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Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

Message from the President

As we enter May, we take time to recognize two important observances—Mother’s Day and Memorial Day—both of which call us to reflect on sacrifice, gratitude, and remembrance.

Mother’s Day is a time to recognize the women who shaped our lives. Our mothers and grandmothers passed down not only our faith, but also our Slovak traditions, values, and sense of family. Many of the customs we continue today exist because of their dedication to preserving them. It is important that we take the time to thank them and recognize the lasting impact they have had on our families and our Society.

Memorial Day reminds us of a different kind of sacrifice. We honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Their commitment and courage secured the freedoms we enjoy today. As a Society rooted in faith and community, we remember them in prayer and reflect on the responsibility we share to carry forward the values they defended.

These observances connect directly to our mission of respecting our history and honoring those who came before us. That same commitment is reflected in our long-standing relationship with the University of Pittsburgh. The Slovak Studies Program highlighted in this month’s issue exists because earlier generations recognized the importance of preserving our heritage and took action to make it possible. We are proud to continue that effort with a new scholarship in partnership with the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. This year’s scholarship recipients were honored at their Graduation Ceremony on April 24, 2026.

In our ongoing effort to support education, we are currently accepting applications for the Stephen C. Matula Scholarship and are awarding 25 scholarships of \$5,000 each to students of Slovak heritage.

As we look ahead, we are also preparing for our 53rd Quadrennial Convention. I encourage all officers and delegates to participate fully, as the decisions made and relationships strengthened there will guide us in the years ahead.

Our ancestors built this Society with a clear purpose—to support one another and to preserve our faith and heritage. It is up to us to continue that work. By remembering their sacrifices, supporting education, and staying connected to our traditions, we ensure that their legacy continues.



Andrew Chvala, Katie Aberegg, Irene Moran, Dr. Renáta Kamenárová, Kevin Collins (Executive Secretary/COO), Kristina Marticek, Michelle Hlinka, and Joseph Doyle at the presentation of the FCSU Scholarships to the University of Pittsburgh Slavic Studies students.

Newly Established FCSU Scholarship For Students of Slovak Studies at the University of Pittsburgh

Submitted by Dr. Renáta Kamenárová

On Friday, April 24, 2026, the University of Pittsburgh’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures held a graduation and awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of its students. This year, three seniors completed the requirements for a Minor in Slovak Studies: Katie Aberegg (a Film and Media Studies major with Slovak roots, who plans to remain in Pittsburgh for graduate studies in media production), Irene Moran (a first-generation Slovak-American and Psychology major, who also intends to live and work in Pittsburgh), and Joseph Doyle (a History major, who plans to move to Chicago to pursue a graduate degree in history education).

Representing the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) was Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary/COO. In his remarks, Mr. Collins spoke about the history of the FCSU and its mission to support students of Slovak language and culture at the University of Pittsburgh. He announced that the FCSU has committed to award \$7,500 in scholarships annually to students who complete the Slovak Studies Minor.

Joining the three seniors were juniors Kristina Marticek (President of the Pitt Slovak Club) and Michelle Hlinka (Vice-President of the Pitt Slovak Club), who also completed the minor requirements. Each of the five students received a \$1,500 scholarship and expressed sincere gratitude for the support. Also pictured is Andrew Chvala, a graduate student and a dedicated ambassador for the Slovak Studies Program.

The University of Pittsburgh is the only school of higher education in the USA which has a permanent chair of Slovak Studies and offers a minor in the language. Currently, Dr. Renáta Kamenárová serves as the Teaching Associate Professor and Director of the Slovak Studies Program. The Slavic Department offers language courses in Slovak, Polish, BCMS (Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian), Ukrainian and Russian.

The Slovak Program and Slavic Studies Program welcome donations to help sustain the study of these cultures and languages. For more information, contact Dr. Kamenarova (rek89@pitt.edu) or see the following websites:

Slavic Studies: www.slavic.pitt.edu/about/community-support
Slovak at Pitt: www.facebook.com/PittSlovak

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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
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VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:
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Message from the National Chaplain

May 25 this year is Memorial Day, a day on which we remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives for the nation. Although it is a national holiday and that weekend is looked upon by many as the unofficial start of summer, we ought to remember in prayer those who died serving their country and for their families who continue to grieve their loss.

May 25 this year is also the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church. The earliest record of this title of the Blessed Mother dates to the fourth century when it was first used by Saint Ambrose. Pope Benedict XIV in 1748 and Pope Leo XIII in 1885 also referred to Mary as Mother of the Church. Saint Paul VI officially gave her this title on November 21, 1964 when closing the third session of the Second Vatican Council: "We declare Mary Most Holy Mother of the Church, that is, of all the Christian people."

On February 11, 2018, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, Pope Francis established the liturgical memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church, to be observed the day after Pentecost Sunday. This memorial is to have precedence over any and all other feast days.

Memorial Day and the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church are both being observed this year on May 25. Besides sharing the same date this year, there are two other connections between them.

They are both associated with death. On Memorial Day we remember all who died in the service to the country. Mary, Mother of the Church recalls the scene at the crucifixion of Christ where Jesus tells his mother, "Woman, behold, your son" and to the Beloved Disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

They are both occasions to give honor. On Memorial Day we honor the over one million men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. We honor Mary, Mother of the Church as the model of holiness that every member of the Church strives to imitate.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain**

SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

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

As of April 27, 134 donors have given \$19,767.34 for the 2026 Appeal. Among the 39 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 35, Branch 40, Branch 45, Branch 89, Branch 112, Branch 132, Branch 181, Branch 320, Branch 731, Branch 743, Branch 853, Branch 857, District 17 and the Home Office of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$3,410.00. Donations have also been received from 9 churches, 17 clergy and religious and 69 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

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

48th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name: _____

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Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:
Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Our Lady of Grace Church • 225 Bellevue Avenue • Penndel, PA 19047-4052

NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES	ISSUE DEADLINES
<p>All copy is due by 4:30pm, THE MONDAY THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated because of special holiday scheduling. All articles are reviewed for possible publication. FCSU reserves the right to edit and format submitted articles and pictures. Remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY. Submit your articles in ample time for them to be received at the Home Office.</p>	<p>JUNE 2026 ISSUE COPY DATE - MONDAY, JUNE 1 ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10</p> <p>JULY 2026 ISSUE COPY DATE - MONDAY, JUNE 29 ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, JULY 8</p>

Executive Secretary's Message

COUNTDOWN TO CONVENTION:

45 Days until June 20 (from May 6 *Jednota* publication date).

Thank you to everyone that has been participating in the monthly virtual call for the past few months. We have had a lot of great conversations about the upcoming convention and other topics.

At this time, we are planning on having two more virtual calls that will touch base on the convention and other topics.

It was suggested to have a virtual call-in early July to have a recap on the convention.

More details will follow on this upcoming call.

You can also check the FCSU website for updates on the convention.

In early June, we will be sending out the Delegate packets that will have all the information you will need to bring to the convention. Some items will include your Delegate Credential Card, Financial Reports, Meal Ticket Information and the Convention Schedule, just to name a few.

Virtual Call Schedule:

May 26, 2026 at 12pm and 7pm EST

- Convention
- 990's Update
- Average Age and Age Breakdown by Branch

June 15, 2026 at 12pm and 8pm EST

- Convention

July TBD

- Convention Recap

It has also been discussed that we tape the virtual calls and place them on the website. We are looking into doing this in the near future. However, we do not want to lose the opportunity to network and have interactive conversation and share ideas with our members.

Everyone's schedule is unique and may not be able to attend the date or time of the virtual calls. We will keep you updated on this.

Reminder, May 15 is the deadline for filing 990N form with the IRS.

Please feel free to contact me at the Home Office if you have any questions or suggestions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at a future FCSU event.



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2026

- 5/7 Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA (*Time Change*)
- 5/7 Branch 260 - Meeting, Austintown, OH
- 5/10 **Mother's Day**
- 5/13 Branch 785 - Meeting, Mississauga, ON (RSVP)
- 5/13 District 19 - Meeting, Mississauga, ON (RSVP)
- 5/16 Region 1 - Pilgrimage, Stockton, MA (RSVP)
- 5/17 Branch 276 - Meeting, McKeesport, PA
- 5/17 Branch 731 - Meeting, Poland, OH
- 5/19 District 14 - Meeting, Poland, OH
- 5/20 Branch 682 - Meeting, Struthers, OH
- 5/25 Branch 372 - Meeting, Beaverdale, PA
- 5/25 **Memorial Day - Home Office Closed**
- 5/26 **Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 7pm EST**

JUNE 2026

- 6/1 Branch 764 - Meeting, Warren, OH
- 6/2 Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 6/7 Branch 89 - Milkmen Baseball Game, Franklin, WI
- 6/7 Branch 553 - Meeting, Akron, OH
- 6/7 Branch 581 - Meeting, Hobart, IN
- 6/7 District 11 - Meeting, Butler, PA (RSVP)
- 6/8 Branch 228 - Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 6/13 Branch 38 - Melanoma Walk, Pittsburgh, PA
- 6/13 District 17 - RailRiders Baseball Game, Moosic, PA (RSVP)
- 6/14 Branch 19 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 6/14 Branch 213 - Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP) (Hybrid)
- 6/14 District 1 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 6/15 **Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 8pm EST**
- 6/20 - 23 **FCSU 53rd Quadrennial Convention, Greenville, SC**
- 6/21 **Father's Day**
- 6/26 - 28 Lorain International Festival, Lorain, OH
- 6/26 - 28 Simply Slavic, Youngstown, OH
- 6/26 **Stephen C. Matula Scholarship Applications Due**
- 6/28 Branch 173 - Meeting, Mountain Top, PA (RSVP)

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

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



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Finances for Two: A Newlywed's Guide to Financial Harmony

For many couples, summer marks the beginning of a lifelong journey together. As newlyweds embrace the joys of marriage, it's equally important to lay the groundwork for a solid financial future. Studies show that disagreements about money are among the leading causes of marital stress. Fortunately, by having proactive and honest conversations early on, couples can avoid many of the pitfalls and tensions that arise later.

Whether you're recently married or preparing to exchange vows, the following guidance can help you and your spouse build financial unity and long-term security.

Communicate Openly and Honestly

While it might not be the most romantic topic, financial transparency is essential. Before walking down the aisle, sit down together to discuss income, debts, assets, and spending habits. Understanding your spouse's financial personality can help you anticipate and navigate differences with respect and clarity.

Be forthcoming about your current financial picture, including student loans, credit card debt, and savings. Talk through your money tendencies: Are you a saver or a spender? How do you feel about budgeting, investing, or charitable giving? These conversations help build trust and form a strong foundation.

Establish Shared Financial Goals

Once you've laid everything out on the table, start planning your future. Do you hope to buy a home? Start a family? Save for retirement or a dream vacation? Aligning your financial goals is key to building a united path forward.

Consider setting both short-term and long-term goals. Pay off debts, build an emergency fund, and save for future expenses like a home, college tuition, or retirement. The clearer your goals, the easier it will be to stick to a financial plan—and celebrate the milestones along the way.

This is also a good time to discuss your approach to day-to-day finances: Who will pay which bills? Will you combine accounts or maintain some separate finances? Whether

you choose joint, separate, or hybrid finances, what matters most is agreeing on an approach that works for both of you.

Review and Update Important Documents

Marriage changes more than just your relationship status. It also calls for updating key documents to reflect your new life together. Start by reviewing your insurance policies, retirement accounts, and bank account beneficiaries. Make sure your spouse is listed where appropriate.

If you are changing your name, notify the Social Security Administration and update your driver's license, bank accounts, and insurance policies. This will help avoid complications down the road and ensure your financial life stays in order.

Build a Budget and Plan for Emergencies

With your combined income and expenses, build a realistic budget—and commit to sticking with it. A budget not only helps you stay on track but serves as a communication tool that makes ongoing financial discussions easier.

In addition to managing monthly bills, make building an emergency fund a top priority. Ideally, this fund should cover 3–6 months of living expenses and be easily accessible in case of unexpected events like job loss or medical emergencies.

Evaluate Your Insurance Coverage

Now is a smart time to review your insurance needs. Are you overinsured—or underinsured—now that you're a couple? Consider health insurance options: does it make more sense for one spouse to join the other's plan? Evaluate homeowners or renters insurance if you're moving in together.

Perhaps most importantly, consider purchasing or updating life insurance. Life insurance is a powerful way to protect your spouse financially in the event of an unexpected tragedy.

Plan for the Future—Together

Marriage is a partnership, and managing finances as a team sets the tone for your shared journey. Tackle debts together and create a plan to reduce them. Begin or continue contributing to retirement accounts—even in the early stages of marriage, it's never too soon to prepare for the future.

Update or create your wills and directives. Having a legal plan in place can prevent unnecessary complications and provide peace of mind for both of you.

FCSU Financial understands the importance of preparing for life's many transitions. Whether you're just starting out or planning for your future as a couple, we're here to help with trusted financial products, life insurance solutions, and a tradition of caring for our members and their families. Start your journey on the right financial foot—together.

Avoid Money Mishaps When Adult Children Move Back Home

In today's economic climate, the path from graduation to independence isn't as straightforward as it once was. Rising housing costs, student loan obligations, and a competitive job market mean more young adults are choosing, or needing to, move back home after college.



This growing trend, often referred to as the “boomerang generation,” isn't just about financial necessity. For some, it's a strategic decision: a chance to build savings, pay down debt, or pursue additional education without the burden of high living expenses.

