

Happy 136 Year Anniversary Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota

September has always brought a new season, new colors, and special meaning. Father Štefan Furdek was born in what is now Slovakia and came to the Cleveland, Ohio, area to help the growing immigrant population from Central and Eastern Europe. On September 4, 1890, 136 years ago, he led 12 men who gathered at the home of Jacob Gruss on Corwin Avenue. Together, they formed what is now the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU).

FCSU became one of the largest and oldest fraternal organizations, helping protect immigrants who worked in dangerous steel mills, factories and mines, along with their families. FCSU provided insurance and financial stability to those who put their lives at risk in their everyday jobs.

**Založená v
roku 1890
dvanástimi
mužmi v Ohio**

Just one year after FCSU was formed, the organization published the first edition of its bilingual newspaper, *Jednota*, in Slovak and English. The newspaper provided readers with news and information about the Catholic faith and Slovak heritage. Throughout the 1890's, hundreds of branches were established, along with Catholic parishes across the United States and Canada. Catholic Slovak immigrants now had a place to come together and call home after leaving their homeland behind.

Throughout the years, FCSU has supported surrounding communities and helped establish educational institutions for the young people. St. Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio and St. Cyril Academy in Danville, Pennsylvania, were founded in the 1920s to educate the children of Slovak immigrants and continued educating children for generations.

FCSU has worked timelessly to uphold Catholic Slovak culture within the United States throughout the past century. In 1965, FCSU donated the Jednota Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The chapel remains the shrine's most visited chapel to this day.

The existence of Jednota also supported Slovakia's fight for Independence. Slovakia has now celebrated 33 years of independence. During those years, Slovakia joined the European Union and established provisions allowing descendants of former citizens to regain their identity through citizenship by decent. Slovakia is also getting recognition on the international pop music scene, with rising pop Adéla Jergová



The first FCSU convention on September 4, 1890, in Cleveland. Seated from left: Martin Slanina, Ján Martvoň, Ervin Gelhoff, Štefan Furdek, Juraj Onda, Andrej Benovič, J. A. Filek, Ján Brehovič, Ján Bakoš, Andrej Soták, Jakub Gruss

becoming the first Slovak artist in history to reach the Billboard Hot 100.

FCSU also celebrates the 11th anniversary of the Jednota Memorial Dedication in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The memorial honors all deceased members of FCSU, with special recognition given to veterans from World War I to the present day. Granite bricks are available for purchase by contacting the Home Office at 800.533.6682.

In 2019, Father Štefan Furdek symbolically returned home to Cleveland when his statue was placed in the front of FCSU's Home Office in Independence, Ohio.

September will always be a special time for members of FCSU. Whether you are a new member, an employee, or FCSU has been in your family for generations, there is always something to celebrate.

**Pomohol
založiť
vzdelávacie
inštitúcie
v Ohio a
Pensylvánii**



**Kenneth A. Arendt
President, CEO**

President's Message

As we celebrate 136 years of the First Catholic Slovak Union, I am filled with pride when I think about all that our members have accomplished together. For more than a century, generation after generation has believed in the importance of protecting families, supporting our communities and preserving the Slovak heritage that brought so many of us together.

I believe Father Štefan Furdek and the 12 men who shared his vision would be pleased to see FCSU today. They would see an organization that has remained financially strong and committed to its members, while continuing to find meaningful ways to keep our Slovak traditions, culture and history alive.

That accomplishment belongs to all of you. It is the dedication of our members, volunteers, officers and employees that has allowed FCSU to grow and remain strong through changing times. We should celebrate what we have built together and the many lives we have touched along the way.

But an anniversary is not only a time to look back. It is also an opportunity to look ahead. The vision that began 136 years ago continues to guide us, and we have a responsibility to build on that foundation for the generations who will follow us.

I am grateful for where FCSU is today and excited about where we are going. Thank you to every member who has helped make these 136 years possible. Together, let us continue the work, the traditions and the vision that have made FCSU a strong and lasting fraternal organization.

FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD



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

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



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

FCSU Corporate Center
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131-2398
800.533.6682

VISION STATEMENT

Enhancing your financial future
through fraternalism.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:
Shannon Travise, editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attn: "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216.642.4310

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Message from the National Chaplain

On July 1, 2026, two bishops from the Society of Saint Pius X (SPPX), after several repeated warnings from the Vatican not to do so, ordained four new bishops without the necessary permission of the pope. The Vatican issued a Decree of Excommunication the next day and directed it to all the Society's adherents. This is the second of a two-part series listing some questions and answers you may have about the situation.

Didn't Pope Francis make efforts to reconcile members of the SPPX?

During 2015, the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis permitted people who attend churches led by SPPX priests to validly and licitly receive sacramental absolution from their sins. He extended this allowance the following year. Pope Francis also in 2017 gave permission for bishops in union with him to grant the faculty to priests to officially witness marriages of the society's followers. If no priest was able to witness marital consent, an SPPX priest could receive that faculty. The Vatican revoked both permissions on July 1, 2026 in the wake of the illicit episcopal ordinations.

Why are only the Sacraments of Penance and Marriage affected?

Penance and Matrimony are the two sacraments whereby a priest must have jurisdiction to validly celebrate or officiate. The July 2, 2026 Decree of Excommunication explicitly stated the celebration of these two sacraments by SPPX priests is invalid. Celebration of the other sacraments by SPPX clergy is considered valid, but not licit.

May a Roman Catholic attend Mass and receive Holy Communion at a Mass offered by an SPPX priest?

No. Reception of the Holy Eucharist is a sign of and an expression of our belief in Christ Jesus and our unity with him and one another as members of the one Body of Christ. This is the reasoning behind the Church's prohibition on inter-communion with other Christian denominations. Although Masses celebrated by SPPX priests are valid, they are not licit because the Society is in schism.

Can a member of SPPX be reconciled with the Church?

The short answer is "yes"; however, a lengthy process is involved, including the individual seeking reconciliation is to make a direct appeal to the Holy Father.



**Rev. Thomas
Nasta
Chaplain**

SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

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

As of August 31, 162 donors have given \$22,930 for the 2026 Appeal. Among the 51 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 40, Branch 45, Branch 55, Branch 89, Branch 112, Branch 132, Branch 153, Branch 181, Branch 213, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 731, Branch 743, Branch 853, Branch 857, District 14, District 17 and the Home Office of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$4,225. Donations have also been received from 10 churches, 18 clergy and religious and 83 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

48th 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 • Penndel, 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

OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE

COPY DATE - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE

COPY DATE - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2
ISSUE DATE - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Executive Secretary’s Message

The Home Office has been working to assist branches that have lost their 990 tax-exempt status. This can happen when a branch does not file its required 990-N form for three consecutive years.

Letters and guidelines have been sent to all affected branch officers outlining the steps needed to begin the reinstatement process. Please review the letter carefully and complete the forms provided.

Your cooperation is important to help us restore your branch’s nonprofit status.



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary, COO

Feel free to contact me at the Home Office if you have any questions or need assistance. We are happy to help you through the process of getting your branch’s status reinstated.

I want to thank everyone that has reached out to me via cards or text messages or phone calls these past few weeks. Your thoughts and prayers have definitely been helping me deal with the passing of my Big Sister Susan. May she rest in peace.

I’m sorry if I have not had a chance to respond. It has been a little difficult at times.

Thank you again.

Virtual Call Schedule:

Tuesday, October 13 • 12pm EST and 5pm EST
We will be discussing the updates on 990’s.

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



FCSU Staff Celebrating the 136th Anniversary of our Founding!

Thanks to all our members for your confidence and faith in helping us build FCSU into the successful company we are today. We strive to be around another 136 years!



September 4, 1890

Celebrating our Founder’s Day!



Father Štefan Furdek

FCSU is continuing your mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 2026

9/13	Branch 19 - Meeting (Zoom) (Election)
9/13	Branch 785 - Celebration Mass, Mississauga, ON
9/13	District 1 - Meeting (Zoom) (Election)
9/14	Branch 162 - Meeting, Uniontown, PA (RSVP)
9/19	Branch 856 - Chapel of our Mother of Sorrows Anniversary Mass (RSVP)
9/20	Branch 112 - Meeting (Zoom)
9/20	Branch 393 - Meeting, Greensburg, PA (Election) (RSVP by 9/18)
9/20	District 19 - Slovak Golf Outing, Toronto, ON (RSVP by 9/11)
9/20	Slovak Heritage Festival, East Brunswick, NJ
9/23	Branch 682 - Meeting, Struthers, OH
9/26	Branch 181 - Meeting, Latrobe, PA (RSVP by 9/18) (Election)
9/26	Branch 844 - Meeting, Fullerton, CA
9/26	District 15 - Meeting, Fullerton, CA
9/27	Branch 254 - Meeting, Mt. Lebanon, PA (RSVP)
9/29	Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 6pm

OCTOBER 2026

10/1	Branch 200 - Meeting, Ford City, PA
10/1	Branch 260 - Meeting, Austintown, OH
10/3	Branch 6 - Meeting, Streator, IL (RSVP)
10/3	Branch 89 - Bavarian Bierhaus, Glendale, WI
10/3	Family Fall Festival National Picnic, McMurray, PA (RSVP by 9/18)
10/4	District 2 - Meeting, Oak Forest, IL (Election) (RSVP)
10/4	District 8 - Meeting (Zoom) (Election)
10/5	Branch 746 - Mass, Linden, NJ
10/6	Branch 108 - Meeting, Connellsville, PA (RSVP)
10/6	Branch 313 - Meeting, Mokena, IL (Election) (RSVP by 9/27)
10/10	Branch 153 - Meeting, Rosemont, IL (Election) (RSVP by 10/3)
10/10	District 3 - Meeting, Mt. Pleasant, PA (Election)
10/11	Branch 23 - Tamburitzans Folk Ensemble, Boswell, PA (RSVP by 9/30)
10/13	Home Office - Virtual Call, 12pm and 5pm
10/17	Branch 5P - Meeting, Wyoming, PA (Election)
10/17	Branch 853 - Gateway Clipper Cruise and Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (Election) (RSVP by 9/19)
10/18	Branch 7 - Meeting, Ramey, PA (Election)
10/18	District 16 - Meeting, New York, NY
10/25	Branch 1 - Harvest Festival, Lakewood, OH (RSVP by 10/10)
10/25	Branch 199 - Meeting, Latrobe, PA (Election)
10/25	District 4 - Meeting, Middlesex, NJ (Election) (RSVP by 10/16)
10/25	District 7 - Meeting, Johnstown, PA (Election)
10/25	District 17 - Meeting, Scranton, PA (Election) (RSVP by 10/14)



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Fall Family Festival National Picnic
11am - 4pm
170 Simmons Rd • McMurray, PA
simmonsfarm.com

RSVP by September 18

When the Kids Grow Up, Does Your Life Insurance Still Matter?

The years seem to go by quickly. One day you're paying for braces, school activities and college expenses, and the next your children are living on their own, starting careers and building lives of their own.

As your family's financial needs change, it's natural to wonder whether the life insurance you purchased years ago is still necessary.

The answer may be yes. Life insurance isn't only about providing for children. As you move into the next stage of life, your coverage may serve different purposes and help protect the financial plans you and your spouse have built together.

Your Children May Still Need Support

Even if your children are adults, they may not be completely financially independent. A child attending college, finishing a degree or getting established in a career may still rely on your financial support.

Life insurance can help provide funds to continue those commitments if something happens to you before they are completed. It can help cover expenses such as tuition, housing and other costs that may continue even after a child leaves home.

Consider Who Depends on You

Children aren't the only people who may depend on your income. You may also provide financial support to a spouse, aging parent, adult child or another family member.

If someone relies on you financially, consider what would happen to that support if you were no longer there. Life insurance can help provide resources for the people who continue to depend on you.

Protect Your Spouse's Financial Future

Once children are grown, many couples begin focusing more heavily on retirement. The loss of one spouse, however, can significantly change a household's financial picture.

Life insurance can provide your surviving spouse with money to help cover everyday expenses, pay outstanding debts and maintain financial stability while adjusting to a new situation.

Social Security survivor benefits may also be part of the equation, but they may not fully replace the income that was lost. The timing and amount of benefits can vary depending on individual circumstances.

Don't Forget About Final Expenses

An unexpected death can bring more than emotional challenges. It can also create immediate expenses that a family may not have anticipated.

Funeral and burial costs, final medical bills, legal and administrative expenses and other costs associated with settling an estate can add up quickly. Life insurance can provide funds to help cover these expenses without requiring your family to immediately dip into savings or sell other assets.

Build a Financial Safety Net

Most financial experts recommend maintaining an emergency fund to help cover unexpected expenses. But when a household loses an income, even a well-established emergency fund may not be enough.

Life insurance can provide an additional financial cushion for survivors. Having those funds available can give a family more time and flexibility to make thoughtful financial decisions rather than immediately using savings or taking on debt to meet everyday obligations.

Protect the Lifestyle You've Built

Many households make financial decisions based on two incomes. Mortgages, car loans, household expenses and other commitments may have been manageable because both spouses contributed financially.

If one income suddenly disappears, those same obligations don't necessarily disappear with it.

Life insurance can give the surviving spouse greater flexibility to manage those expenses and protect the financial plans the family has worked hard to build.

Review Your Coverage as Life Changes

Your need for life insurance doesn't necessarily end when your children leave home. In many cases, the reason for having coverage simply changes.

