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September:



LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President

September has been dedicated as Life Insurance Awareness Month. This national campaign was started in 2004 by Life Happens, an organization dedicated to educating consumers on financial products and topics.

Today, the need for more awareness about life insurance and its benefits has never been greater.

• According to the 2019 Insurance Barometer Study (Life Happens/LIMRA), only 57 percent of American households have life insurance – yet 40 percent of those without it say they would immediately struggle to pay living expenses if their primary wage earner died.

• Insured Americans, on average, have only about three-and-a-half times their annual income in life insurance coverage. Many insurance experts believe that people's true need for coverage is 10 times their gross annual income, and sometimes more.

• Many adult Americans rely on insurance provided by their employers, leaving them without coverage if they were to lose their jobs, or change jobs.

• Each year, a significant number of Americans (600,000) die prematurely. In fact, the chances a 25-year-old male will die before reaching the retirement age of 65 is nearly 1 in 5; for a female, the odds are 1 in 9.

• When a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on the part of the insured results in 75 percent of surviving family members having to take measures to meet financial obligations, such as work additional jobs or longer hours, borrow money, withdraw money from savings and investment accounts, and, in too many cases, move to smaller, less expensive housing.



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

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National Golf Tournament Results

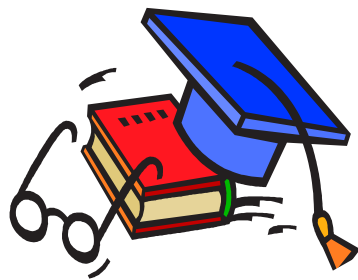
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2019 Benevolent Scholarship extended to

Thursday
October 31st.

See page 6 for details



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FCSU SEPTEMBER RATES KICKOFF

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

September 22, 2019 –Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

The passage this weekend is known as The Parable of the Dishonest Steward. A steward was responsible for the management of his master's possessions. It seems that this steward squandered those possessions, rather than investing them so as to increase the value. He was serving two masters: his employer and himself. As usually happens with those who defraud,



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

he was caught. The steward was told to prepare a full account of his work for the employer, for his service was about to come to an end. When the steward calls in the debtors he reduced their debts. This act is not seen as cheating his master whom he had already made money on, nor is it an act of good will or charity. In addition to squandering his masters' money, his dishonesty may also have been the high amount of commission that he added to their debts. By removing the commission he was preparing for his dismissal so that he would be well liked by the debtors, and hopefully would find work with one of them.

The first lesson is this: do not follow the example of the steward in his dishonesty. When it comes to our serving the Lord we are to do so wholeheartedly and with total commitment. We cannot be both faithful stewards of the Lord, and self-serving. We cannot serve two masters, whether it be the Lord and some other individual, group or ourselves. We can only be faithful to one master, and for the Christian our Master is the Lord. Who is the Master whom we are serving? Is it the Lord, or have we allowed other people or things to dominate us in such a way that we have made them masters of our lives, thus straddling between the Lord and some other master.

The second lesson is to learn from the steward's clever dealing with the debtors. In the midst of undoing his crooked ways he cleverly repays the debtors. Regardless of the motive, this took creativity. Jesus calls on us to take the time and use our creativity to live and proclaim the Gospel. Jesus calls us to work at ways that will make us better stewards and draw others to him. This might move us from being comfortable and away from our daily routine, and lead us to new experiences of living God's presence.

Finally, he tells us that if we can be trusted with small matters, then we can be trusted with larger ones. Sometimes it is better to start small so as to gain knowledge and confidence. For some this might be increasing daily prayer, for others volunteering, and still for others generosity towards the Lord's work. Whatever it is, may we be faithful stewards of the Lord.

We live in an era in which we can become very devoted to celebrities, collectables, or some other hobby or activity. We can be so devoted that we spare no expense in traveling to events, purchasing memorabilia, decorating our vehicles and homes with signs and banners, all to show our support for a particular interest. In doing this are we elevating these interests to a level in which we become so pre-occupied and committed that they take away time and resources that rightly should be given to the Lord? If we are guilty of this, are we not like the dishonest steward in the Gospel, squandering what truly belongs to the Lord? This is a question that is good for us to ponder.

138 – 26th Sunday of the Year – September 29, 2019

Amos is arguably the earliest of the great prophets whose names are given to books of the Old Testament. He was an older contemporary of Hosea and Isaiah and a predecessor in the prophetic ministry of Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and many others whom the Lord raised up to rouse his people, Israel. In today's reading he sternly reproves the wealthy of Israel on account of their gross injustice to the poor of the land and on account of their ignoring the Lord at a time of national distress: "Woe to the complacent in Zion! Lying upon beds of ivory, stretched comfortably on their couches... They drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the best oils...Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile!" (Amos 6:1, 4, 6-7).



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

In our American culture—which is known for its religiosity—we were reminded of the enduring power of Old Testament prophecies when one of the most famous passages of Amos' prophecy was used to great effect in stirring the spirit of the civil rights movement. It was in the course of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, given in front of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, that Amos' inspired words became known to many Americans. Dr. King said: "There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'When will you be satisfied?'" "We are not satisfied," he answered, "and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream" (see Amos 5:24).

Martin Luther King Jr.'s use of this passage makes one respect the living power of God's word, spoken through the prophet some twenty-seven centuries ago, and still vibrant today. It also makes us ask ourselves a question about the application to the present time of the words of Amos as well as those of all the prophets: what do they mean for us?

To respond to this question with the help of today's scriptures we look to the words of the Psalm we sing as our responsorial at Mass and then we turn to the Gospel parable of Lazarus and the rich man. First, the Psalmist reminds us: "[The Lord] secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry" (Ps 146:7). The Psalm's confident message evokes the words eloquently expressed by Amos and repeated by Dr. King, that we must: "let justice surge like waters, and righteousness like an unfailing stream" (Amos 5:24), turning away from the complacency and self-satisfaction that the prophet decried in today's passage.

Next, Jesus' parable of Lazarus and the rich man teaches us that those who wish to be his disciples must turn away from the sort of arrogance excoriated by Amos and his fellow prophets, because the imagined self-sufficiency of the arrogant is precisely what prevents them from approaching the Lord with open and humble hearts. To this very point, in his exhortation Gaudete et Exultate, Pope Francis said: "once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life" (GE 68).

Friends, we hasten the coming of God's Kingdom through the daily conversion that life among our fellow believers involves. Let it be our aim to extend ourselves to one another through humble self-giving sacrifice of charity, so that we can answer the prophetic demands of Amos and be a source of comfort to the Lazarus figures we encounter each day, honoring the image of the Lord we recognize in them, and making visible the "unfailing stream" of his righteousness in a world so much in need of it.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13	MONDAY, NOV. 4
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11	MONDAY, DEC. 2

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Grateful American Gary Sinise & 9/11

"A thief and a liar and a near-failing student." That's how Gary Sinise describes himself at age 14 in his new memoir "Grateful American." Nowadays, however, he is better known as an actor, humanitarian, and man of faith who works tirelessly to improve the lives of injured veterans and first responders. So how did Gary make this journey from self to service? He joined me recently on "Christopher Closeup" to share parts of his story.