For parents, the return of an adult child can bring a mix of emotions—joy, concern, and sometimes uncertainty. The key to making it work? Clear communication and thoughtful planning, especially when it comes to finances.

Start with a Conversation

Before move-in day, sit down and talk through expectations. A successful arrangement begins with clarity.

Discuss questions like:

- Will your child contribute to rent or household expenses?
- How will groceries, utilities, and other shared costs be handled?
- What responsibilities—financial or otherwise—will they take on?

If your child is just starting out or earning a modest income, consider a flexible approach. A percentage-based contribution or non-financial support—like cooking, home maintenance, or errands—can help them contribute meaningfully while they get on their feet.

It's also wise to outline boundaries and timelines. Is this a short-term arrangement or open-ended? Putting these expectations in writing—even informally—can help avoid misunderstandings and keep everyone on the same page.

Update Insurance and Financial Details

Under current law, many young adults can remain on a parent's health insurance plan until age 26. If your child is older or has aged out, explore options through an employer or the federal and state marketplaces.

Auto insurance is another consideration. If your child will be driving your vehicle or living in your household, your premiums may change. Check with your provider to understand any adjustments and decide how those costs will be shared.

You may also want to review other financial details, such as:

- Updating emergency contacts
- Revisiting household budgets
- Ensuring your child begins building (or rebuilding) credit responsibly

Support with Purpose

It's natural to want to help your child succeed—but how you help matters. Instead of covering every expense, focus on support that builds long-term stability. For example:

- Assisting with student loan payments or refinancing strategies
- Contributing toward career-building tools, certifications, or education
- Encouraging consistent saving for future goals like a home or retirement

Setting expectations around saving is especially valuable. Some families even “match” their child's savings contributions or set milestones to encourage progress.

A Stepping Stone, Not a Setback

While living at home as an adult may once have carried a stigma, today it's often a smart financial move—for both generations. With thoughtful planning, open communication, and shared goals, this arrangement can strengthen family relationships and set young adults on a path toward lasting independence.

N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

Award-Winning Slovak Film Director Miro Remo Visits FCSU Ahead of Screening

FCSU guests and staff had the distinct pleasure of welcoming acclaimed Slovak film director Miro Remo to the Home Office during his visit to Northeast Ohio for the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Remo, whose documentary *Better Go Mad in the Wild* has garnered international attention, spent several hours in a lively and engaging bilingual discussion with FCSU representatives and guests. Among those present were President Ken Arendt, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Chief Marketing Officer Beata Fedoriouk, Supreme Court member John Moynihan, President of the Slovak Radio Club Henry Horvath, Branch 24 Members Sue Moynihan and Joe Oros, and Renáta Kamenárová, and PhD, Director of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, who assisted as translator.

The conversation offered a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at Remo's filmmaking process. The inspiration for *Better Go Mad in the Wild* came from an unexpected source—his father, an amateur filmmaker, who shared a short book about twin brothers living reclusive lives. Intrigued, Remo pursued the story, eventually committing five years to the project. Filming was limited to just 60 days per year, respecting the brothers' desire for privacy and their need to focus on daily work.

The documentary captures the complex relationship between the twins, one of whom lived with a disability, having only one arm. Initially hesitant, the brothers ultimately agreed to participate. In a poignant turn of events, one of the brothers passed away just days after viewing the completed film.

Although the story is deeply personal and rooted in rural life, the film was shot in the Czech Republic, where the brothers lived. Remo explained that securing financing was more feasible there than in Slovakia, highlighting challenges filmmakers often face in smaller national industries.

Following his Cleveland appearance, Remo continued promoting the film with stops planned in Chicago and Frankfurt, bringing Slovak storytelling to broader international audiences.

Remo also shared insights into his upcoming project, which will explore the lives of garbage collectors in Slovakia. The film will examine the social hierarchy within this often-overlooked profession, where truck drivers hold the most coveted positions and informal practices sometimes shape the work. The project is currently in its early stages.

Beyond filmmaking, the discussion turned to Slovak culture and identity. It was noted the contrast between Slovak communities abroad and those in the homeland. While Slovak-Americans have worked diligently to preserve traditions, Slovakia itself has experienced increasing Western influence. Attendees reflected on earlier generations of immigrants who, amid political tensions and pressures to assimilate, often felt compelled to suppress their language and cultural practices.

The visit concluded with gratitude and mutual appreciation. FCSU members expressed their thanks for the opportunity to connect with such a thoughtful and accomplished artist, while Remo welcomed the chance to engage with a community dedicated to preserving Slovak heritage.

Kevin Collins and Beata Fedoriouk later attended Remo's festival screening, continuing to support Slovak arts and culture on an international stage.



990N Forms Filed

The Home Office has officially filed the 990N forms with the IRS before the May 15, 2026 deadline for the Branches listed below, who requested the Home Office to file this information in the past.

If your Branch is not listed on this chart, and one of your Branch Officers is "NOT" filing the 990N form, or not sure what this form entails, please contact me at the Home Office for assistance. Feel free to call me at 1-800-533-6682 Ext. 120 or email me at kcollins@fcsu.com.

990N BRANCH FILING 2025						
002K	045K	198P	292K	410K	633K	796K
003P	060K	199K	294K	417K	682K	831K
005P	083K	200K	313K	429K	721K	844K
007K	102K	213K	320K	465K	731K	853K
019K	152K	228K	367K	472K	733K	855K
024K	153K	254K	372K	484K	743K	856K
035K	162K	259K	382K	581K	746K	857K
038K	169P	276K	393K	587K	764K	888K
040K	173K	290K	401K	618K	780K	

FCSU Bowlers are Incredi-Bowl!



Dear Members and Guests,
We hope you had a great time at the 2026 FCSU International Bowling Tournament. I know we did!

Your reviews of the weekend were stellar thanks to our partners at Eastway Lanes and The Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

Special thanks to our terrific Home Office staff and volunteers, Barbara Sutilla, Fran Strekal, Karen Habian, Annie Sutilla, James Fibbi and Laura and Brian Lingenfield.

You weathered through the power outage like the true champions you are. Thanks to your patience and understanding, we recovered beautifully. The bowling was competitive, the food was fabulous and the fellowship was outstanding -- as always!

Be sure to watch for the official scores in the next edition of the Jednota.

Thanks for your friendship and continued support.

Joanne Fibbi
Your Fraternal Activities Director

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

Mary, Marie, Maria, Mara, Maya—however the feminine name is said, our hymn confirms how delightful it can be to pray or sing the name, Mary (Chosen One). God chose the Virgin Mary to be His Mother. Then, as Jesus's life on earth was ending, He bequeathed her motherhood to His apostle John. With this commission, John became the supporting "son" for Mary in her widowhood; and, in John, Catholic tradition has interpreted this moment as Mary being given as a spiritual mother to all the disciples of Christ "down through the ages." In return, how appropriate it is for us to say "Mary" as a prayer—simple and powerful, with love—for she leads us to Jesus. Mary, help me to see Jesus in each person and circumstance in my life. Strengthen in me the Christ-like and Mary-like habit of love. And when we are completing our life's journey, may our "Hail Mary's" usher us into God's eternal Kingdom of peace and joy.

WE SING WITH JOY, O MARY

- We sing with joy, O Mary, we praise and call on your name!
Our own dear one, we claim you as Mother, loving and true.
You are the best of all mothers, the blessed joy of my life.
You are my solace and comfort, each day, my soul's delight.
- Yes, I can now remember as Mother taught me to pray
And sing out: "Hail, dear Mary," to call on you day by day.
Where'er I go on life's journey, my fervent hopes, prayers, I raise.
Protect me, guide me, dear Mother, I honor you with praise.
- When dangers rise to harm me, misfortune heightens my fear,
I pray with earnest pleading, "Hail Mary, Mother most dear."
When sin and weakness o'erwhelm me, your solace helps with the pain.
So lost, forsaken, I struggle, and cry to you again.
- My eyes with tears are streaming, I seek your kind, gentle gaze.
My lips these words are praying: "Hail Mary," honor and praise
As you, compassionate Mother, with loving arms hold me close,
With tender mercy embrace me and in your heart enclose.
- When I am ill or aged and live with pain day by day,
I trust and say these simple words: "Hail Mary, Mother, I pray."
You are my strength and supporter, my healing hope, help and rest.
You comfort me, dearest Mother, your loving heart knows best.
- When one day comes the moment in which I breathe my last breath,
Once more I raise my fervent plea, "Hail Mary, be near in death."
For you as God's own dear Mother, with Jesus rejoice now above,
Receive my poor soul and welcome your child home with love.

Ó, JAK SA SLADKO SPIEVA

- Ó, jak sa sladko spieva tvé meno, Mária!
Ó, jak ťa každý žiada, Matička premilá.
Ty si najlepšia Matka, ty si moja radosť,
Ti si všetka potecha, mojej duši žiadost.
- Od toho času jak ma matka naučila Tú krásnu milú pieseň: Zdravá buď, Mária!
Kam sa pohnem, kam idem, všade si ju spievam,
Tebe, Matička milá, česť a chválu vzdávam.
- Keď v nebezpečí stojím, keď mi hrozí skaza,
Volám ja k tebe vrúcne: Zdravá buď, Mária!
Keď sa hriechu dopustím, keď teba nahnevám,
Jak strateným sa cítim a horko nariekam.
- Slzy sa mi po tvári zarmútenej ronía,
Ústa moje volajú: Zdravá buď, Mária!
A ty, predbrá Matka, zas ma k sebe vinieš,
Moje žalostné Srdce zas k sebe pozdvihneš.
- A keď ma nemoc trápí, bolesti zachvátia,
Ústa moje šepkajú: Zdravá buď, Mária!
A ty bolesti úľaviš a trpkosť osladiš,
Láskou svojou materskou Srdce mi napojiš.
- Keď už pride posledná žitía môjho chvíľa,
Aj vtedy budem volať: Zdravá buď, Mária!
A ty, Matička Božia, v tej sláve nebeskej,
Budeš úbohú dušu moju čakať.
Amen.

Please enjoy the YouTube version from Slovakia:
tinyurl.com/MaryMay26

Insights and Viewpoints

Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

Lectionary 58, Gospel Matthew 28: 16-28

Why did our Lord depart from us and ascend to the Father? The question makes sense: after all, if Christ truly loves his people and desires salvation for them, would he not remain with us following his resurrection in order to accompany us? As St. Paul tells us "We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him" (Rom 6:9). Does it not seem natural that believers of all eras would say to him, if they could, what the disciples on the road to Emmaus said the very day of Jesus' resurrection—"Stay with us, Lord!" (Luke 24:29).

Given all of that it is important to understand why the Lord departed from us and returned to the Father. He did so first so that his human existence which began with the incarnation might be brought to completion. When a person dies they are no longer physically present to us, though they may be present in spirit. It is true that when Jesus died he did in fact return to his earthly disciples briefly after the resurrection—a unique event in human history—to show himself as risen and to teach them further. But he then departed since it is not the course of human nature to continue on this earth after death; that is the existence of a ghost rather than a human being.

His ascension also has a "divine dimension": returning to the Father was the natural state for the Son who in his human nature is known as Jesus, and so after his earthly life was complete and he had reassured the disciples that he was truly risen it is to be expected by

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Gratitude for Mothers

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

In his 1995 Letter to Women, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, "Thank you, women who are mothers! You have sheltered human beings within yourselves in a unique experience of joy and travail. This experience makes you become God's own smile upon the newborn child, the one who guides your child's first steps, who helps your child to grow, and who is the anchor as your child makes their way along the journey of life."

These words capture the essence of motherhood and properly celebrate all that mothers mean to us. From the first act of welcoming new life into the world to the loving care provided in formative years, followed by a lifetime of emotional investment, a mother's love extends the expression of God's love for us all.

In his Confessions, Saint Augustine prays to God, "Thou didst 'stretch forth thy hand from above' and didst draw up my soul out of that profound darkness because my mother, thy faithful one, wept to thee on my behalf more than mothers are accustomed to weep for the bodily deaths of their children....And thou didst hear her, O Lord."

In this meditation on the loving disposition of his own mother, Augustine reveals the greatest love any mother can show to a child, which is to desire their salvation. The triumph of motherhood is found in every moment a child is pointed toward God and pointed toward their own unique path to sainthood.

The dramatic turnaround Augustine credits to his mother exemplifies a universal dynamic between mother and child. In our most trying moments, we look to our mothers as intercessors, and we learn to engage this dynamic early in life in our reliance on mothers. But as we grow, this relationship deepens and we realize how much our mothers are like Mary, mother of Christ and mother to all.

A mother emulates Mary's loving intercession in countless ways. She intercedes with others on our behalf as we navigate the travails of growing up, and she intercedes in prayer to God as we make our way in the world. Just as Saint Augustine credits his mother for interceding in prayer to overcome his obstacles, so too should we credit our mothers for everything we accomplish in life, because we are constantly benefiting from all our mothers have done and all they continue to do in joining their hearts to God in prayer to will the good for us.

Edith Stein, who became Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, wrote, "A woman's soul is fashioned as a shelter in which other souls may unfold."

This bit of wisdom reveals a profound truth about all women who embrace God's call to care for others, and motherhood expresses this calling in such a tangible way. It is a calling to protect, nurture, guide, and provide, even in difficult times. It is a sacrificial role that we depend on to grow and flourish in a challenging world.

All this brings us to a sense of immense gratitude, and that is yet another way mothers deepen our relationship with God, because no one awakens us to a sense of gratitude like our mothers. This gratitude we experience toward our mothers for their tenderness and steady guidance invariably points us to a sense of gratitude for God's mercy and wisdom.

