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Message from the President

Our beloved Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, was founded in 1890 by Slovak immigrants with the guidance of a Catholic priest, Fr. Štefan Furedek, who himself came from Slovakia.

The Society was founded as a fraternal insurance company with a license to issue life and annuity products. It was meant to provide some financial support for immigrants who could not obtain insurance for its Members and their families on the commercial market for various reasons, including high risk occupations like work in coal mines, steel mills and tanneries.

In addition to insurance, the Society had a religious, social and fraternal purpose. It was founded, like all fraternal, with a common bond such as language, religion or other similar bond. One of the requirements to have a fraternal and obtain a tax exemption is to be formed on a lodge system, whether you call it a branch, a wreath, an assembly, or something similar.

The reason I bring this up now is that one of the primary reasons to form fraternal was to enable the members to foster fraternalism among its Members.

Over the many years one of our Society's missions as specifically provided in our Bylaws, Sec. 20.05, is to have Members pray for deceased Members at the funeral, home or Church.

This was again brought home to me after I recently attended the funeral Masses for the retired Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B of the Benedictine Order at St. Andrew Abbey and that of our Treasurer George F. Matta II and also that of Andrew R. Harcar Sr., our Vice-President. All will be greatly missed.

They were well known people and the funerals were well attended. But we all know of Members who were known only to their close family and friends. It is our responsibility to attend the funerals of our deceased Branch Members, if possible.

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Andrew M. Rajec



The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors, the First Catholic Slovak Union, extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Fathers and Members on Father's Day. Thank you for keeping our traditions!



Among the Fraternal Fun:

*Come Golf in August, pp 8, 9

*See Derby Winners, pp 11 - 13

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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homily, Father Father Killian Loch, O.S.B., Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

95 – 12th Sunday of O.T. – June 20, 2021

Today's scripture readings address a point common in the Bible: that of the grandeur and power of nature as an indicator of the glory of the creator. The scriptures are woven together in such a way that they trace the path of this idea from the early days of salvation history to the revelation of Jesus in the New Testament. We begin with the great suffering hero of the Old Testament, Job.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

Near the end of the Book of Job there is an encounter between Job and God in which the Lord of all creation forcefully reminds Job that it was God, and not Job, who created the universe and all that is in it. With this established, but without explaining his actions in allowing Job to be tested severely and to suffer, God makes it clear that Job has no right to question his judgment, for the creature does not question the creator. Job finally gets this, saying in conclusion: "Look, I am of little account; what can I answer you? I put my hand over my mouth" (Job 40:4).

Next, the Psalm begins by describing the immensity of the seas which struck ancient mariners as they plied their trade: "They who sailed the sea in ships, trading on the deep waters: these saw the works of the Lord and his wonders in the abyss." Then the Psalmist recounts how God protects his people even when they are nearly destroyed by the elements of creation: "They cried to the Lord in their distress; from their straits he rescued them, he hushed the storm to a gentle breeze, and the billows of the sea were stilled" (Ps 107:23-24; 28-29).

Job and the Psalm prepare for Jesus' assertion of authority over all creation in the Gospel: even the winds and the sea obey Jesus' words. It is worth noting that the events of today's Gospel reading take place on the Sea of Galilee, a lake which is not huge (it is far less than 1% the size of Lake Erie) but which is subject to quick changes in weather due to the local geography. It is not surprising, then, that we read: "A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up" (Mark 4:37).

When the disciples with Jesus in their boat encounter a sudden storm and fear they will drown, they wake Jesus, who remarkably had been asleep, and he "rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Quiet! Be still!'" After the tempest died down Jesus turned to his followers asking, "Why are you terrified?" (Mark 4:39, 40). The question sounds odd since it was perfectly reasonable for them to be alarmed over the storm, but Jesus soon reveals that his point goes much deeper.

By posing a second question: "Do you not yet have faith?" the Lord makes clear what he is getting at: the disciples' inability to trust him. That hesitancy to confide in Jesus began to fade after they saw his amazing command of nature itself, yet it would persist throughout Jesus' ministry and even show itself during his passion, when his closest disciples abandoned him.

The definitive response of the disciples to their own question "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" (Mark 4:41) would only come after the resurrection, when together with Mary—who always trusted entirely in her Son—they recognized the risen Lord in his glory. The journey of the disciples will unfold through the pages of Gospel; let's walk with them on this path as together we discover new and deeper trust in the Lord Jesus—the Lord of all creation.

June 27, 2021 – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Gospel – Mark 5: 21 - 43

The Gospel this week is somewhat unique in that it begins with a synagogue official approaching Jesus and expressing his faith that Jesus could heal his daughter. In other Gospel accounts Jesus does not seem to be popular with religious officials. Most of the time when they are mentioned in the Gospels they come across as adversaries of Jesus and not supporters of Jesus. Nicodemus, who is mentioned early in John's Gospel, comes under the cover of darkness so as not to be noticed by others, but by the end of the Gospel he is there at the cross to bury Jesus with Joseph of Arimathea. In this Gospel we have Jairus, the Synagogue official who is no doubt well known, coming right up to Jesus while he is in the midst of a crowd and saying, "My daughter is at the point of death, please come and lay hands on her, that she may get well and live." Like any parent who finds themselves in a desperate situation this man is willing to try anything for the sake of his sick daughter. It is the same plea made today by fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and so many others, for God to come and intervene in some serious and tragic situation.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

Jesus went with Jairus to his home and on the way encounters the woman who has been suffering for twelve years. In a similar desperate act of faith she reaches out and touches the garment of Jesus, and she is healed. Jesus knows that power has gone out from him and asked who touched him, and when the women admitted that it was she, Jesus says, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction." Jesus and Jairus continue their journey, but before they arrive word reaches Jairus that his daughter is dead. Jairus begins to send Jesus on his way, but Jesus insists on continuing and proclaims, "The child is not dead but asleep." They reach the house that is now filled with mourners, and Jesus goes in and heals the girl.

Accounts like these show us the healing power of Jesus. It is not a power that comes as a result of some magic formula, or one that we control, it comes from Jesus. The healing power of Jesus is present for us today and many times his healing comes to us through the Sacraments. I have seen people healed, strengthened or comforted by the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, by the reception of the Eucharist, by Absolution in the Sacrament of Penance, and so on to each of the Sacraments. Others are healed through prayers and devotions. It is Jesus who pours out his healing upon us in the way he sees is most needed by us.

The readings teach us not to be shy about approaching Jesus for healing. Neither Jairus nor the Woman held back in their desire for Jesus to attend to their needs. Because we don't know how Jesus will respond, or if he will respond according to our will, we might hesitate to ask. Faith involves taking the risk and reaching out to Jesus and trusting in his will. It is an act of Faith that Jesus' will be done. At times what Jesus sees we need, and what we think we need are not the same. Faith in Jesus involves believing that he hears our prayers, our cries for help and he answers them. He does so in his way, either dramatically or quietly and in his time.

Let us not hesitate to put our needs for healing, whether for ourselves or others, before Jesus. May we have the faith to pray boldly trusting that God's will results in our ultimate healing.

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Message from the President

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I remember as a young man, well before I became a Branch Officer, my father would remind me that a Branch Member had passed away and we should attend the wake or funeral. Often, I had not met the Member or knew him or her only in passing or only saw them in church. But they were Members and it was a fraternal duty.

I realize that often we do not know a deceased or know them only slightly, but it is a fraternal obligation that we can meet by participating in a wake or Mass, sometimes on-line.

In today's world we seldom talk about or even hear of the Catholic Church's seven "Corporate works of mercy" or the seven "Spiritual works of mercy". They include "to bury the dead" and "to pray for the living and the dead."

Pope John Paul II issued an encyclical in 1980 regarding these works of mercy.

I encourage all our Members and especially Branch officers to practice this fraternal act in person whenever possible.

I understand as the ethnic bonds are stretched and people become more mobile and move around the country and world, this becomes more difficult. I encourage you to do your best and be fraternal.

Z'bohom

God be with you.

Fraternally,
Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Saints Cyril & Methodius Appeal Continues in June

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 43rd 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 31, \$17,959.50 has been received from 167 donors. Along with the Home Office of the FCSU, the following Branches have made donations: Branch 1, Branch 3, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 89, Branch 112, Branch 166, Branch 173, Branch 181, Branch 213, Branch 254, Branch 276, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 484, Branch 746, and Branch 764. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 2021 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, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 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 Epiphany Parish, Sayre, 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 Parish, Pennel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

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Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Our Lady of Grace Church
225 Bellevue Avenue
Pennel, PA 19047-4052

Message from the National Chaplain

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers! Thank you for accepting this special vocation. Yes, fatherhood is a vocation, a response to a call by God to take on a responsibility to raise and nurture a child. As we are in the Year of Saint Joseph, our observance of Father's Day this month is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on three roles of fatherhood in the life of Saint Joseph.

Protector. This is the first attribute of Saint Joseph's fatherhood we come across in the Scriptures regarding Saint Joseph. Two times an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to warn Joseph about an impending danger. He took immediate action both times. He took the Child Jesus and his mother and fled to Egypt to escape the murderous threats of Herod. Joseph's intention to return home to Bethlehem was changed once he became aware of perils that awaited him and his family. A father's instinctive bond of love with his son(s) and daughter(s) is such that he will do what it takes to prevent any harm from coming to his child(ren).

Teacher. Joseph, along with Mary, took the child Jesus each year with them to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. We can surmise they gave Jesus during his boyhood not only formal instructions in the Law of Moses and special religious observances, but also taught him by their own example. A father's influence on his child(ren) cannot be underestimated. A son or daughter will often imitate their father's values, attitudes, and preferences. A father may not be even aware he is teaching his child(ren) daily, but his own example will often become part of their lives.

Provider. Scripture reveals Jesus was known during his public ministry as the "son of a carpenter." Carpentry in biblical times was very hard work. A carpenter needed to be physically strong and have great stamina in plying his trade. Using primitive tools, the carpenter acquired the skill to fashion things such as doors, low tables, and chests for inside the home, and wheels, yokes, and plows for farmers. Joseph earned his living doing this physically demanding work so his family could have food, clothing, and shelter. Many fathers go to work each day. That work may be done indoors or outdoors. It could be tedious or intensive, emotionally draining or physically challenging. It may take place at home or by commute. Whatever or wherever his work is, today's father works for the same purpose as Joseph, to provide their families with the same basic necessities of life.

Pope Francis concluded his letter from last December announcing the Year of Saint Joseph with this prayer:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us, too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Saint Joseph, protector, teacher, and provider of the Child Jesus, pray for us.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



District 9 Officers Elected at May Meeting

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District held its annual meeting on Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 1:00M at Caporella's Italian Ristorante in Uniontown, PA, at which district officers were elected. Each officer (L – R) was re-elected to their position: Barbara Holly, Secretary; Kathryn Baranek, Auditor; Patty Speshock, Vice President; Dolores Marmol, Treasurer; Tom Kocis, Auditor; James Marmol, President; with Joanne Marmol, Branch 162 Vice President, conducting the oath of office.

- Submitted by James Marmol, Region 4 Director

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

From the Office of the National President



In our last issue of Jednota, I introduced the first part of the Preface written by Right Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Dubosh, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood, OH for the book entitled "SLOVAK CATHOLIC PARISHES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA". [Editor's note: please see page 9 of the May 12, 2021 issue]

The entire Preface comments on the history, both past and present, of the Slovaks and the Catholic Church, as he saw it in 1955.

Of course, many things have changed since

1955, some for the better, such as the break-up of the Soviet Union and the independence of Slovakia. Other things were not as positive, including the spread of materialism, poverty and hunger, etc. In some ways "the more things change, the more they stay the same," a quote from the French writer Jean-Baptiste Karr, or the "Yogi-ism" from Yankee Hall of Famer Yogi Berra, "it's like

Déjà vu all over again".

As we know change is constant and yet many issues become repeated. How did "The War to end all Wars", the term to describe WWI, turn out?

I am reminded of a phrase I have heard several times, with some variations:

"A few people will learn from other people's mistakes; some will learn from their own mistakes while many will continue to repeat the same mistakes."

This is the human condition, or in a religious context the effects of "original sin". Hopefully, we can all minimize our mistakes for the benefit of us all.

Faternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Part II of the Preface from "SLOVAK CATHOLIC PARISHES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA"

The history of the Slovak Nation is a history of thralldom (bondage) and exploitation; for over ten centuries it has been but a pawn in the hands of alien rulers. Its freedom, security, economy and territorial integrity have always been determined by foreign rulers, who had little or no regard for the spiritual and material interests of the Slovak people. Hence, no other nation has been so thoroughly misunderstood and misrepresented, maligned and vilified by the alien rulers who dominated the Slovaks and presumed to represent them and pretended to safeguard their national interests, but actually exploited their material and spiritual wealth and utterly disregarded their inherent, God-given right to freedom and political independence.

The Slovaks fought valiantly against their enemies, but finally were overcome by vastly superior forces of the Germans and the Magyars at the beginning of the tenth century. They lost their independence, but not their inherent right to a life of freedom even when their territory became a part of the Hungarian kingdom at the beginning of the eleventh century.

In the centuries that followed, the Slovaks were able to preserve their language, their religious and national traditions, only because they had zealous, devoted priests administering unto them. Without them, the Slovaks undoubtedly, would have disappeared from the stage of history as a national entity and, probably, would have been lost to the Catholic Church, the one, true Church of Jesus Christ.

After the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary was established in 1867, the Magyars ruled with absolute authority over the non-Magyar population, coercing all Hungarians to become Magyars. However, the more the Magyars oppressed the Slovaks, suppressing their language and persecuting their leaders, the more determined they became to preserve the Slovak heritage of past generations, their language, culture, national and religious traditions. When World War I broke out, the Slovaks made their bid for freedom and independence.

When T.G. Masaryk, a representative of a minority Czech group in Austria, fled into exile to work for the destruction of Austria-Hungary and promote the establishment of a Czecho-Slovak republic, he soon received support in England and France, and even in Russia. But the idea did not create a great stir in America until after he came to America in the spring of 1918 to seek the support of Americans of Slovak and Czech descent. Meeting with Masaryk and Czech representatives in Pittsburgh, PA., on May 30, 1918, to discuss the question of forming a joint political state with the Czechs, Slovak representatives through the Slovak League of America declared that they would be willing to go along with the Czechs only if Slovakia were guaranteed complete autonomy, that is, states' rights, within the framework of Czecho-Slovakia, which Masaryk said would be a federation of states like Switzerland or the United States of America. Masaryk assured both Slovak and Czech representatives that the Czechs and Slovaks would be masters of their own households, with freedom of speech, religion, the press and assembly prevailing in the country.

