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Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

Message from the President

As we celebrate 135 years of faith, heritage, and financial strength, we are reminded of the remarkable dedication of those who built and sustained FCSU Financial®. Their sacrifices and service gave us a strong foundation. Now, our responsibility is to carry this mission forward—and to prepare the next generation to do the same.

As we honor this milestone, we also look ahead. This season marks an important time for our organization—our Branches and Districts are holding elections. These elections are not simply a matter of filling positions; they are opportunities for members to shape the future of our society.

I encourage each of you to consider stepping forward into a leadership role. Our Branches and Districts thrive when members bring their energy, ideas, and dedication to the table. Leadership is open to anyone willing to serve. Whether as an officer, committee member, or volunteer, your involvement ensures that our traditions are honored, our programs remain strong, and our community continues to grow.

The benefits of being involved are many. You will have the chance to build meaningful friendships, develop leadership skills, and strengthen your connection to your Slovak heritage and Catholic faith. You'll also play a vital part in keeping our fraternal mission alive—supporting charitable works, educational programs, and the spirit of togetherness that makes our society unique. Now is the moment to step forward, lend your voice, and help guide FCSU into the future. Together, we can ensure that our organization remains strong for generations to come.

Looking even further ahead, it is clear that the involvement of younger members will be essential. They bring not only energy

FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD



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

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



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131-2398

800.533.6682

VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future through fraternalism.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

If you ever read death notices online, you will notice some of them will say the deceased was "welcomed back to the Lord," or "received into the arms of their Savior."

Both expressions present theological problems. To say someone who died is welcomed back to heaven implies the person was already in heaven before being born here on earth. However, faith tells us there is only one person who was in heaven before being born on earth, and we all know who that is.

To say a deceased loved one was welcomed into the loving embrace of God gives the impression that the person skipped right over divine judgment and purgatory and gained automatic access to heaven, something akin to those express passes at some amusement parks.

Both reflect a mindset that says judgment and purgatory are for other people, not for the person I know. People tell themselves, "I know this person. This person was a good person. I know he or she is in heaven." Let's take this argument to its natural conclusion. If everyone knows someone who has died to be "a good person" and believes he or she has gone directly to heaven, then there is no need to pray for the dead. They all possess their eternal reward.

Why does the Church set aside one day out of the year, November 2, All Souls Day, to remember and pray for the dead? It is because we do not know the state of their immortal souls. No one knows. So, we pray for the dead, especially during the upcoming month of November and in particular on November 2, All Souls Day. And as we remember our beloved dead in prayer before the Lord, we hope and we trust that God in his mercy will grant all the faithful departed pardon of their sins, a merciful judgment, and yes, a dwelling place in the eternal kingdom.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain**

SS. Cyril and Methodius October Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 47th 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 September 24, 164 donors have given \$21,638 for the 2025 Appeal. Among the 56 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 38, Branch 40, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 89, Branch 112, Branch 153, Branch 166, Branch 181, Branch 213, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 484, Branch 731, Branch 743, Branch 746, Branch 857, District 14 and the Home Office of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$4,400. Donations have also been received from 5 churches, 21 clergy and religious and 85 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 2025 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, 2025 will be credited toward the 2026 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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

47th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Amount \$ _____

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

NEWSPAPER GUIDELINES

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

ISSUE DEADLINES

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE
COPY DATE - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3
ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE
COPY DATE - MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
ISSUE DATE - MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Message from the Executive Secretary

September 2025 was an extremely busy and historic month for FCSU Financial. On September 4th, we proudly celebrated our 135th birthday—a milestone that highlights our rich history and continued commitment to serving our members and communities.

On September 12th, our Board of Directors was honored with an invitation to the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. for a special meet and greet with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America Radovan Javorčík. The following day, the Board joined together in prayer and fellowship by participating in the pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Shrine.

On September 16th, I was privileged to host the first guest in our monthly Virtual Call Series. We welcomed George Lopata, FIC, CLU, ChFC, who spoke about our life insurance and annuity applications. Thank you to all who attended and submitted thoughtful questions during his presentation. I am pleased to announce that George has agreed to return for another session on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, at both 12pm and 7pm EST. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this important event. The meeting links are available on our website.

Later in the month, on September 22nd and 23rd, I had the privilege of attending the Slovak Pro Event in New York City, which brought together more than 200 Slovak Professionals and other dignitaries from around the world. Distinguished guests included:

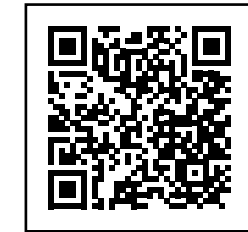
- Peter Pellegrini, President of the Slovak Republic
- Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America
- Beatrice Szabóová, Slovak Consul General in New York
- Pavol Demeš, Former Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia

At the event, I was honored to address the attendees and share the story of the First Catholic Slovak Union with this distinguished audience. It was a moment of pride to present our history and mission on such a global stage. Thank you, as always, for your dedication, support, and commitment to our Slovak Catholic heritage and to FCSU Financial.

Join Us for our Next Virtual Call:

- Tuesday, October 28 • 12pm (EST)**
- Tuesday, October 28 • 3pm (EST)**

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



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

OCTOBER 2025 - CONTINUED

- 10/23** Branch 108 - Meeting, Connellsville, PA (RSVP)
- 10/25** District 17 - Meeting (Election), Plains, PA
- 10/26** Branch 1 - Pork Chop Dinner, Lakewood, OH (RSVP by 10/15)
- 10/26** Branch 372 - Meeting (Election), Wilmore, PA
- 10/26** Branch 716 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY
- 10/26** District 4 - Meeting (Election), Middlesex, NJ (RSVP by 10/17)
- 10/26** District 7 - Meeting (Election), Wilmore, PA
- 10/28** Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 3pm (EST)
- 10/29** Branch 313 - Meeting (Election), Mokena, IL (RSVP by 10/22)

NOVEMBER 2025

- 11/1-2** Branch 764 - Soup Sale, Warren, OH
- 11/2** Branch 1 - Meeting (Election), Rocky River, OH (RSVP by 10/15)
- 11/2** Branch 19 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)
- 11/3** Branch 764 - Meeting (Election), Warren, OH
- 11/5** Branch 853 - Meeting (Election), Charleroi, PA (RSVP)
- 11/6** Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA
- 11/7** Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
- 11/8** Branch 6 - *Switch Cabaret* Play, Streator, IL (RSVP)
- 11/9** Branch 19 - Mass, Bridgeport, CT
- 11/9** Branch 382 - Meeting (Election), Dunmore, PA (RSVP)
- 11/9** Branch 670 - Meeting (Election) (Hybrid / Zoom), Belle Vernon, PA
- 11/9** Branch 756 - Meeting, Owosso, MI
- 11/9** Branch 796 - Meeting (Election), Egypt, PA
- 11/9** District 12 - Meeting (Election), Belle Vernon, PA
- 11/11** Branch 731 - Mass, Youngstown, OH
- 11/11** District 14 - Meeting (Election), Poland, OH
- 11/12** Branches 259 and 682 - Merger Meeting, Struthers, OH
- 11/12** Branch 367 - Meeting (Election), Smithfield, PA (RSVP)
- 11/13** Branch 857 - Meeting (Zoom)
- 11/13** District 11 - Meeting (Election), Ford City, PA
- 11/15** Branch 166 - Meeting (Election), Binghamton, NY (RSVP by 11/1)
- 11/16** Branch 23 - Meeting (Election), Richland, PA
- 11/16** Branch 60 - Meeting (Election), West Homestead, PA
- 11/16** Branch 199 - Meeting (Election), Latrobe, PA
- 11/16** Branch 276 - Meeting (Election), McKeesport, PA
- 11/16** Branch 731 - Meeting (Election), Poland, OH
- 11/16** District 5 - Meeting (Election), Sterling Heights, MI
- 11/18** Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 7pm (EST)
- 11/22** Branch 5P - Meeting (Election), Pittston, PA (RSVP by 11/20)
- 11/22** Branch 450 - Meeting (Election) Brooklyn, OH
- 11/23** Branch 553 - Meeting (Election), Akron, OH
- 11/23** Branch 855 - Meeting (Election), North Royalton, OH (RSVP by 11/14)
- 11/23** District 6 - Meeting (Election), West Mifflin, PA (RSVP by 11/9)
- 11/27** Thanksgiving - Home Office Closed
- 11/28** Thanksgiving - Home Office Closed
- 11/29** Branch 484 - Meeting (Election), Indiana, PA
- 11/29** Branch 844 - Meeting (Election), Fullerton, CA
- 11/29** District 15 - Meeting (Election), Fullerton, CA
- 11/30** Branch 45 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY
- 11/30** Branch 320 - Meeting (Election), Rostraver Twp, PA (RSVP by 11/20)
- 11/30** District 2 - Meeting (Election), Oak Forest, IL

For more information, go to the Branch and District Announcement pages or visit our website at fcsu.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER 2025

- 10/9** Branch 856 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)
- 10/11** Branch 200 - 130th Anniversary Celebration
- 10/12** District 8 - Meeting (Election) (Zoom)
- 10/12** District 9 - Meeting (Election), Uniontown, PA
- 10/14** Branch 2 - Meeting (Election), Pittsburgh, PA (RSVP)
- 10/16** Branch 401 - Meeting (Election), North Apollo, PA (RSVP by 10/13)
- 10/18** Branch 153 - Meeting (Election), Harwood Heights, IL (RSVP by 10/13)
- 10/18** Branch 853 - Cement City Tour, Donora, PA (RSVP)
- 10/19** Branch 7 - Meeting (Election), Ramey, PA
- 10/19** District 16 - Meeting (Election), New York, NY



THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC. 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN (10) \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

Jednota Benevolent Foundation Award Criteria:

1. Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who is currently enrolled in college or another post secondary educational institution is eligible for a Scholarship.
2. Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
3. Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official high school or college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant;
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement;
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant;
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability;
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives;
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing.

Applicants, even those who are previous recipients of this scholarship, may apply yearly.



For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.
First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, Ohio 44131
Phone: 800.533.6682 • Fax: 216.642.4310
E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com

Download applications from fcsu.com/membership/scholarships/

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2025

Family members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

Letter from the President, Continued from Page 1

and enthusiasm, but also new ways of thinking that can help us adapt and thrive in a changing world. The 53rd Quadrennial Convention in 2026 will provide an opportunity for this new generation of leaders to step forward. I encourage every Branch to consider nominating younger members as Delegates, so they can experience firsthand the importance of fraternal governance and help shape the direction of our organization.

Leadership, however, is not built in a single moment—it grows through participation. Our scholarships, local and national officer roles, and mentoring opportunities all provide valuable ways for younger members to develop their skills while being supported by our fraternal community. Just as important, our social and cultural events—from sports tournaments and festivals to family dinners and picnics—give them a chance to form friendships and strengthen their ties to our shared Slovak traditions.

One important way we support the next generation is through education. This is the final month to apply for our Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. 2025 Scholarship. Look for other local and national scholarships in the months ahead. They are all posted on our website as applications become available.

As we continue strengthening both our leadership and our heritage, we are excited to introduce our collaboration with Global Slovakia, an organization dedicated to serving the interests of Slovaks worldwide to promote heritage, culture, and identity (globalslovakia.com). Their book, *Super Slováci*, provides short biographies of fifty of Slovakia's greatest heroes. We will share stories in both English and Slovak, making it a celebration of Slovakia's rich heritage while offering readers a chance to enjoy and learn from these remarkable lives. We thank the writers Zuzana Palovic, Gabriela Bereghazyova and David Keys and look forward to working together.

Staying Connected: Communication with Our Members

At FCSU Financial, we strive to keep members informed and engaged. Our Branches and Districts hold meetings and activities throughout the year, and we share this information in several ways:

- **Jednota Newspaper** – Branch and District meeting notices are published monthly.
- **Website** – Each Branch and District has its own page where upcoming events are posted.
- **Email Reminders** – The Home Office sends reminders for each meeting or activity 7–10 days prior to the event or RSVP deadline.
- **Monthly Newsletter** – Sent to all subscribers, this email highlights important national stories, upcoming deadlines, and reminders about major events.
- **Facebook Posts** – Available to all members. Like or follow our page at FCSUFinancial.

If you are not currently receiving email reminders and would like to, please ensure that we have your most up-to-date email address. (Please note: if you have previously opted out of receiving emails from us, we are unable to add you back to the list.)

We ask Officers to notify the Home Office promptly if an event is canceled or rescheduled. This ensures that email reminders and newsletter updates are accurate, keeping members well informed. Members are also encouraged to reach out directly to their Branch or District officers with questions. Together, these communication tools strengthen our connections, encourage participation, and support the fraternal spirit that unites us.

Convention and Election Updates

The 53rd Quadrennial Convention is quickly approaching! We now have a dedicated page on our website under the Membership tab that includes all the latest information and any forms that may need to be completed. Staying informed ensures your Branch or District is fully prepared and that all members have the opportunity to participate in this important process.