So may we always honor God by honoring our mothers and live in a state of joyful gratitude for the many wonderful gifts in life bestowed upon us.

HAPPY
mother's
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his faithful that the Son should depart: "If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father" (John 14:28).

Going further we can say that Jesus ascended to the Father so that through faith we might freely choose to follow him and thereby come to the fullness of our own human dignity and come to salvation. Saint John addresses this in recording the words of the Lord when he spoke to Thomas: "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29). Saint Paul agrees, writing to the Corinthians: "We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:6-7).

Using the God given gifts of our intellect and will we can make this free choice, freely doing the will of the Father like Christ, freely becoming more like Christ who perfectly obeys the will of the Father, and freely being transformed into the image and likeness of God in which we were originally made (Gen 1:26-27). Doing so we fulfill the will of our heavenly Father just as Jesus himself fulfilled God's will through the mystery of his incarnation, death, and resurrection.

The Ascension of Christ thus brings before us the glorious mystery of Christ's victory over sin and death and his exultation at the right hand of the Father. At the same time it invites us to use the beautiful gift of freedom, itself a reflection of God's nature, to choose to draw ever nearer to the One in whose image we were made and to whose image we are destined to return. Today let us rejoice in the knowledge that Christ is risen and ascended to the Father—the Father to whom we too will return when our human nature is united to his divinity.

135 Years of *Jednota*: The Voice of Faith, Unity, and Slovak Heritage

This year marks the 135th anniversary of the founding of *Jednota*, a publication that has stood as the voice and soul of our organization since 1891.

Established on May 12, 1891, in Cleveland by Štefan Furdek, *Jednota* was created to serve a vital purpose: to protect and promote the Catholic faith and Slovak identity among immigrants in America. At a time when Slovaks were often misunderstood or mislabeled, *Jednota* proudly affirmed who we are—both as Catholics and as Slovaks.

From its earliest issues, the newspaper championed three enduring goals: strengthening religious life, supporting Slovak culture and literature, and building a united fraternal community. It encouraged the establishment of churches and schools, urged members to remain faithful to their heritage, and reminded them that loyalty to America did not require forgetting their roots.

Over the decades, *Jednota* evolved from a modest four-page biweekly into a widely read and influential publication. It informed members about fraternal activities, shared news from Slovakia and across the United States, and provided guidance on faith, family life, and civic responsibility. It even published a Slovak translation of the U.S. Constitution, helping generations of members better understand their new homeland.

A meaningful extension of this mission was the *Jaro* supplement, created especially for younger readers. *Jaro* provided spiritual and educational content aimed at preserving the Slovak language, strengthening Catholic values, and engaging the youth of the Union. At a time when many young Slovaks were becoming more influenced by American culture, *Jaro* served as an important bridge—helping ensure that the next generation remained connected to both their faith and their heritage.

Through times of growth, challenge, and change, *Jednota* remained a constant—educating, uniting, and inspiring members of the First Catholic Slovak Union. As one leader once said, the newspaper is “the soul of our organization,” reflecting its mission, values, and commitment to future generations.

As we celebrate 135 years, we honor the vision of Father Furdek and all those who have carried *Jednota* forward. May it continue to inform, inspire, and strengthen our Union for many years to come.



Grow+Go+Reflect Acts 1:1-11 / Eph 1:17-23 / Mt 28:16-20

GROW: In our first reading, Jesus appears to his disciples for forty days after his resurrection and speaks to them about the kingdom of God. Our psalm beckons us to rejoice that God is mounting his throne – another kingdom image! Our second reading tells us that God has given Christ authority over “every principality, power, and dominion” – a clear sign that he is the one reigning over all. These references seem to be telling us that today’s feast is Jesus’ “coronation day” – the day he takes his rightful place at the right hand of the Father. From the moment Jesus ascends to heaven, he is reigning. What a consoling thought for us, who may at times find ourselves discouraged by our lives or the state of affairs around us. We have hope because we know that despite appearances to the contrary, Jesus reigns, and it is only a matter of time until the Father puts all things beneath Christ’s feet.

GO: Jesus tells his disciples, and us, to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” It’s a tall order – bringing every nation under the reign of Christ. But we needn’t be intimidated. The Ascension offers us hope, for – as the Catechism reminds us – “Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” (667) Jesus ascended into heaven and now is constantly interceding for us before the Father, constantly pouring out his Spirit on us! In all our efforts to evangelize, we have that constant support and grace being sent our way to equip us for this work.

REFLECT: Oftentimes, we think of the Ascension as Jesus leaving us after the end of his earthly ministry. But Jesus promises that he does not leave us, but rather, that he is always with us, “until the end of the age.” Spend some time this week reflecting on the ways that, having taken his seat at the right hand of the Father, Jesus is now ever-more present, pouring out his grace and his Spirit upon us at every moment.



Preserving Our Roots: The Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh

For generations, Slovak Americans have worked to preserve the language, culture, and traditions of their ancestors. One of the most meaningful and lasting examples of this commitment is the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh—a program made possible through the vision and generosity of our fraternal community.

The roots of Slovak language instruction at Pitt date back to 1969, when classes were first offered under the guidance of J. M. Kochik.

The Slovak Studies program gained momentum through the efforts of several dedicated scholars, like Reverend Ivan Dornic, who all played instrumental roles in its early development.

In the early 1980s, recognizing the strength and size of the Slovak community in Western Pennsylvania, Professor Oscar Swan reached out to Josef R. Kristofik, then president of *Jednota* (First Catholic Slovak Union). Kristofik responded immediately, organizing a pivotal meeting in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where leaders of major Slovak fraternal organizations gathered to discuss the future of Slovak studies at Pitt.

Those organizations answered the call and together committed to establishing a \$500,000 endowment to support a full-time professor of Slovak Studies. The endowment fund—officially established in April 1985 and formally named the Slovak Language, Literature and Culture Program—was created with a clear and ambitious objective: “to establish a full-time position in this academic area and a National Center for Slovak Studies.” Although the funds were pledged over a 10-year period, the goal was reached in just five years. To this day, that endowment continues to fund the program’s full-time faculty position, independent of university resources.

The Slovak Studies Program was officially established in 1990 with the hiring of Professor Martin Votruba, who served as Head of the Slovak Studies Program for over 27 years.

The program is unique as the only one in the United States where students can study Slovak language and culture while earning a minor in Slovak Studies, and it continues to thrive today. Students complete five courses (15 credits) to earn the minor, with typically three to five graduates each year. Notably, the program expects seven graduating seniors next year, with approximately 15 students currently enrolled—encouraging signs of continued interest among younger generations.

The program attracts not only Pitt students but also participants from nearby institutions such as Carnegie Mellon, Duquesne, Chatham, Carlow, and La Roche, reflecting a broader regional commitment to preserving Slovak heritage.

Beyond the classroom, the program has fostered a vibrant cultural community. In 1991, students formed a Slovak Club, which soon launched what would become a beloved annual tradition: the Slovak Heritage Festival. Held each year on the first Sunday in November in the iconic Cathedral of Learning, the festival draws between 1,000 and 2,000 attendees for a celebration of Slovak food, music, and culture. More than 35 years later, it remains a cornerstone event for the community.

Academically, the program offers a rich and diverse curriculum. From introductory language courses to advanced studies, students develop practical communication skills while gaining a deeper understanding of Slovak culture. Courses explore topics such as Slovak-American immigration, Central European film, and the historical events surrounding the fall of communism. For many students, Slovak studies complement majors in history, political science, and anthropology, opening doors to careers in government, international organizations, and cultural institutions.

Leading the program today is Dr. Renáta Kamenárová, PhD, who serves as Director of the Slovak Studies Program and Teaching Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Under her guidance, the program continues to educate, inspire, and connect students to their heritage. Dr. Kamenárová also leads trips to Slovakia where students gain firsthand experience using the language while experiencing the beauty of the area.

As we look ahead, it is essential that we continue to support and promote programs like this—because preserving our heritage is not a one-time effort, but an ongoing responsibility. Through education, cultural engagement, and community support, we ensure that the Slovak spirit remains strong for generations to come.

Ken Arendt Seeks Re-Election for President/CEO

For more than 50 years, the First Catholic Slovak Union has been an important part of my life. For the past 3.5 years, it has been my honor to serve as your President. I remain committed to leading FCSU with the same dedication that has guided me throughout my 30+ years here in Executive leadership.



My service spans decades, and I believe that experience matters when it comes to protecting and growing our Society.

- FCSU President (2023 - Present)
- FCSU Executive Secretary (1995 – 2022)
- Elected consecutively at 8 National Conventions
- 50+ Year Member, Branch 228, Lorain, Ohio

I have had the privilege to serve in other leadership roles:

- Member of the FCSU National Executive, Finance, and Membership & Marketing Committees
- Trustee of the FCSU Pension Board
- Director of Jednota Properties and Jednota Communications
- Vice President at the Branch and District levels

Over the past few years, we have made measurable progress in strengthening, growing, and modernizing the FCSU. We increased our assets by nearly \$70 million, reinforcing our financial stability and positioning us for long-term success. I am proud to lead this \$600+ million annuity and life insurance company.

Preserving our Slovak heritage is also very important to me. Our culture, traditions, and faith are the foundation of who we are. During my time as President, we have strengthened our connection to our history in several ways:

- Made a \$100,000 contribution to help renovate the Slovak Institute and Research Library at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio, the world's largest repository of Slovak cultural, historical, and literary materials.
- Published the book *Jednota* chronicling the first 55 years of our organization, from 1890 to 1945.
- Built a stronger relationship with the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C.
- Contribute yearly to the upkeep of the Slovak Cultural Garden in Cleveland, OH and are currently helping with the refurbishment of Father Furdek's statue in the garden.
- Support Our Mother of Sorrows Shrine at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. and made a pilgrimage there last September to celebrate its 60th Anniversary.
- Sponsor and attend many Slovak cultural events and festivals, helping to keep our traditions visible and active in our communities.
- Welcomed visitors from Trstená, the hometown of our founder Father Furdek.
- Hosted the award-winning Slovak Film Director, Miro Remo, during his visit to the Cleveland International Film Festival.

We are investing in the next generation by awarding over \$200,000 in scholarships each year. Most recently, we established a new scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh, home to the only Slovak Studies program in the United States. I believe it is essential that we continue these efforts, so our Slovak heritage remains strong for years to come.

While I am proud of what we have accomplished, there is more work to be done. I remain focused on continuing to grow our membership, strengthening our financial position, supporting our branches, and preserving the values that make FCSU special.

Greg Maurer Seeks Re-Election as National Chair of Auditors

Effective oversight and accountability are essential to the long-term strength of the FCSU. Since 2020, I have had the honor of serving as National Chair of Auditors, bringing consistency, professionalism, and diligence to all audit functions. I was elected National Auditor by the delegates to the 2022 Convention and have since completed comprehensive reviews of internal processes in accordance with FCSU bylaws.



My service is supported by a strong professional foundation. I hold an MBA from Duquesne University and completed bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Computing & Information Science from Saint Vincent College. I retired in April 2024 after more than 25 years from a global technology company generating \$1.8 billion in annual revenue and employing over 8,600 individuals in more than 60 countries. I

Kevin Collins Seeks Re-Election for Executive Secretary/COO

It has been a true honor and privilege to work for FCSU and its members as your Executive Secretary these past 3½ years.



Working with the Home Office Team, we have developed a strong relationship and winning direction of taking FCSU into the next century.

As I say often, if you're not changing, you're not growing. These past years, we have grown and accomplished a lot of goals financially and fraternally. We set the groundwork to propel us into the future and to allow us to grow.

Some of the achievements are:

- We have updated the entire office space with newer technology.
- Increased our cybersecurity to ensure safer communication with our members.
- Remodeled the entire FCSU office space, which allows for appropriate hosting of guests from Slovakia and other areas of the country.
- Rebranded our sales and marketing concept, including the redesign of our website and newspaper.
- Obtained licensing in 11 new states, which brings us to a total of 38 states.
- Launched the Virtual Call Program, monthly calls where we try to keep all members up to date with news from the Home Office.
- Advertised on television.
- Advertised on Slovak radio stations in Pittsburgh and Cleveland area.
- Proudly passed the Ohio state audit.
- Established a relationship with Slovak PRO to open new chapters in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh market. I was honored to be a guest speaker at their 2025 Summit in NYC.
- Strengthened relationships with The Slovak Embassy, Consulate General of Slovakia, and the American Fraternal Alliance.
- We did an in-depth study of branch demographics by age to help develop future programs and products to entice younger members.

We are proud of what we have accomplished so far. However, we have new goals for the next 4 years.

This vision started at the convention in 2022. As the Vice President I was able to introduce, with the help of the Home Office team, the idea of going to Topgolf. As we often talk about youth involvement, we need to offer events that will attract younger members to participate and get involved. Therefore, at this year's convention we are launching a few more new and exciting events:

- Orientation Session
- Breakout Rooms covering different topics
- Fraternal Charity Event (Blessings in a Backpack)

Finally, all the above accomplishments could not have been successful if it was not for every Home Office team member. We recognized each employee's talents and reassigned them to key positions at the Home Office based on their skill sets. The entire staff has embraced our vision for growing the company.

When you elected me for my first term, you elected me to be a steward of your finances. I pride myself on taking this job very seriously. Each member has worked hard to earn and grow their money. It is our responsibility to do our best to grow and protect their investments in our society. Thank you again for your time and support.

am an ISO 9001–certified Internal Auditor and hold a Lean Green Belt in Value Stream Mapping, along with multiple awards and certifications earned throughout my career at Kennametal in support of operational excellence initiatives.

