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Volume 134

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NUMBER 6051



Cardinal Robert Prevost Elected Pope Leo XIV, First American-Born Pontiff

On May 8, 2025, the Catholic Church began a new chapter with the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as the 267th pope. Taking the name Pope Leo XIV, he becomes the first American-born pontiff in the Church's 2,000-year history, marking a significant moment for Catholics around the globe.

Born in Chicago, IL in 1955, Pope Leo XIV is a member of the Order of St. Augustine (O.S.A.) and has spent decades serving both in the United States and internationally. Though American by birth, much of his ministry was carried out in Peru, where he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo and later became a respected leader within the Latin American Church.

Before his election to the papacy, he served as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, where he played a pivotal role in selecting bishops around the world. In his first public remarks, he expressed gratitude for the leadership of his predecessor and committed himself to continuing the Church's mission in a rapidly changing world. "We must be a Church that listens, that walks with people in their joys and in their suffering," he said from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. His message centered on healing divisions, promoting peace, and renewing faith in troubled times.

Pope Leo XIV's election reflects both a geographical shift and a possible pastoral evolution in Church leadership. His background suggests he will prioritize the needs of the global south, embrace intercontinental dialogue, and continue efforts to reform Church governance and promote transparency. His American upbringing also places him in a unique position to engage with secular democracies and address the challenges of modernity without abandoning Catholic tradition. His experience, humility, and cross-cultural perspective have inspired hope among many Catholics who see in him a leader capable of guiding the Church through the 21st century.

Message from the President

With sorrow and gratitude, we reflect on the passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis. A humble servant of God, Pope Francis devoted his life to proclaiming the Gospel with compassion, clarity, and courage. His papacy was marked by an emphasis on mercy, justice, care for the poor, and stewardship of creation. At the same time, we rejoice in the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. With open hearts, we welcome his leadership and pray that the Lord may grant him wisdom, strength, and grace as he begins this sacred ministry.

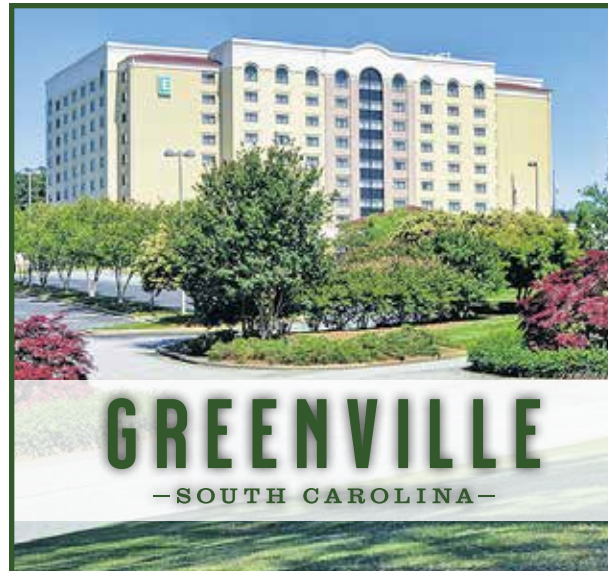
I am pleased to announce we will gather for our 53rd Quadrennial Convention next June in Greenville, South Carolina. Further details and important deadlines are included in this issue.

This year, we've expanded our licensing into 11 new states and are now licensed in 38 states. That opens the door for more individuals and families to experience the security, service, and community we proudly provide. With this growth comes new opportunities. To meet the needs of our expanding membership, we are actively seeking Independent Insurance Agents to join our team. Our agents benefit from attractive commission structures, marketing assistance, and the backing of a respected fraternal organization with deep community roots. If you or someone you know is interested in a career opportunity, we encourage you to reach out to us and explore how you can be part of our continued success.

Join us this summer for our national picnics at Knoebels, Wiegand Lake Park and our golf outing at Lakeview Golf Resort. They are all great opportunities to relax, connect, and enjoy some fun with fellow members. Visit our website at www.fcsu.com for all the details and to register. We look forward to seeing you soon and sharing a season full of community and good company!



Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO



FCSU 53rd Quadrennial Convention

By direction of the Executive Committee and with the approval of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, the 53rd Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at:

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

All National Officers, Regional Directors, District Officers, Branch Officers, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union are notified herewith that the Convention dates are:

**Saturday, June 20 -
Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

All Officers and Members are directed to review Section 11.03 through Section 11.05 of our Bylaws to determine delegate eligibility and duties and Section 11.08 through 11.12 for the Convention business. (Please see www.fcsu.com – Membership – Bylaws National).

The final delegate count shall be based on membership as of February 1, 2026 (see Section 11.04c). Election of delegates to our 53rd Quadrennial Convention must be completed by March 20, 2026; ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention (see Section 11.03c).

The National Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union are looking forward to a productive and fraternal 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

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

FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD



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

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



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

VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:
Shannon Travise • editor@fcsu.com

First Catholic Slovak Union, Attn: "JEDNOTA"
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Message from the National Chaplain

The death of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on the morning after Easter Sunday surprised everyone, especially since he made a public appearance at Saint Peter's Basilica less than 24 hours before the Lord called him from this life.

People will remember Pope Francis for the many things he did in the twelve years he was Bishop of Rome. Among these were his emphasis on the mercy of God and the establishment of Missionaries of Mercy, specially chosen priests who are delegated to forgive sins of a particularly serious nature. We will remember his call for care of the environment and the earth, "our common home"; for world peace; and for respect for the human person.

The changes he made to the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy will be part of his legacy. Pope Francis was the one who instructed the name of Saint Joseph to be included in the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass. He raised the observance of Saint Mary Magdalene on July 22 from a Memorial to a Feast. He created the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church to be observed on the day after Pentecost Sunday. Shortly before his death, he approved the addition of the Memorial of Saint Theresa of Calcutta on September 5 to the General Roman Calendar.

Whatever feelings people may have about Pope Francis, there is one thing that comes through about him very clearly in his fourth and final encyclical, *On Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, He Loved Us*. Pope Francis deeply loved Jesus.

A summary of *He Loved Us* will be offered in the June issue of the *Jednota*. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta
National
Chaplain**

A Final Farewell Leads to an Ancient Ritual History of the Conclave

After 12 years as Bishop of Rome, the Lord called Pope Francis from this life. The conclave to select his successor had millions of people searching for the white smoke and waiting anxiously for the election of a new pope.

Much information about the current process for electing a pope is readily available in the secular and religious media. What is being offered here not what you would find in those resources.

For over the first 10 centuries of the church, the pope was chosen by either their predecessor or political rulers. Nicholas II in 1059 decreed a new pope is to be chosen by cardinal-bishops. The Third Lateran Council declared that cardinals are the sole electors of a new pope.

The concept of a conclave for the selection of a pope came as a result of what happened following the death of Pope Clement IV in 1268. Seventeen cardinal-electors gathered in the town of Viterbo, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Rome. The electors were under pressure from various political and ecclesial rulers to choose the candidate they wanted and, as a result, the church had no pope for nearly two years. The townsfolk became so frustrated with the lack of a decision that they took matters into their own hands. On June 1, 1270 the gates to Viterbo were locked and the cardinal electors found themselves sequestered in the bishop's residence. Only bread and water was provided for their nourishment. Windows to the residence were walled up. Portions of the roof were removed, exposing the cardinals to the outdoor elements. Finally, on September 1, 1271 the Archdeacon of Liege was selected. Away on a Crusade at that time, he reached Viterbo in early February 1272 where he accepted his election. In March of 1272 he was ordained a priest and ten days later ordained a bishop and took the name Gregory X.

Within three years after his election, Gregory X decreed at the Second Council of Lyon that a conclave would be used to the selection of future popes. The word conclave comes from two Latin words, "con" meaning "with" and "clavis" meaning "key." Therefore, a conclave describes a meeting in a room behind doors that are closed and locked.

Technically, any baptized male can be pope. The last one was Urban VI in 1378.

The first conclave that took place in the Sistine Chapel was in 1492. All conclaves since 1878 have happened there. Pope John Paul II declared the Sistine Chapel to be the official location for all future conclaves.

Pope Gregory XV declared in 1621 that all future papal elections were to be conducted by means of secret written ballots.

A few months after the election of Pope Saint Pius X in 1903, he declared all cardinal-electors were to swear a solemn oath not to allow any outside political or other influences to sway their votes. The penalty for violation of this was excommunication. Pius X also put an end to the long standing custom for centuries of certain political rulers (in his day France, Austria, and Spain) to exercise their privilege of a veto over whomever was selected as pope. He did this in order to ensure the conclave was conducted in secret. The conclave of 1903 was also the first time a cardinal from the Americas was present. He was Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore.

In 1975, Pope Saint Paul VI decided that cardinals who have reached their 80th birthday are ineligible to participate in a conclave. He also set 120 as the maximum number of electors, although this number was exceeded by 13 for this past conclave.

Continued on Page 3

NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES

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

ISSUE DEADLINES

JUNE 2025 ISSUE

COPY DATE - Monday, June 2
ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, June 11

JULY 2025 ISSUE

COPY DATE - Monday, June 30
ISSUE DATE - Wednesday, July 9

Message from the Executive Secretary

As we move into the heart of spring, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued trust and membership. In Slovakia, May is celebrated as the month of Love and New Beginnings—a beautiful reminder of the importance of family, faith, and future.

What better way to honor those values than by taking steps to protect your loved ones? Opening an Annuity, IRA or Life Insurance policy is a meaningful way to express your love and provide lasting security for the people who matter most.

We're excited to announce the launch of our new Virtual Call Program, an engaging way for members to stay connected and informed. For details, please see the full announcement on page 5.

Simply Slavic in Youngstown and the Slovak Festival in Cleveland are coming up soon, and we encourage you to attend. These events are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our rich heritage, connect with one another, and pass on the beauty of Slovak culture to the next generation.



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

Introducing Our New Auditor, Tom Krispinsky

We are excited to welcome Thomas Krispinsky as the newest member of our Internal Audit team. A resident of Warren, OH and a member of Branch 731, Tom brings with him a wealth of experience and deep expertise in finance and auditing.

Tom has served in key leadership roles throughout his career, including as Chief Financial Officer and School Treasurer for Howland Local Schools, Trumbull County Educational Service Center, and Springfield Local Schools. His hands-on experience managing school finances is further complemented by his time as an Auditor of State, where he conducted audits of school districts across northeast Ohio.

With his strong background in both auditing and financial oversight, Tom is a valuable addition to our organization. We look forward to the insight and professionalism he brings, and we are confident that his contributions will strengthen our financial integrity and support our ongoing commitment to excellence.



Tom Krispinsky
Auditor



5th Annual Gala at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

On Saturday, May 3, 2025 the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa held their 5th Annual Gala. The theme for this year's event was "Planting Our Future". The event had over 200 attendees, that included FCSU Financial members from around the country.

"It was an honor to represent FCSU Financial at this event and get the opportunity to spend time with Radovan Javorcik," said Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary. Mr. Javorcik is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Slovak Republic to the United States of America and is nearing the end his term. "It has been truly an honor to have met the Ambassador and spend time with him these past few years. I wish Ambassador Javorcik and his family all the best," said Kevin.

Thank you to Cecilia Rokusek, Museum President and CEO, for including us in this event.



UPCOMING EVENTS



MAY 2025

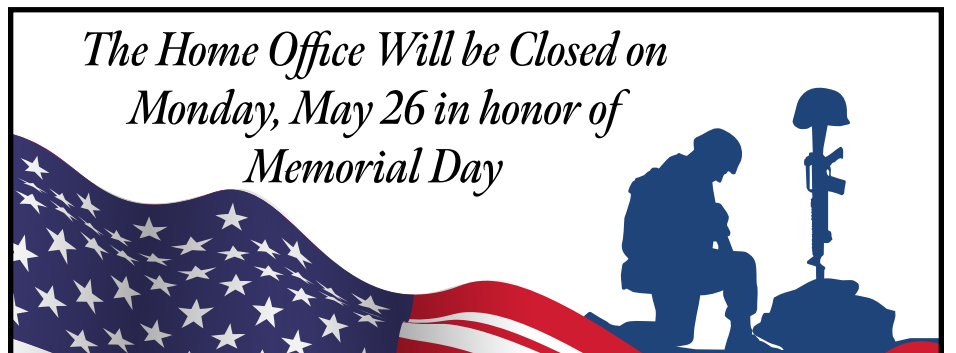
- 5/15 Branch 38 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 5/18 Branch 276 - Meeting, McKeesport, PA
- 5/18 Branch 731 - Meeting, Boardman, OH
- 5/19 Branch 764 - Meeting, Warren, OH
- 5/20 Branch 313 - Meeting, Mokena, IL (RSVP)
- 5/26 Branch 372 - Meeting, Beaverdale, PA
- 5/26 **Memorial Day - Home Office Closed**
- 5/28 Home Office - Virtual Call Program

JUNE 2025

- 6/1 Branch 45 - Meeting, New York, NY
- 6/1 Branch 581 - Meeting, Hobart, IN
- 6/1 District 12 - Hilinka District Picnic, Belle Vernon, PA (RSVP by 5/28)
- 6/6 Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 6/7 Branch 132 - Meeting, Whippany, NJ
- 6/8 Branch 19 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 6/8 Branch 89 - Baseball Game, Franklin, WI (RSVP)
- 6/8 Branch 213 - Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP)
- 6/8 Branch 587 - Meeting, Aliquippa, PA (RSVP)
- 6/8 District 1 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 6/13 Simply Slavic Festival, Youngstown, OH
- 6/14 Simply Slavic Festival, Youngstown, OH
- 6/14 Branch 153 - Meeting, Harwood Heights, IL (RSVP by 6/4)
- 6/14 Branch 484 - Meeting, Indiana, PA
- 6/14 Home Office - Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting
- 6/15 **Father's Day**
- 6/16 Branch 228 - Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 6/17 Branch 367 - Meeting, Fairchance, PA (RSVP)
- 6/18 Branch 857 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 6/21 **National Picnic - Knoebels, Elysburg, PA (RSVP by 6/6)**
- 6/21 Branch 112 - Meeting, Elysburg, PA
- 6/21 District 8 - Meeting, Elysburg, PA
- 6/22 Branch 162 - Meeting, Connellsville, PA (RSVP by 6/16)
- 6/22 Branch 320 - Meeting, Belle Vernon, PA (RSVP by 6/10)
- 6/28 **National Picnic - Wiegand Lake Park, Novelty, OH (RSVP by 6/10)**
- 6/29 Branch 181 - Picnic, Mammoth, PA

For more information, go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

The Home Office Will be Closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day



Continued from Page 2

Pope Saint John Paul II issued an additional set of directives if a conclave were to last more than two weeks.

