



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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March 11, 2011

Dear Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!



The **Great Lent Giveaway (GLG)** is designed to give our youth the opportunity to do good works for others during Great Lent. In addition to doing good works, they learn more about their faith and devote additional time to learning, prayer and fasting during this season of preparation for Pascha. The GLG is a joint project with the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League. With the blessing of our Hierarchs, the GLG of 2011 will benefit the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Monastery Initiative. In 2010, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church inherited a 30 acre piece of land with the intent to build a monastery on the property. During the Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention of that same summer, the Hierarchs of our church called to its people to support their efforts in starting a monastery. The Junior Convention body rose to the occasion and pledged to raise \$5,000 over a several year time period.

This year we are asking that all the youth of our church support this effort by helping to raise funds and awareness through the Great Lent Giveaway.

You will find in this packet a suggested outline for conducting the GLG. We encourage you to construct a program using the full program materials, as well as your own ideas, to make the GLG more than just a fundraising effort. A program that is carried out throughout Great Lent will help the youth of your parish more fully understand the importance and beauty of mission work during fasting periods.

The full program is broken into two age groups. The GLG program may be used any time throughout the year, not just during Great Lent. Please modify it for your needs.

In an effort to reduce consumption of resources and live as better caretakers of our Lord's creation, the full program is available in one of two ways:

1. Downloadable on-line at www.uocofusa.org - Offices of Ministry – Office of Youth Ministry
2. Requesting a printed version from the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

This year we are conducting the program a bit differently, in that the sessions will be made available each Wednesday of Great Lent. We will also be providing additional resources including podcast interviews and videos.

Please send us feed back concerning our new distribution method at uocyouth@aol.com or by phone at 412-279-1076.

In Christ's Love,
Natalie Kapeluck Nixon
Director



Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"DEDICATED TO OUR CHURCH - DEVOTED TO ITS YOUTH"

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Glory to Jesus Christ!

At this past convention the Junior UOL decided to spearhead a monumental task for this year's Great Lent Giveaway program, a bold endeavor that was went through many debates at Convention. It is my honor to introduce to you all, the prayer that has been on the lips of our Hierarchs for many years, "Growing a Monastery". In part to the perseverance of the juniors, this is finally coming to fruition.

The Jr. UOL has pledged to raise \$5,000 over a several year time span to aid our Hierarchs greatest prayer. With the help of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, the Great Lent Giveaway will ban together all the youth of our church in this endeavor.

The importance of a monastic community in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church is paramount to the growth and continued glory of Christ's Church. This Great Lent I ask you all to visit a nearby monastery to feel the Presence of Christ and His saints, and to teach your children and Jr UOL members the importance of monasticism through participating in this year's program.

Please read through the *Great Lent Giveaway How To*, which will provide you with a framework for this year's program. You may contact me at any time with any questions.

In Christ's Love,

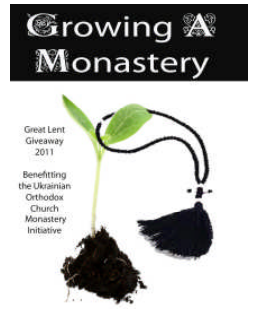
Julian Burgan
Vice President



GREAT LENT GIVEAWAY

Growing a Monastery

Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry –
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA
2011



Benefiting the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Monastery Initiative

Objective: To instill in our youth the true meaning of Great Lent by:

1. Introducing the beauty and responsibility of mission work
2. Learning more about their faith
3. Discovering the beauty of Orthodox Monasticism and its importance in their lives
4. Devoting more time to prayer

GLG Project: Collecting money to aid in the building of the new monastery, raise awareness about the proposed monastery at a local level.

About the Monastery: His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine has often stated that the stability of the church is in its monasteries. It is the monks and nuns who pray without ceasing for Christ's Church and the world that provide us with the ability to survive in the "outside" world. Our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church has been granted many blessings but one we have yet to receive is that of our own monastery. It is with this in mind that our hierarchs have called for the raising of a monastery.

The 30+ acre property donated to the church is in eastern Pennsylvania.

Steps for initiating and sustaining the Great Lent Giveaway throughout Great Lent – this program may be divided into several sessions or one retreat:

1. Each Wednesday of Great Lent, download a copy of the Great Lent Giveaway programming curriculum, a new lesson provided each Wednesday of Great Lent at www.uocofusa.org or email uocyouth@aol.com
2. Gather the youth to discuss the Great Lent Giveaway. What is Great Lent, why do we fast, what is the purpose of Great Lent? What is the importance of mission work? What does performing mission work have to do with Lenten periods? There is information provided in this packet to help answer all of the above questions. Incorporate these ideas with the objective of the Great Lent Giveaway. At this gathering you will want to decide how you will raise the funds.
3. With the participants, devise a game plan as to how you will accomplish your goals.
4. Establish with the participants a weekly time to gather (once or more) and learn more about the Orthodox monasticism, ministry, giving and discuss progress with the collection.
5. Collect and forward the donations to the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry or the National Jr. UOL (or your designated location) or for questions.

Great Lent Giveaway
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6. Wrap up the project and have a celebration event with the youth on St. Thomas Sunday – you may continue sending in your collections until July 26, 2011 or bring them to the Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention in Philadelphia, PA July 26-29, 2011.