Service and leadership extend beyond my professional life. Guided by my Catholic faith, I remain deeply involved with Saint Vincent College serving as Homecoming Liaison at the college, Greensburg Central Catholic High School, and Saint Bruno Parish where I am President of the Finance Committee. I am also proud to serve Branch 181 and District 3 as an auditor and active participant in all fraternal activities.

I also bring a strong commitment to Slovak heritage and culture, including extensive genealogical research into my ancestry with eight visits to Slovakia. My commitment to the FCSU is also personal. My family's membership dates to 1910, and my research reveals my dedication to preserving the values, culture, and legacy entrusted to us.

I respectfully ask for your support as I seek re-election as National Chair of Auditors, so that I may continue serving the FCSU with integrity, experience, and a steadfast commitment to its mission and future.

John V. Tokarsky Announces Candidacy for Re-Election as National Treasurer

Experience, financial stewardship, and long-standing service at the national, district, and branch levels

With a continued commitment to responsible stewardship, I am announcing my candidacy for re-election as National Treasurer of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada.

I currently serve as National Treasurer, having first been elected to the position by the FCSU Board of Directors in 2021 and later elected and confirmed at the 52nd Quadrennial Convention held in Independence, Ohio, in 2022. I have proudly served in this role since that time.

As National Treasurer, I have carried out all the responsibilities of the office, including serving as a key member of the Executive Committee, which oversees the financial operations of the Society, and as a member of the Society's Enterprise Risk Management Committee. I also continue to conduct all pertinent FCSU business as requested and as necessary.

During my tenure, I have helped oversee the growth of the Society's assets from \$531 million at the end of 2021 to \$599 million at the end of 2025, with corresponding increases in surplus to nearly \$49 million during that same period.

My service to the FCSU is supported by my professional background as President and Owner of a corporate services firm in the greater Toronto area of Canada. Through this work, I have served at the level of Chief Financial Officer, Controller, Corporate Secretary, and Director for junior public companies, as well as companies preparing to go public in both Canada and the United States.

I am a college graduate and have completed extensive coursework in accounting, legal studies, and corporate finance, including the Canadian Securities Course and a related Fixed Income Trading and Sales Course. To remain current in my field, I regularly attend seminars and symposiums focused on insurance, investment, finance, legal, and risk-management topics.

I have been a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union since 1989 and have been actively involved in leadership roles at both the branch and district levels. I currently serve as Treasurer since 2009 and Financial Secretary since 2011 for District 19, and as Fraternal Activities Director for Branch 785 since 2012. Previously, I served as Chairman of Auditors for District 19 from 2001 to 2003.

Beyond these roles, I enjoy participating in my Branch's local bowling league and have taken part in International Bowling and Golf Tournaments for many years, including organizing my Branch's local golf tournament. Outside of the Society, I am also proud to be involved in my community as a volunteer football coach, the last being at the high school level.

I respectfully ask the delegates to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention for your support, and for the opportunity to continue serving the First Catholic Slovak Union and contributing to its ongoing financial strength and stability.



- National Trustee of FCSLA

Catholic Activities

- Sacristan at Our Lady of Grace church
- Eucharistic Minister at St. Michael the Archangel Parish
- Homebound Minister
- Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus
- Member of Equestrian Knights of the Holy Sepulchre
- Treasurer of the Serra Club of Pittsburgh
- Member of Society of Saints Cyril and Methodius

Recognition

- Received Presidential Medal (Slovak government's highest award bestowed on foreigners)
- 2008 Fraternalist of the Year (selected by Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh)

Gary J. Matta Seeks Election to Vice President

Bishop Kulick, Reverend Nasta, President Arendt, National Officers, Regional Directors, Members and Delegates of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada,

Please accept this letter as my official notification in accordance with the FCSU bylaws section 8.02 as my publication to announce my intentions to seek election to the position of Vice President.

As many of you are aware, my family has been actively involved in the FCSU for five generations. I am a lifelong member of our Society. I have served in various positions of leadership within the Society starting in Branch 38, moving to positions in the Pittsburgh District and most recently elected as General Counsel of the Society starting in 2006.

I believe my lifelong involvement and service to the society; my educational and work background provides me a sound base to seek the position of Vice President. During the last 20 years I have collaborated with the Executive Officers and the Board of Directors to help guide our Society through many complex issues. I believe now it is time to move from General Counsel to the position of Vice President. I believe my knowledge of marketing and business development will be a value that I will bring to the position of Vice President.

The Society's growth has occurred due to the group of women and men that are part of our Board of Directors as well as all the District and Branch Officers. I have been proud to be part of this group, and I am extremely excited to continue being part as its Vice President, if the delegates of the convention provide me that opportunity. I hope to have the chance to continue to be part of this effective and talented team that will lead the FCSU. As the Vice President I will work tirelessly to increase our membership and expand on fraternalism of our Society.

In closing, I extend my sincere gratitude to the delegates of the past five conventions for the trust they placed in me as General Counsel. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve the Society. I would also like to thank Bishop Kulick, Reverend Nasta, President Arendt, Vice President Nasta, Executive Secretary Collins, Treasurer Tokarsky and our entire Board of Directors for their cooperation, dedication, and friendship over the past 20 years. The well-being of our Society has always been of the utmost importance to me, just as it was to my Father and Grandfather. I would like to thank all the Members of the Society for the friendship that they have shown my Family and myself over the years. I respectfully ask for your vote for Vice President at the upcoming convention. I pledge to always place the interests of the Society and its Members first and to continue to ensure that the FCSU remains a strong and vibrant fraternal organization.



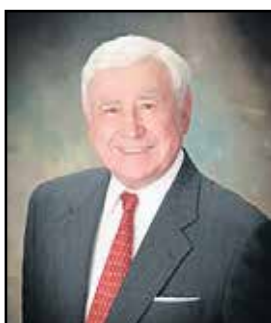
Joe Senko For FCSU Treasurer Qualified, Experienced, Active

Financial Background

- Master's Degree - Robert Morris University
- BS Degree in Business – Duquesne University
- Licensed as a Certified Public Accountant
- Licensed as a Personal Financial Specialist
- Licensed as a Global Management Accountant
- Current Treasurer of Municipality of Mt. Lebanon (70 million dollar annual budget)
- Certified Pennsylvania Tax Collector
- Served as Treasurer of eleven nonprofit organizations
- Served as FCSU Chairman of Auditors (12 years)
- Financial Secretary – FCSU Branch 254
- Served as Treasurer – Jednota Properties, Inc.

Slovak Involvement

- Appointed by Slovak government as Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania since 1998
- Executive Director of Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association
- Slovak Notary
- Arranged and conducted 14 tours to Slovakia attended by over 400 people
- Dual citizen (U.S. and Slovakia) for past ten years
- Member of all five Slovak Fraternal Benefit Societies
- Chairman Emeritus – Friends of Slovakia (Washington, D.C.)



Bradley A. Matta, Esquire - Statement of Candidacy for General Counsel

Please accept this letter as my official notification, in accordance with Section 8.02 of the First Catholic Slovak Union Bylaws, of my intention to seek election to the position of General Counsel of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada (FCSU).

I would like to acknowledge how far the FCSU has come since its founding. As a lifelong member, I attended my first Convention in Tampa, Florida, in 1985. Since then, I have served as a delegate at multiple conventions and, most recently, as Regional Director for Region 5 over the past four years. Throughout this time, I have witnessed the FCSU's financial growth alongside its continued commitment to preserving our

Bradley Matta, Continued

Slovak heritage. I respectfully ask for your support as I seek to serve as General Counsel and contribute to the organization's continued growth and prosperity for future generations.

I view the General Counsel role as part of a fraternal team effort—working together to advance the best interests of the society.

With 16 years of legal experience, including 11 years as in-house counsel for Viatrix, Inc., a global healthcare and pharmaceutical company, I have served as a trusted advisor to executive leadership, guiding business units through complex legal, regulatory, and operational challenges. In my current role as Senior Litigation Counsel at Viatrix, I manage litigation across North America, including product liability, antitrust, employment matters, and government investigations. I have also helped oversee internal budgeting, including the management of litigation budgets, negotiated and structured high-value commercial agreements, advised senior leadership on risk management, and supported regulatory and compliance initiatives. I work closely with outside counsel and enjoy collaborating with colleagues daily on legal issues and strategy.

I am prepared to bring these same capabilities and collaborate with members of the Executive Committee, Board of Regional Directors, and Home Office by providing sound, transparent legal guidance. I believe I have demonstrated these qualities during my five years working with fellow Regional Directors. I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors and believe I have contributed by transparently sharing ideas, thoughtfully presenting both the advantages and disadvantages of key decisions, and collaborating with the full Board to achieve well-informed outcomes.

On a personal note, my wife, Gretchen, and I are the proud parents of Hagen (6), Bannon (5), and Greta (3), all members of the FCSU. I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a B.S. in Public Policy and Management and a minor in Business Administration (2007), and from the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University (2010).

I am committed to serving as a strategic partner to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors and to ensuring that the FCSU operates with integrity, accountability, and sound legal judgment. I am confident that my experience, leadership, and vision will support the organization's continued success and growth.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my candidacy further.

Joanne Fibbi Seeks Reelection

Greetings to my FCSU family. I am Joanne Fibbi, your Fraternal Activities Director, and I would appreciate your support as I seek reelection for a second term.

I was honored to be elected at the 2022 convention in Independence, Ohio. That convention was just my third as a delegate, but I've attended conventions with my family beginning at age five. Without a doubt, my most memorable convention was held in Toronto Ontario, introducing me to a new city, which is still a favorite of mine and my extended family.

Family is at the heart of my FCSU experience. Just as I am a cradle Catholic, I am a cradle member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and 100% Slovak, tracing my heritage to villages in eastern Slovakia. In the early 1900's my maternal great-grandfather joined the First Catholic Slovak Union's branch in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, a soon to be booming steel town with a growing Slovak immigrant population.

My maternal grandparents were active officers of Branch 587, and members of the FCSU Supreme Court. My parents also held leadership roles in our branch for many years. I've served the branch as Treasurer, Vice President and currently as President. Today four generations of my family are members.

My involvement in and commitment to the FCSU has been an integral part of my life since childhood. Apart from my family and fraternal connection, I have a personal interest in the financial success of the FCSU, having maintained investments with the society since early adulthood.

I believe that the FCSU is at a crossroads. While growing an ever-diverse membership is imperative, we cannot and should not lose sight of our founding principles and identity. We must make the FCSU attractive to new members for its fraternalism and benefits, as well as the interest rates we offer.

Member engagement will be my priority for the next four years. I'll focus on growing participation in our tournaments, developing new events and activities, and advocating for an array of social gatherings, faith-based initiatives and community service projects.

Just a few of the ways I've worked to promote fraternalism include:

- Recreated the FCSU International Bowling Tournament weekend, tripling participation in three years, and signing new members.

*Joanne Fibbi, Continued*

- Reimagined the FCSU International Golf Tournament bringing back members who previously attended with their fathers and are now golfing again -- with their sons.
- Established the Family Fall Festival at Simmons Farm in McMurray, Pennsylvania creating a successful multi-generational event combining seasonal outdoor activities and Slovak foods.
- Expanded our traditional Christmas Coloring Contest while adding new ones such as the Dog Days of Summer, Pumpkin Carving and Easter Coloring Contests.

I am committed to working collaboratively with our Board of Directors to accomplish great things in the next four years. I encourage your participation in future events and activities, and I respectfully ask for your vote at the 53rd Quadrennial Convention in June.

May we have a most constructive and rewarding convention experience together.
Boh Vás žehnaj!

Ann Sutula Seeks Re-Election for the Position of Auditor

I was honored to be elected to the position of Auditor at the 2022 convention. The past four years have been a dynamic learning experience. I have offered ways to implement the best practices by reviewing internal processes set forth by the FCSU Bylaws.



FRATERNAL EXPERIENCE AND HERITAGE

I am an active 19-year member of our Society. Highlights of my fraternal experience include:

- Serving as National Auditor for the FCSU since 2023 with 100% attendance
- Serving as Branch 855 Treasurer since 2018 with 100% attendance
- Serving as District 10 Treasurer since 2022 with 100% attendance
- Volunteering to work the numerous fraternal events the FCSU holds every year – such as the International Bowling and Golf Tournaments, and the National Picnics at Wiegand Lake Park, Knoebel's and Simmons Farm

My Slovak grandparents immigrated and settled in Cleveland; and I am proud to continue sharing and promoting the Slovak traditions I enjoyed throughout my life by:

- Taking an active part in the Greater Cleveland Slovak-American community such as volunteering at the Christmas Eve Vilija held every year at St. Andrew Abbey and at the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club's annual Festival
- Participating in such time-honored Slovak traditions with my family such as blessing of the Easter baskets

EDUCATION

The University of Akron
Bachelor of Applied Science in Education
Cuyahoga Community College
Associate of Applied Business degree in Accounting
Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cuyahoga Community College
Business Services Specialist 2007 – present

- Student accounting and auditing
- Credit card reconciliation and ID card deposit auditing
- Petty cash balancing and safe security
- Audit Enrollment representatives and balance deposits
- Manager in charge when needed

I respectfully ask for your support for re-election as auditor to continue in this position.

Raymond Lako Seeks Re-Election as Auditor

I was first elected to the position of Auditor for FCSU at the 2006 convention. I have experienced the changes and progress of our Society throughout all these years. To the best of my ability, I have worked diligently to ensure the smooth operation of Jednota. I also served as an officer on our Supreme Court.