Pope Benedict XVI modified some of his immediate predecessor's rules. He also declared that all support staff at a conclave, such as medical personnel and those providing meals for the cardinals are also to take a solemn oath not to reveal anything that occurs during the conclave or face automatic excommunication.

May Reflection

“Woman, behold your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother.” (John 19: 26-27) (NABR). With these words, as Jesus was hanging and dying on the cross, He designated the motherly role which His Mother Mary was to continue after He returned to His Heavenly Father. At this moment Mary became our mother under the symbolic person-hood of Apostle John’s son-ship. By this simple address, Jesus, in His humanity extends His personal relation as a Son to include all of us as Father God’s adopted children. We are being called to live in union with God’s outpouring of divine life and love into our lives. We know that Mary our Mother will always lead us to her Son.

During the final days of her Son Jesus’s life, Mary experienced the most horrible suffering a mother can fathom. Christ’s passion and death, so grotesque that when (with foresight) He agonized in the Garden of Olives, Jesus shed blood and begged His Father for release from the tortuous death before Him. We pause to consider Mary, after this intensity of grief and sorrow, experiencing immense joy when Jesus returns to her on Easter morning. Though not biblically documented directly, “after His resurrection, Jesus appeared first to His Mother Mary, say the saints,” from “six Doctors of the Church, including Sts. Ambrose, Anselm and Albert the Great to Pope St. John Paul II.”*

With the saints we reflect that our risen Savior would want to embrace His mother first on Easter morning. After all, they had shared much—from the Annunciation to His gifting of her to us from the cross. Now Mary shares this refreshed joy with us for hope and life with her Son today and for all eternity—especially in this “Mother’s Day month of May.” Let us sing and rejoice with Mother Mary!

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

*National Catholic Register, April 6, 2021

MARY, MY JOY

(Poetic Translation to Slovak Melody)

- Hail! Holy Mary, my joy and comfort,
Most precious treasure of my heart,
Shelter, protect me ‘neath your own mantle
As you embrace me, shield me from harm.
Refrain: O Maria, O Mary, my Mother
Your name we honor, love and praise.
- O Maria, my hope and refuge,
I place my life into your care;
As God’s own Mother, bring us to Jesus,
For help in all the sorrows we bear.
- O Maria, strength and compassion,
I come to you with my trusting prayer;
Gift us with your Son’s gracious mercy,
That we your children, may not despair.
- O Maria, white rose most radiant,
Lovely, pure lily, favored by God,
Teach me your song of humble rejoicing,
So grateful for all things God has done.

Ó MÁRIA, RADOŠŤ MOJA

- Ó Mária, radosť moja,
Sladkosť srdca mojeho,
Prím mňa pod plášť svoj materský,
Zachraňuj mňa od zlého.
SBOR: Ó Mária, ó Mária Matko,
Tvé meno znie tak sladko.
- Ó Mária, nádej moja,
Dušu, Srdce teda dám,
Vypros milosť u Ježiša
Nám opusteným dietkam.
- Ó Mária, pevnosť moja,
Pros za mňa Syna svého,
Bych nepadol do priepasti
Hriechov sveta márneho.
- Ó Mária, biela ruža,
Prečistá má ľalia,
Napln citom skrušenosti
Mé ktebe verné srdce.

Insights and Viewpoints

Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

Ascension of the Lord, Luke 24:46-53

Gospel Summary

The feast of the Ascension celebrates the departure of the Risen Lord from this world to the place reserved for him in heaven. As such, it is the continuation of his Resurrection and the completion of his victory over the forces of sin and death.

In Luke’s gospel account, the Ascension takes on special meaning because it not only signals the end of the earthly sojourn of Jesus but also prepares for the continuation of his work of salvation in the Acts of the Apostles, which is Luke’s sequel to his gospel. We recall that Luke’s gospel is dominated by the “journey” of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51-21:38). Jerusalem is like a magnet for his ministry because it is there that we find the temple, representing God’s presence, and the altar, prepared for the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

This sacrifice of Jesus in Jerusalem seems to be the end of his career but in fact it releases the power of the Spirit, which flows from Jerusalem to the farthest corners of the earth. Though Jesus does indeed “leave” his disciples when he ascends to heaven, he assures them that he is sending the “promise” of his Father upon them. This is the Holy Spirit who will guide and strengthen them (and all of us) for witnessing to Jesus, in word and deed, everywhere in the world.

Life Implications

Those of us who follow Jesus belong to the period of the Church. Through preaching and the sacraments, the Church strives to make Jesus present among us so that we may be empowered to bear witness to the power of God to deliver us from the bondage of sin and despair. It is the Holy Spirit who guides and supports us as we attempt to live

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

The Healing Power of Praying the Rosary

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

As a boy, Gary Jansen believed that Jesus didn’t like him. It might seem strange for a Catholic school student to hold that view, but it stemmed more from environment than theology. Because Gary’s family was poor, he got ostracized by other kids and thought that God looked down on him the same way they did. Over time, Gary learned that wasn’t how God actually saw him. And in retrospect, those experiences of being made to feel “less than” taught him not to be judgmental of others based on outer circumstances because you never know what is going on behind the scenes.

As the practice of his faith became a key part of Gary’s adult life, he spent more time in prayer, eventually turning to the Rosary he had learned as a child. During an interview about his new book “The Healing Power of Praying the Rosary,” he said he appreciates the fact that the prayer “incorporates body, mind, and soul” through the dimensions of vocal prayer, holding rosary beads, and contemplating the events of Jesus’ life: “I like to think of the Rosary itself as a scrapbook of Mary’s memories. There’s four different parts to this scrapbook that she keeps, and it’s the early years, the middle years, and the later years, and then also times when her son suffered. I think if you want to get to know someone, ask their mom lots of questions. The Rosary is a great place to ask Mary, and to be in [her] presence, because she can give you great insights about her son.”

This is exactly what happened for Gary. Because he practices Ignatian spirituality—which encourages people to mentally and spiritually put themselves into specific Bible scenes—Gary felt the Scriptures come alive. He explained, “Coming back to the idea of this scrapbook—let’s say the nativity of Jesus—it’s like you’re sitting next to Mary. She’s going through all these pages, and [says], ‘This is the day I had my son. You’re not going to believe who showed up, and they brought all these gifts.’ It’s a way of making Jesus relatable without taking away the importance of who He is and His story.”

Gary has also learned that the Rosary is not just good for the soul, it benefits the body. “Chronic inflammation can lead to heart disease, arthritis, or cancer over time,” Gary noted. “The leading factor that a lot of researchers and medical professionals see now is stress...It made me think: if chronic inflammation happens in the body, it must also happen in the soul and in the intellect. The book talks about both spiritual inflammation and physical inflammation. Meditative practices like the Rosary can ease that. There’s been a lot of studies over the years that meditation and prayer can help reduce stress, reduce blood pressure, lower your heart rate, boost your immune system...First and foremost, the Rosary is about praying and being in the presence of Jesus, but there’s a healing quality to it that’s a byproduct that can help us mentally and physically.”

Ultimately, Gary hopes that people who read his book get to “fall deeper into love with Jesus and see that, through the Rosary, we’ve been given a great gift. One, to be in the presence of Jesus, to learn through these mysteries. And two, realize that there’s a byproduct for engaging in this: that it can make people healthier. So give it a shot.”

the ideals of our calling and to introduce others to the salvation won for us by the sacrifice of Jesus.

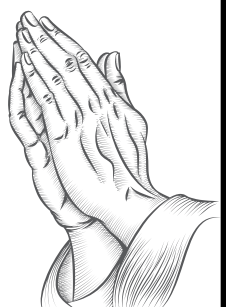
One of the principal roles of this Holy Spirit is to enable us to recognize how to live as Jesus did in circumstances that are far removed from the situation in first century Israel. It is the role of the Spirit to tell us then what Jesus would do if he were living here in the twenty-first century. Such guidance will not only give us courage and confidence but it will also enable us to understand what unselfish love means in difficult and worrisome situations.

It is truly remarkable that the disciples in the gospel story do not grieve when Jesus leaves them. Instead, they “returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God” (Luke 24:52-3). As we live in the Spirit and try to be sensitive to the Spirit’s promptings, we too can

be filled with joy and find it fitting to express that joy with words of praise and thanksgiving. As we do so, we will surely attract others who will want to know our secret and will thus be ready to learn about the wonderful gift of salvation won for us by the love of Jesus.

When you pray be sure that you also listen.

You have things you want to say to God but He also has things He wants to say to you.



N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

Join Us For The First Session of Our **NEW** Virtual Call Program



We're excited to launch a new Branch and District Virtual Call Program to help keep everyone informed and connected—especially those unable to attend in-person meetings. Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, COO will conduct these meetings that are scheduled to last one hour.

Join Us for our First Session:

Wednesday, May 28th • 12:00pm (EST)

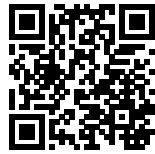
THE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION INCLUDES:

- Navigating Our New Website
- Program Support for Branches and Districts
- Upcoming Events

We understand that this time may not work for everyone. For future calls, we'll rotate days and times to better accommodate all members. This new program is designed as a positive, flexible platform to share updates and stay connected. We hope you can join us!

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

- Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FCSUVirtual>
- Meeting ID: 820 5601 7797
- Passcode: 027885



Home Office Connects with the Slovak Embassy

We were pleased to reestablish our relationship with the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., an important step in our ongoing efforts to stay informed about developments in Slovakia. As part of this renewed connection, we had the pleasure of welcoming Stanislava Buchtová and Matúš Huška from the Embassy to our Home Office last month. Their visit provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen our ties, discuss potential initiatives, and explore ways we could support each other moving forward. We are grateful for their visit and look forward to continued collaboration with the Embassy.



SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST

391 Knoebels Blvd • Elysburg, PA • knoebels.com

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING
FOR ALL FCSU MEMBERS, FAMILY
AND GUESTS FROM 12:00PM – 8:00PM**

AMUSEMENT PARK:

- Check in: 11:00am (Pavilion V)
- Park hours: 12:00pm-8:00pm; Pool hours: 11:00am-6:00pm
- Lunch served 3:00pm-3:45pm followed by Mass at 4:00pm (Pavilion V)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Members must make their own hotel reservations

- Hampton Inn • 137 Old Valley School Rd • Danville, PA • 570-271-2500
tinyurl.com/Knoebels2025 • Group Code **FCS**
- Room rate: 2 queen beds - \$155.00 per night

REGISTER BY JUNE 6TH



SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH

9346 Kinsman Rd • Novelty, OH • wlakepark.com

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING
FOR ALL FCSU MEMBERS, FAMILY
AND GUESTS FROM 11:00AM – 7:00PM**

With clean, beautiful grounds, there is plenty to do for everyone. Enjoy paddle boats, playgrounds, softball, horseshoes, bingo and lots of great food served all day long.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

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

REGISTER BY JUNE 10TH

**SEE ALL NATIONAL PICNIC DETAILS ON OUR EVENTS PAGE AT WWW.FCSU.COM
REGISTER: Online • Email events@fcsu.com • Call the Home Office at 800.533.6682 ext. 119**

MEMBER *Spotlight*

SUSAN M. ONDREJCO



Susan M. Ondrejco Named FSGP 2025 Fraternalist of the Year

Susan began her fraternal journey in 1979 as an eldress with the First Catholic Slovak Union and has since held leadership roles at both local and national levels. She has been actively involved with numerous Slovak fraternal organizations, including the National Slovak Society, First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle, and Slovak Catholic Sokol. Since 2002, she has served as a National Director for the National Slovak Society, while also holding positions such as Treasurer for Region 5 and Secretary/Treasurer of Assembly L – 161. In addition, she has served the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance in several roles and is currently its President. From 2022 to 2024, she also served as Secretary of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh.

A passionate advocate for Slovak culture, Susan co-directs The Pittsburgh Slovakian Folk Ensemble and co-hosts the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour. "Meeting and talking with our listeners at various events is the best part of hosting the show," she said. She also founded the Junior Pittsburgh Slovakians, a children's folk ensemble. One year, Susan found her way up to the stage to dance with the Pittsburgh Slovakians in Slovakia.

Susan has played a key role in organizing cultural events. One such event was coordinating entertainment for the Slovak Catholic Summerfest. The 2-day event was held at the Motherhouse of the St. Cyril & Methodius Sisters in Danville, PA. Sixteen folk ensembles entertained the over 2,000+ members of the combined fraternalists who attended. She served seven years on the Pittsburgh Folk Festival board—four of them as Treasurer—and led the North Hills Junior Tamburitzan Parent Organization. Her expertise has also been sought by the Duquesne University Tamburitzans.

Fraternalism is truly a family affair in the Ondrejco household. The family's involvement with FCSU began with her brother, Mike Lako, whose leadership included roles as Auditor for Branch 2, Treasurer of District 6, and later, Regional Director. Susan served many years as Treasurer for District 6 while also organizing District events and picnics.

Her husband, Rudy, began serving as Auditor for Branch 2 in 1976, and went on to serve as National Fraternal Director (2018–2022). He is currently the President of Branch 2. All three daughters have followed in their parents' footsteps as well. Susan served two terms as National Fraternal Director (2010–2014, 2014–2018), Theresa served as National Fraternal Director (2006–2010), and Anna currently serves as Treasurer for Branch 2.

