



# LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS OF AMERICA

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# LUC ACTION

League of Ukrainian Catholics - Winter 2019  
Лiга Українців Католиків - Зима 2019



### Pope Francis Appoints

Most Rev. Borys Gudziak as new Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia



ΕΙΣ ΠΟΛΛΑ  
ΕΤΗ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΑ!  
На Многая  
Лiта, Владико!



On Monday, February 18th, 2019, the Vatican Information Service announced that the Holy Father has appointed Most Rev. Borys Gudziak as Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians and Metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States and thus concurring with the recommendation of the appointment offered by the Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops, which met in September of 2018 in Lviv, Ukraine.

The Archeparchy of Philadelphia was declared by Pope Francis as "sede vacante" following the resignation of Most Rev. Stefan Soroka on April 16, 2018. Most Rev. Andriy Rabyi was named by Pope Francis as the Apostolic Administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia until the appointment of the new Metropolitan-Archbishop.

At the present time Most Rev. Borys Gudziak serves as the eparch of St. Volodymyr the Great Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, which includes France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Switzerland. He is the founder and president of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine. In addition, Archbishop Borys is the head of Department of External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Bishop Andriy Rabyi, Apostolic Administrator, Bishop John Bura, Auxiliary Bishop, clergy, monastic orders and faithful of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia wholeheartedly and joyfully welcome the news and invite everyone to the installation of Most Rev. Borys Gudziak as the seventh Metropolitan-Archbishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, which will take place on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA. (ARCHEPARCHY NEWS)

Born in Syracuse, NY, Archbishop Borys Gudziak is a native of the Eparchy of Stamford.

Congratulations to our newly elected Metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States!

**MNOHAYA LITA, VLADYKO! MANY HAPPY YEARS!**

### ANNUAL BURSE AWARD RECIPIENTS – LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS

The membership of the League of Ukrainian Catholics remains committed to the purposes of the League as stated in its constitution and by-laws, one of which is fostering Education. Once again, the National Board of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is pleased to announce the recipients of their annual Burse Awards. The intention of the Burse Awards is to support those in the priestly and religious life as they further their education. The 2018 recipients are as follows:

The Bishop Jaroslaw Gabro Burse, Archeparchy of Philadelphia, recipient nominated by Bishop Andriy Raby is Bohdan Vasylyv. Bohdan is a fourth year philosophy seminarian attending Catholic University of America, and will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in May 2019. He will continue on with graduate studies at the same institution in the fall of 2019. Outside of his studies, Bohdan enjoys biking and roller blading, and listening to contemporary Christian music.

Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, LUC Spiritual Director, LUC National Board President Marion C. Hrubec, Bishop Andriy Rabyi, LUC National Board Vice President Helen Fedoriw



The Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn Burse, Eparchy of Stamford, recipient nominated by Bishop Paul Chomnycky is Taras Pashchak. Taras is 20 years old and newly arrived from Ternopil, Ukraine, and is eagerly beginning his studies.

LUC National Board Vice President Helen Fedoriw, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, LUC National Board President Marion C. Hrubec

The Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky Burse, St. Josaphat Eparchy, Parma, recipient nominated by Bishop Bohdan Danylo is Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM, from the Department of Pastoral Ministry of the Eparchy of St. Josaphat. The Pastoral Ministry Office's mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelization, catechesis and social ministry. In Bishop Bohdan's words, "this award is most fitting for this office, especially since this year, the main theme of the Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops was the Word of God and Catechesis in our Parish Communities."



Rev. Marijan Procyk, Spiritual Director, LUC, Sr. Ann Laszok, OSBM, LUC National Board Treasurer Elaine Nowadly



The Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky Burse, St. Nicholas Eparchy, Chicago, recipient nominated by Bishop Benedict Aleksiychuk is Martin Nagy. Martin is currently studying theology at Catholic University of America and working on his priestly formation at St. Josaphat Seminary in Washington, DC.



Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, Provincial Superior, SSMI, Sr. Sofronia Danyluk, SSMI, LUC National Board President Marion C. Hrubec

The Martiana Zebzon Burse, Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, recipient nominated by Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM Provincial Superior is Sister Teodora Kopyn, OSBM. Sr. Dorothy Ann states that “Sr. Teodora Kopyn, OSBM is from Holy Trinity Province in Ukraine and has been with us for four years. Sister is doing ministry work with our elderly Sisters and has extended her skills in social work by volunteering at a local soup kitchen. Sr. Teodora received a degree in social work from a University in Slovakia. It is our wish that Sr. Teodora receive a degree and certification for social work in the USA so that she can be of service to the nearby Ukrainian community. Your generous donation will help cover tuition costs.”



Rev. Marijan Procyk, Spritual Director, LUC, Sr. Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSMB, receiving Burse Award on behalf of Sr. Teodora Kopyn, OSBM

The Patrick Bilon Burse, Missionary Sisters of Mother of God, recipient nominated by Mother Maria Kelly, MSMG Provincial Superior is Sr. Yosaphata Litvenczuk, M.S.M.G. Sr. Yosaphata has served her community and the Ukrainian diaspora for more than 50 years, specifically at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic



Mother Maria Kelly, MSMG, Sr. Yosaphata, MSMG, LUC National Board President Marion C. Hrubec

School in Perth Amboy, NJ. Known affectionately to many of her students as “Little Sister”, Sister Yosaphata’s achievements have included being a teacher in all grades, teaching Ukrainian and religion at all grade levels, preparing children for First Confession and Holy Communion, moderating the Junior Sodality, and training altar boys. Recently Sr. Yosaphata was called back to her provincial home in Philadelphia to better assist her community and to the Archeparchy in other ministries.

