,
 in too many cases, move to smaller,
 less expensive housing.

For the GCU to be a competitive carrier in the life insurance marketplace, first and foremost, we must have relevant and competitively priced life products. The GCU has taken necessary steps over the last twelve months as an in-depth analysis and updates to our whole life and twenty pay life products were completed. Existing policy riders were reviewed as well. These optional riders will be available, which include the following:

- Disability Waiver of Premium—This rider provides for the payment of contract premiums in the event the insured becomes disabled BEFORE the anniversary following the insured's 65th birthday.
- Accidental Death Benefit Rider— This rider provides an additional death benefit in the event the applicant's death occurs as a result of

- an accident prior to the anniversary following the applicant's 70th birthday. If the insured's death is the result of injuries sustained in a common carrier accident, the amount paid is two times the face amount of this rider.
- Terminal Illness Accelerated Death Benefit—This rider provides for the owner to request an acceleration of a portion of up to 75% of the death benefit not to exceed \$200,000.00 providing the insured is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Effective October 1, 2018, the GCU began using the 2017 Mortality Tables that provide lower premiums on new whole life policies issued. This will also position the GCU to be more competitive in the life insurance marketplace.

Distribution is also an important aspect of our "plan." We will continue to support our existing life agents as well as develop new relationships to market GCU life products. The next step in our "plan" calls for an in depth analysis of each of our term life insurance plans.

We are most excited and extremely optimistic that our efforts will produce additional life business for the GCU today and into the future!

The GCU's substantial growth can be mainly attributed to the success of our fixed rate annuity products portfolio. We envision that our annuity products will continue to be the main driving force of our growth. However, we must focus on more diversity in our product mix between annuity and life business.

Our annuity products continue to re-

PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

main very competitive within the fixed rate annuity markets.

Effective September 1, 2018, the GCU began offering a first-year bonus rate of 4% on new Flex 8 contracts issued through October 31, 2018. This offer excludes conversions. For current GCU annuity rates and additional information on this offer, please visit the GCU website, contact your agent or the GCU's Call Center at 855-306-4428. You will be glad you did!

We once again congratulate and extend our appreciation to all Lodge and District officers and members for another outstanding year of planned volunteer and fundraising activities in support of our churches, our communities, and charitable organizations. We invite you to review the GCU Go-Givel, Community and Fraternal Sections beginning on page 6.

The Regional Lodge concept has been introduced to each of our lodges and districts in an effort to attempt to strengthen our existing lodge system. The GCU's very first regional lodge was organized on October 12, 2014 as Lodges 40, 89, 242 and 731 associated with the former District 6 came together to form the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge. We congratulate the officers

and members of the Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge as it has been a flawless transition. We invite you to review all the great activities hosted by their regional lodge located on page 31.

We are also pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has approved the formation of four Regional Lodges in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Many meetings were held with the active lodge officers and members located within the Greater Pittsburgh Area in formulating a final plan. The following Regional Lodges will be organized effective January 1, 2019:

- Southeast Pittsburgh Regional Lodge— Lodges 2 and 288
- Central Pittsburgh Regional Lodge— Lodges 28, 255 and 386
- Northwest Pittsburgh Regional Lodge— Lodge 390
- Pittsburgh South Regional Lodge— Lodge 52

I will be continuing to meet with all of our existing Lodges in formulating additional Regional Lodges.

As I noted in the past, GCU can only be as strong fraternally as we are financially! The GCU continues to experience excellent asset and surplus growth along with exceptional profitability! We are in the process of completing our 2018 third quarter results—a detailed financial report prepared by our Chief Financial Officer Tim Demetres, will be published in the December issue of the *GCU Magazine*.

We once again express our sincere appreciation to our members and our agents for the business you have placed with our Society—that is the main factor contributing to our continued growth and success!

As always, please contact me with any concerns you may have!

Goodness Is Great!





Very Rev. Richard I. Lambert GCU Spiritual Advisor

Reminisce

he older one gets, the more one tends to reminisce about what some would call the "good old days." Perhaps there are some younger people who can't grasp what the home, the family, the neighborhood, the schools and the church were for us who grew up in the 1950's and 60's, most likely because that was the time we were meant to grow up. Younger people will remember the years in which they grew up. For those who have been labeled the baby boomers, a parishioner has sent me the following poem. I hope all of you enjoy it no matter what your age. God bless you!

I would love to re-live just one or two weeks back in the 50's and 60's. Enjoy.

A little house with three bedrooms, When we did our weekend trips One bathroom and one car on the street

A mower that you had to push.

In the kitchen on the wall We only had one phone, And no need for recording things, Someone was always home.

We only had a living room Where we would congregate, Unless it was at mealtime In the kitchen where we ate.

We had no need for family rooms Or extra rooms to dine. When meeting as a family Those two rooms would work out fine

We only had one TV set And channels maybe two, But always there was one of them With something worth the view

For snacks we had potato chips That tasted like a chip. And if you wanted flavor There was Lipton's onion dip.

Store-bought snacks were rare because

My mother liked to cook And nothing can compare to snacks

In Betty Crocker's book

Weekends were for family trips Or staying home to play We all did things together -Even go to church to pray.

Depending on the weather, No one stayed at home because We liked to be together

Sometimes we would separate To do things on our own, But we knew where the others

Without our own cell phone

Then there were the movies With your favorite movie star, And nothing can compare To watching movies in your car

Then there were the picnics at the peak of summer season, Pack a lunch and find some trees And never need a reason.

Get a baseball game together With all the friends you know, Have real action playing ball -And no game video.

Remember when the doctor Used to be the family friend, And didn't need insurance Or a lawyer to defend

The way that he took care of you Or what he had to do, Because he took an oath and strived To do the best for you

Remember going to the store And shopping casually, And when you went to pay for it You used your own money?

Nothing that you had to swipe Or punch in some amount, And remember when the cashier person

Had to really count?

The milkman used to go From door to door, And it was just a few cents more Than going to the store.

There was a time when mailed letters

Came right to your door. Without a lot of junk mail ads Sent out by every store.

The mailman knew each house by name

And knew where it was sent; There were not loads of mail addressed

To "present occupant."

There was a time when just one

Was all that it would take, And you would know the kind of

The model and the make.

They didn't look like turtles Trying to squeeze out every mile; They were streamlined, white walls, fins And really had some style.

One time the music that you Whenever you would jive,

Was from a vinyl, big-holed Called a forty-five.

The record player had a post To keep them all in line And then the records would drop down

And play one at a time.

Oh sure, we had our problems

Just like we do today And always we were striving, Trying for a better way.

Oh, the simple life we lived Still seems like so much fun, How can you explain a game, Just kick the can and run?

And why would boys put baseball cards Between bicycle spokes And for a nickel, red machines Had little bottled Cokes?

This life seemed so much easier Slower in some ways I love the new technology But I sure do miss those days.

So, time moves on and so do we And nothing stays the same, But I sure love to reminisce And walk down memory lane.

With all today's technology We grant that it's a plus! But it's fun to look way back and

HEY LOOK, GUYS, THAT WAS US! (Author Unknown)

Lessons in the Law



Atty. John J. Urban

The Secret to Avoiding Probate

hen a person dies and has a trust in place, there is a misconception by the remaining family members that nothing more needs to be done, but that simply isn't the case. Having a trust is a really good thing, but you also need to have your assets titled

correctly. If you don't, those assets will be making an expensive trip through probate court.

If you have a trust in place, and if your assets have been titled correctly, you'll avoid the court process and the assets will be transferred to your heirs.

Your attorney can create a trust that ensures your assets don't go through probate. Or, if you don't want to create a trust, there are other ways to help you avoid the court process and they can advise you on how to do this. Whatever

you choose to do, everything is geared toward avoiding probate, which can be expensive and time consuming.

The only people who benefit from a trip to probate court are the attorneys.

Some lawyers find it unpopular that I advise my clients on how to avoid probate court, but it's the right thing to do. Our goal is to reduce attorney's fees and court costs, and I like to help my clients figure out which process is right for them.

Another important component in estates and trusts is having your appointed fiduciary or trustee retain your attorney to assist with estate taxes, which are due nine months after death. Work with your attorney to see if they will work handin-hand with your fiduciary or trustee to make sure your wishes are carried out.

GCU Home Office Extended Hours of Operation

The GCU Home Office (800-722-4428) is open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST.

The Call Center (855-306-0607) accepts calls Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7 PM EST and Fridays 8:30 AM to 5 PM EST

The Home Office will be closed November 22 & 23 for Thanksgiving.

5400 Tuscarawas Road, Beaver, PA 15009





Sisters of St. Basil Thanks You

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Pilgrimage 2018

Dear Friends,

Every Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help seems to take on a special memory of its own. This 84th pilgrimage was no exception. In the midst of all the turmoil that has continued to bombard us on all sides, there was a palpable atmosphere of peace which seemed to pervade the entire Mount. Yes, hearts were heavy with news of political chaos, church struggles, violence in our cities and towns, and sufferings and death brought on by all sort of addictions. Yet, the pilgrims who came seemed to bask in the love of Mary, Hope of All Generations.

We, the Sisters, continue to share the stories of our dear pilgrims, admiring their courage, determination and loving support. We are truly humbled by their continued faith. So many made the sacrifices of time and treasure to come from distant places with the expectation of being spiritually nourished. Others came from nearby with children and grandchildren hoping to share this time and tradition with new generations.

All who came played a significant part in making this pilgrimage a memorable and spiritual uplifting event. From the youngest baby pilgrim to the oldest, the children who make the Children's Procession such a touching sight, the numerous pilgrims patiently standing in line to receive the Mystery of Reconciliation, our teenagers and young adults; all made the pilgrimage a mosaic of all generations. We Sisters are truly grateful for such vibrant expressions of faith.

Prayer is the greatest gift that we can offer, and you can be assured that our prayers will accompany you every day. May Our Lady of Perpetual Help watch over you, keep you in her loving care, lead you back to this holy Mount for Pilgrimage 2019.

With our love, prayers, and sincere gratitude,

Sister Ruth and the Sisters of St. Basil

2018 Year End Processing Cut Off Dates for Withdrawals, Distributions, Cash Surrenders

Our entire staff is committed to providing exceptional customer service to our agents and members. We are in the process of planning for our year end requests so that we can assure that each request is addressed in a timely and efficient manner. Please be informed that the GCU has established a cut-off date of December 14, 2018 for receiving Annuity Partial Withdrawal (including RMD & Inherited IRA distributions), Annuity Cash Surrender and Life Insurance Cash Surrender requests for processing by December 26, 2018. This includes requests received via fax, emails, web requests & mail via courier or the US Postal Service. Please note that a W-9 Form will need to be completed and forwarded with any requests for withdrawals or surrenders.

If the information is received and in good order by the end of business on Friday, December 14 it will be processed by Wednesday, December 26 for the 2018 tax reporting period.

If requests and all documentation are received after close of business on December 14, the GCU will work to complete the request by December 26, but cannot guarantee processing before year end.

