



# Jednota®

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA

Volume 134

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025

NUMBER 6054

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**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
President, CEO

## Message from the President

At FCSU Financial<sup>®</sup>, we are dedicated to helping our members achieve financial security and peace of mind through every stage of life. In an economic environment where market fluctuations and uncertainty can make planning for the future feel overwhelming, it's more important than ever to have safe, reliable options for growing your savings. That's why we're excited to introduce a special, limited-time opportunity on one of our most trusted financial products—our 8-Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity. With a guaranteed 7% annual percentage yield (APY) for the first year, this offer provides a strong foundation for long-term financial growth, backed by the strength and stability of our organization. This special is available on new contracts with a minimum investment of \$500. It will last from September 1 through December 31, 2025.

Annuities are a smart choice for anyone looking to grow their retirement savings with confidence. They offer tax-deferred growth, competitive interest rates, and flexible options for future income. Our flexible premium annuity allows you to contribute over time, making it an excellent option for members who want to build their savings gradually while locking in a guaranteed rate in the first year. Whether you're planning for retirement, saving for future goals, or simply looking for a secure place to grow your money, now is the time to take advantage of this special offer. Our Home Office is ready to answer any questions you may have.

In addition to this exciting financial opportunity, there is much happening across our Society. We have officially begun preparing for our 53rd Quadrennial Convention, and estimated delegate count letters will be sent out this September. We encourage all members to read through our by-laws to familiarize themselves with the delegate election process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Home Office. This is an exciting and important time for the future of our organization.

We're also happy to see so many of our branches, districts, and regions enjoying the summer season together—attending baseball games, hosting picnics, and strengthening our bonds of friendship and fraternal spirit. These gatherings remind us how meaningful our community is and how vital it is to stay connected. Looking ahead, Slovak festivals continue into the fall, offering more chances to celebrate our heritage. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Polacek Family Johnstown Slavic Festival, September 19–20; the Slovak Heritage Festival in East Brunswick, NJ, on September 21; and the Slovak Heritage Festival in Pittsburgh, PA, on November 2. These events are a wonderful way to share our culture and traditions with the next generation.

We've also enjoyed some wonderful national events this summer, including a great day at Wiegand Lake Park. We're also proud to share the results of our recent golf tournament, where there were many winners, both on and off the course. As summer draws to a close, don't forget to look back at the good times with your furry friends. We invite all members to enter our Dog Days of Summer Contest by sending in a favorite photo of your precious pooch—or cat!

Finally, we have announced the winners of the Stephen C. Matula scholarships. We had exceptional applicants and wish to congratulate the winners. Encourage your students to apply next year and to look into our other generous scholarship opportunities.



*The Home Office  
Will be Closed  
on Monday,  
September 1st  
in honor of  
Labor Day*

**FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD**



Father Stephen Furdek and twelve other men formed the First Catholic Slovak Union in 1890. The Jednota branches were instrumental in the founding of hundreds of Catholic parishes in the United States and Canada. The first edition of its renowned bilingual newspaper was published

in 1891. Today, *Jednota* is still read by members and people interested in Catholic and Slovak life all over the world.



**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada**  
 FCSU Corporate Center  
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300  
 Independence, OH 44131-2398  
**800.533.6682**

**VISION STATEMENT**

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Since 1890 the FCSU mission has been to provide financial security for our members through competitive investment products, while offering fraternal and cultural benefits through community-based member events.

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:  
**Shannon Trivise, editor@fcsu.com**  
 First Catholic Slovak Union, Attn: "JEDNOTA"  
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300  
 Independence, OH 44131-2398  
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**Message from the National Chaplain**

Seventeen hundred years ago, close to 300 bishops met in the town of Nicea (or Nicaea) located in the northwest corner of modern-day Turkey to settle a dispute that started among the clergy of Alexandria in northern Egypt and spread throughout the Roman Empire about the true nature and origin of Jesus and his relation to God the Father. The First Council of Nicea took place from May to July 325 and was the First Ecumenical (worldwide) Council of the Church.

Here are some facts about the Council:

1. The main area of dispute centered around the teachings of a priest named Arius. Arius believed and taught Jesus was created by God the Father and was subordinate to the Father. Jesus became divine at some point in time, he was neither co-equal nor co-eternal with the Father.
2. The Council was called, not by Pope Sylvester I, the pope at that time, but rather by Constantine, the Emperor of the Roman Empire. Constantine wanted unity in his empire and the theological disputes and debates taking place were a source of serious division.
3. Pope Sylvester had two delegates represent him at the Council. In addition to the nearly 300 bishops present, the number swells to between 1,200 and 1,800 when priests and deacons attending to the bishops are included.
4. The Arian heresy was condemned. The Creed we say at Mass declaring Jesus is "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father" comes from the Council of Nicea.
5. Although the Council of Nicea condemned Arianism, it took several decades before vestiges of it finally faded from the scene.
6. Saint Athanasius attended the council as a deacon and later become Bishop of Alexandria. His strong defense of the teaching of the Council regarding the divinity of Christ caused him to be exiled five times.
7. The date for annual observance of Easter was established to be the first Sunday after the full moon following the first day of spring.
8. New laws were promulgated. They include:
  - a. The establishment of a minimum time for Catechumens (the unbaptized seeking entrance into the church) to prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).
  - b. Catechumens who lapsed in their preparation were now required to undergo what we would call today a probation period of three years before being readmitted to the process for Christian Initiation.
  - c. A new bishop is to be ordained in the presence of 3 provincial bishops with the metropolitan bishop approving the appointment.
  - d. Bishops, presbyters (priests), and deacons are not to wander into other cities to officiate at liturgical functions.
  - e. Bishops and presbyters are to receive Holy Communion at Mass before deacons.
  - f. Usury by clergy is prohibited.
  - g. A man and a woman who both took vows of chastity were prohibited to cohabit in a chaste and non-legal partnership.
  - h. Baptisms performed by followers of Paul of Samosata were declared invalid. Paul of Samosata believed in what is called Monarchianism, which emphasized the total and complete oneness of God. There were two versions. One held Jesus was born a human and later adopted by the Father to become God. The other viewed God as manifesting himself in different roles as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rather than as three distinct Persons. Both forms are heretical, for they deny the Trinity.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta  
Chaplain**

**47th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal**  
 Donations raise money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations.

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Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:  
 Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President  
 Slovak Catholic Federation • Our Lady of Grace Church • 225 Bellevue Ave. • Penn del, PA 19047-4052

**NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES**

All copy is due by 4:30pm, THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated because of special holiday scheduling. All articles are reviewed for possible publication. FCSU reserves the right to edit and format submitted articles and pictures. Remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY. Submit your articles in ample time for them to be received at the Home Office.

**ISSUE DEADLINES**

**SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE**  
**COPY DATE - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**  
**ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

**OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE**  
**COPY DATE - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
**ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8**

# Message from the Executive Secretary

We are less than a month away from The First Catholic Slovak Union's 135th Birthday. On September 4, 1890, 12 men, under the leadership of Father Furdek met to form our Fraternal Organization. Hopefully on this day you will be able to take a few moments to reflect on the history and culture and fraternalism these men envisioned for the growth of our society.

We are also celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the National Shrine Chapel. A pilgrimage will take place on Saturday September 13th, 2025. For more details on this celebration, please visit page 5 of the Jednota. We look forward to seeing our members at this event.

On another note, summer is winding down, students are gearing up to return to school. This is a good time to review your life insurance coverage. September celebrates Life Insurance Month.

- 102 million American Adults are in need of life insurance or need more coverage.\*
- 72% of people overestimate the cost of life insurance policies.\*

No one really wants to think about life insurance. However, if someone such as students or family members depend on you financially, this is not a topic you can avoid. To view our Life Insurance Products, please check our website (fcsu.com). Feel free to contact the Home Office about our life insurance and annuity products. We are here to answer any questions you have.



**Kevin J. Collins**  
Executive Secretary, COO



**Join Us for our Next Virtual Call:**

**Wednesday, August 27th • 12pm (EST)**

**Wednesday, August 27th • 5pm (EST)**

Visit our website at [fcsu.com/about/newsroom/](https://fcsu.com/about/newsroom/) or scan the QR code to get the Zoom link.



\* Source: 2024 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens and Limra

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<b>AGE 10</b> \$5,000 for \$663.90
<b>AGE 15</b> \$5,000 for \$803.15

EXAMPLES
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<b>AGE 10</b> \$5,000 for \$594.45
<b>AGE 15</b> \$5,000 for \$720.20

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# UPCOMING EVENTS



## AUGUST 2025

- 8/15** District 17 - RailRiders Baseball Game, Moosic, PA (RSVP)
- 8/17** Branch 35 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 8/17** Branch 89 - Meeting, Menomonee Falls, WI (RSVP)
- 8/23** Branch 6 - Meeting, Streator, IL (RSVP)
- 8/23** Branch 382 - Picnic, Covington Twp, PA (RSVP)
- 8/24** Branch 254 - Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP)
- 8/25** Branch 764 - Meeting, Warren, OH
- 8/27** Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 5pm (EST)
- 8/30** Branch 166 - Ice Cream Social, Binghamton, NY (RSVP by 8/25)
- 8/31** Branch 372 - Meeting, Beaverdale, PA
- 8/31** District 16 - Labor Day Celebration, Mountain Dale, NY (RSVP)

## SEPTEMBER 2025

- 9/1** Labor Day - Home Office Closed
- 9/4** First Catholic Slovak Union was founded in 1890
- 9/4** Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA
- 9/5** Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 9/6** Branch 181 - Meeting (Election), Latrobe, PA (RSVP by 8/30)
- 9/7** Branch 855 - Meeting, Parma, OH (RSVP)
- 9/7** District 19 - Parish Picnic, Norval, ON
- 9/7** Region 1 - Slovak Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine, Stoney Point, NY (RSVP by 8/28)
- 9/9** Branch 162 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP)
- 9/13** 60th Anniversary of the National Shrine Chapel
- 9/14** Branch 19 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 9/14** Branch 731 - Meeting, Poland, OH
- 9/14** District 1 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom) (RSVP)
- 9/15** Branch 228 - Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 9/16** Home Office - Virtual Call, 10am and 4pm (EST)
- 9/16** Branch 23 - Venue of Merging Arts, Johnstown, PA (RSVP)
- 9/17** Branch 682 - Meeting, Struthers, OH
- 9/20** Branch 844 - Meeting Fullerton, CA
- 9/20** District 15 - Meeting, Fullerton, CA
- 9/21** Branch 24 - Meeting (Election), Walton Hills, OH (RSVP)
- 9/21** Branch 785 - Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Mississauga, ON
- 9/21** District 3 - Meeting (Election), Mt. Pleasant, PA (RSVP by 9/12)
- 9/21** District 10 - Meeting (Election), Walton Hills, OH (RSVP)
- 9/21** District 19 - Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Mississauga, ON
- 9/21** District 19 - Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing, Toronto, ON (RSVP by 9/15)
- 9/24** Branch 553 - Meeting, Akron, OH (Vote)
- 9/25** Branch 260 - Meeting, Struthers, OH
- 9/27** Branch 166 - Ice Cream Social, West Vestal, NY (RSVP by 9/21)

**For more information, go to the Branch and District Announcement pages or visit our website at [fcsu.com](http://fcsu.com).**

## Six Key Benefits of Fixed Annuities:

- 1 Principal Protection and Predictable Returns**  
Your original investment (principal) and earned interest are protected. Unlike market-based investments, fixed annuities are not exposed to market losses.
- 2 Guaranteed Lifetime Income**  
One of the biggest fears in retirement is outliving your savings. Fixed annuities can be converted into a guaranteed income stream for life, acting as a personal pension—even if your original investment is fully paid out.
- 3 Diversified Income Stream**  
Fixed annuities complement Social Security, IRAs, 401(k)s, and other savings, creating a well-rounded income portfolio and reducing reliance on any single source.
- 4 Tax-Deferred Growth**  
Earnings within a fixed annuity grow tax-deferred, allowing your money to compound more efficiently. You only pay taxes when you begin withdrawals—often during retirement, when you may be in a lower tax bracket.
- 5 No Contribution Limits**  
Unlike IRAs or 401(k)s, annuities typically have no IRS contribution limits, making them an excellent option for those who've maxed out other retirement accounts.
- 6 Ease and Simplicity in Retirement**  
Managing investments and making withdrawal decisions becomes more difficult as we age. An annuity simplifies this by providing steady, automatic income—reducing financial stress in later years.

## Why Fixed Annuities Are a Smart Addition to Your Retirement Strategy

Planning for retirement isn't as straightforward as it used to be. In the past, many workers retired with a pension, a gold watch, and the comfort of knowing they had a reliable income for life. Today, things are different. Market ups and downs, inflation, and longer life expectancies have made retirement planning more complex—and more personal.

That's why many people are turning to fixed annuities as a way to bring stability and predictability to their financial future.

A fixed annuity is a contract between you and FCSU Financial. In simple terms, you invest a sum of money, and in return, you receive guaranteed interest growth and the option for a dependable stream of income in the future—sometimes for the rest of your life.

For those approaching retirement, one of the greatest concerns is outliving savings. You may have spent years diligently saving in your 401(k) or IRA, but when the time comes to retire, that nest egg can start to feel fragile. Market downturns, unexpected expenses, or simply living longer than planned can turn a solid retirement plan into a guessing game. That's where fixed annuities come in.

Unlike market-based investments, fixed annuities aren't tied to stock market performance. Your money grows at a guaranteed rate, and your principal is protected. You don't have to worry about a market crash wiping out your retirement income. That kind of security can make a huge difference, especially when you're no longer working.

Consider this: when you convert your annuity into an income stream, FCSU Financial begins sending you regular payments. These can be set up to last for a certain number of years—or even for the rest of your life. That means no matter how long you live, you'll keep receiving income. In this way, a fixed annuity acts almost like your own personal pension plan.

For many retirees who don't have a pension, annuities help fill that gap. They provide steady, monthly income that you can count on, which can ease the pressure of making tough spending decisions. You might feel more confident about taking that trip, helping a grandchild with college, or simply enjoying day-to-day life knowing that your basic expenses are covered.

