



Jednota®

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392

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

Volume 135

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

NUMBER 6060



Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

Message From The President

Here at FCSU, we are excited to bring new opportunities and meaningful programs to our Members. From events and contests to new features and benefits, the future of our fraternal is bright, and I encourage every Member to take part in all we have to offer.

As we move through February, we enter an important season in our faith. Lent begins this month, a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare our hearts for Easter. Lent invites us to reflect, make small sacrifices, and grow spiritually. It's also a season that brings many of our communities together in a special way — through the tradition of Friday Fish Fries.

One fun (and delicious!) way to observe the season is by making the rounds at local fish fries. Here in our area, two favorites are the Slovak J Club in Akron, OH and the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH, but fish fries are prevalent in many communities. I encourage you to support your local church or community group while enjoying good food and fellowship with family and friends during this holy season.

We are now in the heart of tax season, with Tax Day right around the corner. Members who have an Annuity or IRA product should note that as of January 31, your 2025 1099 form is available to view and print in the Member Portal at www.fcsu.com. This form is issued to those who took a withdrawal of \$10 or more from an Annuity or IRA in 2025. A hard copy has also been mailed as required by IRS regulations. If you did not take a withdrawal, you will not receive a 1099 from FCSU.

Year end annuity statements were also mailed in January. We encourage you to take advantage of our member online portal, where you can view your account balances and make deposits at any time. Logging into our website is quick, secure, and convenient, ensuring you always have access to the information you need.

Tax season is also an important reminder that contributions to Traditional and Roth IRAs for the 2025 tax year can still be made up until April 15, 2026. These accounts are powerful tools to help build retirement security while offering potential tax advantages.

A Traditional IRA may benefit those who want a tax deduction now. Contributions may reduce your current taxable income, and taxes are deferred until you withdraw funds in retirement. This can be especially helpful if you expect to be in a lower tax bracket later in life.

A Roth IRA, on the other hand, is funded with after-tax dollars, but qualified withdrawals in retirement are tax-free. This can be a strong choice for those who believe tax rates may be higher in the future or who want the flexibility of tax-free income in retirement. Roth IRAs can also offer advantages when planning to pass assets on to beneficiaries.

Both options can play an important role in a well-rounded financial plan, depending on your individual goals and circumstances. Please remember, the FCSU does not provide tax or financial advice, so be sure to consult your tax advisor regarding your personal situation.



There's really no bad time to start investing, but the earlier you begin, the more you can benefit from the power of compound growth. By contributing sooner rather than later, your money has more time to grow and accumulate earnings, potentially leading to a much larger return in the long run. One smart step is to make your 2026 IRA contribution as early as possible to give your investment more time to grow throughout the year. Additionally, don't forget that you still have until April 15, 2026, to make contributions for the 2025 tax year, so you can take advantage of tax benefits before the deadline. Planning ahead and making those contributions sooner can have a significant impact on your financial future.

IRA Contribution Limits

Tax Year	Under Age 50	Age 50 or Older
2025	\$7,000	\$8,000
2026	\$7,500	\$8,600

NOTE: You may not contribute more than your taxable compensation for the year.

Continued on Page 3



Don't Let Your Money Sit Out in the Cold

Warm Up to Our Great Rates!

- Other Annuity Products -

6 Year FPDA or IRA **4.25%** APR

Park 2 Annuity **4.00%** APR
(not available in the state of NY)

Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA **3.00%** APR
1st year guaranteed (new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)

Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of (5 yrs+) **4.00%** APR

4.50% APR

8 Year FPDA or IRA and Coverdell ESA

(Education Savings Account)

Only a \$100 Minimum to open these two accounts through March 31, 2026

- FCSU Financial® Founded in 1890
- \$600M in Assets
- Solvency Ratio 110%
- Governed and Regulated by the ODI

CALL US:
800.533.6682
annuity@fcsu.com • www.fcsu.com

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
FAX: 216.642.4310

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal - Published Monthly
Publisher and Proprietor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

USA - \$25.00 • Other Countries - \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING,
1407 Hempstead Road, Lancaster, PA 17602

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:
Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Rd • Suite 300 • Independence, OH 44131-2398
Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131
and additional mailing offices

FCSU.com



Message from the National Chaplain

One of the most well-known and beloved saints in the history of the Church died in 1226. In the 800 years since then, countless numbers of people have dedicated their lives to follow the example of holiness set forth in the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis' life was one of being a peacemaker, of giving humble service to others in the name of Christ, and having respect for all of God's creation.

It was announced on January 10, that Pope Leo XIV approved the designation of 2026 as a Special Year of Saint Francis. From now until January 10, 2027, a plenary indulgence is granted to individuals who make a pilgrimage to any church staffed by the Franciscans or any church named for Saint Francis.

The pilgrim is to go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the intentions of the pope. Pope Leo's prayer intention for the month of February is for children suffering from incurable diseases and their families to receive the necessary medical care and support.

By the way, a plenary indulgence is a special grace that removes temporal punishment due to sin. In other words, it is a special grace that reduces time our souls after death are purified in purgatory before they are welcomed into the heavenly kingdom.

Pope Leo wrote that in our age with all the wars and different divisions causing distrust and fear, Saint Francis of Assisi's life points us to the true source of peace. He writes: "Peace with God, peace among peoples and peace with creation are insatiable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation."

With the prayers of Saint Francis of Assisi, may God make every person on the face of the earth instruments of his Peace.

As a reminder, the holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. All Catholic adults between the ages of 18 and 59 are seriously bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics 14 years of age and older are seriously bound to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.



Rev. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain

SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 48th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

As of February 2, 27 donors have given \$3,015 for the 2026 Appeal. Among the 9 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 743, Branch 857, and District 17 of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$275. Donations have also been received from 4 clergy and religious and 14 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2026 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2026 will be credited toward the 2027 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

48th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Amount \$ _____

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 Avenue • Penndel, PA 19047-4052

NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES	ISSUE DEADLINES
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.	<p>MARCH 2026 ISSUE</p> <p>COPY DATE - MONDAY, MARCH 2</p> <p>ISSUE DATE - MONDAY, MARCH 11</p> <p>APRIL 2026 ISSUE</p> <p>COPY DATE - MONDAY, MARCH 30</p> <p>ISSUE DATE - MONDAY, APRIL 8</p>

Message from the Executive Secretary

As we found out from Punxsutawney Phil, Spring will be delayed for another six weeks. However, here at the Home Office we have been in “summer mode” planning for the upcoming convention. The convention is always a great bonding experience for our younger members to mingle and hear stories from the well-seasoned veteran delegates. This is a great avenue for our older members to share stories about our heritage and our culture and a great time to share stories about our orphanage, and summer camps in Middletown, PA.



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

As we prepare for the convention, please check the FCSU website for the latest updates. Click on Membership then 53rd Convention.

The official delegate count letters were mailed out to all qualifying branches in the first week of February. Just a reminder that the number of delegates for a branch is determined according to the number of their members on February 1, 2026. Please refer to Bylaws 11.04.

Credentials for elected delegates must be forwarded to me at the Home Office no later than 90 calendar days before opening of the convention. The deadline date to arrive is Monday, March 23, 2026. We will start to verify the submitted delegates as they arrive.

The hotel will be running shuttle service to the train station and airport for those who do not plan on driving. As we send out the credentials packets, we request that you fill out a questionnaire on your mode of transportation. This will enable us to work with the hotel on planning pick up locations and times.

Thank you to all the Branches that have submitted their paperwork for the 2025 stipend. We are in the process of reviewing all the reports and issuing the checks.

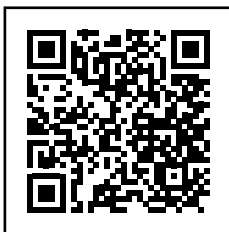
This month’s virtual call will take place on Thursday, February 19 at 12pm EST and 6pm EST. The topics will focus on the upcoming Convention.

March’s virtual call will take place on Tuesday, March 31 at 12pm and 6pm. During this call we will discuss:

- Branch Direct Deposit Starting April 1, 2026
- Submission of 990 Forms for Branches

Join Us for our Next Virtual Calls:
Thursday, February 19 • 12pm and 6pm (EST)
Tuesday, March 31 • 12pm and 6pm (EST)

Visit our website at fcsu.com/about/newsroom/ or scan the QR code to get the Zoom link.



Message from the President, Continued from Page 1

A reminder that the deadline for the FCSU Scholarship is March 13. I strongly encourage students — grade school through graduate school — to apply and take advantage of the financial assistance our fraternal proudly provides. Supporting education has always been a cornerstone of who we are.

We are also in the heart of planning for our national events. First is our Bowling Tournament in Erie, PA on April 25–26. Save the date for our Golf Tournament, being held at the Tom Fazio–designed course in Huron, OH, July 24–26. These events are wonderful ways to enjoy fellowship, represent your branch, and strengthen the bonds that make our organization so special.

As always, our Home Office staff is here to help with any questions about our products or fraternal programs. Please call 1-800-533-6682 or visit www.fcsu.com to stay up to date on everything happening in the FCSU. Let’s continue growing our fraternal together — through faith, fellowship, and participation in the many events and opportunities ahead. I look forward to seeing many of you this year!



UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2026

- 2/15** Branch 23 - Meeting (Election), Johnstown, PA (RSVP)
- 2/15** Branch 89 - Meeting (Election), Menomonee Falls, WI (RSVP)
- 2/15** District 11 - Meeting (Election), Ford City, PA
- 2/16** Presidents Day - Home Office Closed
- 2/17** Branch 785 - Meeting (Special Election), Mississauga, Ont (RSVP)
- 2/17** District 19 - Meeting (Special Election), Mississauga, Ont (RSVP)
- 2/19** Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 6pm
- 2/21** Branch 5P - Meeting, Pittston, PA
- 2/21** Branch 320 - Meeting (Election), Belle Vernon, PA (RSVP by 2/11)
- 2/21** Branch 855 - Meeting (Election), Middleburg Hts., OH (RSVP by 2/15)
- 2/21** District 3 - Meeting (Election), Mt. Pleasant, PA
- 2/21** District 7 - Meeting (Election), Johnstown, PA
- 2/22** Branch 199 - Meeting (Election), Latrobe, PA
- 2/22** Branch 553 - Meeting (Election), Akron, OH
- 2/22** Branch 716 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY
- 2/22** Branch 756 - Meeting (Election), Owosso, MI
- 2/24** Branch 401 - Meeting (Election), N. Apollo, PA (RSVP by 2/20)
- 2/25** Branch 853 - Off the Wall Arts, Charleroi, PA (RSVP by 2/15)
- 2/28** Branch 153 - Meeting (Election), Harwood Heights, IL (RSVP by 2/23)
- 2/28** District 17 - Meeting (Election), Binghamton, NY (RSVP by 2/21)

MARCH 2026

- 3/1** Branch 35 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)
- 3/1** Branch 45 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY
- 3/1** Branch 213 - Meeting (Election), Pittsburgh, PA
- 3/1** Branch 670 - Meeting and Bowling (Election), Charleroi, PA (RSVP by 2/15)
- 3/1** Branch 746 - Meeting (Election), Linden, NJ (RSVP by 2/21)
- 3/1** Branch 853 - Meeting and Bowling, Charleroi, PA (RSVP by 2/15)
- 3/1** District 4 - Meeting (Election), Linden, NJ (RSVP by 2/21)
- 3/1** District 12 - Bowling, Charleroi, PA (RSVP by 2/15)
- 3/3** Branch 162 - Meeting (Election), Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 2/25)
- 3/5** Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA
- 3/6** Branch 628 - Meeting (Election), Homestead, PA
- 3/6** Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 3/6** District 14 - Phantoms Hockey Game, Youngstown, OH (RSVP by 2/27)
- 3/7** Branch 181 - Meeting (Election), Latrobe, PA (RSVP by 2/28)
- 3/8** Branch 19 - Mass and Meeting (Zoom)
- 3/8** Branch 276 - Meeting (Election), McKeesport, PA
- 3/8** Branch 382 - Meeting (Election), Dunmore, PA (RSVP by 3/4)
- 3/8** District 9 - Meeting, Smithfield, PA (RSVP by 3/4)
- 3/8** District 10 - Meeting (Election), Cleveland, OH (RSVP by 2/22)
- 3/8** District 16 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY
- 3/10** Branch 2 - Meeting (Election), Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP)
- 3/19** Branch 367 - Meeting, Smithfield, PA
- 3/19** Branch 410 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 3/16)
- 3/19** Branch 731 - Mass, Youngstown, OH
- 3/22** Branch 796 - Meeting, Egypt, PA
- 3/28** District 10 - Cleveland Monsters Hockey Game, Cleveland, OH (RSVP by 2/21)
- 3/29** Branch 743 - Mass and Meeting, Sterling Heights, MI
- 3/31** Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 6pm

Applications must be received by March 13, 2026

Applications available at www.fcsu.com (www.fcsu.com/membership/scholarships)



FCSU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION...

helps its young members succeed through education by awarding over \$200,000 in scholarships each year.

RULES & REGULATIONS:

- Applicants must have one of the following with FCSU for at **least three years** prior to April 1st of the year in which they are applying:
 - A minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life)
 - A minimum of \$25,000 JEP policy
 - A minimum of \$1,000 of Juvenile Life Savings
 - A minimum of \$500 in an annuity or Coverdell IRA
- APPLICANTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONCE IN EACH OF THE FIVE CATEGORIES.**
- All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years.

Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and checks will be made payable to the winners.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

Catholic Grade Schools (5-8)	\$500
Catholic High Schools	\$1,000
Vocational/Trade Schools	\$1,000
Colleges	\$1,500
Graduate School	\$1,500

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or downloaded from www.fcsu.com.

Mail to: FCSU Scholarship Program
6611 Rockside Road, #300
Independence, OH 44131

Email to: scholarship@fcsu.com

**For more information call us at
800.533.6682 ext 114.**



N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

How to Add Funds to a Loved One's Annuity Account

Have you set up an FCSU policy for a loved one—or know someone who already has one—and want to add funds for a birthday, graduation, holiday, or other special occasion? Adding money to a family member's or friend's account is easy and can be done online in just a few minutes.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED BEFORE YOU START:

- The policy number of the person you're adding funds to
- Their first and last name
- Your payment information (credit/debit card or bank account)

STEP 1: GO TO WWW.FCSU.COM

Go to the navigation bar and click the Pay Now tab at the top of the page.