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

2018 GCU Holiday Closings

ThanksgivingThursday, November 22
Friday, November 23

Christmas Monday, December 24 Tuesday, December 25

New Year's Monday, December 31 Tuesday, January 1, 2019

GoGIQE

Dorothy's Sunshine Gang—The Pollack, Basl, Firda, McDade and Zaccheo families. In Memory of Dorothy Pollack.



GCU National Director Melanie Basl with her brother in law TJ Zaccheo who finished 7th overall and 2nd in his age group.

Brain Cancer Awareness 5K

On August 18, 2018 the Brain Cancer Awareness 5K took place at White Oak Park in White Oak, PA, benefiting the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. The entire event was a year long process with a committee of approximately 20 people.

In 2014 two families lost loved ones to Brain Cancer. Prior to their losses neither family knew much about Glioblastomas. They wanted to give back to the community, educate others and fight to cure one of the many forms of cancer. Pittsburgh never had a Brain Cancer Awareness 5K and the two families put their heads together and initiated the cause. Since 2015 the Brain Cancer Awareness 5K has been held at White Oak Park each August. The Basl Family and all other committee members thank the GCU for the GoGive! Contribution. The monies were used towards the purchase of the participants t-shirts. Over \$160,000.00 had been donated to the UPMC Cancer Institute and that does not include 2018! What began as two families fighting for a cure has gathered families, survivors and supporters of Brain Cancer Awareness all over Western PA. After expenses, nearly \$35,000.00 was raised. The donation will be made to the UPMC Cancer Institute in December.

Melanie Basl

GCU GoGIOE

To learn more about
GCU GoGive! and
how it can help you
with your
fundraising event
visit the GCU Website www.GCUusa.
com and click on
Giving Back

Dress A Girl Around the World-Update

One of our GoGive! recipients who is making dresses for poor and underprivileged girls (featured in the *GCU Magazine* June issue) sent an update and photos. Recently another shipment of 20 t-shirt dresses were mailed. Sizes included 12 months to 16 years. Her "ambassador" in Ohio will make sure that they are given to the proper missionaries to deliver to the girls. The young girl shown is

from India and was the recipient of one of the GCU GoGive! funded dresses. The other photo shows a different type of dress, the sundress, that is also made by volunteers. These were delivered to girls in Kenya—notice all the happy faces! Thank you, again, for helping to make this project possible!





A girl from India shows one of the GoGive! funded dresses.

Giving

St. Michael the Archangel Parish Expansion

The 22nd Annual Flea Market & Ethnic Food Weekend was held on August 4 & 5, 2018 at St. Michael the Archangel in Pittston, PA. This summer event is an essential parish fundraiser for church maintenance and improvement expenses. People in the neighborhood and far beyond come for the main attraction: flea market bargains and homemade food. It is the ethnic food that brings many visitors from other parishes and towns miles away. It is not unusual to hear a visitor saying they made the trip to Pittston especially for the halupki (stuffed cabbage). And many love the sampler, a taste of each ethnic item; or the featured dinner of ziti with homemade meatballs. There is something for everyone to enjoy. The preparation by parish volunteers begins months in advance. It continues up to the minute the doors open to the visitors waiting in a line stretching well past the front of the church. As an event and with a small parish base, this definitely is not an easy task for the volunteers to undertake, but those who help realize the need is critical. Also vital is the support received from the GCU Parish Expansion Matching Funds program to provide the extra funding so appreciated. Appreciation is extended to everyone who has contributed in any way. St. Michael Church is served by the Very Rev. Gary Mensinger and Deacon Larry Worlinsky. The church website is: https://stmichaelsbyzantine.com.



Resurrection Church Parish Expansion

On Friday, July 27 the Byzantine Catholic Church of the Resurrection in Monroeville, PA held a **Fish Fry in July** fund raising event. In addition to the traditional Lenten Fish the church sold ethnic favorites such as holubki, haluski, pirohi, cheese and lekvar pockets, as well as homemade desserts. Approximately 30 church members (including 10 GCU members) and friends from other churches, worked long hours to produce a successful day.

A special thanks to GCU Lodge 255 Auditor Tom Oslick plus these

members of GCU Lodges 2, 390 and 8344: Ruzena Kokal, Judy Schall, Rita Bechtel, Betty Ann Hrivnak, Carol Bauer, Steve & Kathi Dancisin, Bob & Marily Bartko and Delores Bailey.

Fr. Don Bolls



St. Christopher Church Parish Expansion Event

St. Christopher at the Lake Roman Catholic Church in Prospect, PA, held its annual festival on Friday & Saturday, July 20-21, 2018. There was an extensive food selection available for purchase. In addition to the various children's games and Bounce House, there was also multiple fundraising activities. Prizes included two meat packages, two sets of Steelers tickets and gift baskets. After weeks of sorting and pricing merchandise, the flea market had a wide variety of items for sale.

The live entertainment for Friday evening was square dancing. On Saturday, there were Star Wars characters walking amongst the crowd and karaoke. The Saturday mass was celebrated by Father Joe at 4 PM outside, to kick off that evening's events.

Lodge 28 assisted Mary Jo Ferson and her basket fundraiser committee with GCU Matching Funds of \$750.00. The committee did a fantastic job of collecting and organizing donations. In the end, a profit (including the Matching Funds) of \$7,150.00 was realized.

With the Diocese of Pittsburgh merging and consolidating parishes,

this may be the final festival at St. Christopher. Father Joe was extremely pleased that his last festival was the best one yet!

Kim Kolesar



Alexandria Shirilla Accepted Into College of Osteopathic Medicine

Alexandria Shirilla of Brunswick, OH has been accepted to the University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine. Alexandria is the daughter of Joseph & Toni Shirilla of Brunswick and the granddaughter of George & June Shirilla of Parma, OH. Alexandria along with her parents and grandparents are members of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma. She is a member of Lodge 302 Brecksville, OH and has received the GCU National Scholarship, Academic Scholarship and Best Essay Award. She has participated in parish and eparchial events such as the March for Life and many parish fundraisers and outreach programs.

She is a 2013 graduate of Brunswick High School with honors/summa cum laude while lettering in soccer and softball.

Alex is a 2017 graduate of The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH majoring in health sciences and biology; she is a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-med fraternity and the Buff Academic Honors Society. She has volunteered at the Wexner Medical Center, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the local animal shelter.

Alex has accepted a seat in the Class of 2022 and began her studies in July 2018. Her goal is to enter the field of orthopedics, specializing in surgery for adolescent sports injuries.



When not studying you can find Alexandria hiking with her dog Nala, reading or enjoying great food.



Maci Raybuck Honored

Maci Raybuck, a 2018 graduate of the Punxsutawney Area High School, was recognized by Punxsutawney Boro Council for her 2 years of serving as a Junior Council member. Throughout her high school years, Maci was a volunteer for the Special Olympics.

Maci began studies at Penn State University this fall majoring in animal science with a goal of becoming a veterinarian. GCU Lodge 62 wishes her all the best in her college career. Maci and her family are all members of Lodge 62.

Helen Meko | President

Missionary Work For Laura Riebe

GCU Lodge 69 member and Saint John Byzantine Church in Pottstown, PA parishioner, Laura Riebe is setting out to revitalize the youth of the Catholic Church! She has committed to a year of missionary work with a Catholic nonprofit called The Culture Project. The Culture Project is an initiative of young people to restore culture through the experience of virtue.

As a missionary, Laura will proclaim the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity. One of her main missionary duties is presentations to middle school and high school students on how to keep the faith through virtuous relationships. She will also deliver the message to college students and young adults through talks, conferences, and social events. Other responsibilities



of missionary life include daily Liturgy, prayer and social media outreach. Her overarching goal is to build up the next generation of Catholics and invite them to become fully alive through the Church. Laura also hopes to be a witness to the diversity contained within the Catholic Church by weaving in the beauty of being Byzantine as she shares her experiences.

To learn more please visit thecultureproject.org or email Laura at Iriebe@thecultureproject.org.

Basilian Sisters Celebrate Anniversaries of Religious Life

Uniontown, PA. Amidst the flurry of activities and the full schedule planned for the annual Community Days at Mount St. Macrina, there is always time to celebrate. This summer four Sisters joyfully marked significant milestones in their lives as Sisters of St. Basil. As the second oldest member of the community, Sr. Gertrude Martin celebrated the Diamond Anniversary of her religious life.

Since Sr. Gertrude resides at the Manor, the Sisters joined her in a celebration on the Monday afternoon of Community Days. After singing two odes of the Akathist to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a social was held in the Manor's Oaks Dining Room where Sr. Gertrude received the congratulations, gifts and well-wishes of the Sisters.

Tuesday afternoon found the Sisters gathered in the Chapel for a Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving offered by the Monastery Chaplain Rev. Peter Leigh for all the Jubilarians. Besides Sr. Gertrude, Sr. Christopher Malcovsky observed her 70th Anniversary and Sr. Monica Husovich and Sr. Agnes Herbenick observed their 60th Anniversary. From the beginning processional to the final singing of "God grant you many years" the Divine Liturgy was an inspiration as all raised their voices in thanksgiving for the gift of each Sister Jubilarians' vocation.

75th Anniversary—Sister Gertrude (Irene) Martin, OSBM. Sr. Gertrude entered the Community from St. John the Baptist Cathedral Parish in Munhall, PA. She spent 33 years molding young minds and morals as a teacher in parish schools in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana. Her education apostolate included 12 years as a principal.

Sister also served as a member of the Provincial Council, assistant house director at the monastery, administrator of St. Basil's Home and manager of the Religious Gift Shop at Mount St. Macrina.

70th Anniversary—Sister Christopher Malcovsky. Sister Christopher entered the community from St. Mary Church, Nesquehoning, PA. Her beginning years were spent as a teacher and principal. She served as Motherhouse Superior and then she was elected as Provincial Superior for two terms. She served in various capacities, assisting with the organizational work in the Eparchy of Van Nuys, and helping at Mt. Macrina Manor and the House of Prayer. In 1983, Sister was elected as General Superior, serving in Rome for six years.

Sister Christopher then served in the Eparchy of Van Nuys as Pastoral Associate and managed the apartment complex at St. Stephen's in Phoenix, AZ. Presently, Sr. Christopher assists parttime in the Religious Gift Shop offers her services wherever needed.



60th Anniversary—Sister Monica Husovich entered the Sisters of St. Basil from St. Mary Church in Freeland, PA. She served as both teacher and principal in parish schools in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio. She served as a member of the Catechetical Board for the Eparchy of Passaic and on the staff of Mt. Macrina Manor, in the business office and as Admissions and Resident Coordinator. Following her retirement from the Manor, Sr. Monica kept busy taking the Monastery Sisters for their appointments; she also faithfully takes care of posting the prayer requests sent to the community.