As Branches and Districts begin scheduling elections, please remember that notices must be posted at least 30 days prior to the election date. All notices should include the dates, times, and locations of the meetings, with a clear notation that elections for Branch Officers and Delegates will take place.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara at 800.533.6682, ext. 122.

FCSU Board of Directors Visits the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. and Attends the 60th Anniversary of the National Shrine Chapel

Members of the FCSU Board of Directors were honored to participate in two remarkable events in conjunction with their quarterly board meeting. On Friday, September 12, 2025 they enjoyed dinner and had the opportunity to bid farewell to the outgoing ambassador at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. The evening offered a chance to reflect on the strong bonds between our organization and Slovakia, and to express gratitude for the ambassador's support and friendship. Our board looks forward to meeting the new representatives from Slovakia and continuing to build relationships in the years ahead. This visit underscores our ongoing commitment to fostering connections with our Slovak heritage and supporting initiatives that strengthen cultural and fraternal ties.

On Saturday, September 13th, the board members and fellow pilgrims gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to honor the 60th anniversary of our shrine, Our Mother of Sorrows. Special thanks to Father Thomas Nasta who organized the event and to the Ministers of the Liturgy who spoke. Those include Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB, Reverend Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, and Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic.



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

Praying the Rosary is literally a review of the life of Christ in a biblical overview. In this prayerful time, Jesus is in company with Mary, His holy Mother. When her Child is conceived, this is the overflowing of a true love story, created and directed by God Himself—God, as Infinite Love, desires to share this love humanly with humans. The Mother-to-be is offered this request by an angel. Her profound love of God opens her heart with acceptance. God's Spirit of power and love so overwhelms her and the Infant Jesus is incarnated.

This new life's focus is no longer limited as Mary hastens to share love and assist pregnant Elizabeth. In Bethlehem, Jesus is welcomed by many and 40 days later is presented to God in the Temple. When Jesus is 12 years, we find Him once again in the Temple after a 3-day search by Mary and Joseph.

With the luminous mysteries, added by Pope St. John Paul II, we pray the highlights of Jesus' public life—His baptism by Precursor John and His first miracle at Cana (suggested by His Mother's comment, "They have no more wine"), prolific teaching-- and culminating with the Eucharistic institution. Mary's walk with Jesus was most intimate during His Passion as she walked the Way of the Cross and stood beneath His Cross.

The glorious finale brings the risen Jesus to His Mother, confirms her mission of mothering the new Church with the Holy Spirit's anointing. Mary's reward and reunion with her Son comes as she is assumed and crowned as Queen and our Heavenly Advocate. Let us hasten to Mary daily for her loving embrace. The hymn for this Month of the Holy Rosary invites us to pray for her guidance to Jesus and Heaven.

HOLY MARY OF THE ROSARY (Ľ MÁRIA RUŽENCOVÁ)

1. Holy Mary, Queen and Maiden of the Rosary,
To your loving care we hasten, hold us tenderly.
Mother of the Rosary, hear your children's fervent plea,
May your Son, with love and mercy, bless us graciously.
2. Holy Rosary, heaven's blessing, which God chose for us,
Gift received by holy Dom'nic now is shared with us,
Most fragrant flow'rs, roses bright, garland woven with delight,
Mary's life and intercession, teach us what is right.
3. These choice blossoms, like your caring, draw us to your side,
Comfort us with gentle kindness, call us to confide.
May your tender love embrace, guard each child in every place.
Guide us home to Heaven's glory by God's gen'rous grace.
4. Here on earth no other treasure brings us peace that lasts;
Neither pearls, nor gold or silver, nor can jewels surpass.
This our cherished Rosary, leads us to eternity,
Where with Jesus and His Mother we'll live happily.

Ľ MÁRIA RUŽENCOVÁ

1. O Mária Ružencová naša patrónka!
My sa k tebe utiekame, čistá Panenka.
Tyš Matka dobrotivá, patrónka ružencová:
Primlúvaj sa vždycky za nás u svojho Syna.
2. Ten tvoj svätý ruženeček, ktorý nám dala,
Skrz svätého Dominika nám ho poslala,
Je z krásnych rúž pletený, v nebesiach zostavený,
Aby hriešnik bol na zemi ním potešený.
3. Tie ruže nad všetky kvety sú spanilejšie
A v ruženci tom spojené sú najvonnejšie;
Krásna vôňa je jeho pre kresťana každého;
Veď Mária nám ho dala z trónu svojho.
4. Na tom svete nechcem iné mať potešenie,
Ani perly, striebro, zlato, drahé kamenie:
Moje drahoceny je ruženec jediný
A s ním Ježiš, ten Baránok Boží nevinný.

Insights and Viewpoints

Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

Luke 17:11-19

Gospel Summary

Jesus, continuing his journey to Jerusalem, comes upon ten lepers, and from a distance hears their plea for help, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" He instructs these outcasts from society to go and show themselves to the priests. On the way, they are cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, a Samaritan, returns glorifying God, and falls at the feet of Jesus in gratitude. Jesus remarks, "Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then to the Samaritan, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Life Implications

As always in the teaching of Jesus, it is faith that will determine whether we identify with the nine who are cured but not saved, or with the Samaritan who is both cured and saved. All ten lepers are healed. They all experience their return to health and to membership in the community as a good thing. However, only the Samaritan, with the intuition of faith, recognizes the good thing to be a gift of God, and acts upon that intuition. He glorifies God, and returns to thank Jesus whom he recognizes as an agent of God's presence and compassion.

In the language of later theology, the Samaritan's faith enabled him to see with sacramental vision. Without the vision of faith, one can experience countless good things—the wonders of the universe through the eyes of science; the ability to hear, to see, to speak, to feel; a return to health from an illness. But it is only with the intuition of faith that one can experience these good things as gifts of God. Through faith they become symbols or sacraments of the personal exchange of love—God's self-giving to us, and our grateful response in word and deed. Because the Samaritan entered into that personal exchange of divine love and human gratitude, Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." To possess health, or for that matter any other good thing of this earth, in the judgment of Jesus is not to be saved.

Faith of course must not be restricted to recognizing a good thing as God's gift only in the miracle moments of life. Rather, as Saint Paul tells us, faith means to live in the awareness of the divine presence as a way of life, "giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father" (Eph 5:20). My favorite part of the Talmud ("Berakhot") illustrates this essential aspect of the biblical tradition by giving examples when a faithful person will bless God in gratitude: "on seeing the ocean, on seeing the first tree blossom in the spring, on seeing a friend after six months, on hearing a sage, on receiving good news, on receiving bad news."

Each Sunday, like the Samaritan, we return to celebrate the Eucharist in gratitude for all the gifts that God has showered upon us as individuals and as a community. With a sacramental vision of faith, we hear the words of the bible as the gift of God's Word to us; we believe that the people around us are the church, the Body of Christ; we affirm the bread and wine truly to be the Risen Lord, the Father's ultimate gift to us. And with hearts lifted up in faith we can pray, "Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord."

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Filmmaker Focuses on Ursuline Sisters

Tony Rossi, The Christophers

When he was growing up Presbyterian in Louisville, Kentucky, Morgan Atkinson's friends, who attended Catholic school, described their teachers, the Ursuline Sisters, as "the toughest, meanest women on earth." Those descriptions stuck in Morgan's mind years later after he converted to Catholicism and embarked on a career as a filmmaker. His first documentary about the Ursulines in the 1980s dispelled the "tough and mean" mythology and led him to admire these women and their devotion to their vocation. His newest film about them, titled "In the Company of Change," explores their history, faith, and decline in numbers.

For Morgan, the road to the Ursuline Sisters was paved by Thomas Merton, whose work he came across during his 20s, when he had "drifted away from any sort of religion or spirituality," he recalled during a "Christopher Closeup" interview. Morgan visited Kentucky's Abbey of Gethsemani, where Merton had lived. "In that weekend," Morgan observed, "the presence of the place, the Office, the liturgy, everything about it spoke to me in a profound way...When one settles down a little bit and turns off a lot of the external noise and begins to listen to things, I gave that a chance to happen at Gethsemani. And it happened in a big way...so much so that six weeks later, at Pentecost, I became a Catholic."

Morgan went on to produce documentaries about Gethsemani and Merton, and he eventually turned his attention to the Sisters his childhood friends had told him about because "so often in media and in popular culture, religious sisters get a pretty rough go of it...What often happens with my work, you get to know your subjects and you fall in love with them. And that was my case...For all the complaints I've heard about the Sisters, I've heard far more people say, 'They changed my life.'...As the years went by, I became friends [with] some of the Sisters...In fact, one of [them], Sister Martha Buser, became my spiritual director."

One of Sister Martha's pearls of wisdom in the film is, "Jesus was the only one who wanted to be human. The rest of us want to be God. We want to be in control." Insights like that kept Morgan coming back to her. He said, "In a world where everything is going at 150 miles an hour...she was this island of calm and wisdom with a sense of humor... She was pious and sweet, but she packaged that with a great sense of humor, a great sense of outrage on things in the Church and the outside world that you should be outraged about...I'm always grateful of being able to speak with her, to share my doubts, to have her be a booster when I wanted a booster, but also to be someone who would hold up a mirror and say, 'Is this really the direction you think you should go?'"

Morgan hopes that viewers are touched by his film. He concluded, "One of the things about Merton that appealed to me so much is...a lot of his work was directed to people who are—what I always would call—outside the choir. It may not be your conventional churchgoer. I would hope that the work I've done, without dumbing it down, makes a form of spirituality accessible to people...that people go, 'Oh gosh, a film about a nun or a film about a monk,' but then you can see the human dimensions and maybe relate to your own life through it."

MEMBER *Spotlight*

DINGA FAMILY REUNION

Celebrating Family, Faith, and Slovak Heritage

Submitted by Yvonne Dinga Horner, Branch 200 Member

When three generations of siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, kids, and grandkids pack up from Tennessee, Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio to meet in an off-the-beaten-path Ohio state park, you know something special is happening. This wasn't going to be just a regular vacation. It was the grand Dinga Dynasty Family Reunion! These reunions are our way of celebrating our Slovak roots and the deep connections that keep our family strong across the miles.

We've been holding family reunions for decades, beginning back in the 1990s when our parents, aunts, and uncles organized family gatherings near their hometown of Ford City, PA. We have fond memories of these casual reunions, which typically included an abundance of Slovak dishes, a bottle or two of Slivovitz, as well as a cassette player or boombox playing lively polka music. As that generation passed on, we evolved the tradition into multi-day events that are both family vacations and reunions. We now choose scenic state parks with cabin rentals and picnic facilities, making it easier to relax, reconnect, and reminisce.

Our father affectionately dubbed us "The Dinga Dynasty," a playful twist on the names of historic Chinese dynasties. Our surname, Dinga, traces back to the Považská Bystrica district of Slovakia. Our grandfather, Tomas Dinga, came to the United States in the early 1900s, married a Slovak girl named Johanna, and together they had seven children, six of whom lived on to have children and grandchildren of their own. Our grandfather was active in the Slovak community in their Pennsylvania town and was even an officer of the local Slovak Club, as well as a band member. Our dad was proud of his Slovak heritage and extended family, and we carry that pride with us today. At each reunion, we wear custom-made "Dinga Dynasty" t-shirts designed by one of our nieces, and we are all proud to be part of this ever-growing "dynasty."

With most attendees arriving on Saturday, we officially kicked off our four-day event on Sunday morning with a special 9am Mass at a small-town Catholic parish about thirty minutes from our lodge. I contacted the parish eight months earlier to arrange for the Mass to be offered for both the living and deceased members of our family. The warm welcome from the priest and deacon (and a surprising personal connection) made it feel especially meaningful.

After Mass, we returned to the lodge for lunch with pre-ordered subs, snack trays, and lots of hugs as everyone began reconnecting. We displayed photos from past reunions and handed out welcome baskets filled with helpful information, a reunion schedule, Ohio-based goodies, and small family-themed keepsakes.

Throughout the week, the cabins and surrounding park were buzzing with activity. In addition to planned group events, there were smaller, spontaneous gatherings - wine tastings, morning stretches, walks, kayaking, jet ski rides, and evening dinners hosted at different cabins. The park also offered hiking trails, swimming pools, fishing, and more.

Our main group activities included the welcome lunch, the big reunion day event, a happy hour/cookout between neighboring cabins, and even a Goetta (Ohio/German food) tasting. Even when plans and logistics changed from what we were expecting, we adapted with gratitude and some quick decision-making. It was just one more chance to work together and make memories.

Tuesday was our big reunion day, and it almost didn't go as planned. Months in advance we had rented two pavilions at a public beach for a cookout with live polka music. The day before the event we learned that the public restrooms were closed for renovation, and a heat wave was expected with temperatures climbing into the mid-90s. With more than 60 people attending, a heat wave, and no running water, we decided to look for a last-minute alternative.

Thankfully, a helpful manager found us a large indoor space at the lodge just in time. They filled the room with dining tables, and added buffet tables along the walls. We found room in the corner for the Polka band, which was a husband and wife duo. Our niece quickly ordered fried chicken to replace our grilling plans, and everyone pitched in with homemade sides, salads, and desserts. One culinary highlight was an authentic pot of Slovak goulash made by our nephew. That one dish reminded us how food connects us to our heritage and to one another.

