



Catholic Fraternal

Jednota

THE UNION

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Volume 133

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NUMBER 6040

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See What's Inside!

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 Summer
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Update from the President

Following Mother's Day in May, we celebrate and honor our fathers in June for always being an important part of our lives. Our fathers are there for us for comfort, guidance and resemble strength for the family. I want to sincerely show my appreciation for all dedicated fathers. Thank you for teaching, protecting and loving us endlessly. As a father myself, I cannot think of a greater joy than raising my children and being a dad.

With the announcement of our rebranding, I would like to thank everyone for their support and positive feedback for our new image. We are thrilled with the changes made so far and look forward to continuing our rebranding process. Once again, we will remain as the First Catholic Slovak Union and participate in cultural and religious events, but will be doing business and advertising as FCSU Financial.

Since 1890, we have successfully provided our Members with financial security and fraternal fellowship. Going into our 134th year as FCSU Financial, we would like to reassure our Members that we are financially sound and your investments are safe with us. From time-to-time, naturally, new Members inquire how financially sound the FCSU is. Now that the annual reports for 2023 have been published in the newspaper and are available online at www.fcsu.com/executive-messages/, I would like to share how our



Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Continued on page 4

June Reflection

The image of the Good Shepherd has long been a beloved favorite for Christians. Jesus Himself chooses to use this descriptive title for his life's ministry: "I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. . . . I know mine and mine know me." (John 10: 11, 45). Thus, as in this hymn chosen for June, when a lamb strays and is lost, Jesus persists in His search and keeps calling the lamb's name. This figure of speech can be applied to any of us in our wayfaring ways, such as an impatient act, word, or deliberate unkindness.

As the Lord knows the sound of our voice when we are lost or in pain, we need to be alert to His voice and promptings to follow and return to Him. Our best way to remain united with Jesus is to abide in His Eucharistic Presence. In the Eucharist, Jesus remains with us sacramentally as our life and strength for our life's journey. "In the Eucharist we are united with Christ and others in a unique way." (Jesuit Prayer App, Corpus Christi, June 2, 2024). We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to bless our faith and love of this Sacrament and to bless the US National Eucharistic Revival (2022-2025) promoted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) "aimed at renewing the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist."

In this month of June –the month the Church dedicates to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Feast Day June 7), we can honor this loving Heart of our Good Shepherd by Mass attendance, Eucharistic visits, or periods of grateful adoration—in church where possible, or in spiritual communions at home.

The blessings of Jesus will amaze us!

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

OVEČKA STRATENÁ

- Ovečka stratená, ach kde si, kde?
Ozvi sa sbolesťou, ozvi sa Mne!
Hľa, láska veľa Ma stiahla z neba,
Z lona Otca Mjho len pre teba.
Si neverná? Buď Mi verná
Poď sem, ja ťa vezmem na ramená.
- Povedz mi, tak dlho kdesi blúdila.
Paša moja sa ti nelúbila?
Hľa, verné ovečky, Moje ine
asú sa v úbežnej pastve pri Mne;
Nehmevajú poslúchajú,
Radostne v ovčinci prebývajú.
- Tysi ale neverná Mňa nechcela.
Po horách, dolinách sa túlala,
Poslúchať Mňa nechceš, hnev Mne robíš,
Hriechy rozmnožuješ, čo z toho máš?
Už je mnoho, chráň sa toho,
Bysi večnú nemala škodu z toho.

LOST LITTLE LAMB

- (Poetic Translation to Melody of Ovečka Stratená)
- Where are you, lonely, lost lamb, where can you be?
Despite your wayward ways, please, answer me.
With love for you, I've left heaven's glory,
left my Father to save only one.
Still unfaithful, now trust and come;
Run to my safekeeping, Oh, my little one.
 - Why have you strayed so long, Oh, what did you do?
Did not my pastureland satisfy you?
My faithful sheep remain, meander and graze;
In grassy fields they are near me always.
Cause me no grief, hear me and wait,
In my own sheepfold, they rest and congregate.
 - I know, unfaithful one, you hid and fled me,
O'er hills and valleys you roamed aimlessly.
You failed to listen, as you shunned and grieved me;
Wounded and sorry, now come home to me.
See my mercy, sealed with my cross;
Love will bring you full life, not regretful loss.

(To listen/watch OVEČKA STRATENÁ please go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1apkoBJiIBM>)

Message from the National Chaplain

Doctor of the Church is a title of honor bestowed upon a saint who manifested particular excellence in teaching and explaining the Catholic faith and possessed a profound spiritual life of holiness. The 37th and most recently named Doctor of the Church is Saint Irenaeus. Pope Francis declared him a Doctor of the Church in January 2022 and his feast day is June 28.

Irenaeus, whose name means "peace" in Greek, was born around the year 130 in the town of Smyrna in present-day Turkey. He learned the faith as a youth from Saint Polycarp, who was a disciple of Saint John the Apostle. Irenaeus later became the second bishop of Lyon, a town in the Roman province of Gaul (modern-day France). He died a martyr's death around the year 202.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain**

Members of the infant Church not only faced the possibility of persecution and death under orders from the Roman Emperor, but also were confronted various heresies or false teachings about the faith that were circulating among the faithful. One of these heresies was called Gnosticism. Briefly stated, Gnosticism taught that salvation was achieved by freeing oneself from the physical world, which was regarded as evil, and pursuing the spiritual world, which was regarded as good. To achieve this, one needed to possess a special knowledge possessed by a few select individuals. "Gnosis" in Greek means "knowledge", thus the heresy was named Gnosticism.

A major contribution Irenaeus made to the church was his 5 volume work refuting the teaching of the Gnostics. It was written around the year 180 and entitled Against the Heresies. Here he taught humanity, not creation itself, is responsible for the presence of sin in the world, for creation was brought into being by God, who is all good. In addition, he taught Jesus revealed God to humanity and brings humanity to God. It was through the teaching of Irenaeus in Against the Heresies that interest in and the popularity of Gnosticism eventually began to wane.

Irenaeus' writings give evidence to his firm belief in the Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. He also taught about apostolic succession, the unbroken link that exists between bishops of the church and the apostles. His most famous quote is "The glory of God is man fully alive."

It is from Saint Irenaeus that we have the earliest recorded evidence that the Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John and the Gospel of Luke was written by Luke, a companion of Saint Paul. Irenaeus was one of the first, if not the first, to acknowledge that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John could be read and used by all Christians. Until then, Christians in the different regions preferred to use one gospel over the others for their liturgical celebrations and instructions in the faith.

Saint Irenaeus was the first martyr to be declared Doctor of the Church. Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, pray for us.

**Check out our website:
www.fcsu.com**

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Any article that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue. All articles will be reviewed for possible publication.

Copy Date	Issue Date
Monday, July 1	Wednesday, July 10
Monday, August 5	Wednesday, August 14
Monday, September 3	Wednesday, September 11

When submitting announcements for upcoming events, remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, and time is lost in the postal system. Please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be edited and printed. **Please send all Branch & District announcements to branch@fcsu.com or district@fcsu.com.**

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:
Lucy Connolly, Editor; editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

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Home Office Holiday Hours



Closed: Thursday, July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day.

SS. Cyril and Methodius June Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 46th 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 May 29, 163 donors have given \$22,702.94 for the 2024 Appeal. Among the 45 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 3, Branch 35, Branch 38, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 96, Branch 112, Branch 153, Branch 213, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 484, Branch 743, Branch 746, Branch 796, Branch 853, District 2, District 9 and the Home Office of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$4,540. Donations have also been received from 6 churches, 25 clergy and religious and 87 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2024 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, 2024 will be credited toward the 2025 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Pennel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Email _____

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
Pennel, PA 19047-4052

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2024

- 4 Independence Day – Home Office Closed**
- 5** Br. 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
- 8** Br. 199 – Meeting in Erie, PA (RSVP)
- 9** Br. 853 – Painting Session in Charleroi, PA (RSVP)
- 10** Br. 367 – Meeting in Smithfield, PA (RSVP)
- 12 FCSU International Golf Tournament at Oglebay**
- 13 FCSU International Golf Tournament at Oglebay**
- 14 FCSU International Golf Tournament at Oglebay**
- Br. 731 – Meeting in Boardman, OH
- 16** Br. 857 – Zoom Meeting
- Dist. 14 – Meeting in Poland, OH
- 18 Slovak Day at Kennywood**
- Br. 628 – Meeting at Kennywood (Mass pavilion)
- 27** Br. 6 – Meeting in Streator, IL (RSVP)
- 28** Br. 24 – Christmas in July in Walton Hills, OH
- Br. 40 – Meeting in Streator, IL (RSVP 7/25)
- Br. 320 – Wildthings Baseball Game in Washington, PA (RSVP 7/12)
- Br. 855 – Christmas in July in Walton Hills, OH
- Dist. 4 – Somerset Patriots Baseball Game in Bridgewater, NJ
- Dist. 16 – Somerset Patriots Baseball Game in Bridgewater, NJ (RSVP 6/20)
- Region 1 – Picnic Registration Deadline
- 30** Guardians/Pirates Ticket Reservation Deadline

For more info go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

Facts About June

- June is named after Juno, the goddess of marriage.
- The sixth month of the year, June is one of four months with a length of 30 days.
- No other month begins on the same day as June.
- Summer begins in June on the 20th.
- In the northern hemisphere, June marks the beginning of summer with the longest daylight hours of the year arriving during the summer solstice, June 20th.
- In the southern hemisphere, winter begins on the same day, representing the shortest amount of daylight hours of the year.
- June has three birthstones: alexandrite, moonstone and pearl.
- June's birth flower is the rose and honeysuckle.
- June is known for kicking off the wedding season as many cultures believe the romantic atmosphere make it an ideal time for a couple to get married.
- June is the month of sweet treats! We celebrate national dairy, ice tea, candy and frozen yogurt month.
- The June bug, or June beetle, is named after the month due to the large beetles' popularity in the United States during May and June.

**If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately**

THINK ABOUT IT!

Update from the President

continued from page 1

society stands.

As of December 31st, 2023, our Society has exceeded \$578M in our total assets. Since 2019, our Society's assets have grown by 39%. That's over \$160M in the last five years! We also have over \$58M in surplus funds and other non-liability reserves, which are available in the case of a market downturn or unforeseen emergencies. Over 2022, there was an increase in our surplus of 11% or \$5.7M.

Additionally, our bonds constitute 84.2% of the Society's assets and have an average maturity of 11.9 years. The Society enjoys excellent bond quality, with 99% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes.

Our Society is currently registered in 27 states, regulated by the insurance department of the state of Ohio, along with the insurance departments in each licensed state. We have internal auditors who regularly visit as well as annual audits from external auditors who submit certified, required reports to the state insurance departments.

I am proud to say that our Society continues to grow more with each day that passes. I am honored to have continued the success of the FCSU in my first year of my presidency and look forward to improving our assets and surplus even more in 2024.

Thank you for again your continuous support for our Society. I hope to meet many new people soon and see some familiar faces at our summer events. Please continue honoring mothers and fathers for all that they do, and enjoy these special days with your loved ones.

**Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt**

RECIPE

Ovocné Knedličky (Fruit Dumplings)

- 500g of plums or apricots (smaller the better)
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons powdered sugar

Bring the milk to a boil and add to the flour along with one tablespoon of butter.

Add salt and mix until you get semi-hard dough. Wait for the dough to cool off before adding the egg. Keep mixing until you get a smooth dough (cesto).

In the mean time, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Transfer the dough onto a board dusted with flour and, using a rolling pin, roll to thickness of about 5 mm. Cut the dough into pieces about the size of your palm.

Wrap a plum (slivka) or an apricot (marhuľa) in each square. First spread the dough over the fruit, and then roll it between your palms (it helps to dust them with flour first) to smooth out any non-uniformities.

Cook the dumplings until they float up. This will take about 10-15 minutes.

In the mean time, melt the remaining butter and add the bread-crumbs (strúhanka). Fry for few minutes until they turn brown. Turn the heat off, and add the powdered sugar.

Drain the dumplings and top with the delicious toasted bread crumb topping along with more melted butter.

Enjoy!

Recipe Source: <http://www.slovakcooking.com/2012/recipes/fruit-dumplings/>

Get ready for some FOOTBALL

and the 2024 FCSU Losers' Pool

Are you hard pressed to ever pick a winner? Then try your luck in the 2024 FCSU Losers' Pool. It's easy to play. Each week simply pick one NFL Team that you think will lose their game. Be the best at picking losers to be the big winner!



Contest Entry Rules

- You must be an FCSU member in good standing, age 18 years or older.
- Mail or email the official entry form below to the FCSU. Entry must be received no later than 4 pm ET, Monday, August 26, 2024.
- Once your entry is received you will be sent a link to the Run Your Pool game site where you will enter your player information online. Check your inbox or junk/spam folders for this email from contest@fcsu.com
- The email address on your official entry form must be used for your online registration. The email address may only be used once.
- The **deadline** to enter your information on the official Run Your Pool game site is **Tuesday, September 3, 2024 by 4 pm (ET)**. Late entries will not be accepted.

Making your picks

- Pick one NFL Team each week that you think will LOSE their game
- Picks are "Straight Up", and do not use a point spread
- You may only pick an NFL Team to lose ONCE throughout the 2024 season and playoffs, so pick strategically.
- If your pick (team) loses that week, you advance to the following week!
- The deadline for submitting your pick on the Run your Pool website each week will be determined by the start time of the first NFL game.

You will be eliminated if --

- Your team wins
- Your team's game ends in a tied score
- You miss the deadline to enter your team for that week

Losers' Pool Official Entry

Name _____

Player Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

FCSU Branch # _____

Email _____

Mail to: FCSU, Football Pool, 6611 Rockside Rd, Suite #300, Independence OH, 44131 OR Email to: contest@fcsu.com

Entry form must be received before 4 pm (ET) Monday, August 26, 2024. Sorry, No exceptions. PLEASE PRINT IN INK.

Thank You and Good Luck to All!

Hot fun in the summertime!

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER 2024 PHOTO CONTEST



Enter a Favorite Photo of your Furry Friend

Four Categories of Photos - Open to Dogs and Cats

- Keeping Cool
- Playing Around
- Looking Alike
- Making Mischief

Keeping Cool Show us how your pet keeps cool in the summer sun and heat. How do they chill?

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

Looking Alike Send us your best lookalike photo of you with your fur baby. Who resembles whom?

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

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. Winning photos will be published in the Jednota. **Entry Deadline: August 17, 2024**

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Email your digital photo and completed entry form to contest@fcsu.com. Missing information will result in disqualification of entry. Each member's entry must be in a separate email. Subject line: Dog Days Entry.

Name _____ Branch # _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Select One Category: Keeping Cool Playing Around Looking Alike Making Mischief

Pet's Name _____

Photo Caption _____

Please print in ink or fill-in online, save and email.

*The decisions of independent judges are final.

Be a Part of the Jednota Memorial



A Site Dedicated to Members & their Families

The First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site in September 2016 for our members and their families. The site is on a permanently dedicated 1 ½ acres of land of Jednota property fronting on Rose-dale Avenue in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed “Doughboy” statue is a key high-light of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks are still available for purchase

It is important, however, to remember that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. You can remember a loved one, a branch or a district in our Society. These are just some of the completed granite panels found throughout the Memorial. All those who purchase a “brick” or “bricks” will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted.

