**2018 UOL Essay Contest Topics**

The 71st UOL convention in South Bound Brook, NJ is being run in conjunction with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the inception of the Ukrainian Orthodox church in the United States of America.

The Theme for this year’s convention is *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* –Jeremiah 29:11

Essay entries can be typed or hand printed. All entries will be judged by neatness, originality and content.

**Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten:** In John 10:9 "Christ says, I am the door, if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved". Draw a picture of Christ welcoming people to Church. No entries larger than 12 by 18, please.

**Grades 1 and 2**: Draw a picture and write 2 to 3 sentences about the following topic. St Andrew’s Society is a charitable organization of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. One charity to which it gives money is soup kitchens in Ukraine. Soup kitchens provide meals to the homeless and the very poor. Draw a picture of what you think a soup kitchen looks like and then write why you think it is important for us, as Orthodox Christians, to help those less fortunate than us? No entries larger than 12 by 18, please.

**Grades 3 and 4:** Write a paragraph (7 to 10 sentences) about the following topic. Look at all the beautiful icons in your church. Pick one that is your favorite, describe it and tell why it is your favorite.

**Grades 5 and 6:** Write 50 to 150 words on the following topic. Why is it important that we celebrate the fact that the Ukrainian Orthodox church is 100 years old?

**Grades 7 and 8:** Write 100 to 200 words on the following topic: An important person from the history of the UOC of the USA and explain why they were important in the establishment of the church. Or a role model in your parish (not your parish priest) and tell why they are important in the life of your parish church and why you feel they should be considered role a model.

**Grades 9 and 10**: Write 200 to 300 words on the following topic. Earlier in Jeremiah 29 the Lord tells the exiles from Jerusalem that were sent to Babylon that they should “Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Takes wives and have sons and daughters.” (Jeremiah 29: 5-6). Relate this quote to Ukrainian Orthodox Christians coming to America and establishing churches in a new land.

**Grades 11 and 12:** Write 300 to 500 words on the following topic. The first Amendment states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof…” How did this freedom to exercise ones religious beliefs benefit the Ukrainian immigrants when establishing parishes in American and how does it provide “a hope and a future” for future generations of Orthodox Christians?

**Adults (18 and over):** Please write 500 or more words on the following topic. In the Jeremiah passage, it says “For I know the plans I have for you…” How does the fact that He has given us free will cause conflict in our daily lives?

**All entries must be post marked by Tuesday, May 1, 2018.**

**All email entries must be time stamped no later than Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 7:00 PM.**

Please email entries to: Teresa Linck at tlinck430@gmail.com. My address will be changing by the end of March. I will post the new address in the next Bulletin and on the web site. Please see the UOL web site for further information.