The Bishop Soter Ortynsky Burse, Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Mount Tabor, California recipient nominated by Father Abbot Damian Higgins is Brother Petro Piaseckij. Per Father Damian “we remain grateful for the work of your (LUC) organization and your financial support for our community which by the grace of God is growing in numbers and humility. Bishop Benedict sent us one of the monks from the Lavra Monestary of Univ in Ukraine to live with us this past summer so that we could begin to build bridges between our town communities sending monks back and forth to learn and benefit from one another’s monastic experience. These funds will go directly towards this continued effort.”

Once again, the League of Ukrainian Catholics extends sincere thanks to the Providence Association for their skills in money management and investment for making it possible for the League to continue to this Burse Awards program.

**The League of Ukrainian Catholics congratulates the Award recipients and wishes each much success, happiness, and abundance of God’s Blessings!**

**Many Happy Years! Na Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!**

### 2019 L.U.C. LENTEN RETREAT: A LONG-STANDING TRADITION

(Marion C. Hrubec)

For the past 40 years, the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America has sponsored and held their Annual Lenten Retreat the week end before Palm Sunday at St. Mary’s Villa Educational and Retreat Center, Sloatsburg, NY.

This year, we will be celebrating the Final Lenten Retreat to be held at The Villa as the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate are in the process of selling this property.

For the past forty years, the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America have been so fortunate to be able to come for Retreat to St. Mary’s Villa; we have been able to enjoy the quiet and comfort of St. Mary’s, away from our everyday cares and chores to leave all behind and spend a few days in prayer and in fellowship.

The League has been blessed with the many graces received while on Retreat and are thankful for the many clergy who have given their time to enrich our spiritual life year after year.

For this final year celebrating our Retreats at St. Mary’s Villa, Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Spiritual Director, Pope St John Paul II, Lehigh Valley Council, has accepted the position of Retreat Director. At this time, we do not have a final theme, however, there will be additional publicity in the Eparchial papers and media.

Mark your calendars, the Lenten Retreat is scheduled for April 5, 6, 7, 2019, beginning Friday evening at 7:30 pm. In addition, there will be opportunities to participate in the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate’s Triduum, observing the worldwide celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the passing into Eternal Life of +Blessed Josaphata Hordashevsk, the first Sister Servant and foundress of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. We, the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America and all the participants, are looking forward to a truly blessed and fruitful retreat.

Watch for information to be posted on the LUC Facebook page, to be posted in the Eparchial Newspapers and Newsletters as well as in your email or snail mail boxes.



### LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT OF Sr. JOHN PASKEVICH ENDOWMENT FUND FOR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In 1997, the National Board of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America initiated a program whereby the League would honor an outstanding student in one of our Ukrainian Catholic elementary schools. This Endowment Fund awards an annual monetary gift to a selected Metropolia elementary school in the name of an exceptional student nominated by the school principal/pastor. The number of Ukrainian Catholic schools at that time numbered approximately eighteen (18). Sadly, as of 2018, only three (3) schools remain – St. Nicholas, Passaic, NJ; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Perth Amboy, NJ; St. Nicholas, Minersville, PA. However, the Endowment Fund Award continues.

The 2018 recipient of the Sr. John Paskevich, SSMI – Schools Endowment Fund is Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Perth Amboy, NJ, in honor of their outstanding eighth-grade student, Nathaniel Perez.

Nathaniel was nominated by Assumption School pastor, Rev. Ivan Turyk and principal and former student, Mrs. Lisette Shumny. Mrs. Shumny describes Nathaniel as a “respectful young man with an impeccable work ethic. He is always welcoming to new students, very responsible in all his coursework and is involved in several extra-curricular activities at Assumption Catholic School.” During a visit to the school by National Board President, Marion Hrubec and Vice President, Helen Fedoriw, they learned that he is an altar server, as well as a Safety Patrol Volunteer and a member of Senior Drama and Chimes clubs. Outside of school, Nathaniel also volunteers his time doing “City Garbage Clean-up” for the city of Perth Amboy several times a year. In Mrs. Shumny’s words “he truly exemplifies what the “spirit” of our school is”.

The National Board of the League of Ukrainian honors +Sr. John Paskevich, SSMI, former Religious Director of the National Board of the League from 1987 until her death in 1996, and her life-long commitment to the Catholic education of youth as a teacher and administrator through the +Sr. John Paskevich Schools Endowment Fund.

In these turbulent times, little appears in the media in support of a Catholic school education. Though the membership of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is no longer at the levels it was at its peak, those that remain are committed to the purposes of the League as stated in its constitution and by-laws, one of which is fostering Education. Many institutions of higher learning hold annual fundraising campaigns. Very little is done in support for our Catholic elementary schools. The League of Ukrainian Catholics is proud to be able to continue another decade of awarding the Endowment Fund to our own Ukrainian Catholic elementary schools.



### PREPARING FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

(Marion C. Hrubec St. Nicholas Chapter, Passaic, NJ)

While still in the Christmas Season, the members of the St. Nicholas Chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics (Passaic, NJ) are looking ahead. The members came together during a morning coffee hour, following the Sunday Liturgy, to discuss what activities they would co-sponsor with the parish in the coming year and especially to plan for Forgiveness Sunday. Discussion of the menu for the Lenten meal to be served was the main topic. Several recipes were distributed for consideration.