These are just four of the panels that have been completed. To view more complete panels, or if you haven't yet ordered your “brick” you can go to Jednota Memorial to read: fcsu.com/about/jednota-memorial to download your order form. Or you can request an order form by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

5	IN LOVING MEMORY OF LILLIAN R. CECH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELAINE M. ZELENAK 1-27-40 MATKA 3-5-12	TO HONOR JOSEPH MINAROVICH FOR A LIFETIME OF FCSU SVS
DEDICATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 382K	TO HONOR MY PARENTS STEPHEN EUGENE MATULA AND MARY (KOPKAS) MATULA STEPHEN C MATULA COLONEL USAF (RET)	FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT 9 UNIONTOWN, PA	HONOURING THE DECEASED CANADIAN MEMBERS OF MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT 19
THOMAS M HRICK, FCSU PRESIDENT EMERITUS US ARMY LOVING MEMORY	J.C. KRAJSA FAMILY EDITOR JOSEPH C MGR PRESS JOSEPH J.	MARTIN JANCO BRANCH 55 WW2 25 YEARS OLD	HONOURING THE DECEASED REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF DISTRICT 19 JOHN STIMEC MIKE DOBIS SR
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY GRANDPARENTS ANTON & MARY YUSOAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY GRANDPARENTS JOHN AND SUSANNA HUDIMAC	DEDICATED TO GEORGE S. & PATRICIA N. HUDIMAC JR. & FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY PARENTS GEORGE S. & ANNA C. HUDIMAC SR.
DEDICATED TO STEVEN JACOB GERBA WWII VETERAN US NAVY BY HIS WIFE JOSEPHINE AND THEIR SON STEVEN	PHILIP A. HROBAK A GREAT AMERICAN SLOVAK FROM HIS FAMILY		DEDICATED IN THE MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS OF ST. CLEMENT SOCIETY BRANCH #40 IN STREATOR, ILLINOIS
ADAM NESLUSAN ZASTRANIE 1882 WEBSTER, MA 1930	ADAM ZABKA KOTRČINA LUČKA 1895 WEBSTER, MA 1933	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 200	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 259

7	OUR TRIBUTE TO JOHN S. GAYDOS PRESIDENT BRANCH 55 FCSU 1961-1993 HUSBAND OF MARY PROUDLY REMEMBERED BY THEIR 6 CHILDREN: JOSEPHINE, MARY, CYRIL, HELENA, ANNAROSE, JOHN		
DEDICATED TO ALL DECEASED OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY PHILADELPHIA BR. 55 MERGED WITH PHOENIXVILLE BR. 206 NICETOWN BR. 374	BERNARD F. ZILKA WWII & KOREA VETERAN EXEC AUDITOR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF NICHOLAS G. MAYERNIK REGIONAL DIRECTOR WIFE MARY AND FAMILY	DEDICATED TO BRANCH 746 LINDEN, NJ
	HONORING PRESENT AND PAST BR 670 MEMBERS ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA	THOSE OF BRANCH 157 WHO SERVED GOD AND COUNTRY	LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS BRANCH 157 NORTH CATASAUQUA, PA
MICHIGAN DISTRICT #5 FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION	JOSEPH & MARY ISKRA AND FAMILY WILKES-BARRE, PA	IN HONOR OF EMERICH AND JOSEPHINE WALLA YOUR SON	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HELEN L. GRAYTOK	IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS LODGE 169P	IN LOVING MEMORY HELEN MISKAR ENGLE BRANCH 112	IN LOVING MEMORY STEPHEN J. ENGLE BRANCH 112
IN LOVING MEMORY MICHAEL DEMSHOCK BRANCH 112	NECH DVOJKRIZ ZASE TRONI NAD SLOVENSKOM L.PAVLO, MD 04/1954	IN VENERATION OF THE JOHN M. & MARY UJLAKY FAMILY	
GEORGE C. MIHALCIC KJ PRINTERY EMPLOYEE & FOREMAN 1901-1956	THERESE KRAJSA & JOE MIHALCIC MET HERE '39 JOAN, JOE, KATHY, TERRI	JOE & MARGARET MRAZ JULIUS & ANNA KOVACS JOE & ROSEMARIE MRAZ	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND JOSEPH CAPKOVIC
IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. HOVANEC BRANCH 292 WINDBER, PA	SANT ANDREW SOCIETY BRANCH 24 CLEVELAND, OHIO	IN MEMORY OF BROTHER JOHN A. HOVANEC BR. 292 WINDBER, PA	
IN CLEVELAND, OHIO ZA BOHA A NAROD FOR GOD AND NATION	ST JOSEPH BRANCH 1 ORGANIZED MAY 5, 1889 BY REV ŠTEFAN FURDEK	LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS BRANCH 567 ALLENTOWN, PA	DEDICATED TO JAMES E. GRAYTOK HELEN L. GRAYTOK

6	STEPHAN J PATOPRSTY VERONICA V SIVAK MARRIED SEPT 30 1950	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREJKO AND VIZVARY FAMILIES	NEVER FORGET YOUR ROOTS HVIZDOS-LESSO-SMEDO
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ARMY AIR CORPS S.SGT ROBERT J. SABOL KILLED IN ACTION IN WWII, MAY 24, 1945	ANDREW S. LUKASKO ELDER JR BRANCH 374 HUSBAND OF ANNA ELIZABETH FATHER OF ANNA MAY, EDWARD, JOSEPH, ANDREW	IN LOVING MEMORY JOHN MILES WHITE 1925-2005 FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE WORLD WAR II THE WHITE FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY JOSEPH & IRENE MATUSCHAK IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND JOSEPH J. DUTKO
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY BROTHER CYRIL FERENCHAK, JR	IN LOVING MEMORY OF CYRIL & WILMA FERENCHAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BEST GRANDMOTHER PIROSKA MERAI	REST IN PEACE CYRIL GREGORICKA 1925-1998
IN MEMORY OF BRANCH 838		IN MEMORY OF BRANCH 354	IN MEMORY OF BRANCH 835
RICHARD J. SLIFKA CORPORAL U.S. ARMY HUSBAND, DAD, PAPA	IN HONOR OF ALL PAST & PRESENT MEMBERS OF MSGR HLINKA DIST 12	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR PARENTS M&M ANDREW M CHUBA	JOSEPH AND JULIA KRHLA BRANCH 19
DEDICATED TO LESO HASCHALK FAMILIES		JOSEPH STANICK POTOK, SLOVAKIA 1904 PITTSBURGH, PA 1978	IN MEMORY OF THE KAKASCIK FAMILY TRUST IN THE LORD
LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS BRANCH 276 MCKEESPORT, PA	IN MEMORY OF MIKE AND MARGARET DRAPCHO BR 553	V MILOVANEJ PAMATI IGNAC & MARIA DLASIK PERTH AMBOY, N.J.	STEPHEN FERKO PRESIDENT BRANCH 55 FCSU 1950-1960
IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN J. SKLENCAR PRESIDENT FCSU BR374	ROBERT LOUIS HILPL ROBERT ANDREW HILPL FATHER AND SON	PEACE LOVE CHARITY BRANCH 401 E VANDERGRIFT, PA	
DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 313	ST. STEPHEN SOCIETY STREATOR, IL.	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 008K	HATOK AND CEHLAR FAMILIES NORTH BRADDOCK, PA

8	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 007K	HOLY TRINITY SOCIETY BRANCH 38 DUQUESNE, PA	WILLIAM C. NOVAK 7/22/1897-4/30/1992 LOYAL JEDNOTA MEMBER
HONOURING THE DECEASED CANADIAN MEMBERS OF BRANCH 785 TORONTO CANADA	HONOURING THE LIVING MEMBERS OF BRANCH 785 TORONTO CANADA	V HAŠIČ SRDČIACH MICHAEL MATAS 1926-2013	IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN J. KANDRA PAST SUPREME OFFICER
SISTER CYNTHIA MARIE PATRICIA GAZDA 1950'S STUDENT RESIDENT	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FATHER (TATO) STEFAN LEVCIK BR. 200	FRANK & ANNA FEDORKO SON JOHN WIFE ANNA ANN, JOHN, CHRISTINE	THANK YOU GOD FOR MANY BLESSINGS LODUHA FAMILY.
ODPOČIVAJTE VO SVATOM POKOJI RODINA HLAVAC A GAJDOSIK	FOR LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS W/ BR89 FCSU MILWAUKEE	FREDERICK FORREST BRANCH 89 FCSU MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN	
LOUIS J. AND MARY ANN DODULIK WITH LOVE FROM YOUR CHILDREN	ANTON KOŠUT SLOVAK LEGION WORLD WAR I	ROBERT J BUDJAC BR89 DOB11724 TEC 5 ARMY 5 WARSTARS 1 DE GUER	MEMORY OF PAUL JOEY THERESA MARGE ZLATOS BY SISTER ANN SIMONE
ANDRO KATRINA-BUDJAC MIKUŠOVCE TREŇCIN SLOVAKIA USA AMERICA	MICHAEL A. AND MARGARET A. NOVAK WITH LOVE MIKE & PAUL	JOSEPH & HELEN SANKNER BELOVED PARENTS CAROL SANKNER SICOLI	
IN MEMORY OF JOHN & MARY OLENICK BRANCH 553 AKRON OH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY UNCLE JOSEPH KOROPSAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY COUSIN EDWARD KOROPSAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY AUNT MARY KOROPSAK
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FATHER JOHN ESTOCH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY MOTHER ANNA ESTOCH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY BROTHER ALBERT ESTOCH	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY BROTHER STEPHEN ESTOCH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY SISTER THERESA ESTOCH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY NIECE PATRICIA ESTOCH	HONORING ALL FCSU MEMBERS DISTRICT 17 REGION 3

Branch 853 - Let's celebrate the Happy Ways of our Summers Days

With schools being closed for the summer and vacations being planned - everyone looks forward to fun summer activities. It could be sitting on the beach watching the ocean waves, or gardening or maybe relaxing in the house in the cool AC. The possibilities are endless.

Branch 853 – What will you do in the summer?



Branch 853, lets celebrate the 'Happy Ways you are enjoying your Summer Days'. Email a photo of you enjoying your summer activity to FCSUBranch853@gmail.com. Include your name and what you are doing.

Event is open to only current Branch 853 members. Photo must be a current and a tasteful picture of a branch 853 member. Decisions made by branch officers are final. One entry per member. Each email submission will receive a \$10 gift card with the possibility of their photo being in the Jednota. The event is open until July 15, 2024.

BRANCH 181'S ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 30th, 2024, at Mammoth Park in Mammoth, PA, at Pavillion #13.

Registration begins at 12:00PM and the picnic will begin at 1:00PM.

Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch.

Please contact Vicki Hricik for more information or directions at: 724-547-0803



Districts 4 (NJ) and 16 (NYC) are organizing a fun evening at the Somerset Patriots Baseball game and BBQ on Sunday, July 28. Tickets are free for members; all others are \$36 per person/child. Local Branches are encouraged to participate in this fun even! RSVP required. For details, contact Jo Anne Peppe at gsmgjap@aol.com before June 20th.

The Somerset Patriots Welcome First Catholic Slovak Union - Jednota! District 4 (NJ) & District 16 (NYC)



Ballpark BBQ Group Event

Members - Free | Non-Members - \$36/ticket

When: Sunday, July 28, 2024 - First Pitch at 5:05pm

Where: TD Bank Ballpark | 860 E Main St, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

What: Guests will have access to the Ballpark BBQ, with a 90-minute Buffet, Cash Bar and designated Picnic style seating.



Please RSVP to Jo Anne Peppe gsmgjap@aol.com no later than Thursday, June 20th



JOIN US FOR THE First Catholic Slovak Union REGION 1 PICNIC SAT, AUG 3rd at 1PM

Al Kalla Park
2801 Highland Ave., Linden, NJ

RSVP by July 28 to Joanne: 732-762-3148
Members FREE; Non-Members: \$20

BRANCH 393 PICNIC

Pavilion #10 Mammoth Park

RSVP 724-539-2764

@fcsu.branch393



11 AM
June
22



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CLEVELAND GUARDIANS AND PITTSBURGH PIRATES GAME AT PROGRESSIVE FIELD IN CLEVELAND, OH, HOSTED BY THE OHIO REGION

- **ALL CLEVELAND, YOUNGSTOWN AND PITTSBURGH AREA DISTRICTS AND BRANCHES ARE INVITED**
- **Date: Sunday, September 1st, 2024**
 - Tailgate prior to game in the FCSU parking lot
 - Game starts at 2:40PM
 - Arrangements are being made for transportation from the tailgate party to the game and back
- **Cost: \$39.00/ticket**
 - Seats are together in Sections 171/172 (lower box along the 3rd base side)
- **RSVP to: Tom Ivanec, Bradley Matta, Jim Marmol, Barbara Sutila or Joe Tarquinio**
 - Contact Information to reserve tickets and make arrangement for payment:
 - Tom Ivanec: tivanec@aol.com / 440-668-7797
 - Brad Matta: bmatta41@gmail.com / 412-378-7988
 - Jim Marmol: jimmarmol@k2engineering.net / 724-970-7642
 - Barbara Sutila: ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com / 440-864-4744
 - Joe Tarquinio: Tark918@gmail.com / 724-929-9788
 - E-tickets will be issued prior to the game
- **Hotel accommodations available at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South**



Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 Party Box Event at PNC Field

Friday, August 16, 2024

Game Time – 6:05 P.M.

Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders

PNC Field
Moosic, Pennsylvania

Members: \$15 per person
Non-Members: \$40 per person

Includes

Entrance to PNC Field

Entry through the Mohegan Sun Club Entrance!

Food and beverages on covered deck in right field!

Food is available from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

All the friendly socializing you can get!

Fireworks after the game!!!!



Deadline for reservations: **Friday, August 9, 2024**

Contact **your** branch officer for reservations:

Branch 005P – 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, AUGUST 9, 2024.

Make your check payable to *your* Branch!

BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBER SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE

For the Fall 2024 start of the academic year, the St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United, PA, will be offering \$500.00 scholarships to eligible high school senior members planning to attend college or career/technical school. These will be one-time scholarships selected by an independent panel that will evaluate each application. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the number of eligible applicants.

Youth members may be eligible to qualify for a scholarship if the following requirements are met:

- You are a member in good Standing of the First Catholic Slovak Union, St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181.
- You have been a member of Branch 181 for 4 years prior to applying with a minimum \$5000 insurance policy.
- You are a high school senior preparing to graduate in 2024 and have applied for the 2024 Fall term at a qualifying Educational institution.



To obtain an application and more information, please contact Vicki Hricik by phone 724-547-0803 or email

vicki15@zoominternet.net

***Applications must be postmarked by June 20th, 2024 to be eligible.**

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

Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District 12 Holds 4th Annual Picnic

On May 19, 2024, the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District held its 4th annual district picnic. The afternoon proved to be a fun event beyond everyone's expectations. It started as a picture-perfect afternoon at the Cedar Creek Park in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. 34 people attended the event, which is a 50% increase in attendance from years past. Lunch was served, games were played, FCSU favors were given, and door prizes were won. Thank you goes out to District President Cheryl Hyatt and Treasurer Maureen Massafra who organized the lunch. A big thank you all who showed up early to help set up or stayed to help clean up. We cannot forget our young adults Charles Boone and Nicole Hyatt who were the "go to" people when something needed done that day. Many people enjoyed the afternoon of fraternalism and fun.