Prior to my move to South Carolina in 2014, I had been active in my local branch. I also served as Treasurer for the Slovak Civic Federation of Allegheny County.

My education is a BA from Duquesne University. I worked in the railroad industry for over 30 years, mostly as a supervisor in repair operations. In that capacity, I learned the importance of attention to detail, a necessary requirement in performing any sort of audit. I welcome your support in my attempt to remain in this position.

Statement of Candidacy for the Position of Auditor Tom Krispinsky



I was selected to serve as Auditor for the First Catholic Slovak Union in the Spring of 2025 to fill the position due to the passing of John Leskovyansky Jr. It was an honor to be selected for this position. With my background I feel I was qualified to be part of a team that keeps helping the organization with recommendations for improvement if needed during our audits.

The following is a little history of myself. I'm a lifetime member of the FCSU and proud member of St. Matthias Church before it being renamed Our Lady of Sorrows. My education degrees are from Youngstown State University in Business Administration and Accounting and my Masters degree from Ashland University in School Administration. I'm currently the Fiscal Officer for Howland Township, Warren, Ohio where I live. Prior to this I was a School Treasurer for 30 years for three different School Districts, Howland Local, Trumbull County ESC and Springfield Local all in the Youngstown-Warren Ohio area. Before becoming a School Treasurer, I was a State Examiner for the Auditor of Ohio for eight years auditing School Districts in the Northeast part of Ohio.

Some of my outside activities was being a Football Official since 1975. Starting as a High School official and working myself up to being a college official for 25 years, having officiated in the Ohio Athletic Conference, Mid American Conference and 15 years in the Big Ten Conference.

I ask the Delegates of the 53rd Quadrennial Convention for your vote to elect me to the position of Auditor for the betterment of FCSU. Majte skvelý deň.

Patrick Sullivan Announces Candidacy for National Auditor



I, **Patrick Sullivan**, am honored to announce my intent to run for the position of **Internal Auditor** at our upcoming 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Internal auditing is a critically important function for our Society's future. Auditors must be strategic, objective, ethical, and independent. A comprehensive audit program leads the way to successful regulatory audits, which are required to maintain our good standing across all licensed states and provinces.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

I am currently employed in the field of Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) for a publicly-traded technology company. My responsibilities in this role include corporate policy and governance, cyber security, regulatory compliance, enterprise risk management, data protection, employee compliance training, maintaining internal systems controls, and conducting internal audits.

Each year, I dedicate hundreds of hours to managing internal audits, collecting samples, testing controls, and implementing action plans, including those required for:

- International standards (ISO)
- Legal compliance (GDPR, CCPA, HIPAA, FISMA)
- Internal financial and security controls (SOC, SOX)

FRATERNALISM

My family's membership in the FCSU dates back to 1908, and every generation since then has played a role in the Society, whether as a Branch, District, or National Officer. As a lifelong member of the FCSU, my past and current roles include:

- District 6: Current Financial Secretary and Treasurer
- Branch 35: Current Financial Secretary and Treasurer
- Branch 35: Former Auditor
- Fully Licensed Insurance Agent (Producer) in Pennsylvania
- Member Agent for FCSU Financial

SLOVAK, CATHOLIC ROOTS

While my name may be Irish, the majority of my ancestors emigrated in the early 1900s from modern-day Slovakia. I continue to honor my Slovak, Catholic roots today through:

- Dual citizenship of the United States and the Slovak Republic
- Regular travel across Europe, with extended family in the Košice and Prešov regions in Eastern Slovakia
- K-12 Catholic education
- Lifelong membership of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh

Patrick Sullivan, Continued

EDUCATION

My educational background includes dual degrees in the fields of information security and accounting, providing a foundation for modern internal auditing.

- Graduated magna cum laude with a degree in **Security and Risk Analysis**: Focus on recognizing, analyzing, and addressing organizational risk through technical controls
- Graduated summa cum laude with a degree in **Accounting**: Study of financial statement preparation, cost accounting, federal taxation, and auditing

As someone immersed in governance and risk management on a daily basis, I am stepping forward to offer my professional expertise to the FCSU, an organization that has played a significant role for my family over the last 120 years. Thank you for your support.



SPOTLIGHT NATIONALITY: SLOVAKIA!



58th Lorain International Festival
at Black River Landing
Friday, June 26 - Sunday, June 28
loraininternational.com

Lorain International Festival to Celebrate Slovak Heritage in 2026

Slovak pride will be on display this summer as the 58th Annual Lorain International Festival & Bazaar highlights Slovak culture for the first time since 1978. Taking place June 26–28 at Black River Landing, the festival offers an easy and worthwhile trip for families and members throughout the greater Cleveland area, where Slovak heritage remains strong.

This year's spotlight is a partnership between the American Slovak Club and First Catholic Slovak Union, recognizing the lasting contributions of Slovaks across Northeast Ohio. The American Slovak Club, a cornerstone of the Lorain community since 1956, will also celebrate an incredible 70 years.

FCSU President Ken Arendt will play a role in the Opening Ceremony, offering remarks alongside local dignitaries and community leaders. The program will include both the American and Slovak national anthems, marking the strong connection to our heritage.

The Sacred Music event serves as the festival's kick-off and is free to attend. This program, held in a Mass-like setting, features the International Festival Princesses sharing their vocal talents while honoring the spotlight nationality. It will take place on Tuesday, June 23, at 7pm at St. Peter Church in Lorain.

The Lorain International Breakfast that will take place on Wednesday, June 24, at 8am at German's Villa. The keynote speaker will be a representative from the Slovak community. Tickets are pre-sale only.

The International Festival Pageant, which represents many cultures each year, will include FCSU member LillyAnn Zilko (Branch 228), who will represent Slovakia. Her participation reflects the continued involvement of younger generations in celebrating and sharing Slovak heritage.

A parade and cultural presentations will further highlight Slovak identity. Entertainment throughout the weekend will include Slovak and Eastern European dance, along with other cultural performances. Musicians and dancers will represent many nationalities. The parade takes place on Sunday, June 28, at 11:30am on Broadway Ave in Lorain.

Founded in 1967, the Lorain International Festival was created to bring together the many ethnic communities that call Lorain home. Today, it continues that mission by offering opportunities to experience the foods, music, crafts, and customs of cultures from around the world—all in one place. The three-day bazaar at Black River Landing features diverse cuisine, live entertainment, cultural exhibits, and family-friendly activities in a welcoming setting.

Festival hours are Friday from 5–11pm, Saturday from noon–11pm, and Sunday from noon–5pm. Admission is \$3, with free parking available. Kids aged 12 and under are free. For more information, visit our website at loraininternational.com.



Get Ready to Tee Off at the 2026 FCSU International Golf Tournament

July 24-26, 2026

Sawmill Creek Resort • 400 Sawmill Creek Drive • Huron, OH

Join the FCSU for an exciting 2-day tournament, exclusively for our members and their guests. We will play the championship Sawmill Creek Golf Course along the picturesque shores of Lake Erie, 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 Sawmill Creek Resort. Once you arrive, your accommodations, golfing and dining are all on the property.

This year, **GOLFING AND LODGING** will be booked through the FCSU, using the official entry form. To qualify for entry, members must have a minimum \$500 annuity with the FCSU. Promotional \$100 members may participate in one FCSU tournament before the \$500 minimum investment applies.

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 2024 and 2025 FCSU International Golf Tournaments
 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.
 - ▶ Practice rounds are available on Friday at a cost of \$62, paid directly to Sawmill Creek. Book your tee time now as space is limited. Contact the golf course at 419-433-3789 to schedule.
 - ▶ One guest per FCSU member*. If a guest participated in the 2025 Tournament, they must become a member to golf with us again in 2026.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 7.24.26 | ● Practice Rounds if desired | ● Welcome Buffet - 7:00pm |
| 7.25.26 | ● Breakfast Buffet 6:00-7:30am | ● Mass - 4:00pm |
| | ● Tournament Kickoff 7:45am | ● Cocktails - 5:00pm |
| | ● Round #1 - 8:00am | ● Tournament Dinner Buffet & Raffles - 6:00pm |
| 7.26.26 | ● Breakfast Buffet 6:00-7:30am | ● Round #2 - 8:00am |



SAWMILL CREEK



* 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 2025 Golf Tournament, they cannot golf as a non-member guest in 2026.
- 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.

ENTRY DEADLINE: June 19, 2026

We strongly encourage you to complete your entry early.
Room types are available on a first received basis.

2026 FCSU International Golf Tournament OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

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

Complete for Each Golfer • Entry Deadline: June 19, 2026
Entry Forms Are Also Available www.FCSU.com/events

SELECT YOUR GOLF PACKAGE

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

- FCSU MEMBER GOLFER.....Golf and Prize Package ...\$165.00 per person \$ _____
- NON-MEMBER GOLFER.....Golf and Prize Package ...\$190.00 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 Buffet6:00 – 7:30am
- Saturday Dinner Buffet6:00 – 9:00pm
(includes two drink tickets and raffle)
- Sunday Breakfast Buffet6:00 – 7:30am

SELECT YOUR MEALS - NON-MEMBER GOLFER OR NON-GOLFING GUEST

Guest Name: _____

Reduced meals compliments of FCSU

- Friday Welcome Buffet.....7:00 – 9:00pm \$34 per person \$ _____
- Friday Beer & Wine Bar (2 drink tickets) \$12 per person \$ _____
- Saturday Breakfast Buffet6:00 – 7:30am \$18 per person \$ _____
- Saturday Dinner Buffet6:00 – 9:00pm \$38 per person \$ _____
- Saturday Cocktails (2 drink tickets) \$14 per person \$ _____
- Sunday Breakfast Buffet6:00 – 7:30am \$18 per person \$ _____

SELECT YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

- Two Nights Double Occupancy - \$498 + tax (Friday & Saturday)
- Two Nights Single Occupancy - \$498 + tax (Friday & Saturday)

Roommate: _____

- Saturday Night Double Occupancy - \$249 + tax
- Saturday Night Single Occupancy - \$249 + tax

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 2024 and 2025 FCSU Golf Tournaments

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check enclosed payable to FCSU Credit Card payments may be made by phone. Call 800.533.6682, ext. 122.
Please allow 10 days for entries to be received prior to calling.

Amount Due: \$ _____ Golf + \$ _____ Lodging + \$ _____ Meals = \$ _____ **GRAND TOTAL**

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 19, 2026 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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

FCSU 53RD QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

June 20-23, 2026

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Golf Resort & Conference Center
Greenville, South Carolina

Visit the 53rd Convention Page on our website for the latest updates. Look under the Membership tab at www.fcsu.com.

CONNECTICUT

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

The St. Joseph Society will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at 10am where we will recognize 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 will also discuss plans for the upcoming 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We look forward to reconnecting and cordially invite members to join our meeting:

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Br19June26
Meeting ID: 897 0384 0515
Passcode: 840482

ILLINOIS

BRANCHES 153, 313, 581 ARE INVITED TO OUR DISTRICT 2 EVENT

Home of the Brave

on Sunday, July 26, 2026
at the Theatre at the Center
1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN

Girls Like Us Celebrate USA's 250th Anniversary with iconic wartime songs, patriotic favorites and American Songbook classics offering a nostalgic, uplifting and deeply patriotic musical experience.

A Champagne Brunch begins at 12:30pm and the show begins at 3pm. The total cost is \$65. See your branch announcements for special pricing.

Please RSVP to your branch representative by June 14.

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL

John Jurcenko, President

Our branch is invited to attend the District 2 event of viewing *Home of the Brave*. See the event box on this page. There is no charge for Branch 153 members who attended a branch meeting in 2025. Non-member guests may attend at full price. Please RSVP to Dorothy Jurcenko at 708-995-7378 by June 14.

BRANCH 313 – ORLAND PARK, IL

Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary

Our branch is invited to attend the District 2 event of viewing *Home of the Brave*. See the event box on this page. There is no charge for Branch 313 members who attended a branch meeting in 2025. Non-member guests may attend at full price. Please RSVP to Margie Dickinson at 708-226-8157 by June 14.

INDIANA

BRANCH 581 – PORTER, IN

Ann Buczek, President

St. Michael the Archangel will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at noon at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave., Hobart, Indiana. The agenda will include new donations.

Our branch is invited to attend the District 2 event of viewing *Home of the Brave*. See the event box on this page. There is no charge for Branch 581 members who attended a branch meeting in 2025 or the June 7, 2026, meeting. Non-member guests may attend at full price. Please RSVP by June 14 to Ann Buczek at 219-947-2793.

NEW JERSEY

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Mary Kapitan, Recording Secretary

The Branch 746 Scholarship is a one-time scholarship open to new applicants of our branch. Please see ad on page 16.

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all branch members living and deceased as follows: Tuesday, June 2; Friday, July 3; Friday, August 7; Friday, September 4; Monday, October 5; Friday, November 13; Friday, December 4; and Tuesday, December 22.

NEW YORK

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

Emily Lysakova, Recording Secretary

Branch 716 will host our annual picnic on July 5, 2026, in celebration of the Fourth of July weekend. The event will take place at St. John Nepomucene Church located at 411 E. 66th St., New York, NY. Branch members will prepare a variety of backyard-style grilled foods, and we warmly invite all Jednota members and their families in the New York area to join us for a festive day of food, community, and celebration.

OHIO

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

Kevin J. Arendt, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge will be changing the date of the next meeting to Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7pm IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on the northeast corner of 30th and Broadway in Lorain. Food and refreshments will be served.