Since the formation of this Chapter, the members have co-sponsored the observation of Forgiveness Sunday, March 3, 2019, the Sunday prior to the beginning of the Great Fast.

On Forgiveness Sunday many attend Forgiveness Vespers on the eve of Great Fast. They hear of the Lord’s teaching about fasting and forgiveness and enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive them. *“If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses”* (Matthew 6:14). The Sunday of Forgiveness is also known as Cheesefare Sunday. This is the last day that dairy products can be eaten before the Lenten fast. The first day of the Great Fast, Clean Monday, signifies the beginning of a period of cleansing and purification of sins through repentance.

The group has brought the parish together by providing a Lenten meal for all to share following the Forgiveness Vespers, allowing all to gather as a family, preparing for the Great Fast which begins on Monday, March 4, 2019.

*“Let us begin the fast with joy! Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts! Let us cleanse our soul and cleanse our flesh! Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food! Let us rejoice in virtues of the spirit and fulfill them in love! That we all may see the passion of Christ our God and rejoice in spirit at the holy Pascha!”*

### The prayer of Ephrem the Syrian

“O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faith-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.”



L to R: Carol Loden, Linda Mykiety, Jerome Mykiety, Lori Retkwa, Stephen Retkwa

Recently, members of the **Western Pennsylvania Council** learned of the removal of a cancerous tumor from the brain of Pani Sarah Kelt, wife of Reverend Father Andriy Kelt, pastor of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary church in Northern Cambria, PA, and Protection of Blessed Virgin Mary church in Revloc, and mother of little Emma. Members have responded by donating \$1,150 towards the medical expenses of her future needed chemotherapy and radiation treatments. We are also praying for God’s complete healing of Pani Sarah Kelt.

Contributed by Nickolas Kotow, Western Pennsylvania Council



## Reaching Out to Orphan Children in Ukraine

Their needs range from winter boots, coats and pajamas to vitamins and over-the-counter medications. Although the orphaned children are about 4,500 miles away in Ukraine, envelopes scrawled with their names, ages and needs are a call to arms for parishioners and LUC members of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Scranton Pennsylvania. For the past four years, the church has sent thousands of pounds of clothing, candy, vitamins and medicine to two orphanages in Kolomyia and Fastiv in Ukraine.

Pastor Father Myron Myronyuk works closely with directors of the orphanages, receiving frequent updates on the children and lists of what they need. He writes information about each child on an envelope, placing them at the front of the church for parishioners to donate what they can. "It's God's call," Father Myronyuk said. "God calls us and reminds us that we have to share. We have to share our



Sister Veronica and Her Children – Kolomyia, Ukraine

blessing wherever we can." There are currently twenty-six children between the two orphanages, ranging from 4 to 14 years old. Between fifteen and twenty packages are sent every year and not just at Christmas-time with each package weighing about 50 to 60 pounds. Parishioners donate everything from winter coats, gloves, hats, socks and boots to pajamas and slippers for frigid Ukrainian winters and cold nights at the orphanage.

A vibrant parish? It certainly is!

## NEWEST LUC MEMBER

(Marion C. Hrubec St. Nicholas Chapter, Passaic, NJ)

Several members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics traveled with Fr. Dudkevych and Fr. Demkiv to the Holy Land in October 2018. During the trip our latest member heard about the LUC from Marcia Bolesky, their work and that there was a Council in her area – St. John Paul II Council. Upon return home, she immediately asked for a membership blank, signed up and is now looking forward to working with the membership in her area.

### WELCOME ANDREA O. KYZYMA

Our last night in Jerusalem:



Andrea with lamb visiting the Shepherds Field in Jerusalem.

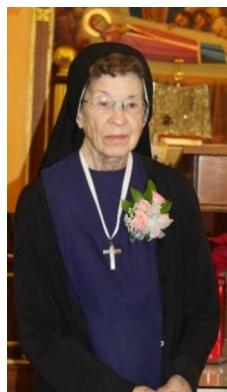


Andrea, Marcia, Marion, Mrs. Kuzmiak – mother of Seminarian Roman Kuzmiak (Stamford) a recent recipient of the LUC Burse Award, Helen.

## The Internet and LUC Publicity - A Human Interest Story

(Marion C. Hrubec St. Nicholas Chapter, Passaic, NJ)

In early November 2018, Yanka Everett of LUC's North Anthracite Council, received an email with a special request.



A young man named Jason had begun to search for information on his Great Aunt, Sr. Albina Gregory, SSMI, who is the sister of his Grandfather Stephen Gregory.

He began searching for information about her on the internet. When he "googled" her name, up popped the article printed in the Spring 2018 LUC Action, on the celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sr. Albina, which was attended by the members of the St. Nicholas Chapter, Passaic, NJ. He then contacted Yanka who forwarded his email request to LUC President Marion Hrubec to follow up for him with Sr. Albina. Marion contacted Sr. Albina to let her know that her nephew Jason was looking for her, however from the information in the article in the ACTION, and other searches, he was able to get a phone number for her and he made a surprise call to her. When she answered and Jason introduced himself, Sr. Albina's response was "Oh, well isn't this a wonderful surprise." This was the first time that he was in contact with her since he was 12 years old. Sr. Albina was so happy to have him contact her after so long. Jason is married with seven children living in Dublin, Georgia and is with the Public Relations Department of the Dublin City school system where he writes a bi-weekly column for the Diocese of Savannah. They continue to be in touch.