Submitted by Monica Boone, Secretary



Branch 670 members Kathy Jakula and Dorothy Rudinec



Branch 670 members Darla Hubert and Larry Healey



Branch 670 members Ed Petrus and Joe Matinko



Evelyn Porter, Ed & Judy Letavec and Fran Tarquinio, Branch 320



Branch 670 members Teresa Matinko and Lorraine Petrus



Branch 320 members Mandy and Sara Davies



Branch 853 members Charles Boone and Mike Bertovich, a guest of Robyn Nobili Branch 670, and Marianne Rodacy Branch 853



Branch 670 members Marilee Carlucci, Martha Miller and Michelle Neff



2024 FCSU International Bowling Tournament

FCSU Fraternalism at its Best!

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes in suburban Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania set the stage for the much-anticipated return of the FCSU International Bowling Tournament in April 2024.

Sixty-four bowlers participated in the two day event, including 50 FCSU members and 14 of their guests.

The FCSU was happy to bring together friends, both old and new, to enjoy two days of spirited bowling competition, along with delicious and bountiful food. Topping off the experience, was the chance to win an amazing array of raffle prizes, door prizes and two 50/50 jackpots. Overall participants won nearly \$10,000 in cash awards and prizes.

And, as with any FCSU event, we were blessed to have Father Thomas Nasta celebrate Mass before we capped off the tournament with our outstanding celebration dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Thanks to our bowlers for a fantastic tournament. See you again in 2025! Any FCSU member, age 18+, is welcome to join us next year. The Bowling Tournament is just one of many fraternal benefits and activities you can enjoy as a member of the FCSU.



Psycho Strikers 1st Place Team Handicap winners Ed Leise, Jon Roithner, Jeff Sullivan, Tom Sullivan, and their ecstatic coach.



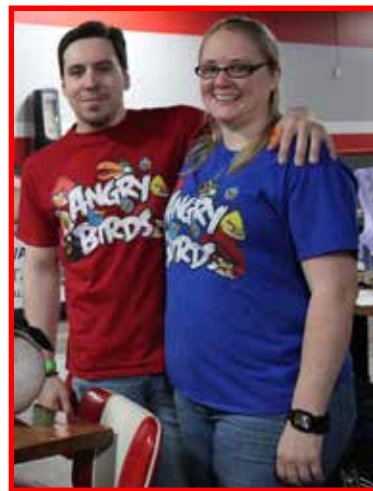
Short and Tall 1st Place Team Scratch winners include James Saul, Jim Saul, Lynn Johnston and Derek Johnston



Tournament Patrons Fr. Thomas Nasta, Joanne Fibbi and Kevin Collins welcome members and guests at AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Team Jednota 553 from Akron, Ohio includes **1st Place All Events** winner Alvin Ferreira, Terry Eller, **Tournament Manager** and **1st Place Men's Singles Scratch** winner Jay Fazek, and Stephen Reed.



1st Place Men's Singles Handicap
1st Place Women's Singles Scratch
1st Place Doubles Scratch winners
Nicole Nasta and John Ramos, Jr.



1st Place Women's Singles Handicap winner
Gwynn Maximo and teammate Fred Berestecky



The Lady Canucks from Toronto, Canada include Anne Mitro, **1st Place Doubles Handicap** winners Denise Ricciuti and Christine Tokarsky, and Ruzena Kapitan

Sincere thanks to our Tournament Patrons and Lane Sponsors.

We greatly appreciated your generous financial support.

Tournament Patrons: UBS Hardy Wealth Partners - Platinum, ENDepersis - Gold, AQS Asset Management - Silver, Pinpoint Computer Systems - Silver, Father Thomas Nasta, Kenneth Arendt, Kevin Collins and Joanne Fibbi - Bronze. **Lane Sponsors:** FCSU Branch 35, FCSU Branch 162, FCSU Branch 731, FCSU Branch 785, FCSU Branch 857, Tom and Terri Ivanec, Michael Jones, Gary Matta, Larissa Matta, Milos and Anne Mitro, Damian Nasta, Nicole Nasta, John Tokarsky, Toronto Slovak Bowling League.

We could not have done it without you.

Thanks for a GREAT Tournament

Congratulations to our Top Bowlers

2024 Official Prize Winners by Events



Teams Event - Handicap

1st Place \$500 - **Psycho Strikers**
 2nd Place \$300 - **Angry Birds**
 3rd Place \$200 - **Jednota 553**
 4th Place \$100 - **Team Bokor**
 Highest Game \$50 - **Alvin Ferreira**

Teams Event - Scratch

1st Place \$250 - **Short and Tall**
 2nd Place \$200 - **Canuckleheads**
 Highest Game \$50 - **Stephen Reed**

Doubles Event - Handicap

1st Place \$250 - **C. Tokarsky/Ricciuti**
 2nd Place \$200 - **Bradshaw/Walters**
 3rd Place \$150 - **Roebuck/Rice**
 4th Place \$100 - **Ungvarsky/Ungvarsky**
 5th Place \$ 75 - **Lutes/Painter**
 6th Place \$ 50 - **P. Collins/Sinagra**
 Highest Game \$50 - **Nicole Nasta**

Doubles Event - Scratch

1st Place \$150 - **N. Nasta/Ramos, Jr**
 2nd Place \$125 - **J. Tokarsky/Grys**
 3rd Place \$100 - **Ferreira/Reed**
 Highest Game \$50 - **John Ramos, Jr**

Singles Event - Men's Handicap

1st Place \$200 - **John Ramos, Jr**
 2nd Place \$175 - **Anthony Gray**
 3rd Place \$150 - **James Saul**
 4th Place \$125 - **Greg Maurer**
 5th Place \$100 - **Steve Snyder**
 6th Place \$ 75 - **Rick Ungvarsky**
 7th Place \$ 50 - **Matt Painter**
 8th Place \$ 25 - **Wally Roebuck**
 Highest Game \$50 - **Chip Thayer**

Singles Event - Men's Scratch

1st Place \$150 - **Jay Fazek**
 2nd Place \$125 - **Chip Thayer**
 3rd Place \$100 - **Dave Sinagra**
 4th Place \$ 50 - **Alvin Ferreira**
 Highest Game \$50 - **John Ramos, Jr.**

Singles Event - Women's Handicap

1st Place \$175 - **Gwynn Maximo**
 2nd Place \$125 - **Anne Mitro**
 3rd Place \$100 - **Judy Ostoich**
 4th Place \$ 50 - **Christine Tokarsky**
 Highest Game \$50 - **Gwynn Maximo**

Singles Event - Women's Scratch

1st Place \$125 - **Nicole Nasta**
 2nd Place \$100 - **Diane Cincar**
 Highest Game \$50 - **Nicole Nasta**

All Events Men

1st Place \$50 - **Alvin Ferreira**
 2nd Place \$50 - **John Ramos, Jr**

All Events Women

1st Place \$50 - **Gwynn Maximo**
 2nd Place \$50 - **Nicole Nasta**

64 total bowlers participated in the tournament including 50 FCSU members and 14 guests

Complete scores and rankings and additional photos can be found on the FCSU website www.fcsu.com/events/.

Bowlers are eligible to win one prize per event, with the exception of Highest Game. If a bowler finishes in the prize money in both the scratch and handicap of the same event, they will receive the higher monetary prize. Next highest scorers will move into the prize money, based on their respective place finishes. First place bowlers will be acknowledged with a tournament shirt to commemorate their accomplishments. Limit of one first place shirt per bowler, regardless their number of first place finishes.

Top Raffle Prize Winners

Jay Fazek, Branch #553

2024 FCSU Stay and Play Golf Package \$400 value

Laura Lingenfield, Branch #855

Kate Spade Handbag \$300 value

Leo Derk, Branch #2

Apple Gift Card \$250 value

Save the Dates!

2025 FCSU International Bowling Tournament - April 26-27, 2025

Tentative Ohio venue to be confirmed. Watch for updates.

59th Anniversary of the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel



Branch 856 has again arranged to have a mass to celebrate the 59th anniversary of our Slovak chapel Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 14, 2024. We will begin with the rosary in English and Slovak at 1:00pm and mass at 1:30pm. Let's keep this tradition going. Come to see our beautiful chapel. It is one of the most visited Chapel in the Basilica. For more information call Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, President

Branch 24, Cleveland, Celebrates Cinco de Mayo



Thirty members and guests of Branch 24 – including District 10 President Greg Petrsek – met on May 5, 2024, in the Walton Hills Village Hall, Walton Hills, OH. The meeting agenda covered general branch business and upcoming fraternal activities. Then, in honor of the date, a Mexican-themed luncheon was served. Some attendees even dressed for the occasion! All enjoyed an afternoon of good food, fraternalism, and friendship.

Submitted by Fran Strekal, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director

2024 Jednota Branch 682, W Homestead, Scholarship Winner

This year's winner of the Jednota FCSU Branch 682 Scholarship is Struthers High School Senior Gianna Cannon. Gianna is pictured with Struthers Rotarian & Jednota Branch 682 President Drew Hirt. Gianna has been a leader and participant in many civic activities and is outgoing president of the Struthers High School Rotary Interact Club. Of Slovak heritage, Gianna was selected for her academic achievements and sincere dedication to serving her community. She plans to enter the field of Social Work and is selecting between Ohio State and Youngstown State Universities for a place to begin her career studies. The \$1000 scholarship was presented at a Scholarship Luncheon on May 14th hosted by the Struthers Rotary Club.

Submitted by Drew Hirt, President



Branch 320, Belle Vernon, Congratulates Brynn on her First Holy Communion

Branch 320 is proud to announce Brynn Beatty's First Holy Communion Celebration. Brynn (Branch 320) received her First Communion at St. Benedict, The Abbot Church in McMurray, PA.

May God's Blessing be with her now and forever.

Submitted by Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

(L-R) First Row: Gianna Beatty. Second Row: Brynn Beatty. Third Row: Elley Beatty, Mary Anne Higginbotham (Branch 320, President), Robert Higginbotham (Godfather). Fourth Row: Justin McHenry, Bruce Higginbotham.



There's so much to do with the FCSU benefits of membership



When you sign up for an FCSU insurance or annuity product, you become our member. Among the many great benefits of FCSU membership: the opportunity to participate in fun events, enter contests, apply for scholarships, and so much more. Just what you can do with the FCSU? Visit: fcsu.com/membership-benefits/ – and

JOIN US TODAY!

2024 FCSU International Golf Tournament Sponsorships



Support our golfers as a Hole Sponsor

Hole Sponsorship signs will be displayed on the courses. Offer a good luck message. Promote your branch or business.

- FCSU Member Sponsor . . . \$ 50.00
- FCSU Branch Sponsor . . . \$100.00

Sign dimensions: 24" x 18" Please print your sign copy here.

Become a Tournament Patron

Your name/business logo will be featured on the Tournament Welcome Signs on the golf courses and at Wilson Lodge.

- Bronze Patron \$150.00
- Silver Patron \$250.00
- Gold Patron \$500.00
- Platinum Patron \$1,000.00

Sponsors and Patrons will be acknowledged during the Saturday Dinner Program. Donations will help to purchase raffle/door prizes.

Deadline: June 24, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to: FCSU with Hole Sponsor or Golf Patron on the memo line.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville PA

Summer Festival

Saturday July 13th '24

10:30 to 5:00 pm

A Variety of Food Trucks
Flea Market
Baked Goods
Furniture
Art's Cloths
Bingo
Silent Auction
Religious Articles
Books

Saturday Mass for Sunday
5:00 in the Basilica

Save the Date

Family Fall Festival

DATE: Saturday, October 5, 2024
TIME: 12:00 - 5:00 pm
LOCATION: Simmons Farm, McMurray, PA 15317

Fall Fun for Everyone

Hayrides, Corn Maze, Pumpkin Patch, Children's Games,
Petting Zoo, Food, Music and More!

Also available: apple picking, flower picking, farmer's market



Free to FCSU members of all ages.

Watch for more details coming soon.

Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!



At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we take every phone call very seriously. Our goal is to deliver the best customer service possible – even in these challenging times.

Please take the following steps when you get our voice mail so that we can provide you with the level of service and attention you deserve.

1. Leave a brief reason for your call.
2. Be sure to state your full name, and spell your last name.
3. Along with your phone number, let us know the best time to contact you between the hours of 8:00AM and 4:30PM, M- F.
4. Remember that we can only discuss a contract or certificate with the owner or with permission from the owner.



National FCSU Events

National Picnic, Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg, PA
June 22



International Golf Tournament, Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, WV
July 12-14



August 10
National Picnic – Wiegand Lake Park, Novelty, OH



October 5
National Picnic – Simmons Farm, McMurray, PA

NATIONAL PICNIC
Saturday, August 10, 2024
Wiegand Lake Park
9346 Kinsman Rd, Novelty, OH 44072



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, horseshoes, swimming, as well as lots of great food served all day long. Shuttle service available from parking lot to picnic grounds and to restrooms.

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

FREE ACTIVITIES

Corn hole, Sand Volleyball, Basketball, Horseshoes, Soccer field, Softball field, Playgrounds, Springfed Lake with paddleboats and swimming, Face Painting, Bingo. No alcohol or pets permitted on premises. Rain or shine event.

To register for the picnic, call the Home Office at 800 533 6682 ext. 110 or email events@fcsu.com by 7/19/2024



FCSU Untold Stories

Milan Kobulsky – “We have to keep our culture alive”

Since emigrating from Prešov, Slovakia, in 1969, Milan Kobulsky, Branch 450, has been very involved with Slovak cultural advancement in Cleveland, Ohio. We discussed his extensive involvement with the Slovak radio program, his activities as director of the Slovak Institute, as well as being a committed Member of the FCSU. Milan is proud to share his Slovak pride. Not to mention, Milan's other achievements that make him a joy to speak with.

Q: Why did you immigrate to the USA?

In 1968, the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia. I was living in Prešov at the time of the invasion, and if you didn't agree with the situation, you could go. In early 1969, I got a three-day visa to Austria, and I never returned.

I had to wait six months in Austria for my papers to clear. I was living with a friend in Vienna, and we were waiting for a Catholic charity to set us up with a job and a place to live. I finally arrived in New York, on December 6, 1969, with a small black suitcase and a plastic bag. The coordinators with the charity wanted to send me to Nebraska. My friend's uncle lived in Cleveland, and we said, "no, we want to go to Ohio." My friend ended up moving elsewhere, but I never left.

I started working in construction and did that for a couple of years. Eventually, I wanted to do something besides manual labor and do something in the office. Before I came to Cleveland, I was studying mechanical engineering but never finished my degree. One of my friends worked at a NASA contractor before he was drafted for the Vietnam War. I asked him if he thought I could get hired. With a lot of luck, I was hired and worked there for 30 years before I quasi-retired.

Q: When did you start getting involved with the Slovak community in Cleveland?

At first, I didn't have much involvement with Slovak organizations. I was so busy working, although I have been a member of the Jednota since 1974. Also, Cleveland was a huge area for Slovaks. My friends and I would go to many Slovak bars and there were many events to attend.

Some of my friends at the time were active in the Slovak Radio Club. One day they said, "Why don't you try being a part of it?" So, I did. In 1984, I was elected the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club treasurer. Then I started speaking as assistant on The Slovak Hour broadcast in 1992 and became director in 2000. At first it was a little nerve-wracking. You think you can do it, and then you get in front of a microphone.

I was helping the previous program director. She would be doing the English translations and I would do the Slovak parts. It is a way to inform the area about what was happening back in Slovakia. Whether you speak English, or Slovak, you could know the latest news.

When the director quit, I took over as program director and began doing both English and Slovak spots. Eventually, I found someone who could do the English.

We just celebrated 85 years of the Slovak Radio Program, and it is the longest running broadcast of its kind. I am proudly celebrating my 40th



Milan Kobulsky, Branch 450.



Milan behind the mic at WERE AM Cleveland for the Slovak Radio Club.