Sinise grew up in Chicago and, during his teenage years, made some bad choices having to do with getting high, partying, and even stealing cars (or at least "borrowing" them without permission). He credits his high school theater program with pointing him "toward redemption" and giving him the background and inspiration to found the acclaimed Step-penwolf Theater Company with several of his friends.

Sinise went on to find work in Hollywood, both in front of and behind the camera. One of his earliest gigs was dancing in the background of a Luke and Laura scene on "General Hospital." By 1992, he had directed, produced, and starred in a film adaptation of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," with his old buddy John Malkovich.

But it was 1994, that really changed his life because that's when he portrayed Lt. Dan Taylor in the Tom Hanks hit "Forrest Gump." In the movie, Lt. Dan inadvertently leads his platoon in Vietnam into an ambush in which some of them are killed. And Lt. Dan loses his own legs in the process.

After the war, observed Sinise, Lt. Dan tries "to drown himself in alcohol because he's dealing with terrible guilt and post-traumatic stress. He says at one point to Forrest Gump, 'You should have left me out there to die.' He's carrying terrible anguish and despair. But ultimately at the end of that story, he's standing up again on prosthetic legs. He's successful in business and moving on with his life. He's able to make peace. That's a story I found that so many troubled, injured, or wounded veterans that I met in hospitals – that's the story they want. They want that story of being able to move forward, put their war experiences behind them, be okay, and be successful...It was a hopeful story, and I found that our veterans related to it and wanted to talk about it."

That role led Gary to get more involved in veteran's causes. At the same time, he was facing his own battles on the home front. His wife, Moira, was struggling with alcoholism and was unwilling to admit her problem. Faced with the loss of her family, she finally pursued the help she needed and moved toward recovery.

While attending an AA meeting at St. Michael's Church on the North Side of Chicago, a woman walked up to Moira one day and told her, "My dear, you need to become a Catholic. You need to convert." Moira's mother had been Catholic, but they didn't practice the religion when she was growing up. As Moira explored the Catholic faith, she decided this was a step she wanted to take.

Moira converted, and she and Gary began sending their kids to Catholic school and attending Mass together as a family. Gary himself had not yet joined the Church, but he had become more open to God and the spiritual part of life due to various experiences in recent years. Then came 9/11.

Gary recalled the devastation he felt at the loss of life that occurred on 9/11. He and his family went to their church for a memorial Mass, and he said, "I remember...crying through the Mass [and feeling] that service to others was a great healer...I wanted to do everything I could for the [servicemen and women] who were deploying in reaction to that terrible event...I started going to war zones, hospitals, entertaining on military bases across the country and around the world. I started raising money for multiple military charities...I found that the more I gave, the more relief I received...Was it God calling me to service? It very well could be....This is a life mission."

During a 2003 flight to Iraq for the USO, Gary found himself seated next to a man he didn't recognize. The stranger introduced himself as retired fireman John Vigiano Sr. His two sons, Joe and John Jr. – one with the NYPD, one with the FDNY – were both killed on 9/11 in the World Trade Center's collapse.

Vigiano Sr. went down to Ground Zero to dig through the rubble looking for his sons and observed how people from all over the world volunteered to pass out food and water and help in any way possible. The grieving father saw this as the true spirit of America, united in a common cause. Gary recalled, "[John] said to me, 'You know, I think more good came out of that terrible day than evil.' He said that because he saw the good pour into that terrible area filled with dust, smoke, and debris. I get choked up about it, but I'll never forget it."

Gary credits his friendship with Vigiano (who passed away in 2018 at age 79), along with many of the firefighters he met, with helping him decide to become Catholic himself in 2010. Gary said, "[Our] little church became such a positive force in our lives, and it grew into a moment in time where I secretly went through a Confirmation process and surprised my family by taking them to the church on Christmas Eve. Our priests brought me into the Church, confirmed me into the Church. And that was a big surprise to my family."

Gary continues to live his faith and his mission of service to others through the Gary Sinise Foundation, which includes many outreach efforts, including the building of specially-adapted houses for disabled veterans. He hopes that by sharing his story in "Grateful American," he can encourage readers to practice gratitude in their own lives as well.

Gary concludes, "If the book can inspire others to look at what they're grateful for and to think about our country not as a place where people are divided all the time...But look at the blessings that we've had because of the freedoms we have in this great country. If I can inspire people to go out there and serve others, the book is going to be worth the year it took to put it all down."

Message from the National Chaplain

Pope Francis has designated October 2019 as Extraordinary Mission Month. In preparation for this commemoration, profiles of certain individuals who left their homeland for work in the vineyard of the Lord are being presented. This month's article is about Saint Noel Chabanel.

Between 1642 and 1649, eight Jesuit missionaries who left their native France to bring the Gospel to the New World suffered martyrdom in New France, land which today consists part of upstate New York and Ontario. Most of the eight underwent unspeakable torture and mutilation before their deaths. These missionaries are Saints Jean de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and their Companions, the North American Martyrs. This is a brief story of the life of one of the eight, Noel Chabanel.

Father Noel Chabanel was the youngest and last of the eight Jesuits to be put to death. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1641 and, at age 30, was granted permission from his religious superior to travel to New France and begin his missionary activity.

Noel had better than average intelligence. Most of his early life as a Jesuit before and after his ordination was spent as a college teacher in the subject of Rhetoric, the art of speaking and writing in a persuasive manner. His arrival in Quebec on August 15, 1643 after a three-month voyage across the Atlantic brought him face to face with a new reality. Life in the New World was a cross for him; he just could not adapt. He struggled mightily for nearly five years to learn the language of the Hurons, but just could not do it. His efforts were mocked and ridiculed by the native peoples. He found their food, customs and culture to be crude and repulsive. He was tempted to return to France where he could be more at home in his element as a college teacher. It would not be at all surprising if he also suffered from depression due to the loneliness he felt sometimes and his struggles with acclimating himself with life in the New World. But despite these hardships, Father Chabanel made a vow in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on June 20, 1647, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, to remain in New France until the end of his life.

That happened on December 8, 1649. A Huron apostate (a person who formally renounces the faith) admitted later to killing Father Chabanel out of hatred for the faith. He blamed Father Chabanel for certain misfortunes that happened to him and his family after they were baptized.

If one were to judge the success of a missionary on an individual's charisma or the number of people brought to the faith, Noel Chabanel was a disappointment. But Saint Noel Chabanel was a successful missionary because he possessed the ideal characteristics – a steadfast faith, obedience, perseverance, and a complete and total trust in God. The feast day of the North American Martyrs is October 19.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Father Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain

Life Insurance

continued from page 1

A closer examination of the facts and fiction of life insurance may shed some light on why so many households remain uninsured or under-insured despite the clear need for it.