Moral of the story: This incident shows the benefit of publicity and use of the media; how important it is to share information from our Councils and Chapters as one never knows how people can be connected and brought together.

Everyone is asked to be more conscientious about putting together information, preparing articles and submitting them for publication in the upcoming issues of ACTION.

## +Brother Jon (Rickey J.) Miknich



Brother Jon (Rickey J.) Miknich, 70, of Berwick Pennsylvania, died November 15, 2018 in Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pennsylvania from complications of leukemia.

Born in Berwick, he was the son of the late Michael and Helen Miknich. He was a 1968 graduate of Berwick High School and was educated as a Byzantine Franciscan Friar at St. Basil the Great Seminary, Stamford, Conn. Brother Jon served at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Edwardsville and SS. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre. In addition, he was a member of the North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics.

He is survived by his godson, Brian Rubenstein, who was like a brother to him; two brothers, Barry Chura (Pamela), New York; and Michael Miknich, Berwick; one sister, Michelle Stachak (Brian), Nanticoke; nieces, nephews, cousins; and most special cousin, Sharon Miknich, Bloomsburg.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated by the Very Rev. Paul R. Wolensky on Tuesday, November 20 in St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Edwardsville. Concelebrants were: Very Rev. Fr. Nestor Iwasiw, Fr. Roman Petryshak and Fr. Deacon Michael Waak.

Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat!

## +Sophie Troyan

Sophie Troyan, 93, passed into Light and Glory, November 6, 2018 in her residence, after a brief illness.

She was born in Wahren, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Stephen and Anna (Stoschak/Warcholyk) Machuzak on November 27, 1924. She grew up in Atlas, Pennsylvania and was married to Nicholas Troyan in SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church on October 26, 1946. He husband Nicholas predeceased her on October 26, 2005.

She moved to Marion Heights and was a member of the Patronage of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Marion Heights, PA. A devout Greek Catholic, she sang in the church choir and headed the pyrohy sales for many years. She was a loving mother of seven children, a great baker and will long be remembered for her deep faith.

She is survived by her children: Patricia Smith and her husband Gordon of Sunbury; Nicholas Troyan and his wife Pamela of CO; Father Daniel Troyan of West Easton; Christine Masser and her husband Brian of Shamokin; Gregory Troyan and his partner Brian Haynes of NY; and Diane Troyan of Marion Heights. She is also survived by her seven grandchildren, Alisha Mack and her husband Patrick, Dayna Richardson and her husband Joseph, Kayla Levan and her husband Eric, Bobby Yeager and his wife Tina, Andrea Yeager, Donna Mareska, and Shawn Troyan and wife Estelle; eight great-grandchildren, AlexAndrea, Michael, Chloe, Brianna, Mackenzie, Nicole, Alyssa, and Salina; and five great great grandchildren, Christian, Cameron, Zoey, Gage, and Gavin. In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by a son Mark Michael Troyan who died in 1957. She was the last living member of her family.

We extend our sympathy to Fr. Dan and other members of the Family! Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat!



## +Merle Morozowich

Age 89, of Irwin PA, peacefully fell asleep in the Lord at his home on January 22, 2019. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he was born June 6, 1929 in Irwin PA, son of the late Michael and Stella (Bilyj) Morozowich. In addition to his parents, Merle is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 48 years, Helen Solomon Morozowich; three brothers, John, Milton, Walter; and two sisters, Ann Cycak and Pauline Campbell. Merle belonged to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church of McKeesport. Actively involved in his faith, he supported his parishes, his Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat, as well as the Western Pennsylvania Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of which he and his dear wife Helen were life-long members. He supported Clergy Appreciation Dinners sponsored by the LUC and spearheaded the Ukrainian participation in the Pittsburgh Folk Festival and organized Seminary Day Picnics at Idlewild Park. He was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by St. John Paul II for his decades of service to the Catholic Church. Merle was graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BSEE and worked as an Electrical Engineer for over 30 years at Westinghouse/Powerex of Youngwood. Surviving are his two sons, Very Rev. Dr. Mark Morozowich of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and Donald Morozowich and his wife, Rose Marie of Irwin PA; his three beloved grandchildren, Nicholas, Natasia and Maria; his sister, Jean Fulmer; and numerous nieces and nephews. Requiem Divine Liturgy was celebrated on January 28 at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in McKeesport. Interment followed in the parish cemetery in North Versailles.

I thank everyone for their prayers for my father Merle Morozowich. The Lord called him home peacefully this morning, Tuesday January 22. My brother Don Morozowich and I were praying with him at his bedside as his breathing slowed and his soul left his body. I am so thankful for all who spiritually supported him and us. We feel truly blessed.

Please remember him in your prayers. Вічна пам'ять! May his memory be eternal! (Fr. Mark)

We extend our sympathy to Fr. Mark and other members of the Family! Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat!

## +Anna Pawlowski



Anna (Annie) Pawlowski went to Eternal Life November 9, 2018 after a brief illness.

She was born to John Pawlowski and Anastasia Ronski on January 2, 1920.

Annie was a member of Apostleship of Prayer, Sitch and League of Ukrainian Catholics Niagara Frontier Council, where she served briefly as President.

We remember her as kind, pious and generous, as the one who would help whenever there was a need.

She liked gardening and would make many ornaments from dried flowers for the church bazaar.