“Slovak culture deserves recognition just like all other cultures or nationalities. We have to keep our culture alive. Many people do not know about Slovakia, and it is our job to take initiative and show what we are about”

year with Slovak radio.

Q: What motivated you to become Director of the Slovak Institute?

I thought, "Why not me?" I was at the Christmas Vilija at the abbey, and I approached Father Brunovsky saying, "You have no one in the Slovak Institute. I want to be the Director of the Slovak Institute. He said, "Okay, I'll talk to the Abott." By summer of 2016 I was the Director.

As the Director, people can call and schedule appointments with me to come in and tour the Institute. There is so much at the Institute from artwork and Slovak Christmas cards, to books and bibles. I still have a hard time knowing where everything is. We receive lots of donations, particularly books or Slovak bibles. People no longer want the books, but would like them to go somewhere special. When John Carroll University stopped offering Slovak language courses, I went

over and picked up all kinds of Slovak things. We really have a lot of stuff; I need a lot more space.

We mainly deal with genealogy searches and people calling to find out about their relatives. We don't have an expert in house, but we always give them a number to call to help. Right now, I am selling these maps of Slovakia with the original village names. After the communists took over, they changed the names of many towns and villages, as well as street names. Some of those places have since changed back to the original names. People like to ask for these maps so they can locate their relatives' old villages and connect where they lived.

Q: Why do you feel it is so important to share and be a part of the Slovak community?

It needs to be shared. If you read the old Jednota newspapers, you will see how many people were involved. These days, the interest in Slovak culture is kind of fading away.

People nowadays don't understand how hard it was to establish what we have today. There were 14 Slovak Catholic churches and parishioners from all those churches came together and decided to have a Slovak Radio club. It would be a way to tell people what was going on in Slovak and English. It was hard to start something like this for the first time and it needs to be kept up, because people don't know how hard it was to start from nothing. Once you stop doing something, it's never going to start again, or it will be very hard.

I honestly don't know how much longer I will be doing the radio or a part of the Institute, but I hope both continue after I am done. Slovak culture deserves recognition just like all other cultures or nationalities. We have to keep our culture alive. Many people do not know about Slovakia, and it is our job to take initiative and show what we are about.

Milan continues his involvement in the Slovak community, bringing his knowledge and passion wherever he goes. Through his heritage, he has been able to meet and interview famous Slovak persons, attend cultural events, such as the recent genealogy event at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and much more.

In addition to being a proud Slovak, Milan has a passion for racing pigeons. Since the age of five years old, Milan has kept many pigeons, training them to fly for a long time. He currently has around 50 pigeons trained to fly in a circle in his backyard. Although he no longer enters formal competitions, at one point his pigeons could fly for an impressive 16 and a half hours without coming down for rest.

"I am the American and Canadian record holder for flying pigeons," Milan said.

You can learn more about the Slovak Institute online at www.slovakinstitute.com. The Slovak radio broadcasts every Sunday at 11:00 AM on 1490 AM in Cleveland. You can also listen online at www.newstalkcleveland.com.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

2024 Jednota Scholarship Winners



SOLTIS & BOSAK FAMILY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP



BETZNER, TAYLOR
Branch: 038K
College: Seton Hill Univeristy
Major: Nursing

2023 FCSU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL (5-8)



BRADY, JOSEPHINE
Branch: 024K
Catholic Grade School: St. Barnabus
Grade: 6



KEISER, PAIGE
Branch: 166K
Catholic Grade School: St. Michael Catholic School
Grade: 7

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL (5-8)



KEISER, ZACHRY
Branch: 166K
Catholic Grade School: St. Michael Catholic School
Grade: 5



KRONISER, MICHAEL
Branch: 038K
Catholic Grade School: Archangel Gabriel School
Grade: 6



OOST, BRENT
Branch: 313K
Catholic Grade School: St. Mary Catholic Middle School
Grade: 6

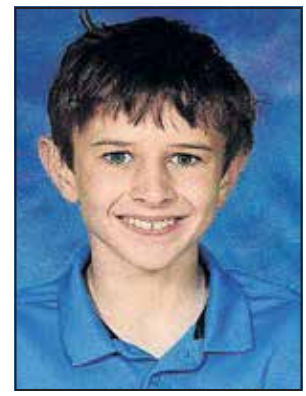
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



CARNY, NICHOLAS
Branch: 450K
Catholic High School: Holy Name High School
Grade: Freshmen



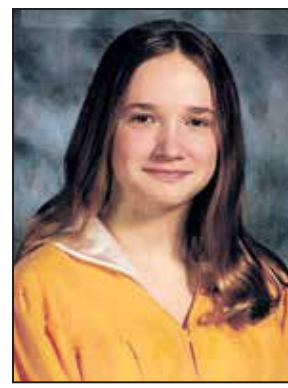
GORDON, MARGARET MAE
Branch: 019K
Catholic High School: Academy of the Holy Cross
Grade: Freshman



HARDING III, WILLIAM
Branch: 153K
Catholic High School: Nazareth Academy
Grade: Freshmen



HARVILICZ, BARRETT
Branch: 075K
Catholic High School: Bishop McDevit High School
Grade: Freshmen



PAYNE, LILYANNA ROSE
Branch: 055K
Catholic High School: Archbishop Ryan High School
Grade: Sophomore



SKOLODA, MORGAN
Branch: 254KJ
Catholic High School: Greensburg Central Catholic
Grade: Sophomore

MICHELE MAGER SCHOLARSHIP

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL



HRICKO, MARTHA MAE
Branch: 090KJ
Catholic Grade School: Saints Simon & Jude School
Grade: 7

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



DOIG, AIDAN
Branch: 238K
Catholic High School: Bishop Moore Catholic School
Grade: Sophomore

COLLEGE

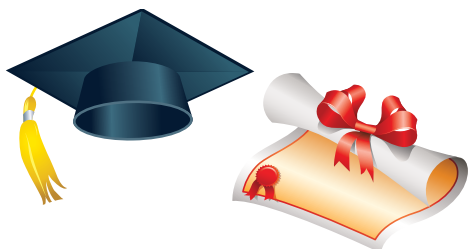


DANKO, NATHAN
Branch: 456K
College: University of Maryland
Major: Computer Science

GRADUATE SCHOOL



MLYNAROVA, KRISTINA
Branch: 746K
College: The Fletcher School at Tufts University
Major: International Law & Diplomacy





2024 Jednota Scholarship Winners



TOP COLLEGE MALE



ANGOTTI, ANTHONY
Branch: 228K
College: Utah Tech University
Major: Electrical Engineering

TOP COLLEGE FEMALE



SEDLOCK, ANNA
Branch: 001K
College: University of Montana
Major: Wildlife Biology - Aquatic



COLLEGE



ADAMS, EMMA
Branch: 181KJ
College: Shippensburg University
Major: Communications



BALOG, TRINITY JADE
Branch: 670K
College: Penn West California
Major: Early Childhood & Special Education



BITTLE, LOGAN
Branch: 855K
College: Pennsylvania State University - Main
Major: Mechanical Engineering



BURKETT, JOSILYN KAY
Branch: 393KJ
College: Florida Institute of Technology
Major: Aviation Management with Flight



BURY, SARAH
Branch: 320K
College: Pennsylvania State University
Major: Materials Science & Engineering



BUZA, HANNAH
Branch: 166KJ
College: Binghamton University
Major: Social Work



DIEHL, CHARISMA
Branch: 199K
College: Westmoreland County Community College
Major: Psychology



DROSHAK, MADISON
Branch: 580K
College: Pennsylvania State University
Major: Pharmacology & Toxicology



FANDRAY, ADDISON
Branch: 038K
College: Duquesne University
Major: Elementary Education



FAY, RACHEL
Branch: 382K
College: West Chester University
Major: Chemistry



FIBBI, MATTHEW
Branch: 587K
College: Coastal Carolina University
Major: Marine Science



HANDEL, CAITLYN
Branch: 372K
College: Juniata College
Major: Environmental Science



HANSEL, CLARA
Branch: 007K
College: University of Alabama
Major: Biology



HARDING, JOSHUA MATTHEW
Branch: 075K
College: West Chester University
Major: Pre-Business Management



JABORNIK, ISABEL
Branch: 746K
College: University of Connecticut
Major: Filmmaking



KANDRA, KYLE
Branch: 001KJ
College: Undecided
Major: Sports Journalism



KOVAL, DAVID
Branch: 003P
College: Ohio University
Major: Finance



KRAJSA, MICAH
Branch: 075K
College: East Stroudsburg University
Major: Undecided



MAGEE, BRIAN
Branch: 157K
College: Saint Joseph's University
Major: Business



2024 Jednota Scholarship Winners



COLLEGE



MARMOL, SYDNEY
Branch: 162K
College: Penn State University
Major: Mechanical or Electrical Engineering



MARIANO, LOUIS
Branch: 670K
College: University of Pittsburgh
Major: Mechanical Engineering



MCMULLAN, MAEVE
Branch: 019K
College: University of Vermont
Major: Psychological Science



MEYER, MARTIN
Branch: 393K
College: Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: Music BA & Management Information Science



MILLS, PAUL
Branch: 162K
College: West Virginia University
Major: Exercise Physiology



MONKS, PETER THADDEUS
Branch: 019K
College: Western Connecticut State University
Major: Marketing



MORAN, KALEAH
Branch: 152KJ
College: Pennsylvania State University
Major: Environmental Systems Engineering BS



NICHOLS, JULIETTE
Branch: 019K
College: Ave Maria University
Major: Health Science



ORLOVSKY, GRAYSON
Branch: 260K
College: Kent State University
Major: Cyber Security



OWENS, ISABEL
Branch: 199KJ
College: Loyola University Maryland
Major: Biology



PELES, LEEAH
Branch: 484K
College: Temple University
Major: Undecided



PELUSE, DELANEY
Branch: 857K
College: Salve Regina or Florida Southern University
Major: Nursing/Psychology



PULVER, VIERA
Branch: 716K
College: Texas Tech University
Major: Animal Science



REED, OWEN
Branch: 162K
College: Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Major: Safety, Health & Environmental Sciences



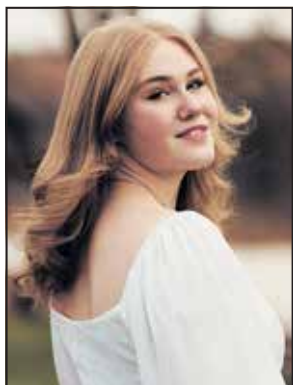
ROBERTS, CHARLES
Branch: 553KJ
College: Franciscan University of Steubenville
Major: English



SEFCHICK, DELANEY
Branch: 024K
College: Kenyon College
Major: Environmental Studies



STANYA, RYAN
Branch: 857K
College: Drexel University
Major: Electrical Engineering



SUDO, DANICA
Branch: 173K
College: Scranton University
Major: Biochemistry



URBAN, ABIGAIL MARIE
Branch: 108K
College: Shippensburg University
Major: Elementary Education



VALENCIK, JOSEPH
Branch: 450KJ
College: The Ohio State University
Major: Civil Engineering



VANNORSDALL, ANDREW
Branch: 553K
College: The Ohio State University
Major: Biochemistry



WASHCO, AINSLEY
Branch: 055KJ
College: Pennsylvania State University
Major: Division of Undergraduate Studies



WILLIAMS, ALANNA
Branch: 228K
College: Kent State University
Major: Speech Pathology



2024 Jednota Scholarship Winners



COLLEGE

GRADUATE SCHOOL



YANITY, KATHARINE
Branch: 393K
College: Duquesne University
Major: Sociology – Criminal Justice



ZELENAK, GRACE
Branch: 743K
College: Macomb Community College
Major: Social Work



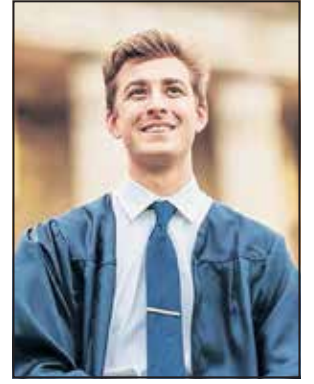
D'ANDREA, MEGAN
Branch: 553KJ
College: Youngstown State University
Major: MSN, FNP Nursing



FOLEY, GRACE
Branch: 153K
College: Governors State University
Major: Occupational Therapy



GREGORICKA-COLBY, DANIELLE CY
Branch: 756K
College: University of North Dakota
Major: Forensic Psychology Masters



HOGAN, GRAYDEN
Branch: 157K
College: Widener University
Major: Law



LYONS, TRENT
Branch: 553K
College: University of Cincinnati
Major: MA Human Resources



MONTELEONE, MARIA
Branch: 085KJ
College: Misericordia University
Major: Speech-Language Pathology



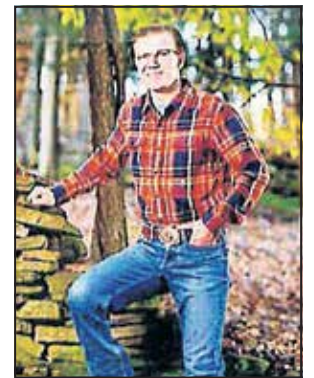
NACE MACCOLLUM, KATHARINE
Branch: 005P
College: Wilmington University
Major: Special Education Masters



VON PLESS, EMILY
Branch: 024K
College: Kent State/Akron University (NOAC)
Major: Audiology



TRADE/ VOCATIONAL SCHOOL



TOMANCHEK, AARON
Branch: 382K
College: Penn Tech or Johnson College
Major: Heavy Equipment Technician

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information – means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information – means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency – means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- Information you provide to us in an application or other form.
- Information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others.
- Information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, non-public information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us at the address shown above, to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

Jednota Publication Schedule for 2024

Copy Deadline Date:	Issue Date:
Monday, July 1	Wednesday, July 10
Monday, Aug. 5	Wednesday, Aug. 14
Tuesday, Sept. 3	Wednesday, Sept. 11
Monday, Sept. 30	Wednesday, Oct. 9
Monday, Nov. 4	Wednesday, Nov. 13
Monday, Dec. 2	Wednesday, Dec. 11

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TO MEMBERS OF BR 003K, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

There has been a merger between Branch 003K Minneapolis, MN and Branch 921K Minnesota, MN. All members of Branch 003K will now hold membership in Branch 921K. This merger has taken place as of May 20, 2024.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
6611 ROCKSIDE RD STE#300
INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131
(800) 533-6682

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Sincerely yours,
Kevin J. Collins

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

Food, Music, Dancing, and Comradery! - Branch 1, St Joseph Society, encourages our branch members to attend the June 22, 2024, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic. The picnic will be held at the covered outdoor pavilion on the grounds of St. Sava Church, 2151 West Wallings Road, Broadview Hts. OH. The picnic opens at noon and runs until 11:00PM. Admission is \$1.00. Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will serve traditional Slovak food and pastries for purchase; there will also be a full bar, and music for dancing and listening pleasure by the Anthony Culkar Band. Adult members of Branch 1 will receive \$15.00 in food/beverage tickets and children (10 and under) who are members of Branch 1 will receive \$5.00 in food/beverage tickets at the admission table.

Submitted by Barb Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Stephens Society, branch 006K, Streator, Illinois, will hold a SEMI-ANNUAL meeting on Saturday, July 27, 2024, 11:30am at the Eastwood restaurant, 2000 Eastwood Ave., Streator, Illinois.

The members attending will discuss the branch's scholarship awards for college bound students and a fall fraternal activity for its members. We welcome all members to attend our meeting and enjoy a meal and fraternalism. Please contact Paul Chismar, 815-822-8851 if you plan on attending the meeting.