Fiction: I have savings; I don't need life insurance.

Fact: Life insurance has many, many uses – uses that most people could benefit from without depleting their hard-earned savings. It can cover bills, pay for funeral costs, replace income in a household, serve as an inheritance for a loved one, fund education goals for a child, provide an important and sizable donation to a charitable organization, and so much more.

Fiction: I'm on a budget; a life insurance policy is too expensive.

Fact: Not necessarily. Many people can be insured for the price of a daily cup of coffee.

Fiction: I have time; I can always get it later.

Fact: Famous last words, and too often untrue. Age and health can make it tough to get the coverage you want. You may develop a condition that makes you uninsurable – or worse, you may fall victim to a tragic accident.

Fiction: I'm too young; I don't need life insurance right now.

Fact: No one's too young for life insurance. In fact, the younger and healthier you are, the easier it is to lock in coverage at a great rate – and stay covered. It's called insurability.

So what about you? Do you have enough coverage? When was the last time you checked? To find out more about the insurance products available to you from the First Catholic Slovak Union, contact your local branch today or one of our in-house agents at the First Catholic Slovak Union Home Office at 1-800-533.6682.

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: info@fcsu.com

George Kacsanek Posthumously Honored as 2019 FCSU Fraternalist of the Year



On June 12, 2019, FCSU National Officers— National President Andrew M. Rajec, Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt, and Region 6 Director Thomas J. Ivanec — paid a special visit to the Slovak J Club in Akron, OH, where a gathering took place to commemorate the passing of longtime member George Kacsanek after the celebration of his funeral Mass that same morning at nearby St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Akron [Editor's note: George Kacsanek's obituary is on p 17].

President Rajec bestowed upon Johanna Kacsanek her husband's posthumous award as FCSU's 2019 Fraternalist of the Year. This honor was created by the First Catholic Slovak Union to recognize members who, through example and accomplishment, have provided outstanding volunteer service to their branch, district, or

our Society.

George was an active presence in the First Catholic Slovak Union, on a national, local, and fraternal level. He attended every national FCSU convention since the early 1960s, often serving on various committees. He faithfully participated in FCSU national bowling and golf tournaments throughout the years as well. A lifelong member of Branch 553 and the Slovak J Club, George held many offices in both organizations, starting with his election as the youngest auditor on the branch's Board of Directors at age 22. He served many years as Treasurer of Branch 553 before becoming its President in 2016. He also served in these capacities for the Slovak J Club. He supervised the club kitchen crew for its many events such as spaghetti dinners, Lenten fish fries, and countless banquets. His handmade meatballs and sausages were legendary; the sausage becoming a signature feature of the club's Annual Kielbasa Open.

George considered the Slovak J Club his second home. He was among the first to welcome those who walked in the door — FCSU and social members alike — with a smile, a handshake, and a warm greeting of each by name. He truly embodied our Society's spirit of fraternalism. He will be missed.

AMERICAN SLOVAK ZEMPLIN SOCIAL CLUB

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Land for Our Lady of Mariapoch in Burton, OH was purchased by anonymous donors in 1955 and dedicated in 1956 by Bishop Nicholas T. Elko, D.D., head of the Ruthenian (then) Exarchate in America.



(L–R) Andrew P. Rajec, FCSU Director of Independent Agents and Branch 89 Member; Caroline Visnovsky, Branch 450 Member; Terezia Rozmus, FCSU Annuity Specialist and Branch 24 Member; His Excellency, the Most Reverend Milan Lach, Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma; the Very Reverend Marek Visnovsky, Protosyncellus (Vicar General) of the Eparchy of Parma and Branch 24 Member, and Miriam Visnovsky, FCSU Support Staff and Branch 24 Member.

FCSU Members Attend Annual Pilgrimage to Mariapoch

The Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch is a beautiful, peaceful, wooded area to the east of Cleveland, OH, that exists to give honor to Our Lady. Open to visitors from the last Sunday in May through the first Sunday in October, the Shrine draws worshippers from all over the United States and Canada. A Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy (Mass) is celebrated at 3:30PM each Sunday of the Shrine season at the outdoor altar.

On August 18, 2019, the Eparchy of Parma hosted its annual pilgrimage there on the Sunday nearest the feast of the Dormition (Assumption) of the Mother of God, with members of the FCSU in attendance.



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Book Corner

Award-winning Cookbook of Slovak Recipes in English Now Available

'A Taste of Slovakia' is much more than a collection of traditional Slovak recipes. It's a colorful journey into this small country's culture, the customs that evolve around cooking and eating, as well as history of some typical ingredients. A Taste of Slovakia proudly bears The Best in the World title from Gourmand International.

The book is available for sale in the US through the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library by visiting <https://store.ncsml.org/product/taste-slovakia-cookbook/>



(L – R) Andrew Marmol; Mark Marmol, President of Branch 162; Kristen Marmol; Suzanne Marmol; Joanne Marmol, Vice President of Branch 162; Patty Marmol, Treasurer of Branch 162; and Dolores Marmol, Secretary of Branch 162. Photo courtesy of Region 4 Director James Marmol.

Branch 162 Honors Jednota Scholarship Winners

The officers of FCSU Branch 162 congratulate two Jednota Scholarship Winners. Kristen Marmol is the daughter of Suzanne and Mark [President of Branch 162] of Uniontown, PA. Kristen graduated from Laurel Highlands High School, Uniontown, PA, where she was a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team, Cross Country Team, Honors Society, SADD Club and Junior Achievement. Kristen will attend West Virginia University Majoring in Nursing. Kristen and her parents were honored at breakfast at Maywood Grill on July 27, 2019.

Adam Gaydos, also a winner of a Jednota Scholarship, is the son of Dolor and Philip Gaydos of Tinsley IL. Adam graduated from Tinsley Park High School where he played baseball, soccer basketball. Adam will play baseball in college. He will attend St. Ambrose University, IA, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Adam was presented with a check from Branch 162 for him and his parents to enjoy a breakfast in Illinois.

- Submitted by Joanne Marmol, Branch 162 Vice President



(L – R) Mark Marmol, President of Branch 162; Kristen Marmol; and Suzanne Marmol. Photo courtesy of Region 4 Director James Marmol



A copy of the minutes written by the Czech secretary of the Czechoslovak National Council of America, Ferdinand Pisecký in a scholarly journal.



The calligraphed copy

The Pittsburgh Agreement: Different Interpretations from the Start

M. Mark Stolarik

In November of 2018 Mr. Vincent Obsitnik, a former Ambassador of the United States to the Slovak Republic (and an American Slovak), telephoned me and asked if the original of the Pittsburgh Agreement existed and, if so, where? It turns out that in October the University of Pittsburgh had sponsored a scholarly conference on the Pittsburgh Agreement on the 100th anniversary of the creation of Czechoslovakia and no one at the conference could answer Ambassador Obsitnik's question. He then called me, and asked the same question. At the time, I could not give him an answer, but after I gave it some thought, I remembered that my colleague Dr. Štefan Kucik, of Ružomberok in Slovakia, had discovered a carbon copy of the original at the Matica slovenská in Martin.