STEP 2: CHOOSE POLICY PAYMENT/DEPOSIT

On the left side of the screen, select Policy: Payment/Deposit.

STEP 3: ENTER POLICY DETAILS

Fill in the following:

- Payer name: Your name
- Policy number: The policy number of the person you're paying for
- Policyholder: Member's first and last name
- Payment: The dollar amount you want to deposit

STEP 4: CONFIRM THE ACCOUNT

The next screen will confirm the policy number and the account you are depositing money into. Review this information to be sure it's correct.

STEP 5: SELECT A PAYMENT METHOD

You can pay by bank account or credit/debit card.

- If paying by bank account, you'll need:
 - ✦ Bank routing number
 - ✦ Account number
 - ✦ Account type (checking or savings)
 - ✦ Name on the bank account
- If paying by credit*/debit card, you'll need:
 - ✦ Card number
 - ✦ Expiration date
 - ✦ CSC (security) code
 - ✦ Billing address

Leave "Ship to billing address" checked so you only need to enter your address once.

* There is a 2% surcharge for credit card payments over \$500.

STEP 6: ADD FUNDS TO ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS (OPTIONAL)

You can add funds to more than one policy in the same transaction. Simply click the "Add Another Payment" button and repeat the steps for each additional account.

FINAL CONFIRMATION:

Once your payment is complete, you'll see a confirmation screen. Please print or save this page for your records.

- FCSU does not send a confirmation email
- Credit card payments will generate a confirmation email from PayPal
- You may receive a confirmation email from your bank, depending on your account settings

Adding funds is a thoughtful way to support your loved ones and help their policies grow over time.

If you have questions or need assistance, FCSU is always here to help.

Safeguard Your Financial Health with a Free Credit Checkup

Your credit report plays a big role in your financial life. It can affect whether you qualify for a loan, the interest rate you pay, your ability to rent housing, and sometimes even job opportunities. The good news? Federal law gives every consumer the right to a free credit report once every 12 months from each of the three major credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Taking advantage of this benefit is one of the easiest ways to protect your financial health.

How to Get Your Free Report

The official, federally authorized website to request your reports is AnnualCreditReport.com, where you can access reports from all three bureaus in one place. You may also request your reports by phone at 1-877-322-8228 or by mail through the Annual Credit Report Request Service. Many people choose to request all three reports at once, while others spread them out during the year to monitor their credit more regularly.

Reviewing your report allows you to:

- Check for errors or outdated information
- Watch for signs of identity theft
- Understand what lenders see before you apply for credit

Even small mistakes on a report can affect your score, so regular review is a smart financial habit.

Contacting the Credit Bureaus

If you need to work directly with a bureau, to dispute an error or place a security measure, here's how to reach them:

Equifax:	888-378-4329 • Equifax.com
Experian:	888-397-3742 • Experian.com
TransUnion:	800-916-8800 • TransUnion.com

An Extra Layer of Protection: Credit Freezes

Beyond checking your reports, you can also place a free credit freeze with each bureau. A freeze restricts access to your credit file, making it much harder for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. Your credit score is not affected, and you can temporarily lift the freeze whenever you legitimately apply for credit. Freezes and unfreezes are free under federal law.

A Simple Step with Big Impact

Checking your credit report once a year, and considering a credit freeze, are simple actions that offer strong protection. Staying informed helps you catch problems early and keeps your financial reputation working for you, not against you.

Reflection

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

Jesus, Beloved of My Heart (Ježišu, Láska Srdca Mojho)

February is featured in news media and advertising as a month draped in hearts and flowers. Yet, this material display is fragile in supporting the true meaning of the gift of love. St. John the Evangelist wrote, "See what love the Father (God) has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God." (I John 3:1). John continues, "Let us love one another because love is of God. If God so loved us, we also must love one another" (I John 4:11) "and keep His commandments." (I John 5:3).

The way the love of God was revealed to us is that He "sent His only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him." (I John 4:9). This month's hymn, "Jesus, Beloved of My Heart" expresses strikingly how Jesus lived and shared His divine and human life with all whom He encountered on earth. Now Jesus continues to be our daily Source of Love, inspiring us from His tabernacle home. Let us continue to visit and learn from Him to live and love one another. (Biblical citations from New American Bible. Revised)

JESUS, BELOVED OF MY HEART

1. Jesus, Beloved of my heart,
You love me more than I can tell;
You chose to leave Your Heavenly Father,
Came here to earth with me to dwell.
CHORUS - Jesus, I dearly love You so,
Accept my heart as gift to You alone.
2. Jesus, I firmly You acknowledge
Hidden in Sacred Bread and Wine;
I offer You profound adoration,
Truly proclaim such Presence Divine.
3. My Lord and God, my Hope eternal!
My trust remains in You alone.
My life, my refuge—forever grateful.
Without You my soul's life is gone.
4. Would that my heart so frail, unworthy,
Never desired a fleeting love;
That night and day, I live in Your Presence,
Faithfully love but You alone.

JEŽIŠU, LÁSKA SRDCA MÔJHO

1. Ježišu, láska srdca môjho,
ktorýs' ma toľko miloval,
že si zanechal Otca Svojho,
aby si so mnou prebýval.
SBOR - Ježišu, Teba milujem,
srdce Ti svoje darujem.
2. Ježišu, pevne včul vyznávam,
že vo Sviatosti živý si;
Tebe poklonu svoju vzdávam,
v nej Boh môj opravdivý si.
3. Pán môj a Boh môj, nádej moja!
dúfam len v Tebe jedine;
život, útecha, láska moja!
bez Teba duša má hynie.
4. Bár by srdce moje nehodné
iného nič nepoznalo,
len aby Teba, v noci, vo dne,
Ježišu môj, milovalo!

Insights and Viewpoints

Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

Luke 6: 39-45

GOSPEL SUMMARY - The parables that Jesus offers in today's gospel have one thing in common. They are all concerned with the qualities required for authentic discipleship. The "blind" who cannot lead others are essentially the same as the hypocrites, who cannot see their own faults but are always ready to point out the shortcomings of others. Those who resist personal conversion are in no position to lead others to conversion. And a false heart cannot be a truthful and effective witness.

What is really at issue here is one's willingness to live in reality. The person who chooses to live in illusion cannot be helpful in leading others to reality, where alone salvation can be found. Jesus chose reality when he took a path of loving service, which led him to pain and death but also to joy and life.

In the real world, our freedom is for loving and caring, but this is often painful. Hence the almost irresistible temptation to create an illusory world where pride and control can dominate and where pain can be avoided, at least temporarily. Jesus urges us to choose instead the reality of a converted heart producing the rich fruit of kindness and gentleness and freedom.

LIFE IMPLICATIONS - All this can be seen more clearly when we consider some classic illusions and the following list is by no means exhaustive.

There is the illusion of self-sufficiency, which blinds us to the reality of our interdependence. We need others, and they need us. We do not find reality by looking in the mirror or by talking to ourselves or by refusing to hear others.

A common and destructive illusion is that of low self-esteem, which focuses so exclusively on one's shortcomings that one is paralyzed and gradually slips into the tragic situation of victim-hood. The reality is that we can all contribute something unique and precious, even if it is only a gentle touch or a generous smile.

Then there is the illusion of indispensability, which leads us to believe that we are irreplaceable. Our contribution may be very significant, but it is always a shock to see how quickly we can be replaced, and even more so if our job is simply eliminated.

A particularly dangerous illusion is that of thinking we are not prejudiced. Everyone is prejudiced in some way and the worst prejudice of all is not to recognize the fact of personal bias. These deeply ingrained attitudes can easily distort our vision of life and will cause us to be narrow-minded and judgmental.

Another common illusion is that of immortality, which prevents us from being realistic about health care and which leads to denial or rationalizations in regard to bad health habits. This illusion is especially dangerous among the young, who often take risks that are foolish and life-threatening.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Mary's Call at Fatima

Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers' Board of Directors

The Feast of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto falls on February 20, which is just two days after the start of Lent this year. Along with their cousin, Lucia dos Santos, brother and sister Francisco and Jacinta witnessed several apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal.

Francisco was eight and Jacinta was seven when Mary first appeared to them on May 13, 1917. On that day, they were tending their family's sheep with Lucia. They later reported an apparition of "a Lady more brilliant than the sun," who asked them to pray the rosary and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. Not revealing yet that she was our Blessed Mother, the lady asked the children to return to that same spot on the 13th of every month for the next five months.

On October 13, 1917, the day of the sixth and final apparition, something happened called the Miracle of the Sun. Thousands of people were gathered in the field where the apparitions were known to be happening. There was a period of rain but then clouds parted to reveal the sun spinning in radiant colors before it briefly fell and then zigzagged back into place.

People who were drenched moments before were suddenly dry, and the children reported that Mary spoke these words to them: "I am the Lady of the Rosary, I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask for pardon for their sins. They must not offend Our Lord any more, for He is already too grievously offended by the sins of men. People must say the Rosary. Let them continue saying it every day. I would like a chapel built here in my honor. The war will end soon."

World War I ended one year later, and a chapel was built at Fatima, which has grown into one of the most important places in the world for spiritual pilgrimage. But Francisco and Jacinta did not live beyond childhood. They both fell ill in the 1918 influenza pandemic and died in 1919 and 1920, respectively. Before her death, Jacinta told Lucia, "Tell everybody that God grants us graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that people are to ask her for them; and that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated at His side. Tell them also to pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace, since God entrusted it to her."

The message of Fatima makes clear that God wants Mary to act as a spiritual mother to all of humanity. She loves us with the immensity of a mother's heart and desires to see all people turn to Christ for healing and renewal.

As we embark upon our Lenten journey, let us keep Francisco and Jacinta and the amazing occurrences at Fatima in focus so that we might heed Mary's call for repentance in order for the world to return to Christ.

For those who feel called to take on hard challenges during Lent, let's also remember Mary's request at Fatima for sacrifices to be made in order for others to convert. There's much that our sacrifices during Lent can accomplish in our own lives and in the lives of others, so let's offer every last bit of our struggle up to God during this Lent, uniting our sufferings to Christ on the cross and answering the call of Fatima to bring about renewal for the whole world.

Grow+Go+Reflect

Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31;
Mt 5:1-12a

GROW: There have been many times when people have experienced "imposter syndrome" in their work and their own abilities. In those times, they looked to others to determine if they were doing enough. But instead of giving them the validation and encouragement they were seeking, this act of comparison frequently led to dissatisfaction. They began to wish they were more like others — more outgoing, more disciplined, more organized. But who they are and the gifts they have to offer are important. Saint Paul reminds us in his First Letter to the Corinthians that we were not called because we possess a specific talent or personality; we have been called to bear witness to the work Christ is doing in us. And this witness comes from living our vocation authentically, with the gifts we naturally possess. When we not only accept but love and value our unique qualities, we give glory to the One who so lovingly and perfectly created us.

GO: In proclaiming the beatitudes, Christ reveals that those who will experience the rewards of heaven aren't those we might consider "blessed" by human standards. What our culture values as markers of success and happiness are not always what is valued in the kingdom of God. Indeed, the joys of life in the kingdom are deeper than those here on earth; we were created for fulfillment greater than what this world can offer. Therefore, we must live confidently in the hope of Christ's promises instead of comparing ourselves to others who might appear more successful. And as we live our vocation, we are called to live out the counter cultural message of the beatitudes — a radical trust in the eternal promises of God in spite of earthly poverty, grief, or persecution. In doing so, we invite others to see and experience the joy of the abundant life that Christ proclaims.

REFLECT: As we go through life, there can be times when we feel unprepared for the vocation God has called us to. Consider how these feelings of inadequacy may be an invitation for us to rely more fully on Christ working within us. Bring this to prayer and ask the Lord to reveal how he may be using this particular circumstance to draw us closer to him.

MEMBER TRAVEL ADVENTURES

A Leap of Faith Across the Aegean: Karen Habian's Grand Greek Adventure

At 66 years old, Karen Habian of North Royalton, Ohio did something she had never done before—she traveled internationally. For someone who had never left the country, the decision was filled with uncertainty and fear. But it was also an act of courage. This journey to Greece was not just a vacation; it was a leap of faith, a response to personal loss, and a powerful reminder that life is precious and there is no time to wait for “someday.”

Karen has been part of the FCSU family since 2000 and currently serves as Recording Secretary for Branch 855. Since September 2024, she has also worked part-time at the FCSU Home Office, assisting with scanning, organizing documents and helping with events. Her dedication to fraternalism is shared by her family—her son and daughter-in-law are members, along with her twin grandchildren. Together, they enjoy participating in Branch 855 gatherings, national picnics, and regional FCSU activities.

Karen found her inspiration through reflection. The recent passing of friends prompted her to take a hard look at her own life, her passions, and the experiences she had always postponed. Traveling overseas had long felt intimidating, but Greece had captured her imagination through photos and stories of its islands and history. Knowing that many Greeks speak fluent English offered some comfort, but Karen still pushed herself further, learning a few Greek words and phrases—including “Yamas,” meaning “Cheers.”

In June 2025, Karen and her younger sister, Barb, boarded a plane for Athens, Greece. The 10-hour flight was exhausting and, at times, nerve-wracking. But the moment they arrived, the fear that had built up over months of anticipation gave way to excitement. They stayed in the historic Plaka neighborhood, ideally located for exploring the heart of the ancient city.

Their first day in Athens was spent easing into this new world. They wandered the streets, visited Monastiraki Square—one of the city's oldest and most vibrant districts—and Syntagma Square, the bustling central hub of Athens. Along the way, they admired centuries-old churches and enjoyed their first authentic Greek meal: gyros, crusted bread topped with fried feta, fresh tomatoes, and a drizzle of truffle oil. Gelato was plentiful, and a stroll down Ermou Street completed a day filled with simple but unforgettable discoveries.

The following day, they joined a guided tour of Athens' most iconic landmarks. The Acropolis and Parthenon stood as powerful symbols of history and endurance. The tour also included the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 and the only stadium in the world built entirely of marble, the Parliament with its famous changing of the guards, the Temple of Apollo, the Theatre of Dionysus, and sweeping views from Lycabettus Hill.

On the third day, nerves returned as the sisters boarded the Celebrity Infinity to begin a seven-night cruise of the Greek islands and beyond. For Karen, the idea of navigating ports, excursions, and life aboard a large ship felt overwhelming—but it quickly became part of the adventure. Cruise Day 1 brought them to Mykonos, where they were tendered ashore to an island known for its turquoise waters and iconic white windmills. Lunch in Little Venice, right along the water, delivered postcard-perfect views and a sense that this bold decision was already paying off.