After eating our fill, we pushed a few tables aside, and a dance floor emerged. The accordion player gave a quick polka lesson, and soon parents, grandparents, and kids were triple-stepping to "Roll Out the Barrel," "Pennsylvania Polka," and "In Heaven There Is No Beer." The classic Chicken Dance packed the compressed dance floor, and even the shyest dancers joined in. Later, the band switched to DJ mode, playing favorites from the '70s and '80s and even leading some line dances.

One of our reunion highlights is "Dinga Jeopardy," a custom trivia game featuring questions about our family history. Categories included family history, Slovak culture, classic Dad jokes, hometown memories, occupations and hobbies. It took lots of emails and collaboration to create enough questions to fill the game board, but our niece was determined to get it done! This year, we used an online Jeopardy platform with buzzers accessed through a smartphone app and automatic score keeping, adding a modern twist to our tradition. What was most touching was seeing younger family members comb through our family history books between rounds—eager to win, yes, but even more eager to learn where they came from.

We spent over seven hours together in that small room on our main reunion day, and yet there were still people who wanted to stay. Cousins and extended families, and members from all age groups lingered at tables, enjoying conversation, laughter, and stories. The sentiments left in our guestbook said it all: "Family is everything." "We're so thankful to be part of this amazing dynasty." "Thank you for this labor of love."

As Pope Francis beautifully put it, "Like the Holy Family of Nazareth, every family is part of the history of a people; it cannot exist without the generations who have gone before it."

Our reunion honored those generations, and created joyful new memories to carry us forward. We left filled with gratitude and love, and proud to be part of a family whose love spans both miles and generations.

Branch 200 members Yvonne Dinga Horner, Alana Kiedrowski, Loretta Kiedrowski, Donna Reider, Joan Lane, Mary Albers, Jeannie Morda, Andy Morda, and Maria Horner are proud members of the Dinga Dynasty. Thank you for sharing such a fun tradition with our Jednota readers.



NATIONAL FRATERNAL *Activities*

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER 2025 Photo Contest

Submitted by Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director

Life is good for our furry companions, as this year's contest entries revealed. Thanks to all who submitted their photos which ranged from beautifully composed scenes to quick action takes to portraits too adorable for words. With nearly 120 entries, the contest was very competitive, especially in the keeping cool and playing around categories, where 10 prizes could have been awarded. (Maybe next year?) The top selections were ultimately chosen for their interpretations of the four category themes.

The **Keeping Cool** category had many boating and paddle boarding entries, similar to last year's popularity of swimming pool scenes. The finalists found a variety of ways to beat the heat, from a very literal solution to a more whimsical approach. The human/pet pairs selected as finalists in the **Looking Alike** category shared notable physical characteristics, enhanced by coordinated outfits, matching accessories and similar poses. Most pet owners know even well-behaved animals can cause unexpected chaos. The **Making Mischief** finalists were caught in the act, while expressing guilt, pride, and cleverness. Finalists in the **Playing Around** category captured their pets having fun in some unexpected ways. Nothing compares to witnessing the joyful exuberance of our beloved fur babies.

We appreciate the remarkable submissions made by our members and their pets. Congratulations to the finalists who will receive these cash prizes: 1st place-\$200, 2nd place-\$150, 3rd place-\$100, and 4th place-\$50. We encourage everyone to start looking for more great photo opportunities for next year's competition.

KEEPING COOL					
	1st Place – KOBE Richard Vitkay, Branch 716	2nd Place – ALLY Gary O'Malia, Branch 5P	3rd Place – STELLA Lisa Frattaroli Medve, Branch 902	4th Place – GINGER Henry Strekal, Branch 24	
	LOOKING ALIKE				
		1st Place – TIKA Lori Titterington, Branch 86	2nd Place – REX Matthew Gourash, Branch 60	3rd Place – GENO Mary Tranchine, Branch 484	4th Place – HENRY Mason Fibbi, Branch 587
MAKING MISCHIEF					
		1st Place – STELLA Margaret Ferenchak, Branch 731	2nd Place – GUSTAV Paul Soska, Branch 24	3rd Place – BENNY Suzanne Bilicska, Branch 746	4th Place – LUNA Juliana Oost, Branch 313
	PLAYING AROUND				
		1st Place – CLAYTON Eric Valko, Branch 38	2nd Place – BEE Fran Zelenak, Branch 3P	3rd Place – MIKE Erin Dana Sterling, Branch 112	4th Place – RADEK Elizabeth South, Branch 181

SPOOKTACULAR PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST



Carve your Scariest, Funniest or Most Realistic Jack-o-Lantern for a chance to win \$100, \$75 or \$50!

Entry Deadline:

Entries must be received no later than November 10, 2025

Winners:

First, second and third place winners will be selected in each category per age group



Go to fcsu.com/events to download rules and entry forms

BRANCH, DISTRICT & REGIONAL *Activities*

Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic

Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Baptist Branch 181 of United, PA held their Annual Family Picnic at Mammoth Park on June 30, 2025. We were blessed with a beautiful Sunday to reunite with our fraternal members and guests. FCSU National Officers attending included President Ken Arendt, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer and Supreme Court Member James Bench. Lucky registered branch members won door prizes and everyone enjoyed the festivities. Thanks to all our loyal members who attended!



Branch 855 Meeting Required Jackets

Early in September, Branch 855 members gathered in the pavilion at James Day Park in Parma, OH hoping for a sunny day. While the food was hot, the weather turned a bit breezy. Thankfully, everyone was prepared, and the laughter and good company kept the chill away.

Branch 181 2025-2026 Officers



The Election of Officers of Branch 181 took place on September 6, 2025. The officers were unanimously voted to their positions for 2025-26.

(L-R) Fr. Aron Maghsoudi (Chaplain), Vicki Hricik (Recording Secretary), Brian Skwirut (Sergeant-at-Arms), Edward Mizikar (Vice President), Darlene Patty (President), and Richard Mizikar (Treasurer-Financial Secretary).

District 19 and Branch 785 Annual Picnic

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

On Sunday, September 7, 2025, District 19 and Branch 785 held their annual picnic with Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish in Norval, Ontario, on the grounds of The Queen of Peace Croatian Cathedral. The day started with a Slovak Mass followed by langose and gulas. Branch 785 was in charge of the schnitzel lunch. Activities for the children were face painting, running races, and a bouncy castle. Many thanks to Ken Arendt and Gary Matta for making the trip north and attending our event.



Longtime Branch 746 Member, Anna Matasová, Celebrates a Blessed Milestone

Submitted by Emilia Filak, Supreme Court Member, Branch 746

Our cherished and beloved Mrs. Anna Matasová, a devoted member of FCSU Branch 746 (Linden, NJ) recently celebrated her beautiful and blessed 94th birthday surrounded by her family. She is not only a caring mother, but also a loving grandmother and proud great-grandmother whose life, faith, and kindness inspire everyone who knows her.

On this special occasion, we wholeheartedly wish her continued protection from God and the loving care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dearest Mama, we deeply value all that you have done for us, and we thank you with all our hearts for your devotion, love, and wisdom with which you guide us.

May the years ahead be filled with good health, happiness, and peaceful days, surrounded by the joy of your loved ones. We look forward to many more wonderful moments and celebrations together.



Dlhoročná členka FCSU Branch 746, Anna Matasová oslavuje požehnané jubileum

Naša vzácna a milovaná pani Anna Matasová, dlhoročná členka FCSU Branch 746 - Linden, NJ oslávila v kruhu svojej rodiny krásne a požehnané 94. narodeniny. Je nielen starostlivou mamičkou, ale aj láskavou babičkou a hrdou prababičkou, ktorá svojim životom, vierou a dobrosrdečnosťou inšpiruje všetkých, ktorí ju poznajú.

Pri tejto významnej príležitosti jej zo srdca želáme, aby ju Pán Boh aj naďalej chránil a aby nad ňou Panna Mária držala svoje ochranné ruky. Drahá mamička, vážime si všetko, čo si pre nás v živote urobila, a z celej duše Ti ďakujeme za Tvoju obetavosť, lásku a múdrosť, ktorou nás sprevádzaš.

Nech Vas aj v ďalších rokoch sprevádza pevné zdravie, šťastie a pokojná staroba naplnená radosťou z prítomnosti najbližších. Tešíme sa na mnohé ďalšie spoločné chvíle a oslavy.



Slovakia DVDs for Sale for \$5

History Channel host Pat Uskert and his Slovak guide Mila Kissova take you on a visually stunning journey into Europe, from Bratislava to the High Tatra Mountains, exploring the region's history, culture, and breathtaking landscapes. For travelers and history lovers, this is a journey explores treasures in the heart of Europe. If you would like to purchase one of these DVD's, contact Sara at 800.533.6682, ext. 110.

Sponsored by District 3

Štedrý Večer

A traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner

Sunday, December 7, 2025
Christ Our Shepherd Center
Greensburg, PA

Schedule:
 2:00pm - Mass
 3:30pm - Advent & Christmas Pageant provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks
 4:30pm - Dinner

Cost:
 \$35 ages 12 and up
 \$10 ages 6 to 11
 Children 5 and under free

A limited number of tickets are available. Do not delay ordering your tickets. Reservations are taken on a first come first served basis and MUST be made by November 21, 2025 by calling Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712.

Branch 553 Quacks Up!

Submitted by Debra Speck, Branch 553 President

On September 7, Branch 553 gathered to celebrate and thank the dedicated volunteers who supported us throughout the year. Nearly 80 members and friends enjoyed a sunny afternoon picnic buffet at the Rubber Ducks game in Akron. Joining us for the festivities were Region 1 Director Tom Ivanec and his wife, Terri. The home team's victory added to the excitement, and the evening ended on a high note with a spectacular fireworks display.





Branch 746 members enjoying the Festival

47th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival with President of Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini

Written by Jane Konzelmann, Branch 716

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

The 47th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival took place on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds in East Brunswick, NJ. Thousands of participants from across the United States gathered to celebrate a day rich in Slovak culture, music, dance, and traditional cuisine.

The festival was honored by the presence of His Excellency Peter Pellegrini, President of the Slovak Republic, who delivered a warm welcome to all attendees. Joining him were several distinguished representatives of the Slovak government, including Juraj Blanár, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Martina Šimkovičová, Minister of Culture, Tomáš Taraba, Minister of the Environment, Tomáš Drucker, Minister of Education, Kamil Šaško, Minister of Health and Beatrice Szabóová, Consul General of the Slovak Republic, among other dignitaries. The Mayor of East Brunswick, Brad Cohen, also extended greetings on behalf of the township.

The day began with a Roman Catholic Mass with the main celebrant Fr. Stefan Chanas (Branch 45), after which the main program kicked off at 1:30pm. Hosted by Katarina Vizina, the program opened with remarks from Festival President Marek Šoltis, who introduced President Pellegrini. Jane Konzelmann, Vice President of the Festival, then welcomed East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen to the stage.

Numerous representatives from Slovak fraternal organizations were in attendance, including members of Jednota – The First Catholic Slovak Union, with branches from Linden, NJ (Branch 746) and New York City (Branches 45 and 716). Also in attendance were FCSU National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta; Nina Holy, Honorary Co-Chairperson (Branch 716), and Sabina Sabados, FCSU Region 1 Director (Branch 746).

Cultural performances were a highlight of the day, featuring talented Slovak youth and performers including Comenium Philadelphia, Vladko & Niki Štefanikovci and Nina Dzadik from Pennsylvania, and the Limboracik Folk Ensemble of New York. The stage also welcomed vibrant acts from Slovakia, including Noga Band and MC Erik featuring Ivana. The event concluded with an energetic performance by the Czech band Denwer.

A wide array of vendors and food vendors added to the festive atmosphere. Guests browsed traditional Slovak kroje, handmade crafts, and other unique Slovak products. Food vendors offered delicious homemade Slovak dishes such as bryndzové halušky, grilled klobása, nut rolls, poppy seed cakes, and more.

The success of the 47th Slovak Heritage Festival was made possible by the generous support of the Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (USZZ) and many private donors. Organized as a non-profit organization, the festival is led by a dedicated committee: Marek Šoltis – President; Jane Holy Konzelmann (Branch 716) – Vice President; Zuzana Barlíková – Secretary / Vendor Coordinator; Hanka Dzadiková Sherry – Treasurer; Daniel Charvat – Festival Design; Janka Charvat – Marketing Coordinator; Katarina Vizina – Program MC; and Milan Cuba, Honorary President.

The committee extends heartfelt thanks to all attendees, participants, and supporters who helped make this year's Festival a wonderful celebration of Slovak heritage.

Save the Date! Join us again for the 48th Slovak Heritage Festival on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds, East Brunswick, NJ. We look forward to seeing you there!



Joanne Tkach Polt, Branch 746 Vice President with President of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini



Eva Lysakova, Branch 716 President



Fr. Nasta, National Chaplain (Branch 857) along with Fr. Stefan Chanas (Branch 45), and members of Branches 45, 746, and 857.