There are other advantages too. The money in a fixed annuity grows tax-deferred, meaning you won't owe taxes on the interest until you begin withdrawing it—typically in retirement, when your tax bracket may be lower. Plus, unlike traditional retirement accounts, there are usually no contribution limits. If you've already maxed out your IRA or 401(k) and want to save more, a fixed annuity can be a helpful option.

Annuities can also simplify life. Many retirees find it stressful to constantly manage investments, rebalance portfolios, or decide which assets to sell. With an annuity, once you set it up, your income arrives like clockwork. You tell FCSU Financial where to send the money, and it's deposited into your bank account each month—no guesswork, no juggling.

And there's peace of mind in knowing that if something happens to you, many annuity contracts include a death benefit for your beneficiaries.

In a way, annuities mirror the role life insurance plays earlier in life. While life insurance is there to protect loved ones if you pass away too soon, annuities are there to protect you if you live longer than expected. Both offer a kind of financial reassurance when it's needed most.

Ultimately, retirement is about more than just numbers. It's about freedom, security, and the ability to live the life you worked hard to build. Fixed annuities won't be the right fit for everyone, but for those looking for guaranteed income, simplicity, and protection, they can be a powerful piece of the retirement puzzle.

Whether you're nearing retirement or planning ahead, now may be the right time to consider how a fixed annuity could fit into your broader strategy—and bring you one step closer to a confident, comfortable retirement.

### QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
3501 University Blvd E  
Hyattsville, MD 20783  
(301) 985-7300

The **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

**Friday, September 12, 2025**  
9:00am Meeting

**Mass will be at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 1:30pm**

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, COO, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, August 29, 2025.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, COO, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to August 29, 2025.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, September 12, 2025.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682.

Kenneth A. Arendt  
National President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins  
Executive Secretary, COO

## Celebrating Slovakia's Constitution Day – A Milestone of Sovereignty

Each year on September 1st, Slovaks proudly celebrate Constitution Day (Deň Ústavy Slovenskej Republiky), commemorating the adoption of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic by the Slovak National Council in 1992. This pivotal document laid the legal foundation for an independent, democratic Slovakia and marked a major step in the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia.



Though the constitution became effective on October 1, 1992, the federation officially ended at midnight on December 31, 1992, with the Slovak Republic becoming fully independent on January 1, 1993. The constitution was signed by key political figures, including then-Speaker Ivan Gašparovič and Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar, with its drafting led by legal scholar Professor Juraj Plank.

This national holiday is observed with public festivities, including traditional music, dancing, and patriotic displays—particularly around Bratislava Castle, illuminated in national colors. It serves not only as a celebration of statehood but also as a reflection on the Slovak people's enduring resilience, from ancient Slavic roots through centuries of foreign rule, world wars, communism, and finally, to peaceful self-determination through the Velvet Revolution.

As members of a Slovak Catholic community, we give thanks for the freedom and identity our homeland enjoys today, praying for continued peace and unity for Slovakia and its people.

# N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

## 60th Anniversary of the National Shrine Chapel on September 13, 2025

To honor the 60th anniversary of this significant event, a pilgrimage will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, September 13, 2025. All are warmly invited to take part in this special celebration from 11am - 4pm. Food will not be available for purchase inside the Basilica, but the dining area is available to enjoy your own lunch or snacks.

To encourage strong member participation, the FCSU Home Office is offering up to \$500 in financial reimbursement for bus trips organized by Branches or Districts specifically for transporting FCSU members to this important fraternal event. For full details or to request sponsorship, contact Barbara at 800.533.6682 ext. 122 or email [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com).

- 11am Pilgrims Arrive
- 11:30am Welcome (Upper Church)
- 11:45am Seated overview tour (Upper Church)
- 12-1:15pm Confessions in Memorial Hall  
Lunch on Your Own
- 1:30pm Mass Celebration (Upper Church)
- 2:30pm Procession to Chapel of our Mother of Sorrows  
Litany  
Final Blessing  
Blessing of Religious Articles
- 4pm Pilgrims Depart



## Convention NOTES

Preparations are officially underway for our 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Estimated delegate count letters will be mailed this September.

We encourage all members to review our by-laws, particularly Sections 4.05 and 11, which provide a comprehensive overview of the Convention. These sections outline key details of the Convention, qualifications of Delegates, Branch and District representation, duties of a Delegate, meeting procedures, and the conduct of business.

Please note that any Election of Delegates must be clearly stated in the meeting announcement and published in our official organ at least 30 days prior to the Branch or District meeting. The official Delegate count will be mailed after February 1, 2026. After the meeting announcement, Branches and Districts may begin electing Delegates and Alternates.

All Convention-related mail will be marked with a "Convention" stamp on the envelope, so be sure to keep an eye out for important updates.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Home Office. This is a significant and exciting time for the future of our organization—we look forward to your involvement.

### Are Your Beneficiaries Up To Date?



Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file:

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## August is Make a Will Month

August is nationally recognized as Make a Will Month, a timely reminder to ensure your wishes are clearly documented through a valid will.

Writing a will is one of the most thoughtful and responsible acts you can do for your loved ones. It ensures that your family is cared for, your assets are distributed according to your intentions, and your values are honored beyond your lifetime.

If you haven't created a will yet, we encourage you to take the first step this month. If you already have one, consider reviewing and updating it to reflect life changes such as births, marriages, or the passing of loved ones. It's also a meaningful opportunity to reflect on your legacy—perhaps including a gift to your parish, a Catholic charity, or even our own fraternal organization to continue supporting future generations.

Your will is more than a legal document; it is a reflection of your love, your heritage, and your faith. Let August be the month you put your plans in writing and give your family the peace of mind they deserve.

## August Reflection

August is a month with three prominent Marian feasts: Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, August 5th; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15th; and Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 22nd. The hymn chosen for this month honors the glory of Mary's Coronation as Queen and the reverence given to her for centuries. In fact, since the early 12th century, the Latin hymn "Salve Regina" proclaimed this honor to Mary. Traditionally, the authorship of this hymn is attributed to a German Benedictine monk, Blessed Hermann von Richnauer (1013-1054). The devotion to Mary under this title spread widely, and in 1884, the English translation was found in the Roman Missal. This simple profound prayer became a world-wide favorite prayer in company with the scriptural Hail Mary.

Let us offer this prayer and reach out to Mother Mary for her merciful intercession as she leads us to Jesus, her Son: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; To you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving. O sweet Virgin Mary.

*Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.*

### HONOR TO YOUR QUEENSHIP (Pozdravená buď, Kráľovná)

1. Praise and honor to your Queenship,  
O Maria!  
Empress of both earth and heaven,  
O Maria!
- CHORUS  
Sing, rejoice, you choirs of Cherubs,  
Render homage glor'ous Seraphs'  
Pledge great honor to your Queen,  
Empress of the heav'nly scene,  
We hail you, blest are you,  
Grace-filled, O Maria!
2. Heaven's precious rose—so lovely,  
O Maria!  
Set aflame with brilliant virtue, O Maria!
  3. Purest Virgin bore her Child, O Maria!  
Mother's love so undefiled, O Maria!

### POZDRAVENÁ BUĎ KRÁĽOVNÁ

1. Pozdravená buď, Kráľovná,  
ó Mária!  
Neba, zeme Cisárovná,  
ó Mária!
- SBOR  
Radujte sa, Cherubíni,  
Chválu vzdajte, Serafíni,  
Pozdravte si Kráľovnú,  
Nebeskú Cisárovnú:  
Zdravaš, zdravaš,  
Zdravaš, ó Mária!
2. Ty si rajská ruža krásna,  
ó Mária!  
Bleskom každej čnosti jasná, ó Mária!
  3. Bez poškvrny si počala, ó Mária!  
V čistote sa Matkou stala, ó Mária!

### LIGHT ONE CANDLE

## Judy Henderson Chose 'Better' Over 'Bitter'

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Shortly after her abusive marriage ended in divorce in 1981, Judy Henderson started dating a man named Greg, who she believed to be kind and God-fearing. In retrospect, she ignored several "red flags" about him that seem evident now but didn't register back then. As a result, Judy learned the hard way that the man she had fallen for possessed a serious dark side, one which got her convicted of a murder that he committed, while he got off scot-free.

During her 36 years in prison, Judy worked hard at becoming "better, not bitter," growing in her relationship with God, and serving as a light to her fellow inmates. She shares her story in the memoir "When the Light Finds Us," (co-authored by Jimmy Soni).

Judy's early life laid the groundwork for her relationships with men. Her father was physically abusive to her mother, her siblings, and her. When her mother sought guidance from their minister about the problem, he told her to just "pray about it." In addition, an assistant pastor sexually assaulted Judy in her youth. Coupled with the fact that theirs was a "fire and brimstone" church, Judy was left with an image of God as "cruel."

Later, in her marriage, her husband would get angry and violent whenever she asked him questions. So, she learned to keep quiet. When Judy met Greg, he came across as the opposite of her ex. In reality, Greg was manipulating her—and because of her past, Judy never asked him questions about his suspicious behavior.

"I found out during my incarceration that...you don't have to be addicted to drugs, alcohol, gambling," Judy observed. "My addiction was love." Due to the lack of appropriate love Judy had received growing up, she craved it in all her relationships and was blinded to the fact it wasn't real with Greg.

Judy was in the car when Greg committed a murder, then he forced her to go on the run with him. When they were eventually caught, he convinced her to use the same lawyer he had to defend herself. Having no experience with the law, Judy went along with this, which ended up costing her freedom.

"That caused a serious conflict of interest, constitutional-wise, and the fact that I could not testify against [Greg]. I could not say anything that would implicate him because the attorney would lose him as a client...I could not take the stand unless I was willing to come up with an alibi testimony. I refused to put my hand on the Bible and tell a lie. Even though I was angry at God, that Bible still was very important to me."

While Greg suffered no consequences, Judy was sentenced to life in prison. Her circumstances left her understandably angry. Judy noted, "There's two things you

can do with anger...You can either get bitter or get better. I chose better because...the only person I found out you're hurting [with anger] is yourself. So, you can take that anger...and put that towards something better...Between that and the combination of the deep love I had for my children and my family, they motivated me to do everything that I could...to learn the law, to learn politics, to learn what got me there. These are things I had to really soul-search about."

Notably, it was a Catholic retreat that awakened Judy's soul in a new way. Judy explained, "They brought us food, they brought us all kinds of understanding. They didn't care what we were there for, they didn't even want to know...But when they washed our feet, that moment changed my life. Here they were kneeling down and showing me a love that I hadn't known in a long time. I think that made me realize that this is the love I had been looking for...To fall in love with God, to fall in love with Jesus, to do His work, to do what He created me to do."

Judy learned that she had a desire to help her fellow inmates. It began in a simple way. As a professional hairdresser, she started doing their hair and makeup, which led them to feel better about themselves. Then she became a fitness trainer to help them get in shape and get any drugs out of their systems. She also earned certification as a paralegal, who appealed for—and often won—clemencies for them. She taught incarcerated mothers how to talk to their children and break the "generational curse" of abuse and crime, which led them to prison in the first place.

"Then," Judy recalled, "I had to start battered women's groups to help women realize that they were battered women. We had to build them up and not break them down like they do whenever they come to prison. But I always kept this verse above my cell mirror that said, Jeremiah 29:11, 'I know the plans I have for you, a future, not to cause you harm.' I knew that prison is not where God wanted me to be. This wasn't His doing. These were my choices, and I had to be responsible...Satan was trying to kill, steal, and destroy. I think I got so angry, in a good way, that I was going to beat [the devil] at his own game."

Though it took 36 years of appeals, Judy finally won her release in 2017 when Gov. Eric Greitens commuted her sentence after reviewing the details of the case, which even the original prosecutor came to see as unjust.

Some time after her release, Judy gave a talk at Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The CEO offered her a job then and there because she had such a positive spirit that lacked anger or bitterness. Judy accepted the offer because she now gets to continue serving God through serving others.

Judy hopes that readers are not only absorbed by her story, but that they embrace its message of loving God, loving your neighbor, and pursuing redemption and second chances. She concluded, "People create their own prisons out here, I've noticed. It doesn't have to be steel bars. Don't let the enemy do that to you. Don't let the enemy steal your joy. The best way to get joy is by helping others. And when you help others...good blessings come to you all the time."



"Let us remember that love lives through sacrifice and is nourished by giving. Without sacrifice, there is no love. In our daily lives, we must offer small acts of kindness, patience, and generosity. These are the seeds of holiness. As Christ gave Himself for us, so too are we called to give ourselves for others. This is the path to peace, joy, and union with God."

—Inspired by the teachings of  
St. Teresa of Calcutta and the Gospels

Have you ever tried on a pair of eyeglasses and had them make everything look blurry? That's because the prescription wasn't right for your particular vision. Our perception of the world can also be blurry at times. We go through periods when life is hard, and God seems distant or even absent. But if we make a concerted effort to view the people and circumstances that surround us through the lens of faith, we may discover God in unexpected places.

The Christophers



# MEMBER *Spotlight*

## VINCE STANKAY



### A Lifelong Member Shares His Story

Vince Stankay, 88, is a lifelong member of the FCSU and proud of his Slovak Catholic heritage. His parents were members of Branch 35, and Vince and his entire family belong to Branch 888.

Three of his grandparents were from Slovakia, and one grandmother was from Poland. His father, Joseph Stankay, was born near Bretejovce (Ploské) in Eastern Slovakia in 1893. His mother, Zuzanna (Ulias) Stankay, was born near Lodomirová (Krána Poľana) in 1898. Joseph emigrated to the United States in 1909; Zuzanna arrived in 1912.

They both settled and met in Braddock, Pennsylvania, home of the U.S. Steel Edgar Thomson Works, where Joseph worked for his entire career. The couple married in 1916 and had nine children over 21 years. Two of Vince's brothers, Joseph and Steven, died before his birth in 1937. He was raised with siblings Elmer (1921), Albert (1923), Andrew (1924), Florence (1927), Martha (1928), and Joseph (1932).