The Slovaks, however, were definitely not satisfied with Masaryk's repeated oral assurances and insisted on a written agreement. Accordingly, Masaryk drafted an agreement which was discussed and amended by the group, and then adopted unanimously. Masaryk and the Czech and Slovak representatives signed the agreement -Pittsburgh Agreement - which guaranteed the Slovaks full autonomy, states' rights, within the proposed new state of Czecho-Slovakia. If the Slovaks of America had decided not to go along with Masaryk, there would not have been a Czecho-Slovakia. (Created in 1918 after WWI)

However, it was not long after the Slovak and Czechs began to enjoy their newfound freedom that the faith of the Slovaks in the Czechs was given a sever jolt. With T.G. Masaryk and Dr. Edward Beneš in the political saddle in Prague, executive, legislative, and judicial posts in the Czecho-Slovak Republic were given to "progressive, liberal-minded" and "free-thinking" Czechs, who wasted little time in letting the Slovaks know just how they felt about Catholicism. When a host of Czechs came to Slovakia to help the Slovaks rule their State, they brought with themselves the passions and excitement of the feud which had been stirred up against the Roman Catholic Church in Bohemia. Most of these "progressive, free-thinking" Czechs had identified Austrian domination with the Catholic Church and, hence, wished to see the destruction of the former followed by the ruin of the latter. If they imagined - they had no reason to - that such views would meet with the same response in Slovakia as at home, they were utterly mistaken. The Czechs soon discovered to their utter consternation that they had given the greatest possible offense to the religious feelings of the Slovak population, Catholic and Protestant alike.

The creation of the "Czechoslovak National Church" was strictly a Czech enterprise, which had the blessing of the Prague Government and the condemnation of the vast masses of the Slovak Nation. Political and religious leaders of Slovakia realized that the Masaryk and Beneš governments did not miss the opportunity to embarrass the Catholic Church and

resented it deeply.

To add further insult to injury, Masaryk and Beneš repudiated the Pittsburgh Agreement and so doomed the existence of the Republic in its infancy. Realizing they were in a worse situation than they were under Hungary, the Slovaks protested and fought back, but in vain - that is until the great crisis of 1938.

Without consulting parliament, President Edward Beneš surrendered to Hitler in 1938 and then cowardly fled to England. On October 6, 1938, the Prague Government granted autonomy to Slovakia, but by then the situation in Czecho-Slovakia was quite hopeless. On March 14, 1939, the duly elected representatives of the Slovak people in the Bratislava Assembly declared the independence of Slovakia. The Slovak Republic was recognized in one form or another by twenty-seven countries, including Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Poland, and the Vatican. The Slovaks, under the leadership of Monsignor Dr. Joseph Tiso, President of the Slovak Republic, enjoyed more freedom than they ever did before in their history. Unfortunately, they did not enjoy their independence very long. The Communist-inspired revolt of August 1944 brought the Hitler Army to Slovakia and with-it bloodshed and new hardships.

In the spring of 1945, Slovakia was forced under the rule of Dr. Edward Beneš once again, after he had made himself "president" and reentered the country, via Moscow, behind the Soviet army. Soon thereafter, all Church property was nationalized and taken over by the State. Slovak political and religious leaders were brutally beaten, jailed, murdered, disfranchised and deported to the Soviet Union. Dr. Joseph Tiso and the Slovak government, who had surrendered to the United States military authorities in Austria, were eventually surrendered on order of the State Department, contrary to American tradition, to the Beneš government. Dr. Tiso was tried by a "people's" court, condemned and shamefully hanged on April 18, 1947. Later the Communist-dominated National Front government of the Beneš-Gottwald coalition persecuted all anti-Communist elements in Slovakia, then created the institution of "patriotic" priests and its own spurious "Catholic Action" to confuse the people and embarrass the Catholic Church in Slovakia.

Slovakia thus became just another Catholic Christian country sacrificed to the Red Moloch of the Kremlin. The Slovak Nation, which had consistently and persistently repudiated the Godless philosophy of materialistic communism for over a hundred years through no fault of its own, was forced under the rule of Moscow, the victorious United Nations acquiescing to the destruction of the Slovak Republic without even attempting to ascertain the will of the Slovak people. We can imagine the feelings of the Slovak people, but we are quite certain that the Slovaks shall outlive even this new tyranny as they have, with God's help, outlived the others. And we their Catholic brethren in America hope and pray that their liberation may be speedy and thorough.

Slovaks everywhere are firmly convinced, after sad experiences of the past three decades, that the Slovak Nation can best safeguard its national existence, its national and religious traditions, and better serve God, Holy Mother Church, and all fellowmen only if it is completely free and politically independent to rule its own household, the territory inhabited by the Slovaks for the past 1500 years.

The Slovaks ask secular and ecclesiastical authorities of all nations of the world to recognize and respect at long last a simple truth which has been known to the Slovaks and the Czechs for many centuries, that is, that the Czechs are not and do not desire to be Slovaks, and the Slovaks are not and do not want to be Czechs. The Slovaks and the Czechs are two distinct ethnic entities. They did not have a common history, language, national and religious traditions, and they did not inhabit the same territory in Central Europe. The Slovaks make no claim to Czech history, or the material and spiritual achievements of the Czech nation; they do not covet Czech territory; and they do not ask the Czechs to represent the Slovak nation in any field of human endeavor.

The Slovaks, ever faithful to the Commandments of God and the precepts of Holy Mother Church, recognize and respect the God-given right of all nations, including the Czech nation to freedom and political independence, but by the same token they expect the leaders of all nations, including those of the Czech Nation, to realize that the Slovak Nation, too, has the same inherent and God-given right to freedom and political independence. The recognition of the political will of the Czech and Slovak peoples must be sincere and mutual. And in the struggle against the plague of communism and other destructive ideologies, which have singled out the Catholic Church in particular for the most brutal persecution in our times, the Slovaks want to be united with all the Christian nations of the world and not particularly with, and only with, the Czech Nation, or through it. Their fight against the enemies of God

continued on page 5

Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

It is no secret that immigrants have provided our nation with a strong and blessed support. Our Sisters who emigrated from central Europe have contributed mightily not only by their spiritual presence but also by the works they have performed in convents, parishes, schools, hospitals, homes for the elderly and by their very presence which has brought joy and comfort to all with whom they came into contact.

With this next Sister in the series, Sister Maria Baran, we learn how she followed her desire for religious life all the way from Slovakia to the United States. Her religious life was marked by her joy in serving the Sisters, the elderly, the priest-chaplains, and especially the novices.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

Sister Maria Baran



The workings of Divine Providence are evident in Sister Maria Baran's life from the very beginning. When her parents lost two infant daughters, they prayed for another child. When they were blessed with twins, they named them Joseph and Mary. Because Joseph was so weak, he died in a short time. Much love was lavished on Mary, their surviving child. Her parents gave her good example and from earliest childhood she learned prayers to Our Lady and her Guardian Angel. Even as a youngster she enjoyed reading the life of Christ, the Gospels and the lives of St. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

When Maria was about eight, a Sister came to visit her family in their village, Liptovská Teplá. This visit sparked a desire in her to become a religious. Entering a congregation in Slovakia, however, was impossible because a dowry was necessary and Maria's parents could not supply one because of their extreme poverty. Her uncle, Peter Baran, suggested she come to the U. S. so that she could be of help to the family financially. At age 18, Maria came to Newark, New Jersey, where her uncle had his own leather factory. This is the advice he gave her: "Zaujímáte sa, lebo všetko v živote je zaujímavé." "Be interested, because everything in life is interesting." Evidently she followed his advice. Maria had an open, inquiring mind and enjoyed practicing her bilingual skills in reading, writing and speaking.

While in Newark, she worked for a wealthy family where she learned to serve a meal with a professional flair. Father Anton Gracik was a devoted friend of her uncle and aunt, and to him she confided her desire to become a religious. Father immediately suggested that she belonged with the "Cyrilky." Maria wrote to Mother Pius, the General Superior, and received a prompt reply. At age 23 she left Newark from St. Stephen's parish to enter the novitiate in Danville on November 2, 1926. When she was received as a novice on July 7, 1927, she took the name Ildephonsa which she had for 40 years until Vatican II permitted religious to return to their baptismal names.

From 1963-1969, Sister was missioned to the Villa where she cooked for the novices. The Sisters I spoke to recently remember her as a smiling, happy person who really cared about "her novices." Sister made delectable Slovak dishes, kolač, holupky, pagač, lokša, and pirohy which were small and light as a feather filled with lekvar, potato and cheese or sauerkraut. She made hearty soups, disguised leftovers, and served many healthy fruits and vegetables from the Sisters' truck garden at that time. Cantaloupe and rhubarb became favorite desserts. She was also a great baker. The young Sisters looked forward to her homemade long rolls for "sailor boys," delicious cheese-filled hot dogs wrapped with bacon.

In the late 1960's, the novices were surprised to learn that Sister Ildephonsa never served cheeseburgers because she was not familiar with that food. After they described them for her, she said she would make them for dinner that week. A few days later, the novices' eyes were like saucers when they saw the platters of giant cheeseburgers on homemade buns. Delicious sandwiches, but one cheeseburger would have served four people. They had forgotten to give Sister any size information!

Sister Ildephonsa loved to play Parcheesi. When anyone would throw doubles with the dice, she would smile from ear to ear while announcing "FOURTEEN," and immediately move the marker fourteen spaces without counting them out. Novices enjoyed playing with and against her, and they all often bet on the winner. For example, if Sister and her partner won, she would make banana cream pie for dessert the next day and if she lost, she would make chocolate cream pie.

Once when Sister Ildephonsa was to leave the kitchen for a special 11 o'clock retreat Mass, she instructed Sister Sara, a novice, to put her dinner rolls into the oven at 11:15. When Sister took the perfect golden rolls out of the oven, she asked Sister Sara if she had blessed them before baking them. Sister Ildephonsa was not pleased that the nineteen-year-old novice did not know about this custom. To this day, Sister Sara says she has never put anything into an oven without blessing it first!

Just a week before she died and with a twinkle in her eye, Sister Maria Baran told of how she liked to make her favorite pastries, give the novices a few on the side and even have some ready to give to their visitors. This story is corroborated by Sister Brigid who also likes to bake. "Sister Maria Baran had a lot of energy and liked to bake. Her best time for baking was in the afternoon when most people were ready to take a little rest."

Sister Maria Baran also felt it was important to reach out to young women who might have a vocation to religious life. When she was missioned to Wilkes-Barre, she became acquainted with Mrs. Godlewski who baked bread every Friday and had her daughter Mary Anne take a loaf over to the convent. Sister Ildephonsa always invited Mary Anne to visit the chapel on the second floor where she let her pray. Mary Anne turned sixteen on September 6 and on September 8, 1957, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, Mary Anne entered the novitiate in Danville as a postulant.

Sister Maria Baran went to Villa Saint Cyril, Highland Park, Illinois in 1969 after leaving

the novitiate and remained there until 1984. Sister found special fulfillment as she worked with the lay staff in ministering to the needs of the 100 aged residents. She lived up to the ideals of the patron saint whose name she took when she received Confirmation at age 21—Teresa. She made it her special mission to pray for priests and served them in whatever way she could. For instance, Sister considered it a privilege to serve meals to the Villa chaplain, Msgr. Murphy. Later at Maria Hall she served meals to Father Deller, the chaplain there. What was the source of her diligence and the prayers she offered up for all she encountered? The time Sister Maria Baran spent before and after a day's work in chapel interceding for the Church, local and universal.

After her long tenure at Villa St. Cyril, Sister Maria Baran retired to Maria Hall where she remained until her death on December 3, 1986. Her funeral celebrated on December 6 was unique in that she requested a pot of blue African violets and a bouquet of red roses to be placed near the casket. They spoke of her desire "to live a life hidden with Christ in God," Colossians 3:3. The hymns she herself chose were particularly meaningful, "Soul of Christ, sanctify me" and "Slávne Meno Marie." In her casket was placed a candle with a crown, the candle a Jubilee gift from Sister Priscilla with whom she was missioned at Villa St. Cyril in Highland Park.

From the Office of the National President

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and the Catholic Church must not be misconstrued as a fight for the continued existence of Czecho-Slovakia, the political monstrosity created and developed by T.G. Masaryk and Dr. Edward Beneš, in the image of the Godless philosophy of materialistic socialism.

It may be well to recall that the dioceses of Slovakia are not subject to the Czech ecclesiastical provinces of Prague and Olomouc, but immediately to the Holy See. Uninformed writers usually refer to the Archbishop of Prague as the primate of Czecho-Slovakia, the head of the Church in the Czecho-Slovak Republic, as if the ordinariates of Slovakia were responsible to Prague, which, of course, is not correct. And it is especially embarrassing when such inference is made by Catholic writers and publications.

The pages that follow are a record of Catholic Action of Americans of Slovak descent, the sons and daughters of the generations of Slovaks which claim their origin from those who built the first Christian church at Nitra, Slovakia, in 830A.D., and were strengthened in the Faith by the apostles who served their spiritual needs in a language known to them, the illustrious Saints Cyril and Methodius. The Committee entrusted with the task of preparing this record makes no claim that it is complete. It is also aware of the fact that a few of the churches recorded were not and are not entirely Slovak, but "mixed" churches; theses have been listed, because the Slovaks played a leading role in their foundation. In some instances, churches built by Slovaks are being taken over by other nationality groups or are becoming metropolitan in character. Of course, the institutions in this record are not the only ones which the Slovaks and their children are supporting today. In quite a few dioceses of America and Canada today more Catholics of Slovak descent are members of non-Slovak Catholic parishes than are members of the so-called Slovak parishes. In fact, if a count were made, we would not be surprised to find that an overwhelming majority of Americans and Canadians of Slovak descent are members of the former. The Committee, however, has made no attempt to ascertain their numbers, but limited its task to the Catholic parishes and institutions actually organized by the Slovaks themselves and several others which were organized with the Slovaks in the majority.

The record proves definitely that the Slovaks who emigrated to America and

Canada were devout and God-fearing and possessed a keen sense of responsibility to spread the Kingdom of Christ on earth. It is the record made by Father Stephen Furdek and the many good Slovak priests and nuns and the laity, the Nation of Saints Cyril and Methodius, who were motivated by the slogan "For God and Nation" ("Za Boha a národ").

If this directory serves to acquaint others better with the Slovaks, creates a stronger interest in the Slovak Nation and instills a kindlier regard and a deeper appreciation for the achievements and accomplishments of the Slovaks in America and Canada "For God and Nation," it will have fulfilled its mission.

The Committee:

Rev. Joseph Kostik, Chairman
John Sabol, Secretary.
Philip A. Horbak, Compiler-Editor
Michael J. Vargovich, ex offo.

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News From Slovakia

Premiér diskutuje o budúcnosti EÚ s kancelárkou Merkelovou

Bratislava 17. mája (TASR) - Slovensko má záujem prispieť k budovaniu zelenej, digitálnej a inovatívnej budúcnosti EÚ, uviedol na svojej videokonferencii predseda vlády Eduard Heger (OLaNO) nemeckej kancelárke Angele Merkelovej.