Over the years, she has earned many titles, but one of her most cherished remains queen. "In 1975, after a district-wide sales competition, I was crowned the Jednota Queen at the Convention in Toronto, Canada, alongside Joe Vehec, Jr., the Jednota King. Since the contest was never held again, I'm proud to say we're still the reigning royalty!"

She's been an active member of the Western PA Slovak Committee since 1975. A founding board member of the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association since 1997, she now serves on its advisory board. Since 2014, she has chaired ticketing for Slovak Day at Kennywood, now in its 102nd year, while also supporting multiple planning committees.

In recognition of her lifelong dedication to Slovak culture and fraternalism, Susan has received numerous honors, including two Medals of Honor from the Ambassador of Slovakia and the prestigious John Jordan Upchurch Award from the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance in 2023.

Each year, The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) recognizes one member who demonstrates outstanding leadership, promotes the fraternal spirit, and has made valuable contributions to the community. This year they have chosen Susan M. Ondrejco as its 2025 Fraternalist of the Year.

To honor her achievements, a banquet will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at the South Hills Country Club in Pittsburgh, PA. The celebration will recognize Susan's decades-long dedication to fraternal benefit societies and her commitment to preserving Slovak heritage. "Being named Fraternalist of the Year is a great honor," she says. "I am thankful to all those who inspired me, believed in me, and helped me along the way."



ETHNIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL SIMPLY SLAVIC

YOUNGSTOWN FOUNDATION AMPITHEATRE

FRIDAY, June 13 5-11 pm

SATURDAY, June 14

NOON TIL MIDNIGHT

ADMISSION ONLY \$5

children 12 and under FREE

Exhibits! Performances! Ethnic food! Live Music! Vendors!



Folk Dancing! Vatra Bonfire & So Much More!

VISIT WWW.SIMPLYSLAVIC.ORG or FOLLOW @SIMPLYSLAVIC

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

is hosting

SLOVAK FESTIVAL



Saturday, July 19 from 12pm to 11pm

Admission - \$1

St. Sava Serbian Church Property
2151 W. Wallings Road • Broadview Heights
(Between State Rd. and Broadview Rd.)

Serving Traditional Slovak Food, Full Bar & Pastries
Anthony Culkar Band & Dancing • Bake Sale

Sponsored By: FCSU Financial (First Catholic Slovak Union)

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, Exeter, PA, invites Branch members to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Knoebels Amusement Resort, 391 Knoebels Blvd, Elysburg, PA. Check-in begins at 11:00am at Pavilion V.

BRANCH 5P SPECIAL STIPEND! Our officers have decided all Branch 5P members who register with the Home Office by June 6th and attend the picnic will receive a stipend of \$25.00 for members 18 years of age and older. Members under 18 will receive \$15.00. Stipends will be available at Pavilion V during lunch which starts at 3:00pm. See you there!

Submitted by **Mary Jo Rubino**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a virtual ZOOM meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 10:00am. At this meeting, we will announce the recipients of the Margaret Evancho award. 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 join our ZOOM meeting:

Link: tinyurl.com/BRCH19
Meeting ID: 825 1729 0006
Passcode: 345384

We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Submitted by **Deborah M. Nelson**,
Secretary

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold a ZOOM branch meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:30pm. The agenda will include discussion on 2025 summer Fraternal social activities and proposed Fall and Winter events. The intention for these activities is to foster social connections and offer a sense of community and belonging. In order to be most inclusive for all members, any Branch 38 member interested in attending this meeting can remotely attend via ZOOM using the following meeting information:

Topic: Branch 38 Meeting
Time: May 15th at 6:30pm (EST)
Link: tinyurl.com/BRCH38
Meeting ID: 899 8809 7228
Passcode: 285576

All Branch 38 members are urged to attend. We look forward to joining together.

Submitted by **Logan Haselhoff**,
President

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 1:00pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York, NY. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Submitted by **Maria Jurasi**,
Financial Secretary

ČLENSKÁ SCHÔDZA SPOLKU SV. MATÚŠA Č. 45 1KSJ V

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 1. júna, 2025 o 13:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová - pokladníčka

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

We are planning an outing to a Milwaukee Milkmen baseball game on Sunday, June 8, 2025. The Milkmen are playing the Gary RailCats at Franklin Field, 7035 S. Ballpark Drive, Franklin, WI at 1:00pm. We will be in the "Hop Yard" area featuring unlimited food, drinks, and a Milkmen gift. Reservations closed on May 4th. Looking forward to seeing our registered members!

We have a Facebook group! Search "FCSU Financial Branch 89, Milwaukee" on Facebook and join our group. We'll be posting events, information, things going on, and fun things about Slovakia.

Submitted by **Suzy Scaife**,
Fraternal Activities

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PA

St. John the Baptist, Mahanoy City, PA will hold a semi-annual meeting on June 21, 2025 at the National Picnic at Knoebels. The meeting will begin at 11:00am in Pavilion V.

The agenda will include office reports and new business. For more information, contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 before June 18th.

Submitted by **Karen Sterling**,
Secretary

BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

The officers of Branch 132 invite their members to attend any of the following meetings:

- June 7, 2025
- August 2, 2025
- October 4, 2025
- December 6, 2025

All meetings will be at the home of Sue Salko, 56 Lefke Ln, Whippany, NJ and start at 7:30pm. We will be discussing our summer outings and trips to Elysburg, PA, trips skiing and any other suggestions and ideas for a fun-filled year in 2025 and winter 2026.

If you or someone you know is not receiving the newspaper and wish to receive it, please contact Sue or the Home Office.

Submitted by **Susan Salko**,
Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL

MEETING: St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold our semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 11:30am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights, IL. A fraternal luncheon will follow the meeting. Call Dorothy to reserve your place at 708-995-7378 by June 4th.

EVENT: Branch 153 will participate in the District 2 outing on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at the Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. A new

version of *Late Nite Catechism* begins at 3:00pm. A Champagne Brunch begins at 1:00pm. Total cost is \$70.00. There is no charge for Branch 153 members but a deposit of \$25.00 is required. It will be refunded after you attend the event. All reservations must be made by June 21st. We are encouraging our members to attend this District 2 event. *Late Nite Catechism*, the uproariously funny stage show, with irrepressible Sister teaching "class" to her room full of students (the audience). *Late Nite Catechism* is a sharp satire, but never mean. It's simple fun and laughter with a meaningful message. Those wishing to attend either event should contact Dorothy Jurcenko at 708-995-7378. The Brunch/Show is sponsored by the Spitkovsky District and all branches of the Spitkovsky District are invited.

Submitted by **John Jurcenko**,
President

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 11:00am at the Bud Murphys Restaurant, 718 McCormick Ave., Connellsville, PA. All members and their guests are invited to attend by calling Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 for reservations by June 16th. Officers' reports will be given and discussion of branch activities, charitable donations and upcoming FCSU events will follow. We hope you will join us to learn more about our branch and activities.

Submitted by **Dolores Marmol**,
Secretary

BRANCH 166K – BINGHAMTON, NY

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166K, Binghamton, NY, invites all branch members to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Knoebels Amusement Resort, 391 Knoebels Blvd, Elysburg, PA. Check in begins at 11:00am at Pavilion V.

BRANCH 166 SPECIAL STIPEND! Our officers have decided all Branch 166 members who register with the Home Office by June 6th and attend the picnic will receive a stipend of \$25.00 for members 18 years of age and older. Members under 18 will receive \$15.00. Stipends will be available at Pavilion V during lunch which starts at 3:00pm.

Submitted by **Judie Dendler**,
Secretary

BRANCH 173K – MOUNTAIN TOP, PA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 173K, Mountain Top, PA, invites all branch members to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at Knoebels Amusement Resort, 391 Knoebels Blvd, Elysburg, PA. Check in begins at 11:00am at Pavilion V.

BRANCH 173 SPECIAL STIPEND! Our officers have decided all Branch 173 members who register with the Home Office by June 6th and attend the picnic will receive a stipend of \$25.00 for members 18 years of age and older. Members under 18 will receive \$15.00. Stipends will be available at Pavilion V during lunch which starts at 3:00pm.

Submitted by **Matthew Ungvarsky**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

Branch 181 St. John the Baptist Society members and their guests are invited to attend the Annual Family Picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, June 29, 2025. Registration starts at noon with the picnic beginning at 1:00pm. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch. We look forward to a great turnout! Contact Vicki at 724-433-8469 for more information or directions.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: The branch will take part in the Fraternalism in Action program. We will be collecting baby items for the Alternatives. Yes! Ministries. The mission of this organization is to give pregnant women and families the resources and support they need to choose life. Bring diapers (sizes 3-6), baby wipes or other items to help this ministry. The Home Office will donate \$250.00 to the ministry on our behalf.

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

Submitted by **Vicki Hricik**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA

A business meeting for members of Branch 199 will be held on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 1:00pm at the Tunnel #2 Picnic Grove at Waldemeer Park, 3100 West Lake Rd., Erie, PA. A group photo will be taken immediately following the meeting. After the meeting and photos, members are encouraged to spend the "Day in the Park" to share food and fellowship. Tickets for Branch 199 members are available by contacting Sue Owens at 824-476-1541 or Barb Patula at 724-423-4745.

Submitted by **Barb Patula**,
Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Please join us at our regular Board Meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month except June & July. Our next meeting will be August 7, 2025. The meeting will be held at the Slovak CU at 910 Sixth Ave., Ford City, PA. The Board Meeting starts at 7:00pm. All other members will be called in at approximately 7:20pm.

Bring your ideas and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Take a look in this issue for a "Save the Date" ad for our 130th Anniversary Celebration of Branch 200 taking place October 11, 2025. Also, watch your mailboxes for ticket information and the itinerary of the celebration. Make your reservations early – tickets are limited!

Submitted by **Vicki Schaub**,
Secretary

BRANCH 213 – PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2025. It will be held at 1:00pm at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. If planning on attending or joining the meeting via phone, please contact weaz1958@aol.com.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 After land or sea
- 6 Spheres
- 11 Thickness
- 14 Tourist court
- 15 Actress Oberon
- 16 Jeans brand
- 17 Bonus
- 18 Type of car
- 19 Long ____
- 20 Family member
- 22 Military might (Abbr.)
- 23 Bubble source
- 24 Elevator man
- 26 Bee product
- 28 Mountain lion
- 29 Dance, e.g.
- 31 It can be silver
- 33 Your (Fr.)
- 34 Two out of two
- 36 Bonanza brother
- 37 Caromed
- 40 Coin opening

Down

- 42 Yawner
- 43 Scoundrel
- 46 Surrounded by
- 48 College team
- 50 Hillock
- 51 Crosswise, on deck
- 54 Leg part
- 55 Legendary Giant
- 56 Cameo stone
- 57 Passionate
- 59 Colorado native
- 60 Concur
- 62 Modify
- 65 Japanese coin
- 66 Congregation
- 67 Fling
- 68 Naval rank (Abbr.)
- 69 Taste or touch
- 70 Boxer Mike

Down

- 1 That girl
- 2 Mr. Peepers actor Wally
- 3 Realizes
- 4 Examine closely
- 5 Gusto
- 6 Sound booster
- 7 Summer TV offering
- 8 Jagged or notched
- 9 Forever and ever
- 10 Ego
- 11 Epidemics
- 12 Bean or pea plants
- 13 Beefeater
- 21 Pulsate
- 24 Frequently, in verse
- 25 Dead heat
- 27 Conductor Klemperer
- 28 Egg on
- 30 Assists, usually illegally
- 32 Bravo, e.g.

- 35 Focal point
- 37 Took the bus
- 38 Exploding star
- 39 Video store category
- 40 Head over heels in love with
- 41 Takes heed
- 43 BBQ leftovers
- 44 Lunched
- 45 Salon supply
- 46 Stimulate
- 47 Snarl
- 49 Deficient
- 52 Don Juan poet
- 53 Biz VIPs
- 56 Klutzes
- 58 Far reaching
- 61 Supplement, with "out"
- 63 Modern (Prefix)
- 64 Lair

Answers can be found on Page 23

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Branch Announcements Continued

Our agenda will include Officer's reports, old business, Fraternal news and business, and Branch business. We will also discuss upcoming Branch and District events and activities.

**Submitted by Anita Nixon,
President**

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, will hold their next meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7:00pm IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. This will be an informative meeting as the summer FCSU activities will be reviewed and refreshments will be served.

We respectfully ask all of our FCSU members to pray for a calm environment and unity among the leaders of the world.

**Submitted by Thomas B. Zuffa,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

Branch 259 invites its members to attend the 2025 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 13th, from 5:00-11:00pm and continues on Saturday, June 14th, from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

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

Once again, this year, any current member of Branch 259 (age 13 and older) will receive \$20.00 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 259 will receive \$10.00. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person either 5:00–8:00pm Friday or noon–8:00pm Saturday at the clearly marked FCSU table located inside the festival. If you

have any questions, you can call me at 330-755-8316.

**Submitted by Vivian Sedlako,
Treasurer**

BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

Branch 260 will be having the following meetings for 2025: Thursday, September 25th, and Thursday, December 4th (this will be our election of officers and holiday celebration). All of our meetings will begin at 5:00pm and are held at Belleria Restaurant in Struthers, OH. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

Branch 260 invites its members to attend the 2025 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 13th, from 5:00pm–11:00pm and continues on Saturday, June 14th from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

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

Once again, this year, any current member of Branch 260 (age 13 and older) will receive \$20.00 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 260 will receive \$10.00. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person either 5:00–8:00pm Friday or noon–8:00pm Saturday at the clearly marked FCSU table located inside the festival. Call Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director, at 440-668-7797 with questions.

**Submitted by Carlie Peshek,
Vice President**

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

The next branch meeting will be held Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 1:00pm at Tillie's Restaurant at 308 36th Street,

McKeesport, PA. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. We will also review the Pittsburgh District meeting held in April.