Slovak Heritage Festival Committee Members



President Pellegrini with Limboracik

Milan Kobulsky Interviewed at the Slovak Heritage Festival

Milan Kobulsky, Branch 450, serves as the President of the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Ohio. While visiting the Slovak Heritage Festival in New Jersey, he was interviewed by a staff member of the Republic of Slovakia Presidential office! Go to our FCSU Financial Facebook page to watch our local celebrity in a video titled "No Place Like Home".





Show your impact—share your Fraternalism in Action event and inspire others to do the same!

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

Branch 181 Donates Baby Items to Alternatives. Yes! Ministries.

At the Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic in June, members participated in the Fraternalism in Action project by donating baby items for Alternatives. Yes Ministries in Connellsville, PA. Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary, attended the organization's event, Night for Life Gala, and presented the \$250 check from the Home Office to Executive Director, Andrea Pritts. This donation helps to fulfill the ministries Christ-centered mission of compassionately helping those facing pregnancy and providing life-affirming services that protect and enhance their lives, their children, and their families through pregnancy and beyond.



Branch 23 Showcases Art and Slavic Heritage

Submitted by Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., Branch 23 Recording Secretary

Branch 23 proudly sponsored an Art Exhibit featuring the works of our Branch President, Marian Hockycko, at the Venue of Merging Arts (VOMA) on September 16, 2025. The exhibit, held in Johnstown's Arts District, showcased Marian's beautiful paintings. Branch 23 members enjoyed a light lunch, provided by the branch, and generously contributed canned goods and household necessities to a local food pantry.

On September 19-20th, Branch 23 represented the FCSU at the 10th Annual Johnstown Slavic Festival, held at the Heritage Discovery Center in Johnstown's Cambria City. The festival celebrated Slavic culture and traditions with music, dance, and ethnic foods. Branch 23 hosted a table at the festival, and our members shared in the festivities.



Branch 855 Members are the Cat's Meow!

Branch 855 held an outdoor meeting on September 7, 2025 that included watching the Cleveland Browns game, eating a feast provided by local mom and pop shops and participating in a Fraternalism in Action project to collect items for the Euclid Beach Cat Project (EBCP). This all volunteer organization rescues feral cats/kittens, places them in foster care until permanent homes can be found, provides spay and neutering to keep the homeless cat population down and also provides surgical care for the cats in their care. They have a few special needs cats that would not have survived if not for EBCP. Branch member Kelly Shedlock, who adopted her three boys (litter mates) from this organization, helped organize this project.

When Vicky Sprouse, EBCP Director, arrived they filled the trunk of her car with in-demand items and presented her with a check for \$250 from the Home Office. She was very grateful for the donations.

Branch 587 Project Supports St. Andrew the Apostle Food Bank

Members of Branch 587, Aliquippa, PA helped to fight food insecurity in the Mon Valley by donating over \$400 of shelf stable food and personal hygiene products to the food bank which serves needy families in Monongahela, Charleroi and Donora Pennsylvania.

Our members, from the youngest to our most senior, participated by donating, organizing and delivering items to the food bank. Cereal, pasta and sauce, tuna, beans, peanut butter and jelly, pancake mix and syrup, soup, condiments, protein bars, soap, paper goods and more were among the items donated. We appreciate the FCSU's additional \$250 contribution to the food bank.



Top: It was a family effort for Branch 587 members Christopher and Sarah Fibbi. Their children Mason and Lyla were excited to help.

Left: Miles Walsh did some heavy lifting as he helped to load his grandfather's SUV to capacity.

Branch 181 Donates Funds to UPMC and St. Jude's

Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

Members attending the Branch 181 meeting on September 6th approved donations to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Children's Hospital Foundation of Pittsburgh, PA and the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Each organization received \$1000. The donation to Children's Hospital will specifically benefit the children in the Cardiology Department through The Child Life Program and Pennies from Heaven Fund. The Child Life Department provides developmental, social, and emotional support to children during their hospital stay. The Pennies from Heaven Fund helps to ease financial hardships for parents so they can stay with their children in the hospital. All donations go directly to families in need whether it is assistance with transportation, food, sibling care or other expenses. Lindsay Patty is the Clinical Leader at Children's Cardiac Intensive Care Unit there. Her husband, Robb Patty and children, Reid and Wells, are members of Branch 181.

The donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital will help to continue their mission to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. No child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.





Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the National Shrine Chapel

On Saturday, September 13, 2025, pilgrims gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our Slovak Chapel. Excitement and reverence filled the air as attendees arrived ready to partake in a day of prayer, reflection, and community.

The celebration began in the Upper Church with a warm welcome, setting the tone for a spiritually rich experience. Shortly after, pilgrims were treated to a seated overview tour of the Upper Church providing insights into the history, art, and architecture of this iconic sanctuary.

Confessions were offered in Memorial Hall, allowing participants a moment of personal reflection and spiritual renewal.

The highlight of the day commenced with a Mass celebration in the Upper Church, followed by a procession to the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows. During the procession, pilgrims offered prayers and gratitude, concluding with the Litany. Special thanks were extended to Father Nasta for organizing this meaningful pilgrimage and to Bishop Kulick for officiating the ceremonies.

The day concluded with a final blessing and the blessing of religious articles, leaving attendees uplifted and spiritually nourished. As the pilgrims departed, they carried with them the memories of a beautiful and inspiring celebration.

150th Jubilee Mass of the Catholic Church, SVD (Societas Verbi Divini)

Submitted by Paul Skuben, District 15 President

On Saturday, September 6, 2025 members of FCSU Branch 844 (Los Angeles) and District 15 had the opportunity to participate in celebration of the 150th Jubilee Mass of the Catholic Church, SVD (Societas Verbi Divini), the Latin name for the Society of the Divine Word, with our Slovak priest Fr. Pavol Sochulak, SVD.

Society of the Divine Word is an international missionary congregation of priests and brothers founded in 1875 to spread the Gospel and minister to people worldwide. Known popularly as Divine Word Missionaries or Verbites, (Verbisti in Slovak) they engage in various forms of ministry, including parish work, education, healthcare, and evangelization, serving communities in many countries.

Our priest Fr. Pavol Sochulak, SVD, is a part of this order and was a con-celebrant of the 150th Jubilee Mass at Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Riverside, CA.



Branch 855 Sponsors Cleveland Zoo Events for Their Members

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855 President

The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is a jewel in our community, offering experiences that delight and inspire visitors of all ages. This summer, Branch 855 sponsored their members' admission to the Asian Lantern Festival, where many enjoyed magical evenings surrounded by breathtaking illuminated displays. Suzanne Balak, Annie Sutilla, Barbara Sutilla, Karen Habian, Linda Sieber, Laura and Brian Lingenfield with their grandchildren Dawson, Logan, Millie and Lucas, Karin, Christian and Tim Scally, and Shannon Travise were among those who attended.



Now, the Branch officers are extending this opportunity to Branch 855 members for the zoo's Wild Winter Lights. Here's how the sponsorship works: Branch 855 members attend the event and pay for their own tickets. Then, submit a photo of yourself or your group at the event along with a receipt showing your payment. Branch 855 will reimburse members for the cost of their ticket. It's a fun way to enjoy the zoo while having your admission covered by your branch!

Branch members outside of the Cleveland area are also welcome to participate at their local zoo. Contact Barbara at 440-864-4744 for more information.

This is just one of the many benefits of membership in FCSU Financial. Gather your family, invite your friends, and plan your visit to celebrate the season in style.



Annual Slovak Vilija Dinner Sunday, December 14th at 4pm



Slovak J Club
485 Morgan Avenue
Akron, OH
\$25 Per Person

For Reservations Call 330-786-9972
After 3pm or Sign up at the Bar

Sauerkraut / Mushroom Soup • Baked Cod • Perohi • Mashed Potatoes
Oplatky & Honey • Bobalky • Kolaci • Peas • Apples & Nuts • Bread & Butter

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**All BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS
should be emailed to branch@fcsu.com**

FCSU 53RD QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION June 20-23, 2026

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

CALIFORNIA

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA

Milan Konkol, Secretary

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society will hold an annual meeting on Saturday, November 29, 2025. It will be held at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave. in Fullerton starting at 11am with an agenda of officers' reports and financial report. We will hold an Election of Branch Officers for 2026. In addition, we will hold the Election of Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will also prepare for the Slovak Christmas mass, and plan activities for next year. Lunch will be at the Olive Garden after the meeting.

CONNECTICUT

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

The St. Joseph Society will hold its annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 10am. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers and discuss the distribution of our annual donations. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Br19NovMtg
Meeting ID: 836 3453 2060
Passcode: 943532

The recipients of the John A. Zahor Scholarship are invited to join us via Zoom. The college freshmen who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Cassidy Chromczak, Ma'lena Coriano, Charles Griffis, Jet Griffis, Peter Monks, John Pollack, Megan Sherriff, and Jennifer Waters. This scholarship was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Zahor served as President of the St. Joseph Society and his commitment to the education of its young members. In addition, the recipients of the Andrew J. Imbro Grant are invited to join us via Zoom. The following college juniors who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Jenna Chicowski, Maxwell Novak, and Lauren Serdy. This grant was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Imbro served as Financial Secretary of the St. Joseph Society and his commitment to the financial support of its young members. As we are unable to award the checks in person, they will be mailed to the eligible recipients. If you have any questions, please contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our young members.

A mass will be offered for our deceased members at 8:30am on November 9th at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport.

**ELECTIONS ARE COMING! If you enjoy helping people,
consider pursuing a leadership role in your branch.**

ILLINOIS

BRANCH 6 – STREATER, IL

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

The St. Stephen's Society will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 11:30am at Good Morning restaurant, 419 E. Main St., Streator. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

All branch members are invited to attend the play *Switch Cabaret* on November 8, 2025 at 2pm at Engle Lane Theatre, 1012 Columbus Rd., Streator. Branch members are free. Non-members can purchase tickets for \$20. Call me at 815-822-8851 for tickets.

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL

John Jurcenko, President

The St. Stephen Society will have a meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 11:30am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights. Election of Branch Officers and charitable donations are on the agenda. A luncheon will follow. RSVP to Dorothy at 708-995-7378 by October 13th.

BRANCH 313 – ORLAND PARK, IL

Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary

Happy Autumn all! Branch 313 will host its second annual meeting of 2025. We welcome any Branch members to attend! Get Festive For Fall! Dress up in your favorite Fall best, a family friendly costume for Halloween or come as you are! We will be glad to have you!

The meeting will take place on October 29, 2025 at 12pm at Fox's on Wolf restaurant at 11247 W. 187th St., Mokena. The agenda will include the Election of Branch Officers. RSVP to President Marge Dickinson at 708-226-8157 by October 22, 2025. We look forward to seeing you!! Have a Blessed Holiday Season!

INDIANA

BRANCH 581 – PORTER, IN

Ann Buczek, President

The Branch will hold their meeting December 7, 2025, at noon at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave., Hobart. The agenda will include the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. In addition, we will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Upcoming year business plans will also be discussed. RSVP to Ann Buczek at 219-947-2793.

MICHIGAN

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

Our lodge will have their fall meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 2pm at the Remenar home located at 8977 S. Mason Rd. in Bannister. We will hold

the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. All members are encouraged to attend.

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President

The St. Joseph Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 1:30pm. Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30am at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights. The meeting will follow the mass in the Church Social Hall. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, 2025 Financial Report, approval of the 2026 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and FCSU. An Election of Branch Officers will be held. There will also be an Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please come enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620. I can also provide you a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date and gender.

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MI

Gary Gregoricka, President

The Saint Joseph the Guardian Society hold our meetings at Tim Hortons at 323 W. Main St., Owosso at 1pm. Our next meeting is Sunday, November 9, 2025 where we'll review past years activities and make future plans. Join us on Sunday, December 7, 2025 when we will hold the Election of Branch Officers.

NEW JERSEY

BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NJ

Susan Salko, Secretary

We will hold a meeting on Saturday, December 6, 2025. The meeting will start at 7:30pm at my house at 56 Lefke Lane in Whippany. We will discuss our summer trips and ideas for winter 2025-26.

BRANCH 290 – BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Steve Minarovich, Recording Secretary

The branch will hold a dinner meeting on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 starting at 6pm for all members. The location is Carpaccio Ristorante at 651 Bound Brook Rd., Middlesex. The agenda will include the Election of Branch Officers, membership, and branch activities. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. RSVP is required, so call or text me at 908-507-0505 by Wednesday, November 26th.

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch members living and deceased as follows: November 7th and December 5th.

**When submitting an
ARTICLE OR STORY,
please contact**

**Shannon at
editor@fcsu.com
or 800.533.6682, ext. 123**

**All deadlines are posted
at www.fcsu.com**

NEW YORK

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society will hold our annual meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 1pm after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, Election of Branch Officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša Č. 45 1KSJ v New York bude v nedeľu 30. novembra 2025 o 13:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st. Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie. Potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY

Judie Dendler, Secretary

Happy Fall! Hope all are well and enjoying the lovely autumn weather! We are having our semi-annual meeting on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 10:30am at Denny's, 1250 Front St., Binghamton. Members are free. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers and plan branch activities. Your attendance is greatly appreciated! Please RSVP by November 1st to Morgan Dendler at 607-206-7243. Hope to see you there!