Submitted by Paul Chismar,
Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 & Branch 855 are co-hosting Christmas in July! Join us for a fun filled day to mingle with fellow members and paint your own ornament Sunday July 28th at 1pm. The event will be held at the Walton Hills Village Hall; 7595 Walton Rd. Walton Hills, OH 44146. Each member will receive a free ornament of your choosing to paint. Non-members are welcome and may purchase and paint an ornament at the discounted cost ranging from \$7-\$10 (cash or check only). All pottery will be fired and ready for pick up in early August (TBA). Please bring your favorite cookie or treat to share. And to show our Fraternalism In Action, we'd like to ask everyone to bring a jar of peanut butter or jelly to donate to a local food bank. This event is guaranteed to be fun for the whole family!

Reservations are required by July 17th. To sign up, please call or text Fran Strekal, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 216-308-1728 or Stephanie Sutilla, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director, at 440-409-9405.

Submitted by John Moynihan, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 encourages our branch members to attend the June 22, 2024, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic. The picnic will be held at the outdoor pavilion on the grounds of St. Sava Church, 2151 West Wallings Road, Broadview Hts. OH. The picnic opens at noon and runs until 11:00PM. Admission is \$1.00.

Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

will serve traditional Slovak food and pastries for purchase; there also will be a full bar, and music for dancing and listening pleasure by the Anthony Culkar Band.

Adult members of Branch 24 will receive \$10.00 in food/beverage tickets. Children (10 and under) who are members of Branch 24 will receive \$5.00 in food/beverage tickets.

Submitted by John Moynihan, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK PA

St Michaels, Branch 35 will hold their semi-annual meeting via Zoom, on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include officers' reports, branch business and a discussion of upcoming events. Branch members who are interested in attending the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185.

Submitted by Janet Sullivan,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 28th at Chipper's Grill 1733 N. Bloomington St. Streator, IL at 2:00 PM. All members are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please RSVP by calling (815) 257-6142 (leave a message) by July 25, 2024.

Submitted by Theresa Graves,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Please join us for our meeting on Sunday, August 18, 2024, at 11:30 AM. Members are free. Guests are welcome, but will pay for their own meal. Cost is \$40.00 per person.

Location: Bander County Wood Grill (formally Brisco County) N96W16865 Cumberland Ct, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

That is at Highway 41 North and Country Q Exit Please call to make your reservation by 8/13/2024. You MUST CONFIRM. Please call Mike Novak, Branch 89 President at 414.445.5382.

Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to Mike Novak 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Submitted by Michael Novak, President

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 112, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania will hold a semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 22 at 10:30 AM at Knoebel's Grove. The meeting will be held at Pavilion R prior to registration for the National Picnic.

The meeting will include officers' reports and new business. We would like to propose the creation of an annual scholarship for one male and one female member of Branch 112.

All Branch 112 members who register with the home office and attend the picnic will be offered \$35. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Sterling at karenenglesterling@hotmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our National Picnic and the branch meeting.

Submitted by Matthew Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

Branch 132 Whippany, NJ, will have its next meeting on June 21 at 7 PM and will be leaving at 6:30 AM for Elysburg, PA, on June 22nd for the National FCSU Event. We have room for one more member and room for one member going to the Summer Festival on July 13 from 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM at the Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA.

Please contact Sue at 973-386-1936 if interested in joining us. This is a free event and is open to all members.

132 will also be attending the Simmons Farm National Picnic on October 5th and we will be having a meeting at 5 PM on October 4th and there is still room for one more in the van. This also is a free event open to all members!

Please note that our Christmas meeting is December 5th at 7 PM and Josephine will be bringing her delicious Christmas cookies. Please try to join us for the skiing, weather permitting, on Saturday! One of our members has moved to South Carolina

and welcomes you to visit when in the area. Call Sue for phone number and address!

Submitted by Sue Salko, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, IL

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold the Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 15, at 11:30 am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights. The District outing (A Tribute Show to John Denver) will be discussed in detail, at this meeting. A fraternal luncheon will take place after the meeting. Reserve your place by calling Dorothy (708) 995 7378 by June 8th.

The Tribute Show will take place on Sunday, October 13 at the Theater at the Center in Munster, IN. The show begins at 3:00 pm and will be preceded by Brunch at 1:00 pm. If you are not a member, the cost is \$81.60. If you are a Branch 153 member, the District will pay \$38.00 and Branch 153 will pay the remainder. So, there is no cost to Branch 153 members. However, a \$25.00 deposit is required prior to July 31. The deposit will be refunded once you attend the event. Reserve with Dorothy.

Submitted by Dorothy Jurcenko,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

All St. John the Baptist Society Branch 181 members and their guests are invited to attend the Annual Family Picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, June 30, 2024. Registration starts at noon with the picnic beginning at 1 p.m. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch. Contact Vicki at 724-547-0803 for more information or directions. Application deadline for the 2024 Branch 181 Scholarship for high school seniors planning to attend college or technical/trade school in the Fall has been extended to June 20th. Email Vicki at vicki15@zoominternet.net to receive an application. Please "like" 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!

Submitted by Vicki Hricik,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA

A business meeting for Members of Branch 199 will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Tunnel #2 Picnic Grove at Waldameer Park, Erie, PA. A group photo will be taken immediately following the meeting. After the meeting and photos, members are encouraged to spend the "Day in the Park" to share food and fellowship. Tickets for Branch 199 Members are available by contacting Sue Owens at 814-476-1541 or Barb Patula at 724-423-4745.

Submitted by Barb Patula, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

It's so wonderful to see flowers blooming and Robins singing. I am enjoying a Dove in my basket. She is not shy at all and I can't wait to see her babies. With nice weather, many kids have already been enjoying the nice weather recently. School will be out soon, so please use caution when driving in you areas. Kids don't always think about what they are doing.

We welcome all members to attend our meetings the 1st Thursday of each month except June & July. The meetings are held at 7:00pm at the Slovak CU at 910 Sixth Ave in Ford City. Call me @ 724-763-9229 or email me @ vschaub123@gmail.com for any details or suggestions of what you would like to see happen in 2024.

Submitted by Vicki Schaub,
Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday June 17, 2024 at 7 P.M. IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio.

Please pray to our Lord God to calm the environment and unite the world leaders to strive for peace among all the nations. Father God, please

hear our prayers.

Submitted by Thomas B. Zuffa,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

The officers of Branch 260 invite all of our members to join us this year at any or all of our meetings. Our meetings for 2024 will be as follows: Thursday September 12th and Thursday December 5th (this will be our election of officers meeting and holiday celebration). All of our meetings begin at 5:00pm and are held at Belleria Restaurant in Struthers, Ohio. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

Submitted by Carlie M. Peshek,
Vice President

BRANCH 260 - COITSVILLE, OH

Branch 260 invites its members to attend the 2024 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at Federal Plaza East in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 14, from 5 – 11PM and continues on Saturday, June 15, from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Created to showcase the rich traditions of the Mahoning Valley's Slavic ethnicities, Simply Slavic features ethnic food, a Slavic beer garden, and an ethnic marketplace, as well as music, exhibits, folk dancers, and much more. More details on the event are available at www.simplyslavic.org.

This year, any current member of Branch 260 (age 13 and older) will receive \$20 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 260 will receive \$10. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person from either 5 – 8PM on Friday or noon – 8PM on Saturday at the clearly marked FCSU table located inside the festival.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 330-774-9182.

Submitted by Carlie Peshek,
Branch 260 Vice President

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

Summer is here...

Time to join other FCSU members. Please check the Jednota for all scheduled events. Various Branch 320 members reached out with interest in the following:

June 18: Kennywood Park Slovak Day Pittsburgh, PA. FCSU will be celebrating Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Come attend Mass with the Bishop, and enjoy a day of Kennywood fun. Branch 320 members, please RSVP to Frances Tarquinio (724.929.9788) for reduced ticket pricing.

June 22: Knoebels Amusement Park Elysburg, PA. FCSU is sponsoring a fraternal outing. All are welcome. Please see Jednota for details.

July 28: Wildthings Park Washington, PA. District 12 will be hosting a Wildthings Baseball outing. All are welcome. Branch 320 members please RSVP to Joseph Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 before July 12 for reduced ticket pricing. Please see Jednota for details.

August 10: Wiegand Lake Park Novelty, OH. FCSU National Picnic. All are welcome. Please see Jednota for details.

August 17: Wildthings Park Washington, PA. Branch 320 will be hosting a Wildthings Baseball event. All are welcome. Branch 320 members please RSVP to Frances Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 by Aug 8, for reduced ticket pricing. Please see Jednota for details.

September 1: Guardians vs Pirates Baseball Cleveland, OH. The FCSU Ohio Region is hosting a fraternal outing. Guardians vs Pirates baseball at Progressive Field with tailgating before the game. Branch 320 members, please RSVP to Joseph Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 by July 30th for reduced ticket pricing. Please see Jednota for details.

October 5: Simmons Farm McMurray, PA. FCSU National Picnic. All are welcome. Please see Jednota for details.

continued on page 21

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 20

Special Thanks...

District 12 would like to thank all involved in planning and executing our successful 2024 District Picnic. A special thanks to Maureen Massafra (Branch 670) for going above & beyond, and Branch 320 for booking the pavilion at Cedar Creek Park.

Mary Anne Higginbotham (President - Branch 320) would like to thank American Legion (Post 949), Sons of the American Legion (Post 949), Boys Scouts of America (Troop 1313) and all Branch 320 members who partnered in multiple events to remember and honor our veterans this Memorial Day.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio,
Vice-President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

Saint Joseph Lodge #367 of Fairchance, PA 15436 will hold a meeting on Wednesday July 10th, 2024 at 12:30 PM. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at the Mountain View Café, 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA 15478. If planning on attending please call Kathryn Baranek at 724-569-1006.

Submitted by Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch - 450 members are invited to attend the Annual Family Picnic, hosting by Cleveland Slovak Radio Club. Picnic to be held on Saturday June, 22, 2024.

Starting at 12:00-Noon through 11:00 pm. Admission \$ 1.00

The picnic will be held at St. SAVA SERBIAN CHURCH, -Picnic Ground. 2151 West Wallings Rd.

Broadview Heights, OH. (Between State & Broadview Rd.)

Traditional Slovak Food and pastries will be available for purchase. Music for dancing and listening pleasurer will be provided by Anthony Culkar Band.

Adult members of Branch 450 will receive \$10.00 in food/beverage tickets. Children (10 and under) who are members of Branch 450 will receive \$5.00 in food/beverage tickets.

Submitted by George Carny President

BRANCH 628 – W HOMESTEAD, PA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin prior to the 4:00PM Slovak Mass on Slovak Day. We will gather in the same pavilion in which Mass will be celebrated.

The agenda will include current and upcoming events in the branch and district.

Submitted by Sylvia Velec,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

On behalf of the officers of Branch 670 – we wanted to update you on the activities for 2024 and inform you of opportunities for high school seniors.

Members are invited to participate in any and all activities of the Branch and are encouraged to bring along guests (fee for attending guests)

June thru October Other extracurricular activities (i.e., Polka Party, Festivals, FCSU Pirates game, Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, etc.)

Branch 670 has a Facebook page. Please log on and follow to see activities and events for the Branch. Facebook page: FCSU Financial Br 670, Donora.

If you would like to get emails regarding the activities of the branch, or if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to: Joseph Matinko (Branch President) at 724-565-5150 or matinko305@comcast.net, Maureen Massafra (Branch Secretary) at branch670secretary@gmail.com, or Nicole Hyatt (Activities Coordinator) at branch670activities@gmail.com.

We hope you can join us.

Submitted by Maureen Massafra, Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Wednesday, June 19th, 2024 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N

Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will address planning for the remainder of the year.

Submitted by Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 invites its members to attend the 2024 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at Federal Plaza East in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 14, from 5 – 11PM and continues on Saturday, June 15, from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Created to showcase the rich traditions of the Mahoning Valley's Slavic ethnicities, Simply Slavic features ethnic food, a Slavic beer garden, and an ethnic marketplace, as well as music, exhibits, folk dancers, and much more. More details on the event are available at www.simplyslavic.org.

This year, any current member of Branch 682 (age 13 and older) will receive \$20 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 682 will receive \$10. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person from either 5 – 8PM on Friday or noon – 8PM on Saturday at the clearly marked FCSU table located inside the festival.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 440-668-7797.

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 731 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 5 pm at Belleria Boardman (8485 Market Street, Boardman, Ohio 44512).

Submitted by Anna Schwanitz,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 731 invites its members to attend the 2024 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at Federal Plaza East in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 14, from 5 – 11PM and continues on Saturday, June 15, from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Created to showcase the rich traditions of the Mahoning Valley's Slavic ethnicities, Simply Slavic features ethnic food, a Slavic beer garden, and an ethnic marketplace, as well as music, exhibits, folk dancers, and much more. More details on the event are available at www.simplyslavic.org.

This year, any member (age 13 and older) of Branch 731 will receive \$20 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 731 will receive \$10. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person from either 5 – 8PM on Friday or noon – 8PM on Saturday at the clearly marked FCSU table located inside the festival.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 330-629-2505.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Bobby,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Saturday August 3, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$20. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by July 27th if you plan to attend.

Save the Date - The annual pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, DC will be on Saturday, September 14, 2024.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00 PM (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd,

continued on page 23

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements
should be sent to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 2 - REV JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT - IL, IN, KY, WI

Reverend John J Spitzkovsky District 2 will sponsor a District outing on October 13, 2024 at the Theater at the Center in Munster, IN. There will be a Brunch at 1:00 and a John Denver Tribute Show at 3:00. If you are not an FCSU member, the cost is \$81.30. If you are a FCSU member, the District will cover \$38.00 of the cost. If you are interested, contact your Branch Officer before July 31 to find out how much the Branch will cover.

BRANCH OFFICERS: All money must be sent to Treasurer Pat LaPorte by August 15, 2024.

Submitted by John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. JOHN E RURA DISTRICT - NJ

Districts 4 and 16 are organizing an outing to the Somerset Patriots Baseball game and BBQ on Sunday, July 28. Tickets are free for members of District 4. Non-members are welcome to join for \$36 per person/child. The price includes entrance to the ballpark, 90-minute Buffet, and designated picnic style seating. Come join us for a fun evening of fraternalism and baseball! RSVP is required. For details, contact Jo Anne Peppe at gsmgjp@aol.com by June 20th. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend!

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

DISTRICT 12 – THE MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT - PA

On July 28, 2024, District 12 is hosting a night of fraternal minor league baseball. All are welcome to attend the Washington Wildthings vs. New York Boulders in Washington PA. Come early to this 5:35pm game.

Sundays are family day at the park. This Sunday is Disney Night with appearances by Bluey and Bingo

Tickets are \$30 which includes a picnic style meal.

For tickets and information:

District 12 members please contact your Branch President.

Since this is an open event, anyone outside of District 12 can email Joseph Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com.

*All requests must be received by July 12, 2024.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2024.

1. Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.

2. Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024); Fireplace.

3. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

An Additional meeting might be called/scheduled if needed for fraternal activities.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. For questions or additional information please contact John L. Leskovyansky Jr. at home (330) 549-3788 or by cell (330-559-5981).