Marriage, home ownership, retirement planning, changes in income and family responsibilities can all affect how much coverage you may need. That's why reviewing your life insurance periodically is an important part of a sound financial plan.

At FCSU, we're committed to helping members protect the people and financial goals that matter most at every stage of life. If your children have grown and you're wondering whether your current life insurance coverage still fits your needs, it may be time for a review.

Your family may have changed. Your life insurance plan should keep up.

For more information about FCSU life insurance, visit www.fcsu.com or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682. FCSU does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Consult with a tax, legal or accounting professional regarding your specific situation.

Life Changes. Your Coverage Should Too.



Empty House?

The kids are on their own. As your family enters a new chapter, your financial priorities may change, too. Take a fresh look at your life insurance coverage and make sure it still fits your needs.

When was the last time you reviewed your life insurance?



800.533.6682

Providing Financial Security for Over 135 Years
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September Is Life Insurance Awareness Month

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month, a good time to take a fresh look at your life insurance coverage and make sure it still meets your family's needs.

Life insurance can help protect the people who depend on you financially. It can help with immediate expenses such as funeral costs, outstanding bills and a mortgage, while also providing support for everyday living expenses, education and other long-term needs.

When was the last time you reviewed your coverage? Has your family grown or changed? Have your financial responsibilities changed? If you have life insurance through your employer, do you know how much coverage you have and what happens to it if you leave your job?

This September, take a few minutes to review your life insurance needs. Contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682 to learn more about the life insurance products available through FCSU Financial®.

N·E·W·S *from the Home Office*

Are You an FCSU Member?

For many families, FCSU membership is a tradition passed from one generation to the next. Maybe you grew up attending branch picnics, holiday dinners or other FCSU events. Maybe your parents or grandparents were members. Those connections are an important part of our FCSU family—but being part of the FCSU family and being an active member are not necessarily the same thing.

What Makes You a Member?

To be an FCSU member, you must have an active financial product in good standing with FCSU Financial®. This includes a **Life Insurance Policy, Annuity or IRA**.

Each person must have their own active policy or account. Being the spouse of a member, being a beneficiary on someone else's policy or having parents or grandparents who are members does not automatically make you a member.

The good news? Becoming a member is easy. When you purchase a FCSU Financial product, you are automatically enrolled as an FCSU member.

Your financial product can also provide important benefits for you and your family—from life insurance protection for the people you love to annuities and IRAs designed to help you prepare financially for the future.

Membership Means More

Your FCSU membership connects you to more than financial security. It connects you to a community built around faith, family, heritage and giving back.

As an active member, you can participate in activities close to home through your Branch and District, as well as events held nationally. Our bowling and golf tournaments bring members together for friendly competition and fun.

But participation doesn't have to mean traveling to a major event. Throughout the year, FCSU offers contests and activities that families can enjoy together. Monthly puzzles, coloring contests, photography contests and our new Halloween Costume contest are fun ways to get involved, get creative and share a little friendly competition with fellow members.

These activities are also an opportunity to introduce children and grandchildren to FCSU. Work on a puzzle together, enter a family photograph, bake a cake or encourage a young artist to enter a coloring contest. Sometimes a simple activity can be the beginning of a lifelong connection to FCSU.

Protecting the Future and Preserving Our Past

FCSU is committed to both the financial well-being of our members today and the future of the next generation. Each year, FCSU awards more than \$202,000 in college scholarships, providing educational opportunities for members and their families. Look on our website for more information on our FCSU Scholarship, the Stephen C. Matula Scholarship and the Jednota Benevolent Foundation Scholarship. There are many opportunities for students to apply.

We also work to preserve and celebrate our Slovak heritage and Catholic faith. The Jednota newspaper keeps members connected with news, events, financial information, spiritual insight and stories celebrating Slovak culture and traditions.



Don't Delay Your Branch and District Reimbursement!

The Branch and District Reimbursement Program (BRP / DRP) is a great way to help make activities more affordable and encourage members to participate. Branches and Districts can take advantage of the program up to four times each calendar year for activities ranging from sporting events and picnics to theater outings, boat rides and more.

But once the event is over, don't let the paperwork wait! To keep reimbursements moving smoothly, officers are reminded to submit the Reimbursement Payment Form, along with the required attendance sheets and the *Jednota* article with photographs within 45 days of the event.

The Home Office cannot process reimbursement until the completed paperwork is received. Waiting months to submit the form delays reimbursement and makes it more difficult to keep the program running efficiently.

Event completed? Get the paperwork submitted! You've already done the work to plan a successful activity. Make sure you finish the process and get your reimbursement back in a timely manner.

Contact branch@fcsu.com, district@fcsu.com or Pam at 800.533.6682, ext. 119 with questions.

Be Part of It

If you are an active member, we encourage you to take advantage of your membership. Attend a Branch or District event. Participate in a national tournament. Enter a contest. Read *Jednota*. Explore scholarship opportunities. Bring your family and introduce the next generation to FCSU.

If you are not sure whether you are currently an active member, contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682. We will be happy to check your membership status and answer your questions.

FCSU membership is about more than having a financial product. It is about protecting your family's future, celebrating where we came from, supporting the next generation and being part of a community that gives back.

Faith Founded. Family Focused. Financially Strong.

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC. 2026 SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

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

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.



For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.
FCSU Financial

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300 • Independence, OH 44131

Phone: 800.533.6682 • Fax: 216.642.4310 • E-mail: scholarship@fcsu.com

**Download applications from
[fcsu.com/membership/
scholarships/](http://fcsu.com/membership/scholarships/)**

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

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 30, 2026

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

For our Slovak people, the most sacred Feast of Our Lady honors her Seven Sorrows on September 15. We can trace this veneration back to 1564. In that year Mary, as Our Lady of Sorrows, appeared to a very troubled noble woman, Countess Angelica Bakičova, as she was praying on the ground of the hillside of Šaštín, Slovakia. She prayed intensely for a resolution to her problem. Later, in thanksgiving that her prayers had been answered, Angelica, with her husband, Count Imrich Czobo, commissioned an artist (name unknown today) to sculpt a wooden statue for the site of the apparition in Šaštín of Our Lady of Sorrows.*

Soon, pilgrims from near and far came to Mary’s shrine with fervent prayers. Miracles and healings multiplied. A small chapel was built to include the Marian statue, and by 1748, the chapel was replaced by a basilica. As the people in Slovakia suffered through many invasions and dominations through the centuries, their faith and endurance were supported through their recourse to their Sorrowful Mother.

In 1927, Pope Pius XI declared our Sorrowful Mother to be the Patroness of Slovakia. In 1964, the 400th anniversary of the Šaštín apparition, Pope Paul VI declared the Basilica to be a Minor Basilica.

I marvel as I realize how our Sorrowful Mother has shown her favor to our Slovak nation. Even as Slovak families migrated to America and other countries, the strength of this faith and devotion to our compassionate Mother remained strong. With great joy and gratitude, we can anticipate the 500th anniversary of the Marian apparition in Šaštín in 2064! Let us continue to honor Our Lady by reflecting on her gospel-documented seven earthly sorrows, perhaps by using the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows. Thus, our Sorrowful Mother will lead our nation, Slovakia, and the world to her Son Jesus, for the blessings He wants to give**

*See Jednota Archives, September 17, 2014, “The Pilgrimage Site of the Patroness of Slovakia: Our Lady of Sorrows,” Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

**Read Homily of Pope Francis in Šaštín Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15, 2021. www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2021/documents/20210915-omelia-sastin.html

GRIEVING MARY

- Grieving Mary, pierced with sorrow,
Clasping us in your care,
Lift our Slovak nation’s pleading,
Beg God be aware.

CHORUS
You are Mother compassionate,
Patroness, tender Advocate,
Be our nation’s Intercessor,
With your beloved Son.
- Shield from famine, wars and carnage,
Help us flourish in peace;
See our Slovak people trust
Your care will never cease.
- All to you we consecrate,
O Mother, hear us we pray;
Grant our future generations
Peace above the fray.
- Guide and Mentor, strong Defender,
Give our country this grace—
From your Son, a firmer faith
As virtue we embrace.

Ó MÁRIA BOLESTIVÁ

- Ó Mária bolestivá, naša ochrana,
Slovenský náš národ volá:
Pros za nás Boha!

SBOR:
Ty si Mať dobrotivá,
Patrónka ľútostivá,
Oroduj vždy za náš národ
U svojho Syna!
- Hlad, mor, vojny odstráň od nás,
Vypros pokoja,
Slovenský ľud nech vždy stráži
Ochrana tvoja.
- Tebe sa tu oddávame,
Matka, pomôž nám,
By sme i my, i potomci
Vyhli vždy vojnám.
- Vlast’ našu stráž a obhajuj,
Vypros milosti,
Nech nás Syn tvoj posilňuje
Vo viere, čnosti.

Insights & Viewpoints

Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

Matthew 20: 1 – 16a

Is this Gospel about fairness or generosity? I have heard some people observe, just as those in the parable who worked all day, the landowner in this parable is not being fair to most of the workers. After all, does Jesus say in Luke 10; “the Laborer is worth his wage”? It could seem unfair if we look at it through the lens of this world that at times sees fairness as being more important than generosity. Even though the landowner paid those who worked all day the just and agreed upon wage, they grumbled when he paid those who worked only an hour the same amount. The line in the landowner’s response to their grumbling that strikes at the root of the problem is this, “are you envious because I am generous?”

There are some things in the parable that indicate the landowner was using this generosity to teach a lesson. He sent four groups of workers to his fields at different times. The landowner had a heart that didn’t want to see someone willing to work, out of work. At five when he saw some people not working he asked them; “Why do you stand here idle all day?” Their response was simple and to the point, “because no one has hired us.” He seemed moved by their situation and sent them to work, if only for an hour. When it was time to pay the workers the landowner did something unusual. Rather than start with the first group and end with the last group, he started with the last group. This meant that all the others who had been working throughout the day saw this group who only worked an hour getting a full day’s wage. It also meant that the others thought that they would get

LIGHT ONE CANDLE Food as a Vehicle for Making a Family

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

As co-creator of the hit sitcom “Everybody Loves Raymond” with Ray Romano—and host of the food and travel series “Somebody Feed Phil”—Phil Rosenthal’s goals are not just to entertain viewers, but to promote kindness and friendship while making people laugh.

The “Everybody Loves Raymond 30th Anniversary Reunion” earned a Christopher Award earlier this year because it demonstrated that this show about a comedically “angry family” was grounded in love, both in front of and behind the camera. During a “Christopher Closeup” interview, Phil explained, “Every family gets frustrated with each other. Every family can even get angry. But as long as there’s that underlying love, that’s what keeps families together.”

“Raymond’s” origins are partially due to family and food. Years ago, Phil bought his parents a subscription to the Fruit of the Month Club as a gift. But when the initial box of 12 pears arrived, they felt overwhelmed by fruit! And when they learned that more fruit would be coming every month, they believed Phil had gotten them involved “in a cult.” Phil’s mother exclaimed, “I can’t talk anymore; there’s too much fruit in the house!”

That exchange made its way into the pilot episode for “Raymond” and helped establish the personalities of Frank and Marie Barone (Doris Roberts and Peter Boyle). Phil said, “I thought people would just say, ‘Ray’s parents are crazy.’ What I didn’t realize was that your parents are crazy too, and that you relate to this level of crazy, even though it’s not exactly what your parents are crazy about. But we relate to each other’s specificities, so I learned to write as specifically as possible. That’s where the universality lies.”

Phil also made sure the “Raymond” set had delicious food so everyone could share meals and snacks together, which led to bonding. He said, “Food was going to be this vehicle for making a family...So ‘Raymond’ was about a family, it was made for families, and very quickly, it was being made by a family.”

Though Phil often poked fun at his parents, the love he felt for them was always present. He even made them regulars on “Somebody Feed Phil.” He said that making them a part of his success was “the greatest joy in the world. I owe them everything. I’m so lucky to have been their son, not just because they were a font of comedic material, but because they were the most loving and supportive parents you could ever wish for. When we were lucky enough to win the Emmy Awards, I actually bought an extra one and I gave it to them, and it said, ‘Best Supportive Parents.’”

Phil also credits his parents for his kindness and good nature. He explained, “Kindness was modeled in my house. I always tell new parents, when they ask for any advice at all from an old guy like me, I say, ‘There’s nothing you can do except model the behavior you want to see in your children.’ You can talk and give them rules, but if they see you doing the wrong thing, they’re going to know that you’re not genuine...Well, there’s no bigger role model than mom and dad...Every kid’s going to go through adolescence...the natural state of rebellion...But if you’ve lived by example, you’re going to see that reflected back in your kids, and they come around. We couldn’t be prouder of our kids [Ben and Lily], and we love seeing the grownups that they became.”

more, but they didn’t. All received the same daily wage.

When this is applied to the ways of our world it could seem that the landowner was unfair or unjust. After all, many people meticulously keep track of their work hours, fill out time sheets and maintain it for IRS purposes. The claim of being generous would be lost in the midst of our bureaucratic ways let alone in the ill feelings of those who worked all day, or most of the day. However, when applied to God’s relationship to us, it takes on a whole different meaning. The person who lives an almost saintly life and the person who lives a life of sinfulness with no regard for God, who repents late in life or on the death bed, both receive the same reward – Heaven. The landowner mirrors the generosity of God with how he dealt with the workers with a true generosity out of love. It is certainly a challenge for us to look at others regardless of the amount of time, the length of living their faith and have the same love and concern for them. This might mean putting aside any feelings of jealousy toward those who seem to be making it into heaven with a “fire escape” prayer, while we have worked and sacrificed all our lives to be faithful members of the church.