**Submitted by Margaret A. Nasta,
President**

BRANCH 313 – ORLAND PARK, IL

MEETING: Warmest Greetings Branch Members! Now that "spring has sprung", we will be hosting our first semi-annual branch meeting of the 2025 Year. The meeting will take place at 12:00pm (noon) on May 20th at the location of Fox's at Wolf Restaurant, 11247 West 187th St., Mokena, IL. A complementary fraternal luncheon will follow the meeting. Please RSVP by May 10th to reserve your place. All branch members are welcome to join us.

EVENT: Branch 313 will participate in the Spitkovsky District 2 outing on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at the Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. A new version of *Late Nite Catechism* begins at 3:00pm. A Champagne Brunch begins at 1:00pm. Total cost is \$70.00. There is no charge for Branch 313 members who attended a branch meeting in 2024 or the May 20, 2025 meeting. Non-member guests may attend at full price. All reservations must be made by June 21st. We are encouraging our members to attend this District 2 event. *Late Nite Catechism*, the uproariously funny stage show, with irrepressible Sister teaching "class" to her room full of students (the audience). *Late Nite Catechism* is a sharp satire, but never mean. It's simple fun and laughter with a meaningful message.

Those wishing to attend either event should contact Margie Dickinson at 708-226-8157. If you are able to make it, we look forward to seeing you there! Have a great Summer, everyone!!

**Submitted by Jennifer Carlton,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

Branch 320 members have expressed interest in various summer outings for 2025. Hope to see everyone.

Branch 320 will be having their Spring meeting on June 22, 2025 at Bills Golfland, 209 Bills Ln, Belle Vernon, PA at

1:00pm. Please RSVP by June 10th.

Branch 320 starts the summer with an Eagle Scout Project. Bruce Higginbotham's project will double the capacity of the local Food Bank's fresh produce program. Special thanks for every donation, especially the FCSU Home Office, District 12, Branch 320, St. Francis of Assisi, Boy Scout Troop 1313, and everyone for their continued support.

Please check the Jednota for information regarding upcoming events such as the FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels on June 21, 2025 and Slovak Day at Kennywood on July 14, 2025. In addition, the 2026 FCSU Convention has been announced.

District 12, summer starts with a picnic at Cedar Creek Park on June 1, 2025 and a Washington Wild Things baseball game with fireworks on July 25, 2025. We will be having an ice cream social (TBA). Our District meeting location will need to be moved because of the abrupt closing of our favorite meeting place. Please see the District Announcement page in the Jednota for all event times and location.

A stipend may be given to Branch 320 members in attendance for most events.

FYI: All non-members are welcome to join but will be charged full price. Please RSVP 10 days prior to events to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788.

**Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio,
Vice President**

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

Saint Joseph Lodge 367 Fairchance, PA will hold a meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at the home of President, Patty Speshock, 11 Ash St., Fairchance, PA at 12:30pm. On the agenda will be general branch business and fraternal activities. All members are welcome and urged to attend. If planning to attend or for directions, please call Secretary, Kathryn Baranek at 724-569-1006.

**Submitted by Kathryn Baranek,
Secretary**

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA

We are holding our Spring Meeting on May 26, 2025. This event will be sponsored by our branch and held after the service for the veterans. The location

Branch Announcements Continued

is at St. Joseph Cemetery Meeting Room about 12:00pm at 201 Cemetery Road, Beaverdale, PA. We invite all members to attend. Please contact me with questions at 814-533-1826.

Submitted by Ruth Ann Gerko,
Secretary

BRANCH 382K – SCRANTON, PA

The Ss. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382K, Scranton, PA, invites all Branch members to attend the FCSU National Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Knoebels Amusement Resort, 391 Knoebels Blvd, Elysburg, PA. Check in begins at 11:00am at Pavilion V.

BRANCH 382 SPECIAL STIPEND! Our officers have decided all Branch 382 members who register with the Home Office by June 6th and attend the picnic will receive a stipend of \$25.00 for members 18 years of age and older. Members under 18 will receive \$15.00. Stipends will be available at Pavilion V during lunch which starts at 3:00pm.

Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai,
President

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 1:30pm at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Please call for reservations by Monday, July 14th at 724-425-2576. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Geraldine Buchheit,
Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PA

St. Joseph Society Branch 484KJ will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 2:00pm at Eat 'n Park Restaurant, 2301 Route 286 South, Indiana, PA. All members are welcome. The agenda will include responses received to our year-end financial donations, member participation in FCSU contests and tournaments, scholarship inquiries and any other matters concerning our branch. May we all have a Healthy and Happy Summer!

Submitted by Monica Rura,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – PORTER, IN

MEETING: St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold their meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at Noon at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave., Hobart, IN. The agenda will include new donations and a discussion about the luncheon and play *Late Nite Catechism*; a District 2 event on July 20, 2025.

EVENT: Branch 581 will participate in the District 2 outing on Sunday, July 20th at the Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN. A new version of *Late Nite Catechism* begins at 3:00pm. A Champagne Brunch begins at 1:00pm. Total cost is \$70.00. There is no charge for Branch 581 members who have attended a branch meeting in 2024 or the June 1, 2025 meeting. Non-member guests may attend at full price. All reservations must be made by June 21st. We are encouraging our members to attend this District 2 event. *Late Nite Catechism*, the uproariously funny stage show, with irrepressible Sister teaching "class" to her room full of students (the

audience). *Late Nite Catechism* is a sharp satire, but never mean. It's simple fun and laughter with a meaningful message. Those wishing to attend either event, contact Ann Buczek at 219-947-2793. The Brunch/Show is sponsored by the Spitzkovsky District and all branches of the Spitzkovsky District are invited. Members of other branches in the Spitzkovsky District should contact their individual branches.

Submitted by Ann Buczek,
President

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PA

Branch 587, Aliquippa, PA will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at the home of Branch President Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA. Lunch will be served at 2:00pm, followed by the business meeting. Topics to include new membership and fraternal activities. Kindly RSVP to Joanne at 412-953-4721 or jfibbi@gmail.com. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Joanne Fibbi,
President

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

We invite all Branch 670 members to join us at two District 12 events this summer:

June 1, 2025 – Hlinka District picnic from 1:00-4:00pm at Cedar Creek Park, 453 Evergreen Dr., Belle Vernon, PA. Reservations are required by Wednesday, May 28th. Contact hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com or call 412-341-1577. There is no cost to Branch 670 members. Guests are \$20.00.

July 25, 2025 – Hlinka District baseball game. All Branch 670 members will receive a free ticket. To reserve your ticket contact Joe Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com. See more details in the District 12 Announcement and in the ad in this issue of the Jednota and on the website.

Submitted by Maureen Massafra,
Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 682 invites its members to attend the 2025 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 13th from 5:00pm –11:00pm and continues on Saturday, June 14th from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

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

Once again, this year, any current member of Branch 682 (age 13 and older) will receive \$20.00 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 682 will receive \$10.00. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person from either 5:00–8:00pm on Friday or noon–8:00pm on Saturday at the clearly

marked FCSU table located inside the festival. If you have any questions, you can call Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director, at 440-668-7797. Tom is coordinating this event.

Submitted by Drew Hirt,
President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

Branch 716 held its Spring semi-annual meeting of 2025 on April 27th at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. The meeting brought together members to reflect on past events, brainstorm ideas for future community engagement, and discuss plans to attend upcoming National Jednota events, including the national picnic. On May 4th, 2025, we also gathered at St. John Nepomucene Church to celebrate the birthday of our dedicated Branch 716 officer, Peter Gašpar. We wish him continued happiness and success in the year ahead.

Branch 716 also announces an upcoming summer picnic, open to both members and non-members. The picnic will be held on July 6, 2025, at 1:00 pm at St. John Nepomucene Church, located at 411 E 66th St, New York, NY. Branch 716 members will be preparing hot dogs and a variety of summertime favorites for all to enjoy, free for members and \$20.00 for non-members. We look forward to having you join us for food and fun!

Submitted by Emily Lysáková,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Mark your calendars for the following Branch meetings:

- Sunday, May 18, 2025
- Sunday, July 13, 2025
- Sunday, September 14, 2025
- Sunday, November 16, 2025 (includes Election of Officers for 2026)

Meetings begin at 5:00pm at Belleria, 8485 Market St. in Boardman, OH.

A Mass for deceased members will be held November 11, 2025 at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral, 159 W Rayen Ave,

Youngstown, OH.

Please come join us – we'd love to see some new members!

Branch 731 invites its members to attend the 2025 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. Simply Slavic will be on Friday, June 13th from 5:00-11:00pm and Saturday, June 14th from noon to midnight at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre in Downtown Youngstown. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are free. The event will feature ethnic food, a Slavic beer garden, and a marketplace, as well as music, educational exhibits, and folk dancers. More details on the event are available at www.simplyslavic.org. This year, Branch 731 members who are 13 years and older will receive \$20.00 to use toward purchases at the event. Branch members who are 12 years or younger will receive \$10.00. This offer is valid for one day only. Each member MUST register in person at the FCSU table on either Friday 6/13 from 5:00-8:00pm or Saturday 6/14 from noon–8:00pm. See you there!

Submitted by Anna Schwanitz,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan,
Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OH

The branch has two upcoming meetings. They will take place at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Rd., NE in Warren and begin at 10:00am.

May 19, 2025 – Review of the spring fundraising effort; discuss summer activities.

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

FCSU HOME OFFICE
6611 ROCKSIDE RD
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

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

*Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 9:00am
Virtual Meeting*

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

Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, June 6, 2025.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to June 6, 2025.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2025.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

MEMBER Spotlight

Do you have...

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

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



email editor@fcsu.com

Branch Announcements Continued

August 25, 2025 – Discussion about the fall fundraiser; overview of fall activities.

Branch 764 invites its members to attend the 2025 Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH. The festival will be held at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre in downtown Youngstown. It starts on Friday, June 13, 2025, from 5:00-11:00pm and continues on Saturday, June 14th, from noon to midnight. Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

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

Once again, this year, any current member of Branch 764 (age 13 and older) will receive \$20.00 to use toward purchases at the event that day. Children (12 and under) who are current members of Branch 764 will receive \$10.00. This offer is valid for one day only and each member must register in person from either 5:00-8:00pm on Friday or noon-8:00pm on Saturday at the clearly marked FCSU table located inside the festival.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 330-372-1948.

Submitted by **Bill Hrusovsky**,
President

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

SAVE THE DATE: Branch members 'Save the Date' for upcoming events.

June 1, 2025 – Hlinka District picnic from 1:00-4:00pm at Cedar Creek Park, 453 Evergreen Dr., Belle Vernon, PA. Reservations are required by Wednesday, May 28th. Contact hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com or call 412-341-1577. There is no cost to Branch 853 members. Guests are \$20.00.

June 21, 2025 – FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels, 391 Knoebels Blvd., Elysburg, PA. Admission is free to the park. All FCSU members who register through the Home Office will receive a free book of tickets for rides, games and food. See the ad in this issue of the Jednota and on the website.

July 12, 2025 – Smog Museum, 595 McKean Ave, Donora, PA will have a presentation at 11:00am followed by an on-your-own tour of the museum. Afterwards the branch members will be having lunch.

July 17, 2025 – Slovak Day at Kennywood Amusement Park, 4800 Kennywood Blvd., West Mifflin, PA. Call for more details at 412-341-1577.

July 25, 2025 – Hlinka District Baseball Game. All branch 853 members will receive a free ticket. To reserve your ticket contact Joe Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com. See more details in the District 12 Announcement and in the ad in this issue of the Jednota and on the website.

We look forward to seeing you at these summer events. Contact me if you have any questions at 412-341-1577 or at fcsubbranch853@gmail.com.

Submitted by **Monica Boone**,
President

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

The St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 from Levittown, PA will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:30pm. The meeting will be held over ZOOM. In order to receive the zoom credentials for the meeting, please send us your name in a text message to 267-795-7930 or email to dnasta@fcsu.com.

Our Annual Meeting will be an in person meeting taking place on November 30th. Further details will be sent in the fall.

I hope you'll be able to attend the FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels on June 21. Please see the Jednota newspaper or the FCSU website (fcsu.com) for details and how to sign up for the picnic.

Submitted by **Anthony Nasta**,
Recording Secretary

How do you kiss in spring?

"With tulips"

How can you tell spring
flowers are friendly?

*"They always have
lots of buds"*

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send District Announcements to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 1 – REV MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT, MA

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct its semi-annual meeting via Zoom on June 8, 2025 at 11:30am. At this meeting, we will discuss plans for the coming year. Interested members are encouraged to join our Zoom meeting:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FCSUD1>

Meeting ID: 868 6396 3178

Passcode: 113295

We look forward to hearing from our dedicated members.

Submitted by **Deborah M. Nelson**, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR JOHN E RURA DISTRICT – NJ

District 4 is organizing an outing to the Somerset Patriots Baseball game and BBQ on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Tickets are free for all members of District 4 (Branches 102, 132, 290, 652, 746). Non-members are welcome to join for \$38.00 per person/child. The price includes entrance to the ballpark, a 90-minute buffet, and designated picnic style seating. Come join us for a fun evening of fraternalism and baseball! RSVP is required. For details, contact Jo Anne Peppe at gsmgjap@aol.com before June 20th.

Submitted by **Sabina Sabados**, Region 1 Director

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT – PA

Save the date:

- Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 17, 2025
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 2, 2025
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour: WPIT 96.5 FM / 730 AM

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

Submitted by **Margaret A. Nasta**, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PA, NC

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8 will hold its semi-annual meeting during the June 21, 2025 FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, PA. The picnic will be at Pavilion V. Our District will meet under the pavilion for our meeting at 1:00pm. We will have a sign so please look for that. We are looking forward to seeing you there! If there are questions, please contact the District 8 Recording Secretary at 315-391-0526 or jeaustin89@gmail.com.

Submitted by **Jo Austin**, Recording Secretary

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at 1:00pm at the Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, 575 West Main St., in Uniontown, PA. Region 4 Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by **Barbara A. Holly**, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – PA

Come join the Hlinka District of Mon Valley for our upcoming summer events!!