Cruise Day 2 brought one of the most physically demanding—and personally meaningful—experiences of the trip. On the island of Rhodes, Karen kayaked six miles along the Aegean Sea, weaving in and out of caves under the 85-degree sun. With two brief stops along the way, the excursion tested her endurance and resolve. “I was thrilled I did it and survived,” Karen said, proud of herself for confronting fear head-on and proving she was capable of far more than she had imagined.

Cruise Day 3 offered a chance to catch her breath with a day at sea, but even then, Karen chose curiosity over comfort. She signed up for the Inside Access: Behind the Scenes Ship Tour, which included visits to the incinerator room, engine control room, laundromat, the ship's bridge, and the galley where thousands of meals are prepared during a seven-night cruise.

On Cruise Day 4, the ship docked in Kusadasi, Turkey. The sisters took part in a guided archaeological tour of Ephesus, walking among ancient ruins that once formed one of the most important cities of the ancient world. The day concluded with a traditional carpet-making demonstration, adding cultural depth to an already unforgettable journey.

Cruise Day 5 delivered one of the most breathtaking views of the entire trip: Santorini. Traveling by bus to the top of the caldera, Karen took in dramatic cliff-side views overlooking the sea. The island's whitewashed houses, blue-domed churches, and legendary sunsets exceeded every expectation. The day included a tour of the Akrotiri archaeological site, a wine tasting, lunch in Oia with Greek dancing, and time spent exploring the city of Fira.

The final port of call was the island of Hydra. Reached by water taxi, Hydra is known for preserving its cobblestone streets by prohibiting cars. Supplies are still transported by donkey, giving the island a timeless charm and offering a peaceful conclusion to a whirlwind adventure.

Looking back, Karen describes the experience as a trip of a lifetime. What began with fear and hesitation ended with confidence, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose. By saying yes to something that scared her, she discovered not only the beauty of Greece, but also her own strength.

“If I get the opportunity,” Karen says, “I would definitely travel overseas again.”

Her story is a reminder to all of us that it's never too late to chase a dream, face our fears, and say Yamas to life.



Branch 670 2026 Scholarship Program

Three \$1000 Scholarships Available

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce it is now accepting applications for its 2026 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three one-time \$1000 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend any post education institution is eligible to apply.

**For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
Nicole Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive Freedom, PA 15042
branch670activities@gmail.com**



ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 30TH

Branch 181 Youth Member Scholastic Assistance

\$500 Scholarships

Applications must be postmarked by May 4, 2026

For the Fall 2026 start of the academic year, the St. John the Baptist Society — Branch 181 of United, PA, will be offering \$500 scholarships to eligible high school senior members planning to attend college or career/technical school. These will be one-time scholarships selected by an independent panel that will evaluate each application. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the number of eligible applicants. Qualifications below:

- You are a member in good Standing of the First Catholic Slovak Union, St. John the Baptist Society — Branch 181.
- You have been a member of Branch 181 for 4 years prior to applying with a minimum \$5000 insurance policy.
- You are a high school senior preparing to graduate in 2026 and have applied for the 2026 Fall term at a qualifying Educational institution.

Contact Vicki at 724-433-8469 or vicki15@zoominternet.net for an application

These scholarships are solely funded by your local Branch 181 and are independent of the First Catholic Slovak Union Home Office.



Branch 587 Holiday Gathering

Submitted by Joanne Fibbi, Br. 587 President

Members of Branch 587 gathered at the home of branch president Joanne Fibbi, which was a festive celebration of Christmas decor including Nativity/Angel, Santa, Nutcracker and Woodland themed rooms and trees.

A three-entree lunch plus the obligatory tray of chicken fingers was catered by Heisler's Market, and enjoyed by all. Desserts included homemade cookies, from a fourth-generation Fibbi family recipe, and store-bought brownies that were decorated by the president, fooling everyone into thinking they were homemade as well.

Members aged 18 and younger received cash Christmas gifts, which the youngest excitedly asked their parents to hold for safe keeping. Members had fun making Christmas-themed Sticker Faces, which have adorned our refrigerators ever since. Continuing a decades long tradition, each member in attendance received a Christmas-themed Lottery Ticket. Surprisingly we had several winners of \$2, \$5 and \$10, which wasn't much, but definitely better than past years of going bust.

We wished more members were able to enjoy the party, but they did "Zoom in" for our business meeting later in the day. Wishing all Branch 587 members a happy and healthy new year.



Ohio Fraternal Alliance Offers 2026 Scholarship for Graduating Seniors

The Ohio Fraternal Alliance (OFA) is once again supporting the educational goals of Ohio's youth by offering its 2026 Scholarship Program. Each year, the Alliance awards a scholarship of up to \$500 to a graduating Ohio high school senior who is active in their fraternal society and community.

To be eligible, applicants must be Ohio residents and current youth members of a participating fraternal society, or covered under a qualifying family policy. Students must also plan to attend an accredited college, university, trade or technical school, or school of nursing as a full-time student in the fall of 2026.

Applicants are required to submit a brief essay describing their involvement in their fraternal society and their plans for future participation. In addition, they must provide lists of their church, community, and school activities, along with a letter of recommendation from a local fraternal officer.

For more information or to obtain an application, please contact Laurie Fox, OFA Scholarship Committee at 330-717-4705 or lfox@nsslife.org. Completed applications must be submitted by April 1, 2026.

District 19 and Branch 785 Annual Meeting

Submitted by Helen von Friedl

District 19 and Branch 785 held their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. Unfortunately the weather conditions were not on our side! We had 24 brave Jednota members attend this year. Past and present activities and reports were discussed, as elections for the next year. Also elections were held for Delegates for the upcoming Convention in June 2026. The picture below is of the members who attended. Some still in their coats!



Reprising My Role as a 1st Century Peasant

Submitted by Peg (Bertovich) Howson, Branch 853 Member

It all started in the nook of our dining room in the small coal mining town of Bentleyville in southwestern Pennsylvania. My mom (Marge Bertovich) dressed us as shepherds for Christmas. (That's me in the middle of my two brothers, Mike and Ron).

Fast forward 6.5 decades, I was blessed to participate as an extra for Season 6 of the hit series, *The Chosen*. I bought my tickets for the opportunity to be an extra on set for three days of filming, cobbled together my outfits as a first century peasant using their guidelines, purchased my airline tickets to Utah, and made some new friends sharing a B&B close to the set. I even found "my brothers from another mother", also extras, all of us with similar costumes! One of them was from a town close to where I currently live in New England.

The Chosen is a historical drama about Jesus and his followers. There are seven seasons, eight episodes per season, with the focus on Jesus and his followers' plausible personal stories and interactions versus a traditional, direct retelling of the Gospels.



The series is the largest crowd funded show, and is free to all to watch. It has been released worldwide. They count on donations (now tax deductible via ComeAndSeeFoundation.org) to fund the production and distribution to provide the show free all around the world.

The Chosen has been dubbed into over 58 languages and for 86 languages for subtitles. You can watch it in English, or even watch it dubbed with Slovak subtitles. Just download the free *The Chosen* app, and once you start watching the episode, go to Settings and set Audio Track to Slovak, and Subtitles to Slovak.

Keep an eye out for me in Season 6 of *The Chosen*, coming in late 2026! I've added photos of both of my costumes to help you find me on screen. You can reach me at peghowson@gmail.com. Send me a message if you spot me in my scenes!

Lenten Slovak Hymn Sing and Slovak Stations of The Cross

Submitted by Anna Hudock, Branch 173 Member

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will sponsor the Lenten Slovak Hymn Sing and traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 339 North Maple Avenue, Kingston, PA. The church is handicapped accessible via elevator. The service will begin at 2pm with congregational singing of Lenten Hymns. The words and translations of this rich hymnology will be provided. The Stations of the Cross in Slovak led by members of the Society will follow. Booklets will be available for full participation in the service. The service will conclude with Benediction. After the service, refreshments will be served, followed by fellowship. The public is invited to participate free of charge. A free will offering will be accepted. For further information, call Anna at 570-510-1655.

**2026 FCSU
International
GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Save the Date!
JULY 24-26
**Sawmill Creek
Golf Club & Resort**
Huron, OH

American Slovak Club
LENTEN FISH FRY
Lent Begins February 18th
Perch, Walleye, Shrimp & Cod
2915 Broadway Ave, Lorain, OH

AmericanSlovakClub.com/Fish-Fry
Please call ahead for reservations
for parties of six or more at 440-245-5146

Voted the BEST Fish Fry in NE Ohio!
Once Featured on a Travel Channel show with Andrew Zimmern

FISH FRY

Served Every Friday during Lent
4:30 - 7:00 pm

- All you can eat fried fish, mac & cheese, fries, haluski, hot rice, coleslaw, bread & butter: **\$15**
- Six Piece Chicken tenders with all sides: **\$15**
- Three Piece Chicken tenders (10 & under): **\$10**
- Baked Cod includes all you can eat fried fish and sides: **\$20** (Reservations for COD MUST BE MADE)

Reservations MUST be made by the Wednesday before the Friday dinner. Carry out prices vary.
Call 330-786-9972 for details.

SLOVAK J CLUB
485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH

The Blessing of the Easter Baskets

FCSU National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta will be blessing Easter baskets via live-stream on Holy Saturday, April 4 at 12:00pm (EST). The blessing will be live streamed from Our Lady of Grace Church, Penndel, PA. You can watch the blessing on-line at www.olgparishpenndel.org.

The blessing of Easter baskets is a cherished Catholic tradition. It takes place on Holy Saturday and marks the end of the Lenten fast. Families bring baskets of food to church to be blessed by a priest with prayers and holy water. The blessed foods are then shared at the Easter Sunday meal as a sign of gratitude and celebration of Christ's Resurrection. This custom allows families to give thanks for the blessings of the past year and to sanctify the first meal of Easter. Each item placed in the basket has a special meaning in the Catholic faith.

Common items include:

- Bread (Paska or Babka).....Represents Jesus, the "Living Bread," and the gift of eternal life.
- Eggs (Dyed or Decorated)A symbol of new life, hope, and the Resurrection.
- Sausage or Ham.....Signifies God's generosity and the joy of the Easter feast.
- SaltRepresents purity and the role of faith in daily life.
- Butter (often shaped like a lamb).....Reminds us of Christ's goodness.
- Horseradish.....Symbolizes the bitterness of Christ's Passion.
- White Linen Cloth.....Represents purity and the burial shroud of Christ.
- Greenery, Ribbons, Candles.....Signs of spring, renewal, and Christ as the Light of the World.

After the blessing, families share these foods at their Easter table as a reminder that all nourishment comes from God and that Easter is a celebration of faith and new life.



Branches 24 and 855 Host Successful CLE Sports Watch Party

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director

Branch 24 and Branch 855 hosted a “CLE Sports Watch Party” on Sunday afternoon, January 4, 2026. The idea for the Watch came from Branch 24 President John Moynihan who wanted his friends and the friends of other members to experience the fun, fraternal activities of our Society. He invited Branch 855 President Barb Sutilla and her branch to join him.



It was a great success on many levels. Over 75 people attended the Watch. Between enjoying a buffet of wings, chicken tenders, and sides, attendees had the opportunity to watch the Browns defeat the Bengals followed by the close loss of the Cavs to the Pistons on the party room’s many screens. There were plenty of chances to win, thanks to the many raffle baskets gathered by John, Barb, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Fran Strekal, Branch 24 member Emily Viskocil, and Branch 855 Treasurer Ann Sutilla, who also helped sell tickets and run the raffle. It was a true family affair, with Branch 24’s Sue Moynihan working the door and Joe Moynihan managing three prize boards.

The \$100 Annuity Special was introduced and it garnered a number of new members! We look forward to welcoming them and meeting them at an event soon! While the details of the Fraternalism in Action project are highlighted on this page, the generosity of our members—and their invited guests—deserves special recognition. Their response resulted in more than two wagon loads of nonperishable food collected for Faith Food Pantry & Clothing Shop in Twinsburg. Congratulations to John for a wonderful idea and event, and to everyone from Branch 24 and Branch 855 who helped make it such a success!



Show your impact—share your Fraternalism in Action event and inspire others to do the same!

Contact the Home Office at branch@fcsu.com or district@fcsu.com for eligibility forms and guidelines.

Branches 24 and 855 Join Forces for Food Pantry

Branches 24 and 855 collaborated during their joint “CLE Sports Watch Party” to answer the call to Fraternalism in Action. Their combined effort resulted in more than two wagon loads of nonperishable food collected for Faith Food Pantry & Clothing Shop, providing vital support during the harsh Cleveland winter.

Faith Food Pantry & Clothing Shop serves the community in many ways, offering a food pantry, a clothing closet, and community dinners for those in need. In addition to the generous donations gathered by members, the Home Office graciously contributed \$250 on behalf of each branch, further strengthening the impact of this compassionate outreach.



HOCKEY

Join District 10 for a Cleveland Monsters Game

Saturday, March 28, 2026
7pm • Rocket Arena

For Discounts and Tickets, contact your Branch Representative

Order by Saturday, February 21

Seating is Limited • First Come, First Serve, So Don't Delay

Branch 1
Rochelle Popovich
216-789-6390

Branch 24
Fran Strekal
216-308-1728

Branch 228
Lisa Trifiletti-Palos
440-960-2111

Branch 450
Frank Woyma
216-225-5688

Branch 553
Linda Hanko
330-690-9611

Branch 855
Barbara Sutilla
440-864-4744

Pittsburgh Library Offers Free Slovak Language Classes

The Brentwood Public Library in Pittsburgh, PA will be offering intermediate Slovak language classes for those with some prior knowledge. The class will be held on Thursday nights for eight weeks, from March 12 - April 30. The class lasts 90 minutes. If interested, contact instructor Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. The Brentwood Public Library is located at 3501 Brownsville Road in Pittsburgh.



FCSU Branch 746 Christmas Gathering Brings Holiday Cheer to Bistro 1051

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Christmas cheer was in full swing on Sunday, December 21, 2025, when members of FCSU Branch 746 gathered at Bistro 1051 in Clark, New Jersey for their annual Christmas celebration. Following the branch's regular meeting and election of officers, members and guests enjoyed a festive luncheon that truly captured the warmth and joy of the season.