Growing up during the Great Depression, Vince remembers his older brothers pulling a steel wagon around town to gather wood for heating. His father worked occasionally for the priest at St. Michael's Catholic Church and took on odd labor jobs. His mother did house cleaning and sewing. Like many families of the time, they bought groceries "on the books" at the local store. After the Depression, Zuzanna repaid their entire debt. The store owner told her, "Mrs. Stankay, you are one of the few who paid me back in full."

Vince began working at a local supermarket at the age of 16. When his father passed away in 1957, Vince was just 19 and spent the next 18 months helping to support his mother. He met his future wife, Maryanne Matta, at St. Michael's, a Slovak Catholic church, where they later married in 1963—the same church where his parents had been wed. Together, they raised four children and shared 45 wonderful years of marriage.

In the 1980s, with the collapse of the steel industry, the economy in Braddock suffered. Vince, then a grocery store manager, worked three part-time jobs but still struggled to make ends meet. When his brother-in-law was offered a job in West Palm Beach, Florida, Vince helped him move—and saw new opportunities. Maryanne, a registered nurse, could easily find work. With God's guidance, they discussed the move with their children—Diane, Christine, Michael, and Paula—and made the life-changing decision to relocate.

It was a blessing. Vince found work in telecommunications and later retired from a law firm. After Maryanne passed, Vince found love again. At the age of 73, he remarried Josephine and they have enjoyed 15 years together so far.

### Returning to His Slovak Roots

A proud Slovak, Vince always wanted to learn more about his ancestry. He reached out to Helene Cincebeaux, a fellow FCSU member known for leading genealogy tours in Slovakia. With her help, he connected with relatives on both sides of his family.

In 2000, he traveled to Slovakia and immersed himself in the language, culture, and people. He spoke Slovak fluently, and meeting locals felt like reuniting with long-lost family. As he recalls, "Once you meet them, it's as if you've known them forever—because they're your family. It's in the blood. Slovak people are friendly, happy, and love to sing and dance. My wish is that they don't lose their heritage to modern ways. I know progress is necessary, but I pray future generations hold onto their traditions."

In August 2008, Vince made a second trip to Slovakia, spending one week with his father's side and one with his mother's. The visit ended with the wedding of his cousin Peter Micenko in Vyšná Jedľová, a village of just 360 people.

### A Traditional Slovak Wedding

Vince shares his experience. "The musicians came to the house and the celebration began. We entered the room where the starosta (best man) stood, holding the valashka (ceremonial axe). He knocked on the door three times, and the musicians played. The priest prayed as the bride and groom asked their parents' permission to marry. Peter's grandfather, 92 years old, gave his blessing.

With music leading us, we walked through the village to the church. The bride and groom wore live greenery crowns and held beeswax candles. They walked three times around the altar before signing the marriage book. Afterward, they greeted everyone in a receiving line. Guests brought long-stemmed flowers that were collected and used as decoration at the reception.

The reception at the Kultúrny Dom (Culture Hall) was unforgettable. Upon entering, the couple was welcomed with a champagne toast, and the head cook ceremonially broke a plate. According to tradition, how well the newlyweds work together to sweep up the shards symbolizes their future teamwork in marriage—and the number of larger pieces left on the floor is said to predict how many children they will have.

A man danced with a decorated tree, and everyone—young and old—knew the lyrics to all the songs. The reception lasted from 2pm Saturday until 5am Sunday. We had three full meals! The starosta danced around a vodka bottle, then others danced between two, even stacking one on top of another without knocking them over.

They placed the bride's veil on the valashka, and the starosta danced with it. The bride stepped on her groom's flower and later changed into her Slovak kroj (folk costume). We all danced the Redový (bridal dance), and at the end, the groom came to take her away."

### A Life of Faith and Gratitude

Vince closes his story with heartfelt words. "This is a memory I will treasure forever. God bless my parents for all they sacrificed for me and my siblings. They always said, 'Don't forget God in your life,' and 'By working together in marriage, you can do anything.' My mother also said, 'If you always give, you always have.' Truer words were never spoken.

Za Boha a Za Národ – For God and For Country. Zbohom – Go with God."



# Hot Fun in the Summertime!



## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER 2025 Photo Contest

Enter a Favorite Photo of your Furry Friend. Open to Cats & Dogs.

LIMIT ONE PHOTO PER MEMBER. CHOOSE FROM ONE OF FOUR CATEGORIES BELOW:

### KEEPING COOL

Show us how your pet keeps cool in the summer sun. How do they beat the heat?

### PLAYING AROUND

Capture your pet in action -- jumping, running, catching, etc. -- just having fun.

### LOOKING ALIKE

Send us your best look-a-like photo of you with your fur baby. (Not just dressed alike.)

### MAKING MISCHIEF

Catch your furry friend in the act of being naughty. "Who me?"

Portraits of cute pets are adorable, but **please be sure your photo represents one of the four categories. The most unique photos have the best chance to win.** (It is difficult to select a winner from dozens of dogs sitting by a pool.)

Cash prizes of \$200, \$150, \$100, and \$50 will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places within each category. Sixteen prizes in total.

Limit of one photo submission per member. The pet may be yours, belong to a friend, neighbor or another family member. Winning photos will be published in the Jednota.



## Danville Sisters Celebrated

Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, recently celebrated the Anniversary of Religious Profession for several of their Sisters. The celebrants observed anniversaries between 50 and 70 years. The celebration included a Mass in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius followed by a dinner.

Those celebrating included (Front Row L-R) Sister Denise Marie Fallat, 65 years; Sister Carol Marie Walsh, 65 years; Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, 70 years; Sister Madonna Figura, 60 years; Sister Irene Marie Gaydos, 55 years; (Back Row L-R) Sister Christopher Godlewski, 65 years; Sister Joanne Marie Schutz, 55 years; Sister Loretta Marie Hrubec, 55 years; Sister Pamela Smith, 50 years; Sister Agnes Marie Winter, 55 years. (Not in photo, Sister Virginia Dewan, 65 years)

The Celebrants currently serve in the Dioceses of Harrisburg, PA; Scranton, PA, and Charleston, SC.



**November 2, 2025**  
 12-4pm • Cathedral of Learning 1st Floor  
 University of Pittsburgh (Oakland)

- Ethnic Food
- Cultural Displays & Lectures
- Slovak and Eastern European Vendors
- Musical and Folk Dance Performances

[youtube.com/SlovakHeritageFestival](https://youtube.com/SlovakHeritageFestival)  
[facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival](https://facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival)

## Dog Days of Summer Photo Contest Entry Form

Email your digital photo and completed entry form to [jfibbi@fcsu.com](mailto:jfibbi@fcsu.com).

Or mail your entry form and a printed photo to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. **Missing information will result in disqualification of entry. Each entry must be submitted in a separate email. Email Subject line must read: Dog Days Entry.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SELECT ONE CATEGORY:

- KEEPING COOL     PLAYING AROUND     LOOKING ALIKE  
 MAKING MISCHIEF

PET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO CAPTION: \_\_\_\_\_

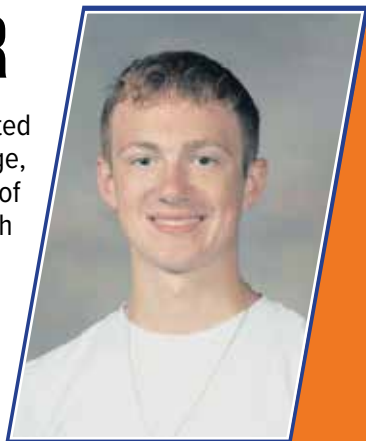
\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please print in ink or fill-in on-line.  
 \*The decisions of independent judges are final.  
 Additional entry forms are available on-line at [fcsu.com](http://fcsu.com).  
**Entry Deadline: September 10, 2025, no exceptions.**



**FCSU**  
**SCHOLAR** *Spotlight*

**MATT SCHWERTFEGER**



Matthew is a proud native of Uniontown, PA, located southeast of Pittsburgh. Growing up with a large, supportive family, Matthew learned the value of hard work and gained valuable lessons through their time together.

He is a 2025 graduate of Laurel Highlands High School, where he was active in school clubs and deeply involved in his church community. In the fall, he will attend West Virginia University to major in Engineering, with plans to focus on mechanical engineering. He's eager to apply forward-thinking solutions to real-world problems and looks forward to staying engaged through community service, extracurriculars, and entrepreneurial efforts. He aims to one day launch his own engineering business.

Beyond his academic goals, Matthew is driven by a love of learning and new experiences. He enjoys running, woodworking, playing guitar, exploring the outdoors and he is always seeking fresh adventures.

He is deeply honored to be named a scholarship recipient and eager to embark on his journey toward a future in engineering and entrepreneurship. With determination and purpose, he looks forward to contributing meaningfully to his religious community, where he'll remain actively involved. As he steps into his future at WVU and beyond, Matthew carries with him his Slovak roots and the inspiration to build, learn, and serve in ways that honor his heritage.

**Matt is a recent winner of an FCSU Scholarship and received Top Male designation. He is pictured with Branch 162 President Joann Marmol. We would like to share his essay with our readers.**

*activities that enhanced my knowledge and problem-solving abilities. I am Vice President of the National Honor Society, which has strengthened my leadership skills, and I have been a part of Student Forum since 2023, working with peers to improve education. Beyond academics, I am dedicated to cross-country and track, earning varsity letters for all four years. I have become the top distance runner on our team and broke our 800-meter school record twice. My leadership roles have also helped me develop communication skills through discussions with college coaches. Balancing academics and athletics has prepared me to tackle future challenges.*

*I developed leadership skills through sports, serving as team captain in cross country and track. Being a leader requires setting an example, holding the team accountable, and ensuring consistency. Leadership is about learning from setbacks and striving for improvement. Balancing academic excellence while dedicating time to running, conditioning, and health has been challenging, but it has taught me discipline, consistency, and teamwork.*

*When it comes to my religion, my faith is everything. I base my life around Christ, and the Catholic church has been instrumental in shaping my values. Within the church, I am an active member of the Youth Organization. This organization has given me the opportunity to get involved with the community in many ways. For instance, I work at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the under-served, and I participate in food drives, help with holiday parties, and volunteer at the annual church picnic. I have also grown spiritually by attending weekly mass and learning from weekly bible studies within the Young Organization. I enjoy it so much that I also created a bible study with my school friends. It has been rewarding to see others share in the same faith. Church has made me a more generous, thoughtful, and spiritual person. It gives me my purpose and lays the foundation of my life.*

*My Slovak heritage has been woven into my family and traditions. Growing up around my Slovak grandmother, I have learned how to cook many traditional holiday foods and incorporate food into fellowship and family gatherings. My grandmother is the reason we have continued her Slovak traditions, involving Christian values, and creating family connections. Growing up this way keeps me grounded, and these traditions will be carried on in my life, especially when I start my own family. My Slovak heritage will continue to influence my life and the lives of many to come in our family tree.*

*All of my experiences in school, sports, and faith have shaped who I am today. My Slovak heritage has instilled in me the values of hard work, family, and tradition. As I enter college and pursue a career in mechanical engineering, I will carry these values with me. This scholarship represents more than financial assistance. It honors my Slovak roots, the values passed down through generations, and the opportunity to preserve and share my heritage as I work toward my future.*



*I have worked relentlessly to excel in academics, athletics, and leadership. My aspirations to become a mechanical engineer are rooted in my commitment to education, personal growth, and my Slovak heritage. Receiving a Slovak scholarship would help me achieve my goals while honoring my cultural background.*

*I have participated in many school activities that have shaped my character and skills. As a member of the gifted program, I have engaged in enrichment*



## THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC.

### 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN (10) \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

**Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who is currently enrolled in college or another post secondary educational institution is eligible for a Scholarship.**



**For applications, please contact:**  
 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.  
 FCSU Financial • 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300 • Independence, OH 44131  
 Phone: 800.533.6682 • Fax: 216.642.4310 • E-mail: scholarship@fcsu.com

Download applications from [fcsu.com/membership/scholarships/](https://fcsu.com/membership/scholarships/)

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2025

## District 19 and Branch 785 Meeting

*Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Public Relations District 19 & Branch 785*

District 19 and Branch 785 held their Semi-Annual Meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish Hall. Members reviewed previous minutes and discussed upcoming events, including the Annual Parish Picnic on September 7, 2025, in partnership with Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish and a free community breakfast on September 21, 2025, in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Members were encouraged to attend and volunteer to support both events.



## District 12 Attends Wild Things Baseball Game

*Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, District 12 Vice President*

Friends and family of FCSU, District 12, enjoyed a fraternal day of Frontier Baseball. The Washington Wild Things are a professional baseball team in the Frontier League that play in Washington, PA. Our hometown team was crowned the 2024 Frontier League West Division Champions.

Everyone was excited to learn that the team was holding a Christmas in July event along with a fireworks night. District 12 was proud to see our young members enjoying this outing. Cheryl Hyatt (District 12 President) thanked everyone in attendance and Frances Tarquinio (District 12 Secretary Emeritus) led in prayer remembering all who are not with us.

It was a perfect night with a Wild Things 3-1 win over the Florence Y'alls. Special thanks to the staff at Falconi Field who made this event an awesome experience.



## Slovak Catholic 2025 Pilgrimage To Marian Shrine West Haverstraw



**Sunday, September 7**

**174 Filors Lane  
Stony Point, NY 10980**

**11:30am - Holy Mass  
2:30pm - Rosary Procession**

**Confessions will be  
available before the mass**

Pilgrimage is organized by the St. John Nepomucene / St. Frances X. Cabrini parish with the support of the First Catholic Slovak Union Region 1.



If interested, please register with Fr. Stefan Chanas or Fr. Martin Kertys at 212-734-4613 or Mária Božeková 347-612-1934.

The Marian Shrine requires a fee of \$10 per person. FCSU Jednota members may attend for free but must RSVP by 8/28.

There will be light refreshments available for purchase.