Conversions late in life, and death bed conversions happen in our day, and they are something to behold with joy. The message for us is to welcome with joy the repentant sinner, regardless of how long it takes them to repent. It is a lesson for us not to worry about the length of time one has faithfully served, but rather to rejoice in all who have served, regardless of how long.



MEMBER *Spotlight*

JANEGA FAMILY CENTENNIAL REUNION

Family recognizes 100 years since patriarch Matus Janega emigrated to Canada

Submitted by Ann E. Janega, granddaughter of Matus and Jozefina Janega

More than 150 members of the Janega family gathered near Halifax this summer, traveling from across Canada, Slovakia, Australia, Italy, the Czech Republic, England and the United States to celebrate a remarkable milestone: 100 years since their family first came to Canada.

The international Janega family reunion, held at Falls Lake, was more than a gathering of relatives. It was a celebration of family, Slovak heritage, faith and the generations that followed Matus and Jozefina Janega.

The weekend was filled with stories, memories and traditions. Family members shared the history of their journey from Slovakia to Cape Breton, sang Slovak songs around the campfire, enjoyed traditional foods and gathered for a memorable Cape Breton crab feast. An outdoor lakeside Mass and a memorial honoring relatives who have passed away provided opportunities for reflection and remembrance.

For some, the reunion meant reconnecting with cousins they had known throughout their lives. For others, it was the first opportunity to meet relatives they had previously known only by name. Children and grandchildren formed new friendships while older generations shared stories and memories that might otherwise have been lost.

A detailed Janega family tree, compiled by Susan Janega-Baird with the help of Miriam Janegova of Ilava, Slovakia, helped connect those generations. The tree documents the descendants of Matus Janega and his seven siblings, providing a valuable record for Janega family members throughout North America and around the world.

From Slovakia to Canada

The story being celebrated began in August 1926, when Matus Janega left Nozdovice, Czechoslovakia, and arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, aboard the Veendam. He had traveled from the mountains of Slovakia to Canada in search of a brighter future for his family.

Matus eventually settled in Whitney Pier, an industrial community in Cape Breton that became home to immigrants from many countries. A strong Slovak community developed there, providing a connection to the heritage Matus had left behind.

A century later, his descendants returned to Halifax to celebrate the journey that began with that arrival.

A Family Story Connected to Pier 21

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is often described as Canada's Ellis Island. It served as an important entry point for European immigrants arriving in Canada. The Janega family's visit carried an additional personal connection.

In August 2001, the Slovak community in Canada was honored with the dedication and blessing of a symbolic bench at Pier 21. The ceremony was attended by Slovak President Rudolf Schuster, and Anna Micak Janega (Matus' daughter-in-law), who was invited to participate and cut the ribbon. The dedication recognized the important contributions of Slovaks to Canada's multicultural history.

Anna's connection to the bench made the Janega family's return in 2026 especially meaningful. Twenty-five years after she participated in its dedication, her children and other family members gathered around the bench during the centennial reunion to remember their family's journey to Canada.

Anna, who passed away in 2007, had her own remarkable



immigration story. Born in Budkovce in eastern Slovakia, near the Ukrainian border, she was separated from her family as a young child when health circumstances required her to remain behind while her mother and other family members left Europe. At age 7, Anna came to Canada through Ellis Island in the care of the Red Cross and was reunited with her family in Montreal in 1937.

Although the 2026 reunion centered on the Janega family, the Pier 21 bench created a meaningful connection between both sides of the family and the larger story of the Slovak diaspora in Canada.

Celebrating a Legacy That Continues

The family was also honored during the reunion with congratulatory messages from the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, the Premier of Nova Scotia, a local Member of Parliament and the Mayor of Halifax. Their messages recognized the determination, optimism and courage of Matus and Jozefina (Suchar) Janega as they began a new life and raised their family in Canada.

A century after his arrival in Canada, more than 150 Janega descendants and relatives came together to celebrate where their family came from and what it has become. Through family, faith, heritage and shared memories, the Janegas are keeping that story alive, and passing it on to another generation.

Photo Above: (L-R) Janega sisters Ann, Janet and Susan with the Pier 21 Slovak bench



Janega Family Reunion members on the lakeside, Falls Lake, Nova Scotia



Slovak cousins traveled from Ilava, Prague, Nitra and Alice Springs, Australia



(L-R) Hockey cousins Kevin Janega (Ottawa ON), Marian Janega (Nitra ON) and Dave Janega (Ottawa ON)



American Italian Canadian connection



(L-R) Children of Matus and Jozefina - John, Matt, Margaret (Dugandzic), Peter and Martin

Family Fall Festival

National Picnic at Simmons Farm

Saturday, October 3 • 11am-4pm

170 Simmons Rd • McMurray, PA • simmonsfarm.com

REGISTER ONLINE BY SEPTEMBER 18

or Email events@fcsu.com or Call the Home Office at 800.533.6682 , ext. 122

Over 300 People Attend National Picnic

More than 300 FCSU members and friends gathered at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio, for another enjoyable National Picnic. The weather couldn't quite make up its mind, with sunshine followed by a few thunderstorms, but the event staff was prepared for both.

Guests enjoyed good food, fellowship and plenty of activities throughout the day. When the lunch line grew long, even Executive Secretary Kevin Collins jumped in to help keep things moving.

Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec continued his annual quest to enjoy as many ice cream cones as possible. This year, he set a new personal record with five cones! His grandson, Branch 24 member Henry Strekal, helped staff throughout the day.

When the rain arrived, a beautiful building on the property provided a dry place for guests to gather for Bingo and Mass. Branch 24 member Maria Cvicela joined one game of Bingo and called the numbers in Slovak, adding a special touch to the afternoon.

Despite the unpredictable weather, the National Picnic was another great opportunity for FCSU members and friends to come together, enjoy one another's company and celebrate the FCSU family.



To see more event photos, visit fcsu.com/event/weigand-national-picnic/





FRATERNALISM IN ACTION

GIVING BACK

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 587 Helped Four Legged Friends

Members of Branch 587 came together in support of Angel Ridge Animal Rescue -- a no-kill shelter and animal sanctuary on a scenic farm in Washington County, Pennsylvania. Items from the rescue's most needed wish list, totaling more than \$500, were collected at our semi-annual meeting. The volunteers at Angel Ridge were thrilled to receive specialty foods for their puppies, senior dogs, and those with health conditions. The rescue was also happy to receive agility equipment for their new exercise yard, water buckets to beat the summer heat, along with a variety of cleaning supplies and pet accessories. Thanks to our members for their enthusiastic support of this special cause.



One of our youngest members, Mason Fibbi proudly shows off the pet supplies along with his cousins Rachel and Kayla Fibbi, and his uncle Ken.



District 12 Has a “Wild” Time at a Local Baseball Game

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, District 12 Vice President

Friends and family of FCSU District 12, enjoyed a fraternal day of Frontier Baseball. The Washington Wild Things are a professional baseball team in the Frontier League that play in Washington, PA.

Our District 12 children and adults were happy to see “The Wild Thing” welcoming us to the game. Our 1st Base Box was the perfect location to start the fun. Frances Tarquinio (District 12 Secretary Emeritus) started the night in prayer. Everyone was excited to see FCSU District 12 in lights on the scoreboard.

Cheryl Hyatt (District 12 President) said “we are so proud to see our young members enjoying Fraternal events”. She also wanted to thank Joseph Tarquinio (District 12 Vice President) and Maureen Massafra (District 12 Treasurer) for their continued dedication to FCSU and its members. This was our largest “Wildthings” baseball event.

Special thanks to the staff at Falconi Field. They made this event an awesome experience for our District. This was an extra special day for our District. Branch 320 and Branch 670 would like to offer special thanks to all involved in making this a successful Fraternal event. May God bless our First Catholic Slovak Union.



Thank You for Your Generosity 2026 Golf Tournament Patrons

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AQS Asset Management

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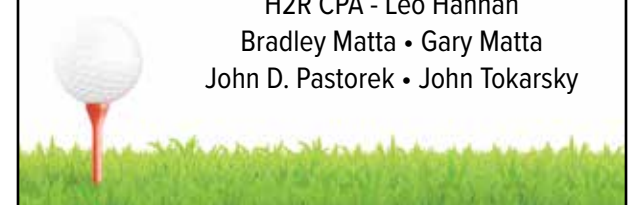
Ken Arendt, FCSU President/CEO
Kevin Collins, FCSU Executive Secretary/COO
John Tokarsky, FCSU Treasurer
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John D. Pastorek, FCSU Member, Valencia, PA

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Ken Arendt • Kevin Collins
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Bradley Matta • Gary Matta
John D. Pastorek • John Tokarsky



FCSU Young Adults Gather at Kennywood

Submitted by Charles Boone, Branch 853

The FCSU Youth Fraternal Activities Committee recently brought young adult members together for a meet-up at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA, on July 16. Committee member Charles Boone spearheaded the meet-up. He was asked, “What is this group going to do at a meet-up?” “The event dictates the activities,” Boone replied.

At Kennywood, this meet-up did what anyone would do when attending an amusement park. You have two common interests—being an FCSU member and enjoying the fun at an amusement park.

It would be similar to what FCSU members would do at any other FCSU event. You may have seen other members at events before, but you haven’t talked to them. Now is your chance. Meet your fellow members, talk, laugh and make memories. It is a time when you can build friendships, do an activity, and FCSU will be the underlying bond.

If you attend an FCSU event, you may attend with a parent, aunt or uncle, maybe even grandparents. Consider, while you are there, taking an hour away from your biological family and having fun with your FCSU family.



Charles Boone, Kendyll Wiggins, Nicole Hyatt,
Isaac Hall, and Destyni Hall

2026 FCSU GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS				
A FLIGHT * Tie Breaker				
PLACE	BRANCH #	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
T1	924	Michael Bolby*	149	\$200
T1	372	David DeGol	149	\$175
3	181	Patrick Quinn	169	
4	228	Jerry Hromada	170	
	38	Bradley Matta	DNF	
B FLIGHT				
PLACE	BRANCH #	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	199	David Schmucker	146	\$200
2	38	Austin Matta	150	\$175
3	831	John Pastorek	156	\$150
4	181	Andrew Kozusko	160	
5	456	AJ Coval	164	
6	199	Lou Falbo	166	
7	199	Scott Harr	174	
C FLIGHT				
PLACE	BRANCH #	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	38	Gary Matta	141	\$200
2	181	Dan Poponick	142	\$175
3	670	James Saul	147	\$150
4	785	John Tokarsky	150	
5	670	Derek Johnston	161	
6	855	Rick Sutilla	167	
7	855	Jeff Sutilla	180	
D FLIGHT (Callaway)				
PLACE	BRANCH #	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	393	Michael Debich	141	\$200
T2	855	Dave Habian	142	\$162.50
T2	924	Randy McCracken	147	\$162.50
T4	855	Hudson Habian	150	\$112.50
T4	924	Brandon Ross	161	\$112.50
T6	GUEST	Rece Hennemen	167	
T6	GUEST	Joe Stewart	180	
T8	924	Dan Bald	167	
T8	670	Jim Saul	180	
T8	24	Howard Mowery	167	
11	924	Zach Homyak	180	
	38	Hagen Matta	180	
SENIOR 1 FLIGHT (62-70)				
PLACE	BRANCH #	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	181	Edward Poponick	143	\$200
2	199	Mike Nemcheck	149	\$175
3	199	Tim Quinn	156	\$150
4	181	Bill Quinn	158	\$125
5	181	Tim Kozusko	159	
6	181	Barry Halula	167	
7	857	Father Tom Nasta	174	
8	857	Damian Nasta	177	
	181	Greg Maurer	DNF	
SENIOR 2 FLIGHT (71+)				
PLACE	BRANCH #	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	228	Rusty Groner	149	\$200
T2	670	Robert Kopanic	154	\$162.50
T2	670	Clarence Shank	154	\$162.50
4	924	Anthony Nastasi	155	\$125
5	372	Martin Finklestine	156	
6	831	John Pastorek	157	
7	670	Lynn Johnston	163	
8	372	Bruno Felus	186	
WOMEN FLIGHT				
PLACE	BRANCH #	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	38	Larissa Matta	144	\$200
TOP SCRATCH SCORES - 2 DAY TOTALS				
A Flight		Michael Bolby	163	\$50
B Flight		David Schmucker	174	\$50
C Flight		James Saul	191	\$50
D Flight		Dave Habian	167	\$50
Senior 1		Edward Poponick	181	\$50
Senior 2		Anthony Nastasi	169	\$50

FCSU Golf Tournament: A Winning Weekend for All

Submitted by Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director

This July, we hosted our loyal FCSU golfers to a spectacular weekend in Huron, Ohio, many of whom have supported the golf tournament for decades. We also welcomed new FCSU members from **Branch 924 Dan Bald, Michael Bolby, Zach Homyak, Randy McCracken, and Brandon Ross** and from **Branch 199 Lou Falbo**; first time participants **Dave Habian and Hudson Habian (Branch 855)**, and **Hagen Matta (Branch 38)**; and guests **Rece Hennemen and Joe Stewart**.