The afternoon featured delicious food, a cozy atmosphere, and wonderful fellowship, with Bistro 1051 providing a meal that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. After lunch, the celebration continued with lively games and friendly competition, filling the room with laughter and good-natured fun. Game winners received gift cards, chocolate Santas, and FCSU Jednota hats, but the true stars of the afternoon were our youngest generation, who brought energy, enthusiasm, and plenty of competitive spirit. A crowd favorite was the famously challenging "unwrapping the Christmas present" game using oven mittens, which delighted participants and spectators alike.

The branch also took time to celebrate December birthdays, complete with a festive birthday cake and joyful singing of birthday songs in both English and Slovak. Traditional favorites such as "Živio," "Blahaja lita," and, of course, "Happy Birthday" filled the room, making the celebration extra special. Warm wishes to all our December birthday babies!

In keeping with the true spirit of the season, Branch 746 members also demonstrated their generosity by donating a bountiful collection of food pantry items to benefit the St. John the Apostle Food Pantry in Clark, New Jersey. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making a meaningful difference in the community.

The Branch 746 Christmas gathering was a joyful way to close out the year, bringing together good food, festive fun, birthday celebrations, and a strong sense of community and giving that continues to define our branch. As we turn the page to a new year, Branch 746 extends heartfelt wishes to our entire Jednota family for a truly blessed 2026 filled with good health, renewed energy, shared traditions, and many reasons to celebrate together.



District 3 Celebrates Štedrý Večer

Submitted by Kirsten Meyer, Branch 393 Member

On Sunday, December 7, 2025, District 3 celebrated their annual Štedrý Večer at the Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Many FCSU Members and National Officers gathered to partake in Slovak traditions at this year's event.

The event began with Holy Mass celebrated by FCSU Protector Bishop Larry J. Kulick and con-celebrant Fr. Aron Maghsoudi in the St. Joseph Chapel. Choir and musical assistance were provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks, directed by Sue and Rudy Ondrejco. Following Mass, the Pittsburgh Slovaks performed a Slovak pageant. The audience was wowed by beautiful traditional attire, dancing, singing, examples of Slovak traditions and a Christmas story spoken in Slovak.

All guests were directed to the dining hall and asked to be seated as District 3 President William Patty welcomed and thanked all for attending. Bishop Kulick led guests in prayer and spoke on the symbolism behind the meal. Attendees dined on a traditional Vilija dinner starting with homemade Oplatky wafers made by Edward and Barbara Mizikar. Everyone was served mushroom and sauerkraut soup, followed by the main plate of fish, peas, pierogis, pagach and bobalki. Nuts, fruit, honey, garlic and dates were also passed around the table as well as apricot and nut kolache for dessert.

During dinner, District 3 Vice President Darlene Patty passed out raffle prizes including gift cards and plenty of holiday décor. Branch 393 Maria Meyer assisted her in distributing prizes. Her brother, Martin Meyer, entertained guests by playing the violin throughout the evening. Special thanks to everyone who attended and organized this year's fantastic Štedrý Večer. A wonderful time was had by all!

2026 FCSU INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

CASH PRIZES
FABULOUS FOOD
FUN & FELLOWSHIP
RAFFLES



WINNER'S SHIRTS
DOOR PRIZES
BRAGGING RIGHTS
GIVEAWAYS

APRIL 25-26

Exclusively for FCSU Members and Their Guests*

Bowling Alley: Eastway Lanes

4110 Buffalo Road • Erie, PA • 814-899-9855

Headquarters Hotel: Sheraton Bayfront Hotel

55 W Bay Road • Erie, PA • 814-454-2005

You must book your room directly on the hotel's reservation system -- book.passkey.com/e/51076416

Enjoy your stay at this outstanding property with a discounted rate of \$159+tax/night.

Valid April 24th and 25th. **Reservation Deadline is March 23, 2026!**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH AT BOWLING ALLEY	
9:00-9:30am	Registration
9:30-9:45am	Practice
10:00 am-12:45pm	Teams Event
12:45-1:00pm	50/50 Raffle
1:15-4:00pm	Doubles Event

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH AT HOTEL	
7:00-8:30am	Breakfast
5:00pm	Vigil Mass
5:30pm	Cocktail Hour
6:15-9:15pm	Dinner, Program and Raffles

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH AT BOWLING ALLEY	
7:00-8:30am (At Hotel)	Breakfast
9:15-9:30am	Check-in
9:30-9:45am	Practice
10:00am-12:30pm	Singles Event
12:30pm	50/50 Raffle

Important New Entry Rules for 2026

*Please review and follow these updated participation guidelines:

1. Entry is open to all qualified FCSU Members. Qualified members are those with a minimum Annuity/IRA investment of \$500 or a life insurance policy in good standing prior to March 20, 2026.
2. To become a qualifying member contact FCSU at 800-533-6682 ext 122.
3. Any new member investing \$100 in an annuity/IRA during the promotional period 12/1/25 through 3/20/26, may participate in the 2026 bowling tournament.*
4. Any guest bowler from the 2025 tournament, may participate in the 2026 tournament as a member, with an initial annuity/IRA investment of \$100. Deadline March 20, 2026 *
5. Member benefits include free meals and drinks valued at \$200.
6. Each member may invite one non-member bowler, as space allows. Non-member bowlers may not participate in the 2026 tournament if they bowled at a previous FCSU bowling tournament.
7. The Tournament Raffle is open to bowlers only.

*Participation in the 2027 bowling tournament will require the minimum investment requirements as outlined in #1.

Questions?
Contact Joanne Fibbi
jfibbi@fcsu.com
412-953-4721
or the Home Office
[email events@fcsu.com](mailto:events@fcsu.com)

**Reserve Your Spot Today
and Join the Fun!**

2026 FCSU International Bowling Tournament

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Complete a separate entry for each bowler • Official rules are available on our website

Deadline March 23, 2026

Entry Forms Are Also Available www.FCSU.com/community/events

IMPORTANT ENTRANT INFORMATION

- Non-USBC Bowlers: Men must enter 175 as highest average. Women must enter 150 as highest average.
- Non-Members must be invited guests of current FCSU member bowlers.
- Bowler and Team Captain agree to relinquish their rights to prize money, should any information provided herein be found to be false.
- All tournament information, rules and regulations, etc. will be disseminated by email and available online at www.fcsu.com/community/events. Please advise if you do not have an email address. The tournament will be conducted under USBC Rules and Regulations.



Personal Information

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

FCSU MEMBER? YES NO FCSU BRANCH #: _____ LAST 4 DIGITS SS#: _____

IF NO, FCSU MEMBER SPONSOR & BRANCH #: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check enclosed payable to FCSU Credit Card payments may be made by phone. Call 800.533.6682, ext. 122.

Tournament Information

Please select your events* Teams Doubles Singles-Men Singles-Women All Events-Men All Events-Women

NAME OF TEAM: _____ TEAM CAPTAIN: _____

MY ORDER IN THE TEAM LINE-UP IS BOWLER #: 1 2 3 4

MY ORDER IN THE DOUBLES LINE-UP IS BOWLER #: 1 2 MY DOUBLES PARTNER IS: _____

USBC HIGHEST AVERAGE: _____ USBC #: _____ NON USBC BOWLER

LOCAL USBC & CONTACT: _____

*Teams and Doubles are open to men, women or mixed teams. To compete in All Events you must bowl Teams, Doubles & Singles.

FCSU MEMBER BOWLER FEES	
Check All That Apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teams	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Doubles	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Singles.....	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events.....	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast.....	No Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Drink Tickets (2)	No Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner & Raffle.....	No Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast.....	No Cost
Total Enclosed: \$ _____	

NON-MEMBER BOWLER FEES	
Check All That Apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teams	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Doubles	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Singles.....	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events.....	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast.....	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Drink Tickets (2)	\$12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner & Raffle.....	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast.....	\$15.00
Total Enclosed: \$ _____	

FCSU MEMBER GUEST FEES	
Check All That Apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast.....	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Drink Tickets (2)	\$12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast.....	\$15.00
Total Enclosed: \$ _____	
Guests receive substantial discounts on food and beverage costs	
<small>* Seating is limited, with preference given to bowlers.</small>	

Mail entry & payment by March 23 to: FCSU Bowling Tournament, 6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131
 Payment must accompany entry form. Make check payable to FCSU (with Bowling on the memo line).

QUESTIONS? Contact Joanne Fibbi at jfibbi@fcsu.com, call 412-953-4721, or email events@fcsu.com

THINK SPRING WITH OUR NEW EASTER COLORING CONTEST

For many of us, January brought bitterly cold temperatures, icy conditions and an abundance of snowfall. To help chase away the winter blues and usher in an early spring, we're launching a new coloring contest with traditional Easter themes. So, before you get ready to color your Easter eggs, gather your crayons or pencils for a different kind of coloring fun! May you have a joyful and blessed Easter Season.

CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

There are seven categories of competition--four age groups for our children/youth members, and three age groups for adult members.

- Children and Youth Ages: 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, and 13-17. Three winners will be chosen per age group within each Region. Prizes for first, second, and third place are \$50, \$35, and \$25 respectively, with the possibility of 12 winners per region. (96 total winners.)
- Adult Ages: 18-34, 35-69, and 70+. One winner will be chosen from each adult age group per region, with the possibility of three winners per region. (24 total winners.) Each winner will receive a \$100 prize. (Note we adjusted the age ranges of the adult groups from previous contests.)

OFFICIAL RULES - Please read to avoid disqualification

1. Contest entry is limited to current FCSU members, with one entry per member. Each participant must be in our membership records, and not simply related to a member.
2. Complete all information on the entry form. Entries without age and branch # will be disqualified.
3. Cut out and color the Easter picture for your age. Pictures are printed in the February and March 2026 issues of the Jednota.
4. Copies may be made for additional entries for your family. Pictures may also be printed from the FCSU website -- fscu.com/community/events. Please print/copy at the original picture size, as enlarging or reducing the image is not permitted.
5. **COLOR YOUR ENTRY USING CRAYONS OR COLORED PENCILS ONLY.** Use of markers gel pens or will result in disqualification. Please do not add any type of embellishments to the pictures such as glitter, borders, stickers, or craft items.
6. Mail your colored picture with the entry form taped to the back of the picture to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Ln, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.
7. **DEADLINE: ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 10, 2026.** (This is not a postmark date.) We recommend mailing entries a minimum of one week prior to the deadline.
8. Decisions from the independent judges will be final. Winners will be announced in the June 2026 Jednota.

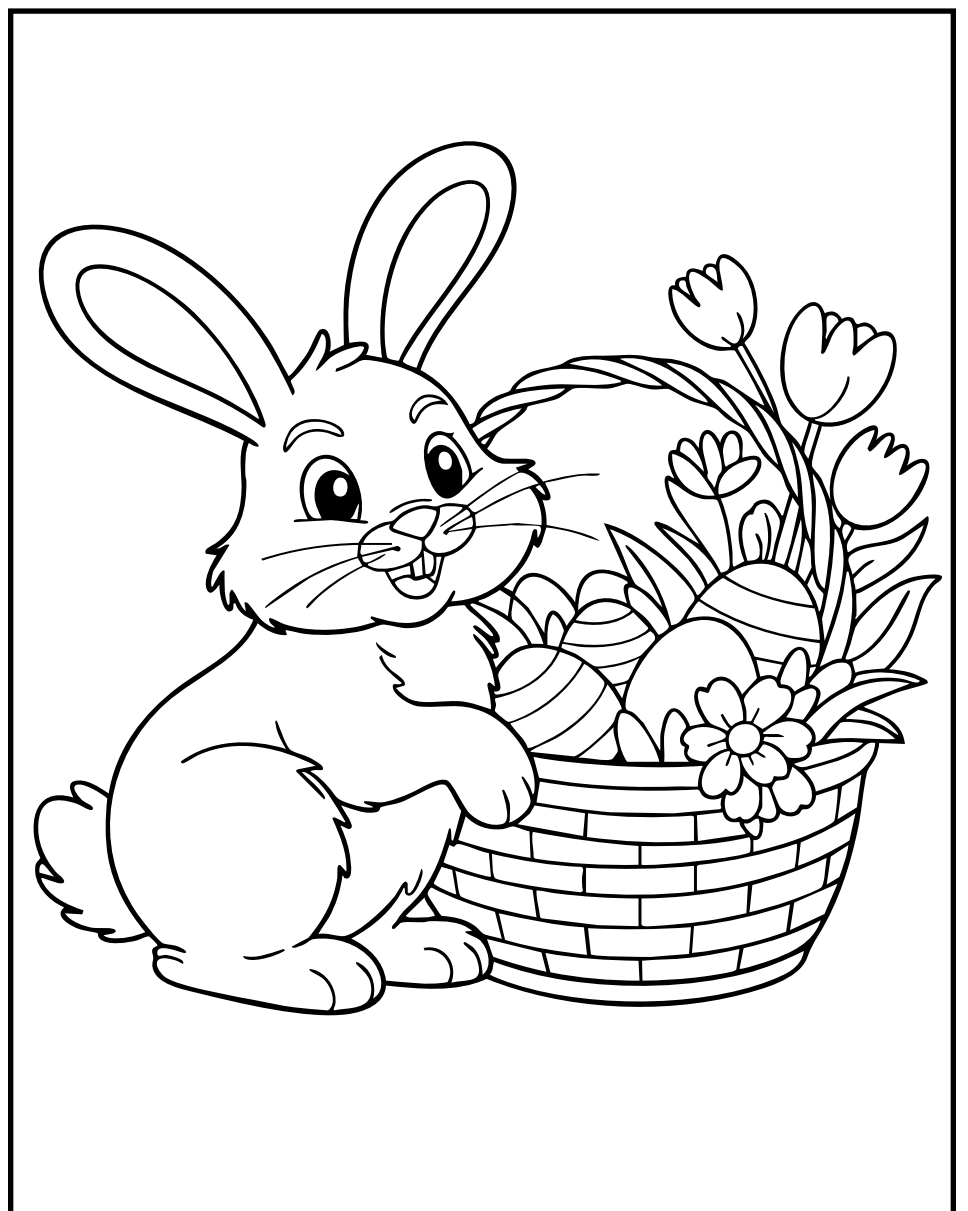
SEE THE ENTRY FORM ON PAGE 16 OF THIS ISSUE.