60th Anniversary—Sister Agnes Herbenick came to the community from St. John Parish in Lyndora, PA. Her principal ministry was in the educational field, serving as a teacher in parish schools

in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey and Ohio. For 25 years, she guided eighth graders at St. Mary's School in Cleveland, OH. Among Sr. Agnes' other assignments were catechetical ministry in Binghamton, NY, postulant directress for the community, and a member of the Mt. Macrina Manor Board of Directors. After retiring from the teaching ministry, Sr. Agnes returned to the Monastery, where today, she serves as sacristan. In addition, she works part-time in pastoral ministry at Mt. Macrina Manor.

As one can see from reading just these capsule pieces of information, each of the Jubilarians has actively served the Church in a variety of ways, each Sister giving witness to the priority God has in her life. Not able to be enumerated or even noted are, surely, the countless lives which have been touched by personal contact with these Sister Jubilarians. For all of these Sisters, and for the giftedness with which the community has been enriched and blessed, it was with heartfelt gratitude, that "God grant them many years" was sung as we joined together for a celebratory meal following the Divine Liturgy.

Susan McCarthy

Sister Mary Martha Kacmarek, OSB, Celebrates Golden Jubilee

On Sunday, June 24, 2018, Sister Mary Martha Kacmarek, OSB, a Byzantine Benedictine Sister of Queen of Heaven Monastery in Warren, OH, celebrated her Golden Jubilee of monastic profession at SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church. Most Reverend William C. Skurla, DD, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Reverend Simeon Sibenik, pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Church, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving. Monsignor George Apple-

yard of Clintonville, PA and Abbot Leo Schlosser in residence at Leisenring, PA were in attendance. Cantor Miss Mary Beth Byers lead the Liturgical responses and Theodore Falatic read the Epistle. James Basista and John Welch served as acolytes.

Along with friends, family, members of her monastic community, the Oblates of Saint Benedict and several Sisters of St. Basil the Great were also present. Following the Divine Liturgy, all enjoyed a festive dinner at Café 422 in Warren. Almost a dozen members of Sister's family from the Chicago, IL and Indiana areas were able to be present, including her remaining sibling Joseph, the oldest of the family.

Sister Mary Martha is the youngest of nine children born to



Sister Mary Martha Kacmarek.

the late Joseph & Mary Kacmarek of Chicago. A member of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Chicago, she entered the Benedictine Sisters of the Byzantine Church in Warren in 1966 and made her perpetual profession on June 5, 1971. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Saint Xavier College in Chicago and a Master of Science degree in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN.

Sister Mary Martha taught classes on

the elementary, high school, college and adult levels, including catechetical classes at local Byzantine parishes. For over 20 years she has regularly visited the shut-ins and hospitalized of SS. Peter & Paul parish.

Ministry for her community over the years has included being sub-prioress, community secretary, treasurer, formation team member and monastic council member. Presently her primary ministry is faithfulness to prayer and continuing the responsibility of being community treasurer.

May God grant to Sister Mary Martha many happy and blessed years! Mnohaja i blahaja lita!

District 5

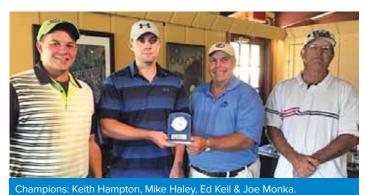
Tailgate & Ball Game | Thirty District 5 members attended the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders Baseball game and tailgate on July 28, against the Gwinnett Braves (an Atlanta Braves affiliate). It was a beautiful night for baseball. The barbecue chicken, hot dogs & sauer-kraut, sausage & peppers, American pierogies, pasta salad, baked beans, watermelon, and brownies catered by Ellis Catering, was delicious. The Rail Riders bats were alive as they won, 11-1.

The game honored the 25th anniversary of the iconic baseball film, "The Sandlot." Attendees received a Ham Porter bobblehead. The 1993 movie was co-written and co-directed by David Mickey Evans, a Wilkes-Barre native. Thank you to all who helped set up and clean up at the tailgate. Thanks also to the Home Office for subsidizing the tailgate, providing GCU hand sanitizers and the \$25 Amazon gift card, won by Stephan Sedon.

Annual Golf Tournament | The District 5 annual golf tournament was held on Saturday, August 4 at Sugarloaf Golf Club. There were 67 golfers. The team of Ed Keil, Joe Monka, Keith Hampton & Mike Haley had the low gross score. They received engraved clocks and a monetary prize. First Flight Low Net 1st Place—Gary Norconk, Jim Gurnari, Ed Krystofsky & John Sileski; 2nd Place—Ed Dolinish, III, Ryan Lis & Justin Blondo and 3rd Place—Joe Marichak, Ron Pitts, Jerry Brace & Joe Zaciek. Second Flight Low Net 1st Place—Joe Carnevale, Jerry Nash, Carl Smith, Jr. & Ron Mahler, 2nd Place—Bob Phillips, Lorraine Phillips, Coby Gilpin & Nick Budner. Proximity Prize winners included: Sue Grohowski, Shea Foulkrod, Linda Montville, Mike Haley, Mike Seman, Ed Krysofsky, Nicholas Budner, Chuck Neary, Bob Monville and Joe Carnavale. Twenty-five golfers hit the green on Hole 17, for a share in the Pot-of-Gold prize.

The day concluded with a Pig Roast, presentation of tournament winners and a door prize for all. Thanks to the GCU Home Office for the grant, golf towels, sunscreen and the preparation of entry forms. Thanks also to the district's hole sponsors, prize donors, and all the participants. A special thank you to our Pot-of-Gold and Hole-in-One verifier, Janice Dragan, who gave up her Saturday to sit on Hole 17. Save next year's date, Saturday, August 3, 2019.

CONTINUED





UPCOMING DISTRICT 5 EVENTS

Fall Helping Hands Day

Saturday, October 27 9 AM

Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA

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

Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 28
9 AM Divine Liturgy & Panachida
Holy Ghost Church, Jessup, PA

10:30 AM Breakfast Meeting

Regal Room

214 W. Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

Our 51st St. Nicholas Brunch & Scholarship Awards

Sunday, November 25 11 AM

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

Fiorelli Catering

1501 Main Street, Peckville, PA 18452

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

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

DISTRICT 5 CONTINUED



John & Colleen Evans, Ed Keil, Laurie Marcin, Toppy Zayac, Paul Polanchik and Ed Dolinish, Jr.

Adopt-A-Highway | Saturday, September 1 was district's first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of the year. It was great to see first timer Laurie Marcin who came directly from working third shift. Thanks to the eight volunteers who showed up. At least one more cleanup will be held later this year. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Ed Dolinish, Jr. at 570-562-2678 if interested.

Enjoy the fall with the leaves already turning. It would be great to see you at some of the district's upcoming events and activities.

Ilona Dolinish | Fraternal Director

District 7

Rain Can Not Stop Us | District 7's Annual Golf Outing on August 4, 2018 was rained out! But it was quickly rescheduled for September 15, 2018 at Green Pond Country Club in Bethlehem, PA. Twenty-one golfers enjoyed the Scramble Format on a beautiful weather day! Another eight GCU members joined the golfers for a buffet lunch and fellowship.

Our annual Matching Funds charity event ran in conjunction with our golf outing. St. Baldrick's Foundation was our charity this year. St. Baldrick's is committed to finding cures for childhood cancers. Donations were collected via e-mail and mail. A basket fundraiser at the golf outing helped raise additioal money for the charity.

There were plenty of give-a-ways from the Home Office and the St. Baldrick's Foundation. Thank you to everyone for their generous support!

Michael Geles, District 7 Athletic Director did a wonderful job organizing and scheduling the golf outing.

The St. Baldrick's Charity event was lead by District 7 President Mary K. Bannworth.

Mary K. Bannworth | President



One of the foursomes who enjoyed the District 7 golf outing.



District 15

Narcisi Winery Event | On Sunday, August 26 over 95 GCU members and guests spent the afternoon at Narcisi Winery. The participants enjoyed a delicious meal, warm weather, wine, corn hole and fraternalism. Maura Kristoff Rohde and her sons Benny & Noah traveled the farthest for the afternoon's events. Maura and the boys, who live in Germany, were in the area visiting her parents, Zoltan & Laurene Kristoff. It was wonderful to see so many new faces! The District 15 officers send a special thank you to Mr. Scott Schuetz, GCU Executive Vice President/COO, who spent the afternoon with us.



District Golf Tournament | Thank you and congratulations to D15 Athletic Director Bill Uram for another very successful District 15 Golf Tournament on Sunday, September 16. Even though it was the Pittsburgh Steelers home opener that afternoon, there was a great showing for golf and dinner. A complete report appears on the next page.

Annual Meeting | The

District 15 Annual Meeting will be on November 4 (details appear at right). Officer elections are scheduled for this year. Those interested in running for a District 15 office should contact Janet Uram (724-287-0689) by October 28. District 15 continues to enjoy great success with our various member events. All our welcome to attend the district's upcoming events. Invite a friend to join you, they just might become a new GCU member!

 $\textbf{Elizabeth Harbist} \mid \texttt{President}$

CONTINUED

UPCOMING DISTRICT 15 EVENTS

Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Sunday, November 4 Liturgy at St. Nicholas Chapel at 10:30 AM Seven Oaks Brunch following Liturgy Meeting to begin at 1 PM

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

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

River City Brass Band Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 20 7:30 PM \$20

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

District 15 will host a reception before the show. Details will be included with your ticket.

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

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

DISTRICT 15 CONTINUED

Annual Golf Tournament Recap | District 15 held its annual golf tournament on Sunday, September 16 at Seven Oaks Country Club. District 15 planners were worried that the remnants of Hurricane Florence would hit the area, but luckily the rains held off until Monday. The district's hearts go out to the people along the East Coast whose towns were flooded by the storm.

The winners of the flights for the tournament were as follows: Women low gross-Melena Huller 102; 1st low net-Jean Karaffa 74; 2nd low net-Pat Kutzfara 78 and 3rd low net-Carol Macko 79. Men's A Flight low gross-Guido Candelore 81; 1st low net-Rob Haller 72; 2nd low net-Mike Karaffa 73 and 3rd low net-Whitey Harbist 74. Men's B Flight low gross-John P. Harbist 86; 1st low net-John Maracek 72; 2nd low net-Jerry Fording 72 and 3rd low net-Bill Uram, Jr. 76. Men's C Flight low gross-Don Leslie 94; 1st low net-John Kutzfara 71; 2nd low net-Bud Miller 71 and 3rd low net-Mike Mantsch 71. Skill Prizes: Closest to the Pin—Hole "4 Sherry Russa; Hole "8 Kyle Karaffa; Hole "11 Rob Jester and Hole "14 John Lanctot. Longest Putts—Carole Macko, Timmy Seech and Rob Jester.

Following golf everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner. Thanks to the generosity of the GCU Home Office and tee sponsors, all the golfers received a door prize.

Bill Uram Jr. | Athletic Director



Women's flight winners: Melena Huller, Jean Karaffa, Pat Kutzfara and Carol Macko.



Men's B flight winners: John P. Harbist, Jerry Fording, John Maracek & Bill Uram Jr.