Tažiskom online stretnutia bol boj proti pandémie COVID-19, očkovanie a politická situácia na Slovensku a v Nemecku.

Slovensko plánuje pokračovať v rozvíjaní strategických politických a ekonomických väzieb s Nemeckom. „Pre Slovensko je Nemecko rozhodujúcim partnerom v regióne, nielen v hospodárskej oblasti,“ uviedol predseda vlády. Dodal, že Slovensko chce pokračovať v rozvíjaní vzťahov s Berlínom v automobilovom priemysle, inováciách, digitálnych technológiách, výskume a vývoji a zelenej ekonomike.

Nemecká kancelárka ocenila protikorupčnú orientáciu slovenskej vlády a tvrdila, že existujúca spolupráca medzi oboma krajinami bola vždy dobrá, pretože Slovensko je jedným zo štátov EÚ, ktoré hľadajú riešenia.

Heger sa tiež pýtal na vnútropolitickú situáciu v Nemecku v období pred parlamentnými voľbami, plánovanými na september, a otázkami súvisiacimi s Ruskom.

"Poďakoval som jej za solidaritu, ktorá sa prejavila aj počas pandémie." Oceňujem otvorený dialóg a teším sa na nadchádzajúci samit o zmene podnebia v Bruseli, "uviedol Heger.



Predseda vlády Eduard Heger (foto TASR / AP)

Prime Minister Eduard Heger (stock photo by TASR/AP)

Premier Discusses Future of EU with Chancellor Merkel

Bratislava, May 17 (TASR) – Slovakia is interested in contributing to the building of a green, digital and innovative future for the EU, Prime Minister Eduard Heger (OLaNO) told German Chancellor Angela Merkel during their video conference.

The fulcrum of the online meeting was the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination and the political situation in Slovakia and Germany.

Slovakia plans to continue developing strategic political and economic ties with Germany. "For Slovakia, Germany is the crucial partner in the region and not just in the economic sphere," said the Prime Minister. He added that Slovakia wants to continue developing ties with Berlin in the automobile industry, innovations, digital technologies, research and development and the green economy.

The German Chancellor praised the anti-corruption orientation of the Slovak Government and claimed that the existing cooperation has always been good between the two countries, as Slovakia has been one of the EU states that seek solutions.

Heger also inquired about the domestic political situation in Germany in the run-up to its parliamentary election, slated for September, and issues related to Russia.

"I thanked her for the solidarity shown during the pandemic as well. I appreciate the open dialogue and look forward to the upcoming summit in Brussels on climate change," said Heger.

Príprava EÚ na pas COVID k 15. Júnu

Brusel 11. mája (TASR) - Členské krajiny EÚ majú vôľu zaviesť pasy COVID od 15. júna, uviedol štátny tajomník slovenského ministerstva zahraničia Martin Klus (SaS) po zasadnutí Rady EÚ pre všeobecné záležitosti v Bruseli.

„Dúfam, že od 15. júna, ako sme plánovali, budeme technicky pripravení všetko spustiť. V súčasnosti prebieha koordinácia technických riešení a testovanie,“ uviedol Klus s tým, že do testovania by sa malo zapojiť aj Slovensko, aby sa predišlo riziku.

Ministerstvá zdravotníctva a informácií podľa Klusa pracujú na potrebných riešeniach pre Slovensko, pomoc im poskytuje ministerstvo zahraničia.

Keďže regionálne pasy COVID sa považujú za možné riešenie, ak cestovný pas COVID pre celú EÚ nebude pripravený do letných prázdnin, Klus uviedol, že Slovensko dostalo takéto ponuky z Českej republiky, Maďarska, Rakúska, Dánska a mimo EÚ od Izraela.

„Napriek tomu tvrdíme, že európske riešenie je správna cesta. Budeme hľadať plán B s dvojstrannými a regionálnymi dohodami, ak európske riešenie zlyhá,“ uviedol Klus.

Poznamenal, že Slovensko je na žltej úrovni v Európskom centre pre choroby.

Mapa COVID spoločnosti Prevention and Control od minulého týždňa, v ktorej Česká republika a Belgicko reagujú na túto skutočnosť zrušením povinnej karantény a testovaním ľudí prichádzajúcich zo Slovenska. Podľa Klusa by mali nasledovať ďalšie krajiny, zatiaľ čo Slovensko sa chystá podniknúť podobné kroky, pokiaľ ide o ďalšie nízkorizikové krajiny.



V popredí: slovenský minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí štátny tajomník Martin Klus. (Foto TASR)

In the forefront: Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Ministry State Secretary Martin Klus. (Photo by TASR)

EU Preparing for COVID Passport as of June 15

Brussels, May 11 (TASR) – The EU-member countries have the will to introduce the COVID passports as of June 15, said Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Ministry State Secretary Martin Klus (SaS) after a meeting of the EU's General Affairs Council in Brussels.

"I hope that as of June 15, as planned, we'll be technically ready to launch it all. Co-ordination of technical solutions and testing are currently underway," said Klus, adding that Slovakia should also join the testing in order to avoid any risk.

According to Klus, the Ministries of Health and Information are working on the necessary solutions for Slovakia, with the Foreign Ministry providing assistance to them.

With regional COVID passports being considered as a possible solution if a COVID passport for the entire EU isn't ready by the summer holidays, Klus said that Slovakia has received such offers from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Denmark and outside the EU from Israel.

"Nevertheless, we maintain that the European solution is the way to go. We'll look for a plan B with bilateral and regional agreements, if the European solution fails," said Klus.

He noted that Slovakia has been yellow-coloured on the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's COVID map since last week, with the Czech Republic and Belgium reacting to this fact by scrapping the mandatory quarantine and testing for people coming from Slovakia. According to Klus, other countries should follow suit, while Slovakia is about to take similar steps when it comes to other low-risk countries.

Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!



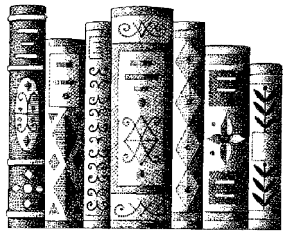
At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we take every phone call very seriously. Our goal is to deliver the best customer service possible – even in these challenging times.

Per current COVID-19 government guidelines and mandates, we remain closed to in-person visits with restricted hours for our Home Office employees that allow them to practice social distancing and other methods for ensuring their wellbeing.

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.





Book Corner



Super Slováci / Super Slovaks: 50 Slovaks Who Changed the World -- A Review

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D. , University of Maryland Global Campus

The most recent publication of Global Slovakia, *Super Slovaks*, attempts to reach out to young people to look at some role models of people who made a difference in Slovak and world history. The book contains 50 short entries about "personalities who shaped Slovakia from the time of Svätopluk to the current president, Zuzana Čaputová."

One advantage of the book is that it is bilingual, and includes both Slovak and English translations. In addition to making the book more saleable to worldwide audiences, it can serve as a source of good translations for those trying to learn Slovak or English. Colorfully illustrated with drawings of the figures, the authors state that, as Slovaks, the book "inspires, educates and reminds [us of] what we can all be rightfully proud of." To facilitate teaching, the package offers critical thinking questions in the book, and an additional 37 page activity book, a workbook, and card game to engage young readers. These engaging supplements make the book unique and unlike any other on the market.

The book is authored by two young scholars from Global Slovakia, Zuzana Palovic, the founder, and Gabriela Bereghazyová, its director. A co-author, David Keys, has lived in Slovakia since 2006 and teaches history at the British International School in Bratislava. The authors aim to make Slovakia more visible to the world and aims at a popular audience. Upon my recommendation, in the beginning of the book, the authors added a chronological overview of entries and a very useful map, which provides a good reference point for the main cities and rivers of Slovakia, and provides the names of neighboring countries in both languages.

The book itself is not organized by chronology or alphabetically, but alternates between historical and modern Slovaks. It starts with Svätopluk, the Medieval ruler of Great Moravia, but then jumps to modern-day hockey stars, the Šťastní bratia (Šťastný brothers). This appears aimed to keep youth interested in reading onward, for the third entry jumps back to the 16th century woodcarver, Master Pavol of Levoča, then again runs to the present with Štefan Klein, who has designed a flying car. Well known historical personalities are included, such as Ľudovít Štúr, Milan R. Štefánik, and Alexander Dubček, in addition to significant contemporaries like singer Marika Gombitová, skiing star Petra Vlhová, and the mafia-murdered journalist, Ján Kuciak. Locating a specific person takes some effort, even though they are listed in the Table of Contents; there is no organization scheme clear to the reader. To facilitate reference, an alphabetical and chronological index would have made finding a particular person much easier without having to peruse the whole list of entries.

Despite its many merits and strengths, two noticeable shortcomings stand out in the book: the absence of the many clergy who have served as Slovak leaders, and secondly, the decision to include just a few important Slovaks from abroad. Since religious leaders have played such a major role in Slovakia's culture and its history, their absence is glaring. The only Catholic clergyman included was Anton Srholec, the dissident priest during the communist era and social activist who worked among the homeless after the Velvet Revolution. Interestingly, the Catholic Church refused to grant him permission to preach in parishes after 1989, citing reservations about his "vague, even erroneous, presentation of some theological truths."

Some leading personalities who shaped Slovakia's history and could have served as role models for young people are missing. For instance, the Diocese of Banská Bystrica Bishop Štefan Moyses (1797-1869) was a prominent patriot and a member of the Diet of the Kingdom of Hungary. He co-founded in 1861 the Matica slovenská, the first Slovak cultural society. Likewise, another prominent leader, Father Andrej Hlinka, especially deserved mention, as he spearheaded the Slovak national movement before World War I, endured prison in Hungary, and headed the largest political party in Slovakia during the interwar period. Whether one admires him or not, Monsignor Jozef Tiso surely needed attention, for he headed the first Slovak state which allied with Germany during World War II, and is a controversial historical figure. The communists hanged him in 1947 for alleged war crimes, and likewise during the Party purges of 1952, they executed Vladimír Clementis, a fellow communist whom the book does include.

Two prominent Slovak cardinals, Ján Chryzostom Korec, S.J. and Jozef Tomko were also absent from the book, as well as others persecuted by the communists: Blessed Pavol Gojdič, Blessed Vasil' Hopko, Bishop Ján Vojtaššák, and Michal Buzalka. Korec suffered

in prison along with hundreds of priests and religious clergy. Consecrated secretly as the youngest bishop in the world in 1951 during a time of communist persecution, Korec became the leading figure of the underground church in Slovakia; he spent most of his life either in prison or working as a laborer. At great personal risk, he was secretly celebrating Mass, ordaining priests, and writing Christian literature in samizdat. Hounded by the secret police, they even attempted twice to assassinate him, which illustrates the tremendous fear the communist regime had of such an upright and Godly man. After the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Pope John Paul II appointed him a cardinal, and Korec took the lead in revitalizing the Catholic Church and religious education in Slovakia.

On the other hand, Cardinal Jozef Tomko, who is still living at age 97, has been among the most influential Slovak Catholic world leaders and chose to defend the faith outside of Slovakia. In fact, he attained a higher position in the Vatican leadership than any person of Slovak background. Educated in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University when the communists were seizing power, he became a doctor of theology, canon law and social sciences and taught at his alma mater. As a close confidant of several popes, he lived an active life in the Church, serving parishes, organizing synods, carrying on ecumenical dialogue with Protestants, and later, heading the world missions for 16 years as Prefect for the Evangelization of People. During the 1960s, Tomko worked closely with Bishop Andrew Grutka of the USA in establishing the Slovak Institute of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome, which prepared Slovaks for the priesthood and published religious literature in Slovak. Tomko regularly spoke to Slovak Catholics via Vatican Radio during the time of the communist dictatorship. Keeping alive the faith in Slovakia owes a great debt to Cardinal Tomko.

Even though some unsavory figures such as the communists Gústav Husák as well as Vladimír Mečiar were included, despite their negative impacts, the absence of the above figures is puzzling. Husák oversaw normalization after the 1968 Soviet invasion, and sold out his country to enhance his career and become party head and president. The book also incorporates the post-1989 Prime Minister Mečiar, who achieved Slovak independence in 1993, but also used authoritarian methods to consolidate power and richly rewarded his supporters during privatization.

The other shortcoming of the book is the omission of some notable Slovak-Americans. Remember that third of the nation moved abroad since the 1880s. When Magyarization was strangling Slovak identity in Hungary, Slovaks in America took the lead in supporting Slovak self-awareness and alerting the world to the fate of their countrymen overseas. Thus the absence of significant immigrant clerical leaders stands out, such as Štefan Furdek, the founder of Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Union, whose organization has helped sponsor this and many other cultural publications, especially during the bleak times of communism when religious literature was not available in Slovakia. Also missing is Peter Rovnianek, who established the first Slovak fraternal benefit society in 1890, the National Slovak Society. The book does include the inventor of the parachute, Štefan Banič, the prominent banker Michal Bosák, and the third generation Slovak-American astronaut, Eugene Černan. Yet the volume neglected the contributions of the renowned priest-scientist-artist, Jozef Murgáš, who pioneered wireless telegraphy and supported the founding of independent Czecho-Slovakia. Finally, the contributions of Slovak-American women could use attention, such as Ženská Jednota founder Anna Hurban, or one of the many religious sisters, like Sisters M. Martina Tybor, and the collective body of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. These men and women played a pivotal role in the spiritual, social, and political lives of Slovak-Americans, whether the mainstream media knows it or not.

Upon reviewing the book and making recommendations, I was told that the authors plan to publish a second volume, which will include more entries. That would be most welcome, and could be more inclusive, but that may very well depend on the marketing and sales success of this book.

Super Slovaks offers a unique approach to reaching out to youth and familiarizing them with Slovaks who have made a difference in the world. It does not aim to be comprehensive and selectively includes some of the important people in Slovak history and contemporary society. As long as one is aware of its omissions, it can offer a very useful starting point for learning about leading Slovak personalities and inspiring young people. Even adults can learn some interesting information from the book, and those learning Slovak or English can use the translations to improve their linguistic skills. It can be a very useful purchase for young and old wishing to know more about some important Slovaks who have helped change the world.

For further information, see: "Super Slováci / Super Slovaks," EZOPO, YouTube, uploaded April 8, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM-3iHuvwzq> (Accessed April 18, 2021).

To purchase or support the book, see: https://ezopo.sk/projekt/super-slovaks-eng-manua-l/?fbclid=IwAR1wk4qt0mYQFM1bM2flgPUM3qu_Dip6ncMpeW-FXDIt3rkMUINN9AddUws.

This useful overview of the FCSU is in the back pages of the book:

"The First Catholic Slovak Union of The United States of America and Canada (FCSU) is a non-profit fraternal organization headquartered in Independence, OH, USA. Founded in Cleveland in 1890 by 11 Slovak immigrants with the guidance of the Slovak immigrant priest the Rev. Štefan Furdek, the FCSU is also often called "Jednota" which in Slovak means "Union." This is the same name as its bilingual newspaper that has been published virtually throughout its history until today. During the communist era, the Jednota Press was one of the few places in the world that printed Slovak Catholic literature. The FCSU's original purpose was to help to immigrant Slovaks deepen their religious faith, protect their language and heritage, and provide an insurance fund for those working in and near Cleveland's dangerous factories.