NEWBORN CHICK - AGES 4-6



SNACKTIME BUNNY- AGES 7-9



BASKET DELIVERY - AGES 10-12



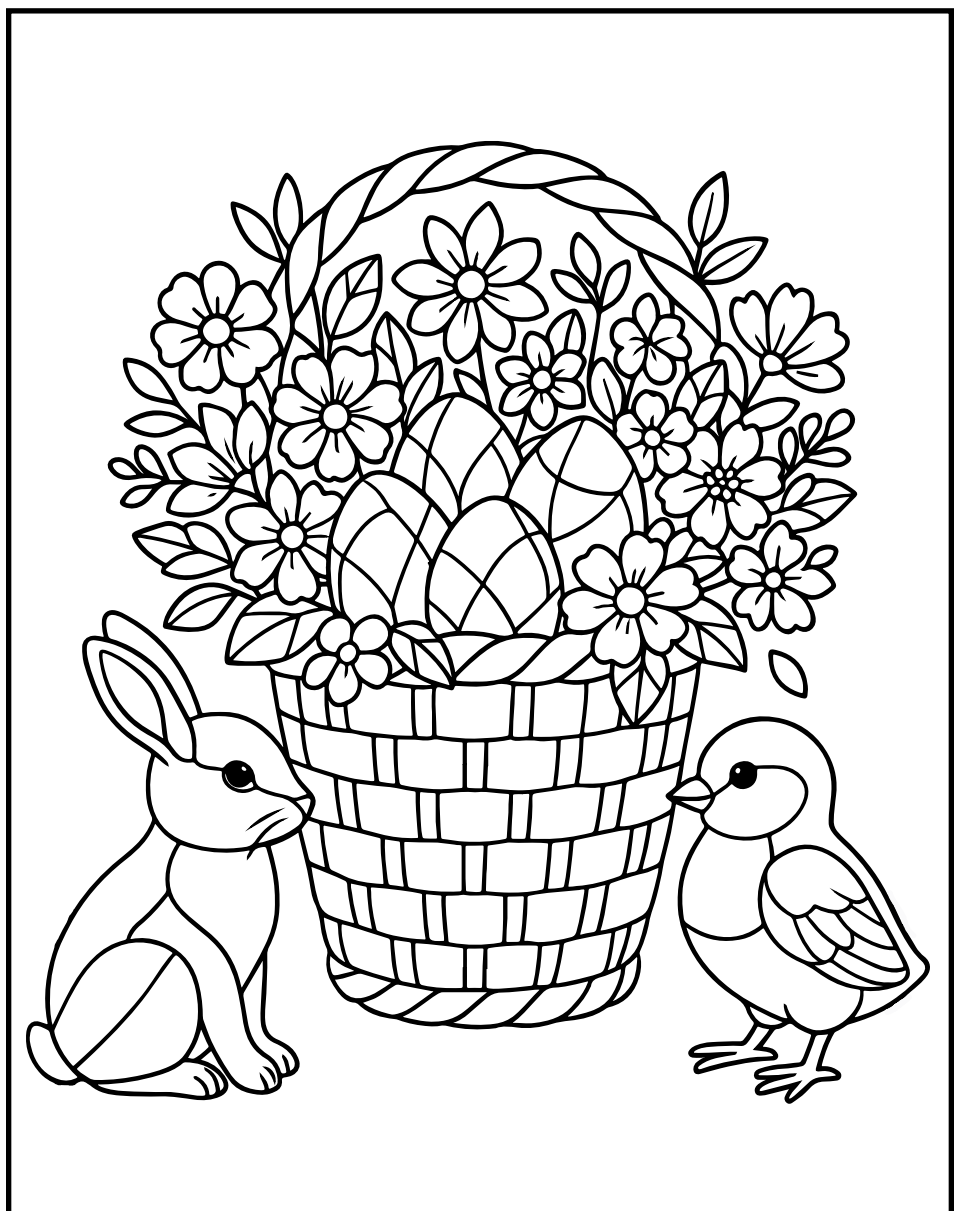
SPRING IN BLOOM - AGES 13-17



EASTER MOSAIC - AGES 18-34



LAMB OF GOD - AGES 35-69



EASTER GREETINGS - AGES 70+

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS should be emailed to branch@fcsu.com

FCSU 53RD QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION
June 20-23, 2026
 Embassy Suites by Hilton
 Golf Resort & Conference Center
 Greenville, South Carolina
Visit the 53rd Convention Page on our website for the latest updates. Look under the Membership tab at www.fcsu.com.

CONNECTICUT

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

The St. Joseph Society will offer a mass in celebration of the feast day of our patron saint, St. Joseph, for the living members of our branch on March 8, 2026 at 8:30am at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport.

The first meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Sunday, March 8th at 10am. Officers' reports will be given and plans for upcoming activities will be discussed. We cordially invite members to join our Zoom meeting:

Link: tinyurl.com/Br19March26
 Meeting ID: 893 0816 7560
 Passcode: 155330

If you have any questions, please contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

ILLINOIS

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

The St. Stephen Branch will meet on February 28, 2026, to hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. The meeting begins at 11:30am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights. Please RSVP by calling Dorothy at 708-995-7378 by February 23rd. This is a very important meeting. Should the weather be a problem, the meeting will become a conference call at 11:30am. Everyone with a reservation will be notified.

MICHIGAN

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

Jednota Lodge Branch 721 will hold their Spring meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 2pm at the Remenar home, 8977 S. Mason Rd., Bannister.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION - Because our branch meets only twice a year, we are blessed to support two local organizations at this meeting. While we'll be collecting for both at the same time, we encourage members to be as generous as they are able to each of these worthwhile causes. For the Elsie Baby Pantry, please bring baby shampoo, soap, and wipes. For the Elsie Area Food Pantry, please bring non-perishable food items. Thank you for living out the spirit of fraternalism and helping us make a difference for families in our community.

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President

The St. Joseph Society will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 29, 2026, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30am for all living and deceased members at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day. A branch meeting will take place at 1:30pm in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires a beneficiary update should contact Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik at 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Twp., MI 48382, call 248-714-9620 or email josephrimarcik@gmail.com.

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MI

Gary Gregoricka, President

Branch 756 will hold a meeting at Tim Hortons located at 323 W. Main St., Owosso on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

NEW JERSEY

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Mary Kapitan, Recording Secretary

The first meeting of 2026 will take place on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 12:30pm in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church at 210 Monroe St., Linden. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will discuss our March egg painting event and Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Stockbridge, MA on Saturday, April 25th. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Okres meeting will follow the luncheon. RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by February 21st.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to the St. John the Apostle Food Pantry. The FCSU Home Office will generously donate \$250 to the food pantry on our behalf.

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: March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4.

NEW YORK

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

Maria Juras, Financial Secretary

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 1pm after the Slovak mass at the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church on 66th St. and 1st Ave., New York City. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Spolok svätého Matúša Evanjelistu usporiada schôdzu v nedeľu 1. marca 2026 o 13:00 po slovenskej svätej omši

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Coloring Contest Images Featured on Pages 14-15

How to Print Coloring Pages from the Website

- Go to fcsu.com/community/events.
- Click on the 2026 Easter Coloring Contest.
- Choose your age group.
- When you print the .pdf, scroll down to "Page Size and Handling".
- Choose "Actual Size" or "Custom - 100%" to ensure you print the correct size.
- Cut off the entry form and tape it to the back of the picture before submission.

Coloring Contest Entry Form

COLOR YOUR ENTRY USING CRAYONS OR COLORED PENCILS ONLY.
ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 10, 2026.

Branch #: _____ **Age:** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please print clearly using ink. Thank you!

TAPE YOUR ENTRY FORM TO THE BACK OF THE PICTURE
 Mail your colored picture to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

na fare Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66. ulici a 1. avenue v New Yorku. Uskutočnia sa voľby delegáta(ov) pobočky a náhradníka(ov) na 53. štvorročný zjazd. Dôrazne vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili.

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary

Our first meeting of 2026 will be held on Sunday, February 22, at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 E. 66th St., New York, following a Slovak Mass at approximately 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

OHIO

**DISTRICT 10 EVENT
CLEVELAND MONSTERS
HOCKEY**
Saturday, March 28 • 7pm
 Rocket Arena
 1 Center Court • Cleveland, OH
 Join District 10 members for an exciting evening of hockey as we cheer on the Cleveland Monsters! Tickets are \$29 each. See your Branch announcement for special member pricing. Please RVSP to your Branch representative by February 21st.

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

Barbara J. Golias, Recording Secretary

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Hockey Outing on Saturday, March 28, 2026. See event details on this page. The tickets are \$29 but we are offering FREE TICKETS FOR BRANCH 1 MEMBERS! Non-members are welcome

to attend but must purchase tickets at full price. RSVP to Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 no later than February 21st to reserve your tickets.

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

John Moynihan, President

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Hockey Outing on Saturday, March 28, 2026. See event details on this page. Branch 24 member tickets will be \$5. (Tickets must be paid in full at \$29. A \$24 refund will be given at the game.) A non-branch member ticket is \$29. Reservations are required and available by contacting Fran at 216-308-1728. The deadline to order tickets is February 21st. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Financial Secretary

Members are invited to attend the District 10 Hockey Outing on Saturday, March 28, 2026. See event details on this page. Branch 228 members who participate will receive a free ticket for themselves and one (1) guest if they choose to do so. Additional tickets for non-members may be purchased for \$29. Reservations are required and MUST be made by February 21st. Please call Lisa at 440-960-2111 to make your reservation.

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Frank Woyma, President

St. Joseph the Guardian Society will hold our first semi-annual meeting at 11am on Saturday, April 11, 2026. It will be held in the Community Room at Panera located at 5090 Tiedeman Rd., Brooklyn. The agenda will include the officers' financial

reports, correspondence received, and discussion of District 10 and branch activities for the summer. All members are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Frank Woyma at 216-225-5688 by Wednesday, April 7th.

We encourage members to attend the District 10 Monsters Hockey Outing on Saturday, March 28, 2026. See event details on page 16. The tickets are \$29 but we are offering SPECIAL PRICING FOR BRANCH 450 MEMBERS! Members pay just \$8 per ticket. Non-members are welcome to attend but must purchase tickets at full price. RSVP to Frank Woyma at 216-225-5688 no later than February 21st to reserve your tickets.

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Debbie Speck, President

All meetings and events are held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron. RSVP to 330-786-9972 when requested.

The deadline to order tickets for the District 10 Hockey Outing (Monsters vs Comets) is Thursday, February 19, 2026. Members pay just \$8 per ticket. Non-members are welcome but must purchase tickets at \$29. Please contact Linda Hanko at lhanko@neo.rr.com or 330-690-9611 for your tickets.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 22nd, at 1pm for our Lodge Meeting. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. If you would like to be considered as a delegate, please contact Linda Hanko prior to the meeting.

Plan on attending the District 10 meeting on Sunday, March 8th at 2pm at St. Leo the Great Parish Community Center, 4940 Broadview Rd., Cleveland. RSVP to Barbara Sutila by February 22nd at Ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com or text/call 440-864-4744.

Spring is just around the corner. Get your teams together for the 2026 FCSU International Bowling Tournament to be held at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA on April 25-26. See tournament details on page 12-13 of this issue.

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary

At its November meeting, Branch 731 held its 2026 Election of Officers. Congratulations to the following members

who were elected to office: Drew Schwanitz - President, Jackie Bobby - Financial Secretary, Bridget McCarthy - Vice President, Monsignor Robert Siffrin - Chaplain, Anna Schwanitz - Recording Secretary, Tom Krispinsky and Glenn Kramer - Auditors.

The branch also approved its 2026 schedule of events. Mark your calendars!

- Patron Saint Mass: March 19th at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral (159 W. Rayen Ave., Youngstown)
- Branch Meetings: May 17th, September 6th, November 29th (meeting + Election of Officers)-all meetings at 5pm at Coaches (3032 Center Rd., Poland)
- Mass for Deceased Members: November 11th at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral (159 W. Rayen Ave., Youngstown)

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Stephanie Sutila, Activities Director

February 21, 2026 – Our branch will hold a meeting and luncheon at 1pm at Santo’s Restaurant, 7565 Pearl Rd., Middleburg Hts. The agenda will include a discussion of ideas for our fall fraternal activity. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. All members are invited to attend. Guests are welcome to join us at a cost of \$25 payable to FCSU Branch 855. Please RSVP to Branch President Barbara Sutila by calling/texting 440-864-4744 or email fcsu855@gmail.com by February 15th.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will be supporting Gigi’s Playhouse in Lakewood by purchasing books and a set of Diatonic Resonator Chime Bars from their wish list. This dedicated organization provides free therapeutic and educational support for individuals with Downs Syndrome. We ask that members participate by bringing cash for the cause. Every dollar collected will be donated to Gigi’s Playhouse.

March 8, 2026 – District 10 will hold a meeting at St. Leo the Great Parish Community Center at 4940 Broadview Rd., Cleveland at 2pm. Our branch will be hosting a super soup supper! Bring cans of soup to be donated to the Parma Hunger Center.

March 28, 2026 – Members are invited to attend the District 10 Hockey Outing. See event details on page 16. The tickets are \$29. Payments and reservations must be made in advance. Branch 855

members will be reimbursed for the cost of their ticket at the game. Guests are welcome at full price. No refunds. No transfers. RSVP by texting Branch 855 President, Barbara Sutila at 440-864-4744 or emailing fcsu855@gmail.com no later than February 21st to reserve your tickets. Let’s Go Monsters!!

April 25-26 – Get your bowling team together to strike up some fun and let the good times roll at the FCSU International Bowling Tournament in Erie, PA. We will pay the bowling fees (up to \$95) for our members. See tournament details on page 12-13 of this issue.

PENNSYLVANIA

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Linda Collins, Recording Secretary

The St. Michael the Archangel Society will hold its semiannual meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7pm at Eat-N-Park, 1002 Ohio River Blvd., Pittsburgh. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. All members interested in being a Delegate must attend this meeting. RSVP to Linda Collins at 412-266-2119 or lindaco243@gmail.com.

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PA

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

The Saint John the Evangelist Society will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 12:15pm at Tony’s Pizzeria, 1117 Main St., Pittston. A pizza luncheon will be provided. We will discuss branch business, activities and the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Members are encouraged to attend.