Annie never married but she took care of many of her nieces and nephews. She took great care of her ailing parents for a long time.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends. May she rest with the Lord in Peace! Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat!



## New Icon tells story the of St. Nicholas and coal miners of Pennsylvania

By Nickolas C. Kotow

CARNEGIE, Pa. – A new icon, “St. Nicholas Day Pass Over 1907,” of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker was presented by Michael and Marijka (née Borszcz) Julia in memory of their daughter, Tatyana Helena Julia, and unveiled on Sunday, December 2, 2018, at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa.

Ms. Julia unexpectedly passed away in 2014 after suffering a brain hemorrhage at age 37. The icon was written by iconographer Michael Kapeluck, proprietor of Archangel Icons in Carnegie and an art teacher of Tatyana. The icon was presented on the 111th anniversary of the Monongah Mine (Marion County, near Fairmont, W.Va.) and the Darr Mine (Van Meter, near Smithton, Pa.) disasters of December 1907.

On December 6, 1907, the feast day of St. Nicholas, miners of the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox faith, along with miners of German and Dutch ancestry, attended liturgy at a Roman Catholic church that observed the Gregorian calendar, since there were no nearby Eastern Catholic or Orthodox churches. They were spared of the explosion in the Monongah Mine, which killed 362 miners – the worst coal mine disaster in the history of the United States.

Significantly, on December 19, 1907, other miners at the Darr Mine decided to keep the St. Nicholas feast day (according to the Julian Calendar) despite the loss of a day’s pay for not working and threats of firing by the mine boss. A couple of hundred miners were attending church services celebrated by a circuit-riding Greek-Catholic priest from Leisenring, Pa., at Jacobs Creek School when at 11:30 a.m. there was a tremendous earthshaking explosion. Officially, 239 men and boys perished in the mine, which was the worst mine disaster in Pennsylvania history.

A few years afterwards, St. Nicholas American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church in Jacobs Creek and St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Perryopolis, were founded and named in thanksgiving to St. Nicholas. Interestingly, Barbara (nee Pantalo) Spak, wife of Father Deacon Myron J. Spak, who serves at Holy Trinity Church in Carnegie, grew up attending St. Nicholas Church in Perryopolis.

Estimates of those passed over thanks to attendance at services are at least 60 at the Monongah Mine and 200 or more at the Darr Mine. The lack of definitive records of miners (such as undocumented child laborers helping parents) have resulted in varying numbers of those saved by the intercession of St. Nicholas, but it cannot be denied that many were so passed over.

In 2007, a centennial service in memory of the deceased Darr miners was concelebrated by Metropolitan Nicholas of the American Carpatho-Russian Church and Metropolitan Basil of the Byzantine Catholic Church at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Jacobs Creek. The icon, “Miracle of St. Nicholas at Darr Mine” written by iconographer Philip Zimmerman was presented.

An earlier icon, “The Funeral of St. Nicholas and the Saving of the Miners” is located in the St. Nicholas of Myra Chapel close by the offices of the Greek Catholic Union in Beaver, Pa.

Although the three icons mentioned above have a similar theme, each was written by iconographers under the influence of the Holy Spirit and highlights a different perspective in iconic interpretation.

The Rev. Jason Charron, pastor of Holy Trinity, in his homily asked the children and youth to come forward to view the new icon. He taught them, and all others present, that the saints in Heaven look after the faithful at all times. He asked the young parishioners whether they would obey God (as by observing the Sabbath command) or the commands of men. They all responded, “God.”



The icon “St. Nicholas Day Pass Over 1907,” which was presented at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa.

Author’s note: This article is based on extensive research by Michael Julia and Internet sources. See especially <http://zubackfamily.blogspot.com/2009/04/darr-mine-disaster-article.html?m=1> by Christina Duranko, and

<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/centennial/>.

## LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS CELEBRATE SR. CECELIA SWORIN, SSMI



Front row: Olga Bell, Sr. Cecelia, Marion Hrubec, Stephen Retkwa  
Back Row: Helen Fedoriw, Carol Loden, Linda Mykietyn  
Lori Retkwa, Jerome Mykietyn

On Saturday, August 4, 2018 the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate gathered to celebrate the Jubilees of six Sisters Servants. Sr. Cecelia, one of the Jubilarians, celebrating 50 years of Religious life, was greeted by members of the local Chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics from St. Nicholas parish, Passaic, NJ along with Marion C. Hrubec, National President who presented Sr. Cecelia with a gift from the National Board of Directors and the entire Membership. Sr. Cecelia holds the office Corresponding Secretary on the National Board. Congratulations Sr. Cecelia! God Bless you as you continue to serve the Lord and the entire community. Mnohaya Lita!

The new icon, which brings home the history of coal mining in the Carnegie area, is on display during this Christmas season and will be on the church’s wall thereafter. Those wishing to see it may attend Divine Liturgies on Saturday at 4 p.m. or on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (Ukrainian) and 11 a.m. (English) at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 730 Washington Ave., Carnegie, PA 15106, or call 412-279-4652 to arrange for a viewing.

## SHARING OUR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HERITAGE WITH OTHERS



found themselves in attendance at the local St. Paul’s Roman Catholic Church in their hometown of Clifton, with their then 97-year-old mother, Helen. Helen was wheel chair bound and St. Paul’s, just a



The collection continues to grow each year and the display now adorns both side isles of the church from front to back with every crèche labeled from the country of origin. St. Paul’s parish was once a predominantly German, Italian, and Irish in the middle of a farming community. As the town and parish grew and flourished, new immigrants arrived, each seeking a communal place of worship close to their new home. And so the display grows. This annual display is evidence that the Word of God is universal, no matter our national origin.