It appeared in the minutes of the meeting of the American branch of the Czechoslovak National Council in America, held in the Moose Temple in Pittsburgh on May 31, 1918. Dr. Kucik had published these minutes in "Protokol 2. schôdze odbočky Československej národnej rady v Amerike, konanej dňa 31. mája 1918 v Moose Temple, Pittsburgh, PA" in the on-line scholarly journal Dejiny – internetový časopis Inštitútu histórie FF PU v Prešove, Vol.4 (No.2, 2010), pp.163-181 (http://dejiny.unipo.sk/PDF/Dejiny_2_210.pdf). The Pittsburgh Agreement appears on page 178 of the periodical, as appears on this page. The minutes were written by the Czech secretary of the Czechoslovak National Council of America, Ferdinand Pisecký. Since the carbon-copy is hard to read, I will now reproduce the relevant part of the original minutes as they appeared in Czech:

"Představitelé Slovenských a českých organizací ve Spoj. Státech, Slovenské Ligy a Bohemian National Alliance porokovali za přítomnosti předsedy Nár. Rady o československé otázce o posavadních programových projevech a usnesli se:

Schvalujem politický program, usilující o spojení Čechů a Slováků v samostatném státě vytvořeném z českých zemí a Slovenska.

Slovensko bude mít svou vlastní státní administrativu, svůj sněm, slovenčina bude úředním jazykem ve škole, v úřadě a veřejném životě vůbec.

Československý stát bude republikou, jeho konstituce bude demokratická. Podrobná ustanovení o zařízení československého státu ponechávají se osvobozeným Čechům a Slovákům a jich právoplatným představitelům.

Organizace spolupráce Čechů a Slováků ve Spoj. Státech bude podle potřeby a měnící se situace při společném dorozumění prohlubena a upravena."

It is interesting to note that Ferdinand Pisecký wrote "Czechoslovakia" without a hyphen three times in this text.

Meanwhile, Albert Mamatey, President of the Slovak League of America, upon the urging of Jozef Hušek, the editor of Jednota, the largest Slovak newspaper in America, translated the Pittsburgh Agreement into Slovak and had a calligrapher reproduce it. Mamatey apparently did not remember when exactly the Pittsburgh Agreement was concluded, since the meeting took place over two days on May 30-31. Hence, Mamatey's translation carries the wrong date (May 30). This calligraphed copy has been reproduced in many books on the history of Slovakia (see below). Notice that Mamatey gave it the title "Česko-Slovenská Dohoda," and he spelled "Czecho-Slovakia" with a hyphen throughout the document.

While less-discerning observers might overlook this difference in the spelling of the future Republic, it actually made a great deal of difference to the Czechs and Slovaks. When Czechoslovakia is spelled without a hyphen, the implication is that it will be a unitary state. When it is spelled with a hyphen, the implication is that it will be a federal state. Thus, from the very beginning, the Czechs and Slovaks were divided on the future of the state. The Czechs always stressed a unitary republic. Most Slovaks preferred a federation. These differences would ultimately lead to the dissolution of the state and the creation of two separate republics in 1993: The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Region 1: Summer Fun in the Sun!

Region 1's Summer Picnic hosted by Branch 746 was held on Sunday, August 4th at the Al Kalla Park in Linden, New Jersey. Jednota members gathered on a beautiful sunny day under the shade of the Linden trees to catch up and enjoy delicious Slovak food catered by Julie Rada Catering. The fun-filled afternoon day began with a meeting and recap of events since the March Jednota Sales Seminar. Fr. Mariusz Luksza, pastor of the Slovak church Holy Family Church, led members in a prayer reminding them of God's love and the joy of friendship. Members then proceeded to enjoy some refreshing drinks, holupky, halusky, BBQ ribs, chicken cutlets, sausage and kraut, the obligatory picnic hot dogs, corn on the cob, watermelon and more! For dessert, the ladies of Branch 746 and Branch 290 brought home-made cakes! Thank you to all our members and friends who attended and continue to enthusiastically support our Jednota events.

- Submitted by: Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



FCSU members at the 14th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest included: (L – R) District 14 President John J. Leskovyansky, Jr, Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec, Branch 682 Vice President Barbara Hosa, Branch 731 Secretary Jackie Bobby, Region 6 Director Thomas J. Ivanec, Branch 731 President Jim Bobby, and Branch 259 Secretary Vivian Sedlacko

FCSU at Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest in August



The 14th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest was held on Sunday, August 11, 2019, in Youngstown, OH. After a 10:30 am a Slovak/English Mass at the Byzantine Center, the day featured games for the kids and a Café Košice Wine Bar and Bistro for. Enjoy all your favorite Slovak foods and baked goods, music by Jack Vasko and Company at noon and Del Sinchak at 4. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union were in attendance to help serve refreshments and give information about our Society to the packed crowd.



The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc has extended its deadline for accepting applications for its 2019 Scholarship Program to October 31, 2019.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO **TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS** TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

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

For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com – Website: <http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2019

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

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

A Century of Contributions in Danville, PA

Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M.

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, founded in 1909 in Scranton, PA, had searched for 10 years for a permanent home for the growing number of Sisters in their Congregation. The Sisters learned of a property for sale in Danville, PA, in November 1918. Reverend Thomas F.X. Dougherty was pastor of Saint Joseph Church in Danville and was able to help the Sisters with information about the property. The estate consisted of a 44-room home, stables, barns, greenhouses, a farmhouse and a liveryman's house on 187 acres of land. Known as "Castle Grove," the mansion had been built in 1867 by John Grove, Sr. for his two sons, Michael and John Grove, Jr. After the death of the estate's next owners, Caroline Grove Bennett and John Bennett, the estate was abandoned in 1905. Just after the end of World War I, John's second wife listed the property for sale. On June 7, 1919, the sale to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius was made final. The estate had been abandoned for 14 years and needed a significant amount of attention. The Sisters moved to Danville knowing they had a great deal of work ahead of them but were overjoyed by a place to call their own.

When a family moves to a city, town or borough, the members of the family spend some time determining how they can become part of the community's life and make a significant contribution to their new home. Since the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius arrived in Danville in 1919, we have endeavored to become a part of the community and to share our time, talents and expertise in a variety of ways, notably in education, health care and spirituality.

Education

Our first successful venture in 1920 was the establishment of an elementary school which was housed in Castle Grove, the building on the property we had purchased. The Slovak Girl's Academy for boarding and day students eventually moved from the Villa to a building constructed for just that purpose, later to be called St. Cyril Academy. Until 1999, the Academy educated thousands of young women, instilling the attitude of generous self-giving contained in the school motto: "Enter to learn; leave to serve."