We respectfully ask our Branch 228 members to attend our meetings and please pray to our Lord for a calm environment and Peace on Earth.

BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

Carlle M. Peshek, Vice President

Join us for our first meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2026. It will begin at 5pm at La Terraza Restaurant, 5495 Clarkins Dr., Austintown. Looking forward to seeing all of you and God Bless!

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Debra Speck, President

We will hold a meeting on June 7, 2026, at 2pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan

Ave., Akron. We will discuss the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will be supporting The Christ Child Society of Akron. Please bring diapers (sizes preemie, newborn, 1 or 2), sleep and play outfits (size 0 to 3 months) or little board books for babies. The Home Office will generously donate \$250 to support the society.

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Drew Hirt, President

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at noon at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers. The meeting will address plans for the remainder of the year.

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary

The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 5pm at Coaches, 3032 Center Rd., Poland. Save the date for upcoming branch meetings: September 6 and November 29.

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OH

Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

Branch 764 will be meeting on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 10am at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Rd. Northeast, Warren. Preparations for the convention will be reviewed as well as involvement in the Youngstown Slavic Fest. A discussion of a fall fundraiser will be addressed. All members are welcome.

For additional information, please contact Bill Hrusovsky at 330-469-7816 or hruosovskyy@embarqmail.com.

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Stephanie Sutilla, Activities Director

July 11, 2026 – Mark your calendars for a day of celebrating our Slovak heritage at the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club festival (see details on page 17). Kick off your Saturday with delicious homemade food and music provided by FCSU and Radio Club members. This family friendly festival attracts over 600 attendees. Our branch would like to treat our members with FREE food/beverage tickets. Adults will receive \$21 while Children 10 and under will receive \$6 at the door. See you there!

Please contact Branch President, Barbara Sutilla, at fcsu855@gmail.com if you have any questions.

PENNSYLVANIA

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PA

Catherine Matta, Recording Secretary

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: The 2026 Pittsburgh Melanoma Walk is on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Pittsburgh's South Park at 9am. As Melanoma has personally touched the Branch 38 family, we are hoping to help support this worthy cause. Any Branch 38 member interested in participating in this walk, please sign up at tinyurl.com/Br38PM5K. The price is \$25-\$35 per person and the cost will be covered by the branch. Email your receipt to Cathy Matta at cmatta1527@yahoo.com for registration reimbursement.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy at 412-225-5087 or Logan at 412-956-9411. The Home Office will also donate \$250 to support the cause.

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

Dolores Marmol, Recording Secretary

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

BRANCH 173 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PA

Matthew Ungvarsky, Rec. Secretary

The Saint John the Baptist Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at La Napoli, 427 South Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top at 1pm. General business and activities will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities, and fraternal activities of the FCSU. We will also recap the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. RSVP to Dorothy Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067.

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

Branch 181 members and their guests are invited to attend the Annual Family Picnic being held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, July 26, 2026. Registration starts at noon with the picnic beginning at 1pm. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Drinks and main entrées will be provided by the branch. We look forward to a great turnout! Contact Vicki at 724-433-8469 for more information or directions.

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

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

SLOVAK J CLUB

485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH

*Call 330-786-9972 to RSVP

To RSVP for dinner, contact us by the MONDAY PRIOR to the dinner.

MAY 2026

5-20 Meat Loaf Dinner
4:30-6:30pm *RSVP by 5-18

5-31 No Breakfast Buffet due to
Holiday Weekend

JUNE 2026

6-3 Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-7pm

6-17 Ribs & Chicken Dinner
4:30-6:30pm *RSVP by 6-14

6-28 Breakfast Buffet - 9am-11:45am
All you can eat

* JULY 25 *

Annual Kielbasa Open
Mayfair Country Club
Shotgun - Start at 8am

Start forming your teams NOW!!!!

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Vicki Schaub, Recording Secretary

MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD AT 6:30PM

The branch will hold a meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Our meetings are held at 6:30pm on the first Thursday of each month except June and July. All members are invited to attend at the Slovak CU, 910 6th Ave., Ford City. Contact Vicki Schaub with questions at vschaub123@gmail.com or 724-763-9229.

BRANCH 213 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Anita Nixon, President

St. Michael the Archangel will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at 1pm at 306 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh. If planning on attending, or joining the meeting via phone, please email weaz1958@aol.com. Our agenda will include officer's reports, old business, fraternal news, convention updates, and new branch business. We will also discuss upcoming branch and district events and activities.

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

Margaret A. Nasta, President

The branch will hold a meeting on May 17, 2026, at Tillie's, 308 36th St., McKeesport starting at 1pm.

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

Rose Roskovensky, Vice President

Please join Saint Joseph's Lodge 367 for our 125th Anniversary celebration! The Lodge 367 charter was established on July 10, 1901. The celebration will begin on July 12, 2026, at SS Cyril & Methodius Church, 50 North Morgantown St., Fairchance with a 9am Mass. Mass will be followed by a social and complimentary breakfast buffet located in St. Helen's Hall in the basement of the church. All are welcome to attend. See our ad on page 18.

Please RSVP by June 30 to one of the following officers with your name, phone number and number of attendees for breakfast.

Contact Patty Speshock, President, at 724-564-5764, 724-317-3763 (cell) or email chasesgrammie@gmail.com; Rose Roskovensky, Vice President/Secretary at 724-564-5700 or 304-266-8921 (cell) or Kathryn Baranek, Treasurer, at 724-569-1006. We hope to see you there!

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA

Ruth Gerko, Recording Secretary

We will have a meeting on Monday, May 25, 2026, at St. Joseph Cemetery Chapel, 201 Stone Rd., Beaverdale around 11am after Mass. We are sponsoring refreshments for veterans and their families. Contact me at 814-533-1836 with questions.

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

Geraldine Buchheit, Rec. Secretary

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

WISCONSIN

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Susan Scaife, Event Coordinator

We are planning an outing to a Milkmen Baseball game at Franklin Field, 7035 S. Ballpark Dr., Franklin on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 1pm. We will be in the "Hop Yard" area which has unlimited food, drinks, and general seating. All members of Branch 89 will have their ticket cost covered by the branch. Tickets for guests are \$46.40.

Please RSVP to Susan Scaife at suzie.scaife@gmail.com or 414-690-0687 by May 18.

CANADA

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

On Wednesday, May 13, 2026, a semi-annual meeting for Branch 785 is to be held at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga at 7pm. We will discuss the convention, delegate information, and events for the second half of the year. Please RSVP to Milan Zoldak at 416-565-3960.

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DISTRICT 1 – REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT, MA

Deborah M. Nelson, Recording Secretary

The District will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on June 14, 2026, at 11:30am. We will discuss plans for the coming year and for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We look forward to hearing from our dedicated members.

Zoom Line: tinyurl.com/D1June26
Meeting ID: 892 6122 9353
Passcode: 769837

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT – PA

Margaret A. Nasta, Recording Secretary

Announcements of local interest:

- WPCSA meets first Mondays 7pm at the Mt Lebanon Public Library.
- WPCSA sponsors scholarships and hosts various events such as wine tastings. Join the organization and get the newsletter.
- Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 16, 2026.
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 1, 2026.
- Western PA Slovak Radio Hour: WPIT 96.5 FM/730 AM.

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

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

Barbara A. Holly, Recording Secretary

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

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT – PA

Vicki Schaub, Treasurer

The district is holding a meeting at the Monroe Hotel, 400 E. Jefferson St., Butler on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 2pm. Meals will be included. Please RSVP to Vicki Schaub at 724-763-9229 or vschaub123@gmail.com. If you did not RSVP, you are still welcome to attend.

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

Jacquelyn Bobby, Recording Secretary

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

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NY

Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

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

JEDNOTA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Kingdom
- 6 Opera set in Egypt
- 10 Crate component
- 14 Parting word
- 15 Stumble
- 16 Trick
- 17 Moxie
- 18 Metal fastener
- 19 Deep black
- 20 Demand
- 22 Cupid's counterpart
- 23 PC linkup
- 24 Capital of New Mexico
- 26 Fertilizer
- 31 High ball?
- 32 Clinton's birthplace
- 33 Things on rings
- 35 Tel Aviv native
- 39 In the thick of
- 40 Dwellings
- 42 Smelting waste
- 43 Coffee order
- 45 Muck
- 46 Minute amount
- 47 Pierced body part
- 49 American or Spanish
- 51 Noble
- 55 Gunpowder holder
- 56 Sub station?
- 57 Temple
- 63 Start of a conclusion
- 64 United Nations agency
- 65 Yellowish brown
- 66 Bellyache
- 67 Like some streets
- 68 Harnesses
- 69 Sacks
- 70 90 degrees
- 71 Artist Max

Down

- 1 Sari-clad royal
- 2 Utopia
- 3 Televises
- 4 Son of Jacob and Leah
- 5 Breakfast cereal
- 6 Society
- 7 It's south of Georgia
- 8 Records
- 9 Attraction
- 10 Herb
- 11 Sign of the zodiac
- 12 Removed
- 13 High-strung
- 21 Tasteless
- 25 Rejections
- 26 Neighbor of Sudan
- 27 Main Web page
- 28 Vast
- 29 Medals
- 30 Poem
- 34 Whiff
- 36 Squander
- 37 Pro follower
- 38 Petri dish filler
- 41 Cut off
- 44 Strong and healthy
- 48 Diminutive
- 50 Pay no heed to
- 51 Swelling
- 52 Canon rival
- 53 Pond buildup
- 54 Russian retreat
- 58 Barricades
- 59 Tennis whiz
- 60 Goatee's locale
- 61 Telescope part
- 62 Once, long ago

Answers on Page 19

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

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Fraternal Activities Officer

District 17 announces "Night with the RailRiders." The event is set for Saturday, June 13, 2026, in the Right Field Party Suite at PNC Field, Moosic, Pennsylvania. At 6:35pm, the Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders, a Triple A Affiliate of the New York Yankees, will face the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs.

The event is open to members of District 17 (Branches 5P, 173, and 382). Tickets cost \$45 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.

For tickets and information, 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.

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

The semi-annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 8pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. We will discuss the convention, delegate information, and events for the second half of the year. Please RSVP to Milan Zoldak at 416-565-3960.

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

Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville
Golf Resort & Conference Center
670 Verdae Blvd, Greenville, SC 29607
Friday, June 19, 2026

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

Friday, June 19, 2026 at 9:00am

Mass will be after the meeting

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

Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, COO, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, June 5, 2026.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, COO, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to June 5, 2026.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, June 19, 2026.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Announces Annual Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance announces that applications are now available. They can be obtained by contacting the PFA Secretary-Treasurer at Theresa@lpsc.org or 888-834-6614, or by accessing the website at www.pafraternal.org. Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a current year high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "What has membership in a Fraternal insurance company meant to you".

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than **June 30, 2026**. At least six \$500 scholarships will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds. Applications are also available on our website at fcsu.com/scholarships.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Life Needs Sunny and Rainy Days

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

"Nothing ever grows where the sun always shines." Legendary country music singer/songwriter Bill Anderson wrote that lyric because it reflects the truth that it takes both sunny days and rainy ones, successes and failures, to truly grow and become the person God created you to be.

The seeds of faith were planted in Bill's life partially by his grandfather, a Methodist preacher. But Bill's mother was his primary influence. During a "Christopher Closeup" interview, he recalled her singing hymns such as "Amazing Grace" while doing housework: "Those songs of the church were, without me realizing it, forming a foundation for me musically."

Another major moment for Bill came after he had achieved some success in Nashville. His 88-year-old pastor-grandfather, who lay on his deathbed, told Bill, "I don't know much about the business you're in, but I know that you're in a position to reach more people with one song than I've reached with every sermon I've ever preached." From then on, Bill felt that weight of responsibility to create music that would reflect his values. Of course, in the genre of country music, you have to also cover songs about drinking and infidelity. But, as Bill joked, "The good part is that if you play the songs backwards, they sober up and they come home."

More seriously, Bill then discussed his song "Five Little Fingers, which was the story of a man who had lost his wife and had a small child. He wondered how he was gonna continue to go on with his life. The little girl walks in and puts her five little fingers on top of his hand and inspires him. I had a fan write me from down in Louisiana and he said, 'I was in my car. I was driving out into the swamps. I was going to commit suicide. I thought everything I had in the world was lost. Your song came on about the Five Little Fingers...and I realized I had five little fingers in my house that depended on me. I pulled over to the side of the road...I cried. I prayed. I turned around and I went back to town.'"

"That's not the only letter I've had like that," Bill explained. "It makes me [think of] what my grandfather said...I guess that song, at that point in time, maybe that was my sermon."

When asked to reflect on the Christopher idea of lighting a candle in times of darkness, Bill recalled, "The darkest it ever got around me was in 1984 when my wife was nearly killed in a head-on automobile accident caused by a drunk driver. At the time, our son was six years old. I had to become mother and father to [him] for a long period of time as my wife went through...rehabilitation...It changed my perspective. It changed my value system."

"My son and our relationship became my candle in the darkness," Bill continued. "He was in a Christian school, and he understood at his young age that there was faith and that hopefully his mom was gonna get well, which she ultimately did. I wouldn't want to walk through that dark spot again, but the light of that candle has served me well in the time since then. I hope in some small way that I can carry a candle for other people. They tell me sometimes, 'We love your music. Your music makes us feel better.' If that's my candle, then I'm more than glad to carry it."

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship



- ✓ Are you a member of Branch 746 with a paid-up life insurance premium of \$5,000 or more?
- ✓ Are you currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, another post-secondary educational institution, or vocational institution?
- ✓ Are you active in Branch 746 or want to become active?