Today the FCSU offers very competitive annuities, wealth transfer, and life insurance products and services to 50,000+ members in communities throughout North America, and continues to support fraternal activities and events that preserve shared values of faith, family and heritage. More complete information can be found at www.fcsu.com."

2021 Fraternal Event for FCSU Members to Join Now !



Important Information from the FCSU Fraternal Activities Director

The longer days and warmer weather brings us closer to the golf season and to our FCSU/SOKOL/GCU International Golf Tournament which will be held August 6th-8th at Treasure Lake Golf Resort, DuBois, PA.

We are looking forward to hosting a wonderful weekend of fraternalism and sportsmanship. The participants and guests for the International Golf Tournament will stay at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn or at Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Over the years, this event has become much more than a golf outing; it has evolved into a true fraternal family event. Many of our FCSU members now attend the tournament accompanied with their respective families, which has added to the richness of the event and true fraternal camaraderie.

Reserve Your Room(s) & Place on the Friday Practice Round

We are hoping to have a large turnout of golfers and guests this year, especially after the cancellation of the 2020 Golf Tournament due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Each golfer must make his or her own hotel arrangements by contacting the Fairfield Inn and Suites at 814-371-2260 or Hampton Inn at 814-735-1000. There is a block of rooms under FCSU/SOKOL/GCU. A Credit Card will be needed for incidentals.

Golf reservations for the practice round on Friday should be made with the Gold Course, 814-913-1482 or the Silver Course, 814-913-1480.

The Friday Hospitality will be at the Lakeview Lodge at Treasure Lake and the golf banquet buffet will be held at the Luigi's Villa in DuBois, PA.

Attending Mass

Our National Chaplain Father Nasta may be holding Mass at one of the hotels. This is TBD, based on hotel policy and status of Covid regulations in place at the time of event. Holy Mass obligation can also be fulfilled at a choice of many local churches. The address of the churches and Mass times will be available at the hotel when you check-in. A brief program will follow the banquet dinner. More information will follow in the near future.

Application and fee deadline for the tournament is July 9th (postmarked).

Please return your application (entry form) along with your \$15 entry fee and \$15 tournament expense as soon as possible to my home address: 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL, 32712. Please also check off your package of choice and include all associated fees.

If you have any questions pertaining to the event, please call me at 813-493-1515 or via email @ kevinfcsu@outlook.com

This will be a great fraternal event, and we hope to see all of you at Treasure Lake Resort this August. During the golf tournament all of the players and guests will follow the CDC guidelines in place at the time of the event for the state of Pennsylvania, Clearfield County and Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Kevin J. Collins

National FCSU Fraternal Activities Director

Details of Packages Available at the 2021 International Golf Tournament

1. Full Golf & Banquet Package: \$295.00 double or \$415.00 single occupancy

The full golf package is available for members and includes the tournament entry fee and prize money, three full rounds of golf with cart, two nights lodging, including breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. The golf package also includes the Friday night hospitality and a buffet (banquet) dinner at Luigi's Villa in DuBois, PA. (All taxes and gratuities are included). For additional banquet tickets please see below.

2. Golf-only Package: \$160

For FCSU members who may not require the lodging and meal package, this golf-only package includes entry fee and tournament expense fees. For banquet tickets please see below.

3. Non-golf Weekend Package: \$140 double or \$265 single occupancy

The non-golf weekend package rate is available for FCSU Members and guests and includes lodging and breakfast when you make your reservations at the Fairfield Inn or Hampton Inn. For banquet tickets please see below.

4. Banquet-only Member Tickets: \$25 per ticket

There is a charge of \$25.00 per person for those FCSU members who have purchased the full golf package but would like to purchase additional tickets for other FCSU members who are not golfing but would like to attend the banquet. This \$25 is also the price per person for FCSU members who have not purchased the full golf package (for example, those members who have chosen the golf-only package or the non-golf weekend package) but would like to attend the banquet.

5. Banquet-only tickets for Non-golfing, Non-Members: \$50 per ticket

Please note that for non-member guests banquet tickets may be purchased for \$50 per person.

2021 International Golf Tournament Rules & Regulations

August 6th – 8th 2021

Treasure Lake Golf Resort – DuBois, Pennsylvania

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Every contestant must be a member of the FCSU/Slovak Catholic Sokol/GCU in good standing for at least one (1) year or three (3) months with Single Premium Life Insurance.
2. (A) The golf tournament will consist of six (6) flights as listed below before applying 75% to handicap:

"A" Flight	0 to 12 Handicap	"D" Flight	Callaway System
"B" Flight	13 to 20 Handicap	"S" Flight	Senior, 62 years and over
"C" Flight	21 and over	"W" Flight	Women, Callaway System
- (B) Maximum Handicap per round: Men – 40 Women - 50
- (C) Only the Slovak Catholic Sokol /GCU/FCSU Handicap will be accepted for all flights.
3. The tournament shall be held with prevailing U.S.G.A. rules.
4. Callaway Flights: Golfers who do not have a handicap (handicaps are determined after two years or four rounds) of Tournament play. The Callaway Modified System will be used with two blind holes each round to calculate the daily handicap.
5. (A) All handicaps are subject to review and possible re-rating by "Handicap Committee". In the case of ties, lowest handicap will be declared flight winner.
- (B) Women golfers will compete in a separate flight with a Modified Callaway System.
6. All play will be 36 holes: 18 to be played on Saturday August 7th and 18 on Sunday, August 8th.
7. Entry Fee is \$15.00 and Tournament Expense is \$15.00. A Golf Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at Luigi's Villa 800 W. Weber Avenue, DuBois, PA 15801
See Registration Form on p 9 for Total Fees Due in Addition to Entry Fee
8. Prizes: There will be a Champion in each flight and the prize money will be awarded according to the number of entries received for each flight.
9. Foursomes will be paired at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Participants wishing for special twosomes & foursomes, please indicate your golf partners on the golf tournament application.
10. Penalty for being tardy at the starting tee will be according to U.S.G.A. rules with loss of position.
11. Entries will close with a Postmark Date of July 9th, 2021. All tournament fees must accompany Golf Entry Form on page 10.
12. Make checks payable to: FCSU
13. Mailing address:

Kevin Collins
628 Heather Brite Cr.
Apopka, FL, 32712



Show Your Fraternalism! Sponsor a Hole at the 2021 International Golf Tournament

Promotional Opportunities on 24" X 18" Sign
Cost \$50.00

Sponsoring a hole with your own large, visible sign at the 2021 International Golf Tournament is a great, fraternal way to promote your District, Branch, business, or family to over 120 golfers the weekend of August 6th through the 8th, 2021. The Golf Tournament will be held at Treasure Lake Resort, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

Send the information that you want printed on your sign via email or regular mail.

Please send the information with a check for \$50.00 made payable to: FCSU

Deadline: July 9, 2021 (check must arrive by this date).

Email: kevinfcsu@outlook.com

Mailing Address: Kevin Collins

628 Heather Brite Cr.

Apopka, FL, 32712

continued on page 9

2021 Fraternal Event for FCSU Members to Join Now !

continued from page 8

2021 International Golf Tournament Entry Form

August 6th-8th 2021

Treasure Lake Golf Resort – DuBois, PA

Golf Practice Reservations: Gold Course - (814) 913-1482 & Silver Course (814) 913-1480

U.S.G.A. 36 Holes Men-5 Flights - Women-1 Flight

ENTRY DEADLINE: JULY 9th 2021

Every golfer must fill out a form and all fees must accompany this entry form.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Certificate#/Branch _____

Golfer Signature

Tournament Start Times: 8:00 AM Saturday & 8:00 AM Sunday

Preferred Doubles Partner:

_____ Full Golf Package	<u>Double Occupancy</u>	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>	<u>Hampton Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00
	<u>Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:</u>	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 295.00	\$295.00

_____ Full Golf Package	<u>Single Occupancy</u>	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>	<u>Hampton Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 385.00	\$385.00
	<u>Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:</u>	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 415.00	\$415.00

_____ Golf Only Package	Package Fee:	\$130.00	
	<u>Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 160.00	

_____ Banquet Only (Members)	<u>Banquet Fee:</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 25.00	

_____ Banquet Only (Non-Members)	<u>Banquet Fee:</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 50.00	

_____ Non-Golf Package	Double Occupancy	\$140.00	\$140.00
_____ Non-Golf Package	Single Occupancy	\$265.00	\$265.00

All hotel reservations to be made directly through the **Fairfield Inn & Suites, DuBois, PA, 814-371-2260** or Hampton Inn, DuBois, PA 814-375-1000 ASAP. Please inform hotel that you are with the SOKOL/GCU/FCSU Group. There is a block of rooms held on the tournament credit card. A credit card will be needed for incidentals.

Mail to Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL, 32712



September Mass Planned at Jednota Chapel

Attention Jednota Members: we are happy to announce that there will be a Mass celebrating the 56th Anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on Saturday September 18, 2021, at 1:30PM in the Crypt Church. Please see Branch 856 announcement on page 20 for details.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President Branch 856

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – July Holiday Hours



The FCSU Home Office will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021, in observance of Independence Day in the USA.

Save the Date for 2022 National Bowling Tournament



The 2021 National Bowling Tournament has been canceled due to COVID concerns and for the safety of our members. Look for details in Jednota about the National Bowling Tournament scheduled for May 13 - 14, 2022 - and save the dates!



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/community – and

JOIN US TODAY!

You also can access the 2021 International Golf Tournament Entry Form and all Tournament information by going to:
<https://www.fcsu.com/events/>

YOUNGSTOWN/SPIŠSKÁ NOVÁ VES SISTER CITIES TOUR 2021



Are you tired of staying in lockdown due to the Covid Virus? Then it's time to schedule your Covid Vaccine and pack your bags for a vacation getaway to beautiful Slovakia. Mark your calendar, the dates are July 15-29, 2021. Be a King, Queen, Prince or Princess for 4 days. We will spend the first two days and the last two days of the tour in castles that have been renovated into hotels. Never before have we done

this. See castles, churches, attend kolibas, raft ride on the Dunajec river, shop in Poland, enjoy lunch in Hungary, enjoy many folk groups, see where Jánošík, the Slovak Robinhood, was born, visit Litmanová, Červený Kameň, The Marianska Hora and many other places too numerous to mention. Get out your comfortable walking shoes and get ready to walk all over Slovakia. We have a 49 passenger comfortable air conditioned bus with a rest room on board. For a sneak preview of the castles go online and visit Art Castle, Pezinok, Slovakia and the Grand Víglaš Castle, Víglaš, Slovakia. Slots are limited so make your reservations now. For additional information call Jim Bench at 724-858-5843 or Kay Bench at 724-771-7900, or email Jim at jmbench@yahoo.com, or email Kay at skbench@gmail.com. Tour arrangements are made by Paul Hudak at Adventure Travel International Inc., P.O. Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107-0024. Phone 216 228-7171, 800 542-2478, Fax 216-228-7174 e-mail Paul at paul@advintravel.com. First come, first served; make your reservations now.

2021 Jednota Branch 682 Scholarship Winner Emilee Styranec



Struthers High School Senior Emilee Styranec is pictured with Struthers Rotarian and FCSU Branch 682 President Drew Hirt after she was awarded the 2021 Jednota Branch 682 Scholarship.

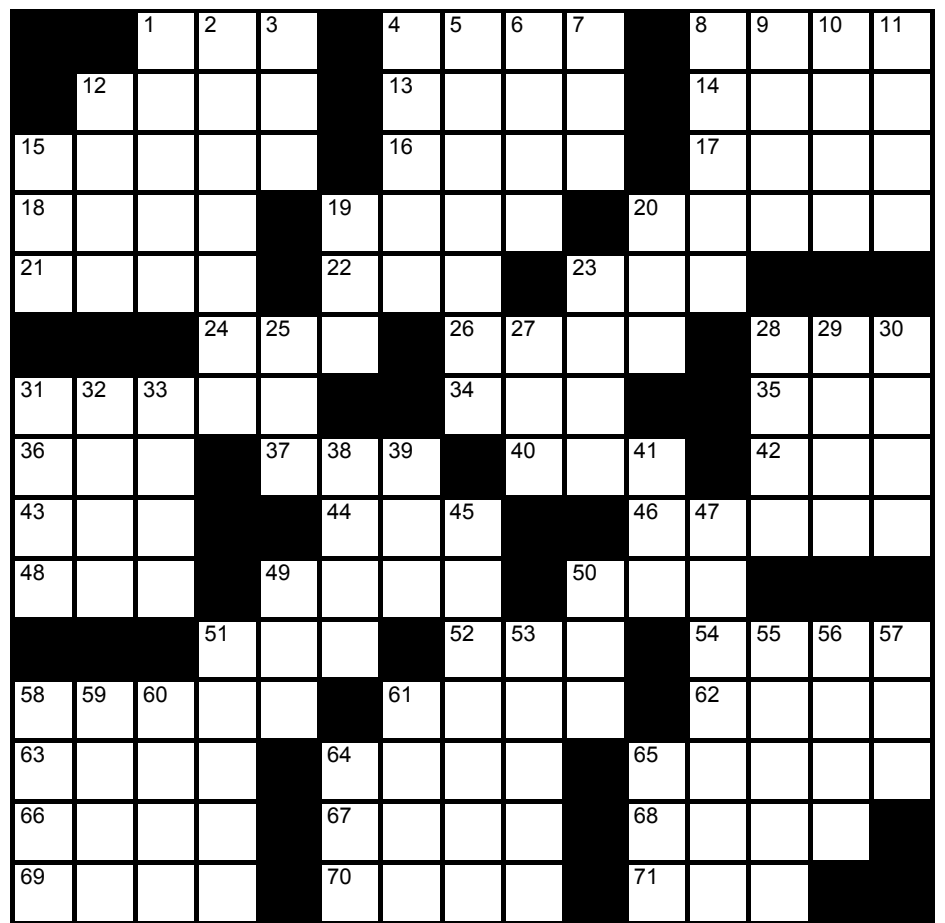
Emilee has participated in numerous civic activities, is a member of the Struthers Rotary Interact Club, and attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program.

Of Slovak heritage, Emilee was selected as the 2021 Branch 682 Scholarship Winner for her academic achievements and dedication to serving the community.

Congratulations, Emilee!