For many of the 77-year long history of St. Cyril Academy, theater was the tool for reaching out to people. Beginning with adult shows at Christmas and Easter and with the Traveling Adult Theater for 10 years, in later years the students were annually directed in children's theater, performing a musical play for busloads of area elementary school students. Even today, those students-turned-adults happily remember the joy of seeing Cinderella or Snow White or Winnie the Pooh perform in the darkened auditorium. In addition, the Raggedy Ann Players Traveling Theater performed over 500 shows in their 25-year history of entertaining children.

Before translating became a digital exercise, the international students of the Academy were often asked to translate for the Geisinger Medical Center when patients from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Mexico or other Central American countries needed to be understood. It was a service these students gladly offered.

Opening in 1971 and continuing through 2005, the Villa Conservatory of Music was the place to learn piano.

From 1977 to 1992, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius taught at St. Joseph School in Danville. Taking up where our Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) prede-



Castle Grove

Tally Ho, Sisters!



The front villa gate

cessors left off, the Sisters filled the roles of Principal and teachers, directors and teachers of religious education and even Pastoral Assistant for the parish.

Begun in 1977 as the Villa Preschool and moved in 1999 from the Villa to the St. Cyril Academy building, the St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten is a Catholic environment which provides very young children a firm foundation upon which to build their education. Classroom work and activities are structured to tap the greatest potential of the students. The Summer Stage program for 5 through 12-year olds continues the Academy's well-earned tradition of excellence in theater.

Health Care

Our health care facilities are a boon to the Danville area. It all began March 19, 1962, when Maria Joseph Manor opened as a home for the aging. Now Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community offers, according to the Mission Statement, "a welcoming and secure environment, where the lives of senior adults and their families are enhanced with compassionate and professional care."

The Meadows has one hundred one-story cottages and also three sets of four, one-story town house units in Trinity Terrace. The community center in the midst of the cottages in-

cludes an on-site beauty parlor, wood shop, pool table, exercise room, computer lab, a dining room and sunroom. Maria Joseph Manor Assisted Living Community offers senior adults compassionate and professional personal care. The skilled care facility, Emmanuel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center adds to our continuum of care. The Nazareth Memory Center, a secure Assisted Living community, is devoted to individuals with Alzheimer's or related dementias. Specialized activities are provided for cognitive stimulation and spiritual growth.

Since 1970, Maria Hall has been the home for our "retired" Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and for over 15 years, a residential hospice unit on the fourth floor, administered initially by Columbia-Montour Home Health and Hospice, has welcomed the dying and their families into our home. Maria Hall is also home to Sisters from four other Religious Communities: The Danville Carmelites, the Good Shepherd Sisters, the Contemplative Good Shepherd Sisters, and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

An integral part of health care is chaplaincy, and the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have ministered over the years in pastoral care not only in our facilities at Maria Joseph Manor and Emmanuel Center, but in the Geisinger Medical Center and the Danville State Hospital.

Spirituality

Villa Sacred Heart has been recognized and utilized as a place for religious gatherings and events since 1909, especially since the dedication of the Motherhouse Chapel-turned Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1939. Formally established in 1999, an important sponsored ministry of the Congregation today is the St. Cyril Spiritual Center. The Center's Mission Statement presents its purpose: "Within a serene setting of natural beauty, the Center offers retreats, spiritual direction and a quiet place for individuals or hosted groups 'so that the Gospel vision of the Kingdom may be fulfilled in us and in those we serve.'" The Spiritual Center provides access to: the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius; a Perpetual Adoration chapel; a hermitage; a Chartres-style labyrinth; a library containing religious books, audio tapes and videos; and overnight accommodations for up to 90 persons.

Programs and retreats annually include personal or group retreats, silent and directed retreats, guided or preached retreats, reflection days during Advent and Lent, and spiritual direction.

In recent years the Spiritual Center has been able to share our facilities with other denominations for their spiritual and educational activities. The Society of the Holy Trinity, Lutheran pastors, hold their yearly retreat at the Spiritual Center. Methodist women also make their retreat here. The Stevenson School of Ministry comes regularly to provide classes for men and women discerning the diaconate or priesthood in the Episcopal Church. Men's and Women's Tres Dias and the Women's Tres Dias Fiesta group spend weekends here. Tres Dias is a three-day intensive Christian retreat experience similar to the Cursillo program. Our ecumenical outreach has brought us many blessings.

Much to mention

Having inserted ourselves into the life of Danville, Pennsylvania, the Sisters recall a variety of intersections including:

- serving as a refuge for families flooded out of their homes during the Agnes Flood in 1972;
- helping to provide editorial oversight and contributing two chapters to the 1991 book: Danville: the Bicentennial History;
- contributing to the WVIA television segment: Our Town Danville;
- teaching English through the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit's Literacy program;
- housing an Adoration Chapel which draws prayerful visitors day and night;
- biannually serving Saturday meals at the Jubilee Kitchen in Danville with our SSCM Associates;
- participating in the Danville Community Singers;
- membership in Bookworms, the local reading club;
- serving on numerous Boards for local organizations;
- sharing space with Children's Service Center which assists children with autism, an Aphasia Center, and Sisters from other communities who have joined our Sisters at Maria Hall.

No doubt many things have been missed in this litany. Suffice it to say that we have been and continue to be part of the fabric of Danville, Pennsylvania. Our 100-year home has been good to us, as we have tried to be good for it. We celebrate our 100 years in Danville with a special Liturgy at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius on September 15 at 11:00 am, with an open house following. All are welcome to join us in this celebration.

Bratislava's Comenius University is 100 years old

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

Czecho-Slovakia was only a few months old and Hungarian military units were still in Petržalka, across the Danube from Bratislava, when, in the summer of 1919, the idea of creating a Slovak university in Bratislava was proposed by Vavro Šrobár, the then Prague-appointed Minister for Slovakia. Slovakia was in turmoil, for the transition from the "thousand-year old marriage" with the Kingdom of Hungary, as Andrej Hlinka defined that historic relationship, to the newly created common state with the Czechs was not going smoothly. It would take months before the situation stabilized, so that the idea of creating a new university was surprising but also far-sighted. There were suggestions that its opening be postponed by two to three years. But the župan of Bratislava, Samuel Zoch, well aware that Slovakia's capital city had a predominantly German and Hungarian population, understood the importance for its Slovak element of having an institution of higher learning responsive to its needs. In 1912, the Hungarian government had created in Bratislava Elizabeth University, a Hungarian institution, which Zoch, for understandable reasons, demanded be closed. The university moved to Budapest, taking with it its Hungarian faculty and staff. The need for a new institution in Bratislava was self-evident.