**If you answered YES to the above,
you may be eligible for a
\$1,500 Scholarship!**

For guidelines on how to apply go to:
fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/
Email: JednotaBranch746@gmail.com for more information.

Deadline to Apply: June 30, 2026

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

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



DRINKS AND MAIN ENTRÉES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE BRANCH.

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

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

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club
 is hosting
SLOVAK FESTIVAL



Saturday, July 11 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
 Live Music Band & Dancing • Bake Sale

Sponsored By: FCSU Financial (First Catholic Slovak Union)

2026 Hockey Night with District 10

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 7:00pm at Rocket Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH, 121 members and guests of District 10 of the First Catholic Slovak Union 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 -- and included several generations of membership. FCSU Officers in attendance were National President Ken Arendt, Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec, District 10 President Greg Petrasek, Supreme Court Member Henry Horvath, Pension Board Member Anna Gibson, Branch 450 President Frank Woyma, Branch 553 President Debbie Speck, and Branch 855 President Barb Sutilla.

My sincere thanks to the Home Office which continues to support this event and to everyone who attended. The Cleveland Monsters lost 5 to 3 to the Utica Comets but for those of us in District 10, it was still another great Hockey Night in Cleveland!





Please join Saint Joseph's Lodge 367 for our 125th Anniversary celebration!
 July 12, 2026
 SS Cyril & Methodius Church
 50 North Morgantown Street
 Fairchance, Pennsylvania
 9am Mass followed by complimentary breakfast buffet

Please RSVP by June 30 to:
 Patty Speshock (President)
 724-564-5764, 724-317-3763 (cell) or email chasesgrammie@gmail.com
 Kathryn Baranek (Treasurer) 724-569-1006
 Rose Roskovensky (Vice President/Secretary) 724-564-5700 or 304-266-8921 (cell)



SLOVAK-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PROUDLY PRESENTS



DEBUT US TOUR
KAROL SAMUELČÍK

MAY 30 NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA feat. Karol Samuelčík Presbyterian Church of Westfield, NJ	MAY 31 NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA feat. Karol Samuelčík Sleminski Theatre, Basking Ridge, NJ	JUNE 2 National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Cedar Rapids, IL	JUNE 4 Embassy of the Slovak Republic Washington, DC	JUNE 7 St. John Nepomucene Church New York City
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FULL PROGRAM DETAILS & TICKETS: SLOVAKAMERICANCC.ORG

NEED EXTRA COPIES?? Registration Forms, Contest Entries and Monthly Puzzles are available to download at FCSU.com/community/events



**Unlock a Future.
Empower a Dream.**

Donate to the FCSU Scholarship Fund

A college education has the power to transform lives—opening doors to opportunity, growth, and a brighter future. But for too many students, rising costs put that dream just out of reach.

At FCSU Financial, we proudly uphold our commitment to faith, heritage, and community by awarding more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year to students of Slovak-Catholic descent. These scholarships do more than ease a financial burden—they ignite potential and shape futures. To continue giving generously and sustainably, we are building our Endowment Fund—a lasting source of support that ensures our scholarship program will thrive for generations to come.

Your donation to the FCSU Scholarship Fund is not just a gift—it's an act of hope. It's an investment in tomorrow's leaders, caregivers, innovators, and citizens.

When you contribute, you're helping a young person go further than they ever thought possible. You're honoring our shared values and ensuring they live on in the next generation.

You can give in honor or memory of someone special, or make a tax-deductible gift through your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution. We also gratefully accept planned gifts through wills, trusts, or property.

Education changes lives. Together, we can be the reason why.

Donate Today. Inspire Tomorrow.

YES! I want to help. Here is my gift to help support the future. Please accept my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$1000 \$500 \$250
 \$100 \$50 \$25 _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____


State: _____ Zip: _____

Special Instructions: _____

I have included the FCSU Scholarship Fund in my estate plans.
 Please send me information on gifts of trusts, property, will and deferred giving.

Please make checks payable to FCSU Scholarship Fund

Mail to: FCSU Scholarship Fund
6611 Rockside Road • Suite 300 • Independence, OH 44131





Branch 166 Supports Windsor Human Development

Submitted by Diane Wallick, Recording Secretary

Recently, Saint Joseph the Guardian assisted the Windsor Civic Club with a Spaghetti Fundraiser for the Windsor Human Development. The Windsor Human Development organization takes care of families and individuals who need assistance, not only in the Windsor community but the outlying areas. This year some of the grants they normally seek were not available resulting in a \$40,000 loss. The dinner was a huge success and sold out in no time. Branch 166 also made a \$500 donation to the cause.

Branch 45 Attends NHL Hockey Game

Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Sports Coordinator

Members of St. Matthew's Society attended the last home game of the season for the New Jersey Devils on Sunday, April 12, 2026, who faced off against the Ottawa Senators at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ.

The 2022 NHL #2 Draft pick, Simon Nemec, a fellow countryman from Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia, played a key role on defense. He helped bring the Devils back into the game after they were behind 2:3 during the third period. They pulled off an astounding 4:3 win in overtime and gave the crowd a fantastic end to the season.

The atmosphere of the Arena was incredible. At the end of the game, the players saluted the fans and thanked them for the season, while giving away their jerseys to selected fans on the ice.



(From L-R) Jozef Jurasi, Janik Vasil, NJ Devils Mascot, Maria Jurasi and Joseph Jurasi standing outside the Prudential Center prior to the game.



FRATERNALISM IN ACTION

GIVING BACK

Branch 721 Donates to Elsie Food Bank

Branch 721, Bannister, MI, held a meeting on April 12. The members collected non-perishable items for our local food pantry. This pantry meets federally set income guidelines for the Emergency Food Assistance Program. It qualifies for many programs, including free/reduced school lunches or those in need of food who live within 10 miles of the Elsie Area Food Pantry. The members were generous in their donations. The pantry was very grateful for the food items. Our branch tries to help those in need locally. We try to practice living the Beatitudes that Our Lord taught us; helping and sharing with others, in our lives, here on earth.



Branch 721 Donates to Elsie Baby Pantry

Branch 721, Bannister, MI, held a meeting on April 12, 2026. The members collected baby items for the Elsie Baby Pantry. They offer new and used clothing items. Other items available include diapers, wipes, formula, baby toiletries and baby food, quilts, shoes, toys, books and more, free of charge. We thank the FCSU for the program, Fraternalism in Action, to provide a donation of \$250 to the Elsie Baby Pantry. Jesus spoke, "Let the little children come to me."



Branch 721 Donates to Two Local Charities

Branch 721 met on April 12, 2026, for a branch meeting. We were asked to bring items for the Elsie Baby Pantry and Elsie Area Food Pantry. The members were very generous. We participated in the Fraternalism in Action Program. This participation qualified our branch the \$250 donation from FCSU to these local pantries. This is a very generous program, helping out those who need some extra help living each day. Thank you FCSU for your support.



ETHNIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SIMPLY SLAVIC

YOUNGSTOWN FOUNDATION AMPITHEATRE

FRIDAY, June 26 5 pm-11 pm
SATURDAY, June 27 12 pm-Midnight
SUNDAY, June 28 11 am-6 pm

Downtown Youngstown, OH

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

Why is a computer so smart?
It listens to its motherboard.

What did mommy spider say to baby spider?
You spend too much time on the web.

What kind of flowers are best for Mother's Day?
Mums.

R	E	A	L	M		A	I	D	A		S	L	A	T		
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Rest in Peace Our Departed Members



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

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

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
002K	Marilyn Cory	200K	Joseph S. Labutka	410K	Charlotte Orslene	746K	Andrew G. Chamra Jr.
005P	James P. Craig III	200K	Susan A. Bator	417K	Rosemary Deliman	756K	Donald Janego
019K	Margaret McHugh	200K	Thomas Mikula	484K	Irene Jane Martino	764K	Rudolph Luhaney
024K	Joseph Sapara	228K	Richard Federico	484K	Paul Bursky	796K	Joseph Kanusky
045K	Emil Kurak Jr.	238K	Stephen M. Marhevka	553K	John R. Olenick	855K	Michael Digiovine
055K	Elizabeth J. Downey	254K	Janice Drukalski	581K	Peter V. Artisuk	855K	Ralph Eugene Reed
055K	Michael Downey	260K	David Jay Garver	587K	Paul G. Tomko	901K	John S. Bajusz
102K	George Rusnak	266K	Mary Catherine Pituch	595K	Martin G. Nic	904K	Delbert H. Moeller
112K	Diana Green	320K	James E. Tomecsko	667K	Leonard Kost	904K	Stephen Sayers
122K	Mary K. Steiner	320K	Joseph Vesely	716K	Philip John Wasacz	917K	Charles N. Sterling
153K	Joseph Zmrazek	322K	Betty A. Beimel	721K	Frank Palatka	921K	Barbara Ann Champ
157K	Anita S. Jacksits	333K	Vincent N. Humenay	731K	George C. Thomas	921K	Gerald Moore
157K	Thomas J. Tassi	382K	Stephen Condella	731K	Rosemary Lombard	926K	Jane V. Cleven
162K	Stephen Skala	393K	Chad A. Skiavo	735K	Herbert L. Hirst		
181K	Stephen J. Gonta	393K	William J. Opsitnick	746K	Albert Ivan		

* Processed in the month of April 2026

**William Homa
Branch 112
Mahanoy City, PA**



William Homa, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 30, 2026, at the age of 95. Born in Mahanoy City, in the township of Schuylkill County, PA, William was the cherished son of the late Stephen and Elizabeth (Kotch) Homa. He was predeceased by three loving sisters, Helen, Anna, and Betty, and by three devoted brothers, John, Francis, and Stephen Homa, each of whom held a special place in his heart and memories.

William enters eternal rest, now reunited with his recently departed wife, Mary Homa, his partner of 72-years of marriage. William is survived by his devoted sons: Steven and his wife Patricia; Thomas and his wife Holly; his daughter-in-law Angela; and is predeceased by his firstborn son, William. He is further survived by his treasured grandchildren, grandson David and his wife Betsy; grandson Joseph; granddaughter Julie Macaluso and her husband Chris; and grandson Craig and his wife Daria; as well as his cherished great-grandchildren: Luke, Gianna, and Audrey. He also held a special affection for his three beloved “fur-grandbabies”, Flynn, Archie, and Hershey.

A graduate of Mahanoy City Area High School, William began working at an early age gathering loose coal from the local town’s mountainside, hunting for animal furs, and picking bushels of huckleberries to sell to local families throughout the Mahanoy City area. Following his high-school graduation, William embarked on his life journey to Guttenberg, NJ, perched high above the Hudson River, where he found

a spiritual home within the Catholic fellowship of the surrounding Slovak and Austrian church communities. It was there that he met the love of his life, Mary Krivy, beginning a partnership that would shape the rest of his days. During those early years, he worked tirelessly, finding steady employment in the region’s bustling embroidery shops while also taking on electrical handyman work across the river in Manhattan, NY – building a life grounded in faith, devotion, and hard work. Drawing upon these many skills, he built a distinguished 36-year career with Blickman Health Industries, Inc. in Fair Lawn, NJ, where he served with pride and dedication as Director of Engineering. In this role, he developed electrical subsystems and designed stainless-steel medical equipment solutions that advanced and supported the healthcare industry, leaving a lasting professional legacy marked by innovation, dedication, and integrity.

William was a man of remarkable intellect and countless, unmistakable talents. There was no task he hesitated to take on, no project too complex for his steady hands or determined spirit. Long before the conveniences of modern technology, he possessed an innate ability to understand, repair, and create—relying on ingenuity, patience, and a mind uniquely gifted for problem-solving. Throughout the years, he tackled countless household and family endeavors—expanding and improving the home, crafting projects for his family and friends in his wood shop and even rebuilt car engines from the ground up. These undertakings became lasting lessons in skill, perseverance, and learned patience for his sons. Whatever the undertaking, William approached it with mastery, perseverance, and a quiet confidence that inspired those around him. There was truly no challenge he could not meet, nor any skill he could not learn.

**John R. Olenick
Branch 553
Akron, OH**



John R. “Bob” Olenick, 91, of Manheim, PA and formerly of Beltsville, MD, and Akron, OH; beloved husband, father, and grandfather, died peacefully at home on Monday, February 2, 2026. Born in Akron, OH, he was the son of the late John G. and Mary E. Polovick Olenick. Bob was the loving husband of Kay Finzer Olenick and they observed their 67th wedding anniversary in November of last year. Bob was a Senior Security Officer for the National Security Agency,

and upon retirement was a member of the Phoenix Society. A veteran, Bob served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Bob was an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He enjoyed model trains and computers.

Surviving in addition to his wife Kay, are two sons: Thomas L. Olenick of Manheim, Richard Olenick of Havelock, NC, two granddaughters: Krystal and Olivia Olenick, and two brothers: Joe husband of Linda Olenick of Mogadore, OH, and Mike husband of Jeanne Olenick of North Canton, OH. Preceding him in death is a son, John R. “Bobby” Olenick, a daughter-in-law, Catherine Garger, a granddaughter, Jennifer Olenick, and a brother, Don Olenick.