Lodge News

Lodge 17
OLD FORGE, PA

Annual Flea Market

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church held a Flea Market on the weekend of September 15-16, and Saturday, September 22. Lodge members assisted throughout and responsible for the kitchen where homemade foods were in abundance: holupki, piroghi, halushki, wimpies, pizza and hot dogs. A special thanks to the GCU Home Office for printing the event tickets.

Ed Keil | Secretary Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 17 EVENTS

Turkey Bingo

Sunday, November 11 Doors open at 12 NOON Bingo Starts at 1 PM

Cost is \$3 Additional bingo cards available for purchase.

St. Mary's Byzantine Cathollc Church, Taylor, PA

Turkeys will be given away as bingo prizes wih additional fundraising activities. Homemade food & baked goods for sale. This is a GCU Matching Funds event, please come and support.

November Collections

Collection of food for the less fortunate in the area and used eyeglasses for the Lions Club will take place throughout the month of November.

Lodge 28

SOUTHSIDE-PITTSBURGH, PA

Helping at Back to School Festival Giveaway

On Sunday, August 12, lodge members and friends helped at the annual back to school festival giveaway. The event was held at Source Church in West Mifflin, PA. Two hundred people were expected to attend but the event actually drew between 300-400 people!

The event was held from 2-4 PM, however, people started lining up a half hour early. Upon entry, everyone registered. After watching a science show, the children were permitted to select a backpack filled with school supplies. They also received coupons for free haircuts and a Kona ice. Other free things included popcorn, live entertainment and games with prizes.

Lodge 28 hosted a refreshment table. Everyone was invited to partake in the complimentary hot dogs, bags of chips, candy, cookies, iced tea and GCU giveaways. Before you knew it, many tables including Lodge 28, ran out of food and giveaways!

This was a very fast-paced, fun and exhilarating day. The volunteers are already looking forward to doing it again next year. This was made possible with the GCU Community Fraternal Grant. Many people had inquiries about the GCU because of the t-shirts the volunteers were wearing and the logo-inspired giveaways.



Lodge members Kim, Brent, Sarah with friend Austin, Source Church Pastor Rick and Karen

St. John the Baptist/Lodge 28 Flea Market Festival

On Saturday, September 15, a flea market festival was held at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, South Side-Pittsburgh. Homemade chicken noodle and vegetarian vegetable soups, baked goods lovingly made by parishioners, family & friends and a Chinese Auction were available to attendees. LuLaRoe fashion consultant and parishioner, Janet Wisloski, helped customers pick out wonderful Lu La Roe clothing that complimented their personal styles. She also sold Color Street nail polish matching their nail color to their newly purchased outfits.

As everyone knows, plenty of help is needed to carry out events. The lodge was blessed with help from church and lodge members as well as friends. Some came the week before to help chop vegetables and prepare the soups; others spent their Saturday afternoon manning the various tables.

It was a successful event attended by many church and lodge members as well as people from the community. All leftover flea market items were donated to the homeless and the Little Sisters of the Poor for their free store. The event proceeds will go to much needed church roof repairs. The GCU Home Office is also providing church Matching Funds to help even more.

Kim Kolesar | Secretary Treasurer



FRATERNAL

Lodge 52 BETHEL PARK, PA

Flea Market at St. Gregory Church

GCU Lodge 52 and St. Gregory members had another successful flea market. As always, the room was full of beautiful clean and functional items. Customers streamed through all day looking for just the right items. There were toys, Christmas items, dishes, glassware, paintings, electronic items, sporting equipment, bed spreads, small furniture and much more. The weather was good making it easier to display larger items outdoors. At the end of the day a BIG BAG SALE was a great success. Many people were able to buy books, toys and Christmas items.

We send a "Big Thank You" to our organizers and to the large number of the staff that came to help.





Volunteers who put in many hours of work to make the Flea Market a success

Golf Day

On Sunday, August 12, the men and women of Lodge 52 and St. Gregory Church enjoyed a beautiful day of golf, at Scenic Valley Golf Club. Tee time was at 8:30 AM with a cook out following at 2 PM. The menu consisted of salads, sandwiches, soft drinks, beer and dessert. The big event was the awarding of prizes by George Tichi. Awards were a sleeve of golf balls given to 1) low score 2) Pink Lady Score 3) closest to the pin par 3 holes. The Hast Family Team won the scramble. Eugene Berestecky was the winner of the traveling Gary Player picture. This picture is the award given to the most enthusiastic player. The winner keeps the picture for a year.

A special thank you to Fr. Valerian for helping deliver cold water and soda pop to the folks on the course. A special BIG thank you to Tom Soroka for all his work in organizing the entire outing which was a big success. Thank you to the GCU for the golf towels.

 $\textbf{Rosemary Tomko} \mid \texttt{Publicity Director}$



Lodge 69 POTTSTOWN, PA

Ethnic Food Fest

St. John Ethnic Food Fest was held on Sunday, July 22 at St. John's Hall. The week before the food fest, volunteers prepared the food to be sold. Holupki, pierogies, halushki, potato pancakes and kielbasa sandwiches were sold. Donations were also accepted for baked goods. Families and friends gathered together for good food, entertainment and fellowship.

Nancy Harding | Secretary



Lodge 77 LORAIN, OH

Parish Picnic and Fundraising Event

GCU Lodge 77 along with St. Nicholas Parish put on a fabulous parish picnic and fundraising event on July 21, 2018. The parish family along with the neighboring community were invited to come and enjoy the day. The food was great! Cabbage rolls, sausage & sauerkraut, cabbage & noodles and pirohi were available for purchase. There was music and dancing. Members of the lodge helped with the food preparation and serving, 50/50 & basket fundraisers and entertaining the children with games and prizes.

Anne Dillon | Treasurer

Lodge 81 UNIONTOWN, PA

Pilgrimage Participation

On Saturday, August 18, with the 84th annual Pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina just 2 weeks away, Gerry Dorobish helped to get the Religious Gift Shop in order and Bonnie Balas prepped and cleaned in the Trinity Center. This was in conjunction with a Helping Hands Day in preparation for the event.

On Monday, August 27, parishioners of St. John the Baptist parish, including Norbert Duritsa, Ann Kormanik and Theresa Petruska, worked at making 300 dozen pirohi to be donated and sold at the Pilgrimage.

Lodge 81 members assumed their usual roles at the annual event. Stephen Petruska, James Mihalko and Paul Rubish & sons (Lodge

57) served as ushers for the various services throughout the weekend. Gerry Dorobish worked tirelessly at the Religious Gift Shop. Marcia & Richard Harrer and Bryan Ponzurick helped direct cars to parking areas. Bonnie Balas, along with Robert Johnson (Sabarton), John Kashner, and Samuel



Svanda maintained and lit candles at St. Anne Shrine. Samuel stepped in for his brother Colin, a longtime volunteer who was unable to attend this year. Julia Pillar faithfully carried the processional cross for St. John Parish. The Pilgrimage proves to be a faith filled event for Lodge 81.

Vendor Fair

On September 12 a Vendor Fair was sponsored by the Uniontown Hospital. Gerry Dorobish was chairperson for a table representing the Uniontown Public Library. Baskets with books for both children and adults were available at the community event.



Annual Food Drive

Lodge 81 annual Food Drive was held before and after the September 15-16 weekend Divine Liturgies. Stephen Petruska, Gerry Dorobish and Bonnie Balas collected food and monetary donations. The money is used to purchase nonperishable food items, which along with food items collected, will be distributed to the St. Vincent dePaul Food Bank in Uniontown and to the Charleroi Food Pantry which is housed in the lower level of the Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Charleroi, PA.

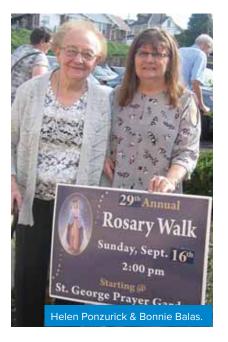
CONTINUED

FRATERNAL

Lodge 81 CONTINUED

Eastern Christian Formation

Catechetical Sunday for the Byzantine Catholic Church was Sunday, September 16. Bonnie Balas and Gerry Dorobish were commissioned by Father Ronald Larko at the Divine Liturgies. The children who were in attendance at the ECF program were also blessed at this time. Gerry and Bonnie also took registrations for children attending this year's classes.



31st Annual Rosary Walk

This yearly event includes 6 local Catholic churches. At St. John Church, Helen Ponzurick led the reciting of the 2nd Decade of the Glorious Mysteries and Bonnie Balas led the singing of Marian hymns while the large number of people filled the church nave. Also participating were Gerry Dorobish, her sister Linda Zungri and Julia Pillar & her mother Barbara.



George Patchan (2nd from left) with other birthday celebrants.

Coffee Social

The September birthday coffee social, sponsored by St. John Social Ministry, was held on Sunday, September 16. Bonnie Balas was on hand to help with the preparations. George Patchan, longtime GCU member, was among the birthday celebrants recognized. Best wishes to George.

Annual Classic Car Show

A highlight each September is the annual Classic Car Show. This year's 13th annual event was held on Sunday, September 23 at St. John Church parking lot. One hundred classic vehicles showed up for this popular event. James Mihalko worked as a judge, Stephen Petruska registered vehicles, Bryan Ponzurick parked cars, Marcia & Ricahrd Harrer were food cashiers, and Bonnie Balas & Janet Gaydos sold tickets. Lodge 81 members also donated prizes, baked goods, money and time to make this event a great success. Thanks to Vincent Semachko for organizing the car show and to GCU for the Fraternal Grant.



Quarterly Meeting

The third quarter meeting of Lodge 81 was held on Sunday, August 26, after the Divine Liturgy. Plans for the Classic Car Show and the 37th annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration (Sunday, October 28) were made. Donations to the parish festival and to the Mt. Macrina Pilgrimage were approved. Next quarterly meeting is planned for Sunday, November 11, after ECF Classes.

Bonnie Balas | Vice President & Publicity Director

UPCOMING LODGE 81 EVENT

37th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, October 28

Details appear on Page 35



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FRATERNAL

Lodge 92 JESSUP, PA

Friends of Bruce Semon Jr. Golf Outing

On Saturday, August 18 Lodge 92 held its 2nd Annual Friends of Bruce Semon Jr. Golf Outing at Wemberly Hills Golf Course in Olyphant, PA. Despite the soggy conditions, over 40 golfers battled it out in the Captain and Crew format for the opportunity of being crowned the Friends of Bruce Semon Jr. Golf Outing champions.

The lodge, along with generous donations from local businesses and friends of Bruce Semon Jr., was able to raise \$1,100.00 in the name of Bruce Semon Jr. for the Hospice of the Sacred Heart Thanksgiving Program which delivers Thanksgiving dinners to in-home hospice patients and their families. The outing was capped off with a dinner and presentation of prizes for the top finishers, longest drive and closest to the pin, along with door prizes for those in attendance. A special thank you goes out to the family of Bruce Semon Jr. and those who were in attendance to helped to make the event a success in its 2nd year.