We could not have asked for more perfect weather, as our foursomes teed off on both days to moderate temperatures, sunshine, and beautiful blue skies. While the Lake Erie location made for a longer drive than recent tournaments, once our golfers experienced Sawmill Creek Resort's accommodations, amenities, food and well-maintained golf course, everyone said it was well worth the trip. (While nothing is perfect, I admit we did hear some rumblings about the fast greens. But what's a competition without a challenge?)

After two days of tournament play, we saw many familiar names among our top prize finishers. Over \$4,000 in cash prizes was awarded to 22 golfers based on net scores. We also awarded six golfers \$50 for scoring the lowest gross within their flights. Those golfers and their scores were: **Michael Bolby 163, David Schumucker 174, James M. Saul 191, Ed Poponick 181, Anthony Nastasi 169, and Dave Habian 167**. Four golfers excelled in the closest to the pin and longest putt skill competitions with **Tim Kuzusko (Branch 312), Ed Poponick (Branch 181), AJ Coval (Branch 456), and James M. Saul (Branch 670)** each winning \$225.

We celebrated even more winners after tournament play. Door prizes were awarded to over 60 golfers and guests during our evening festivities. Twenty-four golfers won raffle prizes valued from \$100 to \$500. Among our top raffle winners were:

- Andrew Kozusko (Branch 312)..... Bourbon Flight and 2027 Golf Tournament Certificate
- Rusty Groner (Branch 228)..... Sawmill Creek Golf and Lodging Certificate
- Howard Mowrey (Branch 24) 2026 Sun Mountain C-130 Golf Bag
- Lynn Johnson (Branch 670)..... 2027 Bowling Tournament Certificate
- Zach Homyak (Branch 924)..... Beats Studio Pro Headphones
- Brandon Ross (Branch 924)..... Michael Kors Leather Tote
- Tim Kozusko (Branch 312) Pennsylvania Lottery Tickets, with a \$187 payout

The winning continued for **Tim Kozusko and Bruno Felus (Branch 372)**, as the last ones standing to win the 50/50 raffles. **Austin Matta (Branch 38)** won bragging rights and the \$250 first prize in our golf trivia contest, with another \$500 in prizes going to the runners-up. **Lou Falbo and Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director**, earned \$50 for their spot on guesses in our bucket of balls and jar of tees guessing games.

Congratulations to all our golfers for your winning ways. Thank you for helping to make the 2026 Golf Tournament one of our best ever. Your friendship, fellowship and fraternalism were the best examples of what the FCSU strives to be. We look forward to seeing you again in 2027. Confirmed dates and the venue will be announced in an upcoming issue of the Jednota.

Kudos to the tournament co-managers, **John Tokarsky (FCSU Treasurer), Bradley Matta (FCSU Region 5 Director)** for their expertise. Much appreciation to Barbara Sutilla and the entire Tournament Team of Fran Strekal, Karen Habian, Annie Sutilla, Laura Lingenfield and Brian Lingenfield for their outstanding contributions to a successful and well-organized tournament experience.



Derek Johnston, Lynn Johnston, Rusty Groner and Jerry Hromada



John Tokarsky, Howard Mowery, Clarence Shank and Robert Kopanic



Anthony Nastasi, David DeGol, Marty Finklestine and Bruno Felus



Tim Kozusko, Andrew Kozusko, John E. Pastorek and John D. Pastorek



Mike Nemcheck, David Schmucker, Michael Bolby and Joe Stewart



Michael Debich, AJ Coval, Dave Habian and Hudson Habian

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS AND OTHER FUN!

See more photos at www.fcsu.com/event/2026-fcsu-international-golf-tournament/



Ed Poponick, Dan Poponick,
Brandon Ross and Zach Homyak



Fr. Thomas Nasta (National Chaplain), Damian Nasta
(Vice President) and Greg Maurer (Chairman of Auditors)



Bradley Matta
(Region 5 Director),
Bannon Matta
and Hagen Matta



Bruno Felus, accepts his
50/50 raffle winnings from
Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal
Activities Director



Gary Matta (General Counsel), Larissa Matta,
Rece Hennemen and Austin Matta



James Saul, Jim Saul,
Rick Sutula and Jeff Sutula



Pat Quinn, Scott Harr,
Tim Quinn and Barry Halula



Bill Quinn, Lou Falbo,
Dan Bald and Randy McCracken



Clarence Shank, who
submitted the first entry
to this year's tournament,
wins a set of grilling tools



First time golfers, Hudson
and Dave Habian carry on
our wonderful father and son
tradition at the tournament

District 10 Supports Cleveland's Popular Annual Slovak Festival

Submitted by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director

The Cleveland Slovak Radio Club hosted its popular Slovak Festival on July 11, 2026. The event was held on the beautiful picnic grounds of St. Sava Parish in Broadview Heights, OH. Four District 10 Branches participated by offering their members food and beverage tickets. All in all, 136 members of Branches 1, 24, 450, and 855 came out to enjoy a wonderful afternoon and evening supporting our shared heritage. FCSU participation greatly contributed to the well-attended crowd of over 800.

Attendees enjoyed delicious Slovak food including klobasa, halusky, schnitzel, pirohy, and halupky prepared onsite by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, many of whom also are FCSU members. Cleveland Slovak Radio Club President Henry Horvath is an auditor in Branch 855.

Karin Scally is the Club Treasurer and also Branch 855 Vice President; Club Secretary Susie Halley is a Branch 24 Member as are Club Trustees Vlad Cvicela and Dana Glova; and Club Trustee Martin Kulik is a member of Branch 1. Other members of both organizations who worked at or contributed to the event included: Milka Anderko, Pete Anderko, Joe Elias, Jana Chuba, Jessica Chuba, Maria Cvicela, Mark Cvicela, Emma Halley, Lily Halley, Andrew Horvath, Jana Horvath, Terri Ivanec, Tom Ivanec, Terezia Nosek, Joe Oros, Tim Scally, Fran Strekal, Ann Sutula, Barb Sutula and Maria Zapotakova.

Music by the Harmonia Band, featuring Branch 24's Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk on vocals and Alex Fedoriouk on cimbalom, was provided for dancing and listening pleasure under a large, covered pavilion. Following Harmonia, the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland, many of whom are members of the FCSU, performed a program of lively dances from eastern Slovakia. There also was face painting for kids and those young-at-heart as well as opportunities to join in games of corn hole and soccer on the adjacent spacious field and basketball on the nearby courts.

Thanks to the District 10 branches that helped sponsor the event with food and beverage tickets for their members and to our many members who worked and attended. Special thanks to FCSU President Ken Arendt for his unwavering support of our Greater Cleveland Slovak-American community, again providing FCSU sponsorship of the entire event. Together, we are keeping our Slovak traditions alive! We look forward to seeing even more members next year. Mark your calendars for the 2027 Slovak Radio Club Festival on June 26, on the grounds of St. Sava Parish in Broadview Heights, OH.



Delegates of Branch 112, Mahanoy City joined Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, enjoying Country Western Night at the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. St. John the Baptist members would like to thank the FCSU Board of Directors and the convention staff for all of their dedication in helping achieve a successful convention.

DIY HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

ENTER IF YOU DARE!

Create your **WINNING** costume based on a real or fictional character or develop a unique, original concept.

Compete in one of these categories:

- #1 Individual
- #2 Couple/Duo/Pair
- #3 Family/Group with a Unified Theme



18 Cash Prizes Will Be Awarded - Entry Deadline November 9
Entry Forms Also Available at fcsu.com/community/events/

CONTEST RULES:

- The competition is open to all ages. All persons in the photographs must be FCSU members.
- Duo/couple entries must include two members. Family/group entries must include at least three members.
- Maximum of three entries per member, as an individual, duo and group. No duplicate entries within a category will be accepted. Limit of one prize awarded per member.
- Costumes may be based on real life, fiction, or an original subject.
- Costumes are to be handmade or homemade. Purchased or rented costumes do not qualify.
- Make-up, face painting, and wigs allowed. Props and accessories that are not a main component of the costume may be store bought.
- Photos are to be original without excessive editing, including Photoshop, AI or special effects.
- Please keep the contest Family Friendly. Questionable, graphic, violent, political, or offensive content will result in disqualification.

PRIZES:

- 18 Cash Prizes will be awarded in six categories as shown below. Prize money checks will be issued to the member who submitted the entry.
- All costumes will be judged on Effort, Craftsmanship, and either Creativity/Originality or the Realistic/Accurate Representation of the character(s).
- Prize winning entries may be published in the Jednota newspaper, social media and on our website at fcsu.com.

CATEGORY	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE
1. Individual - Creative	\$150	\$100	\$75
2. Individual - Realistic	\$150	\$100	\$75
3. Duo/Couple - Creative	\$300	\$200	\$150
4. Duo/Couple - Realistic	\$300	\$200	\$150
5. Themed Family/Group - Creative	\$450	\$300	\$225
6. Themed Family/Group - Realistic	\$450	\$300	\$225

DIY HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Preferred method of entry:
Email your digital photo and entry form to JFibbi@fcsu.com.
Use Halloween Costume Contest in the subject line.

Optional: Mail your photo (non-returnable) to Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director,
1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Member Name: _____ Branch: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Title of Costume/Name of Character(s): _____
List the names of all individuals (and Branch #'s) in the photo from left to right: _____

DEADLINE

Entries must be received
no later than
NOVEMBER 9, 2026

- Check One:
- ☐ Individual - Creative
 - ☐ Individual - Realistic
 - ☐ Couple/Duo - Creative
 - ☐ Couple/Duo - Realistic
 - ☐ Family/Group - Creative
 - ☐ Family/Group - Realistic

By entering the contest, you give FCSU the right to publish entry photos in the Jednota, on social media or on our website.



WINNERS OF THE Stephen C. Matula Scholarship

Congratulations to our outstanding scholarship winners—Good luck in all your future endeavors!



ANTHONY ANGOTTI
Branch 228
Utah Tech University
Electrical Engineering



MADISON BELL
Branch 780
Midwestern State University
Bach. of Science Radiologic Tech.



CAMILLE BERG
Branch 276
Indiana University of PA
Nursing (BSN)



ELIZABETH DLUGOS
Branch 199
Bucknell University
Biology & Health Humanities



AIDAN DOIG
Branch 238
University of Central Florida
Mechanical Engineering



SOFIA FEDORIOUK
Branch 24
The Ohio State University
Biochemistry & Pre-Med



JAMES ASHER HALIK
Branch 382
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Business



BRUCE HIGGINBOTHAM II
Branch 320
Penn State University Park
Psychology



JACOB HOFF
Branch 166
SUNY Broome
Mechanical Engineering



PETER JURCENKO
Branch 153
Case Western Reserve University
Mechanical Engineering



JULIA KOCIS
Branch 108
University of South Carolina
Psychology & Criminology



MAYA KRAJSA
Branch 75
University of Pittsburgh
Undecided



MARTIN MEYER
Branch 393
Indiana University of PA
Music Performance BFA



AVA MILIAUSKAS
Branch 75
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry
Env. Resources Engineering



RORI MINERD
Branch 181
Pennsylvania State University
Biology



ZACHARY MORELLA
Branch 682
Grand Canyon University
Video Game Development



JULIETTE NICHOLS
Branch 19
Ave Maria University
Health Sciences



ISABEL OWENS
Branch 199
Lehigh University
Molecular Biology



LAWRENCE PEGULA
Branch 238
Pennsylvania State University
Finance



LEXI BRIANNE SHAFFER
Branch 348
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Biochemistry



ALEK SKWIRUT
Branch 181
University of Akron
B.S. Chemical Engineering



AVA TRUNELL-LAPUTKA
Branch 266
Florida State University
Criminology



CAROLINE VISNOVSKY
Branch 450
New York University
Global Liberal Studies



JOHN ZAKOVIC
Branch 45
Pennsylvania State University
Finance



TERESA ZENTKO
Branch 746
George Washington University
Neuroscience

FCSU Decorate-A-Cake Contest Winners

We hope everyone enjoyed their favorite patriotic events and activities in celebration of our country’s 250th milestone birthday. We are happy to also celebrate our very own patriotic cake decorators. Congratulations to all for your beautiful and creative entries. Thanks for sharing your American spirit. Your cakes looked amazing, we’re sure they tasted great too! God Bless America.

Age Group 12-19 – Tiered/Layer Cakes



1st Place – \$250
Kayla Fibbi
Branch 587
“Celebrate America”



2nd Place – \$200
Georgia Victory
Branch 553
“Bomb Pops Bursting in Air”



3rd Place – \$150
William Victory
Branch 553
“Baby You’re a Firework”

Age Group 20+ – Tiered/Layer Cakes



1st Place – \$250
Michelle Fibbi
Branch 587
“Star Spangled Celebration”



2nd Place – \$200
Nelsey E. Jurcenko
Branch 153
“July 4th Cake”



3rd Place – \$150
Ralph Travise
Branch 855
“Firework”

Age Group 20+ – Sheet Cakes



1st Place – \$250
Nancy Porter
Branch 24
“Beartastic Celebration”



2nd Place – \$200
Rachel Fibbi
Branch 587
“A Berry Happy Birthday”



3rd Place – \$150
Shannon Travise
Branch 855
“Stars and Stripes”



4th Place – \$100
Gloria Wassil Nace
Branch 5
“You Must be My Lucky Star”

Cupcakes



1st Place – \$250
Roberta Petrasek with
Scarlet Victory, Branch 553
“Take Me Out To The Ballgame”



Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour Hosts 42nd Annual Dinner Dance

Submitted by Greg Maurer, Chairman of Auditors

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour marked a joyful milestone on Saturday, August 29, as supporters gathered for the 42nd Annual Dinner Dance at Stratego’s Banquet Center in North Huntingdon, PA. More than 130 attendees filled the ballroom, coming together to celebrate Slovak culture, heritage, support the long running radio program, and enjoy an evening of fellowship rooted in Slovak tradition.

