

## October is Clergy Appreciation Month

October is the perfect time to take a moment to recognize the sacrifices that our priests make which often go unnoticed, and to show them how much we appreciate their presence within our lives. Clergy pray and worry about their parishioners, just as much as we care for and love our families. Their meals and family events are often interrupted by phone calls from parishioners going through a personal crisis and in need of their prayers or support.



Philadelphia Clergy

Clergy are there for us when we experience the loss of loved ones, and they are there to help us celebrate the birth of our children and their sacraments of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, and marriage. Clergy often listen to our hardships and struggles, and they do their best to provide meaningful guidance, while also helping to restore our faith. They often deal with interpersonal conflicts among parishioners, and they continually try to help people reconcile their differences with one another.

Clergy are the leaders of our faith, they help us find meaning in the Word of God, and they shepherd their flock both night and day. The concept of clergy appreciation can be traced back to the Apostle Paul's letter in the New Testament, where he acknowledges that elders who direct the affairs of the church well should be given double honor, especially those who teach and preach (1 Tim. 5:17).



Parma Clergy

I recently read a true story that a man wrote about the pastor of his church. There was a stray kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed the kitten, offered warm milk, etc. The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree branch bent down far enough, he could then reach up and bring the kitten to safety.

So that is what the pastor did, all the while checking his progress in the car. The pastor then figured if he went just a

little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke. The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air and out of sight. The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they had seen a little kitten. But no one had seen hide nor hair of the kitten. So the pastor prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping," and went on about his business.



Stamford Clergy

A few days later the pastor was at the grocery store, and met one of his parishioners. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. He knew that this woman did not like pets, she thought they were messy, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you do not have any pets?" She replied, "You won't believe this, Father," and then she told him how her little girl had been begging her for a kitten, but she kept refusing. A few days later, the child had begged again, so she finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it."

Then she told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the backyard, get on her knees, and ask God for a kitten. And I am telling you the God's honest truth, Father, because you really won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her. What do you make of that?"



Chicago Clergy

More often than not, clergy teach us valuable lessons each and every day, and their kindness and faith helps us to move mountains. If you have such a pastor, make sure that you thank him. While clergy understand the impact and importance of their jobs, it always feels good to be appreciated every once in a while.

(Susan Szczublewski)

**GOD BLESS ALL CLERGY! GOD BLESS UKRAINE!  
GOD BLESS US ALL!**



# LUC ACTION

**League of Ukrainian Catholics - Fall 2024**  
**Ліга Українців Католиків - Осінь 2024**



## THE VIEW FROM THE CROSS – Retreat



This Spring our four hierarchs: Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Bishop Benedict Aleksyichuk, and Bishop Bohdan Danylo skillfully and lovingly guided us through our virtual Great Lent spiritual retreat, *THE VIEW FROM THE CROSS*. [View from the Cross, James Tissot \(1836-1902\)→](#)

While we enjoyed the company of 143 live Zoom participants, another 1,295 were concurrently watching via live stream on the Sensus Fidelium YouTube channel. Since then, the number of views on this platform has increased to 1700, with another 606 views on our website, and 99 our own LUC YouTube channel. This brings our total reach to 2,400. Amazing, isn't it? What is even more amazing are the many beautiful comments that poured in after the retreat concluded, a moving testament to the powerful effects of the bishops' presentations. It also shows that our retreat participants desire a deep spiritual discussion. Our retreat is what they are seeking. This is clearly echoed in this sampling of comments:

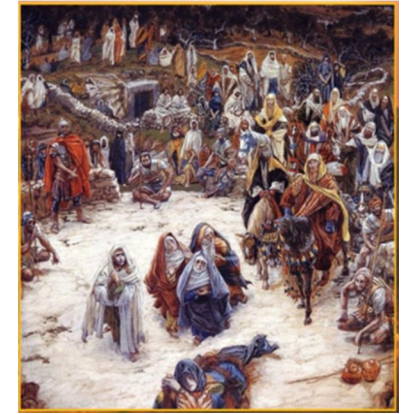


"It's absolutely amazing to me that we were given the opportunity to sit with our four bishops and learn from them".

"It is extremely healing for the flock to be able to BE WITH our shepherds -- to sit with them, listen to them, learn from them, ask them questions, and see how much they love God and love the Church".

"All talks were amazing, especially paradox and healing".

"Beautiful retreat. Such an amazing opportunity to have four holy bishops teaching, encouraging and being with the flock of Christ. I hope next time there will be 100,000 joining the retreat."



"Thank you for organizing and hosting our retreat. It was a wonderful experience for my husband and me; we listened to it together."

"Our thanks to Father and our Bishops for sharing their contemplation with us."

"Seriously, thank you for arranging this. I can't wait for the next one."

"Thank you for preparing this and having this retreat. It was very helpful to me and

gave me much material for my own Holy Week!" (from a priest)

"The seminar was absolutely a great experience. Kudos to your planning. The bishops did an excellent job. Each one brought a different and interesting perspective. I felt very uplifted afterwards. Thank you again. My soul was enriched!"

We are sincerely grateful to our UGCC Bishops for journeying with us the last 4 years with our virtual spiritual retreats. It has been life changing not only for the LUC, but for the people we reach through these events.



A big thank you to Steve Cunningham from Sensus Fidelium, a Catholic You Tube channel with 316K subscribers. Steve reached out to us to



offer live streaming on Sensus Fidelium platform.

A big thank you also goes out to Father Deacon Nick Modelski from *God With Us Online*. GWUO is one of four primary apostolates of **God With Us + ONLINE +** God With Us Eastern Catholic Formation, the official catechetical apostolate of the USCCB Eastern Catholic Association of Bishops. Deacon Nick interviewed me for a podcast to promote our spiritual retreat.



Both Steve and Deacon Nick were instrumental in broadening our reach, allowing us to share the pearls of our spiritual retreat with so many faithful.