- Submitted by Drew Hirt, Branch 682 President

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Wine holder
- 4 Scrutinize
- 8 Like a snail
- 12 Judicious
- 13 Biblical pronoun
- 14 Church section
- 15 Leans
- 16 Go ballistic
- 17 Balanced
- 18 Wirehair of film
- 19 Cotton unit
- 20 Eye drops
- 21 Blacken
- 22 King Kong, e.g.
- 23 Old salt
- 24 Sample
- 26 Barbershop request
- 28 Critical
- 31 Gallic goodbye
- 34 Bottom line
- 35 Before, to poets
- 36 Rocky peak
- 37 Jewel
- 40 Beseech
- 42 Singer Zadora
- 43 Lab eggs
- 44 Butter holder
- 46 Willow twig
- 48 Cygnet's mother
- 49 Indian music
- 50 Beast of burden
- 51 Peruvian coin
- 52 Adaptable truck, for short
- 54 Pressing need?
- 58 Forward
- 61 Big bovines
- 62 Corporate image
- 63 Wagers
- 64 Diva's solo
- 65 Eye opener
- 66 Coastal raptors

Down

- 1 Panorama
- 2 Ancient fertility goddess
- 3 Your (Fr.)
- 4 Watch part
- 5 Ski lodges
- 6 First-rate
- 7 Protein source
- 8 Scrooge's look
- 9 Hot rock
- 10 In the past
- 11 Pilar cysts
- 12 Desire
- 15 Fond du ____, Wis.
- 19 Galway, for one
- 20 Tartan cap
- 23 Football call
- 25 Toupee, slangily
- 27 Irritation
- 28 Visored cap
- 29 Great Lakes city
- 30 Vintage designation
- 31 Perched on
- 39 Beer glass
- 41 Indian state
- 45 Clay-like mineral
- 47 Proficient
- 49 Reel's partner
- 50 Asian capital
- 51 Flippant
- 53 Poke fun at
- 55 Bellows
- 56 Shrek, for one
- 57 ___ de guerre
- 58 Retired
- 59 Frau's partner
- 60 European erupte
- 61 Kind of surgeon
- 64 Triumphant cry
- 65 Fit ___ fiddle

2021 JEDNOTA Publication Schedule

Issue Date

Deadline to
Receive Information

July 14

July 6

(Observed Independence Day, July 5)

August 11

August 2

Sept 8

August 30

October 13

October 4

November 10

November 1

December 8

November 29

See Solution on Page 17

Congratulations FCSU

Kentucky Derby

Hat Contest Winners 2021!



Thanks to all who entered the fun this year - check out these great photos & make sure to join in 2022!

Kevin Collins
National Fraternal Activities Director



FAMILY:

1st Place
The Branch 857
Family:(L-R): Danielle Lasher, Charleigh Gross, and Andrew Nasta



2nd Place
The Oros Family (L-R): Standing: Joseph A. Oros, Donna Oros, Victoria Oros, Johanna Oros, and Thomas Oros.
 Kneeling: Matthew Oros (with Omar Oros)



3rd Place
The Oost Family (L-R): Brent Oost, Jeanne Oost, David Oost, and Juliana Oost.



MALE:

Ages 40 & Better

Ages 16 – 39

Ages 15 – Younger



1st Place

Joseph A. Oros, Region 6,
Branch 24, Cleveland, OH



1st Place

Anthony Lee, Region 2,
Branch 290, Raritan, NJ



1st Place

Ezra Marmol, Region 4,
Branch 162, Uniontown, PA



2nd Place

David Oost, Region 7,
Branch 313, Orland Park, IL



2nd Place

Charles Boone, Region 4,
Branch 853, Charleroi, PA



2nd Place

Brent Oost, Region 7,
Branch 313, Orland Park, IL



3rd Place

Thomas J. Oros, Region 6,
Branch 24, Cleveland, OH



3rd Place

Matthew Oros, Region 6,
Branch 24, Cleveland, OH



3rd Place

Jonah Sterling, Region 2,
Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA



FEMALE:

Ages 40 & Better

16 – 39

15 – Younger



1st Place

Joanne Marmol, Region 4,
Branch 162, Uniontown, PA



1st Place

Victoria Oros, Region 6,
Branch 24, Cleveland, OH



1st Place

Clare Marie Ruffing, Region 4,
Branch 670, Donora, PA



2nd Place

Donna Oros, Region 6,
Branch 24, Cleveland, OH



2nd Place

Cecilia Ruffing, Region 4,
Branch 670, Donora, PA



2nd Place

Charleigh Gross, Region 2,
Branch 857, Levittown, PA



3rd Place

Dolores Marmol, Region 4,
Branch 162, Uniontown, PA



3rd Place

Danielle Lasher, Region 2,
Branch 857, Levittown, PA



3rd Place

Juliana Oost, Region 7,
Branch 313, Orland Park, IL

Overall Winners: The Branch 857 Family, who will be placed on the FCSU Traveling Challenge Cup

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold their next meeting on August 1, 2021, at 19705 Center Ridge Road Rocky River, OH 44116 at 1:00PM. If you are interested in attending, please call 216-338-8179 by July 18, 2021. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The semi-annual meeting of St. Stephen's Society, Branch 006KJ is scheduled for July 18, 2021, at 1PM at 1406 N. Baker St., Streator, IL. Those who plan to attend should contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 or Branch President Robert Elias, Sr., at 815-672-1764, and they will help you with information. The meeting's agenda will be: discuss new policies, activities, and plan for a social gathering for all members in the coming year. Any suggestions can be submitted to: pchismar51@yahoo.com. We will abide by all state COVID laws.

Please call if you plan on attending the meeting or have any insurance questions. Thank you.
Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Sunday, June 27, 2021 at 10:00AM. At this meeting, we will recognize the recipients of the Margaret Evancho award. Gift cards will be sent by mail to the following:

Grace DeDonato
Maeve Mary McMullan
Jenna Grace Zahor

This award was established in recognition of the many years Margaret Evancho dedicated to the youth of Branch 19. We cordially invite interested members to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 encourages our members to attend the June 19 Slovak Radio Club Picnic at the Slovak Sokol Campground, 2069 Royalwood Rd., Broadview Hts., OH. See page 18 for details. Adult members of Branch 24 will receive \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children 10 and under who are members will receive \$5 in food/beverage tickets. Contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 for more information.

Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

On Saturday, July 31, 2021, please join other FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat dining followed by great seats for minor league ball. See p 15 for details. Guests are welcome at the full group price per ticket. Branch 24 Members: you can attend for free! All attendees must register in advance for this event. Contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 no later than July 19, 2021, for more information & to reserve your tickets.

Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Attention all Branch 24 members: the branch is starting a New Member Referral Program. Branch 24 is offering \$25 for each new member you refer who purchases an insurance policy or annuity through a licensed agent or the Home Office. A new member is someone who does not

already own an FCSU product. To learn how to participate in this program, please call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

BBRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold a branch meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7:00PM. The agenda will include discussion on 2021 potential fraternal social activities. Out of an abundance of caution and with concern for all of our members, this Branch 38 meeting will be held virtually. Any member interested in attending this meeting should contact Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LLHASSELHOFF@gmail.com, to set up the virtual meeting invitation and details. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend. Thank you for your understanding and patience as together we continue to navigate these unusual times.

Also, if anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

**Logan Haselhoff, President
Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of St. Joseph Society Branch 055K is scheduled to be held on Sunday, June 27, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. as a Zoom meeting.

Regular business will also be conducted. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please send your Email address to HelenaGaydos@comcast.net so we can send you the private Zoom link to attend the meeting.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's essential book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT, for those interested in building a successful career. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Helena Gaydos, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

As an incentive to grow Branch 89, members who refer new branch members or add a new contract of their own are now eligible to receive a Branch award. Specifically, Branch 89 members who successfully refer new members can receive an award of up to \$100. Members that add a new contract of their own can receive an award of up to \$50. To be eligible for an award, new policies must be issued during the calendar year in which Branch 89 otherwise qualifies for an FCSU stipend under bylaw section 4.05. Award amounts will depend on the amount of the FCSU stipend for the year and the number of members qualifying for an award. Awards cannot be combined or multiplied and members are limited to one award per calendar year.

Contact Financial Secretary Nancy Carol Novak at 262-305-4041 or email "novakncp@charter.net" for more information or to request an award application.

Paul Novak, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA, will hold a branch meeting and family day at Knoebel's Grove in Elysburg on Friday August 13, 2021, at noon. All coronavirus mitigation practices still in effect at this time will be strictly enforced. Please contact Karen Sterling by August 1, 2021, for more information at: karenenglesterling@hotmail.com

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at 11:30AM. The meeting will be a Conference Call. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko (708) 995 7378 on Friday, June 18, 2021, to obtain the phone number and access code for the Conference Meeting. We look forward to having the Fall meeting in person.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its virtual branch meeting via Zoom on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 9:00AM. Officers' reports will be given and upcoming branch activities will be discussed. The Donations Committee will make its recommendations and there will be a vote. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office.

Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before June 8, 2021 for details on how to be connected to the meeting.

We hope for a quick return to normalcy and good weather, and pray for God's blessing on all.
Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The Branch 181 family picnic traditionally held in June has been cancelled for 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Our members' health and safety is our greatest concern. We are hopeful to resume the picnic in 2022.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 has planned the following dates for our branch meetings in 2021: Aug 5th, Sept 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th, and Dec 2nd. In the event any meeting could potentially be cancelled, please call Vicki Schaub @724-763-9229 ahead of time to verify or send your email address to vschaub123@gmail.com. Due to COVID-19 a few meetings were cancelled and a couple other dates were included in 2020. It is not always possible to advertise in the JEDNOTA due to deadline dates. Nomination of Officers is in November and Election of Officers in December. We encourage all members to participate. You do have a voice.

It has been a trying time in 2020 for all of us. I'm sure many are anxious not just for the end of the virus and everything returning to some kind of normal but for Spring bringing warmer weather and sunshine. Keep a positive attitude, take care and God bless!

Fraternally,
Vicki Schaub Fin. Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 213 – NORTH VERSAILLES, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2021. It will be held at 1:00PM at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. If you're still concerned about COVID, you may access the meeting virtually via phone. Contact information: weaz1958@aol.com.

The agenda will include current branch business, and discussion of upcoming branch and district events and activities. All COVID-19 regulations and protocols will continue to be followed.

Respectfully,
Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are

held. All meetings begin at 7 PM, and will be held VIRTUALLY until further notice. Contact Lisa at 440-773-1442 for specific instructions to attend virtually.

The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 20, 2021. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

This past December's election results for Br. 228 officers were as follows: President - Luis Palos, Vice-President - Ryan Trifiletti, Financial Secretary - Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor - Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary - Thomas Zuffa. Their terms expire December 31, 2021.

For representatives to the American Slovak Club Board of Directors, Luis Palos and Lisa Trifiletti-Palos were each elected to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2023. Ryan Trifiletti was elected to serve the remainder of deceased Leonard Zilko's term which expires December 31, 2022. Rest in peace Len. We miss you.

Please continue to pray to our Lord God for a cure to all the problems of our world. And remember to give thanks to God for all His blessings.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold an interim meeting on Saturday, July 24, at noon at Pane-ra's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401, invites all branch members to attend the 2021 Semi-Annual Meeting which will be held Sunday, June 13th, 2021 at 1PM. Due to Covid-19, this meeting will take place on Zoom. To protect our members' internet safety, members should send an email to kmfroncek@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom code. Members are always encouraged to attend as your input is vital and welcome.

Members are encouraged to attend the second of two Masses being offered for living and deceased members of Branch 401. The second Mass will be held on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at 11AM at Our Lady Queen of Peace in East Vandergrift, PA.

Fraternally,
Kathy Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 1:30PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Call for reservations by Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 724-425-2576. All members are invited to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society Branch 484KJ will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 2:00PM at the Eat N' Park Restaurant, 2301 Rt. So., Indiana, PA. Discussion will include the impact of COVID-19 on our area, and how our branch may continue to help; our new Slovak Bishop Larry Kulick; scholarships; FCSU-sponsored activities; and more. We should also be discussing our most recent district meeting.

All coronavirus mitigation practices still in ef-

continued on page 20

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 1 - REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct its semi-annual meeting via Zoom on June 27, 2021 at 11:30AM. At this meeting, we will discuss plans for the coming year. Interested members are encouraged to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to hearing from our dedicated members.

Deborah M. Nelson, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

At the ZOOM District meeting held on Sunday, January 17, 2021, the following officers were elected President Robert Kristofik and Treasurer Joseph Rimarcik.

There were no candidates for the following positions: Vice-President; Secretary; Auditor (2) and Chaplain. If you are interested in becoming a District Officer please contact President Robert Kristofik at rjk810@aol.com. The District meets twice a year.

Fraternally,

Joseph Rimarcik, Treasurer

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District plans two meetings for 2021 to be held at the Holy Trinity Church Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Street Extension, West Mifflin PA 15122. The meetings will be held on Sunday, August 1 and Sunday, November 21. The meetings will start at 1PM. Officers for 2022 will be elected at the November meeting. Please RSVP by email to the district secretary.

The Pittsburgh District extends its condolences to the family of National Treasurer George Matta II, who passed away on May 10. His sister-in-law, Rona Stein Matta, wife of National Counsel Gary Matta, passed away on March 23.

The Pittsburgh District also mourns the loss of three regulars at district meetings. Edith Valo of Hopewell, PA passed away on December 28, 2020 at 86. Her husband Albert is a member of Branch 587. Ann Pavlan served for many years as our district sergeant-at-arms. Ann passed away on November 28, 2020. She was 94. Ann was originally from Braddock, PA but she was living in Fort Myers, FL at the time of her passing. Her husband Edward, who passed away in 2001, was a former president of Branch 35. Her brother, Fr Joseph Grosko, former district chaplain, died in January, 2020. Barbara Brekosky of West Mifflin, PA passed away on February 3, 2021 at 85. Barbara was the widow of Region 5 Director Emeritus Regis Brekosky, who died in 2015.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: Announces that their monthly programs will resume soon. Check their Facebook page for updates.

- Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 15, 2021.

- Tour to Slovakia: September 11-26, 2021. See Slovakia, Poland, Vienna, Prague, Contact Joe Senko jtsenko@aol.com for more information.

- NSS Heritage Museum September Fest: Saturday, September 25, 2021. Slovak café, arts & crafts, demonstrations, & the Slovak cuvac.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. This is the time to be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, will hold a meeting on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at Shoney's Restaurant at 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM.

A brunch buffet will be offered. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Tuesday, July 20, 2021, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are invited to attend.

Barbara Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

At our most recent district meeting, Branch 1 reported that the roof of the church FCSU Founder Fr. Furdek built in 1891 is in dire need of replacement. Our Lady of Lourdes is still an active parish located at 3395 E 53rd, Cleveland, OH. Fr. Joseph Callahan, pastor, estimates the cost of a new roof at \$165,000. All district members should consider making a donation to this worthy cause. To learn more, please see information on page 19.

We also invite everyone to please join other FCSU members in District 10 on Saturday, July 31, 2021, for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat dining followed by great seats for minor league ball with Lake Erie Crushers. See details this page. Guests are welcome at the full group price per ticket. Contact your branch officer for possible special member pricing. All attendees must register in advance for this event. Contact Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 no later than July 19, 2021, for more information & to reserve your tickets.