## The Polacek Family Johnstown Slavic Festival is set for Sept. 19-20, 2025

*Submitted by Dr. Michael Kopanic, Branch 23 Recording Secretary*

Come celebrate the rich heritage of the Slavic countries at the 10th Annual Polacek Family Johnstown Slavic Festival! The Slavic Festival takes place on Friday, September 19, starting at 4pm and starting at noon on Saturday, September 20.

This free event is planned by a volunteer committee in cooperation with the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA), and held at the Heritage Discovery Center. Museum admission will also be free during the event. FCSU Branch 23 will host a booth at the festival, so please stop by and visit with us.

## Slovak CU Branch 200 is celebrating our 130th Anniversary on Saturday, October 11, 2025

Open to all District/Branch members and guests

**Mass - 1pm Christ Prince of Peace**

**Meet & Greet - 2:30pm with Appetizers**

**Followed by Speakers, Dinner and Dance**

**Leave a message for**

**Vicki Schaub @ 724-763-9229**

**to reserve your \$25.00 Ticket by August 31st**



## Branch 746 Members Visit Hora Zvir in Litmanová, Slovakia

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Branch 746 is proud to share that we are an official sponsor of Hora Zvir, the pilgrimage site in Litmanová, Slovakia with our name displayed on the Wall of Sponsors, a symbol of our ongoing commitment to supporting faith-based initiatives that reflect our Slovak heritage and fraternal values.

Many members of Branch 746 have a personal connection to this sacred place. Each time we travel to Slovakia, a visit to Hora Zvir has become almost a tradition. It's not uncommon for members to run into one another on the mountain—each drawn to its spiritual peace, prayerful atmosphere, and natural beauty. These unplanned reunions are a powerful reminder of the spiritual ties that connect our community, no matter how far we live from our ancestral homeland.

Hora Zvir, located about three kilometers from the village of Litmanová in the beautiful foothills of the Carpathian Mountains, became a spiritual destination following a series of Marian apparitions witnessed by two young girls—Iveta Korčáková and Katarína Češelková—between August 1990 and August 1995. The apparitions occurred in a simple wooden hut, known as the majdan, which still stands today as a symbol of the events.

In 2008, the Archeparchy of Prešov officially recognized Hora Zvir as a Greek Catholic Marian pilgrimage site. Since then, it has become a place of reflection and renewal for pilgrims from all over the world. The site includes the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, an outdoor altar, and the Spring of St. John the Baptist, believed to have healing properties. This July the Vatican recognized the undeniable spiritual fruits experienced by countless pilgrims, including conversions, heartfelt confessions, and renewed faith at Hora Zvir and affirmed Mount Zvir as a place of faithful devotion, spiritual renewal, and enduring pastoral resonance within Church teachings.

It has been a long time wish of our members to support the further expansion of this pilgrimage site and support its upkeep and mission. This donation represents more than just financial support—it is a reflection of the faith and identity that continue to guide our community. For more information on this site, visit: <https://horazvir.sk>

If your travels take you to Slovakia, we warmly encourage you to make the pilgrimage to Hora Zvir. Whether you go alone or with family, this is a place that touches the heart—offering moments of silence, gratitude, and spiritual connection that stay with you long after you leave. Hora Zvir is designated as a Jubilee Shrine for the Holy Year 2025, affirming its importance as a pilgrimage destination during this special time. Hora Zvir is not just a site on a map—it is a living symbol of our shared values, our faith, and our roots. Branch 746 is honored to be part of its story.



Emilia Filak (Supreme Court member), and Emil Filak visit the site annually.



Mgr. Rastislav Janičko, Director of the Pilgrimage Center of Hora Zvir pictured with Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director.



Hanka and Peter Janitor pictured with family at Hora Zvir in front of the main outdoor altar.



Maria Halama and Jan Halama in front of the Wall of Sponsors. Many families from the United States from the villages nearby are also patron donors.



Holy Mass is held on every Saturday and Sunday. They are also live streamed at [www.logos.tv/litmanova-live](http://www.logos.tv/litmanova-live).



Sacred place where Mary appeared on the bench to the left of the altar.



## Branch 382 Annual Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 23, 2025  
Noon to Dusk

Holy Family Social and Welfare Grounds  
486 Jubilee Road  
Covington Township, Pennsylvania

Members: \$10 per person  
Non-Members: \$25 per person  
Children age 10 and under: Free

For reservations and additional information, contact Branch President Elizabeth M. Slovenkai at 570.344.3854.

Reservations close on Thursday, August 14th  
Payment must be received by Tuesday, August 19th  
Your check guarantees your reservation!

Checks are to be made payable to FCSU Branch 382K and mailed to:  
Elizabeth M. Slovenkai  
505 Emmett St • Scranton, PA 18505-1016

## Smog Museum Visit

Monica Boone, Branch 853 President

Branch 853 and guests from Branch 670 visited the famed Smog Museum which is located only a few miles up river in Donora, PA. Branch President Monica Boone arranged for FCSU Financial members to be given a private guided tour which depicted the history of the area.

The Museum commemorates the 1948 smog inversion in which a gray yellow cloud from the smokestacks of the now defunct zinc works and steel mill laid over Donora. The cloud was so thick that street lights were on, and it was impossible to see across the 2 lane main street. In one report, 20 people died and almost 6,000 people experienced health issues due to the unusual weather pattern in this Monongahela River Valley area. This unfortunate situation in Donora laid the reason for the 1963 Clean Air Act.

The museum, which is located in a former bank building, then turned into a womens clothing store, is part of Donora Historical Society and also the Heinz History Center - History Center Affiliate Program (HCAP). The small museum boasts of visitors from almost all 50 states, including Washington DC and from 5 continents. The tour was an afternoon enjoyed by all.



Branch 853 Charles Boone, Museum Rep Mark Pawelec, Branch 670 Chris Petrus, and Branch 853 Michael Bertovich looking at the items during the museum presentation.



Branch 670 Luke Petrus, sitting in one of the permitted use wooden seats.



## Chewy's Corner

Hey there! Life moves fast and it can sometimes feel like you're always rushing to the next thing. Ya know what? Some of the best things happen when you slow down. Look around and notice the little things. Put away your screens - phones and tablets are fun, but the real world is full of adventures and memories waiting to be made. Don't forget to be silly, tell jokes, and enjoy just being you. You're only a kid once — don't rush through it. Enjoy every minute, one moment at a time. Your friend, Chewy (ČUVAČ)



# Stephen C. Matula Scholarship Winners

**Congratulations to our outstanding scholarship winners—your hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and we wish you the very best of luck in all your future endeavors!**



**ADRIENNE BORYCZEWSKI**  
Franciscan University  
of Steubenville  
Communication Arts



**RYAN CARSON-MCDONALD**  
University of  
Massachusetts Boston  
Information Technology



**ELIZABETH DLUGOS**  
Bucknell University  
Biology



**TOBIS DOMITROVICH**  
University of Toledo  
Biology/Pre-Med



**SOFIA FEDORIOUK**  
The Ohio State University  
Biochemistry/Pre-Med



**SOPHIA IMRICOVA**  
Fairfield University  
Sociology and Psychology



**SARAH JABORNIK**  
University of Hartford  
Painting and Drawing



**JULIA KOCIS**  
University of SC - Columbus  
Psychology and  
Criminal Justice/Criminology



**JOSEPH KOVACH**  
University of Central Florida  
Kinesiology/Sports Medicine



**LAUREN KUKUCKA**  
Bowling Green State University  
Psychology



**JUSTIN METZ**  
Gettysburg College  
Political Science and  
International Studies



**REBECCA MILLS**  
West Virginia University  
Biology/General



**JOSEPH PUMFORD**  
College of St. Joseph the Worker  
Catholic Studies/Electrical



**ANASTAS RAYKOV**  
The Ohio State University  
Biology



**ANNA SEDLOCK**  
University of Montana  
Aquatic Wildlife Biology



**ALEK SKWIRUT**  
University of Akron  
Chemical Engineering



**KATHERINE SOPKO**  
University of Notre Dame  
Biochemistry



**JOSEPH J. SOUDER**  
Misericordia University  
Biochemistry



**HANNAH JOY TEAHAN**  
Saint Francis University  
Physician's Assistant



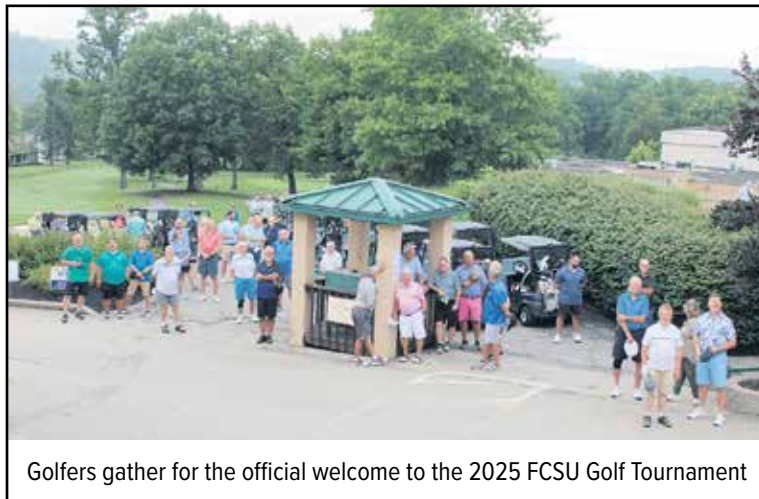
**TERESA ZENTKO**  
George Washington University  
Cognitive Neuroscience

# The 2025 FCSU International Golf Tournament Wraps up a Wet, but Wonderful Weekend

*Submitted by Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director*

Each year, the FCSU International Golf Tournament brings golfing enthusiasts of all ages together for two days of spirited play. This year 73 members and 8 first-time guests battled the elements and each other on the Lakeview Golf Course at Cheat Lake, West Virginia.

Participants represented nineteen FCSU branches with members ranging in age from 23 to 89. Building on past tradition, we welcomed even more father and son teams this year, helping to ensure FCSU values and fraternalism continue for future generations.



Golfers gather for the official welcome to the 2025 FCSU Golf Tournament

While the unrelenting rain made for a wet and soggy course, it did not dampen the fun and camaraderie at our evening festivities. On Friday evening, members enjoyed baby back ribs, and a deconstructed shrimp boil, with kielbasa and corn on the cob. We recognized our youngest golfers – Derek Kochis and Tanner Reddick, eldest golfer - Marty Finklestine, farthest traveled – Andrew Kozusko from Arizona, newest FCSU membership – James Saul and longest FCSU membership– Steve Yokopenic. All received the new “Jednota” ball cap. David DeGol was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing of \$400, while 25 attendees won a variety of door prizes.

On Saturday evening, Mass was celebrated by FCSU National Chaplain, Rev. Thomas Nasta, followed by a bountiful dinner buffet with chicken, salmon, and beef tenderloin. The evening’s program included President Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi, Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer, and our Tournament Managers, Brad Matta (Regional 5 Director) and John Tokarsky (National Treasurer). Following dinner, we challenged everyone with a Golf in Pop Culture Trivia Contest. The contest ended in a three-way tie for first place -- congratulations to John D. Pastorek, Shawn Adam and Michael Bolby. The evening continued with 24 lucky winners in our gift basket/gift card raffle while 24 more attendees won door prizes. The 50/50 raffle of \$400 was won by Mark Zakrajsek, guest of FCSU member Rusty Groner.

Our first-place finishers in eight flights included A: Michael Bolby, B: David Schmucker, C: Austin Matta, D Callaway: Andrew Rathway and Dan Poponick (TIE), Senior 1: Mike Nemcheck, Senior 2: Rusty Groner, Senior Callaway: Lynn Johnston (see notice below) and Glenn Mercer, Jim Saul and Steve Mara (3-way TIE), W: Larissa Matta. The top Scratch golfers of the tournament were 1st - Shawn Adam, 2nd - Michael Bolby and 3rd - David DeGol. See complete results on the FCSU website.

*Special notice: Due to an oversight when assigning golfers in the Senior Callaway Flight, Lynn Johnston was inadvertently omitted from the flight. In fairness to all, we are awarding prize money to both Lynn for first place in Senior Callaway with a score of 146, and to Glenn, Jim and Steve for their previously announced three-way tie for first place with scores of 147.*

Skills Contest winners included: Longest Drive: Brad Matta and Andrew Kozusko. Longest Putt: AJ Coval and Lynn Johnston. Closest to the Pin: William Rozzell and Shawn Adam. While there was no winner in the hole-in-one competition, John E. Pastorek made an impressive effort, but came up short of the \$10,000 prize.

Special thanks to our on-site Tournament Team of Pam Kelly, Annie Sutila and Karen Habian, led by Barbara Sutila FCSU Event Coordinator. They did an outstanding job, as did the Home Office staff in preparation for the event. We would also like to recognize and thank the members of Branch 367 from Fairchance, PA for attending our Tournament Dinner, with a special welcome to branch officer Kathryn Baranek on her 87th birthday!

We extend our thanks and gratitude to our Tournament Patrons and Hole Sponsors.

**Tournament Patrons:**

Platinum – ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Gold – AQS Asset Management, Silver – Rev. Thomas Nasta, Kenneth Arendt, Branch 162 Uniontown, PA, Pinpoint Computer Solutions, Bronze – Kevin Collins.

**Hole Sponsors:**

FCSU Branches: 2 (Pittsburgh, PA), 35 (Braddock, PA), 38 (White Oak, PA), 553 (Akron, OH), 731 (Youngstown, OH), 785 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), 855 (Cleveland, OH), 857 (Levittown, PA), Rev. Thomas Nasta, Kenneth Arendt, Kevin Collins, Joanne Fibbi, Brad Matta, Gary Matta, Greg Maurer, Milos & Anne Mitro, Damian Nasta, Nicole Nasta, John D. Pastorek, Debbie Speck, and John Tokarsky.

We are now making plans for the 2026 Tournament and look forward to hosting many new and returning golfers. Watch for details coming soon.

**Thank you to our FCSU Golfers for another Tee-riffic Tournament!**



Thanks for joining us. Hope to see you next year!



Hitting the course for the shotgun start -- watch out for those puddles!