Sincerest THANK YOU does not even cover the depth of my gratitude to Peter Kosciolk from Holy Trinity Parish in Kerhonkson, NY. Peter came to the rescue behind the scenes when a technical issue emerged unexpectedly.

We thank all the participants of our retreat, for their interest, participation and feedback.

We look forward to another inspirational gathering with our next Spiritual Retreat into Great Lent 2025.



## Nick Kotow 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Mnohaya Lita!



A small group of Nick's many Pittsburgh area friends.

This spring Nick Kotow turned 80. His many friends in the Carnegie/greater Pittsburgh area treated him on and around his birthday date. (Nick is President of the LUC Western Pennsylvania Council.)

As we all know, Nick is a very active and hard worker. He works every weekday at pyrohy groups for three different Ukrainian Catholic churches. And local Ukrainian Orthodox Churches, also.

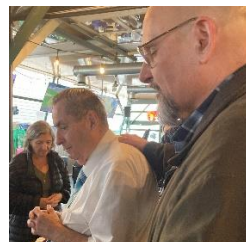


Вон Appétit! Смачного!

The Friday before Nick's birthday the pyrohy workers at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie celebrated his birthday with a sumptuous meal and birthday cake. The following Wednesday, the pyrohy workers at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church on the Northside of Pittsburgh treated Nick with a meal and birthday cake. The next day on Thursday, the pyrohy workers of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church on the Southside of Pittsburgh (our 130 year old "Mother Church") celebrated his birthday.



Fr Jason Charron, pastor from Holy Trinity in Carnegie, greets Nick.



Rev. Myron Manasterski (Retired) Blesses Nick & Yimost' Barbara Spak

But his SURPRISE birthday party, and it was an absolute surprise, was when his friends from all over, and especially the Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS), surprised him with a loud and boisterous birthday party. George Honchar fibbed to him and told him that after church, we were to look at Riley's Pour House, the very popular Irish restaurant in Carnegie, for an upcoming UTS event to see if it would fit in with our group.

As soon as he walked in, his many friends greeted him, singing: "Mnohaya Lita!"



Incoming UTS President Dr. Michael Manasterski, outgoing UTS President George Honchar, and George's wife Sviltana (Dudkevych) Honchar greet a very surprised Nick with «Многая літа...».

Nick is Treasurer of the Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS).

As we all know, in the League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC), Nick is a hard worker, with an almost constant, very serious look on his face. Everybody in the whole place finally saw Nick with a smile on his face the whole afternoon! Nick was ABSOLUTELY surprised!

May God grant Nick Kotow, many happy and healthy years! ...

На Многая і Благая Літа!

(George Honchar)

## North Anthracite Council

Sophia Williams (daughter of Kristina Williams, granddaughter of Yanka Everett, and great granddaughter of Maria Szyndy— North Anthracite Council) and her cousin Ponyo Mulcahy, attended the 35th Annual Ukrainian Dance Camp in Lehigh, PA.

The week long camp is put on each year over the 4th of July week by the UAHF-Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation. This year, they had 65 campers in attendance!

The performance at the end of the week is open to the public and had a large crowd that gathered. They had a Zabava following the show with all of it at the Ukrainian Homestead of ODWU, in Lehigh, PA. (Krisy Williams)



Pictured from left to right:

Kristina Williams (North Anthracite Council), Natalia and Gene Luciw (St John Paul II Council),

And:

Yanka Everett (North Anthracite Council).

## +Lee Ann Makar



Makar, in an elevator in Pittsburgh in 1959 at a convention for young Ukrainian Catholic leaders. They were married ten months later and she followed him back to Pittsburgh where she worked in a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh, one floor away from Jonas Salk. Unfortunately, Harry lost his battle to cancer in November 1999.

She is survived by three children: MaryAnn Charles, Gregory Makar, and Diane Makar. LeeAnn also has two loving children through marriage: Kerry Charles and Ellen Makar. In addition, she is loved by four grandchildren: Jordan and Erin Charles and E and Michael Makar. Throughout her life LeeAnn had forged many friendships within the church, neighborhood, League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC) and various organizations, work, and community relationships. Two of the valued relationships were those with the staff at Lighthouse Senior Living, who provided expert compassionate care for almost seven years, and her neighbors in the Waverly Woods community.

LeeAnn was no stranger to domestic labor, having grown up among several aunts and uncles who were demanding. As a wife and mother, she gave her all to meeting the needs of her family. A favorite example is that she made four lunches every weekday for many years. She took care of the home and garden, teaching those skills to her children, led social activities, and, naturally, spent time trying to maintain the peace. LeeAnn enjoyed the kids' youth sports and school sports, as well as volunteering at the PTA. When the children were old enough, she returned to work outside the home and enjoyed meeting new people and challenges working at a bank, at a dentist office, at the school system print shop, and finally at Glenelg High School.

LeeAnn was a longtime baseball fan and saw games at two of the great old stadiums: Griffith Stadium in Washington and Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. After moving to Baltimore in 1961 and then settling in Ellicott City in 1963, she became a big Orioles fan and University of Maryland Terrapins fan. LeeAnn truly enjoyed dancing with Harry, especially at LUC conventions and Sports Rallies. They were active together in the Ukrainian church and social activities starting in their mid-twenties, and it remained an important part of her life and identity to the end. She spent countless hours helping at Ukrainian festivals, bazaars, musical events, and dance events.

She enjoyed traveling as well: to Hawaii, Ukraine, Australia, and several cruises. Many of her travels were with friends from their Chapel view neighborhood in Ellicott City. That same group of friends enjoyed Michigan Rummy nights, crab feasts, Christmas caroling, sleigh riding to the "flats," stamping-up at her friend Lana's, and needlepoint or Ukrainian embroidery. She had a close relationship with the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Sloatsburg, New York, which is fitting because she lived her life serving others with love, even the family pets. Her kindness and caring spirit are blessings we will miss.

Lee Ann was a long time member of the LUC - from the early age of 18. She was a member of the National Board, along with her husband, Harry Makar (President, Action Editor). She was a strong voice for the League and for her Faith.