June 1, 2025 – the district will be having our annual picnic on June 1st from 1:00pm-4:00pm at Cedar Creek Park, 453 Evergreen Dr., Belle Vernon, PA. All members of District 12 branches are free to attend. Non-members are welcome at a cost of \$20.00. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 28th to hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com or call 412-341-1577. We look forward to seeing you there!

July 25, 2025 - All members of District 12 from Branches 320, 853 and 670 are invited to the Washington Wild Things Friday Fireworks game on July 25th at 7:05pm. The game will take place at Consol Energy Park, 1 Washington Federal Way, Washington, PA. Ticket cost is \$30.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. All members of District 12 can reserve their free ticket from Joe Tarquinio at tark918@gmail.com. Non-members are welcome but must pay full price. Please RSVP by July 10th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted by **Monica Boone**, Secretary

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NY

District 16 is organizing an outing to the Somerset Patriots Baseball game and BBQ on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Tickets are free for members of District 4 (Branches 45, 716). Non-members are welcome to join for \$38.00 per person/child. The price includes entrance to the ballpark, 90-minute Buffet, and designated picnic style seating. Come join us for a fun evening of fraternalism and baseball! RSVP is required. For details, contact Jo Anne Peppe at gsmgjap@aol.com before June 20th.

Submitted by **Sabina Sabados**, Region 1 Director

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

Ss. Cyril and Methodius District 17, a member organization of the Fraternal Societies of Northeastern Pennsylvania, announces their participation in the Societies' "Night with the RailRiders." The event is set for Friday, June 13, 2025, in the Right Field Party Suite at PNC Field, Moosic, PA. At 6:35pm, the Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders – a Triple A Affiliate of the New York Yankees – will face the Syracuse Mets. The event is open to members of FCSU District 17 Branches 5P, 166K, 173K, and 382K. Tickets cost \$45.00 and include entrance to PNC Field, a buffet supper, water and soft drinks, and a fireworks show following the game. Parking costs an additional \$8.00. For tickets, contact Martha Zavada at 570-954-3771. Tickets are extremely limited and will be honored on a "first come, first served" basis. Your check for full payment guarantees your ticket.

Submitted by **Elizabeth M. Slovenkai**, District 17 Fraternal Activities Officer



SIMPLE IRA

A SIMPLE IRA (Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees Individual Retirement Account) can help attract and retain employees, as it demonstrates that the employer is investing in their employees' future.

DESIGNED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES:

- Specifically for small businesses with 100 or fewer employees, allowing for retirement benefits without the complexity of traditional plans.

EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Employee Contributions: Employees can defer up to \$16,500 annually, or \$20,000 if age 50 or older (including catch-up contributions).
- Employer Contributions: Employers must either match contributions up to 3% or make a non-elective contribution of 2% of each eligible employee's compensation.

TAX BENEFITS:

- Employee contributions are pre-tax, reducing taxable income. Employer contributions are tax-deductible, and earnings grow tax-deferred until withdrawn.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Employees must earn at least \$5,000 in two prior years and expect the same in the current year.

WITHDRAWALS:

- Taxed as ordinary income, with penalties for early withdrawals before 59½.

NO COMPLEX ADMINISTRATION:

- Easier to administer than 401(k) plans, with less paperwork and fewer compliance requirements and full ownership for employees over their accounts.
- Unlike some other retirement plans, such as 401(k)s, SIMPLE IRAs do not require the employer to file annual reports with the IRS, making compliance easier.

Always check the latest IRS guidelines or consult with a tax professional for the most accurate and personalized advice.

Spring into Savings

5.00%

6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA

Other Annuity Products:

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	4.75%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	4.50%
Park 2 Annuity <small>(not available in the state of NY)</small>	4.50%
Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA - <small>1st year guaranteed (new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)</small>	3.00%
Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of <small>(5 yrs +)</small>	4.00%

- FCSU Financial[®] Founded in 1890
- \$600M in Assets
- Solvency Ratio 115%
- Governed and Regulated by the ODI

First Catholic Slovak Union | FCSU Financial[®]
Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131
annuity@fcsu.com | www.fcsu.com

CALL US AT
800-533-6682

Please Join Us!

Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic

Sunday, June 29, 2025
Mammoth Park
Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13

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

Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch.

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

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

Save The Date for Our 130th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Slovak CU Branch 200, Ford City, PA
Starts With Mass at 1:00pm
Followed By Meet & Greet, Dinner & Dance

Contact Vicki Schaub for Details
724-763-9229 or uschaub123@gmail.com

District 6 Holds Semi-Annual Meeting

Submitted by Patrick Sullivan, District 6 Financial Secretary & Treasurer

FCSU District 6 (Pittsburgh, PA) held its semi-annual Spring meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2025, hosted by Branch 35. District officers discussed current business and upcoming events while members enjoyed a luncheon. Several dozen members also welcomed Executive Secretary, COO Kevin Collins, who visited to discuss FCSU Financial's updated website, branding, and initiatives.

Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, COO, presents the new FCSU Financial website to members.

District 6 member and General Counsel Gary Matta highlights recent announcements and news from the Home Office.

Get Ready to Tee Off at the 2025 FCSU International Golf Tournament



July 18-20, 2025

One Lakeview Drive • Morgantown, WV • 304-594-1111

Join the FCSU for an exciting 2-day tournament, exclusively for our members and their guests. We will play the championship Lakeview Golf Course along picturesque Cheat Lake, on both Saturday and Sunday. Shotgun starts are scheduled for 8:00am each day.

We hope you will enjoy the convenience of the all-inclusive Lakeview Golf Resort. Once you arrive, your accommodations, golfing and dining are just steps away.

This year, **GOLFING** will be booked through the FCSU, using the official entry form. **LODGING** will be booked directly with Lakeview Golf Resort, either online at Lakeviewresort.com or by phone at 304-594-1111. The Group Code is **FCSUGolf**. Reservations are open now.

The competition will include A, B, C, D-Callaway, S-Seniors' and W-Women's Flights. Cash prizes will be awarded in all flights meeting the minimum number of participants.

Handicaps will be determined in one of three ways:

1. Your verifiable USGA handicap
2. Your combined scores from the 2023 Joint Fraternal Golf Tournament and the 2024 FCSU International Golf Tournament
3. If neither of the above scenarios apply, your handicap will be determined by the modified Callaway System

▶ Optional side contests including closest to the pin, longest putt, and hole-in-one, will add to the friendly competition.

▶ One guest per FCSU member*. If a guest participated in the 2024 Tournament, they must become a member to golf with us again in 2025.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 7.18.25 | ● Practice Rounds if desired | ● Welcome Barbecue Buffet 7:00pm |
| 7.19.25 | ● Breakfast Buffet 6:00-7:30am | ● Tournament Kickoff 7:45am |
| | ● Round #1 - 8:00am | ● Mass 4:00pm |
| | ● Cocktails 5:00pm | ● Tournament Dinner Buffet & Raffles 6:00pm |
| 7.20.25 | ● Breakfast Buffet 6:00-7:30am | ● Round #2 - 8:00am |

▶ Practice rounds are available on Friday at a reduced rate. Please contact the golf pro directly at the Lakeview Course at 304-594-2011 to schedule a tee time and to make payment.

ENTRY DEADLINE: June 1, 2025

**We strongly encourage you to make your room reservations now
Room types are available on a first received basis.**



**One guest per member, as space allows*

Please Note Our Guest Policy:

- Individuals may participate in only one FCSU golf tournament as a guest.
- If a non-member participated in the 2024 Golf Tournament, they cannot golf as a non-member guest in 2025.
- We invite all to consider opening a \$5,000 life insurance policy or a \$500 annuity to enjoy all the fraternal benefits FCSU has to offer.
- Member benefits at the golf tournament include free meals, and the opportunity to win thousands of dollars in prizes, raffle gifts and door prizes.
- To become a member, please contact FCSU a minimum of 30 days prior to the tournament.
- Call 800.533.6682, ext. 826 for Life Insurance or ext. 802 for Annuities.

2025 FCSU International Golf Tournament OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Each FCSU member participating in the tournament may invite one non-member golfer*

Entry Deadline: June 1, 2025
Entry Forms Are Also Available www.FCSU.com/events

SELECT YOUR GOLF PACKAGE

Package includes: Two rounds on the Lakeview Golf Course, golf cart rental, and prize pool contribution.

- FCSU MEMBER GOLFER.....Golf and Prize Package ...\$150.00 per person \$ _____
- NON-MEMBER GOLFER.....Golf and Prize Package ...\$175.00 per person \$ _____

List your twosome or foursome here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

SELECT YOUR MEALS

FCSU MEMBER GOLFER

Meals are compliments of the FCSU

- Friday Welcome Buffet..... 7:00 – 9:00pm
(includes two drink tickets)
- Saturday Breakfast Buffet 6:00 – 7:30am
- Saturday Dinner Buffet6:00 – 9:00pm
(includes two drink tickets)
- Sunday Breakfast Buffet 6:00 – 7:30am

SELECT YOUR MEALS - NON-MEMBER GOLFER

OR NON-GOLFING FCSU MEMBER *Reduced meals compliments of FCSU*

- Friday Welcome Buffet..... 7:00 – 9:00pm \$30 per person \$ _____
 - Friday Beer & Wine Bar (2 drink tickets) \$10 per person \$ _____
 - Saturday Breakfast Buffet 6:00 – 7:30am \$15 per person \$ _____
 - Saturday Dinner Buffet 6:00 – 9:00pm \$35 per person \$ _____
 - Saturday Cocktails (2 drink tickets) \$10 per person \$ _____
 - Sunday Breakfast Buffet 6:00 – 7:30am \$15 per person \$ _____
- TOTAL:** \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS EARLY

Book your accommodations directly with Lakeview Golf Resort • Visit Lakeviewresort.com or call 304.594.1111
Group Code: FCSUGOLF • King Room - \$119 per night or Double Room - \$109 per night, plus tax, as available

Personal Information

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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

IF NO, FCSU MEMBER SPONSOR & BRANCH #: _____

AGE: _____ Senior Flight Women's Flight USGA Handicap: _____ GHIN: _____ (include verification)

I have participated in the 2023 Joint Fraternal and 2024 FCSU Golf Tournaments

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check enclosed payable to FCSU **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____ (Golf + Meals)
 Credit Card payments may be made by phone. Call 800.533.6682, ext. 122.

PHOTO RELEASE:
Your participation in this event serves as permission for us to use your image in our Jednota newspaper and on our website.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail entry and payment to by June 1, 2025 to:

Joanne Fibbi, FCSU Golf Tournament, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

Payment must accompany entry form. Make check payable to FCSU (with Golfing on the memo line).

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

Answering THE CALL

Branch 764 Holds a Souper Sale

Members of Branch 764 made and sold pints of soup at the Snowflake Ball in Warren, OH. The Ball raises funds for the Matthew D. Karlovic Memorial Fund who donates to causes related to those with disabilities. Congratulations to all who participated in this amazing event.



Branch 181 Youth Member Scholastic Assistance

\$500 Scholarships

Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2025

Contact Vicki at 724-433-8469 or vicki15@zoominternet.net with questions.




District 12 Donates Rosary Beads

At the semi-annual meeting of District 12, the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District, rosary beads were generously donated. Additional sets were collected with the intention of being passed on to St.

Thomas Becket Church, and subsequently to patients in local hospitals. A heartfelt thank you to the Hlinka District for offering something so small in size, yet deeply meaningful to those facing illness.



FRATERNALISM IN ACTION

GIVING BACK

Fraternalism is based on the idea that people have a responsibility to help each other. FCSU Financial has a passion for helping our members help others. We encourage our branches and districts to find community projects that will enhance the lives of those who are less fortunate. Our Catholic faith tells us "do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased". FCSU extends our deep gratitude to the following branches and districts who worked together in generosity and kindness to make a difference. FCSU will donate \$250.00 to each of these remarkable charities.

Branch 746 Members Volunteer at Easter Baking

Members of Branch 746 generously donated their time and talents to support the annual church fundraiser held at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. With dedication and care, they prepared traditional Slovak nut, cheese, and poppyseed rolls, a cherished part of Slovak culinary heritage and a must on a traditional Slovak Christmas table. 100% of the proceeds goes to support the Slovak church.



Branch 553 and District 10 Member Donations to The Christ Child Society of Akron are Overflowing

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Branch 553 and District 10 members, donations came pouring in. They gathered hundreds of baby-related items – including diapers, layettes, bibs, blankets, and more. Patty Minrovic, president of The Christ Child Society of Akron and a member of 553, was deeply touched by the outpouring of support. Along with the donated items, District 10 President, Greg Petrasek and Branch 553 President, Debbie Speck, and National President, Ken Arendt, also presented two \$250.00 checks to the organization on behalf of the FCSU FIA program. The Christ Child Society of Akron is a nonprofit committed to serving children in need.



Hlinka District Donates to Local Food Bank

District 12 has found a worthwhile charity in their backyard. At several meetings, members have collected and donated to the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Food Bank. The food bank helps people in the Mid Mon Valley, south of Pittsburgh. Because of their network of volunteers, the food bank now sponsors Diaper Days, a Pet Food Bank and participates in the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program. Thank you Hlinka District for choosing the St. Andrew the Apostle Food Bank which helps so many in need. Pictured, Marianne Rodacy, Branch 853, displays the bags full of donated items for the St Andrew the Apostle food bank.



We would love to see YOUR Branch and District featured here! It's easy to do.

By sharing your Fraternalism in Action event on this page you help give other Branches and Districts ideas of how they, too, can contribute to the idea of helping others through fraternalism.