Submitted by John L Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NYC

The District 16 annual meeting of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District in New York City will be held on Sunday, November 10th, 2024, at 1:00pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E. 66th St. in New York City. The agenda will include discussion of upcoming activities for year 2024. After our meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NYC

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza Okresu č. 16 – Msgr. Stephen Krasula v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 10. novembra, 2024 o 13:00 hodine na fare slovenskeho kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street a 1st Avenue, New York City. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Autorka textu Renáta Jurášiová-Vasiľ, Pokladníčka

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NY

Districts 4 and 16 are organizing an outing to the Somerset Patriots Baseball game and BBQ on Sunday, July 28. Tickets are free for members of District 16. Non-members are welcome to join for \$36 per person/child. The price includes entrance to the ballpark, 90-minute Buffet, and designated picnic-style seating. Come join us for a fun evening of fraternalism and baseball! RSVP is required. For details, contact Jo Anne Peppe at gsmgjp@aol.com by June 20th. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend!

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

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

All members of District 17 from Branches 005P, 166K, 173K and 382K are invited to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at Knoebels Amusement Resort, 391 Knoebels Blvd, Elysburg, PA 17824. Check-in time begins at 11:00 A.M. at Pavilion R.

All Branch 005P, 166K, 173K and 382K members who register with the Home Office by June 3, 2024, and attend the picnic will receive a stipend of \$25.00 for members 18 years of age and older. Members under 18 will receive \$15.00. Stipends will be available at Pavilion R from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai, Fraternal Activities Director

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.

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
024K	Charlotte A Isham	200K	Kathy I Keagle	553K	Duane Kulton	856K	Patricia A Morgan
024K	Joseph G Bibb Jr	215K	Mary Halas Nemeth	553K	Jeffrey A Saylor	857K	John B Mitala
055K	Joanne F Hogan	254K	Victoria Bywaters	618K	Florence Levkus	900K	Virginia M Phillips
075K	Frank E Matincsek	259K	Beverly Yurcisin	628K	Rev Joseph V Kurutz	904K	Delores M Sprouse
086K	Regis Melego	276K	Marlene K Marzoch	670K	Clyde L Horton	904K	Lester N Schares
153K	Timothy C Drumright	290K	George W Vadinsky	682K	Edward J Zetts	915K	William D Ward
157K	Joseph Harcar	290K	Robert T Zabawa	731K	Charles E Dutko	916K	Arnold J Daley
166K	Catherine M Kunz	382K	Joseph Longo	743K	Mary Debski	920K	Eleanor J Keller
166K	Joseph Michael Sirsén	410K	Robert E Babuscak	746K	David Kohut	924K	Shirley A Braziell
166K	William L Hudy	429K	Richard Dero	831K	Helen Osan	926K	Kenneth J Vogeltanz
173K	Clement M Szczecinski	456K	John Pollock	855K	James A Snyder		

* Processed in the month of May 2024

Nekrológy – Obituaries

REGIS D. MELEGO, BRANCH 86 – MT PLEASANT, PA



Regis D. Melego, passed away Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024, at the age of 87. Born on Jan. 6, 1937, in Mt. Pleasant, PA, Regis was a man whose kindness, selflessness, and faith-filled spirit touched the hearts of many throughout his meaningful life. He departed this world in Greensburg, PA, leaving behind a legacy of love and dedication to his family and community. Regis was a devoted husband to Marlene A. Hostoffer Melego, whom he married on July 20, 1963, in a union that flourished with love and companionship. He was a cherished father to his daughter, Merriann M. Grant, and her husband, Mac, of Greensburg. His granddaughters, Alexandra F. Grant Lux, Ph.D., and her husband, Thomas, of Redwood City, CA, and Marlee K. Grant of Irvine, CA. He is survived by his brother, Lawrence Melego and his wife, Eleanor, of Mt. Pleasant. Regis was predeceased by his parents, Albert Melego, Sr., and Anna Blasko Melego; and his brothers, Eugene and Albert Melego, Jr. Regis's educational journey began at East Huntingdon Township High School, where he graduated with the class of 1955. His career path led him to become a skilled meat cutter, a trade he mastered during his nine years at Kraisinger's Market, Mt. Pleasant. He later dedicated 40 years of service to the Krystyniak family and Shop N Save, where he was well-respected and admired by colleagues and customers alike. His service extended beyond his professional life; Regis served in the PA National Guard from Jan. 24, 1959, until Dec. 7, 1961, and was honorably discharged and attained the Rank of Pvt. (E2). Regis was a devout Catholic and long-time member of St. John the Baptist R.C. Church, Scottdale, where he was known for his work at St. John Fish Frys, delighting many as the Master Fryer for numerous years. Regis's zest for life was evident in his diverse interests. He was an avid Pittsburgh sports fan, and he was so proud of having the opportunity to try out as a pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates. In his younger years, he showcased his athletic prowess by playing for various baseball teams in the area. His love for the open road was fulfilled on his

Harley-Davidson, a passion that gave him a sense of freedom and adventure. A man of many talents, Regis also had a deep love for mapping. He found joy in meticulously planning trips for family and friends, ensuring every journey was as smooth as possible. His musical tastes were eclectic, spanning from country to oldies and bluegrass, and his love for music often filled the rooms of his home with melody and rhythm.

Submitted by Marlene A. Melego

VERA A. BAKA, BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Vera A. Baka, of Euclid, Ohio, and Branch 24, died April 21, 2024, at age 95.

She was born April 8, 1929, in Cleveland to Slovenian immigrants Frank and Vera (nee Turk) Shepec. Her mother's grandcousin was Josef Turk, the first Slovenian in Cleveland.

She won a baby beauty contest. As a girl she studied piano. At Collinwood High School she played saxophone in the band. Music was a love of her life. She enjoyed polka music and bands.

She met her husband, Frank, a son of Slovak immigrants, when he moved to her street in Cleveland from Monessen, Pa., after his discharge from the Navy after World War II. They married Aug. 27, 1949, at St. Jerome Catholic Church. They began their family in Collinwood and moved to Euclid in 1955.

She started her working career at Eaton Axle. When her youngest child began school she worked for Picker X-Ray and Thompson-Ramo-Wooldridge, aka TRW, from which she retired.

She enjoyed playing the organ, pinochle and board games. She was a member of the Kelleys Island Homeowners Association. Her enterprises there provided lifelong memories for her family and friends.

Vera and Frank lived in two other homes in Euclid. They were members of St. Robert, Holy Cross and St. John of the Cross Catholic parishes.

Vera was an admired cook and baker. As a child of immigrants and of the Great Depression, shopping at thrift stores gave her pleasure. She traveled to Europe, Hawaii, the Caribbean and often to the Mountain West, Florida and Canada. While in England she visited a lifelong pen pal, a friendship that began decades earlier during World War II. In Europe she bonded with relatives,

who remained friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, son Jeffrey and sister Dorothy. She is survived by sons Kenneth, of Richmond Heights, Ohio; Daniel, of Cleveland; Mark (Barb), of Eastlake, Ohio; grandchildren Christine Dunn., of Summerset, S.D.; Jacqueline Morrow, of Essex, Conn.; Michelle Fearon (Caitlin), of Chester, Conn.; Elizabeth Tervo, of Rapid City, S.D.; Michael (Caitlin), of Eastlake; Jennifer Northern (Brad), of Mentor, Ohio; David, of Eastlake; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Submitted by Ken Baka

ALEXANDER S. DOBRIK, BRANCH 785 - MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Alexander S. Dobrik passed away April 18, 2024. He is survived by his wife Alice and sons Stephen (Cynthia) and Robert (Mary Louise), six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was past president of Jednota Branch 784 and warden at St Cyril and Method parish in Montreal. He will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by Stephen Dobrik

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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September 6th, October 4th, November 8th, and December 6th.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 -WARREN, OH

Branch 764 invites its members to attend the 2024 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at Federal Plaza East in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 14, from 5 – 11PM and continues on Saturday, June 15, from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Created to showcase the rich traditions of the Mahoning Valley's Slavic ethnicities, Simply Slav-

ic features ethnic food, a Slavic beer garden, and an ethnic marketplace, as well as music, exhibits, folk dancers, and much more. More details on the event are available at www.simplyslavic.org.

This year, any current member of Branch 764 (age 13 and older) will receive \$20 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 764 will receive \$10. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person from either 5 – 8PM on Friday or noon – 8PM on Saturday at the clearly marked FCSU table located inside the festival.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 330-469-7816.

Submitted by Bill Hrusovsky, President

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

Attention Branch 853 members - make your summer plans now! Come join us as we have interesting events planned:

June 15 - Simply Slavic Festival, Youngstown, OH. Contact the branch for details of where we will meet. Entrance fee paid by branch.

June 22 – Knoebels Park – FCSU National Picnic.

While the branch members are in the Hershey area, on June 21, the branch will also go to the AACA (Antique Automobile Club of America) Museum to see the 1975 Ford Elite which branch member Monica Boone donated to the museum and which is currently on display. Entrance fees will be paid by branch. Reservations required for meet up area.

June 26 - Private tour of the Eastern European Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning. Branch will pay tour fee. Limited spots remaining. Before leaving Oakland, if time permits, we will tour other historic areas.

July 9 – Branch 853 painting session in Charleroi, PA. Reservations required. Fee paid by the branch.

July 15 ending deadline of our annual photo event. "Happy Ways of our Summers Days".

What are you doing this summer? Everyone who participates will be acknowledged.

July 18 - American Slovak Day at Kennywood. Branch will purchase ticket for entry. Contact the branch president for where to meet.

For the events with an entrance fee, a reservation is required so the entrance fee can be paid by Branch 853 for its members. Events are subject to change. For more information and reservations email FCSUBranch853@gmail.com.

Submitted by Monica Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 855 encourages our branch members to attend the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic on June 22, 2024. There will be traditional Slovak food and pastries, a full bar, along with music in the covered pavilion by the Anthony Culkar Band for your listening and dancing pleasure. The picnic begins at noon and runs until 11:00pm at the St. Sava Church at 2151 W. Wallings Rd. in Broadview Hts Ohio. Admission is \$1.00. Adult members of Branch 855 will receive \$10.00 in food/beverage tickets and children (10 and under) who are members of Branch 855 will receive \$5.00 in food/beverage tickets when checking in at the admissions table. Come join the fun!

Submitted by Stephanie Sutilla, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 & Branch 855 are co-hosting Christmas in July! Join us for a fun filled day to mingle with fellow members and paint your own ornament Sunday July 28th at 1pm. The event will be held at the Walton Hills Village Hall; 7595 Walton Rd. Walton Hills, OH 44146. Each member will receive a free ornament of your choosing to paint. Non-members are welcome and may purchase and paint an ornament at the discounted cost ranging from \$7-\$10 (cash or check only). All pottery will be fired and ready for pick up in early August (TBA). Please bring your favorite cookie or treat to share. And to show our Fraternalism In Action, we'd like to ask everyone to bring a jar of peanut butter or jelly to donate to a local food bank. This event is guaranteed to be fun for the whole family!

Reservations are required by July 17th. To sign up, please call or text Fran Strekal, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 216-308-1728 or Stephanie Sutilla, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director, at 440-409-9405.

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON DC

Plans for the 59th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. D.C. on September 14, 2024 starting a 1:00 with the rosary and 1:30 with the mass. Would like to see more of our branch members come to our meetings and the mass. For more information call Katherine Nowatkoski at 919 -651-0363.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 857, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. This will be a virtual meeting and will begin at 7:30PM. If you wish to attend, please send an email to dnasta@fcsu.com and we'll send you a link to the meeting. The agenda will consist of updates on fraternal events and branch activities.

Submitted by Anthony Nasta, Recording Secretary



<https://www.washingtonwildthings.com/>

Vs



On July 28, 2024, District 12 is hosting a night of fraternal minor league baseball. All are welcome to attend the Washington Wildthings vs. New York Boulders in Washington PA. Come early to this 5:35pm game.

Sundays are family day at the park. This Sunday is Disney Night with appearances by Bluey and Bingo

Tickets are \$30 which includes a picnic style meal.

For tickets and information:

District 12 members please contact your Branch President.

Since this is an open event, anyone outside of District 12 can email Joseph Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com.

*All requests must be received by July 12, 2024.



<https://www.washingtonwildthings.com/>

vs



On Aug 17, 2024, Branch 320 is hosting a night of fraternal minor league baseball. All are welcome to attend the Washington Wildthings vs Lake Erie Crushers in Washington PA.

THIS IS "A BASEBALL FOR ALL NIGHT"

Tickets are \$30 which includes a picnic style meal. All Branch 320 members will receive a game stipend.

For tickets and information: Please RSVP by Aug 8 to Joseph Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 or tark918@gmail.com.

Branch 320, Belle Vernon, Honoring Memorial Day

American Legion Post 949, Sons of the American Legion Post 949, Branch 320 and BSA TR1313 honored our local veterans with a flag ceremony at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Over 3000 flags were placed during this event. A tradition flag disposal, Flag Burning Ceremony, will be held at the Post later this year. Thanks to all that were involved.

Branch 320 members, led by William Bury, said a special prayer for these veterans and all departed souls before placing flags on those who served.

Boys Scout of America (Troop 1313) participated in flag placement around the McMurry Area and a traditional flag retirement ceremony at St John XXIII (formerly St Benedict in McMurry, PA.)

Special thanks to William Bury (Branch 320) and George Eckert (Mon Valley Honor Guard) for scheduling this event with American Legion Post 949.

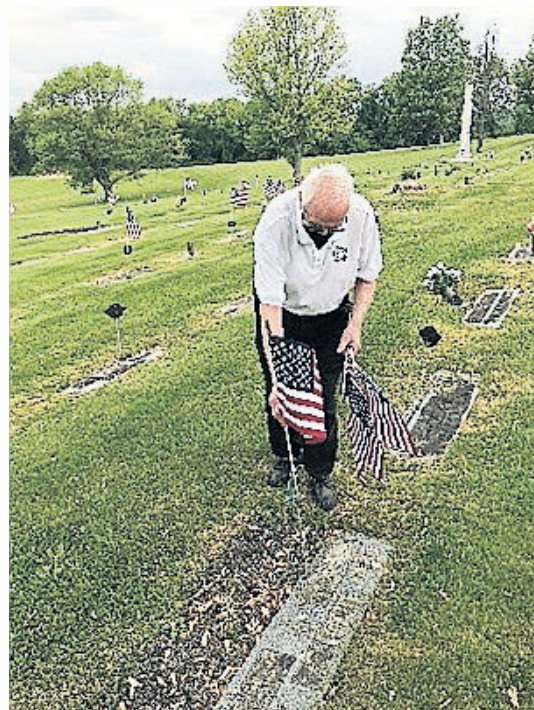
Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice-President



Devotion to the Sacred Heart is devotion to Jesus and his love. It is symbol of both the divine and human love that Jesus has for his Father and for us. It also symbolizes the interior life of Jesus which led to his willingness to lay down his life for us



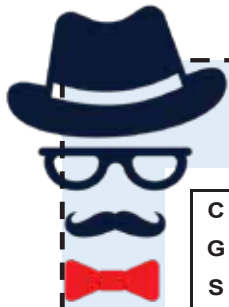
Placement by Patricia Davies (Branch 320) on her uncle's grave. John Bury, veteran of World War II.



Placement by William Bury (Branch 320) on his father's grave. Joseph Bury, veteran of World War II



According to the U.S. Flag Code, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Bruce Higginbotham (Branch 320) is seen here working with Troop 1313 scouts to prepare for burning.



FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

“Father’s day” Word List

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Múdry (Wise) | Father’s day |
| Šikovný (Handy) | Hero |
| Bezpečnosť (Safety) | Encouraging |
| Ochranca (Protector) | Strong |
| Pracovitý (Hard working) | Grandfather |
| Kravata (Tie) | Brave |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip code: _____
 Email: _____
 Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

RULES

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. One entry per member!
 Complete the word puzzle and email it along with your name,
 address, email and branch number to **contest@fcsu.com** or mail it to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by **August 1, 2024**.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

Each winner will receive \$50.