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**

## +William Nagy

William A. Nagy, Jr., 78, a resident of Bloomsburg, PA, died Tuesday, September 3, 2024. He had been on hospice care at the Emmanuel Personal Care Center for one week.

Born December 15, 1945 in Berwick, he was the son of the late William and Jennie (Gelety) Nagy.

Bill was a 1963 graduate of Berwick High School. Upon graduating, he enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard, retiring after a 30-year career as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. He served on board seven ships. After Coast Guard retirement, he was employed by the Raytheon Technical Services Company, in Norfolk, VA.

William was a faithful and active member of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Berwick, where his funeral took place on September 7, 2024. He was a member of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America, North Anthracite Council.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Nadine, and two sons: Patrick, infant, and Donald; and his sister, Rosemary Zwolinski. William is survived by his loving wife of thirty years, the former Barbara Jurbala and their two sons: William "Tony" Nagy and his wife, Carrie, of Stockton, NJ, and Jason Nagy and his wife, Shannon, of Virginia Beach; a daughter-in-law, Caroline Nagy, residing in France; ten grandchildren: Kayla and her husband, John, Taylor and her husband, Daniel, Treyce and his significant other, Cora, Logan, Jack, Ashton, Anna, Evelyn, Eleanor, and Juliette; two great-grandsons: Cayden and Bennett; one sister, Janet Mannino and her husband, Sam, of Summerville, S.C.; a sister-in-law, Diane Wise and her husband, Bill; and several nieces and nephews.

May he rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**

## +Ann Beshada



Ann Conniff Beshada, 89, of Hanover Township passed into the Hands of the Lord on Friday, September 6, 2024. Born on March 29, 1935, in Plymouth Township, she was the daughter of the late John A. and Mary C. McDaniels Conniff.

Ann was a member of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Plymouth, where she served as a dedicated volunteer secretary for many years and also where her funeral took place on September 11, 2024.

She was a member of the Ss. Peter & Paul UCC Women's Society, the AMVETS Post #59 Ladies Auxiliary, and the North Anthracite League of Ukrainian Catholics.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Beshada; sisters: Mary Searles, Elizabeth Ruddy, Agnes Mikus, Ellen Zapotak, Catherine Papula, Theresa Tibus; and brothers: Timothy, Andras, Joseph, John Conniff. Ann is survived by her many loving nieces and nephews.

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**



### +Lillian M. Misko Coury

Professor Lillian M. Misko Coury, 90, of Arnold, died Easter Sunday, Mar. 31, 2024, in her home. She was born in Arnold on April 19, 1933, to the late Harry and Katherine Strogusz Miskow and was a lifelong resident of Arnold.

Mrs. Coury was a very active member of St. Vladimir Byzantine Catholic Church Ukrainian Rite in Arnold, where she served as cantor for many years. She had a love for music and singing, teaching music, and singing lessons for many years. She acted in many theater and film performances and sang with Pavarotti. After having ten children, she continued her education, attaining graduate and postgraduate degrees. She was a professor of music, theater, and arts at Penn St., New Kensington, for 25 years. She was active at the New Kensington Senior Citizen's Center where she played piano and was the choir director. She also enjoyed playing cards with her family, especially her late husband.

She is survived by her ten children: William (Darcy) Coury Jr. of Indiana, PA., Mary Katherine Gentile of Columbia Falls, MT., Lille Leonardi of Oakmont, Samuel (Janet) Coury Esq., of New Kensington, Virginia Boggs of Delmont, Gregory Coury of Arnold, Phillip (Marian) Coury of Allegheny Twp., Selma (Nathan) Coury of Murrysville, Ramona-Jean (Ken) McClain of Gibsonia, Joseph (Colleen) Coury of Jackson, TN.; 17 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**

### +Patricia Cremer



Patricia Anne Cremer, 77, of Shickshinny, passed away Monday, March 25, 2024, at Bonham Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, in Stillwater, PA.

Born July 28, 1946, in Columbus, Ga., she was the daughter of the late Fred E. and Edna (Hasty) Groover. Patricia was married to John Cremer, and together they celebrated 32 years of marriage.

Patricia earned her bachelor's degree from Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. She retired from the Social Security Administration as a contact specialist. Patricia volunteered at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Berwick. She was an avid reader and enjoyed bird-watching and tending to her many other hobbies.

Preceding her in death, in addition to her parents, were her step-mother, Ora Groover; and her step-daughter, Cynthia Lesniewski.

Surviving are two sons, Dane Merriman (Kristine), Texas; and Taite Merriman (Melissa), Pennsylvania; two step-children, Christopher Cremer (Fran), Colorado; Charles Cremer (Ann), Idaho; one step-son-in-law, Stephen Lesniewski, New Jersey; one brother, Michael Groover (Suzanne), Texas; and eleven grandchildren: Scyler, Tristan, and Dawson Merriman; Addison and Eli Merriman; Shawn Lesniewski (Sarah); Zachary (Cara), Abbey and Madison Cremer; Lauren and Erin Cremer; and many beloved family and friends.

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**

### +Denise Marie Kummick



Denise Marie Kummick, 65, of West Leechburg, passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at her residence.

A daughter of the late John A. and Elizabeth H. (Kish) Kummick, she was born September 26, 1957, in Natrona Heights, PA.

Denise was a graduate of Leechburg Area High School and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). She was last employed as a supervisor by the Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging in Greensburg for 29 years before retiring in 2012. She was an active member and pillar of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in West Leechburg. Denise faithfully volunteered at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ford City, where she had taught religious classes and served on the pierogi and bake sale teams. She most treasured spending her time with family and attending family events where she was affectionately known as the Appetizer Queen. She also enjoyed gardening, cooking, traveling, reading, going to the casino with her sister Linda, and creating beautiful and intricate pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs).