Mark Barkowski | Publicity Director



President Greg Barkowski, Sr., committee member Amy Borick, CEO of Hospice of the Sacred Heart Diane Baldi and committee member Mark Barkowski. Missing from photo are committee member Gregory Barkowski Jr. and committee chairman Dr. Timothy Borick.





Walter Rogal presenting a "Helping Hands" donation to Fr. Polyak to help cover some repair expenses.

Lodge 93 NORTHERN CAMBRIA, PA

Helping Hands Day

Once again, Lodge 93 supported the summer Helping Hands Day at St. John's Byzantine Church. Work included grass cutting, flower planting, tree & bush trimming, cleaning the inside of church, chapel & social hall and repair of the handicap entrance. A thank you to the GCU Home Office for the Fraternal Grant. Most appreciative was pastor of St. John's, Fr. Vasil Polyak.

Educational and Cultural Series

The fourth presentation in a series of seven educational & cultural programs was presented by pastor Fr. Vasil Polyak. He showed a video on the history and biography of Bishop Theodore Romzha, formation of the Byzantine Rite and a short history on the Ukraine. The presentation was well organized and very informative. Coffee and cake was served. Birthdays and anniversaries were also recognized.

Cambria County Arts & Heritage Festival

Lodge 93 sponsored two booths at the first ever Cambria County Arts & Heritage Festival held at Duman Lake County Park, Nicktown, PA. One booth displayed cultural & religious items of the Byzantine Rite and the other had pamphlets on the Eastern Church and promotional items from the GCU. There was a drawing to benefit the roof project at St. John's Byzantine Church in N. Cambria. Many activities included local bands providing music, speeches from the local representatives, food, arts & crafts, a Civil War reenactment, a medieval fair, a dance group, a juggler, a magician and Star Wars storm troopers. All had a good day and hope everyone comes back next year.



Cultural items, icons and religious items on display at the Heritage Festival.



Civil War reenactment during the Festival.



Cornhole Tournament

Lodge 93 sponsored a team at the cornhole tournament at the Elderton Presbyterian Church. Teams were picked at random with one adult and one child per team. There were a total of 16 teams-single elimination. Prior to the tournament an optional breakfast was served. Prizes were awarded to the first place & runner-up winners. Souvenir bean bags were presented to the kids. Thanks to Tom Spencer for organizing and coordinating the event. A good time was had by all. Good friendly competition—let's do it again next year!

John Katana | Secretary

FRATERNAL

Lodge 109 LYNDORA, PA

Uniontown Pilgrimage

On Sunday, September 2, Lodge 109 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 one of two this year, who chartered a bus for the trip. There were 39 pilgrims on board representing parishioners of St. John The Baptist Byzantine Church of Lyndora, their friends and family and parishioners of neighboring churches in Butler, PA. Three family members of Father Radko Blikkar who were visiting from Slovakia were also on the bus.

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 firsttime travelers a brief history of the 84 years of the pilgrimage. The day was spent in prayerful reflection and intention at the numerous shrines and grottos on the extensive grounds of the Mount. Many of the pilgrims were able to take home icons and other religious mementos from



the gift shop to compliment the memories of their experience. Lodge 109 is grateful to its many friends and neighbors for joining in to continue to make this trip a meaningful and worthwhile tradition. We also wish to thank the GCU for the Fraternal Grant which helped to defray the cost of the bus for this trip and for the traditional medovniki (honey cakes) distributed to each pilgrim on the bus for the return trip to Lyndora. Many thanks also to Helen Meaders, our oldest pilgrim (98 years young) for her help in making this trip possible.

Janet Uram | Secretary Treasurer



St. John's altar server, Austin Ball, who carried the church's cross in the processions on Sunday, September 2.



Front row: Janet Uram, Fr. Radko Blikkar, Janet Stetzer and Helen Meaders. Back row: Helen Musko, Gloria Hoffman, Bob Kosar, Deacon Paul Simko and Pat Kosar.

Helen Meaders celebrates

turning 98 years old.

Helen Meaders Turns 98 Years Young

Helen Meaders, long-time member of Lodge 109, celebrated her 98th birthday recently with her fellow parish members at a Sunday social hour at St. John's. A cake and a birthday gift were presented to her for the occasion.

Donation Made

Janet Stetzer presented a check to Fr. Radko Blikkar for the GCU Matching Funds from Lodge 109's hoagie sale. The money will be used for the expenses of St. John the Baptist B.C. Church in Lyndora, PA.

Lodge 144 AURORA, CO

Helping Hands Day

GCU Lodge 144 was pleased to lend a Helping Hand along with the J&J Tree Company with the pruning, shaping and fertilizing of the pussy willow trees surrounding Holy Protection Church in Denver, CO. Lodge 144 thanks the GCU for the Fraternal Grant that helped to make the project possible.



Kevin Oslick, Audrey Peek, Mary Ellen Oslick and Alexander Oslick



Sr. Christopher of the Sisters of St. Basil accepts a check from Lodge 144 Auditor Audrey Peek and her daughter Sarah Peek.

Pilgrimage Donations

During the 2018 Otpust (Pilgrimage) at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA, Lodge 144 was pleased to present a check to the Sisters of St. Basil. The donation will assist their ministry of providing authentic experiences of Eastern Christian Liturgical services and practices for the faithful. Lodge 144 Auditor Audrey Peek and lodge member Sarah Peek presented the check to Sister Christopher.

Audrey and Sarah also volunteered to serve the pilgrims at the light lunch stand. Both had fun assisting even though it was tiring.



National Director John W. Oslick with Denver Police Department District #3 officers.

Honoring Our Police & Firemen

Lodge 144 was privileged to provide lunch for the policemen and detectives of Denver Police Department District 3 AND the firemen of Denver Fire Department Station 2.Lodge144 is grateful to the brave men and women who protect and serve our community everyday. We remember the lives that were lost and the lives that were forever changed on that fateful day September 11, 2001.

Mary Ellen Oslick | President



National Director John W. Oslick with Firemen from Denver Station #2.

FRATERNAL

Lodge 151 NEW YORK, NY

Third Quarter Meeting

Members of Lodge 151 have been busy during this hot summer. The third quarterly meeting was held at Gino's in Queens. The meeting went well and the food was great. Chris and Ann made the meeting special with their games and prizes. It was great that attendees were able to answer most of the questions asked. Thanks Ann and Chris for all your work and patience!

St. Nicholas Pilgrimage

Lodge 151 members attended the St. Nicholas Pilgrimage held at Carpathian Village in Pennsylvania. Emily, Vinnie and Marie Panchuk, Marge Russell and Mike Knapp were a few of members in attendance at the Moleben, healing

services and the Divine Liturgy at which Bishop Kurt tonsured two eparchial seminarians to minor orders and six diaconal candidates were ordained to the sub-diaconate. The food was great and the camaraderie better.



Religious instructors with children as they receive their books with Fr. Nicholas Daddona in back.

Church News

Congratulations to Deacon Bob & Lisa Knapp and family on the birth of their grandchild. They are from the Church of the Resurrection in Smithtown, NY.

Lots of luck to Chris LoGrippo who began studies at the seminary in Pittsburgh in September.

Congratulations to Fr. Michael Salnicky and St. Nicholas of Myra BC Church in Pocono Summit, PA on their 50th anniversary. On September 9, a celebration began with a Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Kurt and cantored by Michael Yasenchok. A celebratory dinner followed at Famularo's Restaurant. Bishop Kurt presented a plaque from Pope Frances to the pastor Fr. Michael Salnicky for the 50th anniversary of the church. Some GCU members in attendance included: Hillsboro, NJ cantor Elias Zareva, Theresa and son Charles Tomaszfski, Marge Russell, Ruth Karmazon and Fr. Michael's sister, Ann Marie Salnicky. A great time was had by all! We wish the parish many more active years. Na mnohaja i blahaja lita!

St. Andrew parish started its religious instruction on Sunday, September 23 with the children receiving their books and a special blessing from Fr. Nicholas Daddona. Dr. Maureen Daddona gave a presentation on a safe environment for children—it was very enlightening.

Marge Russell | President



Lodge members enjoying the 50th Anniversary at St. Nicholas of Myra Church.

UPCOMING LODGE 151 EVENTS

Two Matching Funds Events

Annual Ethnic Dinner / Folk Dancers Saturday, November 3

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

Luncheon and Fund Raiser Sunday, November 18

Transfiguration of the Blessed Mother Church, Flushing, NY

Contact Chris Hulak at 718-359-6419

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 25 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Cottage Chinese Restaurant New York City, NY

Contact Marge at 516-307-1016 if interested in attending.

St. Nicholas Celebration

Monday, December 3

The parish will also hold its annual bake sale and a boutique show on December 8.

St. Andrew the Apostle Church 75 Ellison Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

Contact Marge at 516-307-1016



Secretary Diana Danko and President Dr. Tom Sopkovich presented Fr. Richard Lambert a check in the amount of \$3,450.00

Lodge 164 YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Donation Presented

On Thursday, August 16, 2018, Secretary Diana Danko and President Dr. Tom Sopkovich presented Fr. Richard Lambert a check for \$3,450.00. The donation will benefit the parish's social hall renovation at St. Mary Church. The presentation took place at the annual picnic for the Assumption feast day.

The donation included \$1,500.00 in GCU Matching Funds added to the Father's Day Bingo Fundraiser profits of \$1,380.00 and \$570.00 from the gift basket fundraiser and additional donations made towards the renovations. Eighteen lodge members worked the event under the leadership of bingo managers Don Danko and Bob Democko. The bingo was held on Sunday, June 17, 2018.

Dr. Tom Sopkovich | President

Lodge 254 HILLSBOROGH, NJ

Trip to See "Jesus"

Lodge 254 sponsored a trip to Lancaster, PA on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. A bus with 54 lodge members, parishioners and friends experienced the superb production of, "Jesus" at the Sight & Sound Theater. After the show, the group enjoyed dinner at the famous Shady Maple Smorgasbord.

The trip home featured a fundraiser for Target gift cards donated by the GCU Home Office. This raised funds for the lodge's donation to St. Baldrick's and a community school supplies project. Vice President Charles Bazaral and other lodge members coordinated the event.

Elias Zareva | President Alberta Folsome | Auditor



Member Traveled to Italy

Savanna Bezick, age 16 and 70 members of the Princeton Girlchoir traveled to Italy this past summer. One of the highlights of the tour was performing at a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. Savanna, in addition to her singing voice also excels as a flutist, playing first chair in her high school wind ensemble. She is an assistant cantor & leads the singing at one of the Sunday Liturgies at St. Marys' BC Church in Hillsborough, NJ where Fr. James Badeaux is pastor. She is a member of Lodge 254.