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



Rest in Peace Our Departed Members



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

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

BRANCH	NAME
002K	Edward G. Zelinsky
002K	Robert J. Evans
002K	Sundi A. Tarullo
005P	Dorothy Bozinko
005P	Sylvia M. Severnak
019K	Dorothy Danielczuk
024K	Mary Buynak
024K	Paul Puskar
035K	Albert J. Nowakowski
035K	Eugene Manik
035K	Michael Semes
038K	Audrey Ann Mihalko
038K	Charles E. Kinner
038K	Patricia Getsy
040K	George E. Tibbles
055K	Catherine S. Varady
055K	Martha Sweeney
086K	Terri Lynn Baluh
112K	Helen Mehalick
112K	Michael J. Straka
112K	Theresa S. Vigoda

BRANCH	NAME
153K	Edward Marcin
157K	Dorothy Lemanek
157K	Joseph G. Mraz
166K	Dolores E. Barlow
173K	Joseph A. Shedlock
173K	Robert Fricovsky
173K	Thomas J. Kavulich
199K	Cecelia E. Menarchek
199K	Deborah Zedek
200K	Dolores O'Connell
200K	Karen Snizaski
226P	John A. Salamon
228K	Ann Allen
228K	Betty J. Yepko
228K	Edward P. Balchak
254K	Albina Senko
260K	Albert Martinko, Jr.
260K	Mary Ann Mancini
293K	Joann Stianche
312K	Kathleen M. Rudy
312K	Michael Rudy, Sr.

BRANCH	NAME
313K	Rosemarie E. Strezo
367K	Albert T. Kapalko
367K	Audrey J. Balazik
382K	Patricia Rogan
382K	Paul Joseph Nocella, Sr.
419K	Mark Anthony Saggio
429K	Peter Beblo
465K	Dolores Lapinski
484K	Christine Dunchuck
484K	Peter J. Karaffa
543K	Frank Wihelich
587K	Mary Ann Oros
670K	Agnes A. Wootchie
670K	Debra Sarnoskie
670K	Ethel Rosborough
682K	Joseph Voytko
706K	Sylvester J. Puclik
716K	Joseph J. Bednar
735K	Anna V. Minarik
743K	Dennis Danko
756K	Veronica V. Patoprsty

BRANCH	NAME
764K	Charles W. Holko
780K	Larry Smith
785K	Leona Liska
796K	Joan M. Toohey
796K	Richard A. Martinkovic
831K	Peter Messina
855K	Ann L. Jones
855K	Joe F Humenik, Sr.
900K	Betty A. Kinnel
900K	Helen Peterson
901K	Jacqueline A. Cote
904K	Marian L. Brosamle
904K	Timothy L. Canfield
916K	Rita King
924K	Patricia A. Hoy
924K	Susan Koropchak
926K	Darlene A. Esser
926K	Karen S. Deranick

* Processed in the month of April 2025

OBITUARIES – NEKROLÓGY

John P. Buidos Branch 1 Lakewood, OH



Beloved husband of Anna (nee Rusin); loving father of Ann Marie, Michael (Lisa), and Patricia Torowski (Elliott); dear Dzedo of Lauren Ickes (Jim), Olivia Pangrace (Eric), Nicholas Torowski, and Rachel Torowski-Newbould (Steven); Great-Dzedo of Beckham, Vandy, Atticus, Louis, Samuel, and Eric.

John was very proud of his Slovak heritage. He was born in the village of Chotča, Slovakia, and was one of only three people from his village who graduated from high school. He was selected to go to a trade school in Varnsdorf in the Czech Republic where he was first exposed to machinery, which sparked an interest in technology that would stay with him when he emigrated to the United States in 1949. He often spoke of the challenge of learning a trade and the English language at the same time. With his love of math and machinery, John became a Tool and Die maker.

Anna was also born in Slovakia. She and John met at a dance and married in 1955. They worked side by side for almost 70 years to build a good life for themselves and their children. "Always do your best" and "try to get along with everyone" were two of John's mottos. Hands down, his favorite activity was talking with others - especially over a beer or ginger ale. If you were also eating something with onions and garlic – even better.

John was an active member of most of the Slovak organizations in Cleveland and was Treasurer of the Slovak Dramatic Club for over 40 years. He happily worked with his wife and friends to share his Slovak heritage with others through the Dramatic Club's annual Slovak Festivals.

Dorothy Bensko Danielczuk Branch 19 Bridgeport, CT



Dorothy Bensko Danielczuk, age 96, peacefully passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025, on Fleming Island, FL, at home in the comfort of her loving daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Thomas Grzybala. Prior to moving to Florida three and a half years ago due to declining health, she was a life-long resident of Bridgeport, Connecticut (75 years).

Dorothy was born to Anna and George Bensko on March 31, 1928, in Shepton, PA. Her family moved to Connecticut when she was in high school, and she graduated from Warren Harding High School in 1946. In 1948 she married Stanley Danielczuk in a triple wedding ceremony with her two sisters and began her 65-year-long happy marriage until Stanley's passing in 2014. Together they had four children.

Her work career began at General Electric, then Associated Transport, B'Nai Israel Temple, and finally the City of Bridgeport in both Vital Statistics

and the Health Department from which she retired after 24 years of service.

Dorothy was a devout Catholic and long-time parishioner of St. Charles Church in Bridgeport before joining Our Lady of Grace in Stratford. Stanley and Dorothy enjoyed traveling with local senior center groups and with the Avco retirees.

She loved the Polish culture and traditions and that included going to Polish picnics, polka dances, and, of course, making the traditional foods, especially around the holidays. She and Stanley were active in White Eagles and the Polish Heritage Society at the University of Bridgeport where she chaired several spring festivals supporting the Halsey International Scholarship Program.

She will be remembered as a hard worker who used the talents given to her to the fullest. In spite of her blindness for the past 30 years, she thoroughly enjoyed life and was always cheerful. Her spirit lifted people up. Her life was well spent. She prayed the rosary daily remembering not only her family, but friends and acquaintances who she recalled needed prayers. If you were lucky enough to meet her you were probably in her prayers.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, Anna and George Bensko, her husband of 65 years, Stanley Danielczuk, one brother, Joseph Bensko, five sisters: Mary Kowalsky, Anne Antonelli, Sue Bludnicki, Elizabeth Leszczyna and Agnes Kodz. She is survived by her loving daughter,

Christine Grzybala, and son-in-law, Thomas Grzybala of Fleming Island, FL; son, Stanley Danielczuk and wife Kathleen of Goshen, CT, twin sons, Benedict and George Danielczuk of Stratford, sister, Martha Radwill of Shelton, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and several nieces and nephews.

Marie Janinek Homentosky Branch 85 Blakely, PA



Marie Janinek Homentosky, 97 died peacefully surrounded by her family on January 17, 2025 at home after an illness. She was preceded in death by her husband Joseph (Homer) Homentosky in 2006 after 59 years of marriage.

Born in Jessup on April 5, 1927, the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Podrasky Janinek. She resided in Jessup for 90 years until moving to Eynon with her daughter and grandson Jean and Andrew Fetcho, Jr. who were her caregivers.

She was a graduate of St. Michael's Parochial School and Jessup High School, Class of 1945 where she was Class Secretary and Salutatorian. She later attended Madame Fenwick's Beauty School and Advanced Hair Design in Washington, D.C. She owned and operated Marie's Beauty Salon in Jessup for over 50 years.

A lifelong devoted member of St. Michael's Church, Queen of Angels

OBITUARIES – NEKROLÓGY

Parish in Jessup and the Altar and Rosary Society. She was a volunteer at the Jessup Bread Basket and was the democratic majority inspector for her Jessup voting precinct for decades.

Marie was proud of her Slovak heritage and was past President of the Ladies Pennsylvania Catholic Union Branch 8 and attended many conventions around the country as a delegate for both the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

She was a wonderful cook and baker and her home was always the center of family gatherings and holiday celebrations.

She is survived by two daughters Jean Fetcho (Eynon) and Marie Batzel (Archbald), a son Joseph Homentosky and wife Nadine (Archbald), a daughter-in-law, Lori Homentosky, (Archbald), 9 grandchildren, Andrew Fetcho, Jr, Linell Olecki and husband James, Ross Homentosky and wife Erin, Zachary, Nicholas and Callin Batzel, Kimber Lee Batzel Green and husband Stephen, Myla and J.T Homentosky, four sisters, Veronica LaMacchia (Lansing, MI), Josephine Palmer (Palm City, FL), Ann Simeone, (Memphis, TN), and Barbara Smith, (Archbald), and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a son, Edward Homentosky, a grandson, Jake Batzel, a sister, Agnes Janinek, a brother, Joseph Janinek, and a son-in-law, Andrew Fetcho, Sr.

**Robert Kopco
Branch 24
Cleveland, OH**



Robert J. Kopco was born June 1, 1953 in Cleveland, OH to the late Joseph and Joann (Harcharik) Kopco. He attended St. Benedict Elementary School, graduated from Benedictine High School in 1971 and from John Carroll University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business.

After college, he worked in retail, as an auditor, in finance and lastly at the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) retiring in 2022. He was a former Jednota Branch 24 President and kept active in various Slovak cultural activities.

He learned to play the drums, played in his father's polka band and for many years with the Johnny Pastirik Combo.

On October 23, 1982 he married Virginia "Dee" Lampert (b. 1/28/1955; d. 2/10/2000). Dee was gifted with a talent for singing and often provided vocals for the Johnny Pastirik Combo. Bob is survived by his brothers Bill (Sally) Kopco and Jim Kopco (girlfriend Lauren Hartigan); and his niece Anna Kopco.

**Anna Virginia Minarik
Branch 735, Portland, OR**

Anna was born on March 27, 1928 in

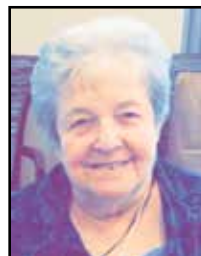
Portland, OR and died on December 2, 2024 at age 96. Her parents, Joesph and Mary Duris Minarik, were immigrants from Slovakia. She truly loved her Slovak heritage. She was an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 735K.

She lived her entire life in Portland where she attended St. Patrick Grade School and graduated from Immaculata Academy. She worked at Western Transportation Company where she was a loyal and respected employee for over forty years.

Anna was a devout Roman Catholic who volunteered her time and energy to many events at St. Birgitta Catholic Church where she was a lifelong member. Her father was the most important part of her life. She loved her family and loved being part of their lives.

She is survived by her sister, Virginia Schwab and brother-in-law, Mike Schwab. Other survivors include her uncle Howard, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, her brother, Joseph Minarik, her sister, Elizabeth Verschingel, her Aunt Margaret, and her great-nephew, Christopher Michael.

**Rosemarie M.
Pekarcik
Branch 38
White Oak, PA**



Rosemarie M. Pekarcik, 82 passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

Rosemarie was born May 22, 1942 in Youngtown, OH a daughter of Rudolph M. and Helen A. (Novak) Husar.

She was a 1960 graduate of East High School. Rosemarie met the love of her life, Joseph L. Pekarcik Jr. after being set up by her friends on a blind date. They were married on October 23, 1963 and they shared almost sixty years of marriage until his passing on August 4, 2022.

She was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish at St. Matthias Church.

Rosemarie worked for Dr. David Levy as a receptionist. She then retired to raise her 2 sons and then returned to work for Dr. Levy until his practice merged with St. E's.

She enjoyed casinos, bingo, crossword puzzles and crafting. Rosemarie was also the den mother for the Cub Scouts.

Rosemarie will be deeply missed and always remembered by her devoted son, David (Tina) Pekarcik of Boardman; her granddaughter, Jamie Pekarcik of Austintown; her great-grandson, Dakota Pekarcik and her sister-in-law, Bobbi Husar of Youngstown.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Joseph; her son, Joseph Pekarcik III and her brother Raymond Husar.

**Mark A. Saggio
Branch 419
Mountain Top, PA**



Mark Anthony Saggio, 66, of Erie, returned to his Lord and Savior on Monday, February 10, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Mark was born in Meadville, on August 1, 1958, a son of the late Louis Joseph and Margaret (Marcinko) Saggio, Sr.

Mark is survived by his three siblings Rosalee Ann Rastetter (Stefan) of Erie, Anthony Stephen Saggio (Georgetta Chulick) of Pittsburgh, Louis Joseph Saggio, Jr. (Beth Burton) of Nashville, TN. Several nieces and nephews were dearly loved by Mark, Shane Krause of Erie, Nicholas Krause (Jessica) of Pittsburgh, Suzanne Saggio of Rotunda West, FL, Matt Saggio (Melanie) of Nashville, TN, Eric Saggio (Geraldine) of Edgewater, MD, Lauren Saggio (Jittapon) of Thailand, Ashley Potts (Chip) of Franklin, TN, Louis Saggio III (Lacey) of Chattanooga, TN, and Michael David Saggio of Nashville, TN. Mark had several great-nieces and nephews Aurelia, Rhett, and Rourke Saggio, Rien, Henry and Hunter Potts, Baird Saggio-Fletcher, Sullivan Krause, and William Saggio.

Mark had countless friends and staff members of the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center. He knew how to make friends with his "Bear Hugs", his infectious laugh, and his special hand shake greetings. Mark has been involved with the Barber Center since 1977. He participated and excelled in the Special Olympics Program. He attended camps every summer and worked in the Barber Center Sheltered Workshop for many years until his retirement.

Mark loved going to Mass with his rosary by his side, as well as attending Pilgrimages with his parents, aunt and uncle. He truly enjoyed parties, going out to dinner, and being with family on various trips and vacations. The Barber Center played a huge role in Mark's life, and his family is forever grateful to them.

*You can shed
tears that
they
are gone
or you can
smile
because
they
have lived.*



St. John the Baptist Feast Day Dinner &



Sunday, June 22, 2025

Dinner & Raffle At St. John Parish Hall

Dinner Begins at 12:00pm (Following 10:00am Mass)

\$50 per ticket / Includes Dinner for two

- 1st Prize.....\$2,000***
- 2nd Prize.....\$1,000***
- 3rd Prize.....\$500***
- 4th Prize.....(Gift Card Bundle) \$250***

WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT

***Premised on sale of 400 tickets**

**St. John Parishioners & friends
contact Susan Stefancik for tickets
330-208-3575**

**Slovak J Club members & friends
contact Linda Hanko OR Board Member
for tickets - 330-690-9611**

OBITUARIES – NEKROLÓGY

**Michael Straka, Sr.
Branch 112
Mahanoy City, PA**



Michael J. “Moe” Straka, Sr., age 53, of Pottsville, PA passed away unexpectedly on Monday, February 17th, 2025.