Survivors include her brother, Donald Kummick (Jane Paino, MD) of Venice, FL; her sisters, Vivian Cribbs (Richard) of Ford Cliff, Kathleen Seren of Cabot, Linda Warcholak (Michael) of West Leechburg, Patricia Kummick (Jeff Fait) of Greensburg; nieces and nephews, David Cribbs of Rural Valley, Amy Bruner (Troy) of Ford City, Jonathan Kummick (Alyssa) of Pendelton, IN, Matthew Seren (Allison) of Potomac, MD, Janelle Kummick of Indianapolis, IN, Zeppy and Zoe Kummick of Venice, FL; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by sister-in-law, Clarine (Russell) Kummick and brother-in-law, David Seren.

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**

### +Vera Marc



Vera Mark (May 2, 1942 – July 22, 2024). Devoted wife of the late Emil; devoted mother of Emil S. (Lisa) Marc; dear daughter of the late Stefan and Rosalia Paslawsky; cherished sister of Lisa (Bill) Ananiadis; sister-in-law of the late Jerry (+Paul) Bobenczyk, and late Fred (Nadia) Marc; also survived by nieces and nephews.

**Vera's friend Luba comments:**

"Our family friend, Vera, with her husband Emil have been in our lives since I can remember, as a child. My parents and the Marc's grew up together in Buffalo as teenagers, and hung out with a big group of kids, that I love and respect today as "our" elders. The people who lived through the 1950's America, as Displaced Persons. She was a very kind and loving lady, generous with her time and friendship. She touched many, many people in our community, and beyond. She will be missed and may her memory be a blessing to all who were touched by her beautiful soul. You will be missed, "Pani Vera", but now you are back with your friends and family in heaven!" (Luba Terech)

May she rest in peace! **Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!**

### His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk Personally Thanks the League of Ukrainian Catholics

Our National Board President, Sophia Shchur, had the amazing opportunity to greet His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk on his arrival to JFK this past March (see the Spring 2024 issue of ACTION).

During his visit, she had the pleasure of presenting him with our Convention program book: *"From Sheptytsky to Shevchuk: Inspirational Spiritual Leadership in Times of Chaos"* together with a note and monetary gift of love on behalf of the League of Ukrainian Catholics.

Here is the letter of thanks that we received from His Beatitude:

UKRAINIAN GREEK-CATHOLIC CHURCH Archbishop Major of Kyiv-Galicia. Kyiv, Ex. BA 24/064-1 March 20, 2024, the year of our Lord

To the President of the League of Ukrainian Catholics in America,  
Ms. Sophia Shchur  
32 Normandy Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701  
USA

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Ms. Sophia,

With God's help, although physically tired, I returned home to Kyiv and I am writing this letter to thank you. We, bishops and members of the Permanent Synod of the UGCC, held our working meetings on March 4-8 this year in Washington, Philadelphia and New York. Between conferences, we had a series of meetings during which the good Lord gave us the opportunity to meet with you. I thank Him and you for this opportunity.

All our Ukrainian people, whether in their native land or abroad, are wounded by the cruel and hateful war of the Russian aggressor against us as a nation. Nevertheless, we stand firm, fight bravely, and pray earnestly, confident that we will overcome the invader. Thanks to you and to the members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics for the \$500 gift of love, which you personally handed to me during my visit. May the Lord God generously bestow his favors and graces upon all of you for your generous nature. And in addition to this, I also grant you my arch pastoral blessing.

God's blessing upon you!  
+Sviatoslav



УКРАЇНЬСЬКА ГРЕКО-КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА  
Верховний Архієпископ Києво-Галицький

Київ,  
Вих. ВА 24/064-1  
20 березня 2024 року Божого

Високоповажній пані  
Софії Щур,  
Ліга українців-католиків  
Sophia Shchur  
32 Normandy Rd.  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
USA

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Високоповажна Пані Софія!

Із Божою допомогою, хоч фізично втомлений, повернувся я додому до Києва та пишу до Вас цього листа, щоб скласти Вам слова подяки. Ми, єпископи – члени Постійного Синоду УГКЦ, 4-8 березня цього року у Вашингтоні, Філадельфії та Нью-Йорку проводили свої робочі засідання. Поміж засіданнями ми мали низку зустрічей, під час яких Господь Бог дав нам можливість зустрітися з Вами. Дякую Йому і Вам за таку нагоду.

Увесь наш український народ, чи то на рідній землі, чи поза її межами, зболений ранами жорсткої та ненависницької війни російського агресора проти нас як нації. Попри це, ми міцно стоїмо, відважно боремося та із щирістю молимося. Тому впевнені, що подолаємо загарбника.

Дякую Вам та членам Ліги українців-католиків за дар любові – 500 (п'ятсот) американських доларів, який Ви вручили мені під час цього візиту. Нехай Господь Бог вас за це щедро обдаровує своїми ласками та благодатями. А як завдаток цього, уділяю вам своє архипастирське благословення.

Благословення Господнє на вас!



+Святослав



Our Newest Chapter Raises \$3,000 for Ukraine



Nova Ukraina/ New Ukraine, our newly formed chapter based at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, NY, celebrated Ukrainian Independence Day by sponsoring and organizing a family picnic on Sunday, August 25th. The picnic was the 'icing on the cake' following a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Bishop Bohdan Danylo, Father Kiril Angelov, Father Vasyl Behay (pastor & assistant pastor of St. Michael's UCC) and Father Curt McKenzie (visiting Jesuit priest from Canada). A flag raising ceremony was held after the Divine Liturgy.