Jednota Memorial Middletown, PA

The First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site in 2015 on 1.5 acres once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder, Rev. Štefan Furdek in Middletown, PA. A rebronzed “Doughboy” statue is a key highlight of this Memorial, which has been developed to honor those who served in war and also give members an opportunity to honor and remember ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

Memorial Bricks are Available.
 4 x 10 = \$100 or 8 x 10 = \$200
 Order forms can be found on our website at fcsu.com/forms

News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

SUPER SLOVÁCI

Adela Vinczeová

Changed the world by showing the power of communication

As a little girl, Adela did not realize how unusual her family was. She was born in 1980 during the communist era to an artist mother and a diplomat father. Because of her father's work, the family moved to East Germany where everything was new and exciting. It took a while for Adela to get used to a new city, country and language. Very few people could travel and live abroad like her and her family.



Adela remembers her mother giving her a shopping list to buy groceries. She was just five years old and did not speak German. The shopkeeper read the list, got the items, and counted out the change for her to victoriously return home mission accomplished. And yet, she missed Slovakia and her friends.

Can you imagine how happy Adela was when her parents told her that they were returning? It was after the fall of communism and everyone in the country was hopeful. Adela returned to Slovak schools and graduated from a Slovak university. And now what?

Adela really felt happy with a microphone in her hands. Performing and talking to people brought her joy, so she decided to give her dream a try. What was there to lose?

Competition is tough in show business. It took a great deal of effort for Adela to make her mark, but she did not mind because this was the only thing that she had ever felt that she wanted to do. She learned from each challenge and, thanks to her perseverance, successes started to come to her. Adela was still very young when she hosted her first radio show.

More and more opportunities followed and then a huge breakthrough happened. Adela received an invitation to co-host a TV show. It was the song contest Czech-Slovak Superstar that made her into a star and a household name in Slovakia.

What is the secret behind Adela's success? She says she tries to set herself goals and always pays attention to life and the people around her.

Zmenila svet tým, že ukázala silu komunikácie

Ako dieťa si Adela nevedomovala, že by jej rodina bola nezvyčajná. Narodila sa v roku 1980, za čias komunizmu, maliarke a diplomatovi. Otcova práca zaviedla rodinu do Východného Nemecka, kde bolo všetko nové a vzrušujúce.

Adela si pamätá, ako ju raz mama poslala na nákup. Mala len päť rokov, v ruke nákupný zoznam a nehovorila po nemecky. Predavačka si prečítala zoznam, podala Adele nákup a vrátila jej drobné, aby sa malé dievča mohlo víťazoslávne vrátiť domov. Misiu zvládla úspešne. Adele však chvíľu trvalo, kým si zvykla na nový domov i cudzí jazyk. Len málo ľudí malo v tých časoch možnosť cestovať a žiť v zahraničí tak, ako jej rodina.

Potom jedného dňa Adelini rodičia oznámili, že sa vracajú na Slovensko. Práve padla železná opona a krajina bola odrazu plná nádeje na lepší život. Adela sa vrátila do slovenskej školy a neskôr si vybrala štúdium na slovenskej univerzite. Po promóciách sa pýtala, čo ďalej.

Bola vo svojom živle, keď mala v ruke mikrofón. Rada vystupovala, zhovárala sa s ľuďmi a rozhodla sa, že to je práve to, čo chce robiť. Prečo nie? Nemala čo stratiť.

Konkurencia v šoubiznise je nemilosrdná, ale šťastie bolo na Adelovej strane. Ako šesťnásť ročná sa dostala do celonárodnej show Teleráno. Adela bola ešte stále tínedžerka, keď sa stala spoludemératorkou show v rádiu. To je skutočne pôsobivé!

Verejnosť si Adelu obľúbila a nasledovali ďalšie príležitosti, až napokon prišiel veľký moment. Účinkovanie v televízii. Dostala ponuku uvádzať televízny program, hudobnú súťaž Slovensko hľadá SuperStar, ktorá Adelu preslávila po celom Slovensku. Show bola zaradená do hlavného vysielacieho času a spravila z Adely hviezdu. Každá domácnosť spoznala jej tvár.

Adela má návod na úspech. Necháva život plynúť a vždy je vďačná za každú prekvapivú príležitosť, ktorá je príde do cesty. Vraví sa, že tí, ktorí nasledujú svoju vášeň a robia to, čo majú radi, si zikajú priazeň šťasteny. Zdá sa, že v Adelinom prípade je to skutočne tak.

SUPER SLOVÁCI

Eugene Černan

Changed the world by walking on the moon

The northwestern region of Slovakia has always been one of the poorest in the country. Life there was very hard in the past. It was not easy to grow food and the people never knew for sure that they had enough food to last through the long winters. Many decided to leave in search of a better life somewhere else.

Štefan Černan left his village in 1900 and sailed to America. Once there, he made his way to Chicago, where he decided to settle. He found work in the mines like so many of his fellow Slovaks. He was delighted when Anna, his fiancée from Slovakia, joined him in 1903. The young couple married, bought a small farm in Wisconsin, and started a family of their own.



Štefan's grandson Eugene learned to be resilient and to work hard from his father and grandfather. He helped out on the family farm, learned how to tinker with machines, and listened to stories about his beloved Slovakia in the evenings. When Eugene was 8 years old, America entered the Second World War. The young boy was surrounded by heroic stories of brave pilots and impossible battles, and his desire to follow in their footsteps stirred in his heart.

Watching films about heroic fighter pilots, Eugene said to his family: "My dream is to fly!" and fly he did – much further than he could have ever imagined. Fascinated by science and technology, Eugene knew that the sky was NOT the limit. He excelled at university and became a pilot. That was still not enough and so Eugene applied to become an astronaut for NASA.

In 1972, Eugene Černan led the last manned mission to the Moon. He spent three days exploring its surface and collecting rock samples. And because the Moon has no wind, no water and no atmosphere, his footprints are still there!

Eugene believed in big dreams and to this day he is the Slovak who traveled the furthest.

Zmenil svet tým, že pristál na mesiaci

Kysuce odjakživa patrili k najchudobnejším regiónom na Slovensku. V minulosti tu bol život veľmi ťažký. Pestovať čokoľvek na Kysuciach bola výzva a ľudia nikdy nevedeli, či budú mať dosť jedla na zimu. Mnohí sa rozhodli z Kysúc odísť a hľadať šťastie inde.

Štefan Černan opustil svoju dedinu v roku 1900. Vo vrecku mal palubný lístok do Ameriky. Usadil sa v Chicagu, kde si našiel prácu tak, ako mnohí ďalší Slováci. Štefan bol tým najšťastnejším mužom pod slnkom, keď za ním v roku 1903 pricestovala jeho snúbenica Anna zo Slovenska. Mladý pár sa zosobášil, kúpil farmu v štáte Wisconsin a založil vlastnú rodinu.

Štefanov vnuk Eugene sa od starého otca naučil húževnatosti a tvrdej práci. Pomáhal mu na rodinnej farme, opravoval stroje a po večeroch počúval príbehy o Slovensku. Eugene mal osem rokov, keď USA vstúpili do druhej svetovej vojny. Ako chlapca ho každý deň obkolesovali správy o odvážnych bitkách a hrdinoch a Eugen sníval o tom, že aj on raz pôjde v ich šľapajach.

Filmy o nebojácnych pilotoch len utužili jeho odhodlanie a jedného dňa svojej rodine oznámil, že jeho najväčším snom je lietať. Napokon skutočne letel, ale oveľa ďalej ako si kedy dokázal predstaviť. Eugena fascinovala veda a technológie. Vedel, že nebo nemá hranice. Na vysokej škole vynikal spomedzi ostatných študentov a stal sa pilotom. On však túžil po niečom oveľa väčšom a prihlásil sa do NASA.

Kozmonaut Eugen Černan v roku 1972 viedol poslednú výpravu s ľudskou posádkou na Mesiac. Tri dni skúmal mesačný povrch a zbieral vzorky. Mesiac nemá atmosféru, nefúka tam, a ani neprší, a teda stopy, ktoré na povrchu Mesiaca Eugen Černan zanechal, sú stále tam!

Eugene veril veľkým snom, a aj preto sa stal Slovákom, ktorý docestoval zo všetkých najďalej.



FCSU Search-A-Word

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

May Word List



- MOTHER'S DAY
- PICNIC
- DEVOTION
- SUNSHINE
- RAINFALL
- BUTTERFLY
- JAR (Spring)
- SLNKO (Sun)
- LÚKA (Meadow)
- NEDELA (Sunday)
- KYTICA (Bouquet)
- SPOMIENKY (Memories)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

Search-A-Word Rules

Five monthly winners will receive \$50!

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

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by June 25, 2026.
 Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

March Puzzle Winners

- Jean Michaels Branch 5P
- Mary Estochin Branch 60
- Diane Aland Branch 181
- Thomas Grobinski Branch 173
- Tom Lakatosh Branch 157

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

2026 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 \$125
- Business Sponsor \$175

Sign dimensions: 18" x 24" (horizontal)

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

Become a Tournament Patron

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

- Bronze Patron \$75
- Silver Patron \$125
- 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, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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



Branch 716 Birthday Celebration

Submitted by Emily Lysakova, Recording Secretary

On April 12, 2026, Branch 716 hosted a birthday celebration honoring special members of our community, Serafina Šulak, and Katarina Lukac. The occasion was made even more meaningful as members of the branch came together to prepare decorated cakes for the honorees, and decorating the meeting hall at St. John Nepomucene Church. We extend our heartfelt wishes to Serafina, Maria, and Katarina, our dedicated branch members, for continued good health, happiness, and love in their milestones.



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting • March 23, 2026

Embassy Suites By Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center

670 Verdae Blvd, Greenville, SC

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 5pm and asked Rev. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members Attending:

Kenneth A. ArendtNational President, Present
 Damian NastaNational Vice President, Present
 Kevin J. CollinsExecutive Secretary, Present
 John Tokarsky.....Treasurer, Present
 Rev. Thomas NastaNational Chaplain, Present
 (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the February 20, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Kevin Collins to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for their review. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions. During this report, Larry stated there are potential write-downs in investments due to the present economic condition.

Larry White reviewed possible new investment opportunities that the Board of Directors can take advantage of. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky submitted a detailed Treasurer's report to the Board of Directors. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions.

ANNUITY RATES:

Following an extensive review with the Executive Committee, the President confirmed that the current rates will remain in effect. The Executive Committee will revisit the rates at its April meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Financial Report

The President reviewed the 2025 Financial Statement with the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The President answered the Board's and the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The President and the Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. Everything was found in order, and they answered the Board's and 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 of February:

Death Benefits & Accumulations..... \$300,083.00
 Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations.....\$97,893.48
 Matured Endowments & Accumulations \$0.00
 Trust Fund..... \$0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee about the Districts and Branches that had participated in the available incentive programs that the Home Office offers. These programs include Fraternalism in Action, Branding Bucks, and the District/Branch Reimbursement Program. He is encouraging all Districts and Branches to participate in these programs as tools to get more youth involved. If a District or Branch has any questions, they can reach out to the Home Office.

The Executive Secretary will continue the Virtual Calls. He is encouraging everyone to participate in these educational calls. Further details and topics will be on the website and published in the newspaper.

The Executive Secretary stated we are amidst a major campaign to recruit agents for all 38 states in which we are licensed.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The Fraternal Activities Director, Joanne Fibbi, presented a detailed report on past and upcoming activities to the Board of Directors. The Annual Bowling Tournament will be held at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA, April 25 – 26, 2026. The Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio July 24 – 26, 2026. In addition to the Bowling Tournament and the Golf Tournament, all Fraternal Activities will be published on the website and in the newspaper.

CONVENTION UPDATE:

The 2026 Convention will be held June 20-23, 2026, at Embassy Suites by Hilton Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The President gave the Board of Directors a tour of the hotel facilities following the annual Board meeting that took place at the hotel. Additional general information for the convention will be published in the *Jednota* newspaper and posted on our Convention page of the website.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President reminded the Board of Directors that the Home Office has started to go paperless. Outgoing checks for withdrawal and claims will be processed through direct deposit ACH.

The President stated the Home Office staff will continue their training covering topics including cybersecurity, anti-money laundering, and fraud. They will be starting continuing courses soon.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Kenneth A. Arendt
 President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins
 Executive Secretary, COO

Home Office Contacts

800.533.6682 • fcsu@fcsu.com

LIFE INSURANCE

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

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

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

ANNUITY DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

AGENT SUPPORT

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

BRANCH SUPPORT

BARBARAExt. 122 branch@fcsu.com
district@fcsu.com

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

PAMExt. 119 branch@fcsu.com
district@fcsu.com

Branch & District Coordinator, Announcements

COMMUNICATION

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

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

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

MEMBER
Spotlight

email_editor@fcsu.com



Do you have...

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

WE WANT TO HEAR MORE!



Stephen C. Matula SCHOLARSHIP

What to Provide:

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

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



**DEADLINE TO APPLY:
JUNE 26, 2026**

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



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 be a member of the FCSU as of December 31, 2024.
- Applicants must have: a minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life), or minimum of \$25,000 JEP policy (on new policy); or minimum of \$1,000 of Juvenile Life Savings; or minimum of \$500 in an annuity or Coverdell IRA with the FCSU.
- 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 head-shot photo and email it to scholarship@fcsu.com.

- Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee by the middle of August, 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.

**Download Applications at
www.fcsu.com/membership/scholarships/**

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EXAMPLES

NEWBORN MALE

\$5,000 for \$454.35

AGE 5

\$5,000 for \$548.30

AGE 10

\$5,000 for \$663.90

AGE 15

\$5,000 for \$803.15

EXAMPLES

NEWBORN FEMALE

\$5,000 for \$406.65

AGE 5

\$5,000 for \$490.75

AGE 10

\$5,000 for \$594.45

AGE 15

\$5,000 for \$720.20