Born in Pottsville, PA on December 13, 1971, he was the son of the late Andrew J. Straka Jr. and J. Dolores (Joy) Straka who survives him in Friedensburg.

Michael worked as a truck driver at Potts & Monger Sanitation in Pine Grove and then for Plain & Fancy Doughnut Shop in Schuylkill Haven. He loved watching football, especially the Philadelphia Eagles and hanging out with his friends.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a niece, Angelica Fort.

In addition to his mother, Michael is survived by a daughter Roxanne Straka; a son Michael J. Straka Jr.; a granddaughter Mya; sisters: Deborah Minchoff and Christine Straka; brothers: Andrew J. Straka III and David Straka; and nieces and nephews.

**John P. Yuricek Sr.
Branch 764
Warren, OH**



John P. Yuricek passed away peacefully on April 18, 2025, just days after joyfully celebrating his 90th birthday with family and friends. True to his character, John lived life on his own terms—full of fortitude, strength, resolve, and a healthy dose of stubbornness. Despite significant health challenges, he remained at home until the end and even participated in his own touching “Celebration of an Incredible Life,” days before his passing.

Born April 15, 1935, in Royal, PA to Paul and Mary Yuricek (Cupa), John moved to Warren in 1951 and graduated from Warren G. Harding High School in 1953. He married the love of his life, Judith A. Hart (Howland), on November 12, 1960, and together they built a strong, loving family.

John worked as a Department Manager for Century Food Market Co. before spending over three decades as a heavy repair mechanic at General Motors Lordstown, in addition to being on the GM Transmission Quality Control Task Force, and he was a

proud, lifelong member of UAW Local 1112.

A devoted Slovak, John cherished his heritage, culture, and holiday traditions, and was affectionately known as Dzeda (grandfather). He was an active member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish (SS Cyril & Methodius), participated in the beloved “Pirohy Makers” group, the 50+ Senior Group, and served as Auditor for the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) Jednota SS Cyril & Methodius Society Branch 764K.

Sundays were sacred: Mass in the morning, followed by a shot of “Honey for my Honey,” polka music, and a family dinner—a weekly tradition that epitomized his love for life and family.

A self-taught jack-of-all-trades, John was the go-to “Daddy/Dzeda - Fix it” for anything that needed repairing.

He loved to travel—domestically and abroad—especially for family events and genealogical research. His final international trip was a deeply meaningful return to his ancestral home of Bardejov, Slovakia in 2016, and he also proudly traveled to attend his granddaughter’s wedding in 2024.

John had a deep appreciation for history, spending countless hours

in museums, reading every single plaque. He was a member of the Civil War Historic Society and the Trumbull County Metal Detecting Club. A meticulous genealogist and master storyteller, he documented in several books the Hart and Yuricek family lineage back to 1632 and preserved generations of humorous and poignant memories.

A devoted Pittsburgh Steelers fan since before the Steel Curtain era, John also enjoyed gardening, cooking, canning, making preserves, and constantly improving his home and yard. He especially cherished time with family during holidays and summers at Guilford Lake.

John was preceded in death by his beloved wife Judy, parents, brother Paul, son-in-law Chris Spear, and in-laws Robert and Darlene Hart and Sandra (Hart) and Ray Miller.

He is survived by his children: Laura Spear (RI), Diane (Mark) Malson (IN), Pat (Tom) Davis-Mallett (TX), and John Yuricek, Jr. (OH); grandchildren: Brendan Davis (FL), Alex Spear (MA), Tyler Spear (CA), Julia Malson (IN), and Samantha (Layne) Huffman (IN); great-grandson: Baker Huffman; brothers George (Linda) Yuricek and Tom (Betty) Yuricek; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

To the living, I am gone; To the sorrowful, I will never return;

To the angry, I was cheated; But to the happy, I am at peace; And to the faithful, I have never left.

**Msgr Andrew Hlinka
District 12
5th Annual Picnic
Sunday, June 1, 2025
1:00 - 4:00pm
Cedar Creek Park
453 Evergreen Drive • Belle Vernon, PA**

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

RSVP by Wednesday, May 28th
To RSVP or for more details, call 412-341-1577 or email Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com



District 12 Members are FREE

Non-Members are welcome for \$20 each

**Night with the...
WILD THINGS
Firework Friday
July 25th - 7:05 p.m.**

Join us for a fun night of baseball, fireworks, and fun!

This is a District 12 event, but everyone is invited to join us for this fraternal night at the park.



Questions?
Contact: Joseph Tarquinio
(District 12 – Vice-President)
tark918@gmail.com



2025 FCSU International Golf Tournament Sponsorships



Support our golfers as a Hole Sponsor

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

- FCSU Member Sponsor\$ 50
- FCSU Branch or District Sponsor \$100
- Business Sponsor \$150

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

Become a Tournament Patron

Your name/business logo will be featured on the Tournament Welcome Signs at the clubhouse and lodge.

- Bronze Patron..... \$50
- Silver Patron.....\$100
- Gold Patron\$250
- Platinum Patron..... \$500

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

DEADLINE: JUNE 20, 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: FCSU (with Hole Sponsor or Golf Patron on the memo line)
 Mail to: Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director
 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241



District 7 FCSU meeting at Hoss's in Johnstown, PA



Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in Central City, PA

The District 7 Meeting and a Slovak Celebration in Central City, PA

Submitted by Dr. Michael Kopanic, District 7 President

The first semi-annual meeting for Rev. John Martvoň District 7 was held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at Hoss's Restaurant in Johnstown, PA.

District President Dr. Michael Kopanic convened the meeting and opened it with prayers in Slovak and English. Newly elected officers serving included Vice President Luke Butora, Treasurer/Recording Secretary Mary Kuzilla, Contact Officer Theresa Cassat, and District Auditors Annette Fenimore and Carl Fabrizio.

Also attending was Regional 4 Director Jim Marmol, who presented extensive information about some recent changes made at the FCSU Home Office.

In September 2025, Branch 23 will again host a booth at the Polaček Family Johnstown Slavic Festival, which will feature dress from typical Slavic weddings.

The meeting concluded with Dr. Kopanic leading a prayer in Slovak and English and sign of the cross in Slovak.

Following the meeting, Dr. Kopanic invited members to attend a Solemn Vespers service celebrated by Rev. Aron Magshoudi at the newly renovated St. John the Baptist Church in Central City, PA. Preceding Vespers, the Pittsburgh Slovaks sang Slovak hymns and a bountiful reception dinner followed the Vespers service. Entertainment included the lively music of George Batyi and the Gypsy Stringz from Pittsburgh and the performance of traditional song and folk dancing by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.



The Strekal family (Branch 24) celebrates Easter at the Holy Saturday Blessing of the baskets. Henry, Elias, Fran, Justin, and Cora are pictured with Rev. Frantisek Katrinak at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Aurora, OH.



Chewy's Corner



With school almost out, the sun shining and the flowers blooming, I am looking forward to some time with my family (rodina)! By the time you get this letter, Mother's Day will have already passed. But Father's Day is coming soon and both your parents deserve something special (špeciálne). Make them a card (karta), draw them a picture (obrázok) or give them a big hug (objatie). It will make them so happy!

If you or someone in your family is graduating soon—CONGRATS! Graduations are great for celebrating all the hard work you've done. Be proud of how far you've come, toss that hat in the air, and smile (úsmev) big for pictures.

Let me tell you about some pawsome things we have planned! We are meeting lots of our FCSU branch family at Knoebels Amusement Park in Pennsylvania on June 21st. There are over 60 rides (zábavný par-kový atrakcia), mini-golf, laser tag, museums and a pool area. It's a tradition each summer and I can't wait. On June 28th we are going to Wiegand Lake Park in Ohio. They've got corn hole, swimming (plávanie), paddle boats, playgrounds and so much more. Last year we played Bingo and I won a Target gift card! Both of these events will have LOTS of food (jedlo) and I can't wait to stuff my belly.

Friends, here's a secret (tajomstvo): your parents love having fun with you just as much as you love hanging out with them. So, when you go to Knoebels, Wiegand Lake Park, or even your backyard, invite them along! Laugh, play, eat, and hug them tight. Whether it's Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation season, or just a sunny Saturday, you'll never forget these special moments (chvíle). Hope to see you soon! Chewy!

St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 Easter Basket Blessing, Clifton, NJ

Submitted by Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

Members of St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 were blessing baskets at St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Clifton, NJ on Saturday, April 19, 2025. Included were members from Vasil, Jurasi, Korcak, and Gurega-Koval families. The traditional blessing was given by Rev. Roman Palecko with the help from Rev. Misael Jaramillo.



Janik Vasil's friends pictured in front of the Altar. (L-R) Jason Gonda, Adam Chan, and Janik Vasil.



Rev. Roman Palecko with Rev. Misael Jaramillo blessing the Easter baskets inside the church.



(L-R) Members of St. Matthew's Society Branch 45: Jan Vasil, Maria Jurasi, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Rev. Misael Jaramillo, Rev. Roman Palecko, Anna Korcak, Jozef Korcak, Julie Ann Gurega-Koval, and Frederik Koval.

2025 Hockey Night in Cleveland with District 10

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director

On Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 7:00pm at Rocket Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH, 131 members and guests of District 10 met for another great evening of minor league hockey and fraternal fun. All six branches in the district participated -- Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855. FCSU Officers in attendance were National President Ken Arendt, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec, District 10 President Greg Petrasek, National Supreme Court Member Henry Horvath, Branch 450 President Frank Woyma, Branch 553 President Debbie Speck, and Branch 855 President Barb Sutila.

As an added bonus, the Cleveland Monsters renamed themselves the Cleveland Pierogies for this one of two special nights promoting Slavic heritage and local cuisine -- and the Pierogies won the game 3 to 0 against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins! My sincere thanks to the Home Office which continues to support this event and to everyone who attended another great Hockey Night in Cleveland.



FCSU Search-A-Word

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

MAY Word List

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| BOUQUET | MOTÝL' (Butterfly) |
| GARDEN | RASTLINY (Plants) |
| BASKET | TANEC (Dance) |
| SOIL | LIENKA (Ladybug) |
| WORMS | JAR (Spring) |
| CATERPILLAR | ŽABA (Frog) |



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

Search-A-Word Rules

Five monthly winners will receive \$50!

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

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by June 26, 2025.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

March Puzzle Winners

- Duane Brentzel (Branch 924)
- John T Malosh (Branch 173)
- Theresa Rinko (Branch 746)
- Kevin McKelvey (Branch 320)
- Fran Strekal (Branch 24)

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

FRANtastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL



BRYNDZOVE HALUŠKY

Spaetzle Ingredients:
 4 medium/large potatoes peeled and finely grated
 2 cups of flour
 1 egg
 1 tsp of salt

Sauce Ingredients:
 ½ stick of butter
 1 cup whole milk

Topping Ingredients:
 1 onion diced
 1 pack of bacon diced

Sauté your bacon and onions and set aside for later.

In a large bowl, combine all of the spaetzle ingredients. Your spaetzle dough will be thick and sticky. Boil a large pot of salted water. Hold the mixing bowl of dough over the pot of boiling water. Using a small spoon (or spaetzle maker), scrape small portions of the dough into the boiling water. Try to keep the pieces uniform in size for even cooking. Cook for about 2-4 minutes or until they float Use a slotted spoon to remove the spaetzle and transfer to a colander.

In a separate pot add the ingredients for the sauce, stirring often so it does not stick, keep the heat on low. Once the sauce is ready, add your dumplings and stir together.

Top with sautéed onions and bacon and enjoy!

The Somerset Patriots Welcome District 4 (NJ) & District 16 (NYC)



FCSU FINANCIAL® BALLPARK BBQ EVENT

Sunday, July 13, 2025 @ 12pm

TD Bank Ballpark
 860 E Main Street
 Bridgewater, NJ

Sunday, July 13th
 Gates open at 12pm
 First Pitch is 1:05pm

Members are FREE
 Guests cost \$38* each

RSVP to Jo Anne Peppe @ gsmgjap@aol.com
 no later than Friday, June 20th.
 Send her an email to coordinate guest payments.



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

Buffet runs from 12pm-1:30pm

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Pope Leo XIV celebrated a Mass in the Sistine Chapel

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope Leo XIV, who was elected head of the Catholic Church in a conclave on Thursday, celebrated his first papal Mass of thanksgiving in the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace on Friday in the presence of cardinal-electors, AFP reported.

In his homily, the Pope first addressed the cardinals present, telling them in English: "You have called me to carry the cross and to be a faithful steward."

In Italian, he went on to say that the church must illuminate the "dark nights of this world" and reach areas where faith is lacking and where people prefer technology, money, success, power or pleasure.

The Pope said that these are areas where it is not easy to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness to its truth; where believers are mocked, contradicted, despised, or at best tolerated or pitied. "And yet, precisely for this reason, these are the places where our missionary help is so much needed, because the lack of faith often leads to tragedies, such as the loss of the meaning of life, the forgetting of mercy, the violation of the dignity of the person in its most dramatic forms, the crisis of the family and many other wounds from which our society suffers significantly," he stressed.

In his homily, Leo XIV also referred to his predecessor, Pope Francis, when he said that "this is the world entrusted to us and in which, as Pope Francis has taught us on many occasions, we are called to joyfully witness to faith in the Saviour."

At the same time, he warned against efforts to view Jesus as a "charismatic leader or superman", an apparent message to evangelical Christians.

"There are many environments in which Jesus, although valued as a man, reduces himself to a kind of charismatic leader or superman. This is true not only among non-believers, but also among many baptized Christians, who at this level end their lives in a state of practical atheism," said Leo XIV.

Robert Francis Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, who was born in the United States and also has Peruvian citizenship, entered the Sistine Chapel before Mass to the accompaniment of singing, dressed in a long bright white chasuble with an embroidered gold border around his neck and a golden column. On his head he wore a mitre with a narrow golden tulle and a circlet (in the shape of an inverted letter T) and in his hand a traditional ferrule, such as that used by Benedict XVI. The Mass took place in the Sistine Chapel, where a conclave was also taking place from Wednesday, culminating on Thursday with the election of Cardinal Prevost as Pope Leo XIV. At the end, there was applause from the cardinals present.