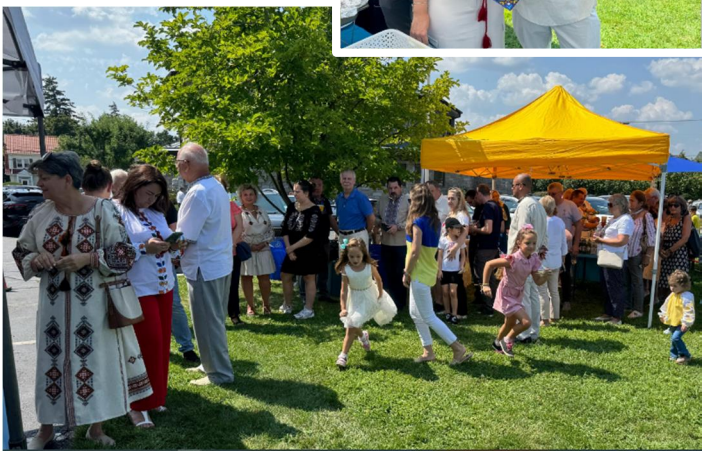
LUC member and Chef Olha Burban, prepared a delicious picnic lunch which included shashliki, varenyky, hot dogs & kapusta, watermelon and other goodies. The picnic was free but thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, \$3000 was collected. The money will be put to good use as humanitarian aid to Ukraine.



The Nova Ukraina chapter is grateful to all who donated their time and talent, to make this a successful and enjoyable event.

(Sophia Shchur)

LUC = Let Us Care



Stamford Seminarian Ordained a Priest in Ukraine



Lviv, June 30, 2024—During the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the Garrison Church of the Holy Prime Apostles Peter and Paul, located in the heart of Lviv, Deacon Volodymyr Sabalo was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, the Eparch of Stamford.

Fr. Volodymyr was born in the Berezhany, Ternopil region, where he grew up in a devout Catholic family. His

early life was marked by active participation in the local church community. He worked with children and youth, and organized the summer camp "Joyful Holidays with God" in his home parish. After completing his education in landscape design at the Berezhany Agro technical Institute, he entered the Ternopil Major Theological Seminary of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj. Later he traveled to the United States to study at St. Basil Seminary in Stamford, CT. After several years of study, he returned to Ukraine and completed his theological studies at the Kyiv Theological Seminary of the Three Holy Hierarchs, where he earned a Master's degree in Theology.

In the summer of 2023, Fr. Volodymyr married his wife, Julia, and later, on August 6th, Fr. Volodymyr was ordained as a deacon by Bishop Paul Chomnycky in Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Lviv.

He was a 2022 recipient of an LUC scholarship.

Congratulations! Axios! Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!

Honoring Sr. Tekla on Becoming an American Citizen

On Sunday, June 9, 2024, following Divine Liturgy, Fr. Andriy Dudkevych, members of the St. Nicholas Chapter of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, and parishioners came together in our Ukrainian tradition, to greet Sr. Tekla Gnatyuk with bread and salt, welcoming her on the occasion of her becoming an American Citizen. A chorus of "God Bless America" resounded as Sr. Tekla was wished God's Blessings! Mnohaya Lita !



(Marion Hrubec)



Remembering +Bishop Basil Losten (1930 – 2024)

As a longtime member of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America and an officer of the National Board for many years, I had the opportunity to work closely with Bishop Basil Losten from the time of his Episcopal ordination in 1971, as the Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia.

Bishop Losten was a staunch supporter of the League, always commending the work and accomplishments of the LUC. He promoted our work within the parishes, showing his love for the Church and for Ukraine. He encouraged the League to promote the Cause for the Beatification of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

From my early days as a board member, I remember that when Bishop Losten served in Philadelphia, he established a home office at the Chancery for the League, where the officers were able to hold their regular meetings and where he would join in the discussions, provide encouragement, and give us direction and ideas to move forward, in order to continue the work of the LUC in service to the Church.

Bishop Losten was present for many of the functions of the League, be it a Convention or Sports Rally. He saw to it that the members would be involved in Eparchial events. When in Stamford, he continued to work with the officers and members. He sought out the League to participate in the *Youth for Christ* celebration, hosting an exhibit on Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

In our 1982 Convention Journal, Bishop Losten wrote the following message: "As you are well aware, I have always had, first as a lay member, then as a priest and now as a bishop, a high regard for the ideals of the League of Ukrainian Catholics and for its members. I have taken advantage of every opportunity to publicly applaud your zeal and your dedication, calling attention to the selfless concern you reveal, and the good works you perform for our Ukrainian Catholic Church and people. Admirably, you tenderly nurture the gifts you received from your parents; preserving, cherishing and promoting the beauty and richness of our Ukrainian rite and culture. I am proud to be numbered among you." He prayed that the "gathering of the best sons and daughters of our Ukrainian Catholic Church result in our personal spiritual enrichment and in a heightened enthusiasm and strength in our work for our Church".

Bishop Losten always took a personal interest in the work of the LUC, asked about the League's plans for the future, and continued to encourage the members even after his retirement. His care and concern for the LUC was very evident from the above message, for which we are forever indebted.

Bishop Losten will long be remembered for his dedication to the Church, and to the people and to the League of Ukrainian Catholics for which we are so grateful.

In blessed sleep, grant eternal rest, O Lord, to your ever to be remembered servant +Bishop Basil H. Losten, and make his memory everlasting. *Vichnaya Pamyat'!*

(Marion C. Hrubec - Past National Board President)



Bishop Basil Harry Losten was born in Chesapeake City, Maryland, on May 11, 1930, a son of the late Ivan Losten and Julia Petryshyn Losten. He embarked on a life of faith and service that began with his early education at St. Basil School in Philadelphia. His journey into the priesthood was marked by years of dedicated study, first at the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Stamford and later at St. Basil College, where he earned a bachelor of arts in philosophy. His theological education culminated in a graduate degree from the Catholic University of America in 1957.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1957, by Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky. His initial assignments saw him serve the Philadelphia Archdiocese as chancery secretary, and serve among various parishes across the city. In 1962, he was appointed personal secretary to Archbishop-Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI recognized his contributions by elevating him to the rank of papal chamberlain. On March 23, 1971, he was nominated to the episcopacy, and on May 25<sup>th</sup> of that year, he was consecrated as auxiliary bishop. He later served as apostolic administrator of the diocese in 1976, during the declining health of Archbishop-Metropolitan Senyshyn. On September 20, 1977, he was appointed diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Stamford.

Since 1992, he had been an active member of the Kyiv Study Group on Ecumenism, and since 1995, a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. He was also a member of the United States Conference of Bishops.