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary

The St. Stephen Society will hold its second meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2025. The meeting will be held at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 E. 66th St., New York, following the conclusion of the Slovak Mass at 12:30pm. The agenda will include the 2025 financial report, an overview of branch activities throughout the year, and the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. Refreshments will be provided and all members are encouraged to attend.

OHIO

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

Mary Dubber, Treasurer

& Barbara J. Golias, Secretary

MEETING: The next meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 1pm at Burntwood Tavern, 19304 Detroit Rd., Rocky River. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. We will also

hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please RSVP to Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by October 15th. All members are welcome to attend.

PORK CHOP DINNER: Members are invited to attend the Annual Harvest Festival and Pork Chop Dinner held on Sunday, October 26, 2025 in the St. Clement's Parish Hall at 2022 Lincoln Avenue, Lakewood. Dinner will be served from 12-4pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$13 for children.

Festival tickets for Branch 1 members are free if you attend the event; the free ticket per member is not eligible for takeout. Dinner includes pork chops, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, applesauce, and cake. This family event is more than a delicious dinner. There will be a Gift Card Raffle, Grand Raffle, and Split-the-Pot drawing. Reservations are required. Call Mary Dubber at 216-228-0654 by October 15th to reserve your tickets.

VILIIJA: Members are invited to attend the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at Benedictine High School, 10501 Buckeye Rd., Cleveland. Mass is at noon with dinner following in the cafeteria. Branch 1 members are free if you attend the dinner but cannot be used for carryout orders. The regular cost is \$25 per dinner and may be purchased at this price for non-members. RSVP to Rochelle Popovich by Friday, November 8th at 216-789-6390. This is a popular event and seating is limited, so get your tickets early.

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Fran Strekal, Frat. Activities Director

Branch 24 is providing members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at Benedictine High School in Cleveland. Members may purchase a Vilija dinner at the full price of \$25 and will be reimbursed \$21 at the event. This discounted price of \$4 is for Branch 24 members only. It is non-transferable and may not be used for carryout orders. Reservations are required. Contact Fran at 216-308-1728 to RSVP by Friday, November 21st. Make checks payable to Branch 24 FCSU. This is a popular event in the area with limited seating. Order your tickets early!

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge will hold their next meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025 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.

This is a very important meeting as two elections will take place! We will hold the Election of Branch Officers; we will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Our branch currently has an estimated number of seven Delegates permitted to be seated at the convention. The Convention Delegates will work with the officers to help plan the future of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Please plan on attending this very important meeting and follow the Jednota newspaper for up-to-date convention details.

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 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

A joint meeting of Branch 259 with Branch 682 of Youngstown, OH is scheduled for 12pm on Wednesday, November 12th, 2025 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers. We will address plans for a merger of our two branches. All interested in this discussion should attend.

BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH

Carlie Peshek, Vice President

We will be having a meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers and holiday celebration. The meeting will begin at 5pm at Belleria Restaurant, 1010 Youngstown-Poland Rd. in Struthers. Hope to see all of you and God Bless!

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

Frank Woyma, President

St. Joseph the Guardian Society will hold its semi-annual meeting at 11am on Saturday, November 22, 2025. It will be held in the Community Room at the Panera restaurant located at 5090 Tiedeman Rd., Brooklyn. The agenda will

include the officers' and financial reports and any correspondence received. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers for the coming year. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Please call me with questions at 216-225-5688. All members are encouraged to attend.

We are offering Branch 450 members discounted tickets for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH. Branch 450 members may purchase tickets for just \$4 (the branch will pay \$21). Tickets for non-members may be purchased for \$25. Call Frank Woyma at 216-225-5688 to RSVP. Make checks payable to St. Joseph Society BR450 FCSU. The deadline to order tickets through our branch is Saturday, November 8th. This is a very popular event with limited seating so please reserve your tickets early.

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Debbie Speck, President

All meetings are held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan, Ave., in Akron. Our next meeting is Sunday, November 23 at 1pm. Join us for the Election of Branch Officers. Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 15 at 1pm. During that meeting, we will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Drew Hirt, President

A joint meeting of Branch 682 with Branch 259 (Struthers) is scheduled for 12pm on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers. We will address plans for a merger of our two branches. All interested in this discussion should attend.

The District 14 Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6pm. The location is Cassese's MVR, 410 North Walnut St., in Youngstown. The cost is \$33 for adults and \$20 for children 6 and under. Make checks payable to Rev. Joseph Kostik District and mail to Tom Krispinsky, 1300 St. Andrews Place NE, Warren, OH 44484. Include our branch number and number of people attending. Branch 682 will reimburse the cost for all its members in attendance. We

look forward to an enjoyable evening with our members and guests.

Additionally, our Branch meeting will take place at 6pm at the beginning of the District Annual Christmas Dinner. Because this event draws our highest attendance, the Election of Branch Officers for 2026 will be held. If you are interested in serving as a Branch officer, please contact me at drew@hirt.com or 330-565-2466.

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary

Our next branch meeting will be Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 5pm at Coaches, 3032 Center Rd, Poland. This meeting will include the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. We will also hold an Election of Branch Delegate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

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

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OH

Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

The Branch will be meeting on November 3, 2025, at 10am at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Road NE, Warren. We will review our fundraising effort for the Matthew D. Karlovic Memorial Fund and St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will be selling soup after each mass at St. Teresa Parish in Warren the weekend of November 1-2, 2025 with proceeds being donated to the Mathew D. Karlovic Memorial Fund. Branch members will also be cooking soup, packaging for sale and manning sale sites at the three churches within the parish on Saturday and Sunday. The Home Office will generously donate \$250 to this fund on our behalf.

If you need information or would like to volunteer, contact me at 330-372-1948 or hrusovskyy@embarqmail.com.

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Stephanie Sutilla, Activities Director

All members of Branch 855 are invited to join the monks of St. Andrew Abbey for a traditional Slovak Christmas Vilija dinner on December 7, 2025 at Benedictine

JEDNOTA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Playing marble
- 4 Delivery inits.
- 7 Poseidon's domain
- 10 Trash bag accessory
- 13 Freudian topic
- 14 Upholstery problem
- 15 QB's gains
- 16 Sorceress
- 17 Brisk, musically
- 19 Horse of the west
- 21 Low digits
- 22 Ball of fat
- 24 Paddle
- 25 Former English royal house
- 26 "Silas Marner" author
- 28 Gumbo pods
- 31 Potting need
- 33 Earthen pot
- 34 "You betcha!"
- 35 Soft shoe
- 37 Net-surfer's stop
- 39 Durable wood
- 40 Arrangement type
- 43 Hearty condiment
- 45 Honey maker
- 46 Modify
- 48 Brouhaha
- 49 Greek vowel
- 50 Audio effect
- 52 Cozy retreat
- 55 1993 Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver comedy
- 57 Eye drops
- 59 The Everly Brothers, e.g.
- 61 Sci-fi figures
- 63 Actor Nolte
- 64 Emerald Isle author
- 65 Bosses
- 68 Having ghosts
- 70 Intense anger
- 71 Have a tab
- 72 "___ magic!"
- 73 Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"

- 74 Walker, briefly
- 75 Switch positions
- 76 Irish Sea feeder
- 77 Tofu base

Down

- 1 Substantial
- 2 Homes with domes
- 3 Ravel classic
- 4 Joule fraction
- 5 Sad song
- 6 Artemis's twin
- 7 Representative
- 8 Dean's e-mail address ender
- 9 Mgr.'s aide
- 10 Expression of gratitude
- 11 Golfer Woosnam
- 12 Pudding ingredient
- 18 Resident of 2 Down
- 20 Chinese ideal
- 23 Perfume ingredients
- 27 Golden Horde member
- 29 Gather
- 30 "Don't ___!"
- 32 Old stories
- 36 West Pointer
- 38 Eng. prep school
- 40 Greek cheese
- 41 Puffed up, like bread
- 42 Driving necessities
- 44 Gothenburg locale
- 45 Hospital unit
- 47 Bangkok native
- 51 Fancy flower
- 53 Hotel offerings
- 54 Shipworm
- 56 Catchall abbr.
- 58 Large edible ray
- 60 Lingerie item
- 62 "Scram!"
- 65 Not square
- 66 Refinable rock
- 67 Possess
- 69 Apply

Answers can be found on Page 22

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High School, 2900 Martin Luther King Dr., Cleveland. The dinner ticket is \$25 and must be reserved by phone/text with Branch 855 President, Barbara Sutila, at 440-864-4744 or by email at fcsu855@gmail.com. Members will be free; guests must pay full price. The deadline to order (for members and non-members) is Friday, November 17th. This is a very popular event in the Cleveland area with limited seating and no sales at the door. Order your tickets early!

The branch will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 12pm. The meeting will be held at Ruma's Restaurant, 12841 State Rd., North Royalton. On the agenda will be the Election of Branch Officers for 2026 and plans for next year. A Thanksgiving party will follow that you won't want to miss! All members are invited to attend. Text 440-864-4744 or email fcsu855@gmail.com Barbara Sutila to RSVP by November 14th. Guests are invited to join us at a cost of \$25 payable to FCSU Branch 855.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We are fortunate to gather for food with our fraternal friends but there are those who have trouble putting a meal on the table. Our FIA project for this meeting will be collecting non-perishable food for the Parma Hunger Center. Please be generous in the spirit of the holidays. "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord."

PENNSYLVANIA

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Linda Collins, Secretary

The St. Michael the Archangel Society will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7pm at Longhorn Steakhouse in McCandless Crossing, 9150 Covenant Ave., Pittsburgh. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers for the coming year. Ideas for upcoming activities will also be considered. RSVP to 412-266-2119 or lindaco243@gmail.com.

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PA

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Evangelist Society will hold a meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 12:15pm at Tony's Pizzeria, 1117 Main St, Pittston. Pizza luncheon will be provided. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business, activities and the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch

Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Marion Rubino, President, by November 20th at 570-693-0399.

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PA

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 9am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St., Ramey. Election of Branch Officers will be held.

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

The branch will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 1pm at the Greystone Family Restaurant on Theater Drive in Richland. Lunch will be included. Please arrive 15 minutes early to order your meal. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers. All members are encouraged to attend. Contact me with questions at 814-254-2532.

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PA

Julie Perla, Secretary

The branch will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at BRAVO! Cucina Italiana at 250 W. Bridge St., West Homestead at 1pm. On the agenda will be officers' reports, upcoming events and the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold an Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. All members are urged to attend.

BRANCH 108 – CONNELLSVILLE, PA

Dolores M. Kocis, President

St. John the Apostle Society will hold a meeting for members on October 23, 2025 at the Double Dragon, 142 N. Pittsburgh St., Connellsville at 1:30pm. Members will be asked to bring their ideas and a monetary donation toward a future branch fraternal activity. RSVP to Branch.Oneoeight@mail.com.

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PA

Matthew Sterling, Secretary

St. John the Baptist will hold its annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at noon. The agenda will include officers' reports and new business. We

will hold the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. In addition, we will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 by December 1st for further information.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Branch112

Meeting ID: 858 2166 3663

Passcode: 735052

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

The St. Wendelin Society will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 5:30pm at Bogey's Restaurant, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown. Officers' reports, branch activities, charitable donations and upcoming FCSU events will be discussed. The Election of Branch Officers will take place at this meeting. Members and guests are invited to attend. Call me to RSVP at 724-437-4983.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We are participating in an FIA initiative with our branch members to collect diapers and wipes at our next branch meeting. These items will be given to the Ladies of Charity Children's Closet in Uniontown. This organization provides support for local families giving new or gently used clothing, baby items and toys. Our branch contributions, as well as a generous donation of \$250 from the Home Office, will aid the Ladies of Charity USA assist more people in our community.

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA

Barb Patula, Secretary

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 1pm at Sharkey's Café, 3960 Lincoln Highway, Latrobe. The Election of Branch Officers will be held and lunch will be provided by the branch.

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Vicki Schaub, Secretary

Please join us at our regular Board Meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is November 6, 2025. The meeting will be held at the Slovak CU at 910 6th Ave., Ford City, PA. The Board meeting starts at 7pm. All other members will be called in at approximately 7:20pm. We will have the nomination of officers at this meeting. We will hold the Election of Officers on December 4, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

BRANCH 213 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Anita Nixon, President

St. Michael the Archangel will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 1pm. It will be held at 306 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh. The meeting may also be accessed via phone.

The agenda will include Election of Branch Officers for 2026, Officer's Reports, fraternal activities, general branch business, and an overview of this year's activities and charitable donations. We will also discuss any new business, upcoming branch and FCSU activities, and ways to increase our membership. Meeting dates for the upcoming year will also be selected. Contact Anita Nixon at weaz1958@aol.com.

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

Margaret A. Nasta, President

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 1pm at Tillie's Restaurant, 308 36th St., McKeesport. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. An Election of Branch

Officers for 2026 will be held. In addition, an Election of Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will be held. Meeting dates for 2026 will be approved.