The event drew strong representation from the First Catholic Slovak Union. FCSU Board Members in attendance were Kevin Collins, Gary (Larissa) Matta, Jim (Patty) Marmol, Greg Maurer and Supreme Court Member Jim (Kay) Bench. They joined the celebration to show their support for the Radio Hour and its mission of preserving Slovak heritage in Western Pennsylvania.

A highlight of the evening was the unforgettable performance by Harmonia, the acclaimed Slovak folk ensemble known for its Traditional Folk and Gypsy music spanning the regions from the Danube to the Carpathians. Harmonia’s lively arrangements and authentic instrumentation brought the spirit of Slovakia directly to the dance floor.

The ensemble’s lead vocalist, our own Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk (Branch 24), captivated the audience with her heartfelt renditions of beloved Slovak melodies. Her warm stage presence and dynamic voice created an atmosphere that felt both nostalgic and electric. Beata’s performance didn’t stop at the microphone; she brought the crowd to its feet with an energetic Congo line, weaving through the hall and filling the evening with laughter and movement.

The main program was led by Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, hosts of the Radio Hour since 1979. Their decades of dedication and countless hours devoted to producing the program reflect an unmatched commitment to Slovak traditions. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed music, dancing, and fellowship while supporting a program that has long served as a cultural anchor for Slovak-American families across Western Pennsylvania. Once again, the Dinner Dance showed how deeply the community values its heritage and how enthusiastically it gathers to celebrate it.

As the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour continues its mission, events like this remind us that Slovak culture thrives when shared — in song, in dance, and in the company of friends.



Region 1 Comes Together for Annual Summer Picnic

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

On Sunday, August 9, 2026, FCSU members of Region 1 gathered at Al Kalla Park in Linden, New Jersey, for the annual Region 1 Summer Picnic hosted by Branch 746.

The picnic is now a well-established summer tradition, providing an opportunity for Jednota members from across the region to step away from their busy schedules, reconnect with friends and family, and celebrate the Slovak heritage that brings our community together. This year we welcomed members from Branches 45, 290, 716, and 746.

We were especially honored to welcome special guest, Beatrice Szabóová, Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York to the Jednota picnic. Her presence added a special significance to the afternoon and was a wonderful reminder of the strong connection between our Slovak-American community and the Slovak Republic. We were grateful that she took the time to join us and share in our celebration of fraternalism and community.

The afternoon was filled with delicious Slovak food catered by Julie and Steve Rada, wonderful conversation, and plenty of summer fun and refreshments! The arrival of the local ice cream truck featuring hand churned ice cream, It's Delicious Ice Cream Truck, was a welcome treat — especially on such a hot summer afternoon!

As always, the delicious food and warm fellowship gave everyone plenty of reasons to linger, visit, and catch up with old friends, while also welcoming the newest and littlest member of the Jednota family, baby Julieanna!

We would also like to recognize two very special ladies who join us year after year and have been proud members of the Jednota family for many decades — Mrs. Anne Zofchak of Branch 746 and Mrs. Lillian Minarovich of Branch 290. Both continue to be wonderfully active and engaged, regularly attending meetings and events well into their mid-90s. Their energy, dedication, and enduring connection to

Jednota are truly inspiring and a wonderful example of the lasting bonds that make our Jednota family so special.

Events like this are a wonderful reminder that Jednota is about more than membership. They are about family, friendship, fellowship, heritage and passing our traditions from one generation to the next. The smiles, conversations and laughter throughout the park demonstrated once again how strong and vibrant our Region 1 community continues to be.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who attended from near and far and helped make this year's picnic a success. Special thanks to the members of Branch 746 of Linden, NJ for hosting the event and to all of the Region 1 members from New York and New Jersey and friends who continue to support our Jednota activities. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Consul General Beatrice Szabóová for joining us and helping make this year's gathering even more memorable.



Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ms. Beatrice Szabóová outlining the services her office renders for Slovaks living in the US. Many members were eager to learn more about the process of applying to regain Slovak citizenship.



Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ms. Beatrice Szabóová with FCSU Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send Branch Announcements to branch@fcsu.com

TO MEMBERS OF BRANCH 259KJ Struthers, OH

There has been a merger between Branch 259KJ Struthers, OH and Branch 682KJ Youngstown, OH. All members of Branch 259KJ will now hold membership in Branch 682KJ. This merger has taken place as of September 1, 2026. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
6611 ROCKSIDE RD, STE#300
INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131
800.533.6682

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

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Collins

CALIFORNIA

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA
Milan Konkol, Secretary

St. Joseph the Guardian Society will hold our semi-annual meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2026. The annual meeting will be on Saturday, November 28, 2026. All meetings begin at 11:30am and are held at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. The agenda includes officer reports and the financial report.

The annual meeting will include the Election of 2027 Branch Officers, preparations for the Slovak Christmas Mass, and planning activities for 2027. After the meeting lunch will be served at the Olive Garden.

CONNECTICUT

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT
Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

The St. Joseph Society will hold a meeting via Zoom and in-person for officers at the offices of Kurt P. Solek, Fairfield on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 10am. We will hold the Election of Officers and plan our scholarship meeting for November 8, 2026. We cordially invite our members to virtually attend our meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to spend time getting together with their fellow branch members.

Link: tinyurl.com/Br19Sept26
Meeting ID: 880 9203 9428
Passcode: 340704

ILLINOIS

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL
Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

The St. Stephen Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Good Morning Good Day Café at 417 E. Main St., Streator at 11am. Delegates that attended 53rd Quadrennial Convention will discuss the changes approved at the convention. All members are urged to attend the meeting with lunch to follow. Please RSVP to 815-822-8851.

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, IL
Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

St. Stephen Society will hold a meeting on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 11:30am. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION is Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse, 10233 W. Higgins Rd., Rosemont. The meeting will include the Election of Officers, charitable donations, and convention reports. Reservations are required. RSVP to Dorothy at 708-995-7378 by October 3. Hope to have good attendance.

BRANCH 313 – ORLAND PARK, IL
Jennifer Carlton, Secretary

Happy Autumn all! Branch 313 will be hosting our last meeting of the year...so, please join us and take part! Dress up in a fun family friendly costume or come as you are! Halloween is coming after all! Either way, we would be grateful to have you there.

The meeting will be on October 6, 2026, at 12pm at Fox's on Wolf, 11247 W. 187th St., Mokena. This meeting will include the Election of Officers. Please RSVP to Margaret at 708-226-8157 by September 27. We look forward to seeing you! We'd like to wish an early Happy Holidays to all our Members! God Bless!

MICHIGAN

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HTS., MI
Joseph C. Rimarcik, President

The St. Joseph Society will hold its annual Christmas meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 1:30pm in the Church Social Hall at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights. Members are urged to attend the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30am. On the agenda will be officers' reports, financial report, discussion of branch activities, and other FCSU business. We will summarize the election and results of the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. We will also hold the Election for Branch Officers. Members who need policy assistance regarding a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or call 248-714-9620.

NEW JERSEY

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ
Mary Kapitan, Recording Secretary

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

NEW YORK

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY
Maria Juras, Financial Secretary

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2026, at 1pm after the Slovak mass at the rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th St. and 1st Avenue, New York. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last

OFFICERS' Corner

2

PER YEAR

Qualify for Yearly Stipends

Branches and Districts must have 2 meetings per year in order to qualify for the yearly stipend. Meetings must be announced no later than 30 days prior to the event.

4

PER YEAR

Fraternalism in Action

Branches and Districts may organize up to four Fraternalism in Action projects per year. With FCSU donating \$250 each time, the contributions can enhance your reach by \$1,000.

30

DAYS PRIOR

Election Announcements

Remember to include the Election of Officers in your upcoming announcements. Elections must be announced a minimum of 30 days prior to your meeting.

45

DAYS

Reimbursement Forms

Turn in Branch and District Reimbursement Program and Fraternalism in Action forms quickly. Ideally no more than 45 days after the event.

year's activities, Election for Officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY
Diane Wallick, Secretary

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society will hold their fall semi-annual meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Denny's Restaurant, 1250 Front St., Binghamton at 10:30am. A brunch is available for all members. We will hold an Election for Officers. Please respond to Morgan Dendler at catholicfcsu@gmail.com or 607-206-7243. Hope to see you there!

OHIO

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH
Barbara J. Golias, Secretary

The members of Branch 1 are invited to attend the Annual Harvest Festival and Pork Chop Dinner held on Sunday, October 25, 2026, in the St. Clement's Parish Hall at 2022 Lincoln Ave., Lakewood. Dinner will be served from 12-4pm. Tickets are \$25.

Dinner 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. Get your ticket by calling Mary Dubber at 216-228-0654 or Barb Golias at 330-296-6832 by October 10.

BRANCH 260 – COITSVILLE, OH
Carlie M. Peshek, Vice President

Our next branch meetings will be held Thursday, October 1 and Thursday, December 3.

We will hold the Election of Branch Officers at the December meeting as well as the holiday celebration.

All meetings begin at 5pm at La Terraza Restaurant, 5495 Clarkins Dr., Austintown. Looking forward to seeing all of you and God Bless!

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH
Debra Speck, President

All meetings and events are held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron. RSVP to 330-786-9972 when requested.

November 8: Branch 553 Lodge Meeting – 2pm – Election of Officers – The following positions are open: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee (Auditor). Please give your letter of intent to run for a position to Linda Hanko at the club or email to lhanko@neo.rr.com by Monday, November 2. Please RSVP for luncheon reservations.

December 5: Children's Christmas Party – 1pm – Bowling with Santa

December 13: Annual Vilija (Christmas) Dinner – 4pm – Ethnic food, music and fellowship!!

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH
Drew Hirt, President

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at noon at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers. The meeting will address the recent convention and plans for the remainder of the year.

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH
Anna Schwanitz, Recording Secretary

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 5pm at Coaches, 3032 Center Rd, Poland. We will hold the Election of Officers.

The Mass for Deceased Members will be held on November 11 at 12:10pm at St. Columba Cathedral, 159 W Rayen Ave, Youngstown.

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH
Karen Habian, Recording Secretary

The branch will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 1pm. The meeting will be held at Ruma's Restaurant located at 12841 State Rd., North Royalton. On the agenda will be the Election of Officers for 2027, a wrap-up of the year's events and making plans for the upcoming year. The meeting will be followed by a Thanksgiving party that

All Jednota deadlines are posted on our website at fcsu.com

you won't want to miss! Please see the Jednota October issue for all the details including our Fraternalism in Action donation. All members are invited to attend. Text Barbara Sutula at 440-864-4744 or email fcsu855@gmail.com to RSVP by November 13. Guests are invited to join us at a cost of \$25 payable to FCSU Branch 855.

PENNSYLVANIA

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PA
Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

The Saint John the Evangelist Society will hold a meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 12pm at Angelo's Restaurant and Pizza, Midway Shopping Center, 1000 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming, PA. A pizza luncheon will be provided. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business, activities and the Election for Officers. Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PA
Joseph C. Cervenak, President

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 8:30am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St., Ramey. The Election of Officers will be held. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA
Theresa Cassat, Recording Secretary

Join us at our next meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at the Greystone Homestyle Restaurant, 375 Theatre Dr., Suite 300, Johnstown at 1pm. Please arrive 15 minutes early. We will hold the Election of Officers. Our Branch Delegates will share a summary of the Convention. It should be a good meeting.

The Tamburitians Folk Ensemble from Pittsburgh will perform at North Star High School, 400 Ohio St. in Boswell on Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 2pm. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for seniors and \$10 for students. We will reserve a FREE ticket for any member who would like to attend. RSVP by September 30 to 814-254-2532.

BRANCH 108 – CONNELLSVILLE, PA
Dolores Kocis, President

St. John the Apostle Society will hold a meeting on October 6, 2026, at Double Dragon, 142 N. Pittsburgh St., Connellsville at 11:30am. Members will be asked to bring their ideas toward a future fundraising fraternal activity. RSVP to Branch.Oneoeight@mail.com.

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PA
Karen Sterling, Recording Secretary

St. John the Baptist will hold a semi-annual meeting via Zoom on September 20, 2026, at noon. The agenda will include the new by-laws adopted at the convention in July in Greenville, SC.

Branch 112 would like to congratulate Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary; Joanne Engle Austin, Regional Director Region 1; Matthew Sterling, Supreme Court Secretary; and Karen Engle Sterling, Pension Board who were elected at the convention.

Please try to attend and help bring new ideas to benefit our society. Contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 for further information about our Zoom meeting.