Upon reaching retirement age, Bishop Basil submitted his resignation, which was accepted on January 3, 2006.

On August 21, 2007, the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, awarded Bishop Losten the Order of Merit III Degree, "for his significant personal contribution to strengthening the authority of Ukraine in the world.

Bishop Basil went for his Eternal Reward on September 15, 2024.

He is survived by many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he is predeceased by his siblings: Michael, Edward, John, Nicholas, Stephen, Stella Zukowsky, Mary Humen and Ann.

May he rest in peace! *Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!*

+Geraldine Kolotelo

Geraldine Kolotelo, 90, of Hanover Township, passed away on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

She was a devoted member of her parish, SS Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Plymouth PA, where she sang in the choir, belonged to the Ladies Society, and helped with annual church flea market. Geraldine was a retired teacher from Pennsbury School District. She loved to travel, go to the theater and attend the opera. She was a member of the PEO Chapter, BR. Geri was an active, longtime member of the League of Ukrainian Catholics, North Anthracite Council. She attended National Conventions, volunteered, and participated in Malanka Dances that took place at St Vladimir Church in Scranton, PA. She loved her Ukrainian heritage and its traditions, and was always sharing stories of teaching, her travels and cooking.

Geri will be greatly missed by all those who knew her well. A Divine Liturgy was held at S.S. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Plymouth on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

May she rest in peace! *Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory!*





## Celebrating 100 Years Young



Bishop Paul Chomnycky presents Pan Kozicky with greetings from His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Archbishop Borys Gudziak, as well as his own episcopal greetings on behalf of the Stamford Eparchy.

One of the newest members of Nova Ukraina/ New Ukraine LUC Chapter, Pan Wolodymyr (Walter) Kozicky, celebrated his 100th birthday on September 26, 2024 at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, NY.

Our beloved Bishop Paul Chomnycky, along with Father Kiril Angelov, Spiritual Advisor for our newest chapter, and Father Vasyl Behay, celebrated a Divine Liturgy in thanksgiving and for the continued good health of Pan Kozicky.

Besides being the patriarch of the Kozicky family, Walter is well respected, admired and loved by members of our parish and eparchy. Pan Kozicky always amazes us with his knowledge, wisdom and wit. He has undoubtedly earned 'legendary status' with his contributions toward the building of our parish, co-founding SUMA Credit Union, and his dedication towards strengthening the Ukrainian community.

Bishop Paul adds: "He was exactly a century ago in a poor village in the Ternopil region, survived the most destructive war in the history of the world, was forced to leave his homeland and live in a camp for displaced persons in Germany, and emigrated to America as a refugee. There, he created a family and built a new life on a new land, becoming one of the most successful businessmen and public figures of the Ukrainian diaspora. May the Lord bless Mr. Wolodymyr with health, well-being and joy in his sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for many, many years to come."

The League of Ukrainian Catholics joins Bishop Paul in extending our sincerest birthday wishes to Pan Kozicky. Many blessed years!

Один із наших найновіших членів відділу «Нова Україна», Пан Володимир Козицький, відсвяткував своє 100-річчя 26 вересня в Укр. Кат. Церкві Св. Архангела Михаїла в Йонкерсі, Нью-Йорк.

Владика Павло Хомницький разом з о. Кирилом Ангеловим, духовним радником нашого відділу, та о. Василем Бегаєм, відслужили Божественну Літургію на подяку та за міцне здоров'я пана Козицького.

Крім того, що Пан Володимир є патріархом родини Козицьких, він користується великою повагою, захопленням і любов'ю членів нашої парафії та єпархії. Пан Козицький завжди дивує нас своїми знаннями, мудрістю та дотепністю. Він, безсумнівно, заслужив «легендарний статус» своїм внеском у розбудову нашої парафії, співзасновником Кредитової спілки СУМА та своєю відданістю зміцненню української громади. Многая Літа!

## Saint Vladimir Reopens in Arnold, PA



On the weekend of September 14-15, 2024, Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Arnold, PA, was finally reopened, after a devastating fire on December 4, 2021, destroyed much of the former church. The front bell towers and the sacristy area were salvageable and incorporated into the new, smaller church building.

Most Reverend Bishop Bohdan J. Danylo of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Josaphat in Parma, OH, assisted by Father Yaroslav Koval (pastor), Very Reverend Mitred Archpriest Michael Polosky (Saints Peter and Paul, Ambridge), Very Reverend Igor Hohosha (Saint George, Pittsburgh), and Father Oleg Popyuk (Assumption of the Mother of God, Latrobe) began the "Order of Consecration of a Church and Holy Table" at 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 14th. The church was filled to capacity with parishioners and guests, including Very Reverend Father Anthony Balistreri (retired, former pastor of Saint Vladimir) and Deacon and Mrs. Stephen Suchan. After the cleansing and anointing of the Holy Table, Hierarchical Divine Vespers were prayed. Deacon Myron J. Spak also served, while Michael and Stephanie Vargo led the laity responses.

Following vespers, there was a fellowship meal in the social hall featuring Saint Vladimir's famous pyrohy, which were voted the Best Pierogies of 2024, in a contest sponsored by the "Pittsburgh Live Today" show on KDKA television.

On Sunday, September 15th, the reopening ceremonies continued from 11:00 AM with a procession of the Antimension, vesting of the Holy Table by the placing of the Antimension on it, and blessing and anointing of the church walls, followed by an Hierarchical Divine Liturgy concelebrated by Bishop Danylo with Father Yaroslav Koval, Very Reverend Douglas Lorange (Saint Michael, Lyndora), and Father Ivan Chirovsky (Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary). The church was again filled to overflowing as the first Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the new church building. The ceremonies concluded with a banquet at the Hillcrest Country Club.

In his remarks, Bishop Bohdan asked the parishioners to pray for their grandparents who had handed down the Ukrainian Catholic Faith, and to pray to the Power of the Cross which leads to Victory. Father Yaroslav expressed joy upon the reopening of the church, and thanked his parishioners for their sacrifices and all of their hard work over the past three years.