Lodge 255

GREENFIELD-PITTSBURGH, PA

Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Tournament

The annual Gene Tarabek Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Seven Oaks Country Club in Beaver, PA on Saturday, August 4, 2018. Golfers enjoyed 18 holes of golf and a dinner. Non-golfing lodge members enjoyed the pool and dinner in the Grille Room. Thanks to Ted Trbovich for donating the refreshments following golf. A donation from the proceeds was made to the American Heart Assocation, in Gene's name.

Melanie Basl | Publicity Director



UPCOMING LODGE 255 EVENT

Annual Steeler Tailgate XVI

Sunday, November 4 11:30 AM - End of Game 1 PM Kickoff

\$10 Adults & \$5 kids (age 5-12)

Steelers vs. Baltimore Ravens

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

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

Donations Welcome.

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

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

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

GCU Student Debt Program Introduced

The GCU Board of Directors, at its March 2018 meeting, approved a budget for a new Student Debt Relief program. The Board realizes that many of our young members complete college with significant Student Debt. In an effort to address this issue, they have developed a program to assist GCU members with a portion of their Student Debt. Applications were accepted beginning on July 1. Through September 30, 2018, 34 members have been approved with 23 members having completed all of the necessary requirements and have received their \$500.00 awards.

Members that qualify are eligible for four annual awards of \$500.00 each. Members are required to apply annually to receive the award. Requirements include: GCU membership as of 12/31/2017 with a permanent life insurance certificate or annuity with a current balance of at least \$2,000.00. Proof of at least two years of payments on the student loan(s) and volunteer involvement will also be required. Complete details, program requirements and application are available on the GCU Website: GCUusa. com-Members-Member Benefits-Student Debt.

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



Lodge 288 CLAIRTON, PA

Helping Hands Day

Weather has not been kind to Lodge 288 events this year! Helping Hands Day was changed due to rain and then changed again. Finally, volunteers were able to meet on Saturday, September 8. Heavy rains prevented the plans for cemetery and church grounds cleanup again, but volunteers tackled the inside of Ascension Church for a super cleaning project. The kids cleaned the pews and kneelers with Murphy's oil soap as the adults dove into restrooms and other areas of the church, scrubbing, sanitizing, cleaning dust webs high & low, vacuuming, cleaning glass doors, all of the marble fixtures and providing some minor repairs & replacement of items that were worn out or broken. A date will be set for the outdoor projects in early fall and a painting project is being planned for the restrooms at a later date. Lunch was served at the hall and cleaning supplies, tools and replacement items were donated to the church.



Sports Day

The lodge planned a sporting event for kids on September 9, but heavy rains forced the program indoors. Volunteers had to rethink the game plan and presented alternate activities including an innovative indoor croquet game, bowling for bottles, frisbee targets, mini football toss and hula hoops. Everyone received a ticket to play and extra chances for each point they earned during the games. Tickets were drawn for gift cards from Dick's, Arby's and Burger King. Players also received a gift bag with a GCU football, Frisbee, coloring book, sports themed chocolates, cereal and granola energy bars. Everyone had a great time and when the games were over, the sun finally peaked out from behind the clouds!

Trish Roberts | President



John Kohan cleaning during the Helping Hands Day.



Carla Maksin, lucky winner Frank Zuro and Dean Maksin.

TV Giveaway

During the month of September, tickets were sold to give away a 40" TV donated by Dean & Carla Maksin. This was a Matching Funds project with the funds being donated to the church for cemetery maintenance. Frank Zuro was the excited winner!

UPCOMING LODGE 288 EVENT

Trip to Jimmy Stewart Museum & Christmas Festival

Sunday, November 18 **Morning Liturgy and Social**

St. Anne Byzantine Church 48 Franklin Street, Clymer, PA 15728

Jimmy Stewart Museum & Christmas Festival 835 Philadelphia Street, Indiana, PA 15701

After visiting the museum, attendees will enjoy dinner and Overly's Festival of Lights.

Cntact Trish Roberts at 412-233-7814 for more info.



UPCOMING LODGE 302 EVENTS

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 28 Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

This is always a Spooktacular time for the children to dress-up in their Halloween costumes and collect candy from parents and parishioners. Come and enjoy the Halloween fun!

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH

4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 4 Following 10:30 AM Liturgy

Officers will be elected for 2019.

St. Joseph's Church, Brecksville, OH

Lodge 302 BRECKSVILLE, OH

Member Shares Visit to Rome with Lodge

Tyler Milam, grandson of Lodge 302 Vice President Bonnie Ciresi and her husband Tom, spoke at the August meeting to relate to the members his trip to Rome this past June. Tyler is a nursing student at Walsh University and will earn his degree this coming spring. He is also a member of the Walsh Chamber Choir. They perform twice each year at the university as well as performing throughout the community.

Tyler said that student members of the Chamber Choir at Walsh travel to Rome every four years. This year's trip was from June 17-30. The choir stayed at the Walsh campus in Castell Gandalfo, the town in which the Pope has a summer residence. First on their agenda was traveling to the town of Assisi where they spent five days touring and singing at several churches and cathedrals. They also visited the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi where they viewed his tomb. Their next stop was Rome where they again sang at several churches in the city as well as St. Peter's Basilica where they performed at a mass. While in Rome they toured the Vatican Museum and saw the Pope during his daily papal viewing, where he greets the people and blesses them. Tyler noted that the blessings by the Pope also extends to members of their family. Tyler thanked the lodge for their donation assisting to make the trip possible.

Diane Richey | Publicity Director

Lodge 316 PHILIPSBURG, NJ

Golf Outing

This year, for our community Matching Funds project, Lodge 316 again joined the Christopher Meddaugh Foundation to raise funds for scholarships to Notre Dame High School students in Bethlehem Township, PA. This is the Foundation's 8th annual golf outing and it continues to be successful.

The event was a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. During play, there were contests for Hitting the Green and Closest to the Pin. This year's outing drew 39 golfers. Each golfer received a backpack with snacks, golf balls & tees, a golf towel, sunscreen and device cleaners.

Thanks to GCU, Shop Rite, and Notre Dame High School for these donations. Following golf, six additional friends and family joined the group for a delicious buffet and fellowship. Prizes were awarded to the day's wnners.

Over the past eight years the golf outing has provided scholarships to both high school graduates and returning students. To date, \$23,000.00 in scholarships have been awarded; \$2,500.00 donated to Notre Dame's science lab upgrades and \$3,100.00 was donated to the Immune Deficiency Foundation for education and research. These donations and scholarships were all made in Christopher's memory. Thank you to everyone who has supported this event over the last eight years!

Kathleen Meddaugh | Secretary Treasurer



To date, \$23,000.00 in scholarships have been awarded: \$2.500.00 donated to Notre Dame's science lab upgrades and \$3,100.00 was donated to the Immune Deficiency Foundation for education and research.



Lodge 336 EUCLID, OH



Membership Event

Lodge 336 recently held a combined fraternal and charitable event in conjunction with their quarterly meeting. The lodge invited GCU agent Randy Baden to review the current products being offered by the GCU. Guests were asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Euclid Hunger Center. Mr. Baden also provided door prizes to be awarded to some of the guests present. There were multiple gift cards and a grand prize of a 49" flat screen TV. James Markel was the lucky winner of the TV.

Flag Day Celebration

Lodge 336 held its annual Flag Day Celebration on Sunday, June 10 at St. Stephen Byzantine Church in Euclid following the Sunday morning Liturgy. The Flag Day ceremony was opened with a few remarks from Lodge 336 President Patricia Comai and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. A luncheon for all of those in attendance followed. This event had a sad note, because St. Stephen parish had to say good-bye and farewell to Reverend Michael Lee, his wife Debbie and their family that day. Father Lee was reassigned to a parish in Missouri. Best of luck to Father Lee and his family!

Patti Comai | President

FRATERNAL



Members of Lodge 390 and Holy Ghost Parish display the collected items for the VA Hospital Fisher House.

Lodge 390 MCKEES ROCKS, PA

Fisher House Collection

This summer Lodge 390 in cooperation with three local Byzantine Church parishes launched a collection program for the Pittsburgh VA Hospital Fisher House. Fisher House provides accommodations and general living supplies for the families of those receiving treatment at the Pittsburgh VA Hospital. They have an ongoing need to replenish the supplies used.

Holy Ghost in Northside-Pittsburgh, PA, St. Andrew in Gibsonia, PA and Holy Ghost in McKees Rocks all stepped up and collected over \$2,000.00 worth of much needed items. Fisher House was most grateful to receive the delivery from Lodge 390 president Tina Burns on Wednesday, August 8.

Steve Puluka | Secretary Treasurer

Lodge 401

NANTY GLO, PA

Lodge 401 held a Spaghetti Dinner with proceeds to benefit the Nanty Glo Public Library. With the addition of GCU Matching Funds the lodge was able to donate a total of \$1,183.64.

Accepting the check from Secretary Steve Bender was Library board member and St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church parishioner Jerry Nedrich. A special thank you to the GCU Home Office, to the dinner patrons and lodge volunteers, for making the event successful.

Gene Ostinowsky | Vice President



Steve Bender and Jerry Nedrich.

Greater Hazleton Regional Lodge

The three H's (Hazy, Hot & Humid) of summer were supposed to be upon us, but most of the summer was rainy and humid. Now it will be time for Mother nature to show off all the splendor of the fall foliage.

Giving Back to the Community

The GHRL third quarter meeting was held on Sunday, August 12 at SS. Peter & Paul Church hall in Minersville, PA. The presentation of the Community Matching Funds was made to "Avenues" and the lottery calendars were distributed for the month of November for the parish Matching Funds for Holy Dormition Friary. Also, a motion was placed to apply for grants for Brandon's Forever Home and Catholic Social Services. GHRL will have two different events to help raise funds for these organizations.

GHRL Activity Update

The lodge has been a "beehive" of activity for the past few months. On August 18, members went to "Sight and Sound" to see the show "Jesus." If you get the opportunity, go and see this show—it



GCU bowlers from left: Mary Lou Junas, Claire Kaschak, Carol Shemansky, Carolyn Koscuk, Eileen Bunk and Mary Ellen Fichter at the Sight and Sound Theater.

is absolutely wonderful! On Sunday, August 26 GHRL held a Back to School Bowling Party and on September 16, the lodge sponsored a bus trip to Hollywood Casino.

The GCU'ers Bowling league had their re-organization meeting and started bowling on September 5. There are 16 bowlers with 4 teams of 4 bowlers each. Maybe there is a

300 game on the horizon? One can always dream. Congratulations are extended to the junior bowlers from GHRL who were national winners, in their respective age categories.

Remember

Please keep in your prayers and thoughts all those who have been devastated by Hurricane Florence, and the ongoing fires that are out West. On Veterans Day, please keep all of our veterans both living and deceased in your prayers—they have served our country and have kept us safe. If you see a veteran, shake their hand, say thanks and give them a salute of gratitude!

Here is wishing all a very Blessed & Happy Thanksgiving. Be thankful for your family and friends and try spending some quality time with them on this holiday.

As always, remember that dates are subject to change. If you are unsure about a meeting or an event, please feel free to call 570-454-4869, or if you are computer savvy, check out the GCU website for updates or new postings.