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

We will hold our semi-annual meeting on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 12:30pm. It will be at the Graystone Homestyle Restaurant, 375 Theatre Dr., Johnstown. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will also discuss the time and location of the District 7 meeting we are hosting. All are welcome to attend. RSVP to Theresa Cassat at 814-254-2532.

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PA

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

St. Michael the Archangel Society will hold a virtual meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 7pm. We will discuss branch business and hold the Election of Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Contact Janet Sullivan at FCSU35@gmail.com for more information.

Link: tinyurl.com/Branch35March
Meeting ID: 738 9058 5839
Passcode: K37dXg

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

Dolores Marmol, Recording Secretary

The St. Wendelin Society will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 5:30pm at Bogey’s Restaurant, 374 Duck Hollow Rd., Uniontown. Officers’ reports, branch activities, charitable donations and upcoming events will be discussed. The Annual Report to the Home Office will be read. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Delegate forms must be sent to the Home Office thereafter. Members and guests are invited to attend. Call me to RSVP at 724-437-4983 by February 25th.

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

St. John the Baptist Society members are invited to a dinner meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 5pm at Aroma Italiano, 2220 Ligonier St., Latrobe. BYOB if desired. RSVP is required by Saturday, February 28th by calling Vicki at 724-433-8469 or Darlene at 724-493-8712. Walks-ins without a reservation will not be served dinner. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

The 2026 Branch 181 Youth Member Scholastic Assistance program is now open. Winners can earn a one-time award of \$500. Contact Vicki at 724-433-8469 or vicki15@zoominternet.net to receive an application or download one from fcsu.com/scholarships. Look under the branch tab. See our scholarship ad on page 8 of this issue for more information.

Send Branch Announcements
to branch@fcsu.com

Send District Announcements
to district@fcsu.com

JEDNOTA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Dear, as a signorina
- 5 Petition
- 8 Medication amounts
- 13 Dazzles
- 14 It’s south of Georgia
- 15 Methuselah’s father
- 16 Texas geographic region
- 18 Coconut meat
- 19 Before, of yore
- 20 Boxer’s need
- 22 Run smoothly
- 23 Put in stitches
- 24 Medal recipient
- 25 Proof word
- 28 Double-crosser
- 29 Rap session?
- 31 Military installation
- 34 Resting place
- 37 Mediterranean island
- 39 Fragrant oil
- 41 Bag thickness

Down

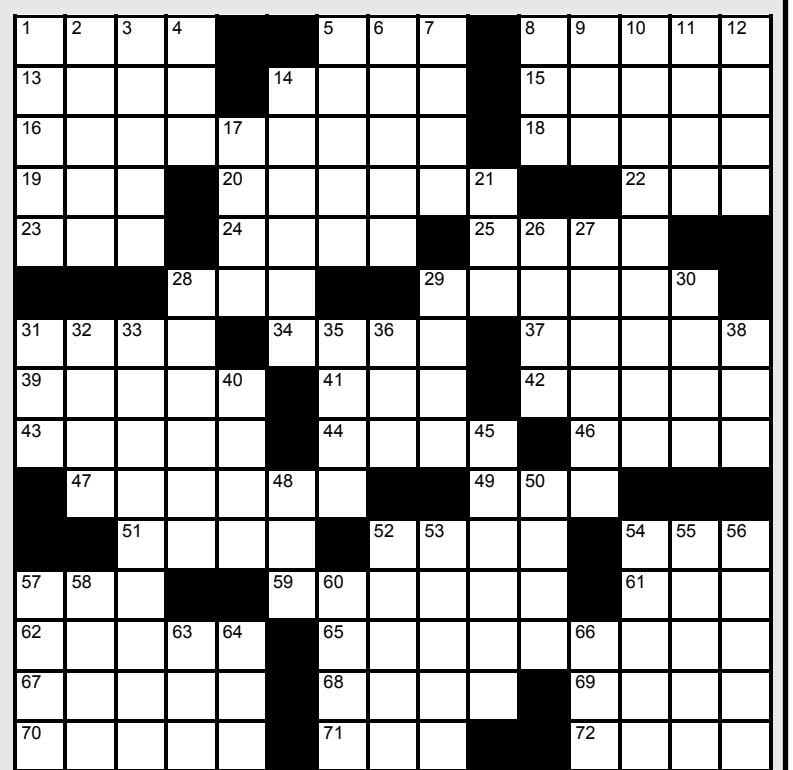
- 42 Exertion
- 43 Bellini opera
- 44 Hill dwellers
- 46 To be, in old Rome
- 47 More submissive
- 49 Quirky
- 51 Paradise lost
- 52 Battering wind
- 54 Bottle topper
- 57 Yoga class need
- 59 Kosovo locale
- 61 Caesar’s hello
- 62 Killer whales
- 65 Reporters’ aims
- 67 Coronet
- 68 Hair controllers
- 69 Variety
- 70 Sheik’s bevy
- 71 Stock follower
- 72 Clutter

Down

- 1 Mantles
- 2 Savvy
- 3 Extend, in a way
- 4 Shade of blond
- 5 Passion
- 6 Artillery burst
- 7 Kind of socks
- 8 Holiday mo.
- 9 Lennon’s love
- 10 Ancient Greek dramatist
- 11 Beige
- 12 Pretense
- 14 Coastal features
- 17 Eastern pooh-bah
- 21 “Get the picture?”
- 26 Butts
- 27 Chewed, beaver style
- 28 Hollowed out
- 29 Seasoned sailor
- 30 J.F.K. postings

- 31 Prohibit
- 32 Proton’s place
- 33 Trolley
- 35 Actor Epps
- 36 Flipper
- 38 Gobbled up
- 40 Yard tool
- 45 Not liquids
- 48 Lt.’s inferior
- 50 Bargain
- 52 Avarice
- 53 Diminish
- 54 Rapids transit
- 55 Declares
- 56 Royal pains
- 57 Nocturnal insect
- 58 Mozart’s “Il mio tesoro,” e.g.
- 60 Writer Ferber
- 63 “___ you sure?”
- 64 Friend of Frodo
- 66 Belief system

Answers on Page 23



BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA*Barbara Patula, Recording Secretary*

We are having a meeting on February 22, 2026, at Sharkey's Café, 3960 State Route 30, Latrobe at 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA*Vicki Schaub, Recording Secretary*

The branch will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Our meetings are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month except June and July. All members are invited to attend at the Slovak CU, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City. Contact Vicki Schaub with any questions at vschaub123@gmail.com or 724-763-9229.

BRANCH 213 – PITTSBURGH, PA*Anita Nixon, President*

St. Michael the Archangel will have a special meeting to hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will meet on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 1pm at 306 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh. The meeting may also be accessed via phone.

Contact Anita Nixon for details at weaz1958@aol.com.

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA*Margaret A. Nasta, President*

The branch will meet on March 8, 2026, at Tillie's, 308 36th St., McKeesport starting at 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

BRANCH 320**ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA***Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President*

Branch 320 will be having a meeting on February 21, 2026, at Bills Golfland, 209 Bills Ln., Belle Vernon at 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please RSVP by February 11th to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788.

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA*Rose Roskovensky, Secretary*

St. Joseph Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 11am at Jamie Lynn's Café, 1618 Georges Fairchance Rd., Smithfield. We will discuss the 53rd Quadrennial Convention and make plans for the 125th Lodge Celebration Mass. The Celebration Mass will be held on Sunday, July 12th at 9am at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 50 North Morgantown St., Fairchance.

Anyone wishing to help with this special event, please contact Patty Speshock at 724-564-5764 or Kathryn Baranek at 724-569-1006.

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA*Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, President*

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society will conduct its annual March meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at the VFW, 110 Chestnut St., Dunmore. Auditors will meet at 12:30pm to check the treasurer's books. The business meeting will convene at 1pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Those interested in running for a Delegate position should plan to attend this meeting. The agenda will also include reports from the executive officers and auditors. Future branch activities and Fraternalism in Action will

be discussed.

Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to a local shelter. Information from the Home Office will be disseminated, and a copy of the Annual Report will be available. Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend. Please RSVP to Branch President Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570-344-3854 by Wednesday, March 4th. Other branch officers are Michael J. Czankner, Vice President; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Treasurer; Laura Christianson, Recording Secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary.

BRANCH 401**EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA***Karen Greggs, Treasurer*

St. Anthony of Padua invites all members to a special meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 8pm. The meeting will be at 1223 Wysocki Ave., N. Apollo. RSVP is required by February 20th to Karen Greggs at kgreggs39@gmail.com or 724-372-0690. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA*Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary*

The SS. Peter and Paul Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1:30pm at the Highland House, 92 West Main St., Uniontown. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. RSVP by Monday, March 16th to 724-425-2576.

BRANCH 628**WEST HOMESTEAD, PA***Sylvia Vehec, Recording Secretary*

St. Michael the Archangel Society will have a meeting on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 1pm. Gather in the downstairs dining room at the St. Maximilian Kolbe site of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 363 W. 11th Ave., Homestead. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA*Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary*

We invite you to a meeting on March 1, 2026, at 1pm at Charleroi Lanes at 1301 Prospect Ave., Charleroi to hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please join us at 12pm for two hours of bowling including shoes and food. This is a Branch event but will be open to all members of District 12. Branch 670 will cover the \$20 cost for our members. District members and guests will pay for themselves. RSVP to Nikki Hyatt at branch670activities@gmail.com by February 15th.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Please bring non-perishable food items, diapers or pet food for donation to the St. Andrew Parish Food Bank in Donora, PA. The FCSU Home Office will generously donate \$250 to the food bank on our behalf. Any contribution will make a big difference in helping our local communities.

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA*Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary*

The branch will hold their semi-annual meeting on March 22, 2026, at Holy Trinity Church, 4456 Main St., Egypt at 1pm. The meeting will be held in the Altar Sacristy. We will discuss the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Everyone interested should attend this meeting.

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**

Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville
Golf Resort & Conference Center
670 Verdae Blvd, Greenville, SC 29607
Monday, March 23, 2026

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

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 8:00am

Mass will be after the meeting

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 Annual 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, March 6, 2026.

All correspondence relative to the Annual 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 March 6, 2026.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2026.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA*Monica Boone, President*

Join Branch 853 as we "paint the morning away." On Wednesday, February 25, 2026, Branch 853 members will meet at 10am at Off the Wall Arts, 532 McKean Ave., in Charleroi to enjoy a morning of friendship and painting. This yearly event is open to FCSU members at a cost of \$40 each. There is no cost to Branch 853 members. Due to limited seating, reservations are required by February 15th. Contact Charles Boone at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com for questions or to secure your spot. You will receive an email confirmation. Thank you, Charles Boone, for helping Branch 853 "Paint the Morning Away."

Join Branch 853 for the first branch meeting of the year on March 1, 2026, at 2pm at Charleroi Lanes, 1301 Prospect Ave., Charleroi. We will discuss the convention and other events for the year. The day will be fun, so members are urged to attend. If you will be attending only the meeting, please contact fcsubbranch853@gmail.com for your attendance notification.

Join Branch 853 for an afternoon of bowling, fun and laughter on March 1st, from 12-2pm at Charleroi Lanes. The event is sponsored by Branch 670 but is open to all District members. It features two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, salad and a cookie or small dessert. The first branch 853 member bowling a perfect 300 game that afternoon, will receive an FCSU Financial tumbler compliments of Branch 853. There is no cost for Branch 853 members, but you must have a reservation. Other FCSU members and guests are welcome but will be responsible for their own \$20 fee. Contact Nikki Hyatt at branch670activities@gmail.com by February 15th to make your reservation.

President Mike Novak at 414-445-5382 or mnovakesco@aol.com.

We will hold the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to represent Branch 89 at the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Delegate qualification criteria can be found in section 11.03 of the FCSU bylaws. In addition, as authorized by FCSU bylaw section 14.01(b), Branch 89 has established its own supplemental standards for delegate qualification. Specifically, to be eligible to serve as a Delegate representing Branch 89, a member must have attended at least one branch meeting each year from 2022 through 2025 or attended more than half of our branch meetings held during the three-year period from 2023 to 2025. By adhering to these participation requirements, Branch 89 aims to ensure that its Delegates have maintained consistent involvement in branch activities. This approach helps guarantee that those selected to represent Branch 89 at the upcoming convention are well-informed about branch matters and are prepared to effectively advocate for the interests of the branch.

CANADA**BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON***Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary*

A special election meeting for Branch 785 members will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. Due to the resignation of the Branch Treasurer, discussion and appointment of an interim Treasurer is required. Please RSVP to Milan Zoldak at 416-565-3960.

WISCONSIN**BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI***Paul Novak, Recording Secretary*

We will hold our annual meeting on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 11:30am at Bander County Wood Grill, N96W16865 Cumberland Ct., Menomonee Falls. It is located just southeast of I-41 at Exit 52 (County Line Rd). Lunch and beverages are free for Branch 89 members. RSVP to



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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send **DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS** to district@fcsu.com

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

Paul Chismar, Vice President

District 2 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147 St., Oak Forest, IL. There will be socializing and refreshments at 1:30pm with the meeting beginning at 2pm. A discussion of the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will be on the agenda. 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 district meeting will be Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 6pm at St. Florian Social Hall at 4263 Route 981, Mt. Pleasant. We will hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT – NJ

Mary Kapitan, Recording Secretary

The next semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2026, in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church at 210 Monroe St., Linden. Lunch will be served at 2:15pm. The meeting will follow the luncheon. We will hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. The agenda will also include a discussion of this year's activities. RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by February 21st.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to the St. John the Apostle Food Pantry. The FCSU Home Office will generously donate \$250 to the food pantry on our behalf.

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT – PA

Margaret A. Nasta, Recording Secretary

Branch 2 will host the Spring Business Meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 1pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Ave. Ext., West Mifflin. Please RSVP to Annie Mann at aondrejco@gmail.com or 412-973-6064 by March 29th. We will discuss spring and summer activities. A Fraternalism in Action project is being planned. A meeting for convention Delegates and Alternates will follow.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPCSA meets first Mondays 7pm at the Mt Lebanon Public Library.
Topics: March - Slovak Immigration; April - Exploring the Extremes.
- WPCSA sponsors scholarships and hosts various events such as wine tastings.
Join the organization and get the newsletter.
- Slovak Language Classes: March 12 to April 30 at the Brentwood Public Library.
Contact Bozena Hilko at Bozi@comcast.net.
- Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 16, 2026.
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 1, 2026.
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour: WPIT 96.5 FM/730 AM.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at FCSU.com.

DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – PA

Mary Kuzilla, Recording Secretary

The district will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 11am at Denny's, 3156 Elton Rd., Johnstown. We will hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – PA

Barbara A. Holly, Recording Secretary

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown will hold their next meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 1pm at Jamie Lynn's Café, located at 1618 Georges Fairchance Rd. in Smithfield. Members who attend will be asked to donate \$5 toward their meal. RSVP by Wednesday, March 4th by calling Patty Speshock at 724-317-3763. President Patty Speshock will be informing members of upcoming Jednota events. All members are urged to attend.

DISTRICT 10 – REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH

Gregory Petrsek, President

All members of District 10 in Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855 are invited to our first meeting of the year on Sunday, March 8, 2026. The meeting will take place at 2pm at St. Leo the Great Parish Community Center, 4940 Broadview Rd., Cleveland. We will discuss news from the Home Office including convention details and hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 855 – bring your appetite for soup, soup and more soup! RSVP to Barbara Sutilla by February 22nd by emailing Ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com or texting/calling 440-864-4744.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: In keeping with the soup dinner theme of the meeting, we ask that you bring cans of soup to be donated to the Parma Hunger Center. The FCSU Home Office will generously donate \$250 in support of our FIA project.

Join District 10 members for an exciting evening of hockey as we cheer on the Cleveland Monsters! The event will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 7pm at Rocket Arena, 1 Center Court, Cleveland. Tickets are \$29 each. See your Branch announcement for special member pricing. Please RVSP to your Branch representative by February 21st.

CASINO Night

**\$10
COVER
CHARGE**

March 21, 2026

6:15pm: Food • 7pm: Gambling

SLOVAK J CLUB

485 MORGAN • AKRON, OH • 330-786-9972



DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT – PA

Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

The district will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 2pm at the CU Club, 914 6th Ave., Ford City. We will hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. All members are encouraged to attend.

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – PA

Monica Boone, Recording Secretary

Make plans for an afternoon of bowling, fun and laughter on March 1, 2026, from 12-2 pm at Charleroi Lanes, 1301 Prospect Ave., Charleroi. The event, open to all District 12 members, features two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, salad and a cookie or small dessert. Each Branch (320, 670 and 853) will cover the \$20 cost for its respective members. The event is sponsored by Branch 670. Other FCSU members and guests are welcome but will be responsible for their own \$20 fee. Make your reservations by February 15th by emailing Nikki Hyatt at branch670activities@gmail.com.

The Monsignor Hlinka District will hold its first meeting of the year on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 1pm at Bills Golfland, 210 Bills Lane, Belle Vernon, PA. Some of the topics on the agenda will be discussions of the 53rd Quadrennial Convention being held in Greenville, SC on June 20 - 23, 2026, plus planning the activities for 2026.

Any non-district FCSU member who is running for office who wants to attend the meeting, please contact the district secretary at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com for an arrival time so as to not interfere with the business agenda of the meeting. Those running for office, please wait outside of the meeting room until called to enter. We are asking all candidates to please be courteous and adhere to the District request.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: The District will collect shelf stable food items for the St. Katharine Drexel Food Bank which is for the district's communities of Bentleyville, Ellsworth and the Washington, Pennsylvania area. As the members are being asked to be as generous as their situation allows, the Home Office will match the district's donations with a \$250 donation.

Hlinka District members are urged to attend the April meeting. Questions on the meeting can be directed to District Secretary, Monica Boone at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com.

DISTRICT 14 – REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA

Jacquelyn Bobby, Recording Secretary

All members of District 14 in Branches 259, 260, 682, 731 and 764 are invited to a night out to see a Phantoms Hockey Game at the Covelli Center, 229 East Front St., Youngstown on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for guests; children under 3 years are free. RSVP to Carlie Peshek at 330-774-9182.

SAVE THE DATE: All meetings will be at 6pm at the Fireplace Restaurant, 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd., Poland. Meeting dates are May 19, August 18, November 17, 2026.

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NY

Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

The semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 1pm at the Rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E. 66th St., New York City. We will hold the Election of the District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will also discuss upcoming activities. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. We kindly ask all officers and members to attend.

DISTRICT 17 – SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – NY, PA

Morgan Dendler, Vice President

Our spring meeting will be held at the Red Oak Diner, 305 Front St, Binghamton, NY, on February 28, 2026, at 1pm with an auditor's meeting beginning at 12:30pm. We will hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. A complimentary buffet lunch will offer a perfect chance to socialize and strengthen our community. The meeting is hosted by Branch 166, and we warmly invite members from all branches to attend. Your participation is important to us. RSVP to District Vice President Morgan Dendler by February 21st at 607-206-7243 or via email at catholicfcsu@gmail.com. Join us to make a difference in our District's upcoming year. We look forward to seeing you all there. Stastnu cestu a jazdi bezpecne!!

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

A special election meeting for District 19 members will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:30pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. Due to the resignation of the District Auditor, discussion and appointment of an interim Auditor is required. Please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111.



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
002K	Janice T. Markovich	419K	Robert S. Kukuvka
019K	Joseph J. Pitonak	456K	Donna Kasubick
023K	Joseph M. Polacek, Jr.	553K	Eric F. Maxin
024K	Donna Ciryak	587K	Edward J. Ragula
038K	Daniel Majzer	615K	John J. Lendel
045K	Joanne M. Hilly	628K	Eric M. Wheeler
045K	Richard E. Hudzik	633K	Hilda Laichalk
045K	Robert J. Lutz	633K	John T. Sperla, Sr.
055K	Stephen M. Simon	636K	Todd M. Soviar
075K	Augustus Argentati, Jr.	670K	William Paul Hruby
153K	Veronica Abarre	743K	Bernadette Rzepka
157K	Kathleen McCann	746K	Anna Matas
166K	Helen E. Miller	746K	Daniel Gerbery
181K	Mary A. Notarberardino	764K	Clyde E. Sallaz, Jr.
181K	Michael G. Kulha	764K	James W. Shamrock
200K	Robert J. Dobrosky	764K	John J. Mrofchak
276K	Elizabeth Marasco	856K	Lucille V. Nocket
294K	Theresa C. Zapach	857K	John J. Danglo
315K	Mary Ann Zilinskas	900K	Frank Tomka
320K	Agnes Braunegg	900K	James E. Hradesky
367K	James Raytek	904K	Beryl L. Kaiser
367K	Sylvia Ann Kifus	917K	Robert E. Juhl
382K	Patricia Uhrin		
382K	Thomas J. Stasko		

** Processed in the month of January 2026*

In Loving Memory of Anna Matas of Branch 746



Our dearest mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Anna Matas, passed away peacefully at home on December 27, 2025 at the beautiful age of 94 surrounded by family, in her beloved homeland of Slovakia. She left this world gently, and we find comfort believing she is now at peace, embraced by angels.

Anna was born in 1931 and lived through the hardships of the Second World War, an experience that shaped her strength, resilience, and deep faith. Often she reminded us of how difficult it was during those times. In 1948, she married the love of her life, Michael Matas, and together they built a family rooted in love, devotion, and tradition. They were blessed with two daughters, Ružena Matas Lorincová and Emília Matas Filak.

In 1975, Anna immigrated to the United States, following her husband to Linden, New Jersey, where they lived for more than 30 years. She worked first at the American Flange Company, and later for decades in housekeeping. No matter how demanding life became, she remained humble, hardworking, and deeply faithful.

Anna was a devoted member of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Linden, New Jersey, an active member in the Slovak Rosary Society, and a proud member of FCSU Branch 746 for over 50 years. She was active volunteering in the Slovak community with baking, attending dances, and supporting Jednota and Slovak rosary gatherings. Her presence brought warmth, laughter, and a sense of home to everyone around her.

After retirement, Anna and her beloved Michael traveled every year to their native land, visiting spas in Piešťany, the Tatra Mountains, Litmanova, Sobrance spa, and spending precious time with family and friends. She found joy in reading, praying, watching Slovak films and Tela novellas like "Esmeralda", and listening and dancing to Slovak music.

Her faith was the foundation of her life, and through it she taught her entire family the power and importance of devoted prayer. Each day, she prayed at the small chapel (kaplnka) in her garden in Slovakia, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. The statue, lovingly brought by her husband from Ostrava, stood at the heart of this sacred place they built together in 1987, a lasting symbol of their shared devotion, love, and unwavering faith.

In 2006, Anna and Michael returned permanently to their native village of Lekárovce, Slovakia. After Michael's passing in 2013, Anna continued to live surrounded by her loving family and visits from family in the US.

Anna's greatest pride was her family. She was a loving grandmother to Milan, Michaela, and Sabina, and a devoted great-grandmother to Evička, Leonard, Katka, and Miško. Time spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren filled her heart with joy, and she cherished every moment with them.

Anna lived a joyful, faith-filled life. She loved attending Holy Mass, and when she was no longer able to go in person, she faithfully followed the live broadcasts on television and radio. In recent years, she eagerly welcomed the monthly and sometimes weekly visits of the pastor from Lekárovce, whose presence and prayers brought her strength, comfort, and peace.

She was an extraordinary woman - kind, strong, devoted, and full of love. Her legacy lives on through the generations she nurtured and the faith she never wavered from.

She will be forever in the hearts of her daughters, Ružena Lorincová (Mikulas), Emilia (Emil) Filak; grandchildren, Milan (Eva) Lorinc, Michaela (Milos) Knezo, and Sabina Sabados; great-grandchildren Evička (Lukas) Migal, Leonard, Katka, and Miško and many cousins and extended family. Anna is pre-deceased by her husband, Michael Matas.

Rest in peace, our beloved Mamka and Babka. You will forever remain in our hearts. Odpočívajte v pokoji vo svojej rodnej zemi, ktorú ste tak veľmi milovali. Navždy ostanete v našich srdciach.

Robert J. Lutz Branch 45 New York, NY



Robert J. Lutz, age 85 of Huber Heights, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Ohio's Hospice of Dayton. Bob retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 33 years and was also a U.S. Air Force Veteran.

He was an active parishioner of St. Peter Catholic Church. He volunteered his time assisting with the Food Pantry, along with ushering at weekly mass, for many years. Bob was a regular blood donor at Dayton's Community Blood Center and was recognized in August 2017 for making his 200th donation. He was also involved and held offices in various organizations throughout his life. His hobbies included bowling and golfing, but his most favorite time was spent with his family.

Bob is survived by Florence, his loving wife of 61 years. Along with his two children, Richard J (Michelle) Lutz, and Joanne (Mark) Capozzi; grandchildren, Amanda Lutz, Jason & Brandon Capozzi; and a host of other relatives and friends.



Kathleen E. McCann Branch 157 Catasawqua, PA



Kathleen E. McCann, 79, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 20, 2025, at Heather Glen Senior Living, Allentown, PA. Born October 2, 1946, in Harrisburg, she was the daughter of the late LeRoy and Geraldine (Darr) McCann. She was a graduate of Slatington High School, Class of 1964, and was a head majorette. Kathleen retired from the Bethlehem Area School District in 2008 as the assistant business manager. Prior to that, she worked for more than 20 years at Northern School District in various capacities including business manager. Kathleen was a former member of Assumption BVM Catholic Church, Slatington, and served as organist and catechism teacher.

She will be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Ronda Andrulevich of Breinigsville, Kristine, wife of Kenneth Hinds of Macungie; son, John Andrulevich and significant other Jonell Pastier of Northampton; grandchildren, Michael Lichman, Davonte & Maleya Hinds; companion of more than 30 years, Tom Tapler of Coplay; siblings, Timothy McCann of IL, Eileen wife of David Trilli of Pen Argyl. She was pre-deceased by her former husband, Ronald Andrulevich.

FCSU Search-A-Word

FEBRUARY Word List

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

- AQUARIUS
- CANDLELIGHT
- COZY
- CUPID
- RED
- SWEETHEART
- RUŽE (Roses)
- OBJATIE (Hug)
- SRDCE (Heart)
- RUŽOVÁ (Pink)
- BOZKÁVAT (Kissing)
- ČOKOLÁDA (Chocolate)



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. Or mail puzzle and form to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by March 26, 2026.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

December Puzzle Winners

- Juraj Beno..... Branch 75
- Gloria Nace..... Branch 5P
- Jerome Petrasko Branch 553
- Patricia Respet..... Branch 23
- Paula Walker Branch 181

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

FRANtastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL



CRISPY PAN-FRIED WHITE FISH

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 white fish fillets (cod, haddock, or flounder)
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp hot paprika
- 3 tsp paprika
- 4 tbsp fish seasoning (pepper, salt, oregano, basil, coriander, etc.)
- 2 large eggs
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp heavy cream
- 4 tbsp shortening (Crisco) or olive oil, for frying (Tip: more fat = better crust!)
- 3 cups finely crushed corn flakes or panko breadcrumbs

INSTRUCTIONS:

Rinse fish and pat completely dry. Set aside. Mix flour, hot paprika, paprika, and fish seasoning in a large bowl or tray. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, mayonnaise, and heavy cream until smooth.

Coat fillets in the flour mixture and let rest 5-10 minutes. Heat a cast iron pan over medium-high heat. Add shortening or oil and heat until shimmering. Coat fillets again in flour, dip into egg mixture, then coat thoroughly in corn flakes or panko.

Fry fillets 5-7 minutes per side, until golden brown and cooked through. Add butter on top while frying if desired. Serve hot with tartar sauce and sides like coleslaw, potato salad, fries, or all three (no judgment).

BECOME A BOWLING TOURNAMENT SPONSOR TODAY!

Show our bowlers they have your support with a lane sponsorship sign. Your sign will be on display at the bowling alley during the two days of tournament play.

LANE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- Individual FCSU Member \$ 50
- FCSU Branch or District \$125
- Business..... \$175

Sign dimensions: 24" x 18" (horizontal)

Email your sign copy to jfibbi@fcsu.com or print your copy below:

PATRON LEVELS

- Bronze Donor \$ 75
- Silver Donor \$125
- Gold Donor \$250
- Platinum Donor \$500

Your name will be on the welcome signs at the bowling venue and headquarters hotel and acknowledged in the dinner program

DEADLINE: MARCH 16, 2026

All donations will be used for monetary prizes or to purchase raffle and door prizes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Please make checks payable to: FCSU

(Write Lane Sponsor or Bowling Patron on the memo line)

Mail to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

SUPER SLOVÁCI

Pavol Demitra 1974 - 2011

Changed the world by representing the best of Slovak hockey

Slovaks love sports, but ice hockey has a special place in their hearts. There is hardly a boy in the country who does not dream of becoming a hockey player. Pavol Demitra was one such boy and he had the discipline to match his enthusiasm. The young man was thrilled when he got drafted into his local ice hockey club as a professional. It was just the beginning of his luck.