The new Supreme Pontiff has a busy schedule for the coming days, including an expected speech on Sunday around noon from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica. Peter and the traditional prayer Rejoice, Queen of Heaven (Regina Coeli).

The Pope is the leader of 1.4 billion Catholics around the world. The DPA agency noted that the faithful are now anxiously awaiting how Leo will shape the Catholic Church.

Bober: With his election as pope, Prevost's plans to visit Slovakia have changed

Košice, May 9 (TASR) - Former Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost's plans to visit Slovakia in the coming weeks seem to have changed with his election as pope.

The current cardinal was supposed to visit Košice on June 1, where he was supposed to celebrate Holy Mass on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the arrival of the Augustinians in Slovakia. He was also supposed to visit pilgrimage sites in Nitra and Levoča. "Apparently, those plans have already changed with this election. We will have to look for other people to represent," he said.

Bober recalled that he had met Prevost several times, who took the name Leo XIV after his election as pope. "He has always admired our nation and faithfulness, especially to the Holy Father during totalitarianism," he said. He believes that he will have at least as good a relationship with Slovaks as Pope Francis.

He added that Prevost used to go to Slovakia, thanks to the Augustinians who operate in the east. They also published a photo from 2005 on the social network, which captures his visit to Košice. "This community has been in our Archdiocese of Košice for 30 years. He gave the impetus for the Augustinians to stay here, and even found the means to build a monastery and a church where they work," Bober explained.

Pápež Lev XIV. odslúžil d'akovnú omšu v Sixtínskej kaplnke

Vatikán 9. mája (TASR) - Pápež Lev XIV., ktorý bol vo štvrtok v konkláve zvolený za hlavu katolíckej cirkvi, odslúžil v piatok v Sixtínskej kaplnke v Apoštolskom paláci vo Vatikáne za účasti kardinálov-voliteľov svoju prvú pápežskú - d'akovnú - omšu, informovala agentúra AFP, píše TASR.

Vo svojej kázni sa pápež obrátil najprv na prítomných kardinálov, keď im po anglicky povedal: „Povolali ste ma, aby som niesol kríž a bol verným správcom.“

V taliančine ďalej pokračoval, že cirkev musí osvetľovať „temné noci tohto sveta“ a dostať sa do oblastí, kde chýba viera a kde ľudia dávajú prednosť technológiám, peniazom, úspechu, moci alebo pôžitkom.

Pápež uviedol, že sú to oblasti, kde nie je ľahké hlásať evanjelium a svedčiť o jeho pravde; kde sa veriacim vysmieávajú, odporujú im, opovrhujú nimi alebo ich prinajlepšom tolerujú či ľutujú. „A predsa, práve preto sú to miesta, kde je naša misijná pomoc veľmi potrebná, pretože nedostatok viery často vedie k tragédiám, ako je strata zmyslu života, zabúdanie na milosrdenstvo, porušovanie dôstojnosti osoby v jej najdramatickejších podobách, kríza rodiny a mnoho ďalších rán, ktorými naša spoločnosť výrazne trpí,“ zdôraznil.

V kázni sa Lev XIV. odvolal aj na svojho predchodcu, pápeža Františka, keď povedal, že „toto je svet, ktorý nám bol zverený a v ktorom, ako nás pri mnohých príležitostiach učil pápež František, sme povolaní radostne svedčiť o viere v Spasiteľa“.

Varoval súčasne pred snahami považovať Ježiša za „charizmatického vodcu alebo nadčloveka“, čo bol podľa agentúry AFP zjavný odkaz evanjelikálnym kresťanom.

„Existuje mnoho prostredí, v ktorých sa Ježiš, hoci je oceňovaný ako človek, redukuje na akéhosi charizmatického vodcu alebo nadčloveka. To platí nielen medzi neveriacimi, ale aj medzi mnohými pokrstenými kresťanmi, ktorí tak na tejto úrovni končia životom v stave praktického ateizmu,“ uviedol Lev XIV.

Robert Francis Prevost, teraz pápež Lev XIV., ktorý sa narodil v USA a má aj peruánske občianstvo, pred omšou vstúpil do Sixtínskej kaplnky za sprievodu spevu, oblečený v dlhom jasnobielym ornáte s vyšitou zlatou obrubou okolo krku a zlatým stĺpcom. Na hlave mal mitru s úzkym zlatým titulom a circulom (tvar obráteného písmena T) a v ruke tradičnú ferulu, akú používal napríklad Benedikt XVI. Na nohách mal tmavé topánky, nie červené, aké nosili mnohí predchádzajúci pápeži a od ktorých upustil aj jeho predchodca František. Omša sa konala v Sixtínskej kaplnke, kde sa od stredy odohrávalo aj konkláve zavŕšené vo štvrtok zvolením kardinála Prevosta za pápeža Leva XIV. Na záver zaznel od prítomných kardinálov potlesk.

Nový najvyšší pontifex má na najbližšie dni nabitý program, vrátane očakávaného príhovoru v nedeľu okolo poludnia z ložie Baziliky sv. Petra a tradičnej modlitby Raduj sa, nebies Kráľovná (Regina Coeli).

Pápež je vodcom 1,4 miliardy katolíkov na celom svete. Agentúra DPA podotkla, že veriaci teraz s napätím očakávajú, ako bude Lev formovať katolícku cirkev.

Doterajší kardinál mal 1. júna navštíviť Košice, kde mal odslúžiť svätú omšu pri príležitosti 30 rokov od príchodu augustiniánov na Slovensko.

Košice 9. mája (TASR) - Plány bývalého kardinála Roberta Francisa Prevosta navštíviť Slovensko v najbližších týždňoch sa jeho zvolením za pápeža zrejme zmenili.

Doterajší kardinál mal 1. júna navštíviť Košice, kde mal odslúžiť svätú omšu pri príležitosti 30 rokov od príchodu augustiniánov na Slovensko. Zavítať mal aj na pútnické miesta v Nitre či v Levoči. „Podľa všetkého tie plány sa už touto voľbou zmenili. Budeme musieť hľadať iných ľudí na zastúpenie,“ povedal.

Bober pripomenul, že s Prevostom, ktorý po zvolení za pápeža prijal meno Lev XIV., sa stretol niekoľkokrát. „Vždy obdivoval náš národ a vernosť predovšetkým Svätému Otcovi počas totality,“ povedal. Verí, že k Slovákom bude mať prinajmenšom taký dobrý vzťah ako pápež František.

Dodal, že Prevost na Slovensko chodieval, a to práve vďaka augustiniánom, ktorí pôsobia na východe. Na sociálnej sieti zverejnili aj fotografiu z roku 2005, ktorá zachytáva jeho návštevu v Košiciach. „Táto komunita je v našej košickej arcidiecéze 30 rokov. On dal podnet na to, aby tu augustiniáni zostali, a dokonca našiel prostriedky na to, aby sa vybudoval kláštor aj kostol, kde pôsobia,“ priblížil Bober.



Slovaks of Western PA to Celebrate 102nd Anniversary on July 17th

At the beginning of the last century, many immigrants left their beloved homeland in search of better opportunities in a new land across the ocean. Many Slovaks built that new life in the coal mines, mills and railroads of Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Despite the dangerous working conditions and long working hours, once a year they came together in a public place to reminisce and share their experiences. "Kenny's Grove", as it was known back then, provided the perfect opportunity.

Slovaks from the Tri-State area and beyond will once again present our rich Slovak heritage with a day long celebration in Kennywood Park on Thursday, July 17th. Slovak music will be heard, Slovak dishes will be offered, and souvenirs will be sold.

The Slovak kitchen will begin serving favorite homemade traditional food at 12:30pm. There will be games and prizes for the children as well! Musical entertainment will be provided by the "Gypsy Strings" throughout the afternoon. Following a short program in the afternoon, Clergy from the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Dioceses' will join to celebrate Mass at 4:00pm in the Main Pavilion. Songs and dances representing our rich cultural heritage will round out the day with a program by the "Pittsburgh Slovaksians." **For more information or discount tickets contact Mary Lou at 412-462-1957 or Sue at 412-421-1204.**

TICKET ORDER FORM: Make All Checks Payable to **W. PA Slovak Day Assoc.**

Number of Slovak Day Tickets (Valid on July 17th Only) _____ x \$33 = _____
 Number of FLEX Day Tickets (Valid ALL Summer) _____ x \$40 = _____
 Total = _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Email: _____

MAIL TO: S. ONDREJCO • 234 ILION ST. • PITTSBURGH, PA 15207

Oros Siblings Embrace Branch 24 Meeting Theme



Donna and Joe Oros celebrate Cinco de Mayo at a recent Branch 24 meeting. Attendees also acknowledged the Star Wars pop culture day of May 4th (May the 4th (force) be with you)!

District 19 and Branch 785 Annual Meeting

Submitted by Helen von Friedl

It was a great start to the new year when members gathered on January 12, 2025 for our annual meeting. Elections were held and both District 19 and Br. 785 board of directors were elected. They stay the same, except the Sports Director position, which was held by John Tokarsky, will now be shared between Executives with John's assistance.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Thanks to our FCSU bowlers and guests for a fun and fabulous
2025 FCSU International Bowling Tournament
 Watch for the tournament recap and final results coming soon!
2026 FCSU International Bowling Tournament
April 25-26, 2026
EASTWAY LANES • 4110 BUFFALO RD. • ERIE, PA

Open to the Public

SLOVAK J CLUB



MAY

- May 21 Swiss Steak Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm
*RSVP REQUIRED
- May 25 NO BREAKFAST BUFFET DUE TO HOLIDAY

JUNE

- June 4 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7:00pm
- June 18 Fried Chicken Dinner
4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIRED
- June 22 **2nd Annual Summer Cash Sweepstakes.** St. John the Baptist Parish and Slovak J Club.
See Board Member for tickets.
- June 28 **Karaoke Night** – Cover Charge for Crooning = \$5; Food Charge an additional \$10. Reservations required. Food begins at 6:30pm; Crooning begins at 7pm.

JULY

- July 2 Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30-7:00pm
- July 16 Pork Chop Dinner – 4:30-6:30pm
*RSVP REQUIRED
- July 26 **Annual Kielbasa Open**
Mayfair Country Club
8am Shot Gun Start

***Call 330-786-9972 to RSVP**

485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, March 22, 2025 • Home Office

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 4:00pm and asked Rev. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members Attending By Video Conference:

- Kenneth A. Arendt National President
- Damian Nasta National Vice President
- Kevin J. Collins..... Executive Secretary
- John Tokarsky..... Treasurer
- Rev. Thomas Nasta..... National Chaplain
(by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the February 21, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Kevin Collins to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly written Treasurer's report to the Board of Directors at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Financial Report

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Monthly Disbursements

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

Death Benefits & Accumulations.....	\$173,205.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations.....	\$27,310.87
Matured Endowments & Accumulations.....	\$0.00
Trust Fund.....	\$0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The President and Executive Secretary led an overview of our current and new sales program to the Board of Directors at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting.

The President updated the Board on the 11 new licensed states; Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, and Vermont. He stated the Home Office is collaborating with our external marketing firm on a program to recruit independent agents in the new states we recently became licensed in.

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding the tv ads running on Fox 8 and stated they will be doing a second taping. We are getting a good response. We plan to expand our advertising to Youngstown, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The Fraternal Activities Director updated the Board at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting on upcoming fraternal activities. The International Bowling Tournament will be held April 26-27, 2025 at Kent Lanes in Kent, Ohio. All upcoming fraternal activities will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated the 2026 Convention will be held June 20-23, 2026 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Rev. Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

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

Home Office Contacts

800.533.6682 • fcsu@fcsu.com

LIFE INSURANCE

SUZANNE Ext. 115 suzanneb@fcsu.com
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FRAN..... Ext. 116 frans@fcsu.com
Claims Department, Life Insurance Claims

JULIE..... Ext. 125 juliec@fcsu.com
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Deposit Agreements / Settlement Options, RMD, Scheduled Payments and Deposits

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

DOROTA Ext. 129 dorotap@fcsu.com
Annuity Claims Department, Member Portal Customer Service

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Agent Coordinator, Commissions

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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Branch and District Liaison, Announcements, Activities, Transfers, Mergers, Deposit Agreements, Fraternal Activities & Events

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Chief Marketing Officer, Executive Assistant, FCSU Scholarships

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

Crossword Puzzle Solution from Page 8

S	C	A	P	E		A	R	E	A	S		P	L	Y
H	O	T	E	L		M	E	R	L	E		L	E	E
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E	N	S		S	E	N	S	E		T	Y	S	O	N

KARAOKE NIGHT

330-786-9972

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

\$15 per person

Food Provided @ 6:30pm

Crooning from 7:00-11:00pm

SLOVAK J CLUB



Stephen C. Matula SCHOLARSHIP



**20 Scholarships
\$5,000 Each**

STEPHEN C. MATULA SCHOLARSHIP for 20 College Students of Slovak Heritage

Who Can Apply:

Applicants of Slovak heritage are eligible to apply as high school seniors, or during any year of full-time enrollment in an accredited College/University. Applicants can apply each year in college (up to 4 years).

Applicants must complete and sign an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or www.fcsu.com and mail it to: **Stephen C. Matula Scholarship, FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131**. Applicants must also provide a high-resolution headshot photo and email it to scholarship@fcsu.com.

Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and checks will be payable to the winner's educational institution after submitting proof of college enrollment.

Winners must provide a report on their progress in college, including transcript and a summary of use of the funds by the end of the school year.

What to Provide:

- Completed Application
- Official Transcript
- Essay
- Photo
- 2 Letters of Recommendation
(obtained in the last 12 months)



**DEADLINE TO APPLY:
JUNE 3, 2025**

Find Scholarship Applications at FCSU.com
(fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships).

For more info call us at 800.533.6682 ext. 114 or email scholarship@fcsu.com.