2025 FCSU GOLF TOURNAMENT PRIZE WINNERS		
<b>A FLIGHT</b>		
1st	Michael Bolby .....	\$200
2nd	Jerry Hromada .....	\$175
3rd TIE	Shawn Adam .....	\$138
3rd TIE	Patrick Quinn .....	\$138
<b>B FLIGHT</b>		
1st	David Schmucker .....	\$200
2nd	Andrew Kozusko .....	\$175
3rd TIE	Scott Harr .....	\$138
3rd TIE	John E. Pastorek .....	\$138
<b>C FLIGHT</b>		
1st	Austin Matta .....	\$200
2nd	James Saul .....	\$175
3rd	John Tokarsky .....	\$150
<b>D FLIGHT (Callaway)</b>		
1st TIE	Andrew Rathway .....	\$188
1st TIE	Dan Poponick .....	\$188
3rd	Brandon Ross .....	\$150
4th	Michael Debich .....	\$125
5th TIE	Mark Zakrajsek .....	\$75
5th TIE	Mark Mara .....	\$75
<b>SENIOR 1 FLIGHT</b>		
1st	Mike Nemcheck .....	\$200
2nd	Tim Kozusko .....	\$175
3rd	Tim Quinn .....	\$150
4th	Barry Halula .....	\$125
<b>SENIOR 2 FLIGHT</b>		
1st	Rusty Groner .....	\$200
2nd	William Rozzell .....	\$175
3rd	Anthony Nastasi .....	\$150
4th	Jim Yokopenic .....	\$125
5th	John D. Pastorek .....	\$100
<b>SENIOR FLIGHT (Callaway)</b>		
1st *	Lynn Johnston .....	\$200
1st TIE	Glenn Mercer .....	\$175
1st TIE	Jim Saul .....	\$175
1st TIE	Steve Mara .....	\$175
4th	Clarence Shank .....	\$125
<b>WOMEN FLIGHT</b>		
1st	Larissa Matta .....	\$200
<b>TOP SCRATCH SCORES - 2 DAY TOTALS</b>		
Shawn Adam	151 .....	\$200
Michael Bolby	154 .....	\$150
David DeGol	157 .....	\$100

\* Inadvertently omitted from flight when official results were first announced.



Shawn Adam (1st place Tournament Scratch Score)

### TOURNAMENT WINNERS

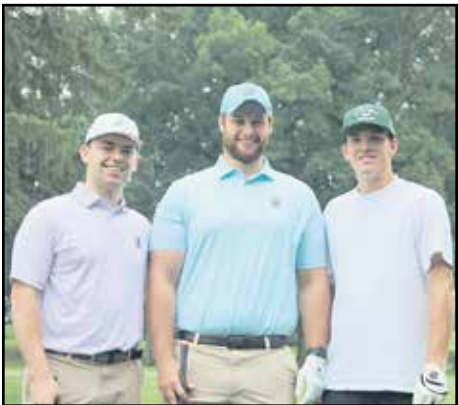
See more photos at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)



Michael Bolby (1st Place A Flight)



David Schmucker (1st place B Flight)



L-R Andrew Rathway (1st place tie D Flight), Nick Sweitzer, and Austin Matta (1st place C Flight)



Dan Poponick (1st Place tie D Flight) with his father Ed



Mike Nemcheck (1st Place Senior 1 Flight)



Rusty Groner (1st place Senior 2 Flight)



L-R Glenn Mercer (1st Place tie Senior Callaway Flight), Mark Mara, Paul Mara and Steve Mara (1st Place tie Senior Callaway Flight)



Lynn Johnston (1st place Senior Callaway Flight)



Jim Saul (1st place tie Senior Callaway Flight) with his son James



Larissa Matta (1st place W Flight) with her husband Gary Matta, FCSU General Counsel

# SIMMONS FARM



## FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL NATIONAL PICNIC SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

170 Simmons Rd • McMurray, PA • [simmonsfarm.com](http://simmonsfarm.com)

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING FOR ALL FCSU MEMBERS FROM 11:00AM – 4:00PM**

### JOIN US FOR FUN:

- Take a Hayride to the Outdoor Field Activities
- Find your way through multiple Corn Mazes
- Pick your perfect pumpkin from the 5-acre Pumpkin Field
- Visit the resident farm animals at the Petting Zoo
- Race down the chute of the 100 ft. Slide
- Lunch served 12-2pm
- Bingo played 2-3pm

### OTHER FIELD ACTIVITIES:

- Corn Bus
- Peddle Cars
- Flower Fields
- Tire & Hay Mazes
- Human Hamster Wheel
- Basketball Corn Hopper
- Slides
- Photo Ops!
- Piggy Race Ride
- Pumpkin Corn Hole
- Rubber Duck Races
- Apple Rock Labyrinth

### MORE TO DO AT SIMMONS FARM:

- Shop for farm fresh produce at the market.
- Pick your own apples or flowers.

**GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR THE CATERED LUNCH AT NO COST AND MAY PURCHASE HAYRIDE/FIELD ACTIVITIES WRISTBANDS AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE FOR \$20.00/PERSON.**

Check-in begins at 10:45 am in the Greenhouse. Wristbands are required for the hayride/field activities.

**REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

Email [events@fcsu.com](mailto:events@fcsu.com) or

Call the Home Office at 800.533.6682 ext. 122

# FRATERNALISM IN ACTION — GIVING BACK —



Branch 746 of Linden, NJ is proud to actively participate in the “Fraternalism in Action” initiative with our branch giving back to the community through acts of charity and service. As part of this spirit, Branch 746 proudly supports the St. John the Apostle Food Pantry by collecting non-perishable food and essential supplies at each of our meetings. These donations help families in need and are a meaningful way for our members to live out our fraternal values. Our contributions are further strengthened by a generous supplement from the Home Office, reinforcing our shared commitment to serving others. Pictured above is Rev. Peter Volz, Parochial Vicar, gratefully receiving the donations on behalf of the pantry.

*Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director*



## Branch 200 Proud of Scholarship Winner

*Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary*

Congratulations to recent graduate Renee E. Cicco, pictured with her proud grandparents Vicki and David Schaub. Renee was awarded a \$1,500 FCSU Scholarship and will attend the University of Mount Union in Ohio to study chemistry. She will continue her involvement in running and high jump at the collegiate level. Branch 200 officers, board of directors, and members wish her every success and blessing as she begins this exciting new journey!



## Baseball & BBQ: District 4 (NJ) & District 16 (NY) Hits It Out of the Park!

*Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director*

FCSU’s District 4 (New Jersey) and District 16 (New York) hit a home run with their summer gathering on Sunday, July 13, 2025, bringing together members of all ages for an unforgettable day at the Somerset Patriots vs. New Hampshire Fisher Cats game at TD Bank Ballpark.

It was the perfect summer afternoon filled with sunshine, sizzling BBQ, and smiling faces as families from Branches 290, 716, and 746 came out in full force to celebrate fellowship, tradition, and community. The Patriots’ 5–3 victory added to the excitement, but the real surprise came around 4pm when three helicopters flew over the stadium, sparking playful chatter about a possible presidential flyover. While no official confirmation was made, the moment certainly gave everyone something to talk about!

There was plenty of Slovak pride on display throughout the day—flags, laughter, and conversations in Slovak filled the air. We even met fellow Slovaks in attendance who recognized us and came over to say hello, making the event feel even more special and connected.

A big thank you to everyone who came out to represent the FCSU spirit and to our organizer, District 4 Fraternal Activities Director Jo Anne Peppe. We can’t wait to see you again next year—same time, same team spirit, and maybe another mystery flyover!



Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados, District 4 Fraternal Activities Director Jo Anne Peppe (event organizer), Branch 290 Vice President Michele MacMath.



Branch 716 members Martin Michlik with daughter Stephanie Shenloogian and granddaughters Kaitlyn and Madison.



Our younger members representing Branches 290, 716, and 746!



Tirpak family rooting for the Patriots!



Back Row L to R: Milka Choma (Br. 746 Auditor), Sabina Sabados (Region 1 Director), Karen Minarovich (Br. 290 Treasurer), Stephen Minarovich (District 4 Treasurer), Joanne Polt (Br. 746 Vice President), Julie Rada, Emilia Filak (Supreme Court). Second Row: Jo Anne Peppe (District 4 Fraternal Activities Director and Br. 290 President), Michele MacMath (Br. 290 Vice President.)



Branch 746 members Michal Harvis, Sabina Sabados, and Zuzana Harvis.

## Late Nite Catechism

*Submitted by Ann Buzcek, Branch 581 President*

The Spitkovsky District, along with Branches 153, 313 and 581, attended the Champagne Brunch and Late Nite Catechism Show on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at the Theatre in Munster, IN. The Brunch was excellent and the show was uproariously funny with Sister teaching her students (the audience). It was fun and laughter with a meaningful message.



### Branch 181 Scholarship Winners

Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 181 Scholarships were recently presented to Chiara Mongelluzzo, Marco Pietropaolo and Alek Skwirut. Each recipient was worthy because of their volunteerism, leadership and scholastic excellence. They each received an award of \$1,000.

Chiara Mongelluzzo is the daughter of John and Teresa Mongelluzzo. She will attend the University of Kentucky with aspirations of becoming a financial advisor. Chiara and her parents attended a lunch at Dino's Sports Lounge to receive her award.

Marco Pietropaolo is the son of Philip and Cara Pietropaolo. He will further his studies at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Marco's future goal is to own a landscaping company.

Alek Skwirut is the son of Brian and Michele Skwirut. He will attend the University of Akron to study Chemical Engineering. Alek and his parents attended the Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic and received his scholarship award.

Branch 181 is proud of these young members and wish them well in their academic pursuits!



Scholarship winner Marco Pietropaolo



### District 12 Visits Kennywood

Submitted by Monica Boone, District 12 Secretary

On July 17, 2025, the Hlinka District, based out of Donora and Charleroi, PA attended the 102nd Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA. Members from Branches 670 and 853 enjoyed the rides, shows and all the attractions of the 127 year old park, along with the Slovak music and foods. Each year Slovak Day attracts more district members. This year, 24 district members enjoyed the day. The eight children from the district in attendance experienced their Slovak heritage and were building memories to become lifelong involved FCSU members. The members finished the evening watching the Kennywood drone show.

### Branch 853 Attends Kennywood

Submitted by Monica Boone, Branch 853 President

Branch 853 (Charleroi, PA) members Michael Bertovich, Charles Boone and Monica Boone enjoyed Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. After starting the day with rides on the world renowned Phantom's Revenge and the Steel Curtain, we enjoyed traditional Slovak foods, followed by the familiar sounds of the Slovak music. With so many Slovaks attending this annual tradition, the branch members also renewed life-long friendships with members of other Slovak fraternal. We attended Mass, which was celebrated by the FCSU Financial Protector Bishop of the diocese of Greensburg Larry Kulick and our National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta. The members closed the day enjoying performances by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.



L-R: Bill Patty, Darlene Patty (President), Chiara Mogelluzzo, Teresa Mongelluzzo, Ed Mizikar (Vice President) and Barbara Mizikar.



L-R: Ed Mizikar (Vice President), Darlene Patty (President), Alek Skwirut, Dick Mizikar (Treasurer-Financial Secretary), Michele Skwirut and Brian Skwirut.

**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE**

**DISTRICT 16**

**LABOR DAY**

*Celebration*

**SLOVAK FOOD-BEER-DJ-CAKE**

**SUNDAY**  
**2025**  
**AUGUST 31**

**6:00 - 11:00 PM**  
**SLOVAK COUNTRY CLUB**  
230 Park Hill Road  
Mountain Dale, NY 12763

THERE IS A \$35 FEE PER PERSON.  
FCSU JEDNOTA MEMBERS MAY ATTEND FOR FREE BUT MUST RSVP TO 201-397-5270

**Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Mississauga ON and FCSU Financial present**

**Farský PIKNIK**

9118 WINSTON CHURCHILL BLVD, NORVAL, ON LOP 1K0

A great time for our parish family, where we spend time together, laugh, and create beautiful memories together.

- OMŠA / MASS : 11:00 AM
- Play Family Games/ Sports
- OBED / LUNCH

**NEDELA**

**SEPTEMBER 7**

**SUNDAY**

**Admission**  
adults : \$10  
children (6 -12) : \$5  
under 6 : free  
Vstupné

**Parish PICNIC**

Open 9am-6pm  
No Pets • Bring lawn chairs

## All BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS should be sent to [branch@fcsu.com](mailto:branch@fcsu.com)

### CALIFORNIA

#### BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA

*Milan Konkol, Secretary*

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society will hold the following meetings:

- Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2025
- Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 29, 2025

All meetings will be at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. Meetings will start at 11am with an agenda of officers' reports and financial report.

The Annual Meeting will have the Election of Officers for 2026. In addition, we will hold the Election of Delegate and Alternate to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will prepare for the Slovak Christmas Mass and plan activities for next year. Lunch will be at the Olive Garden after the meeting.

### CONNECTICUT

#### BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

*Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary*

The St. Joseph Society will hold a regular meeting in-person for the Executive Board at the offices of Kurt P. Solek in Fairfield and via Zoom for members on Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 10am. We will plan our scholarship meeting for November 2nd. Email [csteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:csteacher3@gmail.com) with questions. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/FCSUBr19](https://tinyurl.com/FCSUBr19)  
Meeting ID: 871 9564 0926  
Passcode: 027496

### ILLINOIS

#### BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

*Paul Chismar, Financial Secretary*

The St. Stephen Society will hold their semi-annual meeting on Saturday, August 23, 2025 at 11am at More on Main, 317 E. Main St. in Streator. We will discuss scholarships and fraternal activities for members. Please contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 if you plan to attend. May we all have a healthy and happy summer.

#### BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, IL

*John Jurcenko, President*

The St. Stephen Society will have a meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 11:30am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights. Election of Branch Officers and charitable donations are on the agenda. A luncheon will follow. RSVP by October 13th to Dorothy 708-995-7378.

### NEW JERSEY

#### BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

*Susan Salko, Secretary*

Save the date for our 2025 meetings:

- October 4th
- December 6th

All meetings will be at the home of Sue Salko, 56 Lefke Ln., Whippany and start at 7:30pm. We will discuss ideas for winter 2025-26.

#### BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

*Mary Kapitan, Secretary*

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th.

You are invited to attend the Slovak Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine. See the event box on this page and the ad on page 10 for more information.

### NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK

#### REGION 1 EVENT SLOVAK PILGRIMAGE TO MARIAN SHRINE Sunday, September 7, 2025

174 Filors Lane Stony Point, NY 10980  
11:30am Mass

Holy Mass will be at 11:30am followed by Rosary Procession at 2:30pm. Confessions will be available before Mass. The event is organized by the St. John Nepomucene / St. Frances X. Cabrini parish with the support of the First Catholic Slovak Union Region 1. If interested, please register with Fr. Stefan Chanas or Fr. Martin Kertyš at 212-734-4613 or Mária Božeková 347-612-1934. FCSU members may attend for free but must RSVP by 8/28. There will be light refreshments available for purchase.

### NEW YORK

#### BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

*Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary*

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society branch 45, will hold Annual meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 1pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, Election of Branch Officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša Č. 45 1KSJ v New York bude v nedeľu 30. novembra 2025 o 13:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st. Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie. Potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

You are invited to attend the Slovak Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine. See the event box on this page and the ad on page 10 for more information.

#### BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY

*Judie Dendler, Secretary*

Greetings members of St. Joseph The Protector! We hope you are enjoying your summer! We have two more Ice Cream

Socials.

- Saturday, August 30, 2025 at Cones, 63 NY-369, Binghamton from 1-3pm.
- Saturday, September 27, 2025 at Chuckster's, 1915 Vestal Pkwy., West Vestal from 1-3pm.

Come out to enjoy a treat and fellowship! Members will enjoy free ice cream at Cones. At Chuckster's, members can play a round of Mini Golf and get a frozen treat, both for free! RSVP to Morgan Dendler for both events by August 25th for Cones and September 21th for Chuckster's.

#### BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

*Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary*

The St. Stephen Society will hold its second meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2025. The meeting will be held at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 E. 66th St., NY, following the conclusion of the Slovak Mass at 12:30pm. The agenda will include the 2025 financial report, an overview of branch activities throughout the year, and the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. Refreshments will be provided and all members are encouraged to attend.

You are invited to attend the Slovak Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine. See the event box on this page and the ad on page 10 for more information.

### OHIO

#### BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

*John Moynihan, President*

We will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2025 starting at 12pm. Members will meet in the multi-purpose room of the Walton Hills Community Center located at 14660 Alexander Rd., Walton Hills. This is about 3 miles west of our usual community room. Please enter using the Nodding Hills entrance. Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. All members must RSVP to Fran Strekal at 216-308-1728. The agenda includes Election of Officers, general branch business and fraternal activities. All members are welcome. We encourage you to stay for the District 10 meeting taking place at the same location after our meeting.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will conduct a School Supply Donation Drive to support Shoes & Clothes for Kids. Requested supplies include colored pencils, composition and spiral notebooks (wide ruled), crayons, erasers, wide ruled filler paper, markers (dry erase & washable), pencils, pens, pocket folders, & scissors. The Home Office will generously donate \$250 to Shoes & Clothes for Kids on our behalf.

#### BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

*Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary*

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge will hold their next meeting on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7pm at the American Slovak Club on the northeast corner of 30th and Broadway in Lorain. We will discuss future activities and review past summer events. Refreshments will be served.

We respectfully ask our members to attend our meetings and please pray to our Lord for a calm environment and Peace on Earth.

#### BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

*Carlie Peshek, Vice President*

We will have the following 2025 meetings: Thursday, September 25th, and Thursday, December 4th (this will be our election of officers and holiday celebration). All meetings will begin at 5pm and are held at Belleria Restaurant, 1010 Youngstown-Poland Rd. in Struthers. Hope to see all of you and God Bless!

#### BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

*Debbie Speck, President*

A Branch meeting open to all bona fide members will be held on Wednesday, September 24th at 6pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron. A vote on the proposed amendment to the St. John the Baptist Society Branch 553 Bylaws will take place.

#### BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

*Drew Hirt, President*

The next regular meeting is scheduled for noon on Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers. We will address plans for the remainder of the year.

#### BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

*Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary*

Our next meetings are as follows:

- Sunday, September 14th
- Sunday, November 16th (includes 2026 Election of Officers)

The meetings begin at 5pm at Coaches, 3032 Center Rd, Poland.

A Mass for deceased members will be held November 11th at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral, 159 W Rayen Ave., Youngstown. We hope to see you there.

#### BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OH

*Bill Hrusovsky, President*

Our next meeting will be August 25, 2025. It takes place at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Rd., NE in Warren and begins at 10am. We will discuss the fall fundraiser and overview of fall activities.

#### BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

*Stephanie Sutilla, Activities Director*

We will have a meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at James Day Park Pavilion (behind the swimming pool near the ball diamonds), 11828 West Pleasant Valley Rd. in Parma. The agenda will include the 2026 convention. Our meeting will begin at 2:30pm with lunch to follow. Non-member guests welcome to attend at a cost of \$10. Must RSVP by September 2nd by text to 440-864-4744 or email [fcsu855@gmail.com](mailto:fcsu855@gmail.com).

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Our project for this meeting will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi by collecting items for The Euclid Beach Cat Project. The most needed items are canned cat food, bleach, cleaning vinegar and baby blankets. Please be generous in supporting this organization that provides spay/neuter and adoption services to address the overpopulation of stray cats.

Save the date for our Election of Branch Officers meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at Ruma's Restaurant, 12841 State Rd. in North Royalton. Watch for details in the next Jednota and on the website.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PA

*Joseph C. Cervenak, President*

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 9am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St., Ramey. Election of officers will be held. All members are invited to attend.

### BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

*Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary*

Branch 23 will be attending an Art Exhibition and Luncheon at the Venue of Merging Arts (VOMA) on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. VOMA is located at 307 Chestnut St., Johnstown in the Arts District. Our Branch 23 President, Marian Hockycko's paintings will be on display. A light lunch will be served and Branch 23 will pick up the cost for our members. The Luncheon will start at 1pm. RSVP to me at 814-254-2532. We plan to make a donation to a local food pantry and ask all who attend to donate canned goods or household necessities such as cleaning supplies, detergents, etc.

### BRANCH 35 – PITTSBURGH, PA

*Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary*

St. Michael the Archangel will hold a semi-annual meeting virtually on Sunday, August 17, 2025 at 7pm. The agenda will include officers' reports, branch business, and discussion of upcoming events.

Zoom Link [tinyurl.com/FCSUBr35](https://tinyurl.com/FCSUBr35)

Meeting ID: 715 7421 1804

Passcode: 3MfkcF

### BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

*Dolores Marmol, Secretary*

The St. Wendelin Society will hold a meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30pm at Bogey's Restaurant, 374 Duck Hollow Road in Uniontown. Officers' reports, branch activities, charitable donations and upcoming FCSU events will be discussed. Members and guests are invited to attend. Call me to RSVP at 724-437-4983.

### BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

*Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary*

St. John the Baptist Society members are invited to a dinner meeting at 5pm on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at Aroma Italiano, 2220 Ligonier St. in Latrobe. Please enter through the front door of the restaurant. BYOB if desired.

RSVP by Saturday, August 30th by calling me at 724-433-8469 or Darlene at 724-493-8712. Walk-ins without a reservation will not be served. The meeting agenda will include Election of Branch Officers. Looking forward to seeing new faces at the meeting!

### BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

*Vicki Schaub, Secretary*

Please join us at our regular Board Meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is September 4, 2025. The meeting will be held at the Slovak CU at 910 Sixth Ave., Ford City, PA. The Board meeting starts at 7:00pm. All other members will be called in at approximately 7:20pm. Bring your ideas and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you there!

### BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PA

*Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary*

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, August 24, 2025 at 12:30pm at Panera in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include a report of past and future activities and the financial report. Contact Joe Senko at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) or 412-956-6000 to RSVP.

### BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

*Margaret A. Nasta, President*

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 1pm at Tillie's Restaurant, 308 36th St., McKeesport. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. An Election of Branch Officers for 2026 will be held. In addition, an Election of Delegate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will be held. Meeting dates for 2026 will be approved.

### BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA

*Ruth Ann Kramer Gerko, Recording Secretary*

Our next meeting will be August 31, 2025 at St. Joseph Cemetery Hall, 201 Cemetery Rd., Beaverdale at 11am. We will discuss future plans to work with the Cemetery Association on November 15th. Please try to attend.

The following meeting is scheduled on October 26, 2025. It will follow the District 7 meeting at St. Bartholomew Hall, 185 Church Hill Rd. in Wilmore and we will hold an Election of Branch Officers. Contact me at 814-533-1826 with questions.

### BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

*Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, President*

SS. Cyril & Methodius Society will hold its Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from noon to dusk. Branch members and guests will gather at the pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club, 486 Jubilee Rd, Covington Twp. Join planning committee members Laura Christianson, Becky Czankner, and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. for an afternoon of good food and friendly socializing in the beautiful setting of Northeastern Pennsylvania. A catered lunch will be served. Attendees will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the day. A late-afternoon cook-out will be served.

Reservations are required so that adequate food and beverages can be purchased! To RSVP by Thursday, August 14th, contact me at 570-344-3854 and leave a message. The cost for Branch members is \$10 each. The price for guests is \$25 each. Children age 10 and under are free. Your check guarantees your reservation and should be received by Tuesday, August 19th. Make checks payable to FCSU Branch 382K and mail to Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016.



To receive Branch and District meeting reminders please make sure the Home Office has your current email address.

## Annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Centennial Park Golf Centre

Etobicoke, Ontario

FIRST TEE OFF AT 1:00pm

**Golf, Food, Prizes and Fun!**

(includes 18 holes of golf, buffet dinner and prize table)

All members of the Jednota and guests are welcome

RSVP by September 15th • For more information and to register:

John Tokarsky, Region 8 Fraternal Activities Director

[jednota-sports-toronto@outlook.com](mailto:jednota-sports-toronto@outlook.com) • 416-948-6606

**Sponsored by Toronto/Mississauga District and Branch Jednota**



## WISCONSIN

### BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

*Mike Novak, President*

Please join us for our meeting on Sunday, August 17, 2025 at 11:30am. On the Agenda: Donations and activities. Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal and beverages. The meeting location is Bandero County Wood Grill, N96W16865, Cumberland Court, Menomonee Falls. That is at Highway 41 North and County Q Exit.

Please call to make your reservation by August 12th. You MUST CONFIRM by calling me at 414-445-5382.

## CANADA

### BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

*Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary*

We will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows with a free breakfast after the masses on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church at 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga, ON. All members are encouraged to attend this annual event. Call Milan Zoldak at 416-565-3960 for details.

*John Tokarsky, Activities Director*

We will be holding our annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at Centennial Park Golf Centre in Toronto (Etobicoke). The cost per member is \$100 which includes everything. See the ad on this for more details. For more information and to register by September 15th, call John Tokarsky at 416-948-6606.

## SLOVAK J CLUB

485 MORGAN AVE

AKRON, OH

\*RSVP to 330-786-9972

## AUGUST

Aug. 20 Meatloaf Dinner - RSVP\*  
4:30-6:30pm

Aug. 30 OSU vs. Longhorns – Noon

Aug. 31 Breakfast Buffet – 9-11:45am  
All You Can Eat - \$12

## SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7pm

Sept. 6 OSU vs. Grambling – 3:30pm

Sept. 7 Browns vs. Bengals - 1pm

Sept. 13 OSU vs. OU - 7pm

Sept. 14 Browns vs. Ravens - 1pm

Sept. 17 Fried Fish Dinner - RSVP\*  
4:30-6:30pm

Sept. 21 Browns vs. Packers - 1pm

Sept. 27 OSU vs. Washington - TBD

Sept. 28 Breakfast Buffet – 9-11:45am

All You Can Eat - \$12

Browns vs. Lions - 1pm

# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send **DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS** to [district@fcsu.com](mailto:district@fcsu.com)

## **DISTRICT 1 – REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT, MA**

### **DISTRICT 4 – MSGR JOHN E RURA DISTRICT – NJ**

### **DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NY**

*Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director*

Please join the Slovak Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 174 Filors Lane Stony Point, NY 10980. Holy Mass will be at 11:30am followed by Rosary Procession at 2:30pm. Confessions will be available before Mass. The event is organized by the St. John Nepomucene / St. Frances X. Cabrini parish with the support of the First Catholic Slovak Union Region 1.

If interested, please register with Fr. Stefan Chanas or Fr. Martin Kertys at 212-734-4613 or Mária Božeková at 347-612-1934 by August 28th. FCSU Jednota members may attend for free but must RSVP by August 28th. There will be light refreshments available for purchase.

## **DISTRICT 1 – REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT, MA**

*Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary*

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct an Annual Meeting on September 14, 2025 at 11:30am. The Executive Board will meet in-person at the offices of Kurt P. Solek in Fairfield, CT. All other members will meet via Zoom. We will discuss plans for the coming year and hold the Election of District Officers. Please contact me at [csteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:csteacher3@gmail.com) to RSVP. We look forward to seeing our dedicated members.

Zoom Link: [tinyurl.com/FCSUdT1](https://tinyurl.com/FCSUdT1)

Meeting ID: 847 8986 0228

Passcode: 554867

## **DISTRICT 2 – REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT – IL, IN, WI**

*Paul Chismar, President*

The annual meeting and Election of District Officers will be on Sunday, October 5, 2025 at the Missionary Sister of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. There will be socializing and refreshments at 1:30pm with the meeting beginning at 2pm. Please bring a gift for the raffle. RSVP to Dorothy Jurcenko at 708-995-7378.

## **DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - PA**

*Kirstin Meyer, Recording Secretary*

The next meeting of the George Onda district will be Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 1pm at St. Florian Social Hall at 4263 Route 981, Mt. Pleasant. Election of District Officers will be held. A light luncheon will be served. RSVP by Friday, September 12th by calling Darlene at 724-493-8712. We look forward to a great turnout!