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/Br112Sept26
Meeting ID: 818 4572 7309
Passcode: 220045

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA
Dolores Marmol, Secretary

St. Wendelin Society will hold a meeting on September 14, 2026, at 5:30pm at Bogey's Restaurant, 374 Duck Hollow Rd, Uniontown. Officers' reports, branch activities, charitable donations and upcoming FCSU events will be discussed. Members and guests are invited to attend. RSVP to me at 724-437-4983.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Our next FIA is in support of the WVU Hospital Volunteers. Please bring word search books, coloring books, colored pencils, etc. to help cancer patients pass the time during their chemotherapy infusion treatments. Joanne Marmol talked with Amy Flasher, a hospital volunteer who stated that these items would be greatly appreciated.

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA
Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

The St. John the Baptist Society members are invited to a dinner meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 6pm at Aroma Italiano, 2220 Ligonier St., Latrobe. We will hold an Election of Officers. BYOB if desired. RSVP is required by Friday, September 18 by calling Vicki at 724-433-8469 or Darlene at 724-493-8712. Walks-ins without a reservation will not be served dinner.

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA
Tom Pipak, President

Branch 199 will be hosting a meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 1pm at Sharkey's Cafe, 3960 US Route 30, Latrobe. The Election of Officers will be held.

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA
Vicki Schaub, Recording Secretary

The branch will hold a meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2026. Our meetings are held at 6:30pm on the first Thursday of each month except June and July. All members are invited to attend at the Slovak CU, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City. Contact Vicki Schaub with any questions at vschaub123@gmail.com or 724-763-9229.

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PA
Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 12:30pm at Panera's restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria, 1500 Washington Rd., Mt. Lebanon. The meeting will include a report of activities, interim financial report, and lunch. Contact Joe Senko at 412-945-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com for reservations.

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA
Margaret A. Nasta, President

Branch 276 has revised its Fall meeting date to Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 1pm at Tillie's Restaurant, 308 36th St., McKeesport. We will discuss branch business matters and review the recent convention. Officers for 2027 will be elected and meeting dates for next year will be selected.

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PA
Joseph Tarquinio, Vice President

The second yearly meeting will be held on Sunday, November 29, 2026, at 1pm at Bubba's Kitchen & Bar, 111 Gallitin Rd., Belle Vernon. We will hold the Election for Branch Officers. Members are welcome; we will be ordering Bubba's Burgers. Reservations are required to Frances at 724-929-9788 by Thursday, November 19. No charge for members; non-members \$20.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: Canned food will be collected for the needy. There are over 2,000 homeless children in Pittsburgh plus adults. All food donations will go to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Our yearly Christmas brunch will be held at La Eda's Restaurant, 1723 Grand Blvd., Monessen, PA on Sunday, December 13 at 1pm. Reservations are required to Frances at 724-929-9788 by Thursday, December 3. No charge for members; non-members \$20.

FRATERNALISM IN ACTION: We are asking each member to bring canned food to donate to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA
Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, President

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2026. Officers and members will gather at 1pm at the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore. Branch Delegates to the FCSU Convention will report to the membership. The agenda will also include reports from the Branch officers and a summary of our Branch Picnic. Members will discuss future branch activities, donations, and the Annual Report for 2026. Information from the Home Office will be disseminated. The Election of officers for 2026-27 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. RSVP by Wednesday, November 4, 2026.

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.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING! Consider Pursuing a Leadership Role in Your Branch.

JEDNOTA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1 Soupçon

4 Feedbag feed

8 Tennis's ____ Cup

13 Fr. summer

14 Recipe direction

16 Discharge

17 Greek vowel

18 Complex unit

19 Madagascar ____ cat

20 Authoritative declaration

22 Life of Riley

24 Wine holder

25 Texas cook-off dish

26 Sedated

28 Shamus

29 Baby shoe

31 Nabisco cookies

34 Masterstroke

35 Cuts off

38 Calendar square

39 Lush

40 Water tester

41 From the start

43 First-rate

44 Noodles

46 Ought to

48 Fortify

49 Comeback

51 Tedium

54 Crew tool

55 Approach

58 Swellings

60 Visibly shocked

62 Journalist Alfred Alistair ____

64 Rascal

65 Town ____

66 Copier need

67 Camel hair fabric

68 Revolution orator

69 Rocky peaks

70 Relations

Down

1 Exploit

2 Loft

3 Sandy spot

4 Sponge parts

5 Type of energy or clock

6 Ring count

7 Marquis de ____

8 Overpower

9 Give it ____

10 Albs and cassocks, e.g.

11 Matter of debate

12 Put up with

15 Bygone bird

21 Former Yugoslav leader

23 Range

27 Golfer's concern

29 Spring

30 Yorkshire river

31 Harem room

32 Dashed

33 Computer workers problem

34 Refrigerate

36 Musical symbol

37 Expanse

39 Recipe direction

42 Reporter's question

44 Overly gratifies

45 Green Gables girl

47 Obstinate

48 More docile

49 Kitchen pest

50 Tidal bore

52 Eskimo boat

53 Poets' feet

56 Be in a cast

57 Dig like a pig

59 Pair of oxen

61 ____ annum

63 Musician Yoko

Answers on Page 21

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA
Kirstin Meyer, President

The Saint Joseph Society will hold a meeting and dinner on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 4pm at New City Buffet, 5142 State Route 30, Suite 175, Greensburg. RSVP by September 18 to Eileen at 724-539-2764 or FCSU.branch393@gmail.com with the number of people planning to attend. All members and their families are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to bring a guest. The agenda includes the Election of Branch Officers, discussing future plans, and the updates from the Home Office and the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. Please consider nominating someone for office.

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA
Kathy Froncek, Recording Secretary

St. Anthony of Padua invites all branch members to attend the semi-annual meeting on Friday, November 6, 2026, at 6:30pm. It will be held at the president's home at 1223 Wysocki Ave., North Apollo. Dinner will follow the meeting. Members are encouraged to attend as upcoming activities will be discussed, and we will hold the Election of Branch Officers. RSVP via email to kmfroncek@yahoo.com.

SLOVAK J CLUB
485 MORGAN AVE • AKRON, OH

*Call 330-786-9972 to RSVP
To RSVP for dinner, contact us by the
MONDAY PRIOR to the dinner.

SEPTEMBER 2026

9-12 OSU vs. Texas - 7:30pm

9-13 Browns vs. Jaguars - 1pm

9-16 Clam Chowder with
Fish Sandwich Dinner
4:30-6:30pm *RSVP by 9-14

9-19 OSU vs. Kent State - 12pm

9-20 Browns vs. Buccaneers - 1pm

9-26 OSU vs. Illinois - TBA

9-27 Breakfast Buffet - 9am-11:45am
All you can eat

9-27 Browns vs. Panthers - 1pm

OCTOBER 2026

10-1 Browns vs. Steelers - 8:15pm

10-3 OSU vs. Iowa - TBA

10-7 Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30-6:30pm

10-10 OSU vs. Maryland - TBA

10-11 Browns vs. Jets - 1pm

10-17 OSU vs. Indiana - TBA

10-18 Browns vs. Ravens - 1pm

10-21 Pork Chop Dinner
4:30-6:30pm *RSVP by 10-20

10-25 Breakfast Buffet - 9am-11:45am
All you can eat

10-25 Browns vs. Titans - 1pm

10-31 OSU vs. USC - TBA

SAVE THE DATE!

11-14 125 Club Drawing – Side Boards
open at 5pm; Dinner at 6pm
Drawing to follow

11-25 Scotch Doubles – 6pm
\$20/twosome; Covered dish
requested. Sloppy Joes provided

12-5 Children's Christmas Party

12-13 Annual Vilija (Christmas) Dinner

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA
Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary

We invite you to a meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 11:30am at Bill's Golfland, 210 Bills Ln., Belle Vernon. This meeting will include the Election of 2027 Officers. The meeting will also be held via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Please contact branch670secretary@gmail.com a day in advance for the link.

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA
Monica Boone, President

The annual meeting of Branch 853 will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2026, on a Gateway Clipper cruise at 6pm at 250 W. Station Square Dr., Pittsburgh. At the meeting, there will be the Election of Officers and planning the agenda for the 2027 year. If you want a topic discussed but cannot attend, please email the branch at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com. There is no cost for branch members. If a branch member makes a reservation and does not attend, the member will be responsible for the \$35 cost of the ticket. Cost for non-branch members is \$35 and must be paid in advance. Make your reservations by emailing FCSUBranch853@gmail.com by September 19. Hope to see you there!

WASHINGTON, DC

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC
Katherine Nowatkoski, President

Please join us on September 19, 2026 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of our Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows. Mass begins at 2pm. We have been invited to join Bishop Kulick's group from Greensburg, PA. RSVP to me at 919-651-0363 or Joann Austin at jeaustin89@gmail.com.

WISCONSIN

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI
Susan Scaife, Activities Director

Come join us Saturday, October 3, 2026, for a day of polka music and fun at the Bavarian Bierhaus, 700 W. Lexington Blvd., Glendale. We have reserved tables in the covered outdoor fest hall. Tables will be labeled Branch 89. There is a \$10 admission fee at the entrance which will be reimbursed when the Member Attendance sheet is signed. Music begins at 2pm.

CANADA

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON
Anne Mitro, Secretary

The branch will hold a Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 13, 2026, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. English Mass is at 9am; Slovak Mass is at 11am. Following the Masses, a community breakfast will be held in the church hall. Hope to see all members attend this special event.

John Tokarsky, Frat. Activities Director
We will be holding our annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at Centennial Park Golf Centre in Toronto (Etobicoke). The cost per member is \$100 (slightly higher for non-members) which includes everything. For more information and to register, call John Tokarsky at 416-948-6606 by September 11.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS
Send District Announcements to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 1 – REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – CT, MA
Deborah M. Nelson, Recording Secretary

The District will conduct a hybrid meeting in-person at the offices of Kurt P. Solek, Fairfield for the Executive Board and via Zoom for members on September 13, 2026, at 11:30am. We will hold the Election of Officers. We look forward to seeing our dedicated members.
Link: tinyurl.com/D1Sept26 • Meeting ID: 885 2513 6413 • Passcode: 373012

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

The District will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedictine, 5900 West 147th St., Oak Forest, IL. There will be socialization and refreshments at 1:30pm with the meeting beginning at 2pm. We will hold the Election of Officers. A discussion of the 53rd Quadrennial Convention will be presented by the delegates who attended. 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

The next district meeting will be Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 6pm at St. Florian Social Hall, 4263 Route 981, Mt. Pleasant. We will hold the Election of District Officers. Agenda includes updates from the convention and planning for the annual Štedrý Večer. We look forward to a great turnout!

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT – NJ
Mary Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 290 will host the next district meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1pm at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Rd., Middlesex. The agenda will include the Election of 2027 Officers, a re-cap of the Convention, and discussion of activities for next year. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 or minarovich@hotmail.com by October 16.
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 our district.

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

Branch 254 will host the fall business meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 1pm at the Holy Trinity church hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Ave. Ext., West Mifflin. We will discuss district business matters, review the recent convention and hold the Election of 2027 District Officers. RSVP by November 8 to Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-945-6000.
Announcements of local interest:
• WPSCA meets first Mondays at the Mt Lebanon Public Library at 7pm.
October: Slovak Cookies; November: No Meeting; December: Show & Tell.
• WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts other events. Consider joining the organization and get the newsletter.
• NSS September Fest: Saturday, September 26 - 351 Valley Brook Rd., McMurray, PA, 11am to 4pm – free admission – See the amazing, animated Nativity.
• FCSU Fall Picnic: Saturday, October 3 – Simmons Farm – free to members, RSVP to the Home Office.
• Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: Sunday, November 1 – 11am to 4pm – free admission – food, entertainment, vendors.
• Slovak Language Classes: Brentwood Public Library, contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net for times and dates.
• Western PA Slovak Radio Hour: WPIT 96.5 FM/730 AM – Sundays.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. Check the web site for forms, gift shop and other useful information.

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

Branch 23 will host the next district meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1pm at Hoss's Steak & Sea House, 441 Theatre Dr., Johnstown. We will hold the Election for District Officers. Please consider coming if you are a member in a branch in our district. If you have any questions, please call Theresa Cassat at 814-254-2532. We look forward to seeing you!

DISTRICT 8 – REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PA, NC
Joanne Austin, Recording Secretary

The meeting scheduled for September 19 has been rescheduled. The fall district meeting is now scheduled for Sunday, October 4 at 1pm. The Election of Officers will be held. It will be a zoom meeting. We apologize for the inconvenience.
Link: tinyurl.com/D8FallMtg • Meeting ID: 880 3231 7164 • Passcode: 295522

DISTRICT 10 – REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – OH

Barbara Sutilla, District Secretary

District 10 will hold our semi-annual meeting on November 8, 2026, at 3pm hosted by Branch 553 at the Slovak “J” Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron. We will hold our Election of Officers for 2027. If any member in good standing in Branches 1, 24, 228, 450, 553, or 855 is interested in running for Chaplain, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Auditor please email a letter of intent to ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com by November 1. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Watch for news of our Fraternalism in Action project in the October issue of the Jednota. Please RSVP by text to Barbara at 440-864-4744 or email ohiodistrict10@yahoo.com.

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT – PA

Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

The semi-annual meeting of Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 2pm at the Monroe Hotel, 400 E. Jefferson St., Butler. The Election for District Officers will be held. We will also discuss upcoming events and initial plans for 2027. Please RSVP to Karen Greggs at 724-372-0690 or kgreggs39@gmail.com by November 8. We hope to see all of you there!