Until, next time, take care and May God Bless!

Agnes Rohrbach | Secretary & Activities Director



GCU National Director Dorothy Ann Foran, GHRL President Deacon Larry Foran, Ted Sherrock-representative from "Avenues" and GHRL Secretary Agnes Rohrbach.

Bakeless Bake Sale Donation

The "Bakeless" Bake Sale that was held for the month of July was a huge success. Thanks to the parishes and donors who helped raise over \$4,000.00 for Holy Annunciation Monastery and also to the Home Office for this Special Matching Funds project. Mother Marija and the Sisters are very thankful for all that was done.

UPCOMING GHRL EVENTS

Fundraiser Bingo

Thursday, October 25 6 PM

St. John's Church, 5 East 20th Street, Hazleton, PA Benefits Brandon's Forever Home

Contact Agnes at 570-454-4869

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

Saturday, October 27 9 AM

Contact Agnes at 570-454-4869

Sands Casino Bus Trip

Sunday, October 28

Seminar on Eye Problems

Sunday, November 4

Presented by Bucci Vision-Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma and other serious eye problems. Q & A period plus refreshments.

St. John's Church, 5 East 20th Street, Hazleton, PA

Benefits Catholic Social Services

Contact Agnes at 570-454-4869

FRATERNAL

Lodge 625 Happenings

CONEMAUGH, PA

Annual Picnic

On Sunday, August 19, Lodge 625 in conjunction with Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church, held its annual parish picnic at Sandy Run Park in Sidman, PA. Forty-two lodge members and 20 guests attend. It was a very nice event with plenty of food and even bingo! We want to thank the Home Office for the giveaways and the gift card door prizes for this event.



Third Quarter Meeting

On August 26 the lodge held its 3rd quarter meeting in the church hall at Holy Trinity to plan upcoming events.

UPCOMING LODGE 625 EVENTS

Swiss Steak Dinner

Sunday, November 11 11 AM to 2 PM

Holy Trinity Church Hall 217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

4th Quarter/Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 25 **Following Divine Liturgy** Approximately 10:15 AM

Holy Trinity Church Hall 217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

Contact Georgia Lehman at 814-535-5636 or gculodge625@yahoo.com

St. Nicholas Social Hour

Thursday, December 6 **Following Divine Liturgy**

Holy Trinity Church Hall 217 Fourth Street, Conemaugh, PA

Third drawing for the fuel fund ticket.



Matching Funds Events

Lodge 625 held a Chicken Parmesan Dinner on Sunday, September 16. With the Matching Funds from the two major summer fundraising events, a check will be presented to the parish for over \$4,000.00 for the roof fund and at our November meeting it will be determined what local charities will benefit from the distribution of \$3,000.00 in community fundraising.

Members of Lodge 625 who would like to be added to the lodge's email list are asked to send an email to: gculodge625@yahoo.com.

Georgia Lehman | Secretary Treasurer

UPCOMING LODGE 860 EVENTS

Learn How to Make Pirohi

Saturday, November 10 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM FREE-Nothing to bring!

Coffee & donuts provided in the morning, lunch will be pirohi, side dishes and beverages

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

Contact Sharon May at maysharon@aol.com

Trivia Night (ages 18 & up)

Saturday, November 17 Doors open at 7 PM with a light supper buffet Game begins at 7:30 to 10 PM Cost is \$2

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

Snacks & non-alcoholic beverages provided (BYOB)

Contact Anne Nagrant 248-948-1953

Lodge 994 BEAVER, PA

Holiday Honor/Memory Tree

This Holiday Season, you may honor someone who has impacted your life by purchasing a personalized ornament to be displayed on a specially designated Honor/Memory Tree for \$5 per ornament. The tree will be placed among the beautiful Christmas trees in the Seven Oaks Country Club lobby.

The recipient of the funds raised from this year's ornament sales will be The Women's Center of Beaver County. It is the county's only comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault resource center. Since 1976, victims and survivors of domestic violence have found the help and hope they need through this agency. Their services, which are always confidential and at no cost, include: crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, legal & medical advocacy and prevention education. They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Deadline to order your ornament is Monday, November 12, 2018. Please make check payable to: GCU Lodge 994 Honor Tree and mail to Mary Batyko, 1741 Heather Heights Drive, Crescent, PA 15046. You may submit a photograph of your loved one to be placed on the ornament with your check or email photos to cchamberlain@GCUusa.com. Any photo submitted by mail will not be returned. Since this is a Matching Funds project, GCU will match funds up to \$1,500.00. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

Mary T. Batyko | Treasurer



FRATERNAL



Lodge 999 PHOENIX, AZ

Movie Day & Luncheon

On Sunday, August 12, Lodge 999 hosted a luncheon & movie event at St. Stephen Church and Harkins Theater. Lunch was served after Liturgy at the church followed by the movie "Christopher Robin" at the Harkins Theater. All parish members and friends were invited—Lodge 999 rented the entire theater out for the event.



Members at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA.

Mt. St. Macrina Pilgrimage

A few of Lodge 999 & St. Stephen Parish members traveled to Uniontown, PA from Thursday, August 30 through Monday, September 2 to volunteer in the kitchen during the annual Pilgrimage. Work was also offered in the Gift Shop or in other areas when needed. It was a rewarding experience.



50th Anniversary Jubilee Dinner

St. Stephen BC Church celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Sunday, September 30. Divine Liturgy started at 1 PM with Bishop John Pazak, Roman Rite Bishop Olmstead and Bishop Gerald Dino in attendance. A social hour followed with appetizers and a catered dinner in the church social hall. The event was highlighted with a slide show of photos from the past 50 years. Gift cards and centerpieces were given out as prizes. All enjoyed the joyous event.

Joanie Mahar | President

For Your Information

Events

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

Saturday, October 27 **9 AM**

Contact Agnes Rohrbach at 570-454-4869

37th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, October 28 **Divine Liturgy 9 AM** 12 NOON to 6 PM **FREE**

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

Featuring ethnic foods such as holubki, pirohi, halushki, kolbasi & sauerkraut, soup, potato pancakes, pagach, baked goods and much more. The Slavjane Folk Ensemble performs at 2 PM; a Rusyn folk music group will entertain at 12:30 & 4 PM; a speaking presentation on Rusyn culture and customs at 1 PM; a Moleben Service at 3 PM and a speaker and/or video on Rusyn culture and customs at 4 PM. (Program subject to change.) The Carpatho-Rusyn Society will have a display of artifacts, authentic costumes, photographs, documents and will assist in genealogical questions. There will be pysanky, iconography, wood burning, bobbin lace making, folk art demonstrations, music, church tours, children's activities (including egg art, cookie decorating, coloring/craft projects, and storytelling), crafts, parish cookbooks, videos and much more. Handicapped accessible. Admission is free. For information call 724-438-6027 M-F 9 AM-3 PM, (leave message.)

62nd Annual St. Nicholas **Charity Dinner**

Sunday, December 9 Moleben at 3 PM Dinner at 5 PM

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Center Munhall, PA

Benefits the Byzantine Catholic Seminary

Information available on the Events page of the GCU Website-www. GCUusa.com or call 1-800-722-4428 ext. 3810.

Queen of Heaven Monastery

Day of Spirituality in Preparation for the Nativity of Christ Sunday, December 16 1:30-4:15 PM

Presenter will be Bishop Roger Gries **Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of** Cleveland, OH

There will be time for reflection, questions & refreshments, and an opportunity to receive the Mystery (Sacrament) of Reconciliation.

Register by calling 330-856-1813 or email qohm@byzben.org by December 9.

The event will take place at SS. Peter & Paul Parish Center 180 Belvedere Avenue, NE Warren, OH

Benedictine Sisters of the Byzantine Church 69 Kenmore Avenue NE #301 Warren, OH 44483 330-856-1813

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer Schedule

Safety & Well Being Workshop

Saturday, October 27 9:30 AM-1:30 PM **Bv Ron Metros** Includes Lunch & Materials \$40 Offering | Register by Oct. 21

Tuesday Reading Series "Hallowed Be This House"

Oct. 30. Nov. 6, 13 & 20 10 AM-11:30 AM By Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM Free Will Offering | Register by Oct. 23

Morning Retreat "Life's Transitions"

Saturday, November 3 10 AM-1 PM By Christine Freeman Includes Lunch \$35 Offering | Register by Oct. 31

Morning Retreat "Prophetesses of Scripture"

Saturday, November 10 10 AM-1 PM By Helenanne Hochendoner Includes Lunch \$35 Offering | Registration Due Nov. 6

Iconography Retreat

November 16-18 6 PM Friday-4 PM Sunday By Marylyn Barone Includes Supplies \$225 Offering- \$200 Commuters Registration Due Nov. 9

Mt. St. Macrina House of Prayer 10 West Main Street PO Box 878 Uniontown, PA 15401-0878 Email: hpmsm@verizon.net Website: sistersofstbasil.org

For Your Information

Can You Help Us?

In the process of updating contact information for all of our members, GCU has uncovered the following members that we have totally lost contact with. If you can assist us with an address or phone number for any of the members listed here, please call the GCU Call Center at 855-306-0607.

Mary Baka Charlene Nagy Anna Bodrog Brenda A. Oberding James I. Campbell Julia Olijar Jose Oritz Dennis Chuba Mary K. Colangelo Christine Pasterick Frank Danko Stacie S. Peregrin John Deak Stefanie Peregrin Joan DeMarco Robin S. Phillips Anna Dutko Robert A. Pinchak Joann Gabor Helen Pisko Norman S. Gajda Geraldine Pondok Peter George Angela D. Radocesky William R. Haywood Geraldine Sabol Jane F. Healey Gloria J. Shifra Basil Hilnich Amber Jill Smith Michael Hilton Ann Marie Smith Sharon K. Hrinko John C. Smoley Catherine Hriscisce John Soga Katherine S. Keogh Carole Tiskiewicz Joseph Kobal Arthur Visokey **Edward Kraly** Rev. George Zuback Paul M. Kraves Ann Marie Lengyel Charles D. Lewis

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 - -s- Basil M. Wahal, Managing Editor

Joseph Lovrencevic Lisa H. Lovrencevic Robert Malnar Margaret Mateja Ann M. Mihalko **Dorothy Miller** Nancy Mitchell Karen M. Moran Mary E. Mulvey



GCU Hurricane Relief Fund

Our Mission

"Protecting Families, Promoting Faith and Fraternalism, **Strengthening Communities**"



As we have witnessed over the last several weeks, the wrath of Hurricane Florence has created great hardships to thousands of individuals in the Eastern United States that were unfortunate to lie in the path of the storm. There is a an ongoing demand for essential life sustaining needs as efforts to clean up and rebuild the many communities

dealing with catastrophic flooding from this hurricane, continues.

We are asking for your financial support in the GCU's efforts to assist those in need. The GCU Board of Directors has established a Special Matching Funds Project that will match member donations up to \$10,000.00 total. Donations are fully tax deductible through the GCU Foundation and will be allocated between the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army to assist their efforts in the affected areas.