The university was established in Bratislava by government decree, dated June 27, 1919, and was to be composed of four faculties: law, medicine, natural sciences, and philosophy. It was given the buildings of Elizabeth University. Launching it proved to be a challenge. Nevertheless, on September 21, 1919, it opened its doors with classes in the Faculty of Medicine, the first one created because of the urgent need for medical personnel in Slovak cities and villages as a result of the departure to Hungary of most Hungarian doctors in Slovakia. In November, a government decree officially named the university after the 17th century Czech teacher and philosopher, Amos Comenius. The faculty of Philosophy, with a focus on the humanities and social sciences for the training of secondary school teachers, and the Faculty of Law whose mission was to prepare lawyers for the Ministry of Justice, other ministries that required jurists, as well as judges for the court system, opened their doors in 1921. A Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology of Cyril and Methodius had also been established in 1919 by government decree but was recognized, though not incorporated, as a faculty of the university only in 1936. This slow but important beginning of the three founding faculties was made possible by a major influx of academics and teachers from the Czech Lands. The naming of the university after a famous Czech philosopher, the staffing of its faculties with Czech personnel, the naming of Czech rectors and deans might suggest that this was not a Slovak, but a Czech institution. It was not. The student body was overwhelmingly Slovak and Slovak faculty members also taught at the university. The government decree defined it as a Czechoslovak state university.

Comenius was not Slovakia's first institution of higher learning; three had preceded it. An institution called Academia Istropolitana was founded in 1465 in Bratislava by



King Mathias I "Corvinus." Its official opening took place on July 20, 1467. It was composed of four faculties – theology, law, medicine, and arts – and is often designated in the documents of the period as "Universitas Istropolitana." Poor financing from the king, the Hungarian conquest of Vienna in 1485 (where there was a well-established university), the decreasing involvement of Ján Vitez, archbishop of Ostrihom, and Juraj Schomberg, vice-chancellor, and a lack of interest by their successors resulted first in the university's decline and then in its closing in 1490. It is interesting to note that Comenius University's website indicates that Comenius "follows the university tradition of the Academia Istropolitana." Less than two centuries later in 1635, a university was founded in Trnava by Peter Cardinal Pázmaň as a center of the Counter-Reformation but also as a major center of cultural and scientific learning in the Kingdom of Hungary. It contained a Faculty of Letters and a Faculty of Theology and, from 1665, a Faculty of Law. Students and professors came from all over Hungary and from abroad but most of its faculty was Slovak. It was reorganized in 1753 on the model of the University of Vienna. A year later, the teaching of natural sciences began, an astronomical observatory was opened, and in 1769, the university acquired a Faculty of Medicine. The university was transferred to Buda in 1777 but reopened in Trnava in 1992. Finally, a smaller institution of higher learning with two faculties, theology and philosophy, was created in Košice in 1657 and thrived until 1777.

The naming of Slovakia's first Slovak university after a Czech philosopher was an early signal that this institution would be involved in and mirror many of the political challenges that Slovakia and the Slovaks would face in twentieth century Czecho-Slovakia, especially in its first two decades. The university's growth and development were slow. A new university building for the Faculties of Law and Philosophy, which serves today as the emblematic edifice of the university, was opened in the centre of Bratislava in 1937. At this time, its Faculty of Philosophy – called Faculty of Arts in North American universities – was the main center of intellectual debate and research on the question of the existence of a Slovak nation, which the government's ideology of Czechoslovakism refused to acknowledge. This was helped in great part by the teaching of Czech faculty. From among the Slovak contingent emerged Slovakia's most pre-eminent historian, Professor Daniel Rapant,

whose lectures clearly explained why the notion of a Czechoslovak nation was an artificial creation; more importantly, Rapant successfully established Slovak history's rightful place in European historiography. This and other political battles of the inter-war years in Slovakia were fought in the lecture halls of these two faculties.

The creation of the first Slovak Republic in March 1939 had a direct impact on the university. It was renamed Slovenská univerzita – Slovak University (it regained its original name in 1954) and expanded with a Faculty of Natural Sciences and the incorporation of the Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology of Cyril and Methodius into its framework in 1940. But it was in the post-war years that the university underwent its greatest expansion. There were other changes: with the Communist take-over of 1948, the ideology of Marxism-Leninism was imposed, especially in the social sciences, and held sway until the fall of communism in 1989. At the same time, the Slovak character of the university strengthened, not only through the appointment of Slovak personnel and the establishment of new faculties, but especially as a result of the focused research and study of all aspects of Slovak life, geography, and history.

The post-war expansion that began with the creation of a Faculty of Education in 1946 and resulted over the years in the creation of new faculties that brought the number to 13 today. They offer some 800 subjects to over 24,000 students of whom 3,000 come from 88 countries. The university has two UNESCO chairs, one in Plurilingual and Multicultural Communication and one

for Human Rights Education (Slovakia has two more UNESCO chairs, one at the University of Prešov – Bioethics – and one at the Technical University of Zvolen – Sustainable Development and Ecological Awareness). In the Shanghai Ranking evaluation of academic subjects in 2019, Comenius was placed in the top 500 out of 4,000 in the category of Natural Sciences. The university was ranked in the 201st to 300th band in Physics, in the 401st to 500th band in Mathematics, and in the 401st to 500th band in Earth Sciences. It has granted honorary doctorates to many outstanding international personalities; the first to receive this honour was the British academic Robert Seton-Watson (1928) who defended Andrej Hlinka and the Slovaks in his book *Racial Problems in Hungary* (1908). Among others are Juan Antonio Samaranch (1992), president of International Olympic Committee; Eugene Andrew Cernan (1994), American astronaut of Slovak descent; Simon Wiesenthal (1995), director of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna; Tenzin Gyatso (2000), the Dalai Lama; Angela Merkel (2014) for her work in physical chemistry before becoming Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany; Ban-Ki moon (2015), Secretary General of the United Nations; and Slovaks like the composer Eugen Suchoň (1969), Alexander Dubček (1991), Professor Karol Rebro (1993), and Jozef Cardinal Tomko (1995), among others. It is interesting to note that the majority of recipients of this honor in the university's history have been academics.

If the University of Trnava is Slovakia's most historic university, Comenius University sees itself, according to its website, as "the greatest, oldest and outstanding NATIONAL UNIVERSITY of the Slovak Republic, [which] especially values its intellectual and universal relationship with the Slovak nation, where it has its roots and at the same time provides the foundation from which it will continue to look to the widest international horizons, enriching both itself and Slovakia." By its size, its academic programs, and the quality of its education, it is certainly Slovakia's biggest and oldest modern university, and is entitled to claim its place today among the world's best. Its history and the accomplishments of its faculty in the last hundred years are such that it deserves to celebrate its centenary in grand fashion. Ad multos annos.

