

# Champions of the Faith

## His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine



*Utilize this handout as a supplement to the Champions of the Faith curriculum. This was created for younger children ages 4 -8. Read or paraphrase the information given to them about Vladyka Constantine. Have a map on hand to show the children the various locations presented. You may make copies of the photos to give to the youth to take home or to add into their Champions of the Faith book (from the full curriculum.) Utilize the provided photographs during your session.*

*Begin by explaining that we are all called to become Champions of the Faith. We are celebrating 100 years of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in 2018. The hierarchs of our church have had many struggles in helping to establish and maintain Christ's Church here in America. We will be learning about our hierarchs present and past to honor their commitment to Christ, learn about our history and discover new champions of the faith.*

*Our next champion of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory!*

*Metropolitan Constantine, Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA fell asleep in the Lord on Monday 21 May 2012. Ask the children if they know what it means to "fall asleep in the Lord". If they do not, it simply means that they died. The Metropolitan led the Church since 1993. He was a life-long resident of his native Pittsburgh, PA, except for a number of years serving on parish or hierarchal assignments in Chicago, IL and Troy, NY.*

*But, wherever he was he served as an unofficial ambassador and promoter of his home town and all of Western Pennsylvania. Take the time to use your map and locate these cities. Constantine was the Metropolitan's monastic name. Ask the children if they know what who a monastic is? A monastic is someone who chooses to serve God as a monk or a nun. His worldly name was Theodore Buggan and was born to parents Stanley and Catherine Buggan on 29 July 1936. His family home was a prayerful one in which he witnessed the Love of God in action on a daily basis – from caring for the needy of the community to assisting new immigrants from Ukraine seeking a better life. That Love spread beyond the walls of his home into the life of his beloved church – St. Vladimir Parish, just across the street from the family home – where his spiritual nurturing and inspiration were further developed. Do you think Metropolitan Constantine was lucky to live so close to his church? Do you think it helped to make him a champion? He knew from a young age that he would serve God. Following his high school education he enrolled in 1955 at St. Andrew College, the Seminary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the only Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary in the free world at the time. Locate this area on the map.*

*He found himself facing an huge challenge, because he was far from home for the first time with new people, places and only Ukrainian being spoken. Have you ever felt out of place somewhere new? What helped you to fit in? He quickly made his way in the new place and successfully completed his schooling in 1959 at St. Andrew's. Theodore chose to continue his education by enrolling at St. Vladimir Seminary in New York, where he once again was exposed to some of the greatest of Orthodox teachers (we often call them a special name - theologians) Locate this on your map.*

*Theodore loved to learn and decided to continue his education at Duquesne University, just across the river from his home in downtown Pittsburgh, earning his Bachelor's Degree in 1965. How many colleges/seminaries did Vladyka Constantine go to? That is correct - three! Do you think all of the education he earned at school helped him to be a champion? Around this time he was ordained at Subdeacon. Do you know what a subdeacon is? A subdeacon is a part of the order of clergy of the church. A subdeacon is placed between a reader and a deacon.*

*During this time he began working with the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA which is an organization of the church that does much good work and outreach. Subdeacon Theodore worked on many committees for the UOL and was always one of their greatest supporters for his entire life. Do you know if our parish has a UOL Chapter? (let them know if your parish does have a chapter and some of the things they do).*

*Finally, on 23 July 1967, Theodore was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in his home parish of St. Vladimir in Pittsburgh by Metropolitan John (Theodorovich). He was immediately assigned as assistant pastor to St. Vladimir Cathedral, Chicago, IL. Find this location on your map.*

*Fr. Theodore worked closely with the youth of the parish, establishing a chapter of the Ukrainian Orthodox League and a developing the parish's weekly radio broadcast to the thousands of Ukrainian Orthodox faithful in Chicagoland. St. Nicholas parish in Troy, NY was Fr. Theodore's first parish assignment in 1968 as a pastor on his own. Find this location on your map.*

*Stop and ask the youth what they remember so far about Vladyka Constantine's journey. Why is it important for champions to continue learning during their whole life? As we move forward, you may have to stop and ask if the participants understand the meaning of all referenced places and occasions, such as Sobor, Metropolia, or omophorion.*

At a Sobor of the church, Fr. Theodore was elected to become a bishop. *Does anyone remember what a Sobor is from our talk about Metropolitan Antony? A Sobor is a special meeting of the all the church, both clergy and the laity or the people.* He was tonsured as a monastic in his parish in 1971 and given the name Constantine, by his tonsuring bishop, Archbishop Mstyslav. On 7 May 1972, Monk Constantine was consecrated in St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA as the first American born bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. It was an enormous step in the life of our Church, which proved to be most positive when the young Bishop Constantine won the hearts and love of those who had resisted the idea of electing a third generation American Ukrainian individual as bishop. *Why do you think it was special that Bishop Constantine was the first American born bishop?*

His Grace, Bishop Constantine, became the Bishop of Chicago. The Bishop's work was not only in the Chicago area. He visited parishes throughout the USA, Europe, Australia and South America representing our church well and encouraging the faithful in all places – always concentrating on the youth and their role in the future of the Church. *Locate these areas on the map.* In addition to all this, Bishop Constantine conducted retreats for youth and young adults throughout the USA – especially involving the Education Commission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. He was instrumental in the establishment of St. Sophia Seminary, which opened its doors in 1975 and the UOL effort to purchase campgrounds in Western PA in 1977 to conduct our own youth and young adult encampments. For his devoted service, Bishop Constantine was elevated to the rank of Archbishop in 1987. An archbishop is a special honor that has more responsibility than a bishop.