## **DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT – PA**

*Margaret A. Nasta, Recording Secretary*

Branch 276 will host the Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 1pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Street Ext., West Mifflin. Please RSVP to [manasta@verizon.net](mailto:manasta@verizon.net) by November 9th. The agenda will include a discussion of proposed changes to district dues policy, nomination and the Election of District Officers for 2026. We will also hold nominations and Election of District Delegate and District Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: Meets at 7pm on first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. Meetings resume in October. WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts other events such as wine tastings. Join the organization and get the newsletter.
- Slovak Language Classes: contact Bozena Hilko at [bozi@comcast.net](mailto:bozi@comcast.net)
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 2, 2025 from 1 to 5pm. Performers, vendors, food - free admission
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour: WPIT 96.5 FM or 730 AM

Members are urged to check the Jednota for updates in FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests and to tune in to the Virtual Call Program hosted by the Home Office. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at [FCSU.com](http://FCSU.com).

## **DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – PA**

*Rose Roskovensky, Treasurer*

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 1pm at Dairy Queen, 575 W. Main St., Uniontown. We will hold an Election of District Officers. We will also hold the Election of our District Delegate and District Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will be collecting items for Mary House Inc. of Uniontown. Their mission is to help women who are transitioning from homelessness, drug addiction or other difficult circumstances. The home welcomes new blankets, household cleaning and personal care items. The Home Office will donate \$250.00 to the organization on our behalf. If you would like to arrange a donation pickup or have questions, contact me at 304-266-8921 or President Patty Speshock at 724-317-3763.

## **DISTRICT 10 – REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH**

*Greg Petrasek, President*

Join us Sunday, September 21, 2025 in the multi-purpose room of the Walton Hills Community Center, 14660 Alexander Rd., Walton Hills for our Election of District Officers meeting (this location is 3 miles west of the community room where we've met previously; enter using the Nodding Hills entrance). Branch 24 will host lunch at 1pm and the district meeting will follow. Members MUST RSVP to [ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com](mailto:ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com) or text 440-864-4744.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will conduct a School Supply Donation Drive to support Shoes & Clothes for Kids. Requested supplies include colored pencils, composition and spiral notebooks (wide ruled), crayons, erasers, wide ruled filler paper, markers (dry erase & washable), pencils, pens, pocket folders, & scissors. The Home Office will generously donate \$250.00 to Shoes & Clothes for Kids on our behalf.

## **DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PREBINA DISTRICT – AR, CA, KS, MN, OR, WA**

*Paul Skuben, President*

Our upcoming meetings are as follows:

- Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2025
- Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 29, 2025

All meetings will be at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. Meetings will start at 11am with an agenda of officers' reports and financial report.

The Annual Meeting will have the Election of District Officers for 2026. We will also hold the Election of our District Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will prepare for the Slovak Christmas mass, and plan activities for next year. All branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent annual meeting. Lunch will be at the Olive Garden after the meeting.

## **DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NY**

*Julie Ann Gurega, President*

Join us to gather for food and fun at the FCSU District 16 Labor Day Celebration on Sunday, August 31, 2025, from 6pm to 11pm at the Slovak Country Club, 230 Park Hill Rd, Mountain Dale, NY. Enjoy Slovak food and music by DJ, along with beer, coffee, and cake! The event is free for FCSU Jednota members with RSVP; non-members are welcome for a \$35 fee.

*Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary*

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 1pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E. 66th St. in New York City. The agenda will include Election of District Officers, financial report updates and discussion of District 16 activities for upcoming year. Refreshments will be served afterward. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

*Renáta Jurášiová-Vasil', pokladníčka*

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že členská schôdza Okresu č. 16 – Mons. Štefana Krasulu sa uskutoční v New Yorku v nedeľu 19. októbra, 2025 o 13:00 hodine po svätej omši na fare slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street a 1st Avenue, New York City. Na schôdzi zvolíme funkcionárov, prejednáme plán činnosti na budúce obdobie a taktiež finančnú správu. Po schôdzi bude malé občerstvenie. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

## **DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA**

*Anne Mitro, Secretary*

Branch 785 is hosting the annual Slovak picnic on Sunday, September 7, 2025 from 9am to 6pm. Mass will be celebrated in Slovak at 11am. The location is Croation Park, 9118 Winston Churchill Blvd, LOP 1KO on the north of the 5th side Road, Norval, ON. The cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (6-12), under 6 years is free. Lunch will be for sale. The admission to the grounds will be free to all members. See the ad on page 16 for more details. Contact me at 905-279-8154.

We will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows with a free breakfast after the masses on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church at 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga, ON. All members are encouraged to attend this annual event. For details call Mike Kapitan at 416- 543-4111.

*John Tokarsky, Fraternal Activities Director*

Msgr. Michael Shuba District will be holding its annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at Centennial Park Golf Centre in Toronto (Etobicoke). The cost per member is \$100 which includes everything. See the ad on page 18 for more details. For more information and to register, call John Tokarsky at 416-948-6606 by September 15th.



**American Slovak Club**  
**FRIDAY FISH FRY**  
*Every Friday All Year Long*  
**2915 Broadway Avenue • Lorain, OH**  
Please call ahead for reservations for parties of six or more.

**440-245-5146 • [AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry](http://AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry)**

# FCSU Search-A-Word

# AUGUST Word List

C C Z V F D X V B H J K U G F  
 S H Y S U T R E D F R C V B X  
 A T B C A M P I N G I D S A F  
 A G I H S D F G H V E Q Y L H  
 K F C O A B C X S A K W H K B  
 Z E Y O O C E W U S A E I J N  
 U A K L R D R T N D F F N H E  
 R Z E B E S F H N B V P K G Z  
 E X L V Z E X Z Y N I C B F A  
 C F H C A R X X B R F I O D B  
 B D K X J T C V T I A J H C K  
 V I J Z C F G D J K L R F V J  
 X M M J N B A T D G V S B J H  
 F U N B V O X Z A S D F G I G  
 Y H U Z R D T R E P V D S A L

SUNNY

HUMID

SCHOOL

LIBRARY

CAMPING

ROAD TRIP



BAZÉN (Pool)

RIEKA (River)

JAZERO (Lake)

KNIHY (Books)

CERUZKA (Pencil)

BICYKEL (Bicycle)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Search-A-Word Rules

**Five monthly winners will receive \$50!**

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. One entry per member! Complete the puzzle and email it along with your name, address, email and branch number to [contest@fcsu.com](mailto:contest@fcsu.com). Or mail puzzle and form to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

**Entries must be received by September 25, 2025.**

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

## June Puzzle Winners

Randal Findish (Branch 228)

Louis Hribik (Branch 200)

Anita Nixon (Branch 213)

Erin Dana Sterling (Branch 112)

Martin J Szuck (Branch 153)

**Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!**

## Branch 716

### Summer Picnic

Submitted by Emily Lysakova,  
Recording Secretary

Branch 716 celebrated Independence Day with a summer picnic on July 6th, 2025, at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York. Members of the branch prepared classic picnic favorites like hot dogs, ribs, burgers, and coleslaw for fellow Jednota members and parishioners to enjoy. It was a day filled with great food, fun, and community spirit. We would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event a success. We look forward to next year and may it be bigger and better!

We would also like to extend a congratulations to Kaitlyn Shenloogian from our branch for being awarded the FCSU 2025 High School Scholarship. We are proud of her achievement and wish her the best in her academic journey.



Branch 716 members with the prepared ribs, coleslaw, and breads for parishioners.



Branch 716 members with the prepared ribs, coleslaw, and breads for parishioners.

# FRANtastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL



## FERMENTED SAUERKRAUT

- 1 medium head of shredded cabbage
- 2-2.5 tablespoons of canning salt
- 1 quart sized canning jar-sanitized
- 1 fermentation lid (a coffee filter and rubber band can be used as well)
- 1 pickle pebble  
(glass fermentation weight) \*

Optional ingredients: shredded onions, shredded carrots, shredded beets, caraway seeds, mustard seeds, 1-2 tablespoons of filtered water, etc.

Place your rinsed and shredded cabbage into a large bowl. If you're adding any optional ingredients, mix them in now. Sprinkle the mixture with salt and massage it thoroughly for a few minutes, helping to release the natural juices. Let it sit for about 15 minutes to allow more liquid to develop.

After resting, mix everything again, then transfer the cabbage mixture into your jar. Be sure to pour in all the liquid from the bowl. Press the mixture down firmly until the liquid rises above the top to fully submerge it.

Place a pickle pebble\* on top to keep everything submerged. If you don't have a pickle pebble, you can use a large cabbage leaf to press it down instead.

Store the jar in a dark corner of your kitchen or pantry, allowing it to ferment for 1 to 4 weeks. Stir occasionally. The longer it ferments, the richer the flavor and the greater the bio-availability of nutrients. Enjoy your homemade fermented sauerkraut—packed with gut-friendly probiotics that support digestion and boost immunity!



# Rest in Peace Our Departed Members



The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.  
 Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im svieti. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
001K	Richard L. Fristik	456K	Joseph Hanslovan
004K	John R. Dunbar	484K	Bernadette Mutz
005P	Theresa Roman	484K	Mary L. Drahnak
006K	Rosemary Neumann	484K	Maryann Angelini
019K	Kenneth R Reynolds, Sr.	484K	Rich Chuckalovchak
024K	Joanna D. Marek	553K	Edward F. Burik
024K	John A. Spisak	553K	Gerald Plsek
024K	Lawrence A. Lahnan	553K	John Kasper
024K	Robert J. Kopco	553K	Marguerite Sabol
024K	Ronald R. Underwood	553K	Marlene Stresnak
024K	Sharon M. Kennedy	553K	Mary Alice Martin
035K	Helen Rentka	553K	Paul Stresnak
055K	Kate Gaydos	581K	Cheryl K. Rainbolt
075K	Anna Rose Lechniak	581K	George Cengel
085K	Carmen Santasania	581K	Joseph Villegan
112K	Carl Hasara	618K	Florence Bacho
114P	Robert E. Skvarka	628K	John Micenko
132K	Ellen M. Cerchione	670K	Neal J. Rands
153K	Frank Nowakowski	682K	William Turocy
166K	Veronica Mendola	716K	Kenneth Boldizar
173K	Carole A. Martin	721K	Karen Ann Maxa
181K	John D. Tometsko	731K	Mark J. Leskovyansky
181K	Ronald C. Baughman	731K	Sylvia C. Fabian
199K	John Heese	743K	Anna Magusin
200K	Ryan L. Cayko	743K	Donna Petty
200K	Walter A. Valasek	746K	Robert C. Moore
228K	Natalie Findish	796K	Anthony Berosh
228K	Robert A. Drop	796K	Howard Clinese, Jr.
238K	Helen T. Grega	831K	Irma E. Kus
238K	Marguerite F. Zangardi	855K	Marlene F. Hejl
260K	Alex J. Vrable	856K	Sandra A. Oravec
260K	Patrick J. Frattaroli	857K	Joyce L. Firce
260K	Richard A. Cantanzriti	857K	Margaret M. Danka
260K	Ron Augustinsky	900K	Ann Neimes
260K	Stephen Matthew	900K	Micaela Tantalean
	Globeck, Jr.	904K	Harlan R. Hannam
260K	William J. Schrieber	904K	Larry Prell
266K	Richard Reba	916K	John E. Pawlowicz
292K	Mary T. Katch	916K	George A. Zibert
292K	Ronald Wanko	921K	Kenneth J. Oien
293K	Rose Kochmar	926K	Randall W. Mentink
313K	Wendell Tylka		
382K	Mary Ann Coyle		

\* Processed in the month of July 2025

**Richard M. Chuckalovchak**  
**Branch 484**  
**Coral, PA**



Age 53, of Massillon passed away May 12, 2025. He was born June 9, 1971 in Nanty-Glo, PA to Richard and Joanne (Ciprich) Chuckalovchak of Minerva. He worked for Heinz Frozen Foods in Massillon. He was a member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Minerva. He graduated from Minerva High School in 1989 and attended Kent State University. He loved spending time going to concerts or fishing with his friends and spent his free time building computers.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by 2 sisters and 2 brothers, Beverly (Ronald) Nichols of Niantic, CT, Carol (Ric) James of Sterling,

VA, James (Kim) Chuckalovchak of Minerva, Paul (Lisa) Chuckalovchak of Summerville, SC, 4 nieces and nephews, Katherine, Jayde, Kamryn and Alyssa and a great nephew, Rome, and several aunts and uncles; Helen Ritchey, George Ciprich, Mary Louise (Robert) Ford and Donna (John) Yokitis.

**Pasquale "Patsy" Frattaroli**  
**Branch 260**  
**Coitsville, OH**



Pasquale "Patsy" Frattaroli, passed away peacefully at his home on May 2, 2025, at the age of 79.

He was born on October 22, 1945, in Youngstown, OH, a son of Cesidio Frattaroli and the former, Marietta D'Eramo.

A 1963 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Patsy furthered his education by obtaining a business degree from Youngstown College. His professional journey began as a young teen at Cochran's Sparkle Market, where he started bagging groceries and eventually becoming manager. In 1986, he ventured into business with his brother Tony, co-owning Frattaroli's Sparkle Market in Struthers and later in New Middletown.

Patsy enjoyed golf and cherished moments spent vacationing, especially in beloved locations such as San Francisco and Las Vegas. He was a devout Yankees fan. Those who knew him were well aware of his adoration for his two loyal companions, dogs Zeus and Abby, who were by his side until the end. Patsy never met a stranger and could make a friend anywhere he went.

He is survived by his wife, the former, Marianne Ruane; daughters, Megan (Jason) Frattaroli and Rebecca (William) Baird; loving grandson, Ryan George; granddaughters, Lily and Zoe Baird; sisters in law, Margaret Frattaroli and Paula Kirk; niece, Felicia (Dr. Scott) Tofil; his nephew who was like a son, Tony (Karen) Frattaroli; and the multitude of friends whose lives he touched.

In addition to his parents, Patsy was preceded in death by his sister, Felicia DeVito and brother, Anthony Frattaroli.