The League of Ukrainian Catholics was represented at the ceremonies by Western Pennsylvania Council members: Nickolas C. Kotow, Hilary A. Kinal, George and Svitlana Honchar. (N. Kotow)

## Niagara Frontier LUC – Helping Hands to Support Ukraine



This past May, during Great Lent, members of the Niagara Frontier League kept themselves quite busy preparing varenky, a wide assortment of theme baskets, and homemade baked goods to help raise money for Ukraine, as Mothers of Prayer

hosted at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, a large fundraiser to provide aid for war torn Ukraine. LUC members will also be helping out on Saturday, October 13th, as St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kenmore hosts its yearly 'Soup and Pierogi Fest' fundraiser, where the proceeds will also go to support Ukraine.



Members of our LUC are always willing to volunteer at these events, and their "helping hands" are greatly appreciated. November will likewise be an active month as many LUC members will be called upon to help prepare varenky, holubtsi, theme baskets, baked goods and other items for our Annual St. Nicholas Church Bazaar being held at the Matthew Glab Post in Lackawanna, NY during the weekend of November 9-10th. We hope that our primary church fundraiser for the year will continue to be a successful and well attended.

(Susan Szczublewski)



Members of our LUC are always willing to volunteer at these events, and their "helping hands" are greatly appreciated. November will likewise be an active month as many LUC members will be called upon to help prepare varenky, holubtsi, theme baskets, baked goods



All members of the League of Ukrainian Catholics will receive a letter to announce our MAD MONEY raffle. While our membership dues remain at only \$10, expenses for producing, publishing and mailing the LUC ACTION are always increasing. We will be sending 2 raffle sheets. \$5 a ticket or 6 for \$25. Thank you and God Bless!

## Prayers and Well Wishes Appreciated Thank you and God Bless

This summer the Niagara Frontier LUC was unable to conduct its yearly pilgrimage to Fatima Shrine for Divine Liturgy during the month of August, because our LUC National Board Spiritual Director, Father Marijan Procyk, spent most of his summer recovering from back surgery. Thankfully, the good Lord has watched over father, guided the hands of his surgeon, and continues to grant him healing grace throughout the recovery process.

Father Marijan would like to thank everyone for their prayers,



cards, and well wishes during his time in the hospital, as well as his three weeks spent in recovery at the McAuley Residence, receiving physical therapy. Your thoughts and prayers continue to bring father much comfort and relief throughout his healing process. Father Marijan was

very fortunate to have several visitors from the LUC, as well as friends from the WNY Chess Community, spend time with him during recovery. Father is also grateful to Deacon David Wik, who continues to help him celebrate Divine Liturgy on feast days and over the weekends.

(Susan Szczublewski)



National Board and Niagara Frontier Council members: Maria LaPaglia, Nadia Marc and Elaine Nowadly put together the "Mad Money" Raffle ticket mailings. Please support the LUC by either purchasing or selling the tickets that you receive. The drawing will be held on October 27th in St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall.



## Святий Миколаю Чарнецький, моли Бога за нас...

Рік 2024 проголошено Роком блаженного священномученика Миколая Чарнецького. 3 нагоди вшанування 140-ліття з дня народження та 65-х роковин смерті відомого діяча УГКЦ на його малій батьківщині, у селі Семаківцях, на Городенківщині, впродовж року відбуваються різні заходи, покликані «поширити в народі прославу блаженного».



Однією із важливих подій стала наукова конференція «Блаженний священномученик Миколай Чарнецький – дорога праведника за утвердження української державності та відродження УГКЦ».

Конференції передував Молебень за участю єпископа-помічника владыки Петра Голінея Коломийської єпархії УГКЦ у церкві Миколая Чарнецького в Семаківцях у співслужінні з парохом храму о. Василем Скрипкою, який є багатолітнім популяризатором постаті владыки Чарнецького, а також місцевого духовенства.



По його завершенні урочисто відкрили та освятили пам'ятну таблицю о. Миколаю Чарнецькому на одному з корпусів Семаківської гімназії – колишній плебанії, де пройшли дитячі роки майбутнього єпископа.

Основною метою згаданої конференції, стало дослідження, вивчення та популяризація імені єпископа, а також визначення його ролі й місця в утвердженні УГКЦ та Української Соборної Держави у площині вивчення історії України, релігієзнавства, філософії української думки, розвитку української мови.

Першим із доповіддю «Блаженний Миколай Чарнецький і формація підпільного духовенства УГКЦ» виступив Преосвященний владыка Петро Голіней, доктор східних церковних наук. У ній єпископ зазначив: «Із ліквідацією Греко-Католицької Церкви у місцях позбавлення волі опинилися всі єпископи, сотні священників, монахів, монахинь і тисячі вірних. Але сподівання більшовиків, що ув'язнені греко-католики відмовляться від своєї віри не справджувалися. Ув'язнене духовенство, ризикуючи потрапити під тяжчі репресії, продовжувало виконувати пастирські обов'язки в середовищі ув'язнених вірних проголошуючи Євангеліє. Найгероїчнішою місією в ув'язненні стали окремі випадки навчання кандидатів до священства та рукопокладень на дияконів та священників.

Із виходом на свободу значної кількості греко-католицького духовенства в середині 50-х рр., серед котрих були і колишні викладачі Львівської Богословської Академії та Станіславівської семінарії, стало можливим думати про більш організований вишкіл нових кандидатів до священства. Справжньою надією на відродження Церкви став вихід на свободу єпископа Миколая Чарнецького. Але ця «свобода» обмежувалась безперервними нападами атеїстичної системи. Для виховання нових священників владыка Миколай Чарнецький в 1956 р. організовує навчання біля Львова в Зимній Воді.

Знаменито, що підготовка першої генерації священників в умовах підпілля була досить вдала. Це стало важливим фактором для виховання священників в майбутньому. З числа священників, яких висвятив владыка Миколай Чарнецький, вийшли майбутні вихователі священничого стану: о. Павло Василик (згодом єпископ), о. Євстахій Смаль, о. Микола Волосянко, о. Михайло Винницький та о. Михайло Косило. Практично з перших років свого пастирського служіння згадані отці долучаються до пошуку та підготовки нових кандидатів до священства. Молодша генерація вихователів виявляла велику відвагу та ревність, але їм бракувало ще досвіду та обережності, яка була притаманна старшим священникам».

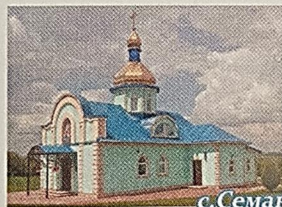
Загалом у роботі конференції взяли участь науковці зі Львова, Івано-Франківська, Коломиї, Чернівців, а також представники духовенства та місцевої влади.

### Довідка:

Блаженний Миколай Чарнецький, ЧНІ (14 грудня 1884, Семаківці, нині Городенківського району на Івано-Франківщині – 2 квітня 1959, Львів) – церковний діяч Української греко-католицької церкви, редemptрист, єпископ, професор Духовної семінарії у Станиславові, настоятель монастиря у Костополі й Ковелі на Волині, Апостольський візитатор для слов'ян візантійського обряду поза руськими єпархіями, в Польщі, хіротонізований (на єпископа) з осідком у Варшаві, згодом у Ковелі.

**Молитва**

**Блаженний Миколаю, дивний чудотворцю! Випроси у Бога для нас ласки, щоб захистив нас від злих підступів лукавого, захоронив від небезпек і бід! Подай нам смирення, любов, мудрість. Радуйся, славний Миколаю, радуйся і молися за нас. Амінь!**



с.Семаківці  
ц.Св.Миколая Чарнецького



Св.Миколаю Чарнецький  
моли Бога за нас



the village of Semakivtsi, within the Horodenkiv region, various events were held throughout the year, designed to "spread the praise of the blessed among the people".

One of the important events was the scientific conference "Blessed Hieromartyr Mykola Charnetsky - the path of a righteous scholar for the establishment of Ukrainian statehood and the revival of the UGCC".

The conference started with a Moleben service. After its completion, they solemnly dedicated the memorial tablet of Fr. Mykola Charnetsky, in one of the buildings of the Semakiv Gymnasium - the former presbytery, where the future bishop spent his childhood years.



The main goal of the conference was to research, study and popularize the name of the bishop, as well as to determine his role and place in the establishment of the UGCC and the Ukrainian State in the field of studying the history of Ukraine, religious studies, the philosophy of Ukrainian thought, and the development of the Ukrainian language.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### Please Renew Your LUC Membership Dues

Greeting from the South!

Please renew your 2024 LUC Membership, if you have not done so already. Our dues have not changed, so the amount remains \$10/ person. Children under 16 are free (as part of the family).

Please make your checks payable to: League of Ukrainian Catholics, and mail them to: Janina Everett, 631 Melrose Park Ln, Moore, SC 29369. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out by email: tjeverett@verizon.net or by phone: 570-441-9593. (Yanka Everett)

## Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, C.Ss.R.

Blessed Bishop-Martyr Mykola Charnetsky, C.Ss.R, was beatified by St. John Paul II on June 27, 2001 in Lviv, Ukraine, and is commemorated on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Blessed Bishop Mykola Charnetsky was born on December 14, 1884 in the village of Semakivtsi, within the Horodenka District.

Upon his graduation from the seminary, he was ordained to the priesthood on October 2, 1909. He obtained his doctorate in dogmatic theology from Rome, and then became a spiritual director and professor at the seminary in Stanislaviv (Ivano-Frankivsk).

In 1919, he entered the novitiate of the Redemptorist Fathers in Zboiska, near Lviv. In 1926, Pope Pius XI, upon the request of Metropolitan Andrey, appointed Fr Mykola as the Apostolic Visitor to Greek Catholics in Volyn and Polissia. The ceremony of his ordination to the episcopacy took place on February 2, 1931, in Rome.

During the first Bolshevik occupation, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky appointed him as the Apostolic Exarch of Volyn and Podlissia. On April 11, 1945, he was arrested by the NKVD and sentenced to six years of forced labor in Siberia.

According to official records, he underwent 600 hours of interrogation and torture, and spent time in 30 different prisons and camps. Terminally ill, in 1956, he was permitted to return to western Ukraine, where he secretly continued to fulfill his episcopal obligations in the underground church of the catacombs.

In the midst of the cruelty and oppression which he suffered in imprisonment and in exile, he was distinguished for his evangelical patience, gentleness, limitless goodness, and holiness.

During his lifetime, he was considered by the faithful, a holy man. As a consequence of his sufferings, he died a martyr for the faith on April 2, 1959 in Lviv, and is known as "the healer of souls" by the faithful. He is often called the "Ukrainian St. Nicholas".



### EDITORIAL COMMENTS

If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas or improvements for the LUC Action, please email us at:

[stnbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:stnbuffalo@gmail.com) (Fr. Marijan - For LUC), or write:

c/o: Elaine Nowadly, 140 Royal Coach Rd., W. Seneca, NY 14224

We are also seeking donations to defray the cost of printing and mailing the "LUC Action". Your donation could be sent to the same address above with the note: For "LUC Action".

#### Donations for LUC ACTION:

\$50 Fr. Marijan Procyk - \$15 Dorothy Jamula - \$10 Janina Everett

#### Benefactors:

Dr. Mark Mieth - Fr. Marijan Procyk

Thanks are extended to the contributors of these articles:

S. Shchur, J. Everett, M. Hrubec, E. Nowadly, N. Kotow  
G. Honchar, K. Williams, S. Szczublewski, A. Yemchuk

### ALL COUNCILS, MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS

We are looking for some articles from you as well as pictures from your council activities. We will try to print any photo that is of good quality. Thank you!

Please supply articles for the next issue, which should be in February, 2025 before Lent. Thank you and God bless!