Congratulations to

APRIL PUZZLE WINNERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Paul J Soska Br 24 | Regis Rinko Br 38 |
| Pete Sullivan Br 35 | Mary Ann Gasper Br 85 |
| William J Bury Br 320 | |

KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
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27	28	29	30						31			32	33	34
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	56	57				58	59			60	61	62	63	
64						65				66				67
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

Across

- 1 OPEC land
- 6 Bursts
- 10 Mouselike animal
- 14 Little rascal
- 15 Stead
- 16 Declare openly
- 17 Third canonical hour
- 18 Exuberance
- 19 Shoestring
- 20 Letter opener
- 21 Query
- 22 Majority
- 23 Blackguard
- 25 Beget
- 27 Beneficial
- 31 Team supporter?
- 35 Starch source
- 36 Break loose
- 40 Epoch
- 41 Goodyear product
- 42 Elementary particle
- 43 Many a tournament
- 44 Self center
- 45 Asian skiff
- 48 Guitar part
- 49 Blue moon, e.g.
- 51 Unrefined
- 53 Executes
- 55 Wood-dressing tool
- 56 Whole bunch
- 58 Address book abbr.
- 60 Miles away
- 64 Dog pest

Down

- 65 Mongolian expanse
- 66 All of the words in a language
- 68 Not fake
- 69 Eagerly excited
- 70 Vote into office
- 71 Interjects
- 72 City between Boston and Salem
- 73 Fusion
- 1 Mil. transport
- 2 Like some drinks
- 3 Unadorned
- 4 Gym site
- 5 Short synopsis
- 6 Implore
- 7 Perfume ingredients
- 8 Valleys’ chums
- 9 Catch some rays
- 10 Appraises
- 11 Face shape
- 12 Wrestling hold
- 13 Merino mother
- 22 Scottish hillside
- 24 Stein contents
- 26 Rascal
- 27 Unqualified
- 28 Goat-like antelop
- 29 Kind of message
- 30 Other side
- 32 Bay of Naples isl
- 33 Curved moldings
- 34 Tither’s amount
- 37 Mobile device card

- 38 Bluecoat
- 39 Gasteyer of “Mea Girls”
- 43 Wide of the mark
- 45 Put on board
- 46 Sailor’s affirmative
- 47 The land of ___
- 50 Worthy principles
- 52 Flowering shrub
- 54 Smelly smoke
- 55 Set straight
- 56 Downhill racer
- 57 Toxic element
- 59 Black, to poets
- 61 Tumbled
- 62 Olympics jump
- 63 Puerto ___
- 64 Monk’s title
- 65 Guy’s date
- 67 Hog haven

92nd Annual Slovak-American Day

Sunday, July 28th, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Holy Mass at 12:00 Noon

Cultural presentation featuring the Tatra Slovak Dancers and the Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers at 2:30 p.m.

Hot food and refreshments will be available, including imported beer.

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Tom Pipak, #199 President
636 South Geary Street
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Written summary must be postmarked on/before August 2, 2024.

Sincerely,

Barbara Patula
Secretary/Treasurer
Branch #199

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Soul Food on 'When Calls the Heart'

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

If you need a break from the cynical stories that make up a good chunk of our media landscape today, take a trip to Hope Valley, the fictional town at the center of the Christopher Award-winning Hallmark Channel series "When Calls the Heart." Currently in its 11th season and airing Sunday nights at 9/8 C, the show, set in a 1920's Canadian frontier town, celebrates the better angels of our nature and the common good. The show's co-creator, Brian Bird, joined me recently on "Christopher Closeup" and credited the series' success to the fact that few other networks are making this kind of "soul food...about community, sacrifice, and people helping one another."

In the last three decades, Brian has noticed that TV programs often focus on the dark side of human nature. "When Calls the Heart" offers the opposite: "There's not a cynical bone in the body of this show. It reminds people that they need to be part of something bigger than themselves, that there's a reason for them...We're not just staring into the void of mindless, pitiless indifference, which is where I think secular culture has taken us...I believe we're put here by a Creator, and there is a purpose for our life. At a time when not too many people are talking about those kinds of subjects on television, we are."

Faith is also a recurring theme in "When Calls the Heart." In a recent episode, after Pastor Joseph mediates a dispute between his son and daughter, he looks up to heaven and mouths the words, "Thank You." It is a subtle expression of faith in a show that incorporates spirituality without thumping you over the head with it. "I've never believed personally in creating content that was just a sermon on film," Brian said. "What's important to me is that whatever we stir up on the screen stirs up something that pulls people together into conversation, into community, so they can help each other out...Sometimes, there's Scripture in the show and sometimes there's a sermon or a prayer, but we try to let the media become the facilitator for the human conversation."

Brian grew up spending a lot of time in church and came to faith at age seven. That faith was tested in his college years, while attending journalism school. Brian recalled, "I was being confronted with a much broader world...and a lot of questions. Journalists are naturally skeptics, right? You don't want to just drink the Kool-Aid every time you're given it from whoever you're talking to...You want to get to the truth."

Brian sought guidance from one of his journalism professors, asking him, "How do I reconcile who I have been...with this more complex, messy worldview that I'm now seeing?" The professor responded, "I'm also a believer. My advice to you is: don't be afraid of the marketplace of ideas because...truth will always show up. Ultimately, truth will rise to the top. But if you're afraid of the questions, you're going to be afraid of the answer. So, don't ever be afraid of the questions."

Brian explained, "For me, as an adult Christian, who reaffirmed my faith and my relationship with God and with Christ all those years ago in college, I'm now not afraid of questions. The Bible is full of questions, lots of existential doubt on display all across the Bible. And yet, there's a harmony of truth there that is as right-side up as the world is upside-down. Truth emerges despite the questions."

Dad's Special Place

By Anonymous

Mother is all that is noble and fine;
And all that is right and good.
She richly deserves every sonnet sung
To her glorious motherhood.
And when Mother receives some acclaim
The whole wide world is glad;
But away down deep in every heart
There's a place that is just for Dad.
We may not shower him with praise
Nor mention his name in song;
And sometimes it seems that we forget
The joy he spreads as he goes along,
But it doesn't mean that we don't know
The wonderful role that he has had.
And away down deep in every heart
There's a place that is just for Dad.

Insights and Viewpoints

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Matthew 16: 13-19

Gospel Summary

In his gospel Matthew establishes an inseparable link between the identity of Jesus and the meaning of the church. Further, Matthew affirms that the identity of Jesus and the meaning of the church are inseparable from the action of the heavenly Father. Simon from a revelation of the heavenly Father, not from flesh and blood, confesses Jesus to be "the Messiah, the Son of the living God." In response, Jesus confers upon Simon a new title, the Rock. Upon Simon, the Rock, Jesus, the Christ, promises to build his church. The gates of hell, Jesus further promises, shall not prevail against it. And to Simon Peter (from *petra*, the Greek word for "rock"), Jesus gives the keys to the kingdom of heaven with authority to "bind and loose" with divine sanction in the universal church (my church). On this feast of Peter and Paul, one should note Paul's affirmation that the heavenly Father, not flesh and blood, also revealed Jesus as Son to him (Gal 1:16).

Life Implications

In order to appreciate the lasting significance of the saints in the Catholic faith-tradition, we have to see the saints in relation to Christ, and thereby in relation to the Father and the Holy Spirit. It is through the creative action of the Spirit that we can see the saints as members of the church in divine-human personal communion. In this context we can then look at the unique personalities of the saints, and examine their unique roles in actualizing Christ's mission in the world.

Peter certainly has both a unique personality and a unique role in actualizing Christ's mission in the world. Christ gives him his role as the solid Rock upon which he will build his church. However, Christ also calls him a rock that might cause him to stumble. By trying to talk Jesus out of following his heavenly Father's will, Peter becomes an agent of Satan (Mt 16:21-23). It is no surprise that history teaches us that this characterization of Jesus applies not only to Peter, but Peter's successors as well. Christ continues to build his church upon the popes, Peter's successors as bishops of Rome; but like Peter they too at times can be like rocks on the road. Christ, however, does not permit evil to prevail over his church despite our human failings.

The gospels make no attempt to whitewash Peter's failures: he boasted about his loyalty to Jesus, but then denied him three times with curses. Despite his glaring weaknesses, you get the feeling from the gospel accounts that Jesus was fond of this rough-and-ready, uneducated fisherman. Peter was a constant, sometimes helpful companion in the crucial events of Jesus' life. After the threefold "Do you love me?" Jesus, now Risen Lord, says to Peter, "Feed my sheep." (John 21: 15-17) Acts of the Apostles tells the story of Peter's unique role in the early church as chief shepherd who cares for Christ's flock.

If Peter denied Christ three times with curses, Paul persecuted the Body of Christ with great zeal. Then one day on the road to Damascus, he heard those life-changing words "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" When Paul asked for the identity of the voice, he heard, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." From that moment of faith's recognition, Paul completely identified with the person of Jesus and his apostolic mission for the salvation of the world.

The lasting significance of Peter and Paul is that they are witnesses to the Lord's resurrection. To believe that Jesus is truly risen and alive in us is possible only as a gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Jn 3:24). The resurrection of Jesus, Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches us, is beyond the power of human reason to prove or to disprove (*Summa Theologiae*, III, q.55, a.5). Human reason ("flesh and blood") at most can offer only arguments for or against the reality of the resurrection. Yet, our affirmation of faith is from the solid ground that human reason provides. The historical testimony of Peter and Paul supports our faith not only because they proclaimed the Lord's resurrection, but because they gave their lives in martyrdom. Today, we pray to share in the gift of Peter and Paul's faith, and promise—despite our own failings—to be witnesses to the Lord's resurrection by our good works of love.

Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B.

Father's Day Facts

- ❖ Father's Day is a day honoring fathers, celebrated on the third Sunday of June in 52 countries around the world, including the United States, Canada and Slovakia.
- ❖ The first observance of Father's Day is believed to have been held on June 19, 1910 through the efforts of Sonora Dodd to honor her father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran and single dad, widowed when his wife died in childbirth with their sixth child.
- ❖ It took many years to make the holiday official. A bill was introduced in 1913, but it wasn't until 1966 that President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.
- ❖ In 1972, President Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June.

Chewy's Corner

Hi guys! Great to speak with everyone again. Thank you for all the warm wishes, I missed everyone!

Happy Father's Day to all the Otecs (Slovak for fathers, pronounced OH-tets) out there! My father taught me all I need to know. How to do our herding job, how to use my voice and how into the night and, most importantly, how to love one another! My favorite memory is when we used to climb to the highest peak together and admire the beauty of Slovakia. Those were some of my most fond memories. What about you, what did your dad teach you? What's your favorite thing you do with him?

One of my favorite things about June is that it is finally summer. Boy, it is heating up outside and the sun is shining! What is it like where you are? I am ready to be in the pool and out in the grass running around all day! The best part of the season is that it is time for vacation! I'm looking forward to stretching and laying out on the beach. Are you going anywhere this summer?

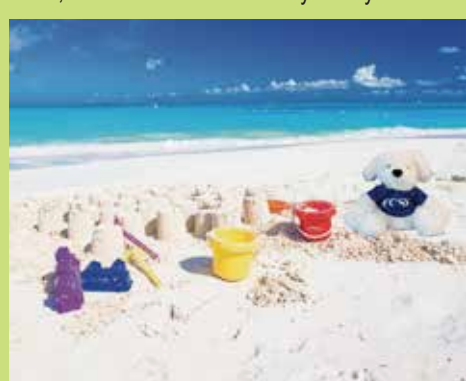
Speaking of the beach, that reminds me of the first time I went to one. I went on vacation to Myrtle Beach in South Carolina a few years ago in the summer. I had previously swum in pools and visited some lakes, but had yet to go to a beach, so this was a big deal!

Accompanied by some of my human friends, I stepped on the sand at my first beach. It was hot and a little difficult to walk in, I had to get used to my paws sinking below the surface. I got sand stuck in my fur- I was shaking it out for weeks!

There were a lot of people sitting on the beach with big colorful umbrellas and beach towels. I saw a lot of human children making these things called sand castles, which I got to assist in scooping sand into buckets to make the structure. I named my masterpiece Hrad Chewy! (Slovak for castle, pronounced H-rod)

Then it was time to hit some waves! I put my floaties and goggles on and ran full speed towards the blue water. The second my toes hit the water I knew I had made a mistake! BRRR! That water was cold!

Despite the temperature, I took my boogie board and paddled into the sea. The waves were pretty big that day, so with the help of my friends, we jumped them. The coolest thing about the ocean, was all the different creatures in the water. I saw small fish, crabs and even a jelly fish! I was careful not to scare or touch them and admired the sea life from afar. What is your favorite sea creature? Mine is a dolphin, although we did not see any this time. Once we got out of the water, I relaxed in the sun to dry off my fur and enjoyed the sound of the waves crashing.



Safe to say, I had a blast and I can't wait to go back! I think this year I'm going all out and learning to surf! Hopefully this year I'll spot something I haven't seen before in the wild. Have you ever been to the beach before? What was your favorite part?

I hope to catch up with you again soon. I can't wait to hear all about your summer fun! And don't forget to find me at the upcoming picnics!

Your friend,
Chewy

Where's Chewy?

Guys, I have a great game for us to play! Remember that sticker I showed you last time that I made during Covid? Here it is again so you won't forget. I want to play a search and find game in the Jednota with my sticker! Have you ever played Where's Waldo? Or an I Spy game? Well, this is kind of like that. Find the Chewy sticker!

Here's how to play:

For the next three issues of the Jednota, I will be hiding my sticker somewhere in the paper. It could be on somebody's photo, on a flyer or hidden in the corner of a page. Your job, if you decide to play, is to find me!

After I have hidden my sticker in three issues, send the three newspaper clippings of my hidden sticker to the Home Office: 6611 Rockside Rd. Suite #300, Independence, OH 44131. I will be selecting one special winner for a grand prize*! Make sure to include your name, branch number and return address so I know where to find you. Remember, if you do not have a physical copy of the Jednota, or forget to cut out my sticker, you can always find the issues online at www.fcsu.com/newspaper/.

Here's your hints for this issue:

- I am in the front half of this issue
- There is a picture of a golf ball on my page
- I am on the bottom half of the page

Where am I?

Let me know if you can find me! I'll catch you next time!

***Must be a Member in good standing 12 years of age or younger**



WELCOME TO OUR JEDNOTA FAMILY!

Russell & Rowan Schwanitz and Weston Blumer, newest Members of Branch 731, Youngstown, OH, and fourth generation Jednota members.

The children were born to proud parents Anna Bobby Schwanitz and Drew Schwanitz, and Maura Bobby Blumer and Scott Blumer, all Branch 731 Members. They are the grandchildren of Dave and Kate Bobby and great grandchildren of Jim and Jackie Bobby, also members of Branch 731.

Welcome to the First Catholic Slovak Union! May God bless you and your family!

Vitaj!



If you have a child or grandchild who recently became a member of the FCSU, please send us their photo to editor@fcsu.com so that we can feature them in an upcoming issue and give them a welcome gift.