Archbishop Constantine traveled to Ukraine many times working for the unity of the Church there and developing the relationship with our Church here in the USA. He was elevated to the rank of Metropolitan – nominated by then Primate, Metropolitan Mstyslav, at the Church's regular Sobor in 1992. *Ask the children if they remember what a Sobor is? Ask if they can guess what it means to become a Metropolitan. A Metropolitan is still a bishop but one with even more special responsibilities.* In 1993, Constantine was elected as Primate or leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Metropolitan Constantine believed strongly in the unity of the church, he along with (then) Archbishop Antony, went to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to have the reception of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA as a jurisdiction under the omophorion or protection of the Ecumenical Patriarch, thus returning Ukrainian Orthodoxy to its rightful place in world Orthodoxy. *Find Istanbul on your map. That is where the Ecumenical Patriarchate is located. Istanbul was originally called Constantinople. It is important for a church to be connected to the entire church. A Patriarch is the most special type of a bishop.* He was also oversaw the coming together of the two Ukrainian Orthodox churches in the USA.

He served in many special positions and participated in many events during his time as Metropolitan. Some of those include: representing our church with the – the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of America ( a committee of Orthodox Bishops), and also with the Assembly of Bishops. Metropolitan Constantine served for 25 years as Rector and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Sophia Seminary and lectured at the Seminary and various retreats several times a year. He participated in the youth and young adult encampments at All Saints Camp, Emlenton, PA, since its inception 30 years ago. He was directly responsible through his efforts to find a sponsor for the long awaited construction of St. Thomas Chapel at All Saints Camp which he consecrated with his brother hierarchs in the summer of 2008 on All Saints Sunday, the thirtieth anniversary of the camp's existence. He served as the Spiritual Father of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA for 35 years and as Chairman of the Commission on Liturgy for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America since its inception in 2010. *Have you ever been to All Saints Camp and prayed in St. Thomas Chapel?*

Metropolitan Constantine will be remembered above all for his love for the youth. Throughout his 45 years of priesthood, he continually reminded the adults of the need to pay attention to their children and to bear the responsibility as parents of raising them up in the faith, serving as loving examples for them.

*Vladyka Constantines experienced many things in his life. What stands out to you? As we have been discussing how to become a champion of the faith, how has His Beatitude show some of the traits of a champion? Allow time for discussion on these questions. Additional discussion questions may include: What did you learn about Vladyka Constantine? What did you learn about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA? What did you learn about the Orthodox Church?*

*At this point, you can have the children add His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine to their Champions Books (see the Champions of the Faith curriculum [www.uoc youth.org](http://www.uoc youth.org)) They could also put together a presentation board using the photos, decorate it and place in the parish hall for others to see. You may also say a special memorial prayer or ask your priest to have a panahyda for His Beatitude.*

*Metropolitan Constantine with His Excellence  
Patriarch Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch  
of Constantinople*



*Metropolitan Constantine (then Archbishop Constantine) visiting the faithful of Sydney, Australia.*



*Metropolitan Constantine at one of his favorite places, All Saints Camp in Emlenton, PA.*

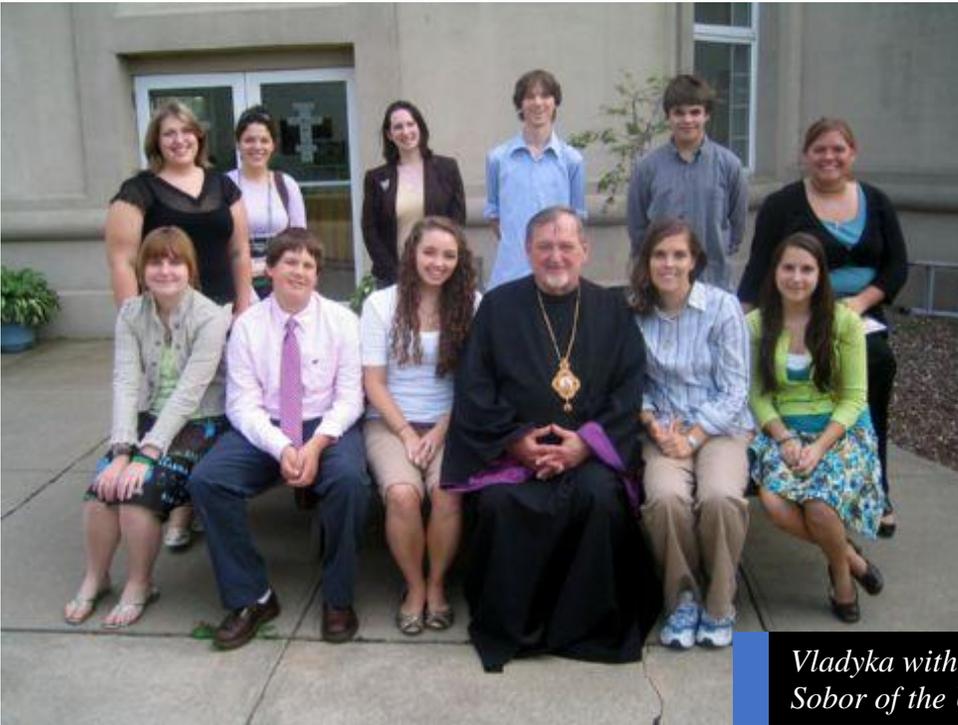


*At the ground breaking and blessing of land for St. Thomas Chapel - held during the UOL Lenten Retreat 2006.*



*At the consecration of St. Thomas Chapel 2008.*

*Metropolitan Constantine with the youth of the church.*



*Vladyka with participants of the 1st Youth Sobor of the UOC of the USA 2001.*



*Speaking with participants of the UOL Young Adult Retreat 2006.*