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – PA

Monica Boone, Recording Secretary

The Monsignor Hlinka District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 1pm at Bills Golfland, 210 Bills Lane, Belle Vernon, PA. The Election of District Officers, the memorial service remembering deceased Hlinka district members and planning the activities for 2027 are on the agenda.

The district will also participate in the FCSU Fraternalism in Action program by collecting shelf stable food items for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Duquesne location. Please be as generous as your situation allows.

Contact your branch president or the district secretary, hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com, if you would like to attend by electronic means or if you have any questions. Hlinka district members are encouraged to attend.

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

Jacquelyn Bobby, Recording Secretary

We will have a meeting on November 17, 2026, at 6pm at the Fireplace Restaurant, 2075 E. Western Rd., Poland. We will hold the Election for District Officers.

SAVE THE DATE! The Christmas Party will be on December 15 at Rachel’s Restaurant, 54 Westchester Dr., Austintown, OH.

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PREBINA DISTRICT – AR, CA, KS, MN, OR, WA

Paul Skuben, President

The Prince Pribina District will hold our semi-annual meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2026. The annual meeting will be on Saturday, November 28, 2026. All meetings begin at 11am and are held at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. The agenda includes officer reports and the financial report.

The annual meeting will include the Election of 2027 District Officers, preparations for the Slovak Christmas Mass, and planning activities for 2027. 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 district annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 1pm at St. John Nepomucene Church hall located at 411 E. 66th St., New York City. The agenda will include discussion of upcoming activities for year 2027. The Election of 2027 Officers will also take place. After our meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to attend.

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza Okresu č. 16 – Msgr. Stephen Krasula v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 18.októbra, 2026 o 13:00 hodine v hale slovenskeho kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street a 1st Avenue, New York City. Na schodzi prejedname mozne aktivity na rok 2027 a taktiez prebehnu aj volby pre clenov noveho vyboru na rok 2027. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

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

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

Saints Cyril & Methodius will conduct their Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 1pm. Members will gather at Cooper’s Seafood Restaurant, 701 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA. The agenda will include reports from the officers and the Regional Director, future activities, and donations. Members will also hear a summary of the FCSU Convention. The Election of District Officers for 2026-2027 will take place. A luncheon buffet and socializing will follow. All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting. Branches must contact Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570-342-7562 to confirm attendance by Wednesday, October 14. The restaurant requires an accurate count 10 days prior to the event.

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA – MISSISSAUGA, ON

John Tokarsky, Fraternal Activities Director

We will be holding our annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Outing on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at Centennial Park Golf Centre in Toronto (Etobicoke). The cost per member is \$100 (slightly higher for non-members) which includes everything. See the ad on page 9. For more information and to register, call John Tokarsky at 416-948-6606 by September 11.

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2026

ASSETS

Bonds	\$478,554,472
Preferred Stock	4,750,000
Common Stock	1,416,865
Mortgage loans on real estate	61,906,794
Property Plant & Equipment	1,088,163
Cash	29,771,341
Certificate Loans	1,319,718
Other Invested Assets	14,726,330
Investment Income Due & Accrued	6,024,468
Uncollected premiums in course of collection	113,330

Total Assets	\$599,671,481
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LIABILITIES

Life & Annuity Reserves	525,026,778
Liability for deposit type contracts	12,849,711
Death claims payable	300,000
Provision for dividend payable	400,000
Asset valuation reserve (AVR)	4,825,733
Accrual for future convention costs	1,050,000
Post retirement reserve	784,836
Amounts retained as trustee	6,143,504
Other liabilities	394,304

Total Liabilities	\$551,774,866
Surplus	47,355,931
Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds	\$599,130,797

Income Statement As of June 30, 2026

INCOME

Insurance & Annuity Premiums	\$10,472,005
Net Investment Income	13,225,771
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	129,330
Miscellaneous Income	7,846

Total Income	\$23,834,952
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EXPENSES

Death Benefits	1,168,819
Annuity Benefits	19,006,909
Surrender Benefits	272,227
Interest on deposit-type contracts	1,253,209
Increase in reserves - Life & Annuity contracts	137,780
Commissions paid on new contracts	202,484
General Insurance & fraternal expenses	3,187,216
Insurance taxes, state licenses & fees	115,134

Total Expenses	\$25,343,778
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Net Loss from operations before dividends	(1,508,826)
Dividends paid to policyholders	161,137
Net Loss from operations after dividends	(1,669,963)
Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses)	736

Net Income (Loss)	(\$1,669,227)
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CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT

Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, prior year	48,836,153
Net Income current year	(1,669,227)
Change in unrealized capital gain (Loss)	749,756
Change in asset valuation reserve	(553,664)
Other gains & losses in surplus	(7,087)
Net change in capital & surplus current year	(1,480,222)

Capital & surplus, Dec. 31st, current year	\$47,355,931
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Update on Annuity Product Reserves Due to New NAIC Regulations

In response to recent regulatory changes introduced by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), we have adjusted the reserve allocations for certain annuity products. These changes require us to hold a higher percentage in reserves to maintain compliance and ensure continued financial stability.

To meet these requirements, we have strategically reallocated funds from our surplus accounts. This proactive approach reinforces our commitment to sound financial management and long-term security for our members and policyholders. Despite these adjustments our Society remains financially strong. We appreciate your continued trust and partnership as we uphold the highest standards of financial responsibility.



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.
Odpocinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpocivajú v pokoji. Amen

BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH	NAME
002K	Michael Mato	465K	Sylvia Testa
001K	Brett F. Kuczkowski	484K	David D. Mehall
002K	Joseph Anthony Solinsky	571K	John Malinak
003P	Ann Menne	581K	Anthony J. Velligan
003P	Constance I. Ososki	581K	Michael J. Zolcak Jr.
005P	Albert Shemo	670K	Jerome Papon
019K	Joseph Skoscufko	670K	Walter Painter
038K	Edward J. Bartek	682K	Jane M. Kanik
055K	Michele Middleton	733K	Delores Serecin
060K	Ann Wargovich	746K	Richard G. Capik
085K	Gary J. Loughney	764K	Ronald A. Sinchak
089K	Catherine Rick	764K	Ronald T. Rogers
157K	Margaret E. Hogan	796K	Donald Genovese
165K	John Bules	796K	Marie Genovese
181K	Timothy Smail	856K	Donald Carpency
200K	James J. Panchik	916K	William S. Hawley
200K	Joanne Valasek	917K	Karen L. Allman
200K	Raymond Goldinger	921K	Eldon L. Steele
224K	Thomas Yourek	924K	David M. Kitch
260K	Maryann Jurcisin	924K	Robert E. Hartzell Jr.
294K	Walter L. Bobowski	924K	William Gething
322K	Christopher N. Meholick	926K	Leon G. Nimmer
322K	Josephine P. Lesko		
382K	Jane Kapinus		
382K	Marlene Pelak		

* Processed in the month of August 2026

Donald Carpency Branch 856, Washington DC

Donald Carpency, 86, passed away peacefully at The Arbor at Lake Worth in Florida, surrounded by family. He was the son of Francis Carpency and Barbara (Deem) Carpency of New Philly, PA, and resided in Mountainside, NJ, for more than 50 years before moving to Florida with his son.

Don proudly served his country in the United States Navy as a Seabee. He worked for more than 40 years at PSE&G in Elizabeth, NJ, and owned and operated his own business, DJ Electric, for many years.

He worked tirelessly for his family, yet always found a way to attend his children's baseball and softball games. Don was a homebody who had a love of watching and playing golf, enjoyed Memorial Day barbecues at his home, with the entire Woodland Avenue neighborhood in attendance. He also loved tending to the large garden in his backyard, taking care of his property, and relaxing in his recliner while making ornaments for the family Christmas tree.

He is survived by his son, Christopher Carpency, his wife, Karen, and stepson, Cameron; as well as his daughter, Barbara (Carpency) Malosky, and her husband Tracey.

Edward J. Chodelka Branch 831 Tarentum, PA

Edward J. Chodelka, 93, of New Kensington, PA, died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Concordia Nursing Care, Cabot, PA. He was born December 30, 1932, in Tarentum PA, to the late Joseph A. and Elizabeth (Pirch Barnas) Chodelka.

Edward graduated from Tarentum High School in 1951 and completed his machinist trade training with ALCOA in New Kensington, PA. After serving in the U.S. Army for 4 years at Fort Belvoir, VA, and Italy, Edward returned to the local area and married his beloved wife, Eleanor Ann (Ruman) on October 4, 1958. Together they raised 4 children in New Kensington, PA. He worked as a Machinist at ALCOA Research and Development Center, providing technical support for many projects, including the Audi aluminum car project in Germany, and retired in 1988.

Edward was a kind and loving husband, father, and grandfather, and a trusted friend to many. He was a member of the Tarentum Jaycees, the St. Joseph Church Holy Name Society, and the ALCOA 25 Year Club. He served on the Parish Council of St. Joseph Church, where he was an active and faithful member for over 60 years.

Edward enjoyed traveling with his wife, Eleanor, and was a great storyteller. He



Andrew Paul Rajec Passed into Eternal Life on August 13, 2026

Age 52 years. Born to eternal life August 13, 2026 at Zilber Hospice in Wauwatosa, WI. Beloved son of Andrew M. and Ida Rajec. Dear brother of Daniel and the late Idka Rajec. Nephew of Dr. Jan (Sandra) Riecan. Cousin of Jane Riecan and Monica Cielle. Dear friend of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Rydlewicz. Further survived by other relatives and many friends here, throughout the United States and Slovakia.



USAID's Meritorious Honor Award for exemplary service and leadership in furthering the Europe and Eurasia Bureau's Foreign Policy Interest and USAID programs. He also participated as an international election observer for the crucial 2008 presidential elections in the Republic of Georgia, helping to enhance accountability and transparency and boosting domestic and international confidence in the country's election process. Andrew began his career in Washington, DC as personal assistant to United States Senator Mitch McConnell, and eventually became Special Assistant to Secretary of Labor, Elaine L. Chao, and served as a member of the Secretary's transition team.

Andrew was the Director of Independent Agents for the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) and President of Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities, an organization established under the auspices of Sister Cities International (Washington, DC) to develop and promote the relationship of Cleveland, Ohio with its sister city Bratislava and other regions of the Slovak Republic.

Andrew was a licensed insurance professional in 9 states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Prior to joining FCSU, he was an integral part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) where he served as the International Cooperation Specialist for Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Romania and as Deputy Director for the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He was awarded

Andrew was a graduate of Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay, WI. He received his BSc in Business Administration from Marquette University, specializing in Finance, and was awarded membership into Alpha Sigma Nu, the honor society of Jesuit colleges and universities. After Marquette, Andrew earned his MBA with High Honors (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of Notre Dame and was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society. Andrew was also a Fourth Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus.

was extremely skilled with his hands and enjoyed carpentry, car repair, and gardening. If you needed something done, and done right, he was your man.

Edward loved to talk with people and could speak enough Slovak, Russian, German, Italian, and Arabic to make a non-English speaking person feel noticed. He had an engaging demeanor that put people at ease and often ended his conversations, even on the phone, with a sincere "God bless you and your family."

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Eleanor A. Chodelka; his daughter, Theresa (Robert) Vidas Weirton, WV, his sons, David (Elizabeth) Chodelka Doylestown, PA., Timothy Chodelka of New Kensington, and Robert (Jill) Chodelka of Bradenton, FL; his grandchildren, Erica Rogers, Andrew Chodelka, and Rachel Chodelka. In

addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Barnas Katora, and his brother, Michael Barnas.

September is Suicide Prevention Month



This month, we join communities across the country in raising awareness about suicide prevention. It's a time to remember those we have lost, support those who may be struggling, and spread hope that healing is possible. Together, through compassion and connection, we can help break the silence and remind one another that no one has to face their challenges alone. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 to connect with the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

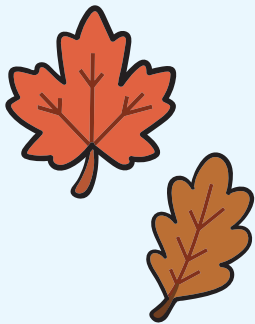


FCSU Search-A-Word

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

September Word List

CIDER	LISTY (Leaves)
MAPLE	ŠKOLA (School)
STUDENT	JABLKÁ (Apples)
HARVEST	UČITEL (Teacher)
FOOTBALL	ZOŠIT (Notebook)
LABOR DAY	CERUZKA (Pencil)



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

Search-A-Word Rules

Five monthly winners will receive \$50!

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. One entry per member! Complete the puzzle and email it along with your name, address, email and branch number to puzzle@fcsu.com. Or mail puzzle and form to: FCSU PUZZLE
6611 Rockside Road • Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by October 29, 2026.
Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

July Puzzle Winners

Juraj Balak.....	Branch 855
Tim Kapitan.....	Branch 746
Ronald Kutsko	Branch 731
Rosemarie Leasure.....	Branch 162
Eli Strekal	Branch 24

Congratulations and Keep Puzzling!

Hlinka District 12 holds 6th Annual Picnic

Submitted by Monica Boone, District 12 Recording Secretary

The Hlinka District 12 held its 6th Annual picnic at Cedar Creek Park in Belle Vernon, PA on July 26, 2026. Every year members from branches 320, 670 and 853 come together to enjoy a meal, renew friendships and have fun. This year, a record number of people attended. Donations of door prizes were received from the Home Office, district member John Curcio and the district itself. Every member attending after signing in, took a Celebrate America FCSU Financial pen and colorful key chain. Branch 853 member Charles Boone had the quote of the day - "Attending is just fun. No agenda, no worries, even helping at the picnic is just fun." See you next year!