Linda Hanko, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

Hlinka District members are asked to 'Save the Date' - Sunday August 8, 2021 at 1:00pm for the district picnic. More information will be given in the July Jednota newspaper. Information will be emailed/mailed to all attendees of the March 2021 meeting. Any member of Branch 320, 670 and 853 can email District Secretary Monica Rodacy Boone at Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com with questions on the picnic.

Monica Rodacy Boone, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

District 14, the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, will hold an additional semi-annual meeting on Tuesday July 20, 2021 at 6:00PM at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514.

We will continue our discussion of activities for 2021; potential activities for 2022; and how to get our District members to be more active. Your input will be greatly appreciated. Suggestions and ideas are most welcome.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact me after July 5, at 330.549.3788, or cell 330.559.5921, as I will be on an extended trip travelling to several locations in South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado prior to that.

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 14 - CALENDAR YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Following are the currently scheduled District Meetings for the remainder of Calendar Year 2021:

1. Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
2. Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2021); Fireplace.
3. Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

Appropriate social distancing masks and protocols will be followed as long as the Covid-19 issue remains. Dates and locations may change for the same reason.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. Alternate location will be The Falcon Grille; 39 N. Canfield-Niles Rd.,

Austintown, OH 44515.

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHIDIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 has scheduled its first meeting of 2021 for Tuesday, July 13, 2021. This Spring-Summer meeting will be virtual via ZOOM. The meeting will begin at 6:30PM. Branch delegates will be able to log in by computer or call in by phone.

Branches must contact Regional Director Martha Zavada at 570.954.3771 to confirm participation via ZOOM and to receive the code and phone numbers. Deadline to reply is Friday, July 9, 2021.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. President

DISTRICT 19 – THE MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The Semi Annual Meeting of the Monsignor Michael Shuba District 19 will be held July 7, 2021, at 7PM via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to members under separate email prior to the meeting.

Anne Mitro, Secretary

Attention Members of District 1, 4, and 16

All of you, as Region 1 members, are invited to attend our summer picnic which will be held on Sunday, August 8th at 1:00PM at Al Kalla Park located at 2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. We especially welcome our littlest members who can enjoy the wonderful playground. Please RSVP to Mrs. Anna Balas at 908-925-7430 by August 1st. In case of rain, the picnic will take place indoors (please bring your mask) at Holy Family Church (lower level). Members are free! Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$15.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



Join us for a
picnic in the park
Region 1 Picnic

**Sunday, Aug 8
at 1:00 pm**

Al Kalla Park
2801 Highland Ave, Linden, NJ

Members: Free
Non-members: \$15

RSVP to Mrs. Balas at 908-925-7430

Attention District 10 Members:

Food, Fun – & Minor League Baseball – At Mercy Health Care Stadium in Avon, OH on Saturday, July 31, 2021



On Saturday, July 31, 2021, join other FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat, picnic-style dining followed by great seats for minor league ball as the Lake Erie Crushers take on the Florence Y'Alls.

All branches in District 10 & their guests are invited to come. Tickets are \$29 for 11 and older; \$24 for children 4 – 10.

Discounted tickets for District 10 members may be available through branches that choose to participate in further discounts. Non-members are welcome at regular ticket prices.

The all-you-can-eat choices, enjoyed picnic style, include:

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- Pulled Chicken
- Mac & Cheese
- Potato Salad
- Cookies
- Iced Tea/Lemonade/Water

Reserve Your Seats Today

Reservations must be made by **Monday, July 19, 2021**. Picnic seating is limited and subject to availability on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To reserve your tickets and for more information, please contact your local branch officer* or Ohio Regional Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

* Branch contact info can be found at:

<https://www.fcsu.com/branches/>

Highlights

- **Date: Saturday, July 31, 2021**
- **Place: Mercy Health Care Stadium, Avon, OH**
- **Includes:**
 - **All-you-can-eat dining starting at 5:05PM will be enjoyed in the Corona Picnic Plaza on the third-base side.**
 - **Home box seat for Lake Erie Crushers v Florence Y'Alls starting at 6:05PM**
 - **Ticket discounts may be available through participating branches**

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.

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Andrew Palsa	045K	Giselle Cernansky	200K	Karen Marie Valek	670K	Roger Allen Smith
001P	Edward J Pavlishin	085K	Peter A Forgach	228K	Julianne Jacovetti	670K	Joseph R Zmuda
001P	Frances Yuhas	085K	Mary A Patrick	228K	Joseph T Simulcik	682K	John T Vasko
002K	Gwendolyn Gorham	089K	Pamella Ann Budiac	254K	Theresa Conti	731K	Cyril M Kovach
003P	Marie Theresa Yori	112K	John J Smarr	276K	Anna Mae Oleyar	735K	Mary Weitzel
005P	Alfonse R Palaima	149K	Josephine Sotak	293K	Andrew R Dedinsky	743K	Julia M Mehall
005P	Susan L Root	157K	Josephine F Babyak	313K	Andrew Joseph Marincik	743K	George M Zdilla
005P	Leonard Zigmund	162K	Ruth Anne Shannon	315K	Carol Sapienza	746K	Dorotheann Dalton
006K	Steve G Kotras	169P	Dorothy Youchak	320K	Stephen M Jadyk	746K	John Kalapos
019K	Charles Liptak	173K	Dolores M Baloga	367K	Helen L Kocerka	746K	John Kalapos
023K	Peter M Nesbella	173K	Bergen A Mesko	367K	Elaine Milich	746K	Donna Marek
024K	Rev Timothy D Buyansky OSB	181K	Marilee K Butler	367K	Joseph Planiczka	746K	Matthew Stefanick
024K	Andrew E Hudak Jr	181K	Ronald A Carney	410K	Mabel Joycelyn Chabanik	756K	Joseph James Zachar
024K	Rev Richard G Hudak OSB	181K	Catherine V Richardson	419K	James Lewis Hollock	764K	Irene Joanne Abrams
024K	John F Stefanko	198P	Patricia A Peterson	553K	James E Cavanaugh	764K	Anna Zeaken
024K	Joseph E Urbassik	199K	Mary E Kmetz	553K	Peter P Ligas	853K	Douglas Wytovich
038K	Florence S Dermont	199K	Renald E Rinier	553K	August J Lipovsky	857K	Monica B Tomko
038K	Richard T Stanoszek	200K	Bernadette M Jablunovsky	595K	Cre Michael Durocher	890K	Margaret A Musterait
038K	Julian M Zekan	200K	Helen Marcinek	670K	John M Haller		
040K	George D Creamean Jr	200K	Albert J Valasek	670K	William V Hruby		

*Processed through the month of May

OBITUARIES

A Message From FCSU Executives

With a heavy heart we are reporting the passing into Eternal Life of National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. on May 23, 2021, and National Treasurer George F. Matta on May 10, 2021. Our Catholic Faith tells us that we all are here on Earth for a limited time, and our ultimate goal is to unite with God in Eternity where they now rest in peace.

Andy passed away on Sunday May 23, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was appointed Vice President of the FCSU by past President Thomas Hricik after the death of Vice President Andrew Beno in 1995 and was elected by the Convention ever since. Andy was a strong supporter of our Society as well as of St. Stephen Church in Streator, IL, his home Slovak parish. As Catholics we believe he is in peace with Our Lord in Eternity, joining his beloved wife Maria.

George lived his time on Earth with gusto and a sense of purpose and optimism that he transmitted to all he met. He was elected and served as our FCSU National Treasurer and Board Member since 2014, following in the steps of his father. A good man was called to Eternal Life too soon.

We, their fellow executives, are personally thankful for having known and worked with Andy and George during these past years.

Our sincere condolences to the families of Andy and George and may they find some comfort in prayer and the thought of re-uniting with their loved ones with Our Lord in Eternity.

On behalf of our Officers and Board of Directors and our entire Jednota family, we say God Bless you both. We all hope we can eventually join you with Our Lord.

Z'bohom,
Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

FCSU National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Passed Into Eternal Life on May 23, 2021

Andrew R. Harcar Sr, 81, of Streator passed away Sunday, May 23, 2021 at Heritage Health, Streator IL surrounded by his family.

Born December 17, 1939 in Streator he was the son of Thomas and Anna (Lesak) Harcar. He married Maria M. Kiss on July 21, 1962 at Immaculate Conception Church, Streator. She preceded him in death on November 1, 2017.

He is survived by his daughters, Veronica Manzella of Normal, IL, and Theresa (Tim) Graves of Streator; a son, Andrew Harcar Jr.; grandchildren, Matthew Manzella, Jennifer Manzella and Emma Graves; sisters, Frances (Oral) Higdon of Streator and Mary Ann Woodward of Bloomington, IL; and a brother, James Harcar of Streator.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by: sisters, Ann Beckmon and Agnes Hornick; brothers, Thomas Jr., Joseph, Michael and William Harcar; a son



in law, Richard Manzella; and a sister in law, Rose Harcar.

Born and raised in Streator, Andy attended St. Stephen's Grade School. He attended three years of Seminary before graduating from Streator High School. He was a lifelong member of the former St. Stephen's Parish, now called St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Parish, where he served as an usher. Andy was a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and its Color Corp. and he was a past Faithful Navigator.

He was a United States Army Veteran.

Andy served as the National Vice-President of Membership and Marketing for the First Catholic Slovak Union for over 20 years. He was a past Branch Officer for 38 years, a former FCSU District Officer for 14 years, and a former Regional Director for Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and all points west. He was a member of Matica slovenska, the Slovak Catholic Federation, and the Slovak Heritage and Cultural Society. He was also a Licensed Insurance Producer for the State of Illinois for over 20 years. In addition, Andy was a Past President of the Indiana Fraternal Alliance.

Andy was a retired General Contractor in business for 36 years as well as a Construction Consultant, and was a carpentry instructor at Illinois Valley Community College for 21 years. He co-owned the Rock Bluffs Tree Farm for 42 years. He also was member of Streator, Illinois Board of Appeals, AMVETS, the American Legion, and the American Tree Farm Association.

Andy was a former President Eastern Illinois University Parents Club Board of Directors and a former Girls' Softball Coach and Boys' Midget League Coach.

Andy was extremely proud of his Slovak Heritage and he truly treasured his FCSU family who meant the world to him. Andy will be dearly missed by his children and grandchildren whom he loved very much. He was a wonderful and caring man who had a smile for everyone he met.

Memorials may be directed to St. Michael the Archangel Church, Streator, or the charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.solontelford.com.

FCSU National Treasurer George F. Matta, II Passed Into Eternal Life on May 10, 2021

George F. Matta, II, age 64, of White Oak, PA, and formerly of Duquesne, PA, died peacefully on May 10, 2021. He was born on October 2, 1956 to parents George Matta, deceased, and Florence (Kelmeckis) Matta, and is survived by his wife Catherine (Love), who met in high school and were married for 39 devoted years; his son, Bradley and wife Gretchen (Dimeling) Matta, and daughter Brittany and her husband Darin Kowalski. George was blessed to be known as "Pappy" to his four grandchildren; Kash, Hagen, Bannan, and Kinley - all of whom he adored and provided him with motivation during his battle with brain cancer; and his dog Oliver. George also leaves behind his brother, Gary Matta, and brother-in-law, George Dillinger, and his wife Cindy (Pazehoski) Dillinger; and nieces and nephews: Logan (Dillinger) and Keith Haselhoff, Tyler and Liz (Heiles) Dillinger, Langley (Matta) and Tyler Shope, Austin Matta and Jaquan Davidson.

George lived a full life; dedicated to supporting his family, helping his friends, and committed to always trying to better the "Mon Valley" - the community he was so proud to have



continued on page 17

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

lived in throughout his entire life. His journey in life began in the City of Duquesne, from being born here, one of his proudest political accomplishments, was to be elected as Mayor of Duquesne from (1993-1999). Indeed, being called "Mayor" was a badge of honor as he was a graduate of Duquesne High School (1974) and was elected as City Controller (1989-1993). George obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Penn State University (1978), and Masters in Business Industrial Relations from St. Francis College (1983).

George leaves this world after making countless relationships from starting his professional career as Manager of Benefits and Compensation for PPG Industries (1980-1985), owning retail flower shops (Ann's and Matta's) in the Mon Valley (1984-1999), being elected as the Clerk of Courts in Allegheny County (2000-2008), Economic Development Liaison from Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh Super Computer (2008-2009), serving as Director of Business Development and Community Relations from the inception of the River's Casino (2009-2012), then Managing Director of Institutional Services for Columbus Macro.

His civic and community involvement was immeasurable and illustrated by his deep concern and commitment for serving the public in numerous capacities geared toward the economic improvement and development of the region: Pittsburgh Economic and Industrial Development Corporation Committee; Member of the Mon-Fayette/Mon-Valley Expressway for Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission; Member of the Board for the Regional Industrial Development Corporation for the Duquesne-McKeesport Millsite; Member of Allegheny County Retirement System; Member of the Steel Valley Authority Citizens Advisory Board; Board Member for the Duquesne-West Mifflin Chamber of Commerce; Member of Duquesne Redevelopment Authority; Member of Duquesne Planning Commission; Board Member of White Oak Zoning Commission; Chairman of Duquesne Sanitation Authority; Charter Member of the Mon-Valley 911 Dispatch System; and Duquesne Business Advisory System.

George's concern for the safety and well-being of others encouraged him to be involved as a member of Lifespan Board of Directors; Board Member of Animal Friends of Pittsburgh; Board Member Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank; Board Member of Womansplace of Western Pennsylvania; Director for the McKeesport Area Rescue System; Member of Duquesne-West Mifflin Knights of Columbus. George also served as the Chairman of Duquesne Democratic Committee; Chairman of the White Oak Democratic Committee, Committeeman to the Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee, and Member of the (IACREOT) International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers.

George was proud of his Slovak heritage and was honored to follow in his father's footsteps, serving as the National Treasurer for the First Catholic Slovak Union (JEDNOTA). Most distinctly, one of George's most passionate charitable endeavors was starting the Jodie Matta-Dillinger Cancer Foundation, which serves to help families of cancer patients within the Mon Valley, in honor of his late sister Jodie (Matta) Dillinger, who he is now reunited with in heaven.

George has positively touched so many in trying to help and better the lives of others, and his memory will forever be celebrated. George and his family requested that any memorial contributions be made to the "JMD Foundation", <https://www.jmdf.net/>, at 1527 California Avenue, White Oak, PA 15131.

Condolences may be made at www.jeffersonmemorial.biz. To plant a tree in memory of George F. Matta, II please visit the Jefferson Memorial Tribute Store.

**MARY MARGARET KONCZ
BRANCH 553 –
AKRON, OHIO**

Mary Margaret (Form) (Frang) Koncz, 97, passed away January 29, 2021.