There is a peaceful stillness as you walk around the church and view the nativities. And each is a beautiful reminder of the love God, our Father has for us sending His only begotten Son. (Helen Fedoriw)

Over this Christmas season two of our LUC members of the St. Nicholas Chapter, Passaic, NJ, took the time to share our Eastern Catholic heritage with our Latin Rite brothers and sisters.

Carol Loden and her sister, Liz, frequently found themselves in attendance at the local St. Paul’s Roman Catholic Church in their hometown of Clifton, with their then 97-year-old mother, Helen. Helen was wheel chair bound and St. Paul’s, just a few doors down from their home, had easy access to the church interior.

Every Advent and Christmas season the interior perimeter of St. Paul’s displays a magnificent collection of nativity (crèche) sets from all over the world representing dozens of countries where the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior is celebrated. All have been lovingly donated by people to represent their home lands. Carol and Liz have contributed a Ukrainian nativity, embroidered in traditional fashion to this collection.

## ALMS-GIVING IN THE TIME OF ADVENT

(Marion C. Hrubec)

Reflecting back on the events of 2018, worldly and local, one can say it was full of much joy as well as its share of tragedy. By now everyone has heard of one such tragedy that befell the faithful of St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carteret, N.J.

Late in the evening of November 27th, a three-alarm fire broke out and destroyed the 64-year-old church, located on Roosevelt Avenue in Carteret. The structure was deemed a “total loss” by the Carteret Fire Department. This beautiful landmark building and the parish are a part of the history of the city of Carteret itself. It is with the grace of God that the pastor, Fr. Vasyl Vladyka and his family who live in the adjacent rectory were not harmed. Upon hearing of the tragedy, Bishop Andriy Raby promptly drove up from Philadelphia to view and personally assess the damage, and give moral support to Fr. Vasyl, his family, and the parish. St. Mary’s parish is part of the North Jersey Protokesbyterate (Deanery).

The Christian churches in the neighborhood offered use of their facilities to the parish.

Fr. Vasyl accepted the offer of a temporary “spiritual home” in the hall of the local Ukrainian Civic Center. That weekend the members of the Passaic, NJ, St. Nicholas Chapter of the League gathered following the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy to discuss the tragedy and the immediate needs of the parish. Unanimously, they decided to make a monetary donation to the Archeparchial Appeal for help for St. Mary’s parish. Shortly afterwards, while visiting with Bishop



Andriy Raby in Philadelphia on LUC business, Passaic chapter members Marion C. Hrubec and Helen Fedoriw presented Bishop with a check in the amount of \$300.00 for the needs of the parish.

Photo courtesy of The Way

## North Anthracite Council – Christmas Activity

North Anthracite Council members of Berwick’s SS. Cyril and Methodius parish were indeed busy during the Christmas 2018 Season. They participated in Bloomsburg’s Christmas TreeFest with their beautifully decorated tree being given to a needy family; collected food for the Salvation Army Food Pantry; visited shut-ins along with Cantor Joseph Roll offering gifts of poinsettias and joyous caroling; made special visits to LUC members Catherine Eckhart, Mary Ezzyk, Dorothy Kostelnick and Joan Serafin; assisted in the annual visit of St. Nicholas sponsored by the ladies of the Sacred Heart Society; and, on January 6 joined in with all parishioners in the annual “Church Family Christmas Dinner”.





### St. Nicholas at Niagara Frontier Council



Saint Nicholas visited our Children and Seniors at St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church in Buffalo New York, December 16. He graciously brought gifts to the Children and Seniors (some of them LUC members), because they were so good during the whole year. May the Lord bless them abundantly with His many choicest blessings!

The event was organized by some members of LUC Niagara Frontier (Elaine & Nadia) who are also trustees of St. Nicholas Parish.

### Historical journey - June 30 - July 12, 2019



#### UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE

**"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE  
UNDERGROUND CHURCH"**

**12 Days**

**JUNE 30 - July 12, 2019**



with Rev. Andriy Dudkevych & Rev. Ivan Demkiv  
For More Information Contact:

St. Nicholas Church at 973-471-9727  
stnicholasucc@gmail.com

This is a unique opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Underground Church. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was decimated by Stalin and the Soviet government in 1946. The surviving clergy and faithful were driven "underground" and continued to worship and practice their faith in secrecy. The trip is sponsored by **St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, NJ**. More details and reservation information can be found on Face Book (**St Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Passaic NJ**) or call at 973-471-9727.

### LUC Sunday – Last Sunday in October



On Sunday, October 28, 2018 the League of Ukrainian Catholics, Niagara Frontier Council celebrated LUC Sunday at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Buffalo, NY. Following the Liturgy, members and friends gathered for a delicious lunch in the church hall. Each year on the last Sunday of October, the Niagara Frontier Council celebrates LUC Sunday, on a rotating basis, at one of the five churches in the Buffalo area.

### Springtime Bus Trip



The North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 18, 2019. The Itinerary includes Brooklyn's Brighton Beach [Little Odessa] and the 43rd Annual St.