From Dubnica nad Váhom, the calling took him to a bigger club in Trenčín and then, when the stars aligned, he was drafted into the North American league by the Ottawa Senators. His dream was coming true and came to fruition when he was traded to the St. Louis Blues. It was there that he played his best hockey and formed a famous Slovak line with Michal Handzuš, Ľuboš Bartečko and later Ladislav Nagy. The sensational cluster of champions, was arranged by another Slovak great – Peter Šťastný. This is how the boys from Slovakia looked out for one another.

Demitra played for prestigious NHL clubs for 16 years. He signed multimillion dollar contracts, his talent was celebrated, and fans loved him, but Slovak stardom came during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, the biggest celebration of sport in the world.

Wearing the Slovak double cross on his jersey, Pavol scored the winning goal during a sensational seven round shoot out against Russia. Everyone in Slovakia was up on their feet, cheering, screaming, jumping for joy and celebrating the humble hero with a warm smile.

It was all wonderful but Pavol knew that there was something more important than money, medals, or the number of goals scored. It was generosity and the will to share good fortune with others. Pavol supported boys in Slovakia to help them make their dreams on ice happen. He was a gentleman, a team player, and a hard worker, who helped to spread the good name of Slovakia far and wide.

To the delight of all, Pavol led the Slovak team into the 2011 World Hockey Championships as captain. It was his last championship wearing the Slovak national colors, as he was planning to retire. After this last game, he tossed his equipment to lucky fans, while tears rolled down his cheeks. A moment so powerful there was almost no dry eye left in the arena, or among the millions watching live on TV. No one knew that this was not just the end of his national hockey career. Later that year, Pavol's life ended in a tragic plane crash in Russia.

All of Slovakia mourned the loss. Pavol was not just an ice hockey hero, he was a friend, an idol, and a good man.

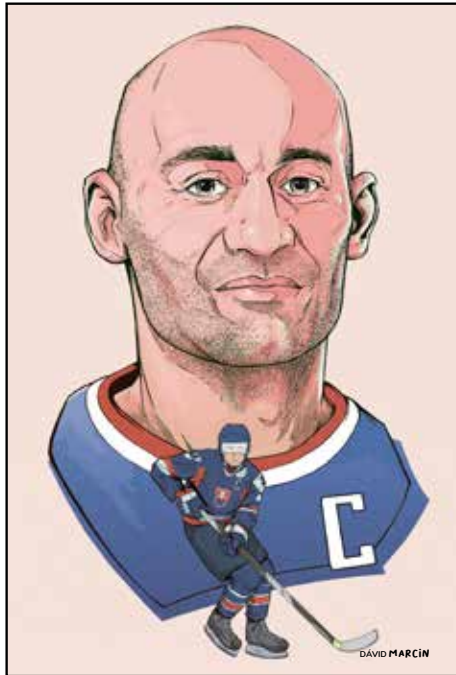
Zmenil svet tým, že reprezentoval to najlepšie zo slovenského hokeja.

Slováci milujú šport, ale zo všetkého najradšej majú ľadový hokej. Na Slovensku ťažko nájdete chlapca, ktorý tajne nesníva o tom, že sa raz stane hokejistom.

Pavol Demitra bol jedným z nich. Jeho nadšenie sa vyrovnalo jeho zmyslu pre disciplínu. Mladý Pavol bol od radosti celý bez seba, keď dostal ponuku hrať za svoj miestny klub ako profesionál. A to bol iba začiatok.

Z Dubnice sa dostal do Trenčína a odtiaľ do NHL. Do svojho tímu si ho vybral klub Ottawa Senators. Pavlovi sa plnil sen! Rozprávková kariéra pokračovala, keď prestúpil do klubu St Louis Blues. Práve tu jeho talent zažiaril v plnej nádhere. Spolu s Michalom Handzušom, Ľubošom Bartečkom a neskôr s Ladislavom Nagyom vytvoril slávnú a obávanú družinu, ktorú zostavil ďalšia slovenská hviezda – Peter Šťastný. Slováci držali spoli a pomáhali si.

Demitra hral v prestížnych zámorských kluboch 16 rokov. Podpísal multimiliónové zmluvy, jeho talent si v Amerike vážili a fanúšikovia ho milovali. Slovenská sláva prišla



až počas zimných olympijských hier vo Vancouveri v roku 2010.

Pavol mal na hrudi slovenský dvojkriž, keď dal víťazný gól v nervydrásajúcich nájazdoch proti národnému tímu Ruska. Slovensko burácalo od nadšenia a oslavovalo svojho skromného hrdinu s prívetivým úsmevom.

Pavol dobre vedel, že na svete sú dôležitejšie veci ako sláva, peniaze či počet gólov. Zo všetkého najviac si vážil štedrosť a vôľu podeliť sa o šťastie s druhými. Podporoval chlapcov na Slovensku a pomáhal im plniť si sny na ľade. Bol džentlmen, tímový hráč a pracant, ktorý šíril dobré meno Slovenska široko ďaleko.

Všetci sa tešili, že slovenský hokejový tím viedol na majstrovstvá sveta v roku 2011 práve Pavol Demitra. Boli to jeho posledné majstrovstvá v národných farbách. Po lícach mu tiekli slzy, keď sa po poslednej hre lúčil s fanúšikmi. Vtedy ešte nikto netušil, že to nebol len koniec jeho aktívnej hokejovej kariéry. O niekoľko mesiacov neskôr Pavol tragicky zahynul pri leteckom nešťastí v Rusku.

Slovensko smútilo. Pavol nebol len hokejovým hrdinom, ale predovšetkým priateľom, skvelým vzorom a dobrým človekom.

Slovak Hockey Skates with Pride at Milano–Cortina 2026



As the 2026 Winter Olympics are now underway in Milan–Cortina, Italy, Slovakia's men's ice hockey team once again carries themselves onto one of the world's greatest stages. No matter the results, this team represents the strength, resilience, and spirit that define Slovak hockey.

The journey here builds on a historic moment, Slovakia's unforgettable bronze medal at the 2022 Winter Games, the first Olympic hockey medal in their history. That achievement reminded the world that Slovak hockey belongs among the elite and inspired a new generation of players and fans alike.

Today's team reflects that proud tradition. Juraj Slafkovský, who captured global attention as a teenager in 2022, returns with greater experience and confidence, symbolizing the bright future of Slovak hockey. Alongside him is outstanding young defenseman Šimon Nemeč, part of a rising generation bringing skill and fearlessness to the international stage.

Blending with this youth is the steady presence of veterans like Tomáš Tatar, whose leadership and dedication help guide the team both on and off the ice. Together, these players show what Slovak hockey is all about — teamwork, perseverance, and heart.

The Olympic tournament is always a challenge, with the world's strongest hockey nations competing at the highest level. Yet beyond the standings, what matters most is the honor of wearing the Slovak crest and representing our people with pride and determination.

Slovenský hokej s hrdosťou na olympiáde Milano–Cortina 2026

Ako Zimné olympijské hry 2026 prebiehajú v Miláne a Cortine, v Taliansku, slovenská mužská hokejová reprezentácia opäť nastupuje na jedno z najväčších športových pódíí sveta. Bez ohľadu na výsledky tento tím stelesňuje silu, odolnosť a ducha, ktoré definujú slovenský hokej.

Cesta sem nadväzuje na historický okamih, nezabudnuteľnú bronzovú medailu Slovenska zo ZOH 2022, prvú olympijskú hokejovú medailu v histórii samostatného Slovenska. Tento úspech pripomenul svetu, že slovenský hokej patrí medzi elitu, a inšpiroval novú generáciu hráčov aj fanúšikov.

Súčasný tím odráža túto hrdú tradíciu. Juraj Slafkovský, ktorý v roku 2022 upútal pozornosť sveta ako tínedžer, sa vracia s väčšími skúsenosťami a sebedomím a symbolizuje svetlú budúcnosť slovenského hokeja. Po jeho boku stojí výnimočný mladý obranca Šimon Nemeč, súčasť nastupujúcej generácie prinášajúcej na medzinárodnú scénu zručnosť a nebojácnosť.

Túto mladosť dopĺňa stabilná prítomnosť veteránov, ako je Tomáš Tatar, ktorého lídersťvo a oddanosť pomáhajú viesť tím na ľade aj mimo neho. Spoločne títo hráči ukazujú, o čom je slovenský hokej — o tímovej práci, vytrvalosti a srdci.

Olympijský turnaj je vždy veľkou výzvou, keďže proti sebe stoja najsilnejšie hokejové krajiny sveta na najvyššej úrovni. No nad rámec tabuliek je najdôležitejšia česť nosiť slovenský znak na drese a reprezentovať náš národ s hrdosťou a odhodlaním.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, December 13, 2025 • Teleconference

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 11:30am and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members Attending:

Kenneth A. ArendtNational President, Present
Damian NastaNational Vice President, Present
Kevin J. CollinsExecutive Secretary, Present
John Tokarsky.....Treasurer, Present
Gregory MaurerChairman of Auditors (by invitation of the President), Present

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the November 21, 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 the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions. During this report, Larry stated there are potential write-downs in investments due to the present economic condition. Larry White gave an extensive review of investment options to the Executive Committee that we can take advantage of. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky submitted his monthly written Treasurer's report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

ANNUITY RATES:

The President stated that the 6% and 7% annuity promotion that started on September 1, 2025 will end on December 31, 2025. All other rates will remain the same.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The President and the Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee 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 reviewed the financial statement for Quarter 3 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. Everything was found in order, and they 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 November 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 of November:

Death Benefits & Accumulations..... \$265,601.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations..... \$32,666.73
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 reviewed all incentive options for the Branches and Districts to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. These programs include Fraternalism in Action, Branding Bucks, and Branch/District Reimbursement Program. He is encouraging all Branches and Districts to participate in these programs as tools to get the youth involved. If a District or Branch has any questions, they can reach out to the Home Office.

The Executive Secretary will continue the Virtual Calls. He is encouraging everyone to participate in these educational calls. Further details and topics 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 stated we are amidst a major campaign to recruit agents for all 38 states in which we are licensed.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The Fraternal Activities Director, Joanne Fibbi, gave a detailed report on all the activities that have occurred in 2025 to the Board of Directors, who met immediately prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee. She stated the Annual Bowling Tournament will be held in Erie, PA, April 25 – 26, 2026. She stated the Annual Golf Tournament to be held at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio July 24 – 26, 2026. In addition to the Bowling Tournament and the Golf Tournament, all Fraternal Activities will be published on the website and in the newspaper.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated to the Board of Directors that preliminary information about the upcoming 2026 Convention will be posted on the Convention page of the website. The 2026 Convention will be held June 20-23, 2026, at Embassy Suites by Hilton Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The additional information for the convention will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our Convention page of the website.

The President reviewed the third quarter financial statements and answered the Committee's questions. The financial statements are posted in the Jednota newspaper.

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

Crossword Puzzle Solution from Page 17

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

Home Office Contacts 800.533.6682 • fcsu@fcsu.com

LIFE INSURANCE

SUZANNEExt. 115 suzanneb@fcsu.com
Insurance Department Director
Life Insurance Department Services, Beneficiary Changes, Cash Value / Surrenders and Medical Assistance Information

FRAN.....Ext. 116 frans@fcsu.com
Claims Department, Life Insurance Claims

JULIE.....Ext. 125 juliec@fcsu.com
Life Insurance Department Services, Address Changes, Policy Payments

ANNUITY DEPARTMENT

TEREZIAExt. 118..... tereziar@fcsu.com
Annuity Department Director
Deposit Agreements / Settlement Options, RMD, Scheduled Payments and Deposits

SHERIExt. 126..... sherir@fcsu.com
Annuity/IRA Department, New Contracts, Deposits from-to Existing Policies

KELLYExt. 127 kellys@fcsu.com
Annuity/IRA Department, New Contracts, Transfers, Withdrawals, Full Surrenders

DOROTAExt. 129..... dorotap@fcsu.com
Annuity Claims Department, Member Portal, Customer Service, Beneficiary & Address Changes

AGENT SUPPORT

ANDREAExt. 112..... andream@fcsu.com
Agent Coordinator, Commissions

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

AMBERExt. 128 amberg@fcsu.com
Accounts Payable, Life Insurance Policy Loans, Mortgages

BRANCH SUPPORT

BARBARAExt. 122 branch@fcsu.com
district@fcsu.com
Branch & District Liaison, Activities, Transfers, Mergers, Deposit Agreements, Fraternal Activities & Events

PAMExt. 119 branch@fcsu.com
district@fcsu.com
Branch & District Coordinator, Announcements

COMMUNICATION

BEATAExt. 114..... beatat@fcsu.com
Chief Marketing Officer, Executive Assistant, FCSU Scholarships

SARA.....Ext. 110 saras@fcsu.com
Administrative Assistant

SHANNONExt. 123 editor@fcsu.com
Jednota Editor, Newspaper Subscription Requests and/or Changes

What's the best Valentine's Day dinner?
A hearty one.

What did the puzzle say on
Valentine's Day?
You complete me.

Why should you date a goalie?
He's a keeper.



Join Us!

For a limited time, new members can join FCSU with a \$100 annuity (normally a \$500 minimum) — making it easier than ever to become part of our fraternal family.

800.533.6682

\$600M in Assets • Solvency Ratio 110%
 Governed and Regulated by the
 Ohio Department of Insurance

Qualifying Annuity Products:

8 Year **4.50%**
 FPDA or IRA APY

Coverdell **4.50%**
 Education Savings Account APY

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- ✓ Local Branch and District Activities
- ✓ Family Friendly Contests
- ✓ National Picnics, Bowling and Golf Tournaments
- ✓ Cultural Programs and Webinars
- ✓ Scholarship Opportunities

Providing Security, Friendship & Community For Over 135 Years



FCSU
 Financial®

FCSU Financial® | First Catholic Slovak Union
 6611 Rockside Rd, #300 • Independence, OH 44131
 annuity@fcsu.com • www.fcsu.com