Mary was born in Akron on January 23, 1924, to the late Val & Julia Form and was a lifelong area resident. A 1942 graduate of Garfield High School, she married Tony Frang and together they raised their three daughters. After Tony's death in 1980, Mary found love again and married Andrew Koncz, who passed in 2002. She worked as a hair stylist and was beloved by her clients. Mary was a former parishioner of St. John the Baptist and was an active member of every parish she belonged to over the years, including St. Peter and St. Paul, where she served as a lector, an Altar Society member, and a member of the Ladies Guild. She also belonged to the Firestone Park Seniors and the Green AARP.

In addition to her parents and husbands, Mary was preceded in death by her sister Kathleen (Tony) Macchariole; and brother-in-law George Kacsanek. She is survived by her daughters Valerie (David) Ehret, Toni



Marie Studts, and Beverly Ann Fatkins; sisters Elizabeth Ruip and Johanna Kacsanek; grandchildren Tamara (Charles) Parker, Douglas (Cortney) Ehret, Tonya (Richard) Adame, Natalie Fatkins, and Mitchell (Krista) Fatkins; great-grandchildren Grant, Reed, Savannah, Blake, Ricca, Valentina, Grace, Connor, Brady, and Karson; and many nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Valerie Ehret

**HELEN T
KWIATKOWSKI
BRANCH 615 –
HARPER WOODS,
MICHIGAN**

Helen T. Kwiatkowski, age 92 of Plymouth, MI, entered into Eternal Life on February 17, 2021.

She was the loving wife of the late Walter J. Sr; the beloved mother of Wally and the late Cynthia; and the dear sister of Bernie Bornyak. She also was the proud grandma of Victoria Kwiatkowski and Olivia Kwiatkowski, and great grandma of Joshua, Cody, and Zach.

She will be missed!

- Submitted by Wally Kwiatkowski

**IN MEMORIAM****Retired Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB
Passed Away May 3, 2021**

Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, retired fifth abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, OH, passed away on May 3, 2021, at Regina Health Center in Richfield, OH, his residence for the past year. Abbot Clement was 89 years old, a monk for 67 years and had completed 61 years in the priesthood.

Baptized as Leo Zeleznik in 1931, he was the son of the late George and Helen (Richnasky) Zeleznik in Cleveland, OH. He was preceded in death by his brothers James, Donald, and Thomas, and his sisters Notre Dame Sister Mary Jonathan and Notre Dame Sister Regina Marie. He grew up in St. Benedict's Parish which was staffed by the Benedictine monks of Saint Andrew Abbey.

He graduated as valedictorian of the Class of 1950 at Benedictine High School where he helped to organize the first cross country team and was a standout in the track program. After two years of undergraduate studies at St. Procopius College in Lisle, Illinois, he entered Saint Andrew Abbey as a novice and received the religious name of Clement. He professed his first vows in 1953.

Fr. Clement earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN and continued his studies for the priesthood at the former St. Joseph's Seminary of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Cleveland. He was ordained a priest on May 23, 1959 by Auxiliary Bishop Floyd Begin at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland.

He then joined the faculty of Benedictine High School and taught physics and theology from 1960-1970 and from 1973-1997. A true scholar, Fr. Clement achieved advanced degrees in physics from the University of Notre Dame (1963), in Religious Education from Loyola University of Chicago (1969), and in Spirituality and Religious Formation from Duquesne University's Institute of Man (1973) under noted theologian-psychologists Fr. Adrian Van Kaam, C.S.Sp. and Dr. Susan Muto.

In 1996, Fr. Clement published his own English translation of a book of private, spiritual revelations by a Mexican mystical writer of the 20th century, Concepcion Cabrera de Armida, a mother and widow who founded several religious orders and who was beatified in 2019. In 2002, as abbot, he was a featured guest on EWTN television and was interviewed by host Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ about the book.

Earlier in 1996, Fr. Clement participated in a project of fast-growing interest at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. He served on an advisory board to give shape to the research of Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard University Medical School about the measurable effects of intercessory prayer on people who had coronary bypass surgery.

In the monastery, he served as the Director of Formation and novice master from 1976-1997. From 1997-2001 Fr. Clement was assigned as associate pastor of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights, Ohio, a parish administered by the abbey. He was elected the fifth abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey on June 8, 2001 succeeding Abbot Roger Gries, OSB upon Abbot Roger's nomination as auxiliary bishop of Cleveland.

Abbot Clement resigned as superior of the abbey in 2008 at the age of 76. In 2011, he accepted an assignment as chaplain-in-residence for Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, OH. He returned to the abbey for health reasons in 2018.

- Submitted by Fr. Gerard Gonda, Branch 24 Chaplain

**BARTOLOMEJ
"BART" RADA
BRANCH 746 –
LINDEN, NEW
JERSEY**

Bartolomej "Bart" Rada, 82, of Linden, NJ, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday April 27th, 2021.

Bart was born on December 15, 1938 in Humenne Slovakia to Helena and John Rada. He married Juliana Chvastakova and immigrated to the United States on May 17, 1965 and lived in Brooklyn New York. He then moved to Linden in 1971 and has lived there since.

Bart was an assembly line worker at the GM Plant in Linden for 30 years. He was a dedicated worker never missing a day of work. Bart and Julie Rada were owners of Julies Catering for 31 years where they made delicious food for many, many occasions, including many Jednota Dinner Dances. Bart was a long time active member of Branch 746, never missing a Branch or Okres meeting. He participated in all the activities and trips organized by Branch 746,

always enthusiastic giving a lending hand when needed. Bart was also a dedicated parishioner of the Slovak American parish, Holy Family Church in Linden.

Bart was a dedicated family man and beloved husband to his surviving wife Julie Rada. He was a wonderful brother to John and Emilia Radova and sister Regina Demkova of Jasonov Okre-Humenne Slovakia. He is survived by his beloved sister in laws Darina Vancak and Marta Hosp. He is survived by his devoted children Bartolomej and wife Diane Rada, Stephen Rada, Dana and husband Robert Banas, and Kathy and husband James Martone. He is survived by his seven grandchildren – Eric Rada, Dominic Rada, Matt Rada, Elizabeth Banas, Angelina Banas, Juliana Martone, and James Martone.

Bartolomej had a heart of gold and always worked hard and was dedicated to those around him. He often pitched a helping hand when needed and never complained. Bart will be truly missed by those who were lucky enough to have witnessed his incredible work ethic and shared incredible memories with him.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados,
Branch 746 President



Focus on History

Slovakia in 1939-1945

Part 2: To commemorate or not to commemorate?

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

The day when a state is born is usually a date that is commemorated. Our modern era is full of states that celebrate the day of their creation. The manner and the circumstances of the birth were different for each and at times even problematic because of the context in which it took place; still, that day is observed. Canada, for example, celebrates becoming a state on 1 July 1867 thanks to a law passed by the British parliament, something that also happened in Australia on 1 January 1901; on 4 July, the United States celebrates a pronouncement called the United States Declaration of Independence (formally The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America) that was adopted by the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on that day in 1776; Kenya celebrates the day when it achieved independence, on 12 December 1963, after negotiations between the British government and representatives from the Kenyan independence movement. Kenya's independence had been preceded by the Mau Mau Uprising while America's declaration of independence was proclaimed during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). France, for its part, with its rich history of kingdoms, empires, and republics, chose a specific event to celebrate statehood, namely the taking of the Bastille on 14 July 1789, calling it the "Fête Nationale Française." These examples, among many more, suggest not only that there are positive and negative circumstances that bring about the creation of a state, but, as the French example shows, that there may be challenges in selecting an appropriate and/or acceptable celebratory day. This is the case of Slovakia.

There are two dates in Slovak history when a state was created: 14 March 1939 and 1 January 1993. Slovakia is not alone in having experienced this dual situation in the 20th century. This is the case of the Baltic states. For Estonia, the solution in choosing a date was easily found: 24 February became Independence Day because on that day in 1918 an Estonian Provisional Government was formed while the country was under German occupation. After the defeat of Germany, independence was still uncertain: On 28 November 1918, Soviet Russia, seeking to reclaim the territories of Imperial Russia, invaded Estonia launching the Estonian War of Independence. It lasted until the signing of the Tartu Peace Treaty on 2 February 1920 where Soviet Russia pledged to give up permanently all sovereign claims to Estonia.

Estonia's independence was, however, not respected by the Soviet Union. As a result of the signing of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact on 23 August 1939, the country fell in the Soviet sphere and on 6 August 1940 was officially annexed and became the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (Estonian SSR). The Soviet period lasted until 20 August 1991, when, in the wake of a referendum where almost 80 % of voters expressed their support, Estonia declared independence, designating that day a national holiday known as the Day of Restoration of Independence. This year, on 24 February, as they have been doing every year, Estonian Canadians celebrated the 103d anniversary of Estonian independence with the lighting of Niagara Falls and the CN Tower with the blue, black, and white, the colors of the Estonian flag, and with a virtual concert organized by three Estonian churches in Toronto that included images of the Estonia's countryside.

The international conditions that made possible Estonia's declaration of independence in 1918 were very different from the ones that brought about Slovakia's in 1939. Not only was the Russian Empire falling apart in 1918, but American President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points reinforced the Estonian yearning for freedom and independence. But independence was not without challenges: Estonia's response to the Depression was the establishment of authoritarian regime under Konstantin Päts in 1934. Then, in 1939, Estonia fell victim to the changing international situation brought about by Germany's expansionist policies in Europe. With the outbreak of war, the country became a battlefield for German and Soviet armies, Soviet annexation, the deportation of thousands Estonians to Siberia, and the persecution of its Jews resulting in an estimated loss of 25 percent of its population as well as territory to the USSR at war's end. Estonia had also lost her independence.

Together with the Czech Lands, Slovakia benefitted from President Wilson's Fourteen Points in 1918 with the creation of Czecho-Slovakia. The interwar years, however, saw the search for a solution to Czech-Slovak relations that had become strained as a result of Prague's ideology of Czechoslovakism. It was an ideology that refused to acknowledge the Slovaks as a nation and to grant Slovakia the autonomy promised in the Pittsburgh Agreement of 1918. German expansionism in the 1930s, to which Czecho-Slovakia's security was sacrificed by the Western states at Munich in 1938, forced the Slovak political elite to look for ways to ensure that Slovakia would not be a victim to dismemberment and occupation by Germany and other neighboring states. Separation from the Czech Lands and state independence turned out to be the only viable outcome to ensure survival.

On 14 March 1939, by an act of a Slovak legislature known as the Slovak Assembly, Slovakia achieved independence, creating the first SR. Its fate, however, was tied to Germany, its war aims, and the policies it imposed on Europe, especially toward the Jews whose total extermination was sought by the regime of Adolf Hitler. Unlike Estonia, however, Slovakia was not in the sphere of German and Soviet military operations until August 1944, so that for almost six years, independence gave the inhabitants of Slovakia an opportunity to govern themselves and experience economic and social development. However, the Allies had opted for a renewal of Czecho-Slovakia at the end of hostilities in 1945. This meant that Slovak statehood came to an end and the inhabitants of Slovakia were once again having to find a way to live in Czechoslovakia as equal partners of the Czechs. The imposition of the Soviet Communist ideology in 1948 made this search for equality a particularly difficult challenge; in the end, it was not met. Czecho-Slovakia broke up on 31 December 1992. Slovakia's statehood the next day was a leap into the unknown, but not a blind one. It had a precedent that had been successful: the decision that had been taken on 14 March 1939, albeit under very different circumstances.

It is only after the fall of communism in 1989 that Slovakia could, like Estonia, envisage statehood as an option. Another Slovak legislature, known as the Slovak National Council, voted for separation and statehood, creating the second Slovak Republic on 1 January 1993 after the failure to come to an understanding with the Czech political elite on an acceptable solution to Czech-Slovak relations in post-Communist Czecho-Slovakia. With this vote came the question of which date to commemorate independence: March 14th or January 1st? The Slovak political elite chose the latter, opting thereby to

leave the legacy of the first SR in the same Orwellian memory hole the Communist regime had thrust it after 1948. The result was to continue not commemorating March 14th.

This situation did not sit well with many Slovaks who had left Slovakia at the end of the war and established themselves in the West. With the re-creation of Czechoslovakia in 1945 and the Communist take-over in 1948, they had realized that Slovakia and the Slovaks had no one to speak on their behalf, especially abroad. Commemorating March 14th every year was the best way to convey clearly the message that Slovakia and the Slovaks had experienced statehood and that independence was a right to which they could aspire, especially in a democratic setting. Even after the creation of the second Slovak Republic, they continued to celebrate March 14th because they refuse to ignore that period in their nation's history.

Although the Estonian and Slovak experiences are similar in some respects, they are also quite different. After Estonia's incorporation in the Soviet Union in 1940, the West continued to recognize her independence as well as that of the other Baltic states. This made the 1918 date of 24 February the proper one to commemorate Estonian statehood when Estonia became independent again on 20 August 1991. Slovakia's statehood, on the other hand, had ceased to be recognized in 1945. The postwar, Communist, and post-Communist political elites in Slovakia, because of Slovakia's alliance with Germany, had chosen to ignore the experience of the first SR, a state that much of Western scholarship simplistically linked to Germany's policies in Europe. There are few detached accounts of the first SR that do not confuse regime with statehood. Nevertheless, the decision to ignore a period in Slovakia's history and presenting it only from a single perspective explains why there is no commemoration of March 14th in Slovakia. But is it right and justified to sweep under the rug six years of history and to ignore a problematic and difficult period that proved to be a successful struggle for survival? There is only one answer to this question, and from it only one conclusion: It is appropriate to commemorate March 14th.



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file - address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at: 1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

HOSTING

SLOVAK PICNIC



Saturday JUNE 19

3pm till 11pm

Free Admission

American Slovak Sokol Camp

2069 Royalwood Road

Broadview Hts,

(Between State and Broadview Rd.)

Serving Slovak Food Beer-Pivo, Pastries, Music & Dancing



Branch 200 Announces Cancellation of 125th+ 1 Anniversary



Branch 200 made the difficult decision at its meeting May 5th not to hold the 125th +1 anniversary that was postponed from last October. Since it is unclear what the CDC guidelines will be at the time of the event, we voted to wait until 2025 and hold a 130th anniversary celebration, Good Lord willing.

All donations will be returned and letters will be sent to our guest speakers, the caterer, and anyone else who requires notification. It saddened us deeply to cancel, but safety is our main concern as well uncertainty about the number of guests who would be able to attend. Any additional information or details will be published in an upcoming JEDNOTA.

We will continue to accept any memorabilia and make copies for anything wanted returned. We will plan on having entertainment and snacks in the Social Club this October.

Members should feel free to contact me anytime @724-763-9229 and leave a message. I will return your call as soon as possible. You may message me @vschaub123@gmail.com. Take care, God bless, and stay safe.

- Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Branch 200 Secretary/Treasurer

Donations for Church Built by Fr. Furdek Needed



The Reverend Štefan Furdek was born in Trstená, Orava County, in (what is now) Slovakia on September 2, 1855. He was brought to the Cleveland, OH, area as a seminarian by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, and was ordained in 1882 to minister to the area's growing immigrant population from Central and Eastern Europe.