We are accepting tax deductible donations now through Wednesday, October 31, 2018.

Thank you for assisting us in our disaster relief effort.

Deceased Members

(Lodge-Member-City-State)

8304	Norton Abrams, Banning, CA	8344	Elfriede Diemer, Stroudsburg, PA	390	Nancy Koziel, Louisville, KY
8344	Doris M. Adkins, Warrington, PA	66	Theresa DiFatta, Gary, IN	8327	Orlene Kral, New Ulm, MN
8327	Edith Albrecht, Rochester, MN	994	Erma DiNardo, Rochester, PA	69	Christine T. Krause, Pottstown, PA
8304	Dolores Alcott, San Diego, CA	8341	Dora Donato, North Royalton, OH	8344	Gene Legg, Emlenton, PA
8344	Luise R. Anderson,	8344	Harry E. Drew, Greensboro, PA	66	Frank Lengyel, Frisco, TX
	Mount Laurel, NJ	8344	Francis Dukmen, Pottsville, PA	8349	William F. Lewis, Newark, TX
250	Cyril Attak, Allen Park, MI	8344	Rose M. Dunmyre, Cheswick, PA	17	Margaret Lilli, Saginaw, TX
8344	John Bahr, North Versailles, PA	10	Shirley Ann Estok, Tigard, OR	8344	David E. Lopez, North Warren, PA
8344	Lena D. Ballein, Monongahela, PA	8344	Patricia A. Evans, Lehighton, PA	8344	Rita R. Lubarski, Pittsburgh, PA
258	Ruth Bean, Albany, CA	860	Frank Felock, Clinton Twp., MI	8344	Jayne Lynn, Greensburg, PA
8344	Robert W. Becker, Birdsboro, PA	8344	Leonard W. Fenimore,	945	William J. Malos, Dunmore, PA
401	Alex Berezansky, Blairsville, PA		Johnstown, PA	8344	Elizabeth Manjerovic,
93	George Berzansky, Ranson, WV	8344	Rita Foster, Valencia, PA		Pittsburgh, PA
316	Christine E. Biondi, Durham, NH	8344	Beverly J. Frederick,	8344	Robert Maurer, Selinsgrove, PA
8320	Sylvia V. Bohan, Pendleton, KY		Martinsburg, PA	8344	Charles R. McCorkle,
182	Eudora C. Bower, Berwick, PA	8344	Helen Galka, White Oak, PA		Saxonburg, PA
8344	Gary W. Brand, Hiller, PA	77	David J. Gerrick, Lorain, OH	8341	Exie McGinnis, Youngstown, OH
8344	Ethel Brennan, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	Judy R. Gibbs, Oakdale, PA	8344	Robert McIntire, Kittanning, PA
2	Bernard M. Bugos, Stella, NC	302	Richard M. Girman, Carmel, IN	62	Paul Metro, Apollo, PA
8344	Robert O. Buss,	8344	George A. Givens, Pittsburgh, PA	92	Mary Mierzejewski,
	Natrona Heights, PA	15	Laura P. Grace, Toms River, NJ	10	Dickson City, PA
8344	George Butela, Glenshaw, PA	8344	Perma Graver, Lehighton, PA	10	Andrew A. Mignanelli, New Brighton, PA
8344	Marie C. Capuano, Pittsburgh, PA	8344	Gloria Guerrieri, Sarver, PA	8344	Marjorie Mintzer, Warren, PA
66	Marvin G. Carter, Laporte, IN	860	Gregory Guseff, Westlake, OH	8344	Mabel I. Molinaro, Valencia, PA
8313	Arnette Chism, Dolton, IL	8344	Esther M. Gwin, New Castle, PA	77	Marie Moran, Akron, OH
8344	Donald D. Clark, Hollidaysburg, PA	8344	Frieda Gyory, Allentown, PA	401	Elmer Morey, Nanty Glo, PA
235	John E. Cochener, Manchester, CT	8337	Raymond A. Hall, Lockport, NY	8344	Marion Morris, Furlong, PA
8341	Alice M. Cole, Springfield, OH	8344	Margaret Hieber, Coraopolis, PA	10	George Mott, Ambridge, PA
8344	Sara Ann Conlen, Palmyra, PA	8344	James C. Hittle, Berwick, PA	8358	Mauvice M. Murphy, Stratford, WI
2	Anna Marie Connolly,	8358	Robert J. Hoium, Beloit, WI	8344	Dayna J. Namey,
000	Turtle Creek, PA	8358	James Hollands, Rhinelander, WI		Lower Burrell, PA
999	Mildred Mary Cox, Albuquerque, NM	8344	Dolores Holub, Cabot, PA	255	Michael A. Niskach, Pittsburgh, PA
8358	Lillian Crall, Woodruff, WI	8344	Charles W. Hoot, New Britain, PA	8344	Betty Nolf, McKees Rocks, PA
8354	Emma H. Croushorn,	994	Norma M. Hornick, Industry, PA	8324	Eleanor Nutter, Parkton, MD
0334	Waynesboro, VA	164	Thomas G. Hritzo,	81	Gerald Onesi, Uniontown, PA
8344	Mary E. Crust, Beech Creek, PA	860	Youngstown, OH Marvin D. Israels, Holland, MI	8344	Jean E. Pacenta,
8344	Stephen Cseplo, Churchville, PA	8344	Donald Jerasa, Davidsville, PA		Schuylkill Haven, PA
8306	Paul Dabrowski, Clifton, NJ	8358	Gertrude Jones, San Antonio, TX	8337	Theresa Pacyna, Stormville, NY
8341	Mike Dandar, Maumee, OH	390	Helen Kiger, Aliquippa, PA	66	Alice M. Petro, Lake Station, IN
644	Diane M. Dann, Copley, OH	255	Jacqueline Kirich, McMurray, PA	8360	Etta E. Phillips, Blythewood, SC
8344	Antoinette DaPra, Canonsburg, PA	2	Virginia Kotik, Pittsburgh, PA	109	Maria Pocchiari, Butler, PA
8344	Anthony J. DeMarco,	8341	John C. Kovach,	644	Mary Popian, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
	Pittsburgh, PA	0541	Upper Sandusky, OH	340	Mary Puchalski, Rahway, NJ
8344	Joseph DeNardo, Coraopolis, PA	8344	Richard A. Kovalik, Johnstown, PA	8344	Warren Pummill, Duncansville, PA

8358 8344 8344 8309 8324 8344 8344 8344 69 18 8344 302 8344 401 8344 8344	New Berlin, WI Dean Reichenbaugh, Apollo, PA Cyril G. Rigot, Charles Town, WV Lavina Rigot, Bethel Park, PA Edward D. Risch, St. Augustine, FL Carolynn M. Rizzo, Joppa, MD Viola Roncone, Coraopolis, PA Agnes Rushe, Glassport, PA Jeanne Russo, Collegeville, PA Sylvester Schicatano, Coal Township, PA Ethel M. Schlosser, Telford, PA David Seech, Hatboro, PA John Sember, Pittsburgh, PA Patrick M. Sheehan, Warren, PA Patricia Silbaugh, Smithfield, PA Dorothy Z. Simon, Houston, TX William Sobinsky, United, PA Thomas Somerfeld, Jeannette, PA Mary Irene Sonnet, Pittsburgh, PA Ruth W. Speer, Sewickley, PA	8344 28 8309 2 28 8333 151 8344 12 8344 8344 10 10 8344 351 8344 53	Ronald J. Szymala, Cresson, PA Barbara Takacs, Homestead, PA Margaret Tarantino, Winter Garden, FL Joann Tarcy, Sherman Oaks, CA Ann Treemarchi, Pittsburgh, PA Stella Verchick, Boulder City, NV Gene Vetrano, Yonkers, NY Julius H. Wailand, Pittsburgh, PA Stella Wanca, Jersey City, NJ Mildred Weiss, Warminster, PA Edward C. Wendt, Selinsgrove, PA Lois A. Wodock, Doylestown, PA Jacqueline Woznicki, Aliquippa, PA Margaret Yargats, Sewickley, PA Eva Yothers, Greensburg, PA Jean Zbur, Indiana, PA Lee C. Zeller, Lehighton, PA Bernard Ziomek, Scott Township, PA
	,		occit township, i A
	Ruth W. Speer, Sewickley, PA		
999	Gordon St. George, Peoria, AZ		
8344	Anne Stouffer, Pittsburgh, PA		
8344	Mildred Stripe, Cressona, PA		
8344	Helen Suda, Shavertown, PA		

Remembrances

Stephen B. Mazur

Stephen B. Mazurof Euclid, OH passed away on Thursday, June 21, 2018. He was a longtime member and former officer of GCU Lodge 336 and a member of St. Stephen's Byzantine Church in Euclid, OH. Steve was a veteran of the US Navy.

He was past president of Lodge 336 and the former District 3. Steve served as a delegate to numerous GCU National Conventions, starting in the 1980's through the 2012 event. He was known for his outgoing and gregarious personality. He was very generous with his talents, doing anything to help family or friends, and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He was the husband of Margaret (nee Oster) and the father of Stephen, Timothy (Pat), Estelle Harrigal (Andrew), Daniel "Stan" (Kelly), Suzanne, Margie Lucas, Christopher (Nariman), Helen Andrews (Tracy) and Roxane Hicks (Dennis). He is survived by 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He was the brother of Alfred and the late Michael and John. He was also predeceased by one grandchild.

U.S. Navy Veteran.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John Bosco Church followed by a private burial service.

Blessed repose and eternal memory.





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...and we'll give you a gift they'll love.

Open a GCU Single Premium Whole Life policy and receive a 10" GCU stuffed Lion!

Female Age	-	Coverage		Total		Coverage		Total		Coverage		Total
0	5	5,000.00	5	455.00	5	10,000.00	\$	710.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	1,221.00
- 4	5	5,000.00	5	497.00	5	10,000.00	\$	794.00	5	20,000.00	5	1,387.00
8	5	5,000.00	5	546.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	891.00	\$	20,000.00	5	1,582.00
12	\$	5,000.00	\$	603.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	1,005.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	1,810.00
16	8	5,000.00	\$	666.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	1,132.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	2,064.00
Male Age	-	Coverage		Total		Coverage		Total		Coverage		Total
0	\$	5,000.00	\$	504.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	807.00	5	20,000.00	\$	1,414.00
4	5	5,000.00	5	553.00	5	10,000.00	5	906.00	5	20.000.00	5	1,611.00
8	8	5,000.00	\$	611.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	1,022.00	5	20,000.00	5	1,843.00
12	\$	5,000.00	\$	678.00	\$	10,000.00	5	1,156.00	8	20.000.00	\$	2,112.00
16	3	5,000.00	\$	749.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	1,296.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	2,396.00

- Permanent coverage
- One time payment
- * All coverage \$5,000 & above permits the child to apply for GCU Scholarships
- * Additional coverage amounts available!



10" Plush GCU Lion