George Ukrainian Street Festival on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Participants are free to do their own thing for all or part of the day if they so wish. Bus will pick up at Edwardsville's St. Vladimir Church, 70 Zerby Avenue at 8:00am and at Scranton's St. Vladimir Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue at 8:45am. Departure for home will be at 8:00pm. Cost is \$45.00 per person. Full nonrefundable advance payment reserves a seat. For further information and reservations call Paul at 570 563-2275 or Janina at 570 759-2824. Early reservations are recommended as this is a very popular trip and the 55-passenger bus is expected to fill quickly.



### Some Levyty ...

A green card holding Ukrainian immigrant goes to the Department of Motor Vehicles to apply for a driver's license. As he is taking the required eye test, the clerk shows him a card with the letters: **B R E V I S C H U K**

"Can you read this?" the clerk asks.

"Read it?" the Ukrainian replies, "Я його знаю - Ya Yoho Znayu" "What did you say?" asked the clerk.

Smiling with pride he answered: "I know the guy."

### Mary Ann Grimm Marries John Mysliwiec



On Saturday, December 15, 2018, Mary Ann Grimm, former National President of the LUC, and John Andrew Mysliwiec were married. The traditional Ukrainian wedding ceremony took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Ukrainian Catholic Church in Wheeling, West Virginia. Celebrant was Father Jason Charron, pastor assisted by Deacon Myron Spak, a long time friend of Mary Ann.

The Starosta and Starostina were Mary Ann's brother-

and sister-in-law, Lee and Irene Grimm. Mary Ann's other brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Catherine Grimm served as groomsmen and bride's maid. The Best Man was John's best friend, Kenny Habrack of Branson, Missouri and the Matron of Honor was Mary Ann's best friend, Angela Hume of Port Tobacco, Maryland. The flower girls were Mary Ann's great-nieces, Simone Grimm and Taylor Gilroy and the ring bearers were her great-nephews, Tristan Grimm and Ayden Gilroy.

The church was filled to capacity with standing room only, which OLPH has never seen before. A reception with over 300 in attendance was held at St. Francis Xavier Hall in Moundsville, WV. A live Polka Band, John Gora and Gorale from Canada, provided the music for the evening. This was an old-fashioned type reception with children from age 1 month to adults enjoying the food, music and dancing. Even 1 year old Tristan Grimm was showing off his dance moves on the dance floor. Many family members and friends contributed to the traditional 'Pittsburgh Cookie Table' providing enough cookies to fill 3 or 4 tables.

Mary Ann is the daughter of Esther Grimm who was unable to attend the wedding as she is 93 years old and a resident of Forest Hill Care Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio and the late Leroy F. Grimm, Sr. John is the son of the late Andrew and Anna Mysliwiec.

The weekend of celebration ended with a Liturgy to remember Mary Ann's brother, John who passed onto his eternal rest in 2007. December 16th would have been John's birthday.

Mary Ann and John are members of the Western PA Council of the LUC.

### +Helen E. Labinsky



Helen E. Labinsky, 88, formerly of Norwalk, died on February 5, 2019 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY.

She was born June 25, 1930 in Elizabeth, NJ, daughter of the late Sylvester and Sophie (Korolyshn) Labinsky.

She worked as a home economist for Kraft Foods. A Drexel University of Philadelphia graduate, Helen was also a longtime member and past president of the League of Ukrainian Catholics.

She is survived by her sister Mary Walczuk of Overland Park, KS and nephew Ronald Walczuk of Norwalk and many nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Liturgy was held on Monday, February 11, 10 AM, at St. Vladimir Cathedral, Stamford, CT, and burial afterward at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia, NJ. His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky conducted funeral together with Rt. Rev. Mitred Archbishop Ihor Midzak, Vicar General and Rt. Rev. Mitred Msgr. John Terlecky. There was about 40 people in attendance.

Memorial donations may be made to:

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate,  
9 Emmanuel Dr., Sloatsburg, NY 10974.

Late Helen was a member of LUC Connecticut Council and a long time it's president. She was elected National President of League of Ukrainian Catholics 1993 and served in this capacity until 1997.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends. May she rest with the Lord in Peace! Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat!

### Divine Liturgy for +Helen E. Labinsky



Some members of Niagara Frontier Council (12 of us) decided to come together in St. Nicholas Church at the time of Helen's funeral at the Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Ray Palko and Fr. Marijan Procyk with help of sub deacon David Wik. We prayed for late Helen and for all deceased members of Ukrainian Catholic Youth League/League of Ukrainian Catholics.

There are so many, who dedicated parts of their life for the cause that our organization stands for: For God and Country. UCYL/LUC started in 1933, over 85 years ago. They all left their marks in Ukrainian community and their churches. We are privileged to continue their legacy, to work together, to become better Christians, to aid our churches financially or in any other possible way.

LUC – Let Us Care! God Bless us all!





January 7, 2019

Dear LUC Officers and All Members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics;

We have come to the end of 2018 and also the end of my tenure as President of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America. It was my sincere pleasure to have served the membership for the past five (5) years. The office of President took me through many issues and events with our Hierarchy, clergy and the laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

I wish to thank all of you for your support during this time and your attention to the many projects that were put into action in your Councils and Chapters and among the faithful of your respective parishes. There continues to be a need for bringing the faithful laity together in prayer, social gatherings as well as study groups. I urge you to continue to work for the Church, preserving the traditions of our Eastern Catholic heritage through the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America.

Know that I will continue as a member of the League. I will continue to work on compiling the many documents that have become our archives in Stamford, Connecticut as well as other projects that I may be able to support.