FCSU Members at the 53rd Quadrennial Convention. (L-R) Bruce Nalevanko (Branch 393), Dr. Michael J. Kopanic (District 7 President), Luke Butara (Branch 23 Vice President), Cody Butara (Branch 23), Theresa Cassat (Branch 23 Treasurer), Lenny Fenimore (Branch 23), Frank Pipak (Branch 199) and Michelle Pipak (Branch 119). Photo provided by Dr. Michael J. Kopanic.

What's bigger when it's upside down?
A 6.

What did the calculator say to the other calculator?
"You can count on me!"

What's a tree's favorite fall song?
Don't Stop Be-Leafin.

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

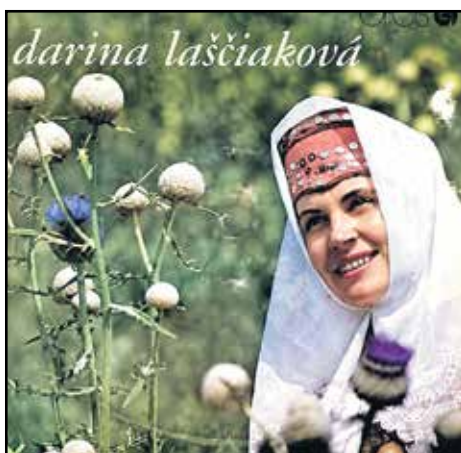
Slovak News - Slovenské Správy



Darina Laščiaková: A Life Dedicated to Slovak Folk Songs

Submitted by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

One of Slovakia's cultural icons passed away on August 12, 2026 - Darina Laščiaková. An ethnographer, folk singer and radio editor, Laščiaková's unique voice graced us for decades with her many recordings. She will forever remain a tribute to a life dedicated to preserving Slovak folk songs and culture. She was 94 years-old.



Laščiaková (née Gažová) was born on November 23, 1931 in Tvrdosín, Orava. "According to accounts of her childhood, she first sang in public at around two and a half years old, and was paid with a glass of raspberry cordial".

Upon completing her secondary education in Trstená, she attended college at Comenius University in Bratislava, where she studied musicology and ethnology. While a student, she joined the folk ensemble Lúčnica and performed as a soloist for the group between 1951 and 1954. She graduated in the mid-1950s and wrote her thesis on the musical culture of the Gorals of northern Orava.

After her university studies, She sang with the radio ensemble of Folk Artistic Creativity (Ľudová umelecká tvorivosť) and the radio's Orchestra of Folk Instruments (OLUN). She also worked for the Regional National Committee in Bratislava from 1959 to 1961. Her career gelled when she began working for Slovak radio in 1961. During her thirty-three years of work, she traveled throughout Slovakia's villages to record local singers and instrumental music. Her collections form the core of genuine musical folklore, a permanent archive at Slovak Radio.

While working for Slovak Radio, she created numerous programs on folk songs and music, and even performed the works she wrote about. Her crowning achievement was the popular series "Hory, ľudia a pieseň" ("Mountains, People and Song"), about life in Slovakia's mountains. Her other programs included the following: Listujeme v zbierkach ľudových piesní (Browsing through Collections of Folk Songs); Večery pri ľudovej hudbe (Evenings of Folk Music); Zberatelia ľudových piesní (Collectors of Folk Songs); Známi interpreti ľudových piesní (Famous Interpreters of Folk Songs); Piesne moje, piesne (My Songs); Z mojej domoviny (From My Homeland); and Ako interpretovať ľudovú pieseň (How to Interpret a Folk Song). For two decades, she also broadcasted live radio from the Východná Folklore Festival, the largest annual summer folk festival in Slovakia.

Some of her most treasured works are the songs she collected and sang about folk life and weddings from her home regions of Orava. At a time when industrialization and modernization were transforming Slovak culture, her efforts helped to preserve many songs as well as regional variants in many dialects that otherwise might not have survived. Thanks to her, there is a written and recorded archive of these precious works.

Laščiaková herself sang and recorded many of the folk songs she had collected across Slovakia. She performed many treasured songs across Czechoslovakia as well as abroad. At Slovak Radio, she worked with the giants of Slovak folk music and numerous folk ensembles and orchestras, including the following: Eugen Farkaš, Miroslav Dudík and Rinaldo Oláh, the Slovak Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments, the ensemble of Slávek Volavý from Moravia, and the Brno Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments.

Her own voice resounded soft and natural, and she possessed a genuine feeling and appreciation of the lyrics of Slovak folk songs. Among her best-known recordings are Svadobná odobierka (Wedding Collection), Zahrajte mi tichúčko (Quietly Play for Me), Šípová ružička (Sleeping Beauty; literal meaning, Rosy of the Rosehip) and Uspávanka (Lullaby). Among her most famous songs is the Orava wedding farewell song Zbohom ostávajte (Farewell, God be with you).

In addition to her work at Slovak Radio, Laščiaková also played roles in some films, including Rodná zem (Native land, 1953), Balada o Vojtovej Maríne (The Ballad of Vojta's Marína, 1964), Kubo (1965), and Môj vienok zelený (My Green Wreath, 1968).

After retiring, she published in 2005 a memoir, Život s piesňou (A Life with Song), which describing her life as a child in Orava and her later adventures collecting folk songs across Slovakia.

Laščiaková devoted her entire life to preserving and singing the songs she had discovered in her journeys across Slovakia. Slovakia's President Peter Pellegrini wrote a tribute to her on a social network: "Slovakia has lost an exceptional personality whose life was connected with song, our traditions and cultural heritage. However,

her unmistakable voice will remain preserved in recordings and in the memory of all those to whom she brought beauty and reminded us of our roots with her singing." Her contributions and legacy will not be forgotten.

Darina Laščiaková: Život zasvätený slovenským ľudovým piesňam

Dňa 12. augusta 2026 odišla do večnosti významná osobnosť slovenskej kultúry – Darina Laščiaková. Etnografka, ľudová speváčka a rozhlasová redaktorka obdarila poslucháčov desaťročia svojim nezameniteľným hlasom v množstve nahrávok. Navždy zostane spomienkou na život zasvätený uchovávaní slovenských ľudových piesní a kultúry. Zomrela vo veku 94 rokov.

Darina Laščiaková, rodená Gažová, sa narodila 23. novembra 1931 v Tvrdosíne na Orave. Podľa spomienok na jej detstvo prvýkrát verejne spievala približne ako dvaapoločná. Za svoje vystúpenie vtedy dostala pohár malinovsky.

Po ukončení stredoškolského vzdelania v Trstenej pokračovala v štúdiu na Univerzite Komenského v Bratislave, kde sa venovala muzikológii a etnológii. Počas štúdia sa stala členkou folklórneho súboru Lúčnica a v rokoch 1951 až 1954 v ňom vystupovala ako sólistka. Univerzitu ukončila v polovici 50. rokov a svoju diplomovú prácu venovala hudobnej kultúre Goralov severnej Oravy.

Po vysokoškolských štúdiách spievala v rozhlasovom súbore Ľudovej umeleckej tvorivosti a v Orchestri ľudových nástrojov (OLUN). V rokoch 1959 až 1961 pracovala aj na Krajskom národnom výbore v Bratislave. Jej profesionálna kariéra sa naplno rozvinula v roku 1961, keď začala pracovať v Slovenskom rozhlase. Počas 33 rokov pôsobenia v rozhlase precestovala slovenské dediny, kde zaznamenávala miestnych spevákov a ľudovú inštrumentálnu hudbu. Jej zbierky sa stali základom autentického hudobného folklóru a dodnes tvoria trvalú súčasť archívu Slovenského rozhlasu.

Počas práce v Slovenskom rozhlase pripravila množstvo programov venovaných ľudovým piesňam a hudbe a mnohé z diel, o ktorých rozprávala, sama aj interpretovala. Jej najvýznamnejším počínom bol populárny seriál Hory, ľudia a pieseň, venovaný životu ľudí v slovenských horách. Medzi jej ďalšie programy patrili Listujeme v zbierkach ľudových piesní, Večery pri ľudovej hudbe, Zberatelia ľudových piesní, Známi interpreti ľudových piesní, Piesne moje, piesne, Z mojej domoviny a Ako interpretovať ľudovú pieseň.

Dve desaťročia zároveň pripravovala živé rozhlasové vysielanie z folklórneho festivalu Východná, najväčšieho každoročného letného folklórneho festivalu na Slovensku. Medzi jej najcennejšie práce patria piesne, ktoré zozbierala a sama spievala, najmä piesne o ľudovom živote a svadbách z jej rodného regiónu Oravy. V čase, keď industrializácia a modernizácia výrazne menili slovenskú kultúru, jej práca pomohla zachovať množstvo piesní, ako aj ich regionálne varianty a nárečové podoby, ktoré by inak možno neprežili. Vďaka jej úsiliu dnes existuje písomný aj zvukový archív týchto vzácných diel.

Laščiaková sama spievala a nahrávala mnohé ľudové piesne, ktoré počas svojich ciest po Slovensku zozbierala. S mnohými vzácnymi piesňami vystupovala po celom Československu i v zahraničí. V Slovenskom rozhlase spolupracovala s významnými osobnosťami slovenskej ľudovej hudby a s množstvom folklórnych súborov a orchestrov, medzi nimi s Eugenom Farkašom, Miroslavom Dudíkom a Rinaldom Oláhom, s Orchestrom ľudových nástrojov Slovenského rozhlasu, súborom Slávka Volavého z Moravy a Brnianskym rozhlasovým orchestrom ľudových nástrojov.

Jej hlas bol jemný a prirodzený a vynikala skutočným citom pre texty slovenských ľudových piesní a ich význam. Medzi jej najznámejšie nahrávky patria Svadobná odobierka, Zahrajte mi tichúčko, Šípová ružička a Uspávanka. K jej najznámejším piesňam patrí aj oravská svadobná rozlúčková pieseň Zbohom ostávajte.

Okrem pôsobenia v Slovenskom rozhlase sa Laščiaková objavila aj v niekoľkých filmoch, medzi nimi Rodná zem (1953), Balada o Vojtovej Maríne (1964), Kubo (1965) a Môj vienok zelený (1968).

Po odchode do dôchodku vydala v roku 2005 spomienkovú knihu Život s piesňou, v ktorej opísala svoje detstvo na Orave a neskoršie zážitky zo zberu ľudových piesní po celom Slovensku.

Darina Laščiaková zasvätila celý svoj život uchovávaní a interpretácii piesní, ktoré objavovala počas svojich ciest po Slovensku. Prezident Slovenskej republiky Peter Pellegrini jej na sociálnej sieti venoval spomienku: „Slovensko prišlo o výnimočnú osobnosť, ktorej život bol spätý s piesňou, našimi tradíciami a kultúrnym dedičstvom. Jej nezameniteľný hlas však zostane zachovaný na nahrávkach a v pamäti všetkých, ktorým svojím spevom prinášala krásu a pripomínala naše korene.“ Jej prínos slovenskej kultúre a jej odkaz nebudú zabudnuté.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
JULY 17, 2026 • TELECONFERENCE

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, Present
Damian Nasta National Vice President, Present
Kevin J. Collins Executive Secretary, Present
John Tokarsky Treasurer, Present
Gregory Maurer Chairman of Auditors, Present
(by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the June 23, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky submitted a detailed Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

ANNUITY RATES:

The President led a discussion about the current rates. It was decided during this discussion that the current rates will stay in effect. The Executive Committee will re-visit the rates at its August meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Financial Report

The President presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for Quarter 2 of 2026 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The President and the Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. Everything was found in order, and they 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 June 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.....	\$156,509.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations.....	\$16,624.87
Matured Endowments & Accumulations.....	\$0.00
Trust Fund.....	\$0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Executive Secretary provided the Executive Committee with an update on District and Branch participation in the Home Office's incentive programs, including Fraternalism in Action, Branding Bucks, and the District/Branch Reimbursement Program. He encouraged all Districts and Branches to take advantage of these programs as valuable resources for increasing youth engagement and participation. Districts and Branches with questions or needing additional information are encouraged to contact the Home Office for assistance.

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

The Executive Secretary is working with our National Sales Director, Amy Porado, to recruit new agents to sell our products in all 38 states that we are licensed in.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the upcoming fraternal activities. He stated the Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio on July 24 – 26, 2026. He stated that the National Picnic will be held at Wiegand Lake Park on Saturday, August 22, 2026. He stated we are working on the date and details for the upcoming Fall Family Festival. In addition to the National Picnic, all Fraternal Activities will be published on the website and in the newspaper.

CONVENTION UPDATE:

The President stated that we are working on the official minutes for the Convention. Once those are complete, they will be posted on the website.

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 Kevin J. Collins
President, CEO Executive Secretary, COO



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Life Insurance Claims Department

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

ANNUITY DEPARTMENT

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

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

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Annuity/IRA Department, New Contracts, Transfers, Withdrawals, Full Surrenders

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

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PAM Ext. 119 branch@fcsu.com
district@fcsu.com
Branch & District Coordinator, Announcements

COMMUNICATION

BEATA Ext. 114 beataf@fcsu.com
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