

Our Lady of Grace Church
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March 2026

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the FCSU:

It is an honor to be your National Chaplain. I was happy to be present for and to participate in several events in 2025.

I attended three of four Board of Directors Meetings that were held either in person or virtually. Pastoral duties at my parish prevented me from attending the meeting in September. Each session I attended was opened and closed with a prayer and Mass was offered for the meetings held in person. National President Ken Arendt extended the invitation for me to be present for the Executive Committee meeting in March. I also opened and closed that meeting with prayer.

The annual prayer service at my parish on Holy Saturday for the blessing of Easter food was livestreamed for the benefit of all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be able to participate online.

I participated in a number of fraternal activities in 2025. First, I bowled in the annual fraternal bowling tournament in Kent, OH and played golf at the tournament in Morgantown, WV. Mass for the participants was celebrated at each event. I also celebrated Mass for our members at national picnics held during the summer at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA and Making Memories at Wiegand Lake Park, Novelty, OH. In addition, I concelebrated Mass celebrated by our Protector, Most Reverend Larry Kulick, at the annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA.

I travelled to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC a few weeks before the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel honoring Our Mother of Sorrows and met with the shrine's leadership to confirm that all would run smoothly. The celebration took place on September 13, 2025 with our Protector, Bishop Kulick, as the main celebrant and homilist for the Mass; I concelebrated.

By virtue of my position as National Chaplain, I am an ex officio officer of the Slovak Catholic Federation and serve as its First Vice President. My primary responsibility in this role is to coordinate the annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal, which raises funds for the Pontifical Slovak Institute and College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome. This Board meets twice a year and I give an updated report on the Appeal at each meeting.

Each month I write either a faith formation article or spiritual message for the *Jednota* newspaper. I also have responded to correspondence sent to me. May our Lord continue to bless the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Fraternally,



Reverend Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain