



Greeting from Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, His Excellency, Andrej Droba

This letter was presented by Paula Kolláriková, Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC for Ambassador Droba at the Presidential Banquet at the 53rd Quadrennial Convention:

Dear Jednota Family,

As you gather for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention, my thoughts and deepest respect are with you. Much like your previous gatherings, this convention is more than just a formal meeting—it is a celebration of the shared values, heritage, and stability that the Union has provided to its members and friends for over 135 years.

This year carries a unique symbolism as the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Two and a half centuries ago, a vision of liberty, democracy, and human dignity was born in this country. For generations, Slovak immigrants and their descendants have been actively helping to build, shape, and defend that very dream.

Nowhere is this enduring legacy more visible than in the First Catholic Slovak Union. This year, we proudly mark the 135th anniversary of the founding of *Jednota* — the newspaper that has stood as the voice and the very soul of your organization since 1891.

But the Union’s impact goes far beyond print. You have long acted as a vital bridge between Slovakia and the United States—whether by protecting families through your insurance programs, supporting Slovak churches and culture, or investing in the next generation. The newly established scholarship for Slovak Studies at the University of Pittsburgh is a true testament to this commitment. By supporting these young scholars, you ensure that our roots are not just remembered, but actively carried forward into the future.

I want to express our deepest gratitude to the leadership and the entire membership of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Thank you for your hard work, your generosity, and for your vital role in strengthening the bond between our two nations.

In this shared mission, please know that you will always have a steadfast partner in our Embassy. We look at you not just as a community abroad, but as an extension of our home—and we remain fully committed to supporting you in keeping our Slovak heritage thriving.

May this Convention be filled with fruitful discussions, renewed fellowship, and inspired visions for the future. I wish the First Catholic Slovak Union many more centuries of growth, unity, and blessing.



Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

President’s Message

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make the 53rd Quadrennial Convention a success.

To our delegates, thank you for your time, thoughtful participation, and careful attention throughout the business sessions. Your commitment to representing your branches and making informed decisions helps ensure a strong future for our Society. I also hope you had the opportunity to renew old friendships, make new connections, and enjoy the fellowship that makes our conventions so special.

I would like to congratulate our newly elected officers and Board members. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue building on the strong foundation of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated, and I know you will bring dedication and fresh perspectives to the important work ahead.

To those whose service on the Board has come to an end, thank you for the countless hours you devoted to our Society. Your leadership, experience, and commitment have helped guide FCSU through another successful chapter in our history. We are grateful for your service and the lasting impact you have made.

I am honored by the confidence you have once again placed in me by allowing me to continue serving as your President. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to lead the Society that has meant

President’s Message, Continued on Page 3

President Ken Arendt received a standing ovation to thank him for over 30 years of service to the First Catholic Slovak Union



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:
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6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
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Message from the National Chaplain

The New York Knicks recently won the professional basketball championship last month. It was their first championship since 1973, 53 years ago.

For readers too young to remember, everyday life in 1973 looked something like this. You could buy a pack of cigarettes, a Sunday newspaper, and a first class postage stamp and get change back for your dollar. Gasoline was rationed and it had just about doubled in price to the astronomically high cost of about 60 cents a gallon. The war in Vietnam and the Senate Watergate hearings were major news topics every day. It sure was a different world 53 years ago in 1973.

After the deciding game was over, a television analyst offered this perspective. He said 53 years from now, it will be 2079. That comment makes us wonder what life might be like at that time.

We can only speculate what will be different then, but there are some things for which we can hope and pray:

- For everyone to live in harmony through the Spirit's gifts of peace and justice.
- For humanity to have learned by then to control Artificial Intelligence rather than have AI rule over their lives.
- For everyone all over the earth to heed the call of Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV to be responsible stewards over God's creation.
- For an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
- For any thought of committing the grave sins of abortion and euthanasia to not even enter people's minds and hearts.

And for those who are here now but will not be here in 2079, we hope and pray for a merciful judgment and eternal rest.



Rev. Thomas Nasta
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 June 29, 153 donors have given \$21,334.34 for the 2026 Appeal. Among the 46 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 40, Branch 45, Branch 55, Branch 89, Branch 112, Branch 132, Branch 153, Branch 181, Branch 320, Branch 450, Branch 731, Branch 743, Branch 853, Branch 857, District 14, District 17 and the Home Office of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$3,910.00. Donations have also been received from 10 churches, 17 clergy and religious and 80 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

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

ISSUE DEADLINES

AUGUST 2026 ISSUE

COPY DATE - MONDAY, AUGUST 3
ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE

COPY DATE - MONDAY, AUGUST 31
ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Executive Secretary's Message

Thank you to everyone who attended the 53rd Quadrennial Convention in Greenville, South Carolina. Your participation and involvement helped make the convention a success and provided the direction for FCSU Financial® over the next four years.

We had productive business meetings, elected National Officers, and accomplished the work that was before us. Delegates also came together to pack 500 weekend food bags for local children through our Blessings in a Backpack service project. Thank you to everyone who participated.

There was also time to enjoy the fellowship of the convention during Welcome to the South / Country Western Night and the Presidential Banquet. It was good to see familiar faces and meet new members from across our organization.

Now it's time to get back to work. There is still a lot to accomplish this year, and the Home Office and National Officers are already moving forward with the business approved by the delegates.

I also encourage you to join us at one of our upcoming national events. Our National Golf Outing will be held July 24–26, followed by our National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park on August 22. Please register by August 3. Be sure to watch for details on our Family Fall Festival, which will be held in October.

Thank you for your continued support of FCSU Financial®. I hope to see many of you at one of our upcoming events.

Virtual Call Schedule:

August 11, 2026: 12pm EST and 6pm EST
Topics to be determined.

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







Show your FCSU pride! Use your 2026 Branding Bucks soon!

President's Message, Continued from Page 1

so much to me. On behalf of my wife Theresa, myself and our family, we appreciate your trust. I remain committed to working alongside our National Officers, Home Office staff, and members as we continue to strengthen our financial foundation while preserving the faith, family, and fraternal values that define who we are.

Thank you again to everyone who attended our convention and helped make it both productive and enjoyable. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together over the next four years.

See below for the newly elected officers (effective January 1, 2027):

Chaplain	Fr. Peter Bujdos, C.O.
President	Kenneth Arendt
Vice President	Gary Matta
Executive Secretary	Kevin Collins
Treasurer	John Tokarsky
Regional Director – Region 1	Sabina Sabados
Regional Director – Region 2	Joanne Engle Austin
Regional Director – Region 3	Martha Zavada
Regional Director – Region 4	James Marmol
Regional Director – Region 5	David Matta
Regional Director – Region 6	Thomas Ivanec
Regional Director – Region 7	Timothy Graves
Regional Director – Region 8	Anne Mitro
Director of Fraternal Activities	Joanne Fibbi
Chairman of Auditors	Gregory Maurer



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

UPCOMING EVENTS



JULY 2026

7/11	Slovak Festival, Broadview Heights, OH
7/12	Branch 367 - 125th Lodge Celebration, Fairchance, PA (RSVP)
7/12	Branch 785 - Annual Picnic, Norval, ON
7/13	Branch 162 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP)
7/16	Branch 628 - Meeting, West Mifflin, PA
7/16	103rd Annual American Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA
7/19	Branch 587 - Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP by 7/12)
7/24 - 26	FCSU International Golf Tournament, Huron, OH
7/26	Branch 40 - Meeting, Streator, IL (RSVP by 7/23)
7/26	Branch 181 - Family Picnic, Mammoth, PA
7/26	District 2 - Home of the Brave, Munster, IN (RSVP)
7/26	District 9 - Meeting, Smithfield, PA (RSVP by 7/22)
7/26	District 12 Picnic - Cedar Creek Park, Belle Vernon, PA (RSVP)
7/26	94th Annual Slovak-American Day Picnic, Franklin, WI

AUGUST 2026

8/5	Branch 290 - Meeting, Middlesex, NJ (RSVP by 7/29)
8/6	Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA
8/6	Branch 410 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP by 8/3)
8/7	Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
8/7	District 12 - Washington Wild Things, Washington, PA (RSVP by 7/23)
8/7	District 17 - RailRiders Baseball Game & Party Box Event, Moosic, PA (RSVP by 7/31)
8/9	Region 1 - Summer Picnic, Linden, NJ (RSVP by 8/1)
8/11	Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 6pm
8/16	Branch 55 - Meeting, Croydon, PA (Hybrid)
8/16	Branch 89 - Meeting, Menomonee Falls, WI (RSVP)
8/18	District 14 - Meeting, Poland, OH
8/22	FCSU National Picnic - Wiegand Lake Park, Novelty, OH (RSVP by 8/3)
8/22	Branch 382 - Picnic, Covington Township, PA (RSVP by 8/14)

For more information, visit our website at fcsu.com.

Auditors (3)	Thomas Krispinsky Raymond Lako Ann Sutila
Medical Examiner	Richard Ungvarsky, MD
General Counsel	Bradley Matta
Pension Board Member (3)	Anna Gibson Karen Engle Sterling Stephanie Sutila
Supreme Court Chairman (1)	Michael Ferenchak
Supreme Court Secretary (1)	Matthew Sterling
Supreme Court Member (10)	Grace Jewell Bacot James Bench Emilia Filak Henry Horvath Joseph Jurasi Gary Kapitan Michael Kapitan John Moynihan Paul Novak Karin Scally

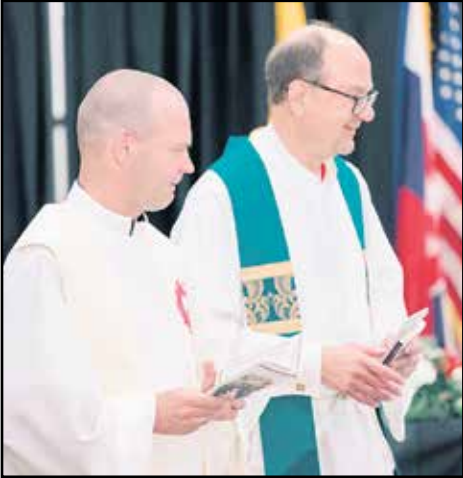
FCSU Clergy Lead Daily Mass

Each morning of the convention began with the celebration of Mass, providing delegates and guests an opportunity to gather in prayer and reflection. We are grateful to the priests of our Society who generously served as celebrants and concelebrants throughout the convention, helping to keep our Catholic faith at the center of our time together.



Clergy members of the FCSU gathered for a group photo after Mass during the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

Front Row (L-R): Father Jared Orndorff, Father Aron Maghsoudi.
Second Row (L-R): Father Michael Brunovsky, O.S.B., Father Thomas Nasta, Bishop Larry Kulick, Abbot Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Father Robert Seeman, and Father Peter Bujdos, C.O.



Delegates in Action

Thank you to all of our delegates for attending the 53rd Quadrennial Convention and participating in the business of our Society. We appreciate the time you took to prepare, attend the sessions, and represent your fellow members. Your participation helped make the convention productive, and we thank you for your continued support of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Congratulations to the Newly Elected FCSU Board of Directors



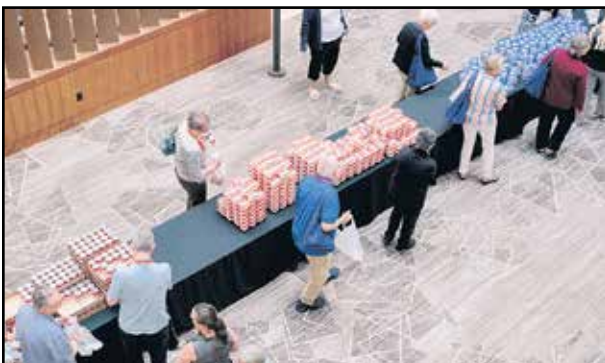
Delegates to the FCSU 53rd Quadrennial Convention Gather for a Group Photo

Delegates Pack 500 Bags for Blessings in a Backpack

Before departing the 53rd Quadrennial Convention, delegates came together one final time to make a difference in the lives of children facing food insecurity. Working assembly-line style, they packed 500 weekend meal bags for Blessings in a Backpack, a national nonprofit dedicated to providing food for school-aged children who might otherwise go hungry on weekends.

The bags were distributed to children in Spartanburg, South Carolina, helping ensure they had nutritious meals over the weekend. Across the country, Blessings in a Backpack serves thousands of children each week through community partnerships and volunteer support.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this service project. Your generosity and willingness to give a few minutes of your time demonstrated the spirit of faith, service, and fraternalism that continues to define FCSU.



Delegate Gifts Carved by Slovakian Artist

A special gift was given to each Delegate to thank them for their participation in the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

Each cross was handmade in Slovakia by master woodcarver Jozef Majkut of Kolačkov, Stará Ľubovňa. Inspired to begin carving during his recovery from an illness 25 years ago, Jozef creates each cross from natural hardwoods, making every piece one of a kind. Finished with beeswax, these crosses serve as a meaningful reminder of faith and our appreciation for the dedication and support of the delegates of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Those who took their gift to Mass were able to have their crosses blessed by one of the clergy in attendance. The crosses were well received and will be a cherished keepsake for years to come.

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

For our July 4th celebration of 250 years since The Declaration of Independence was signed, the National Eucharistic Congress, in solidarity with the U.S. Bishops, organized a profound way to honor God with prayerful gratitude. A Eucharistic Pilgrimage began on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24, 2026) at a St. Augustine Florida Parish and proceeded through most of the original 13 colonies, traveling across 18 different dioceses. In each diocese, schedules provided time for participation in Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Procession, and Closing Masses. Finally, on July 5—the date coinciding with July 4th Independence Day weekend, the Pilgrimage concluded with the solemn Celebration of Mass in Philadelphia. Truly, the visible Eucharistic Pilgrimage confirmed that we believe that we are “One Nation under God,” the patriotic theme for the Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

With the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus, we are reminded daily of His promise, “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt 28:20).

So much did Jesus love His disciples, and all of us, His today followers, that He longed to make His Presence an actual reality. He did so at the Last Supper: “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to His disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Mt: 26-28). As only God could create life and transform it, Jesus makes Himself literally present to us in bread and wine.

Our hymn for July proclaims, “Sing and rejoice with Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord.” Pope Leo XIV prayed in a General Audience on June 24, 2026, “that all the faithful, as they seek nourishment from this source of divine life (the Eucharist) may allow themselves to be transformed by the mystery we celebrate.”

WITH JOY MY HEART RESOUNDS

1. With joy my heart resounds, as Your great love
abounds on the altar.
Here Your love-gift I see-- mercy so graciously
now You offer.

CHORUS
I praise Your holy name, Your sacrifice acclaim,
Jesus, Savior.
2. Jesus, I humbly bow, praise and adore You now,
with grateful love.
Blessings and strength I pray: be with me day by
day, sent from above.
3. My heart I give to You, my mind and whole self,
too, my God and Lord.
You bless me gen'rously, with joy and clemency,
merciful Lord.
4. Bless us with peace secure--safe from all wars,
and sure of Your great care.
From dangers rescue us, o'er land, sea, sky-- we
trust Your Presence there.

Please enjoy the YouTube version from Slovakia: tinyurl.com/July26Reflection

RADOŠŤOU OPLÝVAM

1. Radosťou oplývam, keď sa ja
pozerám, Ježišu môj,
Na Teba v Sviatosti, plného milosti,
ó Bože môj!

SBOR:
Nech je pochválená svätosť Tvojho
mena, Ježišu môj.
2. Ježišu, pred Tebou s úctou a
velebou na zem padám,
Abys' ma požehnal a väčšiu lásku
dal, vrúcne žiadam.
3. Srdce Ti darujem, Tebe sa
venujem, Kriste Pane!
Ty mi dáš milosti a večné radosti,
zmlovanie.
4. Daj myseľ pokojnú, odvráť mor,
hlad, vojnu, Ježišu môj!
Zachráň nás od škody, od ohňa, od
vody, ó Pane môj!

Insights & Viewpoints

Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

Matthew 13; 24 - 43

The Gospel shares some parables of Jesus. Parables are intended to cause the listener to think about them, and reflect on what Jesus meant in telling them. One can hear the same parable numerous times, and each time gain a different insight into its' meaning. The three in this passage; the weeds among the wheat, the mustard seed, and the yeast, are about the Kingdom of Heaven. As I reflected on them the virtue that stands out is patience.

A common reaction when things in our lives don't go as planned is to quickly make changes without fully considering the consequences. When the farmer first realized that weeds were growing in the midst of his wheat he could have immediately began to get rid of the weeds so as to protect the wheat. But as Jesus points out, pulling out the weeds would also mean pulling out the wheat. Jesus calls them to be patient. Patience is a virtue that seems to be seen less and less today. The patience to wait for the right moment to speak or act is not always easy. Waiting for God to answer our prayer can be frustrating. We expect ourselves and others to act quickly in making decisions. The pressure is on for the quick fix, not the well thought out solution or resolution.

When a child is taught how a little seed grows into a plant, it is common for the child to keep watching the soil for the plant, then to keep checking every few moments. One of the first lesson we learn when it comes to planting is that it takes time. When we plant a seed we aren't going to see the plant, bush or tree mature for quite a while, sometimes years.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Doing Small Things with Great Love

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Sharon Eubank spent nearly 30 years doing humanitarian work around the world, but it all started with socks. Yes, socks. A seemingly inconsequential item changed her perspective about the ways that we can serve others, and she has now shared what she learned in the informative and motivational Christopher Award-winning book “Doing Small Things with Great Love: How Everyday Humanitarians are Changing the World.”

During a “Christopher Closeup” interview, Sharon recalled a moment in the 1990s when she found her mother knitting bright red socks. When she asked her why she was doing that, her mother responded that there was an airlift taking donations to Sarajevo to help the people suffering there during the Yugoslavian War. Sharon thought to herself, “Is that the best we can do? Have women in middle America knitting socks for all the things that those people needed?”

“Then a couple of years later,” Sharon continued, “I read a story in The New York Times about a woman who was in Sarajevo. Her building had been bombed. She was living in the basement, and the pipes had broken so everything was freezing, frozen ice. She said a Red Cross truck pulled up into the yard, and they distributed brand new wool socks. She said she put her filthy feet into those socks and pulled them up, and she felt so grateful for whoever had provided them. Of course, the bigger issues still remained: the war was still going, the bombs were still falling. But for that moment, that woman, that was what she needed. It made a difference...I recognized that rather than just focusing on ‘I can only do the big things; the small things don’t matter,’ it’s the right thing that comes at the right time for the right reason that makes humanitarian aid valuable.”

The simplicity of that idea guided Sharon’s humanitarian work and, decades later, led her to write “Doing Small Things with Great Love,” the title of which is derived from Saint Mother Teresa’s famous quote, “We can’t all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love.”

Sharon explained, “The emphasis isn’t on the thing that you’re doing. It’s on the way that you do it...[Mother Teresa] worked with some of the hardest, lowest-caste people in India. As they were dying, she brought them into her place. She washed their feet. She removed the filth of the street. She tucked them into clean sheets. She held their hands while they were dying. And she looked in their eyes and said, ‘You are worthy of this. God loves you. I’m an instrument of His love.’...Even though they were small things, ordinary things, that made all the difference...So I wanted to highlight, you don’t have to worry that what you’re doing is small because if you do it with great compassion, it becomes something divine.”

The dignity of the human person is a recurring theme throughout the book, and Sharon commends faith leaders like Pope Leo, “who talks a lot about the dignity of each person, the respectful treatment, the humane solutions that must be part of how we tackle difficult things...In my experience over 30 years, people don’t change unless they completely feel like you respect them and you love them. Once they feel that, your partnership explodes. And it isn’t the thing that we’re giving them – it’s not the food; it’s not the medical care. It’s that respect that they crave in their difficult situations that we can give the most.”

Like the mustard seed in the parable, the seed is so small yet grows into the beautiful flower, spreading shrub, or mighty tree. It’s hard to believe when we look at the seed to envision how with patience we will see the growth. The same is true in our spiritual lives. We might have experienced some conversion and we look at our lives and realize how much we have to change. That realization can become almost overwhelming and lead us to think that it is impossible to make all these changes. When the changes don’t happen right away we can become frustrated and discouraged. God is patient with us and we would do well to imitate Christ by cultivating the virtue of patience. With patience we can walk to road of conversion, and progress in the spiritual life.

Patience does seem to be lacking in society today. We like “fast food”, instant news and movies via the internet, online banking, a quick response to our emails and texts. We have grown too accustomed to getting things taken care of quickly, and patience has faded into the background. A rediscovery of patience is necessary in our lives. It is patience that is needed for us to see the Kingdom of Heaven that is in our midst. God’s presence slowly becomes more evident in our lives, and the answer to prayers involves our slowly uniting our prayers with the will of God. Sometimes our vision of the Kingdom is small, but as we patiently grow in faith it becomes more and more evident in our lives. The three parables teach us that the Kingdom of God is here, and will take time for it to become fully established. Meanwhile, we have the need to be patient and attentive to how God is working within us and in the world.

Grow + Go + Pray

An essential part of the Church’s mission is what we call the “preferential option for the poor.” In his Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te*, Pope Leo XIV says that “this ‘preference’ never indicates exclusivity or discrimination toward other groups, which would be impossible for God. It is meant to emphasize God’s actions, which are moved by compassion toward the poverty and weakness of all humanity. Wanting to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, fraternity, and solidarity, God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest.” What this means is that we are called to put the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized, and the suffering at the center of our concern. In our prayer, ministry, and outreach, we are called to prioritize their needs. When we live this out, we are extending the love of Jesus, whose own heart provides a place of welcome for those who are heavily burdened and in need of rest.

This month, find one concrete way you can emulate his heart by serving those in need in your community. Through these actions, you bear witness to “his Spirit that dwells in you.”

National Picnic • Saturday, August 22

Register by August 3, 2026

Register Online or call 800.533.6682, ext. 119



9346 Kinsman Rd • Novelty, OH
wlakepark.com

**FREE Admission
and FREE parking
for all FCSU Members,
Family and Guests from
11:00am – 7:00pm**

With clean, beautiful grounds, there is plenty to do for everyone. You can enjoy paddle boats, playgrounds, softball, volleyball, horseshoes, swimming, as well as lots of great food served all day long.

Shuttle service available from picnic grounds to Mass.

Schedule of Events:

- Check in begins at 11:00am
- Free all you can eat food from 12:00pm – 6:00pm
- BINGO from 1:00pm – 2:00pm
- MASS at 4:00pm celebrated on wedding deck
- Unlimited ice cream treats, hot and cold drinks, popcorn all day

Attractions:

- Corn Hole
- Playgrounds
- Face Painting
- Sand Volleyball
- Basketball
- Paddle Boats
- Horseshoes
- Bingo
- Swimming
- Soccer Field
- Softball Field

No alcohol or pets permitted on premises. Rain or shine event.





FCSU Decorate-A-Cake Contest

In Celebration of 250 Years!



On this special occasion, many will be celebrating our historic 4th of July, 2026 with family, friends and, of course, food. What better way to top off the festivities than with a spectacular patriotic dessert, especially with the opportunity to showcase your creativity, and win a cash prize in our new **Decorate-A-Cake Contest**. Pull out all the stops to express your American Spirit in this red, white and blue birthday extravaganza! We extend a special invitation to our Canadian members and dear friends to the north to join in the fun.

First Place prize for each category of competition is \$250!

Decorate-A-Cake Contest Rules

- ★ Compete in one of **THREE** categories:
 - 1 - **TIERED CAKES** (two or more round/square/shaped layers)
 - 2 - **SHEET CAKES** (a 1/4 or 1/2 size rectangular layer)
 - 3 - **CUPCAKES** (one dozen)
- ★ **Open to current members 12 years of age and older.** One entry per member. Judging is based on two age groups 12-19 year olds, and adults 20 years and older. Younger members are encouraged to participate by assisting their family members.
- ★ **Make your cake from scratch, box cake mixes or rice cereal forms,** etc. as the competition is judged on appearance not taste.
- ★ **All decorations must be edible and feature predominately red, white and blue colors.** Use of icings, gum paste, fondant, spun sugar, candy, fresh fruit, fruit wraps, edible glitter, nonpareils, sprinkles, luster dust, sanding sugar, modeling chocolate, and food coloring is permitted.
- ★ **All designs must be homemade/handcrafted.** Use of cake decorating tools is permitted. Purchased cupcake papers/liners and candles are permitted.
- ★ Use of craft cutting machines, computer aided designs, AI, etc. is not allowed.
- ★ **Email two photos of you in the decorating process.** 1. You with your basic iced cake. 2. You with your fully decorated cake. You may submit up to two additional photos from different perspectives if necessary to capture your overall design.
- ★ **Four finalists will be selected per category and age group.**

Cash Prizes: 1st - \$250 ★ 2nd - \$200 ★ 3rd - \$150 ★ 4th - \$100. That's 24 winners in all. *



CONTEST DEADLINE IS AUGUST 7, 2026 ★ OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Cake Category: _____ Title of Cake: _____

Description of Decorating Techniques/Supplies: _____

Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Age: _____

Email photos and entry form to jfibbi@fcsu.com • Email Subject: Decorate-A-Cake Contest
Or mail photos and entry form to Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Ln, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

* Decisions of independent judges are final. Photos may be published in the Jednota newspaper and featured on the FCSU website. Your entry grants permission for FCSU to use your photos.



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.



Branch 553 Collects Baby Items

Submitted by Debbie Speck, Branch 553 President

On Sunday, June 7, Branch 553 held a “baby shower” for the Christ Child Society of Akron. In attendance were the officers of the Branch plus FCSU Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Region 10 Director Tom Ivanec, District 10 President Greg Petrusek, and past President and Executive Board Member of The Christ Child Society of Akron Patty Minrovic. The organization was in need of premie and newborn diapers, size 0 to 3 months sleep and play outfits and our members delivered!

Canadian Delegates Enjoy the Presidential Banquet

Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Public Relations, Branch 785



Delegates Josie Siman, Jerry Siman, Dusan Dorich, Ed Bajus, Anne Mitro, Ruzena Kapitan, Michael Kapitan, and Helen von Friedl enjoyed the Presidential Banquet at the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Not pictured: John Tokarsky.

Branch 38 Members Unite for the 2026 Pittsburgh Melanoma Walk



*Submitted by Logan Haselhoff,
Branch 38 President*

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, members of Branch 38 proudly participated in the annual Pittsburgh Melanoma Walk, joining hundreds of community members in raising awareness and support for melanoma research, education, and patient advocacy. The event provided an opportunity for participants to come together in solidarity, celebrate survivors, honor loved ones, and contribute to an important cause that continues to impact countless families.



Branch 38 members arrived early and were greeted by beautiful weather, an energetic atmosphere, and a shared sense of purpose. Throughout the morning, members walked side by side, enjoying fellowship and conversation while supporting the mission of increasing awareness about melanoma prevention, early detection, and treatment. The event served as a reminder of the power of community involvement and the positive impact that collective action can have in the fight against cancer.

One of the most meaningful aspects of this year's walk was the opportunity to honor the memory of Branch 38 member Devin Matta. Devin's presence continues to be deeply felt throughout the branch, and many participants reflected on the lasting friendships, kindness, and dedication she shared with those around her. Walking together in her memory added a special significance to the day and provided members with a chance to celebrate her life while supporting a cause that is important to so many.

As the walk progressed, members enjoyed spending quality time together outside of their normal branch activities. The event fostered camaraderie, strengthened existing friendships, and created new memories among participants. Whether walking with family members, fellow branch members, or friends from the community, everyone appreciated the opportunity to connect while supporting a worthy cause.

The Pittsburgh Melanoma Walk also highlighted the importance of education and awareness. Participants learned more about melanoma prevention strategies, the value of routine skin examinations, and the ongoing efforts being made to advance research and improve patient outcomes. Through their participation, Branch 38 members helped promote these important messages and demonstrated their commitment to community service and public health awareness.

The success of the day was measured not only by the distance walked or funds raised, but also by the spirit of unity displayed by everyone involved. Branch 38 members represented the organization with pride and compassion, showing how community engagement can make a meaningful difference. Their participation reflected the branch's longstanding commitment to supporting charitable causes and giving back to the communities they serve.

As the event concluded, members left with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude. The day was filled with laughter, fellowship, remembrance, and purpose. Most importantly, it provided an opportunity to honor the memory of Devin Matta while supporting the ongoing fight against melanoma.

Branch 38 extends its sincere appreciation to all members, family, and friends who participated in this year's Pittsburgh Melanoma Walk. Their support, enthusiasm, and dedication helped make the event a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone involved.



Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Committee Presents



**103rd Annual
AMERICAN SLOVAK DAY**
Kennywood Park • West Mifflin, PA

**Thursday, July 16, 2026
Food, Entertainment & Mass**

Attention Young Adult FCSU Financial members (21+ to age 39):

Lets 'hang out' at Kennywood and see if we can fill an entire Jack Rabbit coaster train with FCSU members!

We will have two meet up times:

#1 - 12pm near the Slovak Kitchen (behind Jack Rabbit)

#2 - 6pm near the exit ramp of Jack Rabbit

Look for Charles Boone in the green FCSU Financial t-shirt.



On Sunday, June 7, Branch 89 attended a minor league baseball game. Unfortunately, the Milwaukee Milkmen lost to the Fargo Redhawks, but all still had a great time. It was a fun afternoon of baseball, beautiful weather, catching up, meeting new members, ballpark food, fellowship, and fun.



**Branch 181 Members
Annual Family Picnic
Sunday, July 26, 2026
Mammoth Park
Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13**

Registration starts at noon with the picnic beginning at 1:00pm. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share.

**DRINKS AND MAIN
ENTRÉES WILL BE
PROVIDED BY THE BRANCH.**

Contact Vicki at **724-433-8469**
for more info or directions

Bring your baby items for the Alternatives. Yes! Ministries collection.

Hot Fun in the Summertime!

Dog Days of Summer 2026 Photo Contest



Enter a Favorite Photo of your Furry Friend

FOUR CATEGORIES OF PHOTOS - Open to Dogs and Cats

Keeping Cool Playing Around Best Dressed Cutest Puppy/Kitten

KEEPING COOL

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

PLAYING AROUND

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

BEST DRESSED

It's a summer fashion show! Let your pet "model" their best summertime outfit.

CUTEST PUPPY/KITTEN

Share a portrait "still shot" of your adorable baby - under one year of age.

The most unique photos have the best chance of winning. (It is difficult to select a winner from dozens of dogs sitting by a pool.) Cash prizes of \$200, \$150, \$100, and \$50 will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places within each category.* 16 prizes in total. Limit of one photo submission per member. The pet may be yours, belong to a friend, neighbor or another family member. Contest is open to all ages. Winning photos will be published in the Jednota.

Dog Days of Summer Photo Contest Entry Form

Email your digital photo and completed entry form to jfibbi@fcsu.com.

Each entry must be submitted in a separate email.

Email subject line must read: Dog Days Entry.

Or mail your entry form and a printed photo to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. **Missing information will result in disqualification of entry.**

NAME: _____

BRANCH #: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

SELECT ONE CATEGORY:

☐ KEEPING COOL

☐ PLAYING AROUND

☐ BEST DRESSED

☐ CUTEST PUPPY/KITTEN

PET'S NAME: _____

PHOTO CAPTION: _____



Please print in ink or fill-in on-line.

*The decisions of independent judges are final.

Additional entry forms are available on-line at fcsu.com.

Entry Deadline: September 11, 2026, no exceptions.

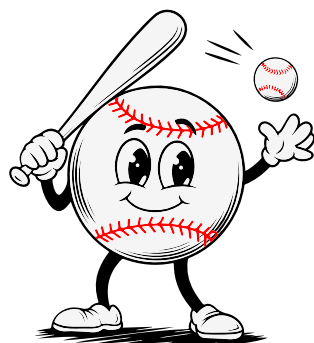
District 17 Saints Cyril & Methodius - NY, PA Party Box Event at PNC Field Friday, August 7, 2026

Game Time - 7:05pm
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders
vs. Rochester Redwings
PNC Field • Moosic, Pennsylvania

Members: \$15 per person
Guests: \$45 per person

Includes:

- Entrance to PNC Field
- Entry through the Mohegan Sun Club Entrance at 6pm.
- Gather at the Right Field Party Suite and Covered Deck.
- The Baseball Food Buffet will be available at 6:15pm.
- All the friendly socializing you can get!
- Fireworks after the game!!!!



Contact Your Branch Officer for Reservations:

Branch 5P..... Martha Zavada 570.954.3771
Branch 166K..... Morgan Dendler 607.206.7243
Branch 173K..... Carl Ungvarsky 570.868.6066
Branch 382K..... Elizabeth M. Slovenkai 570.344.3854

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID FOR BY
FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026**

Make your check payable to YOUR Branch!



JOIN US FOR THE
First Catholic Slovak Union
REGION 1 PICNIC
SUN, AUG 9 at 1PM

Al Kalla Park
2801 Highland Ave., Linden, NJ

RSVP by Aug 1 to Joanne: 732-762-3148

Members FREE; Non-Members: \$30

53RD QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

Welcome to the South / Country Western Night

Our 53rd Quadrennial Convention got off to a fantastic start with our Welcome to the South/Country Western Night. The weather couldn't have been better, with a pleasant breeze and comfortable temperatures creating the perfect setting for an evening outdoors. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal, and many embraced the theme by dressing in their best western attire. The lively band kept the dance floor full throughout the evening, making it a fun and memorable kickoff to the convention. It was a wonderful opportunity for delegates, members, and guests to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and begin the weekend with great food, music, and fellowship.



Presidential Banquet

The Presidential Banquet brought delegates and guests together for an evening of fellowship during the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Master of Ceremonies Ed Zelenak, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, led the program, which included welcome remarks from President Ken Arendt, greetings from Paula Kolláriková of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C., and keynote addresses by Allison Koppel, CAE, of the American Fraternal Alliance and The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Bishop of Greensburg. Rev. Thomas Nasta gave the invocation and benediction, and Harmonia provided music during the evening before inviting attendees to the dance floor following the program. Guests enjoyed an elegant dinner as they celebrated another successful convention together.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com

CONNECTICUT

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT
Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

The St. Joseph Society will hold a meeting via Zoom and in-person for officers at the offices of Kurt P. Solek, Fairfield on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 10am. We will hold the Election of Officers and plan our scholarship meeting for November 8, 2026. We cordially invite our members to virtually attend our meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to spend time getting together with their fellow branch members.

Link: tinyurl.com/Br19Sept26
Meeting ID: 880 9203 9428
Passcode: 340704

ILLINOIS

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, IL
Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary

The St. Clement Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, July 26, 2026, at Chipper's Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator at 2pm. All members are urged to attend the meeting with lunch to follow. Please RSVP to 815-257-6142 (leave a message) by July 23.

NEW JERSEY

BRANCH 290 – BRIDGEWATER, NJ
Steve Minarovich, Recording Secretary

We will hold a dinner meeting for all members on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at Carpaccio Ristorante at 651 Bound Brook Rd., Middlesex starting at 6pm. The agenda will include the report of delegates from the 53rd Quadrennial Convention, membership, and branch activities. RSVP is required, so please call or text Steve at 908-507-0505 by Wednesday, July 29.

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ
Mary Kapitan, Recording Secretary

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Sunday,

August 9, 2026, at 1pm at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Ave., Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented at this time. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$30. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 by August 1 if you plan to attend.

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all branch members living and deceased as follows: Friday, August 7; Friday, September 4; Monday, October 5; Friday, November 13; Friday, December 4; and Tuesday, December 22.

OHIO

SLOVAK FESTIVAL
Saturday, July 11, 2026
12pm - 11pm - \$1 Admission
St. Sava Serbian Church Property
2151 W. Wallings Rd.
Broadview Heights, OH

Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will serve traditional Slovak food and pastries for purchase. There will be a full bar and music for dancing and your listening pleasure.

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH
Barbara J. Golias, Secretary

We invite you to attend the Slovak Festival. See the event box on this page. For Branch 1 members who attend, we are offering adults (Age 11+) \$21 in food/beverage tickets and children will receive \$11 in tickets.

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH
Fran Strekal, Frat. Activities Director

July 11, 2026 – Mark your calendars for a day celebrating our Slovak heritage at the Slovak Festival hosted by the Cleveland

Slovak Radio Club. See the event box on this page. Branch 24 members will receive free admission and free food/beverage tickets! Adults (Ages 11+) will receive \$10 and children will receive \$5. Please check in with Tom and Terri Ivanec at the door.

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO
Frank Woyma, President

We encourage our branch members to attend the Slovak Festival hosted by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club on July 11, 2026. See the event box on this page. Branch 450 will treat its members! Adults (Aged 11+) will receive \$21 in food/beverage tickets. Children will receive \$6 in food/beverage tickets.

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH
Debra Speck, President

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

July 11, 2026 – Slovak Festival hosted by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club from Noon to 11pm. Admission is \$1. Traditional Slovak food will be served. Bake sale with Kolacky Joe's Famous pastries. Live music and dancing. Full Bar. Don't miss this wonderful event!

August 22, 2026 – National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park, 9346 Kinsman Rd., Novelty from 11am to 7pm. Bingo, corn hole, paddle boats, horseshoes and more. Mass at 4pm. Mark your calendar for this enjoyable event.

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH
Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary

We are holding meetings on September 6 and November 15, 2026. Both meetings will be at Coaches, 3032 Center Rd., Poland at 5pm.

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH
Stephanie Sutula, Activities Director

Mark your calendars for this fun summer event at your local zoo. Any member of Branch 855 who would like to attend the Asian Lantern Festival at their local zoo can receive a full refund for the entrance fee. Snap a picture in front of a 2026 sign

PENNSYLVANIA

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA
Theresa Cassat, Recording Secretary

SAVE THE DATE: The Tamburitza Folk Ensemble from Pittsburgh are performing at All Saints Parish in Boswell on Sunday, October 11, 2026. This year's show will feature music, dance, and folk costumes from Polish, Slovak, Croatian, Roma, Serbian, Mexican, Bulgarian, and Armenian cultures. We will reserve a FREE ticket for any member who would like to attend. More information will be available soon.

Proceeds from the event will go to help fund an educational/religious pilgrimage to Slovakia and other Eastern European countries for students from All Saints Parish in Boswell. All high school students who are enrolled in the parish religious education program, along with one parent per family, are invited to attend the pilgrimage in the summer of 2027 at NO COST. Your help will go a long way for students, some of whom would never be able to afford such an experience.

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA
Helena Gaydos, Secretary

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the St. Joseph Society is scheduled on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at the Branch President's home, 723 Tulip St., Croydon at 2pm. This is a combined Zoom and in-person meeting. All members are invited to attend.

The highlight of this meeting will be hearing the reports from our branch delegates who attended the convention. We will congratulate and make honorable mention of all our recent graduates and any scholarship winners. We will also hold discussions on upcoming fraternal gathering activities and select a date to finalize details for attending the Festival at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. The festival begins Labor Day weekend on August 30 and closes the following weekend on September 7. We

JEDNOTA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

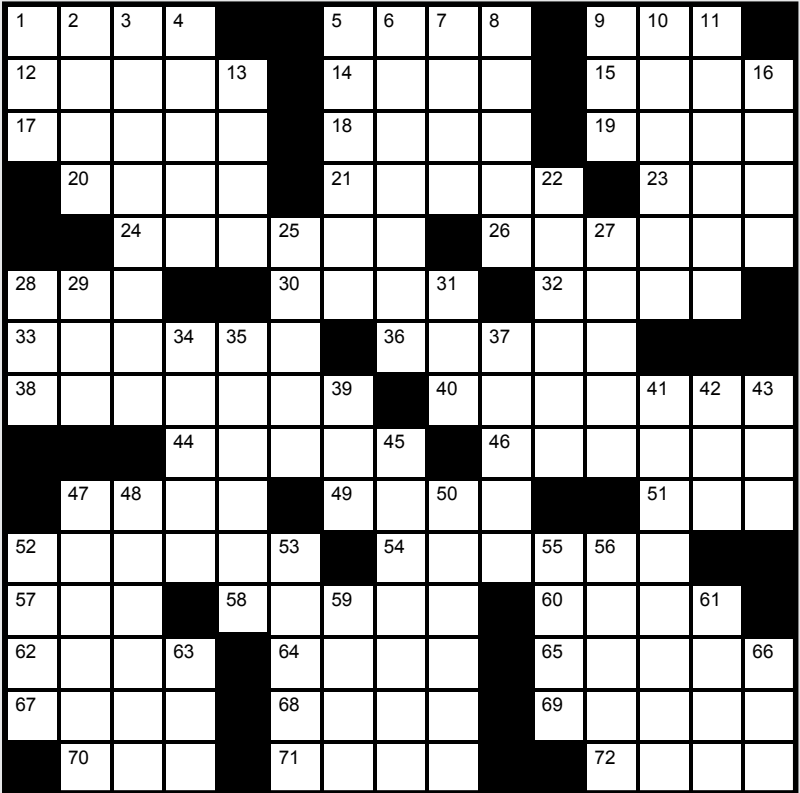
- 1 Aquatic plant
5 Corozo, for one
9 Early hrs.
12 After dinner and church
14 Not windward
15 Empty
17 Old and feeble
18 Cattail, e.g.
19 Ship to Colchis
20 Ancient gathering place
21 Guessed wrong
23 Chemical suffix
24 Autocrat
26 Supermarket sections
28 Bubbly beverage
30 Proofer's mark
32 Essential
33 Airport area
36 Tap problems

- 38 5th letter of the Greek alphabet
40 Blow up
44 Sacrifice site
46 Einstein, e.g.
47 Lucy's husband
49 Mexican money
51 Salon application
52 Appeared
54 Be there
57 Apiece, in scores
58 Expensive fur
60 Campus bigwig
62 Swerve
64 Film genre
65 Sleep disorder
67 To be (Fr.)
68 Ultimatum word
69 Peach State city
70 Clairvoyant's gift
71 Tennis units
72 Mardi Gras follower

Down

- 1 Camel hair fabric
2 Eye piece
3 Sparkles
4 Pewter
5 Mom
6 Tipped off
7 Goatish glance
8 Jiltee of myth
9 The second Mrs. Sinatra
10 Sponge mushrooms
11 Seal
13 Brand, in a way
16 Bucks' mates
22 Chin feature
25 English race place
27 Lucci of All My Children
28 Dined
29 Race unit
31 Half of sei

- 34 Unwholesome atmosphere
35 Coalition members
37 Bullion unit
39 Kindergarten break
41 "Good ___!"
42 Chap
43 Compass pt.
45 Pragmatist
47 Computer key
48 Fishermen with pots
50 Cordwood units
52 Goalie's feat
53 Copenhageners
55 Wax-coated cheese
56 Sherpa's home
59 Tree trunk
61 Kind of sign
63 Good name, for short
66 Kitchen pest



Answers on Page 16

SLOVAK J CLUB
485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH

***Call 330-786-9972 to RSVP**
 To RSVP for dinner, contact us by the
 MONDAY PRIOR to the dinner.

JULY 2026

7-15 Pork Chop Dinner
 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP by 7-13

7-25 Annual Kielbasa Open
 Mayfair Country Club
 Shotgun - Start at 8am
 \$95 per person
 \$380 per foursome (RSVP)

7-26 Breakfast Buffet - 9am-11:45am
 All you can eat

AUGUST 2026

8-5 Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-7pm

8-19 Stuffed Pepper Dinner
 (Regular or Medium Hot Peppers)
 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP by 8-17

8-30 Breakfast Buffet - 9am-11:45am
 All you can eat

SEPTEMBER 2026

9-2 Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-7pm

9-5 OSU vs. Ball State - 12:30pm

9-12 OSU vs. Texas - 7:30pm

9-13 Browns vs. Jaguars - 1pm

9-16 Clam Chowder with
 Fish Sandwich Dinner
 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP by 9-14

9-19 OSU vs. Kent State - 12pm

9-20 Browns vs. Buccaneers - 1pm

9-26 OSU vs. Illinois - TBA

9-27 Breakfast Buffet - 9am-11:45am
 All you can eat

9-27 Browns vs. Panthers - 1pm

have designed custom made t-shirts for all Branch 55 members age 18 and under to wear to celebrate our nation's 250 Years of Freedom, Liberty & Justice – and the contribution made by Slovaks in America.

RSVP to helenagaydos@outlook.com or call 919-505-4796. For questions regarding the Zoom link, please contact George Hardiman at george@hardiman.org or text Branch President Erik Payne at 215-280-1554.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Br55Sept26

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA
Dolores Marmol, Recording Secretary

The St. Wendelin Society will hold a meeting on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 5:30pm at Bogey's Restaurant, 374 Duck Hollow Rd., Uniontown. Officers' reports, branch activities, charitable donations, upcoming FCSU events and the results of the National Convention will be covered. Members and guests are invited to attend. RSVP to me at 724-437-4983 before July 7.

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA
Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

Branch 181 members and their guests are invited to attend the Annual Family Picnic being held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, July 26, 2026. Registration starts at noon

with the picnic beginning at 1pm. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch. We look forward to a great turnout! Contact Vicki at 724-433-8469 for more information or directions. See our ad on page 10.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will be collecting baby items for the Alternatives. Yes! Ministries. The mission of this organization is to give pregnant women and families the resources and support they need to choose life. Bring diapers (sizes 3-6), baby wipes or other items to help this ministry.

Please follow Branch 181 on Facebook - Locate "FCSU Financial Br 181, United, PA" to join the page to keep informed of meetings, events and other good information!

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

The branch will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026. Our meetings are held at 6:30pm 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 questions at vschaub123@gmail.com or 724-763-9229.

BRANCH 320 –
ROSTRAVER TWP., PA
Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President

We welcome all Branch 320 members to join us for the following events. Please RSVP to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788. If you RSVP for any event and are unable to attend, you will be responsible for reimbursing the branch/district for associated costs.

July 16, 2026 - 103rd Annual American Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin. The cost for this event is \$33 (ages 4+). Branch members are free. Guests pay \$33.

July 26, 2026 - District 12 picnic at Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion 17, 453 Evergreen Dr., Belle Vernon from 1-4pm. District members are free; guests pay \$20. RSVP so we can determine food/beverage needs.

August 7, 2026 - Washington Wild Things baseball game with District 12. Doors open at 6:05pm; game starts at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$30 (ages 4+). District members are free. Guests pay \$30. RSVP before July 23 for tickets.

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA
Rose Roskovensky, Vice President

Please join Saint Joseph's Lodge 367 for our 125th Anniversary celebration! The Lodge 367 charter was established on July 10, 1901. The celebration will begin on July 12, 2026, at SS Cyril & Methodius Church, 50 North Morgantown St., Fairchance with a 9am Mass. Mass will be followed by a social and complimentary breakfast buffet located in St. Helen's Hall in the basement of the church. All are welcome - must have RSVP to attend.

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

The Officers and Picnic Committee of SS. Cyril & Methodius Society have scheduled its Summer Picnic for Saturday, August 22, 2026, from Noon to dusk. All Branch 382K

members and guests are cordially invited to join them for an afternoon of good food and friendly socializing in the beautiful outdoors of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Attendees will gather at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club, 486 Jubilee Road in Covington Township, PA. A catered lunch will be served. Members and guests will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the afternoon. A late-afternoon cook-out and corn roast will end the day.

Reservations are required by Friday, August 14! To RSVP, contact Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Branch President, at 570-344-3854. Messages can be left on Voice Mail.

The cost of the event for Branch 382K members is \$10 per person. The price for a guest is \$25 per person. Children ages 10 and under are free. Your check guarantees your reservation and should be received by Tuesday, August 18. Make checks payable to FCSU Branch 382K and mail to: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016. Members of the Picnic Committee are Laura Christianson, Becky Czankner, Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Michael J. Czankner and John J. Slovenkai, Sr.

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA
Geraldine Buchheit, Rec. Secretary

The SS. Peter and Paul Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 1:30pm at the Highland House, 92 West Main St., Uniontown. All members are encouraged to attend. RSVP by Monday, August 3 by calling 724-425-2576.

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PA
Joanne Fibbi, President

Our semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 19, 2026, at the home of Branch President Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh. The meeting will begin at 2pm followed by a belated 4th of July cookout. Topics for discussion include a recap of the 53rd Quadrennial Convention and fraternal activities. Please bring your ideas for our Christmas season FIA project.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Our FIA project will support the Angel Ridge Animal Rescue with donations of the most needed items from their Amazon Wishlist. Please purchase and bring your donations to the meeting. Delivery will be made to the rescue on August 1. Kindly RSVP by July 12 to JFibbi@gmail.com or call or text 412-953-4721. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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

St. Michael the Archangel Society will meet on Thursday, July 16, 2026, following the Slovak Day Mass at Kennywood, 4800 Kennywood Blvd., West Mifflin. We will gather at the pavilion for a report from our two attending delegates summarizing the recent 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA
Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary

We welcome all Branch 670 members to join us for the following events. Please RSVP to Maureen at branch670secretary@gmail.com. If you RSVP for any event

and are unable to attend, you will be responsible for reimbursing the branch/district for associated costs.

July 16, 2026 - 103rd Annual American Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin. The cost for this event is \$33 (ages 4+). Branch members are free. Guests pay \$33.

July 26, 2026 - District 12 picnic at Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion 17, 453 Evergreen Dr., Belle Vernon from 1-4pm. District members are free; guests pay \$20. RSVP so we can determine food/beverage needs.

August 7, 2026 - Washington Wild Things baseball game with District 12. Doors open at 6:05pm; game starts at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$30 (ages 4+). District members are free. Guests pay \$30. RSVP before July 23 for tickets.

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA
Monica Boone, President

Branch 853 join fellow district members at Kennywood Park on July 16 for the 103rd Slovak Day celebration. District photo at 1pm at the Slovak Kitchen pavilion. For tickets contact FCSUBranch853@gmail.com.

All Branch 853 members are invited to the 6th Annual District 12 Picnic on July 26th from 1-4pm at Cedar Creek Park (453 Evergreen Drive, Belle Vernon 15012). It's a free event for branch members; guests of branch members are \$20/per person to offset costs. RSVP to FCSUBranch853@gmail.com by July 20.

Join members of the Hlinka District as the Washington Wild Things host the Evansville Otters on Friday, August 7, 2026 for a fireworks night. Gates open 6:05pm, game starts at 7:05pm. The cost will be \$30 per ticket (for ages 4 and older). To order tickets contact FCSUBranch853@gmail.com. You will be required to submit payment for the tickets but when you attend the game, your payment will be returned to you so that your ultimate ticket cost for District 12 members will be free. If you bring a guest, cost is \$30 per person. RSVP by July 18. Questions contact FCSUBranch853@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, DC

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC
Katherine Nowatkoski, President

I would like to thank the Officers, old and newly elected, for a successful convention held in Greenville, SC from June 20-23. Congratulations!

Please join us on September 19, 2026 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the 61st anniversary of our Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows. Mass begins at 2pm. We have been invited to join Bishop Kulick's group from Greensburg, PA. RSVP to me at 919-651-0363 or Joann Austin at jeaustin89@gmail.com.

WISCONSIN

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI
Mike Novak, President

Please join us on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at 11:30am. The agenda includes donations, activities and convention highlights. Members are free. Guests are

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Puzzles are available to download at
[FCSU.com/community/events](https://www.fcsu.com/community/events)**

welcome but will pay for their own meal and beverages. The meeting location is Bandero County Wood Grill, N96W16865 Cumberland Court, Menomonee Falls. That is at Highway 41 North and County Q Exit. RSVP by August 10.
You MUST CONFIRM by calling me at 414-445-5382.

We encourage you to attend the 94th Annual Slovak-American Day Picnic on Sunday, July 26, from 11am - 6pm at the Croation Park, 9100 S. 76th St., Franklin. Admission is free. It will feature Holy Mass at noon and a cultural presentation featuring the Tatra Slovak Dancers.

CANADA

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON
Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

The Annual Picnic is on July 12, 2026, at the Croation Park in Norval, Ontario. Mass will be celebrated at 12:30pm in the

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 1 – REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT, MA

Deborah M. Nelson, Recording Secretary

The District will conduct a hybrid meeting in-person at the offices of Kurt P. Solek, Fairfield for the Executive Board and via Zoom for members on September 13, 2026, at 11:30am. We will hold the Election of Officers. We look forward to seeing our dedicated members.

Link: tinyurl.com/D1Sept26 • Meeting ID: 885 2513 6413 • Passcode: 373012

Branch 746 (Linden, NJ) cordially invites members, families, and friends to join us at the annual Jednota Region 1 Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 1pm at Al Kalla Park, 2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, delicious food, and family fun. Members are free to attend. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$30 per person. RSVP is required to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 no later than August 1. We look forward to welcoming members and guests from across Region 1 for a memorable summer gathering. See the ad on page 11.

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

Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Branch 746 (Linden, NJ) cordially invites members, families, and friends to join us at the annual Jednota Region 1 Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 1pm at Al Kalla Park, 2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, delicious food, and family fun. Members are free to attend. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$30 per person. RSVP is required to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 no later than August 1. We look forward to welcoming members and guests from across Region 1 for a memorable summer gathering. See the ad on page 11.

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT – PA

Margaret A. Nasta, Recording Secretary

Announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA meets first Mondays 7pm at the Mt Lebanon Public Library.
- WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts various events such as wine tastings. Join the organization and get the newsletter.
- 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 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – PA

Barbara A. Holly, Recording Secretary

The district will hold their next meeting on Sunday, July 26, 2026, at 1pm at Jamie Lynn’s Café, 1618 Georges Fairchance Rd., Smithfield. RSVP by Wednesday, July 22 by calling Patty Speshock at 724-317-3763. President Speshock will be informing members of upcoming Jednota events. All members are urged to attend.

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – PA

Monica Boone, Recording Secretary

Join the Hlinka District for Fun in the Summer:

July: The District welcomes all members and guests to the 6th Annual Hlinka District Picnic on July 26, from 1pm-4pm at Cedar Creek Park, in Belle Vernon. The cost for non-Hlinka District members is \$20 to help defray food costs. All members of branches 320, 670 and 853 are free. RSVP to your branch president or to the Hlinka District Secretary at

Cathedral on the property. See the ad on page 20. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 yrs, free for children under 6 yrs. Members will be reimbursed the admission fee by signing the attendance sheet at the gate. For further details call Anne Mitro at 905-279-8154 or Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111.

John Tokarsky, Frat. Activities Director

We will be holding our annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at Centennial Park Golf Centre in Toronto (Etobicoke). The cost per member is \$100 (slightly higher for non-members) which includes everything. See the ad on page 17.

For more information and to register, call John Tokarsky at 416-948-6606 by September 11.

Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com so we can have a count for seating and food.

August: Have a fun evening of baseball and fireworks with Hlinka District 12, at EQT Park, One Washington Federal Way, Washington, PA, as we watch the Washington Wild Things host the Evansville Otters on Friday, August 7 at 7:05pm. It’s Fireworks night. Gates open at 6:05pm. Cost for anyone age 4 and over is \$30. The district will pick up the cost for members of branches 320, 670 and 853. District members who make reservations but do not attend will be responsible for the \$30 cost of the ticket. RSVP to Joe at tark918@gmail.com.

Join District 12 for fun summer events. Questions? Contact the Hlinka District Secretary at Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com. See you this summer!

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

Jacquelyn Bobby, Recording Secretary

All meetings will be at 6pm at the Fireplace Restaurant, 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd., Poland. Meeting dates are August 18 and November 17, 2026.

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NY

Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

The district annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 1pm at St. John Nepomucene Church hall located at 411 E. 66th St. in New York City. The agenda will include a discussion of upcoming activities for year 2027. After our meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční ročná členská schôdza Okresu č. 16 – Msgr. Stephen Krasula v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 18.októbra, 2026 o 13:00 hodine v hale slovenskeho kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street a 1st Avenue, New York City. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Branch 746 (Linden, NJ) cordially invites members, families, and friends to join us at the annual Jednota Region 1 Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 1pm at Al Kalla Park, 2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, delicious food, and family fun. Members are free to attend. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$30 per person. RSVP is required to Joanne Tkach Polt at 732-762-3148 no later than August 1. We look forward to welcoming members and guests from across Region 1 for a memorable summer gathering. See the ad on page 11.

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT – NY, PA

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Fraternal Activities Officer

Join us for a Baseball Game and Party Box Event on Friday, August 7, 2026 at PNC Field, Moosic, PA. The Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders will face off against the Rochester Redwings at 7:05pm. Attendees will gather at the Right Field Party Suite and Covered Deck. Admittance will be through the Mohegan Sun Club Entrance at approximately 6pm.

The cost for members is \$15. Guests are welcome at a cost of \$45. The price includes entrance to PNC Field, food and beverages on the covered deck, all the friendly socializing you can get, and fireworks after the game!!! Food will be available at 6:15pm.

Contact your Branch officer to RSVP and pay for tickets by Friday, July 31. Make your check payable to YOUR Branch! See the ad on page 11.

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| • Branch 5P | Martha Zavada | 570-954-3771 |
| • Branch 166K | Morgan Dendler | 607-206-7243 |
| • Branch 173K | Carl Ungvarsky | 570-868-6066 |
| • Branch 382K | Elizabeth M. Slovenkai | 570-344-3854 |

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA – MISSISSAUGA, ON

John Tokarsky, Fraternal Activities Director

We will be holding our annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at Centennial Park Golf Centre in Toronto (Etobicoke). The cost per member is \$100 (slightly higher for non-members) which includes everything. See the ad on page 17. For more information and to register, call John Tokarsky at 416-948-6606 by September 11.

How many golfers
does it take to
change a lightbulb?

Fore!

Why did the
watchmaker go
on vacation

To unwind.

The easiest way
to lower your
golf score is to
use an eraser.

A	L	G	A			P	A	L	M			A	M	S	
B	E	L	L	S			A	L	E			V	O	I	D
A	N	I	L	E			R	E	E	D		A	R	G	O
	S	T	O	A			E	R	R	E	D		E	N	E
		T	Y	R	A	N	T			A	I	S	L	E	S
A	L	E				S	T	E	T			M	U	S	T
T	A	R	M	A	C			D	R	I	P	S			
E	P	S	I	L	O	N			E	N	L	A	R	G	E
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	D	E	S	I		P	E	S	O				D	Y	E
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E	T	R	E			E	L	S	E			M	A	C	O
	E	S	P			S	E	T	S				L	E	N

Crossword Puzzle Solution from Page 14



I am writing this note to the organizing team of 2026 FCSU Convention, held from June 20-22, 2026 in Greenville, South Carolina. I hope you ladies (pictured): Barbara, Fran, Annie, Shannon and (not pictured) Beata and Sara did not have to deal with many complaints, and you should be commended on an outstanding job. You made sure that everything ran smoothly and everyone's needs were met. I hope you had long and well deserved rest. Congratulations – JOB WELL DONE!

Thank you again.

Helen von Friedl, Public Relations, FCSU Branch 785

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2. Be sure to state and spell out your full name.
3. Include a call back number and let us know the best time to contact you during our hours of operation.

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Annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day

Sunday, September 20, 2026
Centennial Park Golf Centre
Etobicoke, Ontario

FIRST TEE OFF AT 1:00pm

Golf, Food, Prizes and Fun!

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

All members of the Jednota and guests are welcome

RSVP by September 11 • For more information and to register:
 John Tokarsky, Branch 785 Fraternal Activities Director
 jednota-sports-toronto@outlook.com • 416-948-6606

Sponsored by Toronto/Mississauga District and Branch Jednota



Msgr Andrew Hlinka District 12 6th Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 26, 2026

1:00 – 4:00pm

Cedar Creek Park

453 Evergreen Drive • Belle Vernon, PA

The Hlinka District invites all Branch 320, 670 and 853 members to enjoy an afternoon with their fraternal brothers and sisters.

**District 12
 Members are FREE**

**Non-District or Non-Members
 are welcome for \$20 each**



RSVP by Sunday, July 19

To RSVP email Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com



**Branch 382K
 Annual
 Summer Picnic
 Saturday, August 22, 2026
 Noon to Dusk**

**Holy Family Social & Welfare Club Grounds
 486 Jubilee Road • Covington Township, PA**

A catered lunch will be served. Members and guests will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the afternoon. A late-afternoon cook-out and corn roast will end the day.

382K Members: \$10 per person

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

For info and to RSVP contact Branch President
 Elizabeth M. Slovenkai at 570.344.3854.

Reservations close on Friday, August 14

Payment must be received by Tuesday, August 18

Your check guarantees your reservation!

Make checks payable to FCSU Branch 382K and mail to:
 Elizabeth M. Slovenkai • 505 Emmett St • Scranton, PA 18505-1016



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.
Odpocinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
001K	Hans Matuschek	157K	Michael Sovorsky	320K	Stephen J. Sterback Jr.	764K	Allen Seman
002K	Carol Ann Franc	165K	Agnes Krisch	333K	Linda Fenush	796K	Monica Paukovits
019K	Albert J. Sequin	166K	Joseph F. Horvatt	382K	Joseph J. Kozell	831K	Marcia Brandt
023K	James E. Rager	173K	Joseph Francis Ceklosky	401K	John Pacuch	853K	Kimberly S. Chmura
024K	Ann Skladany	173K	Joseph Patrick Balogh	484K	Victor Stelma	888K	Kathy Palanko
024K	Lawrence P. Zolata	173K	Martha Ondrako	543K	Donald Rimkus	916K	Phyllis Karn
038K	Bernard F. Antol Jr.	181K	Edward P. Mesaros	586K	Joseph A. Zember Jr.	916K	Ronald H. Burkart
038K	Mary Ann Guidish	200K	John R. Augustine	670K	Matilda C. Brindza		
055K	Edward Lukasko	200K	Nancy J. Hromadik	731K	David M. Johnston		
085K	John J. Pompey	200K	Paul E. Hromadik Jr.	731K	Sylvia Wiess		

* Processed in the month of June 2026

Joseph Balogh
Branch 173
Mountain Top, PA



Joseph Balogh, a lifelong resident of Dunellen and a man whose heart was as big as his sense of humor, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2026, at the age of 41.

Born on May 17, 1984, Joe was a fixture in the Dunellen community he loved so dearly. To know Joe was to know a man who truly understood the value of a good laugh. Warm-hearted and quick-witted, he was always ready with a joke to brighten someone's day. His presence was a source of light for his family and friends, and his great sense of humor will be remembered as his lasting trademark.

Joe found his greatest peace and joy in the outdoors, wanting nothing more than to spend a quiet afternoon casting

a fishing line. Whether he was on the water or surrounded by his loved ones sharing stories, Joe lived for the moments that brought people together.

Joe was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Donna Shaw, and his loving grandparents, Mary and John Ungvasky.

He is survived by his dear aunt and uncle, Victoria and Eugene Coveleski; his many cousins who were like siblings to him; and a wide circle of friends who became his chosen family over the years. Joe leaves behind a legacy of kindness, laughter, and many cherished memories.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you take a friend fishing and think of him. He has simply "gone fishing" for a while. Rest easy, Joey. Fish in paradise.

Matilda "Tillie"
Brindza
Branch 670
Donora, PA



Matilda "Tillie" Brindza, 85, of the Floreffe area in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2026. She was born on March 15, 1940 in Donora, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Michael and Anna (Michkanin) Pazej.

Tillie was well known for her cake decorating, making many birthday cakes and wedding cakes for friends and family over the years. She also taught cake decorating at the local community college. She was a member of the Christian Mothers of the former Saint Isaac Jogues parish, as well as the Women's Auxiliary of the Elrama Fire Department. Tillie was creative and crafty, a baker, seamstress, crocheter, and always making something by

hand. She also hosted card club for many years with friends at her home in Floreffe.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, William "Bill" Brindza, brother John (Maryann) Pazej, and sister Lillian (Robert) Streyle. She is survived by her three children, Diana (Paul) Catania of Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, Bill (Becky) Brindza Jr. of Douglasville, Georgia, and Brenda (Jerry) Deacon of Marietta, Georgia; Five grandchildren, Anthony Catania of Oklahoma City, Julee (Alex) Bryant of Charleston, West Virginia, Dedra Brindza, Carl Brindza, and Anna (Chris) Wilson of Douglasville, Georgia; one great-grandchild, Marco Bryant of Charleston, West Virginia; nieces and nephews, Nancy (Mark) Cain of Salem, West Virginia, Robert Streyle, Jr. of Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania, and Christine Pazej of Claremore, Oklahoma.



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Slovak News - Slovenské Správy



Slovak Ambassador Addresses America250 and Slovak-U.S. Relations

*Submitted by Ken Bombara,
Advisor to Friends of Slovakia*

For 25 years, the Annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture has been held in Washington, D.C. and has featured leading figures from various fields commenting on topics relevant to the home countries since they attained independence and democratic governance. The lecture series is co-sponsored by Friends of Slovakia (FOS) and American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR), in cooperation with the embassies of Slovakia and the Czech Republic.



Slovak Ambassador Andrej Droba delivering the Freedom Lecture

The 26th session of the lecture series was held on June 16, at the Hudson Institute, in Washington, and featured the Slovak Ambassador to the U.S., Andrej Droba, who delivered a major address on the state of Slovak-U.S. relations on the 250th anniversary of America's birth. He opened by citing "the principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, liberty, sovereignty, equal dignity before God, and government deriving its legitimacy from the people," as "a lasting source of inspiration for nations and individuals." Droba further noted, "For 250 years, America has stood as an example of national confidence, individual courage, enterprise, faith in freedom, and civil liberties."

While his address focused on the important matters of international relations, notable was the emphasis the ambassador placed on everyday interactions among people, particularly Slovak Americans. "The strength of Slovak-American relations is not measured only by government agreements or official visits. It is measured by the countless hours devoted by people like you to cultural programs, educational activities, community organizations, charitable activities, and public dialogue."

Turning to the core of his address, Droba noted that the strong relationship built between Slovakia and the U.S. rests on four key pillars:

- Political dialogue and relations
- Trade, investment, and energy
- Defense cooperation
- The Slovak-American community and people-to-people contacts

Regarding Slovak-U.S. political relations, Droba noted the historic connection that predates even the communist era, with U.S. support provided via the significant Cleveland and Pittsburgh agreements, leading to the formation of Czechoslovakia after World War I. Following the events of 1989, which threw off communism, the U.S. supported integration of Slovakia into "the family of free and prosperous nations in the Euro-Atlantic community." This occurred through accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU), among other actions.

The integration of Slovakia into the transatlantic community has been a strong foundation for the nation's progress. But Droba notes that the current political environment calls for some redefinition of the relationship, with European partners taking on greater responsibility for their collective defense through NATO. He states the view that such action should lead to a stronger, more effective NATO, noting, "...more Europe does not mean less United States. It means more together." He further pointed out that this principle is being tested with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Droba stresses that Slovakia has provided extensive humanitarian and other assistance to its neighbor Ukraine and supports its accession to the EU. But Slovakia also believes that "peace cannot be achieved by military means alone...and in this we are very much aligned with the efforts of President Trump and the U.S. administration, which we support." He went on to cite numerous instances of high-level interactions between Slovak and U.S. officials but emphasized that all these are undergirded by strong people-to-people connections that benefit Slovak-U.S. relations.

The areas of trade, investment, and energy are strong elements of Slovakia's progress and the Slovak-U.S. relationship. As a small country, Slovakia is among the most open economies in the EU, with exports of goods and services accounting for more than 85% of its GDP, with the U.S. as a major export market, particularly in automobiles. Numerous U.S.-based companies invest in the Slovak economy, supporting employment. The trade relationship has been challenged recently by U.S. tariff actions, but Slovakia supports the recent agreement between the U.S. and the EU. Droba also emphasized the importance of a new generation of Slovak

entrepreneurs, innovators, and technology companies that are building partnerships with U.S. and other entities, which will be key to Slovakia's economic future. In the energy field, nuclear power accounts for about 60 percent of Slovakia's energy mix and makes it a European leader in clean energy. The construction of a new nuclear reactor, partnering with the U.S. company Westinghouse, will enhance Slovakia's energy diversification and security.

Cooperation in the area of defense is also a key pillar of Slovak-American relations. This was cemented with the bilateral Defense Cooperation Agreement concluded with the U.S. in 2022. Slovakia continues to modernize its armed forces through the acquisition of U.S.-built F-16 aircraft, Black Hawk helicopters, and tactical vehicles. The long-standing cooperation between the Slovak military and the Indiana National Guard has been further extended via shared operational experiences gained through Slovak and U.S. servicemen serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other joint missions.

Droba closed his speech by returning to the key 'people-to-people' theme. Citing the recent increase in the number of Slovak Americans applying for Slovak citizenship, he noted, "...even generations after their ancestors left Slovakia, many individuals continue to regard our country as an integral part of their identity." Slovaks have contributed much to the American story, by establishing families and communities, and enhancing America's economic, military, and cultural development, including the achievements of individuals such as Michael Strank, Jozef Murgas, Andy Warhol, Eugene Cernan, and numerous others. Droba also cited the importance of the network of Slovak diplomatic representation, including the honorary consuls, in enhancing bilateral relations and the visibility of Slovakia and Slovaks throughout the country. This includes entities such as the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and importantly, the numerous traditional organizations that have preserved Slovak identity through the generations, along with the development of organizations by newer generations of Slovak immigrants. Droba concluded, "Looking at America250 and Slovak-U.S. relations should make us proud. Our countries enjoy great friendship and close cooperation stretching across every field of human endeavor. The Slovak-American story is a success story."

(Photos courtesy of Slovak Embassy)



Matt Boyse, Senior Fellow, Center on Europe and Eurasia, Hudson Institute, in discussion with Slovak Amb. Droba.

Veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky hovorí o America250 a slovensko-amerických vzťahoch

Už 25 rokov sa vo Washingtone, D.C., každoročne koná česká slovenská prednáška o slobode, na ktorej vystupujú popredné osobnosti z rôznych oblastí spoločenského života a venujú sa témam týkajúcim sa ich domovských krajín od obdobia, keď získali nezávislosť a nastúpili cestu demokratického vládnutia. Cyklus prednášok spoločne organizujú Friends of Slovakia (FOS) a American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR) v spolupráci s veľvyslanectvami Slovenskej republiky a Českej republiky.

Dvadsiaty šiesty ročník prednášky sa uskutočnil 16. júna v Hudson Institute vo Washingtone a hlavným rečníkom bol veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky v Spojených štátoch Andrej Droba. Vo svojom prejave sa venoval stavu slovensko-amerických vzťahov pri príležitosti 250. výročia vzniku Spojených štátov amerických. Na úvod citoval „zásady vyhlásené v Deklarácii nezávislosti – slobodu, zvrchovanosť, rovnakú dôstojnosť pred Bohom a vládou odvodzujúcu svoju legitimitu od ľudu“ ako „trvalý zdroj inšpirácie pre národy i jednotlivcov“.

Slovak News - Slovenské Správy



Freedom Lecture sponsors (L-R) Matt Boyse, Hudson Institute; FOS Board members, Tom Skladony, Bibiana K. Rais, Jan Surotchak, Chairman; Slovak Amb. Droba; Czech Amb. Miloslav Stašek; Joel Scanlon, Exec.VP, Hudson Institute; Jan Smilek, AfoCR.

Droba ďalej uviedol: „Počas 250 rokov boli Spojené štáty príkladom národného sebavedomia, osobnej odvahy, podnikavosti, viery v slobodu a občianske slobody.“

Hoci sa jeho prejav sústreďoval predovšetkým na dôležité otázky medzinárodných vzťahov, veľvyslanec osobitne zdôraznil význam každodenných kontaktov medzi ľuďmi, najmä medzi slovenskými Američanmi. „Sila slovensko-amerických vzťahov sa nemeria iba vládnymi dohodami alebo oficiálnymi návštevami. Meria sa nespočítanými hodinami, ktoré ľudia ako vy venujú kultúrnym programom, vzdelávacím aktivitám, činnosti komunitných organizácií, charitatívnym aktivitám a verejnému dialógu.“

Prechádzajúc k jadrú svojho prejavu, Andrej Droba uviedol, že pevné vzťahy medzi Slovenskou republikou a Spojenými štátmi stoja na štyroch hlavných pilieroch: politický dialóg a vzájomné vzťahy, obchod, investície a energetika, obranná spolupráca, slovensko-americká komunita a medziľudské kontakty.

V súvislosti so slovensko-americkými politickými vzťahmi Droba pripomenul historické väzby, ktoré siahajú ešte do obdobia pred nástupom komunizmu. Zdôraznil podporu Spojených štátov prostredníctvom významných Cleverlandskej a Pittsburghskej dohody, ktoré prispeli k vzniku Československa po prvej svetovej vojne. Po udalostiach roku 1989, keď sa Slovensko zbavilo komunistického režimu, Spojené štáty podporovali jeho začlenenie do „rodiny slobodných a prosperujúcich národov euroatlantického spoločenstva“. K tomu došlo okrem iného vstupom Slovenska do Organizácie Severoatlantickej zmluvy (NATO) a Európskej únie (EÚ).

Začlenenie Slovenska do transatlantického spoločenstva sa stalo pevným základom pokroku krajiny. Droba však poznamenal, že súčasné politické prostredie si vyžaduje určité prehodnotenie vzájomných vzťahov, pričom európski partneri by mali prevziať väčšiu zodpovednosť za svoju spoločnú obranu v rámci NATO. Vyjadril presvedčenie, že takýto prístup povedie k silnejšej a efektívnejšej Aliancii. Ako povedal: „...viac Európy neznamená menej Spojených štátov. Znamená to viac spolu.“ Zároveň poukázal na to, že tento princíp je dnes vystavený skúške v dôsledku ruskej agresívnej vojny proti Ukrajine.

Droba zdôraznil, že Slovensko poskytlo svojmu susedovi Ukrajine rozsiahlu humanitárnu i ďalšiu pomoc a podporuje jeho vstup do Európskej únie. Zároveň však Slovensko zastáva názor, že „mier nemožno dosiahnuť iba vojenskými prostriedkami... a v tomto sme vo veľkej miere zjednotení s úsilím prezidenta Trumpa a administratívy Spojených štátov, ktoré podporujeme.“ Následne uviedol viacero príkladov stretnutí a kontaktov na najvyššej úrovni medzi slovenskými a americkými predstaviteľmi, pričom zdôraznil, že základom všetkých týchto vzťahov zostávajú pevné medziľudské kontakty, ktoré významne posilňujú slovensko-americké vzťahy.

Obchod, investície a energetika predstavujú významné piliere pokroku Slovenska i slovensko-amerických vzťahov. Slovensko ako malá krajina patrí medzi najotvorenejšie ekonomiky Európskej únie. Vývoz tovarov a služieb tvorí viac ako 85 percent jeho hrubého domáceho produktu, pričom Spojené štáty sú jedným z hlavných exportných trhov, najmä v oblasti automobilového priemyslu. Mnohé americké spoločnosti investujú do slovenskej ekonomiky a vytvárajú pracovné miesta. Obchodné vzťahy boli v poslednom období ovplyvnené zavedením amerických ciel, Slovensko však podporuje nedávno uzavretú dohodu medzi Spojenými štátmi a Európskou úniou. Droba zároveň zdôraznil význam novej generácie slovenských podnikateľov, inovátorov a technologických spoločností, ktoré budujú partnerstvá s americkými i ďalšími zahraničnými partnermi. Práve tie budú zohrávať kľúčovú úlohu v budúcom hospodárskom rozvoji Slovenska.

V oblasti energetiky tvorí jadrová energia približne 60 percent energetického mixu

Slovenska, čím sa krajina zaraďuje medzi európskych lídrov v oblasti čistej energie. Výstavba nového jadrového reaktora v spolupráci s americkou spoločnosťou Westinghouse prispieje k väčšej diverzifikácii zdrojov energie a posilní energetickú bezpečnosť Slovenska.

Spolupráca v oblasti obrany je ďalším z hlavných pilierov slovensko-amerických vzťahov. Túto spoluprácu upevnila bilaterálna Dohoda o obrannej spolupráci uzavretá medzi Slovenskom a Spojenými štátmi v roku 2022. Slovensko pokračuje v modernizácii svojich ozbrojených síl obstarávaním stíhacích lietadiel F-16, vrtulníkov Black Hawk a taktických vozidiel americkej výroby. Dlhoročná spolupráca medzi Ozbrojenými silami Slovenskej republiky a Národnou gardou štátu Indiana sa ďalej rozvíja aj vďaka spoločným operačným skúsenostiam slovenských a amerických vojakov získaným počas pôsobenia v Iraku, Afganistane a ďalších spoločných misiách.

Na záver svojho prejavu sa Andrej Droba vrátil k ústrednej téme medziľudských kontaktov. Poukázal na nedávny nárast počtu slovenských Američanov, ktorí žiadajú o slovenské občianstvo, a poznamenal: „...aj celé generácie po tom, čo ich predkovia opustili Slovensko, mnohí naďalej považujú našu krajinu za neoddeliteľnú súčasť svojej identity.“

Slováci významne prispeli k americkému príbehu tým, že zakladali rodiny a komunity a podieľali sa na hospodárskom, vojenskom i kultúrnom rozvoji Spojených štátov. Svedčia o tom aj úspechy osobností, akými sú Michael Strank, Jozef Murgaš, Andy Warhol, Eugene Cernan a mnohí ďalší.

Droba zároveň zdôraznil význam siete slovenských diplomatických zastúpení vrátane honorárnych konzulov pri rozvíjaní bilaterálnych vzťahov a zvyšovaní povedomia o Slovensku a Slovákoch v Spojených štátoch. Patria sem aj inštitúcie, ako je Národné české a slovenské múzeum a knižnica v Cedar Rapids v štáte Iowa, ako aj mnohé tradičné slovenské organizácie, ktoré si po celé generácie zachovávajú slovenskú identitu. Zároveň ocenil vznik nových organizácií, ktoré zakladajú mladšie generácie slovenských prisťahovalcov.

Na záver Droba povedal: „Pohľad na America250 a slovensko-americké vzťahy by nás mal naplňať hrdosťou. Naše krajiny spája pevné priateľstvo a úzka spolupráca vo všetkých oblastiach ľudskej činnosti. Slovensko-americký príbeh je príbehom úspechu.“

The Voice Contestant Who Grew Up Speaking Slovak at Home

Erick Macek is the son of Hanka Martinkova, Branch 924

The Slovak language was part of everyday life in Erick Macek's childhood, even though he grew up thousands of miles from the country. It was spoken around the family table in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where his parents settled after leaving the village of Zbyňov near Žilina in 1971.

They had emigrated from communist Czechoslovakia in search of new opportunities, first arriving in New York before building a new life in Pennsylvania. Their son would eventually become a musician, songwriter and creative director, appearing on NBC's *The Voice*, but the family never let go of the traditions they brought with them.

"I speak Slovak fluently," Macek stated. "My family jokes that I sound like someone from a Slovak village in the 1960s."

The language survived because it was used every day. The family attended a Slovak church, took part in community events and remained involved with the Tatra Slovak Folk Group, where music and folklore helped preserve a connection to the old country.

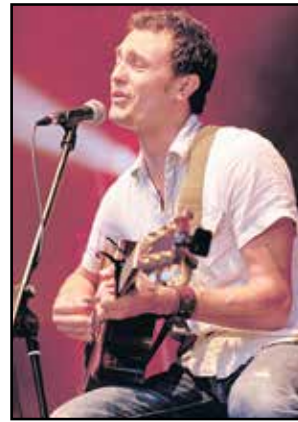
Slovakia was also a real place rather than an inherited memory. Macek visited several times while growing up and still has relatives in Zbyňov and around Žilina. His father now lives in the city.

"My connection with Slovakia has never disappeared," he said. Much of that connection comes from stories his parents passed down. They spoke about faith, work, family life, and neighbors who looked after one another. "My parents were always proud of where they came from," Macek said. "They taught me hard work, humility, gratitude and helping other people."

They also shared the less romantic side of village life. "They would laugh that everyone knows everyone and that the whole village can know your business before you do."

Music entered his life almost as early as language. He started playing the accordion at three, later picked up the guitar, and began writing his own songs. What began at home eventually became a career in Los Angeles, where he collaborated with other artists and had his music featured in American television projects.

His work has also brought him back to Slovakia. In 2009 and 2010, he performed in Jaslovské Bohunice alongside musicians including František Nedvěd and Peter Lipa. His latest song, *I'm Here*, was written while supporting people close to him who were dealing with mental health challenges. "Its message is simple," Macek said. "To be there for people when they need you most." Today, alongside his music career, Macek is raising twins of his own. He says he wants them to grow up knowing the stories and traditions that have connected his family to a small village near Žilina for generations. Visit www.macek.com to learn more about Erick and his music.



Erick as a young musician



Celebrating his marriage and his heritage



Erick's parents before emigrating to America

FCSU Search-A-Word

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

July Word List

HYDRATE

BARBECUE

PATRIOTIC

SHEPHERD

SPARKLERS

DRAGONFLY

MODRÝ (Blue)

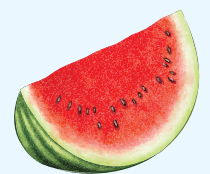
TABORÁK (Bonfire)

HORIZONT (Horizon)

POL'NÝ KVET (Wild Flower)

HOJDACIA SIETĚ (Hammock)

VODNÝ MELON (Watermelon)



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 puzzle@fcsu.com. Or mail puzzle and form to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by August 27, 2026.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

May Puzzle Winners

Linda Becker Branch 313

Gareth Bury Branch 320

Gregory Katynski Branch 228

Barbara Pethers Branch 633

Lori Pozzuto Branch 38

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board Of Directors
of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States
of America and Canada • March 23, 2026

Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center
670 Verdae Blvd, Greenville, South Carolina 29607

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth Arendt called the meeting to order at 9:00am and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

- Rev. Thomas Nasta..... National Chaplain..... Present
- Kenneth A. Arendt National President..... Present
- Damian Nasta National Vice President..... Present
- Kevin Collins Executive Secretary..... Present
- John Tokarsky National Treasurer..... Present
- Gregory Maurer Chairman of Auditors Present
- via Teleconference
- Joanne Fibbi..... Fraternal Activities Present
- Director.....via Teleconference
- Sabina Sabados Region 1 Director Present
- Nicole Nasta Region 2 Director Present
- Martha Zavada Region 3 Director Present
- James Marmol..... Region 4 Director Present
- Bradley Matta Region 5 Director Present
- Thomas Ivanec Region 6 Director Present
- Timothy Graves Region 7 Director..... Present
- Milos Mitro..... Region 8 Director Present
- via Teleconference
- Gary J. Matta General Counsel..... Present

READING OF THE CALL:

The Call to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union was posted on our website and published in the Jednota newspaper.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Arendt presented the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Sabina Sabados and seconded by Martha Zavada to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary, as he presents each item on the agenda with appropriate comments or recommendations. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2025:

A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Timothy Graves to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held December 13, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES:

The President appointed the following committees:

- DONATION COMMITTEE:
- Thomas Ivanec
- Rev. Thomas Nasta
- Sabina Sabados

PRESIDENT’S WELCOME:

The President welcomed the Board of Directors to the 2026 Annual Meeting. The President stated the 2026 Annual Board of Directors Meeting is being held in Greenville, SC at the site of the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT:

President Arendt presented his Annual Report for review and answered the Board’s questions. The President’s report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

ACTUARIAL REPORT:

Nick DePersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Inc., presented his Management’s Discussion and Analysis Report and the actuarial report for 2025 from Edward Cowman of Miller & Newburg. Mr. Cowman was available to join the meeting and answer questions, if necessary. Mr. DePersis stated that since each Board member received copies of both

reports, he will just give the highlights. He also stated that despite these difficult financial times, the FCSU continues to be a well-run profitable fraternal with outstanding financials as noted in our excellent RBC (Risk Based Capital) rating. A motion was made by Sabina Sabados and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept this report as presented. Motion carried.

Nick DePersis presented a report prepared by Bruce & Bruce regarding the FCSU pension plan and answered the Board’s questions. The report indicated the plan is in complete compliance with all federal regulations and is well funded.

Our Actuary, Edward Cowman, recommended that a dividend be paid in 2026 using the same format as used in 2025. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Sabina Sabados to pay the dividend. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, presented an extensive PowerPoint presentation detailing our Investment Portfolio Transaction Report to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after the presentation, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Mr. White reviewed our investment policy and stated we are in complete compliance. Mr. White suggested that in 2026 we make reserve adjustments pertaining to annuity products. This will indicate an increase in reserves to align with compliance.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented a detailed Treasurer’s Report for 2025 summarizing all the financial reports. The Treasurer’s Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website, <https://www.fcsu.com>.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors Gregory Maurer presented the 2025 Auditors’ Annual Report and found everything in excellent order. Following the report, he answered the Board’s questions.

The Ohio Department of insurance concluded their five-year audit, and everything was found to be in order.

OUTSIDE AUDITORS REPORT:

Stephen Niedenberger, CPA, of the accounting firm Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, joined the meeting. Mr. Niedenberger presented his annual report to the Board. He indicated the scope of his work and found all FCSU Financial reports in excellent order. Mr. Niedenberger answered all the Board’s questions to its satisfaction.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2025:

President Arendt presented the financial summary report for the year ending 2025 and answered the Board’s questions.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

Executive Secretary Kevin Collins submitted a written report to the Board of Directors giving a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Portfolio Custodian

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. Everything was found in order, and he answered the Board’s questions.

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund. Following the reports, the President and the Executive Secretary answered the Board’s questions.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

Executive Secretary Kevin Collins gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance

with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society’s Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

Pension Committee

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the current FCSU Pension Plan which was passed out to the Board of Directors for review. He stated that we are in full compliance with all federal regulations and answered the Board’s questions.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of three independent professionals led by Father Gerard Gonda, OSB. Applications for the current FCSU scholarship program are being processed, and they will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Secretary also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board’s questions.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President recognized Director of Fraternal Activities Joanne Fibbi, who presented a detailed report of all the 2025 activities to the Board of Directors.

The Director of Fraternal Activities Report will be posted on the FCSU website at [fcsu.com](https://www.fcsu.com).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT:

The Executive Secretary stated all insurance and annuity application forms have been updated and have been submitted to all 38 states that we are licensed to sell for their approval.

The Executive Secretary stated that Amy Porado has been hired as our National Sales Director. She will be working to recruit agents in all 38 states that we are licensed to sell our products.

The Executive Secretary will begin to explore new advertising media markets.

The Executive Secretary gave an updated report on the \$100 campaign that was revised in January 2026.

The Executive Secretary will continue the monthly Zoom meetings for all the branch officers. These meetings will include important information about products, forms, and current fraternal events. He encourages all branches to participate.

The Executive Secretary reviewed the new policies pertaining to the yearly surrender charges for our 2-year, 6-year, and 8-year products. These new policies were written with advice from our actuary. These policies can be located on our website.

The President encourages Regional Directors to get feedback from Branches and Districts about the advertisements, the Jednota newspaper, the website, and our products.

The Executive Secretary’s Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website, [fcsu.com](https://www.fcsu.com).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:

The Regional Directors and the National Chaplain presented their annual reports and answered the Board’s questions.

All reports will be posted on the FCSU website, [fcsu.com](https://www.fcsu.com).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:

General Counsel Gary Matta gave his 2025 report and answered the Board’s questions.

BUDGET COMPARISON:

The President presented the actual budget for 2025. The President presented the budget for 2026 and answered the Board’s questions. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Timothy Graves to accept the 2026 budget. Motion carried.

CONVENTION SITE:

The President led a discussion concerning the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. He gave the Board a detailed presentation about the facility. He also gave the Board a walking tour of the facility and answered the Board’s questions concerning registration, meals, breakout rooms, hotel rooms, and hospitality rooms.

ACTUARIAL FIRM:

The President requested a motion to re-appoint Edward

Cowman of Miller & Newberg as our Actuary. The motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol. Motion carried.

DONATION COMMITTEE:

There were no donation requests at this time.

ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:

A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept all the reports as presented. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Nicole Nasta and seconded by Bradley Matta to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Timothy Graves and seconded by James Marmol to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with a Mass for our deceased members and officers.

Kenneth A. Arendt President, CEO	Kevin J. Collins Executive Secretary, COO
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**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
May 15, 2026 • Teleconference**

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 12:00pm and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members Attending:
Kenneth A. Arendt National President, Present
Damian Nasta National Vice President, Present
Kevin J. Collins Executive Secretary, Present
John Tokarsky Treasurer, Present
Nicole Nasta Regional Director, Present
(by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Kevin Collins to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Lee Stordahl, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for their review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions. Larry White from AQS joined the meeting and stated there are potential write-downs in investments due to the present economic condition. Larry White reviewed possible new investment opportunities that the Executive Committee can take advantage of. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky submitted a detailed Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

ANNUITY RATES:

The President led a discussion about the current rates. It was decided during this discussion that the current rates will stay in effect. The Executive Committee will revisit the rates at its June meeting.

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 presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for Quarter 1 of 2026 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The President and the Executive Secretary updated the Executive 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 April for the Committee's review and answered their questions. The President led a discussion regarding new mortgage investments and answered the Committee's questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Death Benefits & Accumulations.....	\$202,896.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations.....	\$ 52,238.65
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 updated the Executive Committee about the Districts and Branches that are participating in the available incentive programs that the Home Office offers. These programs include Fraternalism in Action, Branding Bucks, and the District/Branch Reimbursement Program. He is encouraging all Districts and Branches to participate in these programs as tools to get more 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 is working with our National Sales Director, Amy Porado, to recruit new agents to sell our products in all 38 states that we are licensed in.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The Executive Secretary stated that there are still openings for the Annual Golf Tournament. The Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio July 24 – 26, 2026. He stated that we are working on dates for the National Picnics. In addition to the Golf Tournament, all Fraternal Activities will be published on the website and in the newspaper.

CONVENTION UPDATE:

The President stated that preparations are in full swing for Convention. The final mailing to the delegates will be sent out in the first week of June. Additional general information for the convention will be published in the *Jednota* newspaper and posted on our Convention page of the website.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Kenneth A. Arendt President, CEO	Kevin J. Collins Executive Secretary, COO
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Home Office Contacts
800.533.6682 • fcsu@fcsu.com

LIFE INSURANCE

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

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

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

ANNUITY DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

DOROTA Ext. 129..... dorotap@fcsu.com
Annuity Claims Department, Member Portal,
Annuity Beneficiary and Address Changes

AGENT SUPPORT

ANDREA Ext. 112..... andream@fcsu.com
Agent Coordinator, Commissions

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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Accounts Payable, Life Insurance Policy Loans,
Mortgages

BRANCH SUPPORT

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

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

COMMUNICATION

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