In September 1890, 12 Slovak immigrants met at the invitation of Fr. Furdek to found the First Catholic Slovak Union. The very next year, in 1891, Fr. Furdek oversaw the breaking of ground for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on East 53rd Street in Cleveland. The work was completed in 1902, with Fr. Furdek serving as its first pastor. Our Lady of Lourdes remains an active parish today for a multicultural community on the city's eastside.

Its roof is now in dire need of replacement. Pastor Fr. Joseph Callahan estimates the cost at \$165,000.

Donations toward a new roof are needed, and can be sent directly to:
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
3395 E. 53rd
Cleveland, Ohio 44127
Attention: Fr. Joseph Callahan

- Submitted by Thomas J. Ivanec, Region 6 Director



ATTENTION: Branch 199 Members who are Graduates or Scouting Award Winners during the 2020-2021 Pandemic

If you are a member of Branch 199 and completed High School, College, Technical School, or are a Recipient of an Eagle Scout Award or Girl Scout Gold Award during 2020 and 2021, we are LOOKING for YOU!

Branch 199 recognizes the challenges that our young members have endured during the pandemic. Branch 199 members want to recognize each of you and award you a branch stipend for your accomplishment during a difficult time.

In order to be considered, please submit documentation of your achievement (copies only - submitted documentation will not be returned) by July 15, 2021 to:

Branch 199 Recognition Committee
c/o Barbara Patula
129 Holly Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

For more information, please contact Barbara at bapatula@yahoo.com

Focus on Fraternalism



Michael Bertovich and Ronald Boone stand near bags ready for distribution.



Charles Boone finishes filling a bag.

Branch 853 Answers the Call - Again

Branch 853 of the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District show that Fraternalism in Action is part of their lives. Four branch members, Michael Bertovich, Monica and Ronald Boone and their son Charles Boone, helped by filling bags recently at the St Andrew the Apostle Church Food Bank in Donora, PA - all while following state COVID guidelines and wearing masks. Branch 853 is committed to helping our fellow man!

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President



How Are You Helping?

What are you doing? Email Jednota at fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com and share what your branch, district or family is doing to help others.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

	V	A	T		S	C	A	N		S	L	O	W	
	W	I	S	E		T	H	O	U		N	A	V	E
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E	R	N	S		H	A	T	S		S	E	R	E	
D	R	A	Y		A	L	E	E		A	D	S		

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

fect at the time will be strictly followed.

Fraternally,

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events at St. John the Baptist Branch 553 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

June 16: Chicken Paprikas Dinner – Served 4:30-6:30 pm

July 7: Spaghetti Dinner - Served 4:30-7:00 pm

July 21: Wednesday Monthly Dinner – Served 4:30-6:30 pm

July 24: Kielbasa Open - \$75 per golfer/\$300 per 4 some – call Club for details

July 31: Minor league Lake Erie Crushers baseball in Avon, OH with all-you-can-eat picnic. Details on p15. Call Club for special member pricing & to order your tickets by July 19.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL MEALS. CALL CLUB 330-786-9972 AFTER 3 PM

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held via Zoom/virtual on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM. The agenda will be communicated via e-mail one week prior to the meeting. Please contact Sylvia at sjevec@aol.com if you want details about the virtual meeting and/or agenda.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 670 members: Save the Date: August 8, 2021. Members are invited to a Hlinka District picnic starting at 1:00PM. More information will be provided in the July edition of Jednota. Information will be automatically sent to any branch member who attended the March 2021 district meeting. If you are interested in attending the district picnic, leave your name and phone number with the District Secretary at 412-341-1577 or email HlinkaDistrictSecretary@gmail.com.

Monica Rodacy Boone,
District 12 Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will include discussion of sponsored projects/programs for the remainder of the year.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 5:00PM. The meeting will be held at Cafe422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, OH. Plans for summer activities will be discussed. Please follow Ohio guidelines pertaining to Covid 19.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Due to covid-19 restrictions, St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will now celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, July 18, 2021, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. All members and their families are invited to at-

tend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day.

A branch meeting will take place at 1:15PM in the Slovak Heritage Room. On the agenda will be: Presidents Report; Financial Report; 2021 FCSU Scholarship; Annual Membership Meeting; 100th Anniversary and other business pertaining to the FCSU and Branch 743. It is possible that Covid-19 requirements may change and an alternate site within the Church may be required. A notice will be posted at the Heritage Room, if needed.

The St. Cyril & Methodius Parish Slovak Festival is scheduled for August 13 – 15, 2021, check the parish bulletin for further details.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620.

No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Holy Mass has been offered for Branch 746 members living and deceased at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The Masses will be in Slovak. If you are able, please join in person on the following dates:

Friday, July 30 at 7pm

Friday, September 3 at 7pm

Friday, October 1, 2021 at 7pm

Friday, October 22, 2021 at 7pm (In commemoration of the 99th anniversary of Branch 746)

Friday, November 5, 2021

- Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will be holding a virtual meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 1:00PM. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions this meeting will be virtual. Any member planning to attend this virtual meeting is asked to contact Tyler Gregoricka at tyler.m.gregoricka@gmail.com.

Gary Gregoricka, President

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold its Semi Annual Meeting on July 7, 2021 at 7PM via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to members under a separate email prior to the meeting.

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all Branch 853 members: On July 15, 2021, Branch 853 will attend Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA. Each branch member is responsible for their own transportation to and from the park. The branch will purchase entry tickets and lunch for each branch member attending. Members will be able to enjoy the park on their own, with the branch members meeting for lunch. Any branch member interested in attending, leave your name and phone number at 412- 341-1577 or FCSUB-branch853@gmail.com by June 30.

All Branch 853 members also please Save the Date: August 8, 2021. Members are invited to a Hlinka District picnic starting at 1:00PM. More information will be provided in the July edition of Jednota. Any branch member interested in attending, leave your name and phone number at 412- 341-1577 or FCSUBBranch853@gmail.com and the information when available, will be provided to you.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 encourages our members to attend the June 19 Slovak Radio Club Picnic at the Slovak Sokol Campground, 2069 Royalwood Rd., Broadview Hts., OH. See page 18 for picnic details. Adult members of Branch 855 will receive \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children 10 and under who are members will receive \$5 in food/beverage tickets. Contact Branch 855 Branch President Barbara Sutilla by email at fcsu855@gmail.com or by text at 440-864-4744 for more information.

Stephanie Sutilla, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Take me out to the ballgame.....all Branch 855 members are invited to join our District 10 event at the Lake Erie Crushers game on Saturday evening, July 31, 2021 (see page 15 for details). Tickets must be reserved in advance. Any Branch 855 member wishing to attend the game should contact Branch President Barbara Sutilla by email at fcsu855@gmail.com or by text at 440-864-4744 by July 19, 2021 to reserve a spot – and learn how you can attend for free!!

Stephanie Sutilla, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856-K is happy to announce that there will be a Mass celebrating the 56 Anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday September 18, 2021 at 1:30PM in the Crypt Church. The reason for the change is the Shrine is preparing for many celebrations for the 100th year of the founding and beginning of building of the shrine. At this time there is a limited number of people that can be in attendance and social distancing and masks are required.

(Those requirements are as of this date May 28,2021).I was told by representative from shrine that by September restriction could be lifted. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

In keeping with the recommendations from the home office of the FCSU, we have scheduled our next meeting as a virtual one on Zoom, unless restrictions change. It is set for October 23, 2021 at 1:00PM. We encourage our members to join in. These Zoom meetings are convenient in that you can attend from your own home. For information on how to join the meeting call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638. There will be a discussion of the district meeting, financial report, and election of officers for 2022. Also, our anniversary Mass in honor of our Slovak Chapel is still on the schedule for September 12, 2021. More details will follow later. Any questions call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The meeting schedule of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be as follows: Sunday July 11, 2021 at 2:00PM. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meeting will be held virtually via a zoom meeting. Those who wish to attend, please call 267-795-7930 and leave a message (your contact information) or email n.nasta@aol.com and we will send you information on how to connect to the meeting.

Fraternally,

Nicole L Nasta, Recording Secretary

Branch 716 May Celebrations



Branch 716 kicked off May with a celebration of May Day and Member Peter Gaspar's birthday (pictured center) on May 2, 2021 in St Catherine Park in New York City after Sunday Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church. Branch members and parishioners attended the festivities. President Jan Škrkon prepared some refreshments for attendees.

Then, later in the month, Branch 716 once again organized a celebration in St. Catherine Park. This time, they gathered to congratulate Michaela Knapik and Times Klesec, daughters of Branch 716 and Branch 45 members, on their confirmation at the Mass that day in nearby St. John Nepomucene. President Jan Škrkon prepared refreshments for the occasion, and all parishioners were invited to attend. Parish Officer Lisa Calabrese also stopped to offer congratulations. A good time was had by all.



- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

Statement as of March 31, 2021 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	397,344,796		397,344,796	398,930,917
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	500,000		500,000	500,000
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,076,039		2,076,039	2,066,768
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	3,926,028		3,926,028	966,976
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	507,486		507,486	512,395
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	349,533		349,533	359,364
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....			0	
5. Cash (\$.....56,659,824), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	56,659,824		56,659,824	39,547,813
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,174,400		1,174,400	1,169,065
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	9,527,337		9,527,337	8,964,590
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	472,065,443	0	472,065,443	453,017,888
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,734,776		4,734,776	4,583,834
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	95,166		95,166	46,755
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$.....0) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$.....0).....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....			0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	476,895,935	550	476,895,385	457,648,477
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	476,895,935	550	476,895,385	457,648,477

Statement as of March 31, 2021 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts \$.....0 less \$.....0 included in Line 6.3 (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	389,155,907	365,767,214
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	31,785,695	34,827,372
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Policyholders' dividends/refunds to members \$.....0 and coupons \$.....0 due and unpaid.....	400,000	400,000
6. Provision for policyholders' dividends/refunds to members and coupons payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members apportioned for payment (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
6.2 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members not yet apportioned (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
6.3 Coupons and similar benefits (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
7. Amount provisionally held for deferred dividend policies not included in Line 6.....		
8. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	52,965	39,580
9. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
9.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
9.2 Provision for experience rating refunds, including the liability of \$.....0 accident and health experience rating refunds of which \$.....0 is for medical loss ratio rebate per the Public Health Service Act.....		
9.3 Other amounts payable on reinsurance, including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
9.4 Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	1,071,703	921,860
10. Commissions to agents due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	211,602	101,745
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
12. General expenses due or accrued.....	15,515	33,278
13. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves, net of reinsured allowances).....		
14. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued, excluding federal income taxes.....	19,006	19,006
15.1 Current federal and foreign income taxes, including \$.....0 on realized capital gains (losses).....		
15.2 Net deferred tax liability.....		
16. Unearned investment income.....		
17. Amounts withheld or retained by reporting entity as agent or trustee.....	6,312,855	6,296,008
18. Amounts held for agents' account, including \$.....0 agents' credit balances.....		
19. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
21. Liability for benefits for employees and agents if not included above.....		
22. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
23. Dividends to stockholders declared and unpaid.....		
24. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
24.01 Asset valuation reserve.....	3,276,164	3,100,321
24.02 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
24.03 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
24.04 Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
24.05 Drafts outstanding.....		
24.06 Liability for amounts held under uninsured plans.....		
24.07 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
24.08 Derivatives.....		
24.09 Payable for securities.....		1,000,000
24.10 Payable for securities lending.....		
24.11 Capital notes \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	1,253,342	1,060,987
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25).....	433,864,265	413,876,882
27. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27).....	433,864,265	413,876,882
29. Common capital stock.....		
30. Preferred capital stock.....		
31. Aggregate write-ins for other-than-special surplus funds.....	0	0
32. Surplus notes.....		
33. Gross paid in and contributed surplus.....		
34. Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds.....	0	0
35. Unassigned funds (surplus).....	43,031,120	43,771,595
36. Less treasury stock, at cost:		
36.10.000 shares common (value included in Line 29 \$.....0).....		
36.20.000 shares preferred (value included in Line 30 \$.....0).....		
37. Surplus (Total Lines 31 + 32 + 33 + 34 + 35 - 36) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	43,031,120	43,771,595
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37.....	43,031,120	43,771,595
39. Totals of Lines 28 and 38 (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	476,895,385	457,648,477

Statement as of March 31, 2021 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year to Date	2 Prior Year to Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	26,029,250	6,669,300	46,423,786
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	3,922,551	7,710,796	20,225,043
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	108,419	94,314	382,409
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous Income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	375	950	4,986
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	30,060,595	14,475,360	67,036,224
10. Death benefits.....	847,118	910,926	3,771,531
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	4,648,343	4,150,472	14,293,721
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts.....			
14. Coupons, guaranteed annual pure endowments and similar benefits.....			
15. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	105,357	158,613	488,503
16. Group conversions.....			
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	257,467	43,975	396,297
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts.....	23,388,693	4,069,440	40,205,932
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19).....	29,246,978	9,333,426	59,155,984
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	562,670	116,312	860,087
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	1,054,695	898,182	3,205,008
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes.....	33,626	34,282	115,530
25. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
26. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
27. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(221,077)	(219,673)	(731,800)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27).....	30,676,892	10,162,529	62,604,809
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28).....	(616,297)	4,312,831	4,431,415
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members.....	78,725	77,455	429,586
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30).....	(695,022)	4,235,376	4,001,829
32. Federal and foreign income taxes incurred (excluding tax on capital gains).....			
33. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and federal income taxes and before realized capital gains or (losses) (Line 31 minus Line 32).....	(695,022)	4,235,376	4,001,829
34. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding gains (losses) transferred to the IMR) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding taxes of \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	4,116		(449,472)
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34).....	(690,906)	4,235,376	3,552,357
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
36. Capital and surplus, December 31, prior year.....	43,771,595	42,148,006	42,148,006
37. Net income (Line 35).....	(690,906)	4,235,376	3,552,357
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	126,275	(3,754,239)	(2,717,292)
39. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
40. Change in net deferred income tax.....			
41. Change in nonadmitted assets.....		730	1,946
42. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
43. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease.....			
44. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(175,843)	1,051,710	892,881
45. Change in treasury stock.....			
46. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
47. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
48. Change in surplus notes.....			
49. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
50. Capital changes:			
50.1 Paid in.....			
50.2 Transferred from surplus (Stock Dividend).....			
50.3 Transferred to surplus.....			
51. Surplus adjustment:			
51.1 Paid in.....			
51.2 Transferred to capital (Stock Dividend).....			
51.3 Transferred from capital.....			
51.4 Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
52. Dividends to stockholders.....			
53. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	0	6,534	(106,303)
54. Net change in capital and surplus (Lines 37 through 53).....	(740,474)	1,540,111	1,623,589
55. Capital and surplus as of statement date (Lines 36 + 54).....	43,031,120	43,688,117	43,771,595

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