**Richard A. Reba, Sr.**  
**Branch 266**  
**Hazleton, PA**



Richard A. Reba, Sr. 75, formerly of West Hazleton, passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 7th.

Richard graduated from Hazleton High School in 1967, and from The Pennsylvania State University in 1970. Although a Mountaineer, he embraced the Alma Mater of his wife, the former Nancy Getz, as their children went to West Hazleton High School. He loved encouraging youth as a beloved little league and girls softball coach, active band parent, and leader of the Parks and Rec department of West Hazleton when he served as a Councilman for the 2nd ward. He enjoyed singing in the choir at the West Hazleton Trinity Lutheran Church before he and his wife retired to Gulf Shores, AL, near the beach for the past 14 years.

Besides his wife of 55 years, he is survived by his son, Richard A. Reba, Jr. (Sherry) of Gaithersburg, MD; daughter

Sheila (Reba) Bottjen (Jason) of San Antonio, TX; sister Theresa Chowdhury of Portland, OR; grandsons Dominic Reba, Christopher Reba, Xavier Bottjen, and Dimitri Bottjen, a niece and several nephews.

**John Andrew Spisak**  
**Branch 24**  
**Cleveland, OH**



John A. Spisak passed away peacefully at home in Robson Ranch, Denton, TX on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, surrounded by his wife and children.

John was born on April 4, 1941 in Cleveland, OH to John W. and Julia Spisak. He graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree from the Case Institute of Technology in 1963 and a Master's in Business from Columbia University in 1969.

John's career was as diverse as his interests. After graduation, he lived in Connecticut and worked on submarines testing on-board electrical equipment. He also worked for a time in the late 1960's in Alaska for Dow Chemical. There he acquired his pilot's license and a lifelong love of fly fishing. John grew up working with his dad in the summers on construction projects and developed an interest in home construction. He was blessed to be in a close-knit family. He and his father and other family members worked together to build their family home in Hinckley, OH in the 1970's. Following the home build, John worked for Siemens Energy and Automation, Inc. selling their electrical products. He met his wife, Suzanne, during this time. When their children were young, John focused on his family and independent work as a computer consultant. From high school through his final days, he enjoyed photography and taking pictures of family and friends and capturing the beautiful scenery on many cruises.

John was a loving, caring husband, father, brother and friend. He was a beloved "Uncle John" to his nieces and nephews. John is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Suzanne, their son, Andrew Spisak, daughter, Claire O'Connor, son-in-law, Jarrod O'Connor, sister, Julianne Keco, and brother-in-law, George Keco and sister Joan Sidon and brother-in-law, Ken Sidon as well as nieces and nephews and their children. He will be missed by all.



# News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

## Ministers Describe M.R. Stefanik as Model of Courage and Service to Homeland

Bratislava, 21 July (TASR) - Government ministers have described Milan Rastislav Stefanik as a model of courage and service to his country, concurring that his legacy is still relevant, TASR has learnt from ministers' posts on social networks in connection with the 145th anniversary of his birth.

According to Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok (Voice-SD), Stefanik was a man of action who never shirked his responsibilities. "He fought for what he believed in - for the freedom of his nation, its identity, and he spread the good name of Slovaks all over the world. His reaching for the stars and indomitable will are, even after more than a century, a permanent example of courage, loyalty to his roots and also a lasting inspiration for us," he added.

Slovakia's chief diplomat Juraj Blanar (Smer-SD) sees Stefanik as a personality who resonates strongly in Slovakia and abroad. "Although he lived and worked for many years far beyond the borders of the future Czechoslovak Republic, he always fought for the independence of Slovaks and Czechs. It's hard to imagine how the future of our statehood would have developed without his diplomatic skills, his unbreakable faith and determination," he added.

Culture Minister Martina Simkovicova (a Slovak National Party/SNS nominee) believes that Stefanik has gone down in history primarily as a man with a firm vision and an unbreakable will. She also highlighted the importance of the planned installation of Stefanik's bust in Rome, which, according to her, played a key role in his diplomatic and political career. "Our duty is not only to talk about him, but also to act - to preserve his memory, to commemorate his deeds and to stand firmly on the side of historical truth," she said.

## Preserving the Slovak Institute into the Future

Did you know that the largest repository of reference materials on Slovakia is located at the Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio? Well it is absolutely true. Known as the Slovak Institute and Research Library, this institution has an international reputation. The beginnings of the collection go back to 1936, when members of the Academy of Slovak National Culture (Matica Slovenská) visited Cleveland and presented to the monastic community several hundred volumes of newly published Slovak literature. Over the years, this collection continued to grow and received a huge boost with the immigration of several Slovak intellectuals to the United States after the Second World War and the subsequent Communist takeover in 1948.

In 1952, the Slovak Institute and Research Library was officially founded through the auspices of Abbot Theodore Kojis, OSB and Rev. Andrew Pier, OSB together with a handful of Slovak intellectual emigres that made their home in Cleveland. These personalities were Dr. Francis Hrušovský, Dr. Joseph Cincik, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Šprinc, and Dr. Karol Strmen. The connections these men made cemented relationships with other exiled Slovaks throughout the world and created a repository for many Slovak literary, artistic, and religious works that were forbidden during the Communist regime.

In 2024, the President of Benedictine High School David Schroeder outlined a new plan for the renovation of several facilities on the Benedictine campus. Apart from re-purposing the abbey library, a proposition was made to renovate and rejuvenate the Slovak Institute. In addition to renewed and refurbished headquarters, plans also call for a re-assessment and re-cataloging of the Institute's holdings with an eye to include digitization for online access and preservation of original materials, many of which are aged more than a century. "Preservation of these materials is paramount," commented Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, "therefore the maintenance and development of the Slovak Institute must be a priority if Slovak cultural heritage is to be preserved in Cleveland."

The Institute has become the repository of the personal libraries and papers of many Slovak intellectuals of the past century:

- Dr. Francis Hrušovský: Journalist, Pedagogue, and Historian
- Dr. Joseph Cincik: Artist and Art Historian
- Dr. Karol Sidor: Politician, Diplomat and Slovak Nationalist
- Rev. Dr. Nicholas Šprinc: Poet, Author and Literary Critic
- Dr. Karol Strmen: Linguist, Polyglot and Pedagogue
- Rev. Dr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J.: Professor, Linguist, and Literary Critic

In addition to maps, travelogues, photographs, artwork, artifacts, and correspondence, the Slovak Institute has provided many materials to people the world over who have been interested in Slovak culture and heritage.

The Institute has been directed by some of Cleveland's most honorable Slovaks: Dr. Francis Hrušovský, Dr. Konstantin Čulen, Fr. Andrew Pier, OSB, Mr. Andrew F. Hudak Jr. and Joseph Hornack, and currently by Milan Kobulsky, who also directs

## Ministri označili M. R. Štefánika za vzor odvahy a služby vlasti

Bratislava 21. júla (TASR) - Ministri vlády označili Milana Rastislava Štefánika za vzor odvahy a služby vlasti a zhodli sa, že jeho odkaz je stále aktuálny. TASR sa dozvedela z príspevkov ministrov na sociálnych sieťach v súvislosti so 145. výročím jeho narodenia. Podľa ministra vnútra Matúša Šutaja Eštoka (Hlas-SD) bol Štefánik mužom činu, ktorý sa nikdy nevyhýbal svojim povinnostiam. „Bojoval za to, v čo veril – za slobodu svojho národa, jeho identitu a šíril dobré meno Slovákov po celom svete. Jeho siahanie ku hviezdám a nezdolná vôľa sú aj po viac ako storočí trvalým príkladom odvahy, vernosti svojim koreňom a zároveň trvalou inšpiráciou pre nás,“ dodal. Šéf slovenskej diplomacie Juraj Blanár (Smer-SD) vníma Štefánika ako osobnosť, ktorá silne rezonuje na Slovensku aj v zahraničí. „Hoci žil a pracoval dlhé roky ďaleko za hranicami budúcej Československej republiky, vždy bojoval za nezávislosť Slovákov a Čechov. Je ťažké si predstaviť, ako by sa vyvíjala budúcnosť našej štátnosti bez jeho diplomatických schopností, jeho nezlomnej viery a odhodlania,“ dodal. Ministerka kultúry Martina Šimkovičová (nominantka Slovenskej národnej strany/SNS) sa domnieva, že Štefánik sa do dejín zapísal predovšetkým ako muž s pevnou víziou a nezlomnou vôľou. Zdôraznila tiež význam plánovaného osadenia Štefánikovej busty v Ríme, ktorá podľa nej zohrala kľúčovú úlohu v jeho diplomatickej a politickej kariére. „Našou povinnosťou je nielen o ňom hovoriť, ale aj konať – uchovávať jeho pamiatku, pripomínať si jeho činy a pevne stáť na strane historickej pravdy,“ povedala.

the Slovak Radio Program in Cleveland.

Recognizing the needs of the Institute into the future, the current renovations will involve the following:

- 1) New security system to protect collections
- 2) New entrance promoting better access for all patrons to the Institute
- 3) Makeover of the physical plant through refurbished floors, lighting, climate control, and new stack and conference facilities
- 4) Resources to care for the collections of the Institute and Library
- 5) Resources to promote exhibitions of the Institute's holdings for educational purposes and digitalization of its most fragile collections

Guests to the Slovak Institute come from all around the world. Researchers from Europe and especially Slovakia, as well as the United States and Canada visit and utilize the Institute's resources annually. Since the fall of Communism and the establishment of an independent Slovak Republic in 1993, the Institute has provided materials for the establishment of museums and exhibitions in Slovakia, especially those that chronicle the experiences of Slovak Immigration. Exchanges of resources between the Institute and Slovak cultural historians has increased in the last 25 years, which makes the preservation of its holdings all the more important for people interested in understanding Slovak culture and heritage.

Under the leadership of Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB and Dave Schroeder, President of Benedictine High School, the Slovak Institute is moving into a new and vital phase which is planned to preserve its relevance for all Slovaks, research historians, and students of culture and the social sciences. In a recent visit to the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC, Ambassador Radovan Javorčík expressed support on behalf of the embassy of this project and will work with the Slovak Ministry of Culture to assist in procuring the necessary funds to bring these plans into reality.

Please join us in this great cultural endeavor. Your help and support are necessary for the preservation of the Slovak Institute into the future. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged on a donor wall in the refurbished Institute research hall.

Donations can be sent to:  
Advancement Department  
(c/o Slovak Institute)  
Benedictine Order of Cleveland  
10510 Buckeye Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44104

*Let us work together for the pride of our Slovak heritage and culture!*



# Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, June 14, 2025 • Video Conference

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 11am and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer. The Executive Committee meeting was held following the Board of Director meeting.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Attending By Video Conference:

- Kenneth A. Arendt ..... National President
- Damian Nasta ..... National Vice President
- Kevin J. Collins..... Executive Secretary
- John Tokarsky..... Treasurer
- Martha Zavada..... Regional Director  
(by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the May 16, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to Board of Directors. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly written Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**

*Annuity Rates*

The President led a discussion on the current annuity rates. The Executive Committee decided the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the June Executive Committee meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

*Investment Updates*

The President and the Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee Meeting on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. The Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions.

*Financial Report*

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for Quarter 1 of 2025 and answered the Committee's questions.

**Portfolio Review**

The President and the Executive Secretary updated the Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions. The President stated he will invite representatives from MAI, UBS and Clutterbuck to attend a future Executive Meeting to review our investment portfolios.

*Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages*

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of May for the Committee's review and answered their questions. The President led a discussion regarding new mortgage investments and answered the Committee's questions.

*Monthly Disbursements*

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month May:

Death Benefits & Accumulations.....	\$288,343.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations.....	\$73,448.69
Matured Endowments & Accumulations .....	\$0.00
Trust Fund.....	\$0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

The Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

The President led a review of our FHLB advances and their current rates for possible future advancements.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Executive Secretary stated a Zoom call will be set up next month for Districts and Branches to participate in and to discuss current insurance and annuity products. Further details will be on the website and published in the newspaper.

The Executive Secretary will be sending an email to Districts and Branches outlining talking points for their meetings.

The Executive Secretary is exploring new markets for advertising; these markets are Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

The President and Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on upcoming fraternal activities. A National Picnic will be held on June 21, 2025 at Knoebels in Elysburg, Pennsylvania. Another National Picnic will be held on June 28, 2025 at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio. The 2025 FCSU International Golf Tournament will be held July 18-20, 2025 at Lakeview Golf Resort in Morgantown, West Virginia. The 2025 Fall Family Festival will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at Simmons Farm in McMurray, Pennsylvania.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President stated preliminary information will be sent to Districts and Branches in September 2025 about the upcoming 2026 Convention. The 2026 Convention will be held June 20-23, 2026 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The call for the convention will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

- Kenneth A. Arendt                      Kevin J. Collins  
President, CEO                              Executive Secretary, COO

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Jednota Editor, Newspaper Subscription Requests and/or Changes

**MEMBER Spotlight**

Do you have...

- A business?
- Slovak memories?
- A travel adventure?
- An interesting job or hobby?

**WE WANT TO HEAR IT!**  
We're featuring members stories in Jednota and want to include yours!

[email editor@fcsu.com](mailto:editor@fcsu.com)

**KARAOKE NIGHT**

**330-786-9972**

**SEPTEMBER 27**

**\$15 per person**

**Food Provided @ 6:30pm**

**Crooning from 7:00-11:00pm**

**SLOVAK J CLUB**



Making Memories At  
**WIEGAND LAKE  
PARK**  
**FUN REVIEW!**

Our National Picnic was held on Saturday, June 28, 2025 the FCSU National Picnic brought members and guests together for a memorable day at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio. With perfect sunny weather and a fantastic turnout, the event was a true celebration of community and culture. Guests enjoyed a delicious spread of traditional Slovak dishes. From hearty meals and sweet desserts to unlimited ice cream, there was no shortage of tasty treats. The park buzzed with activity—paddle boats glided across the water, friendly games of corn hole and people lined up for face painting, and bingo kept everyone on their toes. The live band, Harmonia, kept the energy high with a wide mix of music throughout the afternoon.