June Word Scrambler

1. esrmru _____
2. lpoo _____
3. eic aecmr _____
4. eahcb _____
5. ciipnc _____

Learn Slovak

Hello – Ahoj (A-hoy)
 Thank you - Ďakujem (JAH-koo-yehm)
 Please - Prosím (PROH-seem)
 You're Welcome – Prosím (PROH-seem)
 Excuse me – Prepáč (PREH-paach)
 Summer – Leto (LET-o)



Answer Key

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| Ice Cream | Summer |
| Picnic | Pool |
| Beach | |

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Premiér po atentáte po prvýkrát prehovoril

Bratislava 5. júna (TASR/Teraz.sk) - Premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD) sa vo videoprihovore prvýkrát prihovoral občanom Slovenskej republiky.

Fico by sa podľa jeho slov mohol po atentáte vrátiť do práce na prelome júna a júla, ak všetko pôjde optimálne. Uviedol to vo videu, ktoré zverejnil na sociálnej sieti. Neplánuje žiadne aktívne právne kroky voči mužovi, ktorý na neho v Handlovej strieľal a nebude žiadať ani náhradu škody, odpúšťa mu. Označil ho za aktivistu slovenskej opozície. Poďakoval záchranárom, lekárom a zdravotníckemu personálu v Banskej Bystrici aj v Handlovej i všetkým za prejavenu podporu.

"Ak všetko pôjde optimálne, postupne by som sa do práce mohol vrátiť na prelome júna a júla. Je načas, aby som urobil prvý krok, a tým je odpustenie. Necítim žiadnu nenávisť voči neznámemu človeku, ktorý ma dostrieľal. Nebudem voči nemu vyvíjať žiadne aktívne právne kroky, ani žiadať náhradu škody, odpúšťam mu a nech si to, čo učinil a prečo tak učinil, vysporiada on sám vo svojej hlave," vyhlásil Fico. Potvrdil, že útok mu spôsobil vážne poškodenie zdravia, opakované operácie, veľa bolesti a utrpenia. "Bude malý zázrak, ak sa do práce vrátim o niekoľko týždňov," doplnil.

Motívy atentátnika premiér spája s opozíciou. "Pätnásteho mája sa ma v Handlovej pre moje politické názory pokúsil zavraždiť aktivista slovenskej opozície," povedal s tým, že nemá dôvod veriť, že išlo o útok osamelého pomätenca. Je podľa neho evidentné, že "bol len poslom zla a politickej nenávisťi, ktorú politicky neúspešná a frustrovaná opozícia rozvinula na Slovensku do nezvládnuteľných rozmerov".



Pictured
Robert Fico
(Smer-SD).
Photo: TASR

Prime Minister speaks for first time after assassination

Bratislava, June 5 (TASR/Teraz.sk) - Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD) addressed the citizens of the Slovak Republic for the first time in a video address.

Fico could return to work at the turn of June and July after the assassination if everything goes well. He stated this in a video posted on social media. He does not plan any active legal action against the man who shot at him in Handlová and will not seek damages either, forgiving him. He described him as an activist of the Slovak opposition. He thanked paramedics, doctors and medical staff in Banská Bystrica and Handlová and everyone for their support.

"If everything goes well, I could gradually return to work at the turn of June and July. It's time for me to take the first step, and that is forgiveness. I don't feel any hatred for the stranger who shot me. I will not take any active legal action against him or seek damages, I forgive him and let him deal with what he did and why he did it in his head," Fico said. He confirmed that the attack caused him serious damage to his health, repeated operations, a lot of pain and suffering. "It will be a small miracle if I return to work in a few weeks," he said.

The prime minister associates the motives of the assassin with the opposition. "On the fifteenth of May, a Slovak opposition activist tried to assassinate me in Handlová because of my political views," he said, adding that he had no reason to believe it was an attack by a lone madman. According to him, it is evident that "he was only a messenger of evil and political hatred, which the politically unsuccessful and frustrated opposition developed in Slovakia to unmanageable proportions."

(You can watch the entire video online at: <https://youtu.be/D1L7FfaLaxM>)

Bratislavský tím Hexadron vyhral svetové finále v robotickej súťaži

Bratislava 17. mája (TASR) - Bratislavský tím Hexadron vyhral svetové finále v najväčšej celosvetovej robotickej súťaži v nórskom meste Bodo. Piatim žiakom sa podarilo uspieť v najsledovanejšej disciplíne Robot game a získať tak prvú cenu Robot Performance Award. TASR o tom za tím Hexadron informoval Peter Siebert.

"Na finálovom kole v nórskom Bodo reprezentoval Slovensko tím Hexadron, ktorý v posledných štyroch ročníkoch zvíťazil na Slovensku a prebojoval sa tak už na niekoľko celosvetových kôl. Tím Hexadron zúročil svoje skúsenosti a obstál v konkurencii 49 tímov zo 41 krajín sveta," podotkol Siebert. Súťaž First Lego League (FLL) sa konala od 14. do 16. mája.

FLL je vedecko-technologická súťaž, ktorej sa každý rok zúčastňuje 30.000 tímov po celom svete. Je určená pre žiakov základných a stredných škôl. Názov témy aktuálneho ročníka bol Masterpiece, študenti sa venovali prepájaniu umenia a technológií.

Bratislava team Hexadron won the world final in robotics competition

Bratislava, May 17 (TASR) - Bratislava's Hexadron team won the world final in the world's largest robotics competition in Bodo, Norway. Five pupils managed to succeed in the most watched discipline Robot game and thus won the first Robot Performance Award. Peter Siebert informed TASR on behalf of the Hexadron team.

"At the final round in Bodo, Norway, Slovakia was represented by the Hexadron team, which won in Slovakia in the last four years and thus fought its way to several global rounds. The Hexadron team used its experience and competed against 49 teams from 41 countries," said Siebert. The First Lego League (FLL) competition was held from May 14 to 16.

FLL is a science and technology competition that 30,000 teams around the world participate in every year. It is intended for primary and secondary school pupils. The title of the theme of the current year was Masterpiece, students were dedicated to connecting art and technology.



Contestants and judges are pictured during the FIRST LEGO League National Finals and Festival, which took place in Bratislava on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Photo: TASR

NAKA obvinila tri osoby za schvaľovanie konania útočníka v Handlovej

Bratislava 19. mája (TASR) - Vyšetrovateľ Národnej kriminálnej agentúry (NAKA) obvinil tri osoby, ktoré na sociálnej sieti schvaľovali konanie útočníka v Handlovej. Aktuálne sú v cele policajného zaistenia, o ďalšom postupe rozhodne prokurátor. TASR o tom informovala hovorkyňa Prezídia Policajného zboru Denisa Bárđyová.

"Obvinené osoby mali na sociálnej sieti zverejniť príspevky, v ktorých schvaľovali konanie útočníka v Handlovej. Išlo o prečin schvaľovania trestného činu," skonštatovala Bárđyová.

Ubezpečuje, že polícia intenzívne pracuje na objasnení ďalších skutkov. Pokračuje v analýzach nenávisťných príspevkov a tých príspevkov, ktoré schvaľujú trestnú činnosť. V takých prípadoch môže ísť o trestný čin schvaľovania trestného činu, nebezpečného vyhrážania či ďalšie trestné činy. "Vo všetkých prípadoch budeme konať bez výnimky," odkázala Bárđyová.

NAKA charges three people for approving the actions of the attacker in Handlova

Bratislava, May 19 (TASR) - An investigator from the National Criminal Agency (NAKA) has charged three people who approved the attacker's actions in Handlová on social media. They are currently in police custody, the prosecutor will decide on the next steps. Denisa Bárđyová, spokeswoman for the Presidium of the Police Force, informed TASR about this.

"The accused persons should have published posts on the social network in which they approved the actions of the attacker in Handlová. It was an offence of approving a crime," said Bárđyová.

He assures that the police are working intensively to clarify further acts. It continues to analyze hate posts and those posts that endorse criminal activity. In such cases, it may be



Pictured in a government limousine, Prime Minister Robert Fico after a shooting at a government exit meeting in Handlová, Prievidza district, Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Photo: TASR

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

continued from page 29

a criminal offence of approving a crime, making a dangerous threat or other offences. "In all cases, we will act without exception," Barty said.

Čaputová a Pellegrini vyzdvihli úlohu cirkví pri zmierňovaní napätia

Bratislava 22. mája (TASR) - Cirkvi a náboženské spoločnosti zohrávajú kľúčovú úlohu pri zmierňovaní napätia v spoločnosti. Po spoločnom stretnutí v Prezidentskom paláci to uviedla prezidentka SR Zuzana Čaputová. Jej zvolený nástupca Peter Pellegrini vyzdvihol, že sa zástupcovia cirkví vedia v zlomových situáciách spojiť aj napriek svojej rozdielnosti.

"Cirkvi a náboženské komunity zohrávajú kľúčovú úlohu vo formovaní hodnôt, v určovaní spoločenského diskurzu a v neposlednom rade aj pri zmierňovaní napätia v spoločnosti," povedala prezidentka.

Po minulotýždňovom útoku na premiéra Roberta Fica (Smer-SD) si podľa jej slov musí každý klásť otázku, čo sa stalo a prečo sa to stalo. "Nie preto, aby znovu rozprúdil špirálu útokov na druhých, ale iba preto, aby každý z nás pochopil svoju úlohu v tom celom a na nej staval svoje nové myšlienky, slová a skutky a aby v sebe prehĺbil súcit," podotkla.

Zvolený prezident hovoril o množstve úloh, ktoré by mali viesť k tomu, aby sa spoločnosť poučila. "Tieto dni by nás mali opäť trochu zobudiť a povzbudiť k tomu, aby sme sa vrátili naspäť k našim hodnotám a pravidlám nejakého fungovania a správania," zdôraznil.

Predstavitel'ov cirkví Pellegrini požiadal, aby pri svojej činnosti hovorili o tom, čo sa stalo. Aby hovorili o hodnotách a o tom, aby sa slovenská spoločnosť upokojila. Verí, že v nasledujúcom období budú zjednocujúce signály pokračovať aj v iných častiach spoločnosti.

Bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Stanislav Zvolenský ozrejmil, že predstavitelia cirkví vyjadrili na stretnutí zhrozenie nad minulotýždňovým atentátom na premiéra, ale zároveň aj nádej, že chcú byť nositeľmi pokoja, porozumenia a vzájomnej úcty v spoločnosti.

Židovská náboženská obec podľa tajomníka Ústredného zväzu Židovských náboženských obcí v SR Martin Kornfelda vníma podobné incidenty, aký sa stal minulý týždeň predsedovi vlády SR, veľmi citlivo.

Generálna dozorkyňa Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania na Slovensku Renáta Vinczeová povedala, že hoci majú jednotlivé cirkevné spoločenstvá svoje odlišnosti, podstatu majú spoločnú. "Hľadáme to, čo máme spoločné, čo nás spája, a nie to, čo nás rozdeľuje," vyzvala.



Pictured, right, President Zuzana Čaputová and second, from right, President-elect Peter Pellegrini during a meeting with representatives of churches and religious communities at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. The aim of the meeting was to contribute to calming the social atmosphere after last week's attack on Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD). Photo: TASR

Caputova and Pellegrini highlighted the role of churches in de-escalating tensions

Bratislava, May 22 (TASR) - Churches and religious communities play a key role in de-escalating tensions in society. After a joint meeting in the Presidential Palace, the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová stated this. Her elected successor, Peter Pellegrini, emphasized that church representatives can unite in breakthrough situations, despite their differences.

"Churches and religious communities play a key role in shaping values, in determining social discourse and, last but not least, in de-escalating tensions in society," the president said.

After last week's attack on Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD), everyone must ask themselves what happened and why it happened. "Not to reignite the spiral of attacks on others, but only so that each of us understands our role in all this and builds our new thoughts, words and deeds on it and deepens compassion," she said.

The president-elect spoke of a number of tasks that should lead to society learning lessons. "These days should wake us up a little bit again and encourage us to get back to our values and rules of some kind of functioning and behavior," he stressed.

Pellegrini asked church leaders to talk about what happened. To talk about values and to calm down Slovak society. He believes that unifying signals will continue in other parts of society in the period ahead.

Bratislava Archbishop Metropolitan Stanislav Zvolenský explained that church leaders expressed their horror at last week's assassination of the prime minister, but also hope that they want to be carriers of peace, understanding and mutual respect in society.

According to Martin Kornfeld, secretary of the Central Union of Jewish Communities in the Slovak Republic, the Jewish religious community is very sensitive to similar incidents that happened to the Prime Minister last week.

Renáta Vinczeová, general overseer of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia, said that although individual church communities have their differences, they have a common essence. "Let us look for what we have in common, what unites us, and not what divides us," she urged.

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION BALANCE SHEET AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

ASSETS	
Bonds	\$488,910,473
Preferred Stock	4,250,000
Common Stock	1,969,886
Mortgage loans on real estate	41,151,656
Property Plant & Equipment	680,139
Cash	26,734,095
Certificate Loans	1,229,589
Other Invested Assets	9,018,446
Investment Income Due & Accrued	6,047,655
Uncollected premiums in course of collection	152,009
Total Assets	\$580,143,947

LIABILITIES	
Life & Annuity Reserves	487,505,689
Liability for deposit type contracts	24,545,107
Death claims payable	300,000
Provision for dividend payable	400,000
Interest maintenance reserve (IMR)	415,732
Asset valuation reserve (AVR)	5,107,526
Accrual for future convention costs	375,000
Post retirement reserve	747,306
Amounts retained as trustee	6,517,062
Other liabilities	348,871
Total Liabilities	\$526,262,292
Surplus	53,881,655
Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds	\$580,143,947

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION INCOME STATEMENT AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

INCOME	
Insurance & Annuity Premiums	\$11,930,980
Net Investment Income	6,531,715
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	90,967
Miscellaneous Income	5,195
Total Income	\$18,558,857
EXPENSES	
Death Benefits	685,908
Annuity Benefits	15,397,185
Surrender Benefits	104,863
Interest on deposit-type contracts	-314,925
Increase in reserves - Life & Annuity contracts	984,289
Commissions paid on new contracts	313,491
General Insurance & fraternal expenses	1,428,379
Insurance taxes, state licenses & fees	48,368
Net Change in Pension Fund	-199,934
Total expenses	18,447,623
Net Gain from operations before dividends	111,234
Dividends paid to policyholders	79,677
Net Gain from operations after dividends	31,557
Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses)	0
Net Income (Loss)	31,557

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT

Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, prior year	53,424,728
Net Income current year	31,557
Change in unrealized capital gain (loss)	656,282
Change in asset valuation reserve	-181,609
Other gains & losses in surplus	-49,303
Net change in capital & surplus current year	456,927
Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, current year	53,881,655

Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting Friday, April 19, 2024 Videoconference

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the March 16, 2024 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.:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The President led a discussion on the current annuity rates.

The Executive Committee decided the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Financial Report

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the fourth quarter of 2024 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of March for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 240,539.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 31,463.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Executive Secretary stated that he is in the final stages of creating commercials with local TV station Fox 8 to be used as a test market.

The Executive Secretary stated that they are working on a new incentive program for the independent agents. The Home Office has updated the agent software to better service the agents.

The Home Office is also working on a new program to recruit independent agents and a new insurance promotional program.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President stated that the Fraternal Activities Director is working with the Home Office on the upcoming bowling tournament on April 26-27, the golf tournament on July 12-14 and a family picnic on October 5. She is also working on a joint OH/PA District, Guardians vs. Pirates game in Cleveland.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Sabina Sabados stated that the Slovak Heritage Festival will be held in NJ on September 29, 2024.

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

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 15

L	I	B	Y	A		P	O	P	S		V	O	L	E	
S	C	A	M	P		L	I	E	U		A	V	O	W	
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A	D	D	S			L	Y	N	N		A	L	L	O	Y

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