It is my hope that the newly elected National Board will continue to grow the membership of the League and keep it going as the "original Vibrant Parish organization".

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Marion C. Hrubec*

Marion C. Hrubec

**Thank you, Marion, for your dedication to the League of Ukrainian Catholics. Your leadership as the President of LUC was excellent. You worked tirelessly, and definitely you will be missed. Please continue to inspire us with your actions, with your writings as well as with your words. God Bless You! Be healthy! Many Happy Years!**

From all members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics,  
Fr Marijan Procyk

### The Pessimist, the Optimist & the Leader

"The pessimist complains about the wind.

The optimist expects it to change.

The leader adjusts the sails." (John Maxwell)

## The Celebration of the 85th anniversary (1933-2018) of the Founding of the League of ukrainian Catholics (LUC) of America

(Marion Hrubec, President of LUC and Helen Fedoriw, Vice President)

In the year 2018 the Niagara Frontier Council hosted members of the League from all over the tri-state (NY, NJ, PA) area as well as CT, Washington, DC, and even Phoenix, AZ, at the annual gathering at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Amherst, NY, on the outskirts of Buffalo.



During the League sponsored panakhyda service for all deceased members, guests paused to remember them with prayer. Offering



the panakhyda service were Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of Stamford; Rev. Andrew Onuferko of Ottawa, Canada, event keynote speaker; Rev. Marijan Procyk, National Spiritual Director of the League and Rev. Mykola Drofych, Convention Spiritual Director.



The program of week-end activities continued with the members' formal greeting of Bishop Paul, marking the 30th jubilee of his priestly ordination. Bishop Paul received the following gifts: an icon,

Christ the teacher; a copy of the traveling icon of the LUC; a beautiful (and delicious) korovai specially baked by Niagara Frontier Council member Anna Melnyk; and two framed pictures, one of Bishop Paul's original graduating class from the seminary and one of Bishop Paul himself during that time.

A workshop entitled, "Behind Closed Doors – Hidden Rituals and Prayer" was presented by the accomplished speaker Sophia Scarpelli Shchur. Her presentation was enhanced by visual aids and actual prayers for the preparation of the Divine Liturgy – a behind-the iconostasis look of a priest's preparation for the divine Liturgy celebration on a Sunday.

Of course, no visit to Buffalo is complete without a tour. In this case, a boat tour on the Buffalo River with an historic narrative of the many grain mills that line the river banks. The narrator described that part of the city's history with many colorful anecdotes, in addition to pointing out the original structural start of the Erie Canal.



Those who have attended past League gatherings know that no banquet dinner is complete without a good MC, and Buffalo's own



Diana "Danusia" Chutko entertained the guests with her good-natured humor. She also had the honor of introducing the keynote speaker that evening at the hotel. He was the Rev. Andrew Onuferko. He spoke on



the theme of the gathering, "Embracing a Vibrant Parish through Liturgy and Prayer". However, in order to prepare for his speech, Rev. Onuferko had to learn a little about the League itself, and what better way than to read its newsletter, the action. Upon completion of his review of the newsletter, Rev. Onuferko was surprised to learn that the League was "the first Vibrant Parish organization", embracing all – young and old alike. He readily accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker. The League, he pointed out, strives to serve as an invaluable resource, as a library and repository of materials and methods for religious education, parish activities on all levels, interaction, reflection, prayer, charitable activities and individual and communal support. In short, the LUC actively pursues its constitutionally stated purposes. His speech was both thought provoking and inspiring.

During this convention it was decided to award the Msgr. Paul Iwachiw Scholarship to Antonina Bandriwskyj, an accomplished bandura player. Niagara Frontier Council started this scholarship 26 years ago. First one was awarded in June 1992, while Msgr. Paul was still alive. There have been over 30 recipients, 500 dollars each.

Msgr. Iwachiw was born November 12, 1909, went for his Eternal Reward on November 2, 1992. Ordained in Rome in 1936, Monsignor Iwachiw served in Ukraine, Poland, Germany and Italy, until 1946, when he came to the United States. After serving in Philadelphia for a short time, he was assigned to teach philosophy and serve as rector of the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Stamford, Ct. until 1955. After which, he served as parish priest to a congregation in Cohoes, NY until he became pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Buffalo, NY, from 1963 to 1985.



Concluding the weekend was the Sunday divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Buffalo, with pastor Rev. Marijan Procyk concelebrating with Rev. Ray Palko, and Rev. Onuferko.



For those who were unable to attend, the service was live streamed and is available for viewing on the following

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmXeLwSVZ2s&t=465s>.



Afterwards, the farewell brunch was held in the church hall filled with League guests and parishioners. The food was delicious, the desserts scrumptious, and the impromptu entertainment unequaled. Anna Tkalic, an accom-

plished singer and a parishioner of Saint Nicholas, performed a solo rendition of Ave Maria in Ukrainian, set to the music of Bach, to thunderous audience applause of approval and delight!



Niagara Frontier Council member and national Board treasurer, Elaine Nowadly closed out the weekend event with farewells and an "until we meet again next year". League president, Marion Hrubec, reminded departing guests that "after 85 years, many would be thinking in terms of

the end of life... however, it is not so for the League of Ukrainian Catholics as an organization – 79 conventions and 85 years of existence is only the beginning."



See  
you at  
the  
next  
LUC  
Con-  
ven-  
tion!