**BRANCH 320
ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA**

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

Welcome to Fall! Branch 320 will be having their Fall meeting on November 30, 2025, at 1pm at the home of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Dr. in Rostraver Twp. There will be an Election of Officers for the 2026 term. We will discuss the 53rd Quadrennial Convention and delegate duties. RSVP to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788 by November 20th.

It's time to think Christmas. Our annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 7 at 1pm. It will be held at LaEdas at 1723 Grand Blvd. in Monessen. There will be no charge for members. Non-members may attend for \$20 each. RSVP by November 23 to Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: At our Christmas luncheon, Bruce Higginbotham will be coordinating a canned food drive for the St. John XXIII Interfaith Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church (Finleyville). Each donor will receive a chance to win a special gift. The Home Office will generously send a check for \$250 to the food bank.

Frances Tarquinio (Secretary/Treasurer) is proud to announce her nephew, Joseph Tarquinio, was selected to receive honors from the Catholic Charities as a 2025 Helping Hands Honoree. Joseph found his calling in God's faith with work at the Maria House in Erie. Branch 320 would like to thank him for his dedication in God's name to serve.

Mary Anne Higginbotham (President) would like to thank District 12 and the Wildthings for an amazing baseball outing. Branch 320 and Branch 670 members were seen renewing old friendships and making new ones. A special thanks to Joseph Tarquinio (District 12 Vice-President) and Maureen Massifare (District 12 Treasurer) for going above and beyond with District 12.

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

St. Joseph Society will hold a meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at Jamie Lynn's Cafe, 1618 Georges Fairchance Rd., Smithfield at 12pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Donations for Christmas and branch business will be discussed. Our members age 16 and under will receive Christmas gifts again around the beginning of December. Anyone interested in helping, please call Patty Speshock at 724-564-5764.

Now is the time to update any changes of address. Please call Kathryn Baranek at 724-569-1006 if you are planning on attending our meeting or any address changes. All members are welcome to attend. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed and Merry Christmas.

BRANCH 372 – BEVERDALE, PA

Ruth Ann Kramer Gerko, Recording Secretary

The branch will have their fall meeting on October 26, 2025 at St. Bartholomew Church Hall, 185 Church Hill Rd., Wilmore

<p>SLOVAK J CLUB 485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH *RSVP to 330-786-9972</p>	
<p>OCTOBER</p>	
Oct. 11	OSU vs. Illinois - TBD
Oct. 12	Browns vs. Steelers - 1pm
Oct. 15	Hot Turkey Dinner - 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIRED
Oct. 18	OSU vs. Wisconsin - TBD
Oct. 19	Browns vs. Dolphins - 1pm
Oct. 26	Breakfast Buffet 9-11:45am \$12 - All You Can Eat!
Oct. 26	Browns vs. Patriots - 1pm
Oct. 31	Halloween Costume Party 6pm - Food & Music RSVP Requested
<p>NOVEMBER</p>	
Nov. 5	Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-7pm
Nov. 8	OSU vs. Purdue - TBD
Nov. 9	Browns vs. Jets - 1pm
Nov. 15	125 Club Dinner / Drawing - Side Boards @ 5pm Dinner @ 6pm Raffle to follow
Nov. 15	OSU vs. UCLA - TBD
Nov. 16	Browns vs. Ravens - 4:25pm
Nov. 19	Pork Chop Dinner - 4:30-6:30pm *RSVP REQUIRED
Nov. 22	OSU vs. Rutgers - TBD
Nov. 23	Browns vs. Raiders - 4:05pm
Nov. 26	Scotch Doubles - 6pm
Nov. 29	OSU vs. Michigan - NOON Tailgating begins @ 9am
Nov. 30	Breakfast Buffet 9-11:45am \$12 - All You Can Eat!
Nov. 30	Browns vs. 49ers - 1pm
<p>DECEMBER</p>	
Dec. 3	Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-7pm
Dec. 6	Children's Christmas Party & Bowling with Santa
Dec. 7	Browns vs. Titans - 1pm
Dec. 14	Christmas Vilija Dinner - 4pm

directly following the District 7 meeting at 2:30pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers for next year. Please contact me at 814-533-1826 with questions.

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, President

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2025. Officers and members will gather at 12:30pm in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore.

The agenda will include a report by the Branch officers and a report of our Branch Picnic. We will also discuss future branch activities, donations, and the Annual Report for 2025. Information from the Home Office will be disseminated. The Election of Branch Officers for 2026 will be held.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend. Please contact the Branch President at 570-344-3854 to confirm your attendance and to allow for adequate food and beverage arrangements.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai is Branch President. Other officers include Michael J. Czankner, Vice President; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Treasurer; Laura C. Christianson, Recording Secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary.

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

Kirstin Meyer, President

The George Onda (District 3) Štedrý Večer will be held on December 7, 2025. (See ad on page 10) We're happy to offer Branch 393 members discounted tickets for \$10 for adults and free for children! These tickets are limited, so contact Eileen Myers at 724-539-2764 by November 1st to order.

Branch 393 will hold their Christmas dinner and meeting December 14th at Gianelli's II at 4816 SR 30 East Charter Oak, Greensburg beginning at 5:30pm. We will hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention, discuss delegate duties, potential proposed changes to the bylaws, and general updates. Members are encouraged to bring their family to this Christmas gathering. RSVP to Eileen Myers at 724-539-2764 by December 1st.

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA

Karen Greggs, Treasurer

St. Anthony of Padua invites all members to our annual meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at 1223 Wysocki Ave., North Apollo. This meeting will include the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. RSVP to kmfroncek@yahoo.com by October 13th. Dinner will follow the meeting at a location to be determined.

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

Geraldine Buchheit, Rec. Secretary

The SS. Peter and Paul Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 1:30pm at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown. An Election of Branch Officers will be held. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. RSVP by December 1st to 724-425-2576.

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PA

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

St. Joseph Society will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 29, 2025 at 1:30pm at the Eat 'n Park Restaurant at 2301 Rt. 286 South in Indiana. The agenda

will include the Election of Branch Officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, membership, and general branch and business issues. We will also discuss the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

We wish our members, families and friends a beautiful Fall Season, a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PA

Joanne Fibbi, President

Branch 587 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 2pm at the home of President Joanne Fibbi at 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. New FIA projects will be reviewed. If you are interested in representing our branch as a Delegate to the convention, please email Joanne Fibbi at jfibbi@gmail.com.

Following the annual meeting, please join us for our Branch Christmas party. We will share a holiday buffet, games, music, door prizes and gifts for the kids. This year, we will have a Cookie Exchange. Each member is asked to bring three dozen of their favorite homemade Christmas treats to share. If you are unable to bake, let us know and we will assist you. RSVP for the Annual Meeting and Christmas Party to jfibbi@gmail.com or 412-953-4721 by November 21st.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Thanks to our members for their generous food and personal care donations to St. Andrew the Apostle Food Bank, in Monongahela, Charleroi and Donora, PA. Our next FIA project is in support of the St. Vincent DePaul Society Winter Coat Drive (Our Lady of Fatima Church, 2270 Brodhead Rd., Aliquippa, PA). Members are asked to donate new or gently worn/clean coats October 4th through November 4th. Contact Al Valo at 724-375-2287 to arrange donation drop offs at 1385 Brodhead Rd., Aliquippa. Volunteers will help with sorting and distribution of coats at Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall in November (dates TBD). Email Mary Ann Gillooly at mag15001@yahoo.com for dates and times to help.

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 11:30am at Bill's Golfland, 210 Bills Ln., Belle Vernon. It will include the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. If you are unable to attend in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. Contact branch670secretary@gmail.com one day in advance for the Zoom link.

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA

Monica Fabian, Secretary

On Sunday, November 9, 2025, the Holy Trinity Society will hold their annual meeting. It will convene at 1pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church located at 4456 Main St., Egypt. The agenda will include the Election of Branch Officers for 2026. A luncheon will follow the meeting. We welcome all of our members to join us. Fraternal Sokol Group Assembly 255 will be joining us.

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

Monica Boone, President

The branch will attend the Cement City House Tour at the Smog Museum, 595 McKean Ave., Donora on October 18, 2025

at noon. There is no cost for members and those attending will be given \$5 towards lunch after the event. Non-members are responsible for their own costs including the \$15 tour and lunch. Reservations are required.

The next branch meeting will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 10:30am at Armandos 583 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi. The branch will hold the Election of Branch Officers. An Election of the Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will also be held. Lunch will be provided. The branch will also discuss activities for 2026. RSVP to FCSUBranch853@gmail.com for seating count.

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

Anthony Nasta, Recording Secretary

The St. Michael the Archangel Society will hold its next meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom. The link is tinyurl.com/Branch857-1125.

Due to a change in plans, our annual meeting will now be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 1:15pm at The IHM Center - Our Lady of Grace Parish, 338 Hulmeville Rd. in Pennel. We will hold the Election of Officers for 2026. We will also hold the Election of Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

WISCONSIN

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Mike Novak, President

Please join us for our Christmas Party on December 6, 2025 at 4pm. Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal and beverages. The meeting location is Bandero County Wood Grill, N96W16865, Cumberland Court, Menomonee Falls. (Highway 41 North and County Q Exit). Please call me at 414-445-5382 to RSVP by November 28th. You MUST CONFIRM.

CANADA

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2pm. It will be at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. We will hold the Election of Branch Officers and review the past year. We will also hold the Election of Branch Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please RSVP to Milan Zoldak at 416-565-3960.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 2 – REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT – IL, IN, WI

Paul Chismar, President

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at the Missionary Sister of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147th St., Oak Forest, IL. There will be socializing and refreshments at 1:30pm with the meeting beginning at 2pm. We will hold the Election of District Officers as well as the Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please bring a gift for the raffle. RSVP to Dorothy Jurcenko at 708-995-7378.

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – PA

Kirstin Meyer, Recording Secretary

District 3 will be sponsoring a Štedrý Večer, a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner, on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, PA.

Schedule:	2pm	Mass
	3:30pm	Advent & Christmas Pageant provided by the Pittsburgh Slovakians
	4:30pm	Dinner

Cost: \$35 (ages 12+) / \$10 (ages 6-11) / Free (Children under 6)

A limited number of tickets available. Do not delay ordering your tickets as this event routinely sells out. Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis and MUST be made by November 21st by calling Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712.

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR. RURA DISTRICT – NJ

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

The next semi-annual meeting of the District will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 1pm. Branch 290 will host the luncheon meeting at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 or via email (minarovich@hotmail.com) by October 17th. We will hold the Election of District Officers for 2026 as well discuss plans and activities for next year. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Members are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The FCSU Home Office will kindly donate \$250 to the organization on behalf of the District.

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT – MI

Joseph C. Rimarcik, District Secretary

The District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at SS. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church at 4123 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights at 1:30pm. No lunch will be served. On the agenda will be officers' reports and new business which includes the 2026 financial budget. We will hold the Election of District Officers. We will also hold the Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please remember, a Branch Delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to qualify for their stipend.

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT – PA*Margaret A. Nasta, Recording Secretary*

Branch 276 will host the Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 1pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Street Ext., West Mifflin. Please RSVP to manasta@verizon.net by November 9th. The agenda will include a discussion of proposed changes to the district dues policy, nomination and Election of Officers for 2026 and nominations and Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: Meets at 7pm on first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. November: Slovak Pastries; December: Show & Tell. WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts other events. Become a member to get the newsletter wpscaph@gmail.com.
- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 2nd from 12 to 4pm. Performers, vendors, food - free admission.
- NSS - Christmas Around the World: Saturday, November 29th from 11 to 4pm. Food, crafts, photo with St. Nick - free admission. Really folks, if you haven't seen the animated Nativity display at the museum, you should come on down.
- 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. Tune in to the very informative Zoom meetings hosted by the Home Office. Keep your beneficiaries up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms are available at www.FCSU.com.

DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – PA*Mary Kuzilla, Secretary*

District 7 will hold their next meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 1pm at St. Bartholomew Church Hall, 185 Church Hill Rd., Wilmore. A luncheon will be served by Rita's restaurant. We will hold the Election of District Officers. All members are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

DISTRICT 8 – REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PA, NC*Jo Austin, Secretary*

We will hold our semi-annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 1pm. We will hold the Election of District Officers. We will also hold the Election of our District Delegate and District Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/D8Meeting • Meeting ID: 811 4127 0822 • Passcode: 138538

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – PA*Rose Roskovensky, Treasurer*

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 1pm at Dairy Queen, 575 W. Main St., Uniontown. We will hold an Election of District Officers. We will also hold the Election of our District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We will be collecting items for Mary House Inc. of Uniontown. Their mission is to help women who are transitioning from homelessness, drug addiction or other difficult circumstances. The home welcomes new blankets, household cleaning and personal care items. The Home Office will donate \$250 to the organization on our behalf. If you would like to arrange a donation pickup or have questions, contact me at 304-266-8921 or President Patty Speshock at 724-317-3763.

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT*Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary*

The annual meeting of Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held at the CU Club, 914 6th Ave., Ford City, PA. We will hold the Election of District Officers. We will also discuss upcoming events and making initial plans for 2026. A light supper will follow. We hope to see all of you there!

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR. HLINKA DISTRICT – PA*Monica Boone, Recording Secretary*

The Monsignor Hlinka District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 1pm at Bills Golfland, 210 Bills Lane, Belle Vernon. The Election of District Officers will be held. The Election of District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will also be held. The District will have the annual Memorial Service for deceased members and plan activities for 2026.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: The District will collect food items for the St. Andrew the Apostle Food Bank, which is located in the district's communities of Charleroi, Donora and Monongahela, PA. As the members are being asked to be as generous as their situation allows, the Home Office will generously donate \$250 to St. Andrew the Apostle on our behalf.

Hlinka District members are urged to attend the November meeting. Questions on the meeting can be directed to me at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com.

DISTRICT 14 – REV. JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – OH, PA*Jacqueline Bobby, Recording Secretary*

The Rev. Joseph Kostik District will hold a meeting on November 11, 2025 at 6pm at the Fireplace, 2075 East Western Reserve Rd, Poland, OH. We will hold an Election of District Officers. We will also hold the Election of our District Delegate and Alternate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Hope to see you there.

The district will hold a short meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6pm. It will be followed by our annual Christmas party on at Cassese's MVR located at 410 North Walnut St. in Youngstown, OH. The cost is \$33 for adults and \$20 for children 6 and under.

Reservations are required and must be paid by November 25th. Make checks payable to Rev. Joseph Kostik District and mail to Tom Krispinsky, 1300 St. Andrews Place NE, Warren, OH 44484. Include your branch number and amount of people attending. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with our members and guests.

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT – AR, CA, KS, MN, OR, WA*Paul Skuben, President*

Our Annual Meeting is on Saturday, November 29, 2025 at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. The meeting will start at 11am with an agenda of officers' reports and financial report. We will have the Election of Officers for 2026. We will also hold the Election of our District Delegate and Alternate to the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will prepare for the Slovak Christmas mass, and plan activities for next year. All branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent annual meeting. Lunch will be at the Olive Garden after the meeting.

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NY*Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary*

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 1pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church at 411 E. 66th St. in New York City. The agenda will include Election of District Officers, financial report updates and discussion of District 16 activities for upcoming year. Refreshments will be served afterward. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Renáta Jurášiová-Vasil', pokladníčka

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že ročná schôdza Okresu č. 16 – Mons. Štefana Krasulu sa uskutoční v New Yorku v nedeľu 19.októbra, 2025 o 13:00 hodine po svätej omši na fare slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street a 1st Avenue, New York City. Na schôdzi zvolíme funkcionárov, prejdeme plán činnosti na budúce obdobie a taktiež finančnú správu. Po schôdzi bude malé občerstvenie. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

DISTRICT 17 – SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – NY, PA*Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary*

The Saints Cyril and Methodius District will conduct its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, October 25, 2025. District members will gather at The Cafe, 1120 PA-315, Plains, PA. Lunch will be served at 12:30pm with a business meeting convening at 1:30pm. On the agenda is the Election of District Officers for 2026. All branch members are encouraged to attend.

This is an important meeting as we will review past activities including the Railriders baseball game, Knoebels, and the pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The 53rd Quadrennial Convention and other future programs will be discussed. Attendees will enjoy lunch and a time to socialize.

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT – CANADA*Anne Mitro, Secretary*

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. We will hold the Election of District Officers and review the past year. We will also hold the Election of District Delegate for the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111.

Sponsored by: Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey,
the Slovak Institute and Library of Cleveland
and Cleveland Slovak Radio and Cultural Club



Slovenská Viliya
Slovak Christmas Eve Supper
Sunday, December 7, 2025

**Abbey Church and
Benedictine High School**
12pm (Noon) Mass with Dinner Following

\$25 for full meal – Tickets are advance sales only
Tickets WILL NOT be available at the door

Please send check or money order along
with a self-addressed envelope made out to:
St. Andrew Abbey Viliya
10510 Buckeye Road • Cleveland, OH 44104

Your tickets will be mailed out to you.
Ticket orders must be received by Tuesday, November 25, 2025

For more information, please call 216-721-5300 ext. 100
(Monday through Friday, 8am until 3pm)

FCSU Sponsored Slovak Raffle • Ralph Szubski, Accordion Man • Lučina Slovak
Folk Ensemble • Slovak Christmas Cards and Oplatky available for purchase.

Branches 1, 24, 450 & 855 – See Announcements for Discounted Tickets

FCSU Search-A-Word

OCTOBER Word List

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

HALLOWEEN HNEDÁ (Brown)
COBWEBS JABLKÁ (Apples)
PUMPKIN ŽALUDE (Acorns)
FOREST KOSTÝM (Costume)
TRAILS ORANŽOVÁ (Orange)
CIDER STRAŠIAK (Scarecrow)



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

Search-A-Word Rules

Five monthly winners will receive \$50!

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

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by November 25, 2025.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

August Puzzle Winners

Andrea Bednar (Branch 484)

Robert Capuano (Branch 24)

Edward Hilla (Branch 173)

Michael Kunec (Branch 173)

Margaret Thomas (Branch 228)

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

FRANTastic Cuisine

BY FRAN STREKAL



HOLUBKY

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 lbs ground beef | 2 lbs ground pork |
| 1 tsp Garlic Powder | 1 tsp Onion Powder |
| 1 tsp sweet paprika | 1 ½ tsp salt |
| 1 ¼ tsp sugar | ½ tsp black pepper |
| ½ cup grated onion | 2 cups of cooked rice |
| 2 cloves of grated garlic | 2 heads of cabbage |
| 24 oz tomato sauce | |
| 45 oz crushed tomatoes | |
| 28 oz diced tomatoes | |
| 1 ½ tsp Worcestershire sauce | |
| 20.5 oz condensed tomato soup | |

This should yield a big batch for a roasting pan, so it's perfect for feeding a crowd or for leftovers!

1. Prepare the cabbage:

Carefully remove the leaves from a head of cabbage, blanch them in boiling water for a few minutes until they soften, then set aside to cool. If you have a large cabbage, you'll need about 18-20 leaves.

2. Prepare the filling:

In a large mixing bowl, combine the ground beef and ground pork. Add the garlic powder, onion powder,

sweet paprika, sugar, salt, black pepper, and Worcestershire sauce to the meat mixture. Grate the onion and garlic, then add them to the meat mixture as well. Stir in the cooked rice and mix everything together until it's well combined.

3. Stuff the cabbage leaves:

Take a cabbage leaf and place a spoonful of the meat mixture in the center of the leaf. Fold in the sides of the leaf and roll it tightly to form

a neat bundle. Repeat for all the leaves.

4. Prepare the sauce:

In a large saucepan or mixing bowl, combine the tomato sauce, crushed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, and condensed tomato soup. Stir until all the ingredients are well combined, then adjust the seasoning with a bit of salt or sugar to taste.

5. Assemble the dish:

In a large roasting pan, layer the stuffed cabbage rolls, placing them seam-side down to help them stay rolled. Pour the tomato mixture over the cabbage rolls, making sure they're all covered. If needed, add a little water to ensure the cabbage rolls are mostly submerged.

6. Bake:

Cover the pan with aluminum foil and bake at 350°F (175°C) for about 2-2.5 hours. Check occasionally to ensure the rolls are simmering in the sauce and adjust the heat if necessary.

7. Serve:

After baking, let the Holubky rest for a few minutes before serving. The sauce will have thickened, and the cabbage rolls will be flavorful and tender.



St. Andrew Abbey Christmas Sale

Oplátky Wafers

Price: \$1 each
 Shipping: \$5

Slovak Christmas Cards

Price: \$10 for 10
 Shipping: \$5

Make checks payable to:
Slovak Institute

Mail checks to:
 Slovak Institute
 c/o St. Andrew Abbey
 10510 Buckeye Road
 Cleveland, OH 44104

For more information please call:
 216-721-5300 ext. 100



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 sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
001P	David Lucas	553K	Mary Ann McGowan
023K	Deborah Shaffer	553K	Ronald Tipul
023K	Paul Margic	682K	Michael Roberts
024K	Julian Mindzora	682K	Robert S. Bernard
038K	Bonnita H. Danna	716K	Robert P. Kralick
038K	Raymond E. Blasko	731K	Carol Stewart
040K	Noreen Wheeler	746K	Margaret Kirsch
166K	John Zurenda	746K	Nancy Ann Apito
181K	Mark A. Stinebiser	764K	Ronald J. Deplacito
199K	John Gerard Nalevanko	831K	Edward J. Gernat
254K	Jonella J. Whittle	831K	Rosemarie Kuczynski
292K	Agnes Zock	844K	Bernard Ballock
313K	Michael A. Holub	857K	David R. Kurtz
320K	Joseph A. Plazak	857K	Robert E. Miklos
367K	Anna Marie Fleming	914K	Yoko Letizio
367K	Beatrice Kurjanowicz	916K	Lawrence E. Ballerine
367K	Margaret Popernak	921K	Margaret S. Jocelyn
382K	Joseph Anthony Samol	924K	James J. Conner
410K	Alice Mesaros	924K	Paul C. Kratzer
410K	Robert J. Babuscak	924K	Robert A. Reed
419K	Elmer Hanichak	924K	Lucy E. Crook
419K	Kimberly Krulack		
484K	Linda D. Kanyan		
543K	Kathryn Remar		

** Processed in the month of
September 2025*

MEMBER Spotlight



Do you have...

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

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

FEEL FREE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU THINK WOULD MAKE A GOOD STORY!

email_editor@fcsu.com

Annuity Designed for Your Goals

Education, Career, and Retirement



Effective 9/1-12/31, 2025

8-Year Flex Product:

- 1st year: 7% guaranteed
- 2nd year: Based on current flex rate (4.50%)
- Minimum deposit \$500
- NO Hidden Fees

- \$600M in Assets
- Solvency Ratio 110%
- FCSU Financial® Founded in 1890
- Governed and Regulated by the ODI

CALL US AT
800.533.6682

Branch 855 Hosts Ice Cream Social

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855 President

In August, Branch 855 members gathered at a local Dairy Queen to cool off with a frozen treat! Everyone who attended received a \$15 gift card to enjoy however they liked. With perfect summer weather and plenty of smiles, it was a sweet way to start the weekend together.




News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

We are proud to announce our collaboration with Global Slovakia, allowing us to share biographies from their book *Super Slováci, 50 Slovákov, Ktorí Zmenili Svet (Super Slovaks, 50 Slovaks Who Changed the World)*. The series will bring to life remarkable men and women who shaped Slovakia's history and continue to inspire us today. Who are the Super Slovaks? They are courageous leaders, brilliant scientists, gifted artists, and everyday people who changed the course of history. Each story is an opportunity to reflect on the power of individual choices and the lasting impact they can have on the world. By sharing these bilingual stories in Slovak and English, FCSU celebrates our heritage and offers an opportunity to connect across generations.

We invite you to follow along in the coming issues and be inspired by Slovakia's talented, inventive, and courageous sons and daughters. Slovakia's history is full of reasons to be proud. Through *Super Slováci*, we honor our roots and celebrate the extraordinary people who remind us that even from a small nation, greatness can shine brightly. Slovakia's history is long, dramatic, and full of reasons to be proud. Through these stories, we celebrate a nation whose people, time and again, have proven themselves brave, inventive, and extraordinary.

SUPER SLOVÁCI Gerta Vrbová 1926 - 2020

Changed the world by showing the power of courage

On a warm autumn day in September 1939, 12-year-old Gerta set off for the first day of the new school year. As she arrived at school, Gerta found several of her classmates standing outside the closed gate. On the gate hung a sign saying, "Jews and Czechs are excluded from the school." Gerta banged on the school gate and shouted to be allowed in but no one came to her rescue. No one came to open the door.

This was at the start of the Second World War and Czechoslovakia fell apart. A new government that cooperated with Hitler had taken control of Slovakia and changed many laws, including one that stated Jewish children like Gerta could no longer get an education.

Next, this government decided that Gerta's family could not keep their shop in Trnava. This was devastating to Gerta and her parents. The shop was their livelihood, their joy, their everything. But this was just the beginning...

Some months later, a friend warned Gerta that the police were coming to take all the Jewish people into a prison camp. Gerta's family decided to take a big risk and escape. They drove south from Trnava and crept across the border into Hungary at night.

Gerta and her family spent the next few years hiding from the police in Hungary and in Slovakia. She often had to make up stories to fool the police and pretend she was somebody else. Eventually she was caught and taken to the Gestapo headquarters in Bratislava. But the tenacious Gerta escaped by jumping out of a window. She then began to meet other escapees and help them.

After the war, Gerta continued her education which had been unfairly taken from her at the age of 12. She not only caught up, but academically flourished. Gerta studied science at Prague University, before moving to London in 1959 where she became a Professor of Biology. Great spirits and brave hearts do not give up easily.