Online Slovak Language for Beginners Starts in September



An online Beginning Slovak Language course sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI) is being offered Sept. 19 to Nov. 21 (Thursday evenings) from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm (EST). In this 20-hour course, participants will learn basic Slovak vocabulary and phrases and be introduced to Slovak grammar. The course is designed to be interesting and informative—and also includes various aspects of Slovakia's rich culture and traditions. A PDF Course Book and audio files are provided. The instructor is Dennis Ragan, who has been teaching basic Slovak language and 'real' *halušky* culinary classes for 17 years. The cost is \$195 (\$180 for members of CGSI). For additional details and a copy of the course syllabus, contact Dennis at dragan322@gmail.com

- Submitted by Dennis Ragan



Branch 228 members and guests: (L – R) Luis Palos, Jonathan Hellinger, Nathan Palos, Kathy Trifiletti, Jeanette Zuffa, and Branch Secretary Thomas Zuffa



Branch 24 members and guests (L – R): Henry Strekal; John Ivanec; Branch Fraternal Activities Director Thomas J. Ivanec, Branch Treasurer Joseph Oros, Justin Strekal, Claire Bigelow, Elias Strekal and Matthew Oros



(L – R) Andrew P. Rajec, Joseph Oros, Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855 Members Carol and David Temari, Branch 228 Member Kevin Arendt, and FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt



(L – R) Branch 228 members: Theresa Arendt, Joyce Zilko, National Chair of Auditors and Branch President Leonard Zilko, Stephanie Zilko, and Jamie Zilko.



(L – R) Branch 855's Barbara and Ann Sutilla with Region 6 Director Thomas Ivanec



(L – R) Branch 1 President Richard Golias and Region 6 Director Thomas J. Ivanec



Andrew P. Rajec, FCSU Director of Independent Agents with Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855 President

Ohio Region 6 At the Ballpark in August



On Saturday, August 3, 2019, FCSU members in Ohio Region 6 met for a fun evening at Sprenger Stadium in Avon, OH, a city along the southwestern shore of Lake Erie. Forty members, friends and family from Branches 1, 24, 228, 450 and 855 enjoyed an all-you-can-eat picnic style buffet followed by great seats for minor league ball as the Lake Erie Crushers took on the River City Rascals. A good time was had by all!

-Submitted by Thomas J. Ivanec, Region 6 Director.
Photos courtesy of Thomas J. Ivanec and Andrew P. Rajec.



Helen Petro



(L – R) Mary Boldizar Jacko and Helen Petro



Birthday wishes from Jednota



Happy Birthday, Helen Petro!

Helen Petro, lifetime member of Branch 789 of Windsor, Ontario, turned "90" on August 7, 2019. Her six children and their children hosted an "Open House" for family and friends at the Gastro Pub and Sports Bar on Sunday August 4th. We all sang Happy Birthday to the honored celebrant. She was delighted at such a grand gathering!

Helen's love of cooking and sharing her Slovak food and Slovak pastry is well known, and she continues to be active enjoying her daily walks which keep her looking much younger than her years.

Helen, we wish you a very Happy Birthday! May God grant you many more years of health and happiness!

- Submitted by Mary Boldizar Jacko, President Branch 789



Branch 24's Allens Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary

High school sweethearts William Lawrence Allen and Patricia Ann Fabian (members of FCSU Branch 24) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. They were wed on July 26, 1969 at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Bedford, Ohio, by Father George Drops. They have two children, Jennifer Marie Allen, and William Albert Allen, and 3 grandsons. Through the years, Bill and Patty have built their own home with the help of Patty's father, started and managed an auto body business for 35+ years, and enjoyed traveling to each continent (except Antarctica—too cold!).

- Submitted by Patty Allen

The 2019 Lúčina Slovak Gala: An Evening in the Heart of Europe

Saturday, November 9, 2019
Holy Spirit Party Center
5500 W. 54th Street • Parma, OH 44129

Featuring:
The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland
Lúčinka Children's Ensemble
Michael Anderko, Fajara Soloist
Vychodna Slovak Dancers of Mississauga, Ontario
DJ Denis

Tickets: \$50/Person
\$360/Table of 8
\$40/Person under 21

Limited Seating! Only 250 seats available. Advanced sales only.
No tickets sold at the door.

Ticket includes:
Entertainment
Full-course dinner with 3 entrees & dessert
(vegetarian and gluten-free meals available if preordered)
Open Bar
Raffles & Gift Baskets throughout the evening
Followed by music for dancing and listening pleasure with DJ Denis
*Doors open: 6:00PM ** Dinner 6:30PM ** Program: 7:30PM*

For tickets, call: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
Miriam Visnovsky, 440-638-9921

All proceeds to benefit the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble,
celebrating their 38th Anniversary



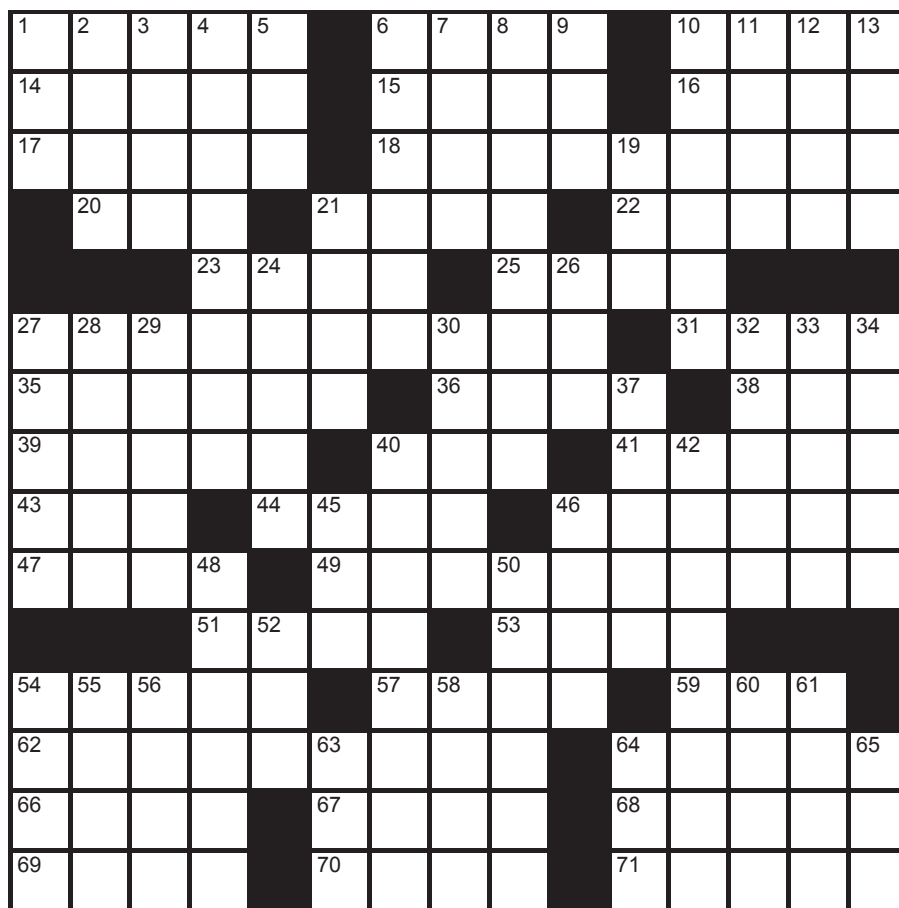
Take Me Out to the Ball Game- District 11

District 11 sponsored a trip to see the Pittsburgh Pirates play the New York Mets on August 3 at 7:00 pm. Approximately 56 members and guests enjoyed the game. The bus picked up members and their guests in Ford City and Natrona Heights. On the bus each attendee received a complimentary snack bag provided by the District with Cracker Jacks, peanuts, bubble gum and various chips. At the game, each attendee received a Pirates hat. The Pirates played a good game, but sadly lost. Everyone enjoyed the Zambelli Fireworks after the game! The District hopes to make this a yearly event.