Zmenila svet silou odvahy

Jedného teplého jesenného dňa v septembri 1939 sa dvanásťročná Gerta tešila na prvý deň nového školského roka. Keď však prišla do školy, pred zavretou bránou našla niekoľko spolužiakov. Na dverách visel nápis: „Židia a Česi sú zo školy vylúčení“. Gerta zabúchala na bránu, ale nikto sa neozval a nikto neprišiel otvoriť.

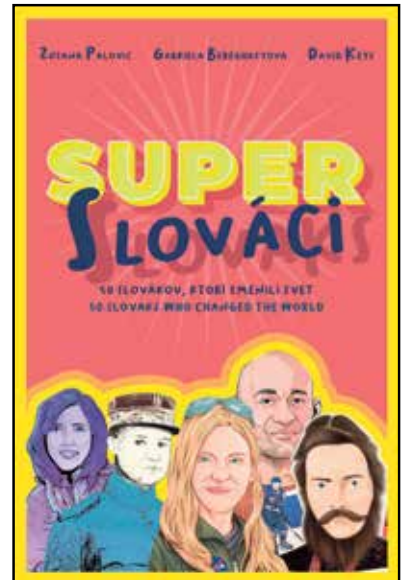
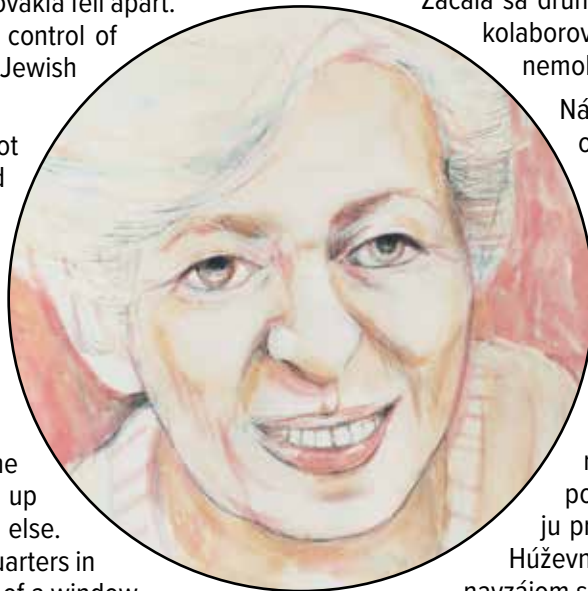
Začala sa druhá svetová vojna a Československo sa rozpadlo. Nová vláda kolaborovala s Hitlerom a začala meniť zákony. Židovské deti ako Gerta nemohli viac chodiť do školy.

Následne táto vláda rozhodla, že Gertina rodina sa musí vzdať obchodu, ktorý mala v Trnave. Táto správa Gertu a jej rodičov veľmi zasiahla. Obchod bol ich živobytím, radosťou. Bol všetkým, čo mali. Ale to bol, žiaľ, ešte len začiatok.

O niekoľko mesiacov kamaráti Gerte povedali, že polícia odvádza všetkých židov do väzenských táborov. Gertina rodina sa rozhodla podstúpiť riziko a pred deportáciami ujsť. Vybrali sa smerom na juh od Trnavy a v noci tajne prekročili hranice s Maďarskom.

Gerta a jej rodina sa museli pred políciou skrývať niekoľko rokov. Mnohokrát si bola nútená vymyslieť príbehy, aby políciu zmiatla a neprezradila svoju skutočnú identitu. Nakoniec ju predsa len chytili a odviekli na centrálu Gestapa v Bratislave. Húževnatá Gerta ušla cez okno. Stretla ďalších židov na úteku a navzájom si pomáhali.

Po vojne Gerta pokračovala vo vzdelaní, ktoré jej nacisti už ako dvanásťročnej upreli. Nielen, že dobehla všetko čo zameškala, ale navyše slávila jeden akademický úspech za druhým. Začala študovať prírodné vedy v Prahe, potom sa v roku 1959 odsťahovala do Londýna, kde sa stala profesorkou biológie. Veľké srdce a silného ducha nemožno len tak ľahko zlomiť!



Our Museum of Emigration

Submitted by Juraj Javor, 12 years old

Most of our family emigrated to North America. I visited America in September with my dad. We went to see the First Catholic Slovak Union, I really liked it there. My dad even wrote a book about the First Catholic Slovak Union, which he is now translating into English. When we returned, we organized a Huľky Fest with a lot of people in attendance. I am very fascinated by how those people could have crossed such a big pond by boat all the way to America. In the archive we have a story about how one man brought a tractor from America a hundred years ago. It is a Fordson F from 1924. He then buried it in the ground before the communists, and his grandson found it and donated it to the museum.

A large part of the Museum's collection consists of things from the First Catholic Slovak Union. My favorite part of the museum is about Bon Jovi, who is of Slovak origin. We also have a photo of him there. During the summer we observed the sun in our observatory, and spots were visible on it. The observatory was built in honor of the last man to walk on the moon, Eugene Cernan, who was also of Slovak origin.

I am very pleased with the interest of American Slovaks in their history. At the museum, we are now working to save stained glass windows from extinct Slovak churches in North America. We will use them to create an Altar of Slovak Emigration. We would like to thank the leadership of the FCSU for their support.



Naše múzeum vystáhovalectva

Submitted by Juraj Javor, 12 rokov

Väčšina našej rodiny sa vystáhovala do severnej Ameriky. Ja som navštívil Ameriku v septembri s ockom. Boli sme pozrieť Prvú Katolícku Slovenskú Jednotu, veľmi sa mi tam páčilo. Môj ocko dokonca napísal o Jednote knihu, ktorú teraz prekladá do angličtiny. Keď sme sa vrátili, usporiadali sme Huľky fest kde prišlo veľmi veľa ľudí. Veľmi ma fascinuje ako tí ľudia mohli preplávať z loďou takú veľkú mláku až do Ameriky. V archive máme príbeh ako si jeden pán pred sto rokmi priniesol traktor z Ameriky. Je to Fordson F z roku 1924. Pred komunistami ho potom zakopal v zemi a našiel ho až jeho vnuk a daroval ho do múzea.

Veľkú časť zbierky Múzea tvoria veci z Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Moja obľúbená časť múzea je o Bon Jovi, ktorý ma slovensky pôvod. Máme tam aj jeho fotku. Cez leto sme pozorovali slnko v našom observatóriu, bolo na ňom vidno aj škvrny. Observatórium bolo postavené na počesť posledného človeka chodiaceho po mesiaci Eugena Cernana ktorý mal tiež slovenský pôvod.

Veľmi ma teší záujem amerických Slovákov o svoju históriu. V múzeu teraz pracujeme na záchrane vitráží zo zaniknutých slovenských kostolov v Severnej Amerike. Vytvoríme z nich Oltár slovenského vystáhovalectva. Veľmi pekne ďakujeme vedeniu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty za podporu.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of The First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA and Canada June 14, 2025 • Video Conference

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

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

READING OF THE CALL:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MARCH 22, 2025:

A motion was made by Fr. Thomas Nasta and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held March 22, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Executive Secretary’s Report

President Arendt presented the financial summary report for the first quarter of 2025 and answered the Board’s questions.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund.

Following the reports, the President and the Executive Secretary answered the Board’s questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented a detailed Treasurer’s Report for the first quarter of 2025 and answered the Board’s questions.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE:

The President passed out the annual Corporate Governance before the meeting and answered the Board’s questions. A motion was made by Fr. Thomas Nasta and seconded by Gregory Maurer to accept the Corporate Governance as presented. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

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

Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi gave a recap of the FCSU Bowling Tournament held in Kent, Ohio on April 26-27, 2025. She stated the event was a huge success. The 2026 FCSU Bowling Tournament is scheduled for April 24 – 26, 2026 at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA.

We have also secured in Simmon’s Farm for the Family Fall Festival National Picnic to be held October 4, 2025. It will be a family event with many activities to enjoy.

The following activities also are upcoming in 2025: Two National Picnics: one at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, Pennsylvania on June 21, 2025 and another at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio on June 28, 2025; a Golf Tournament at Lakeview Golf Resort, Morgantown, West Virginia on July 18-20, 2025; and a fall festival on October 4, 2025 in McMurray, Pennsylvania. There will also be a Dog Days of Summer Contest ending September 10, 2025. The details of all fraternal events will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on the website. She also reminded the Board about the Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania on July 17, 2025.

STATE AUDIT REPORT:

The President updated the Board on the State of Ohio Audit that happens every five (5) years. He handed out the final review to the Board before the meeting. The State declared we are in good and satisfactory order and we received excellent review.

The President stated that the State will issue a Management Letter with results and suggestions for possible improvements.

The President stated that the State of Ohio encourages all our employees and Board to participate in a cybersecurity course and pass a mandatory exam.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated that all forms and policies have been updated for all the states in which we are licensed to do business and we are awaiting final approval.

Crossword Puzzle Solution from Page 15

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

Father Thomas Nasta updated the Board about the visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on Saturday, September 13, 2025. The schedule will be posted in the Jednota newspaper and on the website.

The Executive Secretary will continue his monthly Virtual Calls with Districts and Branches. He encourages all District and Branch officers to attend to remain up to date on products and rates.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are running a television commercial on the local Fox 8 TV station in Cleveland. We are also running commercials on Slovak Radio in Pittsburgh. We are continuing our support for the local Slovak radio stations in Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

The President stated we have also re-established a relationship with the current administration at the Embassy of Slovakia in Washington DC. We are looking forward to a productive and working relationship with the new ambassador and his team.

The President stated that we have been working with the University of Pittsburgh in support of the Nationality Rooms.

We continue to support Slovakian festivals across the United States. These festivals are being held in Cleveland, OH; East Brunswick, NJ; and Johnstown, PA.

We will continue to send email blasts to members and agents about current products and rates.

ESTABLISHING COMMITTEES:

The President will be re-establishing the committees once he has outlined the purpose of each committee.

DONATION COMMITTEE:

All donation requests were reviewed and acted on.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Martha Zavada to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Nicole Nasta to adjourn. Motion carried. Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with a prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

2025 Jednota Deadlines

MONTH.....	DEADLINE
November.....	Monday, November 3
December.....	Monday, December 1

2026 Jednota Deadlines

MONTH.....	DEADLINE
January.....	Monday, January 5
February.....	Monday, February 2
March.....	Monday, March 2
April.....	Monday, March 30
May.....	Monday, April 27
June.....	Monday, June 1
July.....	Monday, June 29
August.....	Monday, August 3
September.....	Monday, August 31
October.....	Monday, September 28
November.....	Monday, November 2
December.....	Monday, November 30



Why did the skeleton run away?

Because a dog was after his bones.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Friday, August 15, 2025 • Home Office

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members Attending:

- Kenneth A. Arendt National President
- Damian Nasta National Vice President
- Kevin J. Collins Executive Secretary
- John Tokarsky..... Treasurer
- James Marmol..... Regional Director
(by invitation of the President, Excused)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the July 17, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by John Tokarsky 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 Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Executive Committee's questions.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

President reviewed the second quarter financial statement and answered the Committee's questions. The financial statement will be published in the newspaper.

Annuity Rates:

The President reviewed the new annuity rate change that will be in effect September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. These new rates will be published in the newspaper, on the website, and emailed to all members.

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Financial Report

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for Quarter 2 of 2025 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of July 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 June:

Death Benefits & Accumulations.....	\$279,109.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations.....	\$52,360.38
Matured Endowments & Accumulations.....	\$0.00
Trust Fund.....	\$0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Executive Secretary stated he will continue the monthly Virtual Call program with the Districts and Branches to discuss current insurance and annuity products. Further details will be on the website and published in the newspaper.

The Executive Secretary will be sending an email to Districts and Branches outlining talking points for their meetings.

The Executive Secretary stated that four people at the Home Office are studying for the Ohio Insurance License exam.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The annual golf outing at Lakeview Golf Resort in Morgantown, WV was successfully held July 18-20, 2025. The results and pictures can be found in the Jednota newspaper and on the website. The details for the Family Fall Festival are being finalized. The Family Fall Festival National Picnic will be held on October 4, 2025 at Simmons Farm in McMurray, PA. All upcoming fraternal activities will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President reminded the Committee that the September Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, September 12, 2025 at the College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Hyattsville, MD. This is in conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, September 13, 2025. The agenda and schedule have been sent to the Board and posted in the Director's Portal.

The President stated preliminary information about the upcoming 2026 Convention is being prepared and will be sent to Districts and Branches over the first two weeks of September 2025. The 2026 Convention will be held June 20-23, 2026 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The call for the convention was published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

The President stated that we are building a relationship with the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Grand Rapids, Iowa. We are working on an agreement to share artifacts for display.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

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**Send Branch Announcements
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**Send District Announcements
to district@fcsu.com**

FCSU
SCHOLAR
Spotlight

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM PREVIOUS FCSU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

So little can protect so much...



JEP Term Insurance

\$14.00 credit will be applied to the 1st year payment

\$27.50
annual payment
(25K policy)

DEADLINE:
December 31, 2025

**Higher amounts available-contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office. Standard underwriting applies*

- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 *(no medical examination required)*
- College scholarships available *(min. \$25,000 policy)*
- Fun youth activities



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