Fraternally,

Karen Greggs, District 11 Recording Secretary

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Deadly snake
- 6 Rubberneck
- 10 Goblet feature
- 14 Little green man
- 15 Turkish official
- 16 Apple throwaway
- 17 Rodeo rope
- 18 Italian restaurant
- 20 Explorer Johnson
- 21 Student overseer
- 22 Beginning
- 23 Brain wave
- 25 Muscle quality
- 27 Shout of praise
- 31 Wood cutters
- 35 Pricing word
- 36 Letters at Camp Lejeune
- 38 Hood's gun
- 39 Equine of Africa
- 40 Freddy Krueger's street
- 41 Half of Hispaniola
- 43 "___ he drove out of sight..."
- 44 Pathetic
- 46 Grand ___ Dam
- 47 Vega's constellation
- 49 Backers
- 51 Willy Wonka's creator
- 53 Black-and-white treat
- 54 Torcher's misdeed
- 57 Expressed
- 59 "The Simpsons" bartender
- 62 Take a firm stand
- 64 Dinette part
- 66 Skirt style
- 67 Pigeon's home
- 68 Fence feature
- 69 Lofty works

Down

- 70 Camelot lady
- 71 Corolla part
- 40 Film coating
- 42 Replace with a machine
- 45 Baseball bat wood
- 46 Part of a parachute
- 48 Beloved of Aphrodite
- 50 Ready
- 52 Tiny toiler
- 54 Shot, for short
- 55 Police action
- 56 Fries, maybe
- 58 Nay sayer
- 60 Final notice
- 61 Poet ___ Wheeler Wilcox
- 63 Pitching star
- 64 Recipe amt.
- 65 Aquatic shocker
- 1 "Wheels"
- 2 Medley
- 3 Partiality
- 4 Merchant
- 5 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
- 6 Rich and elaborate cake
- 7 Site of the Taj Mahal
- 8 Flying Dutchman, e.g.
- 9 Break bread
- 10 Griddlecakes
- 11 Rocky peaks
- 12 Pennsylvania port
- 13 Butcher's stock
- 19 Freight weight
- 21 Mark for omission
- 24 Windshield attachment
- 26 Physics unit
- 27 Eye color
- 28 Mockery
- 29 Roman god of wine
- 30 Minty drink
- 32 Spry
- 33 No-cal drink
- 34 Pignets
- 37 Specific task

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2019

Issue Date

**Deadline to
Receive Information**

October 9

Sept 30

November 13

November 4

December 11

December 2

See Solution on Page 20



2019 FCSU National Golf Tournament Results

SKILLS CONTEST 2019

SATURDAY

- LONGEST DRIVE
- LONGEST PUTT
- CLOSEST TO PIN 2ND SHOT
- LONGEST PUTT
- LONGEST DRIVE
- CLOSEST TO PIN
- LONGEST PUTT

- Tyler Dillinger
- Jerry Hromada
- Andrew Kozusko
- Alex Kozusko
- Alex Kozusko
- Danielle Lasher
- Scott Guzik

SUNDAY

- CLOSEST TO PIN 2ND SHOT
- LONGEST DRIVE
- LONGEST PUTT
- CLOSEST TO PIN
- LONGEST DRIVE
- CLOSEST TO PIN 2ND SHOT
- CLOSEST TO PIN
- LONGEST PUTT
- LONGEST DRIVE
- CLOSEST TO PIN
- CLOSEST TO PIN 2ND SHOT
- LONGEST PUTT

- Mike Nemcheck
- George Dillinger
- Mark Terpin
- Jim Yokopenic
- Bob Sorcetti
- Lou Falbo
- Roy Miller
- Tyler Slope
- Andrew Kozusko
- Martin Finklestine
- Bob Kopanic
- Dave Schmucker



FIRST	LAST		FLIGHT.			SAT	HDCP	TOTAL	SUN	HDCP	TOTAL	TOURN. TOTAL	
Anthony	Menich		A			78	9	69	80	9	71	140	Tied 1st
David	Degol		A			74	5	69	76	5	71	140	Tied 1st
William	J Kasan	Sr	A			83	9	74	79	9	70	144	3rd Place
Scott	Harr		A			89	10	79	80	10	70	149	
Scott	E Guzik		A			85	8	77	81	8	73	150	
Martin	Finklestine		A			89	10	79	81	10	71	150	
Patrick	M Quinn		A			85	9	76	85	9	76	152	
Robert	Patula		A			85	5	80	84	5	79	159	
Don	Bolby		A			102	6	96	92	6	86	182	
Rusty	Groner		B			86	16	70	85	16	69	139	1st Place
Frank	Miscovich		B			88	13	75	78	13	65	140	Tied 2nd
Roy	Miller		B			85	15	70	85	15	70	140	Tied 2nd
Lou	Falbo		B			87	13	74	81	13	68	142	
Tim	Quinn		B			90	15	75	83	15	68	143	
Alex	Kozusko		B			94	17	77	83	17	66	143	
David	A Schmucker	Sr	B			91	13	78	79	13	66	144	
Tim	Kozusko		B			94	16	78	83	16	67	145	
Rick	Yokopenic		B			91	13	78	80	13	67	145	
John	Patula		B			87	13	74	85	13	72	146	
Terry	J. Treskovich		B			93	14	79	81	14	67	146	
Mark	Terpin		B			97	17	80	89	17	72	152	
John	A Rosa		B			89	13	76	91	13	78	154	
William	Quinn		B			107	15	92	83	15	68	160	
Jim	Yokopenic		C			83	23	60	82	23	59	119	Tied 1st
Lynn	T Johnston	Sr	C			95	30	65	84	30	54	119	Tied 1st
John	Metarko		C			85	21	64	82	21	61	125	3rd Place
Derek	Kochis		C			93	26	67	86	26	60	127	
Derek	T Johnston		C			83	20	63	85	20	65	128	
George	Smith		C			96	28	68	100	28	72	140	
Mike	Nemcheck		C			93	19	74	87	19	68	142	



2019 FCSU National Golf



Hole Sponsors

FCSU Sponsors:
 George Matta
 District 8
 Branch 857
 Branch 785
 Branch 162
 Branch 112
 Branch 38



Corporate Sponsors:

Gold Sponsor:
 Bronze Sponsor:
 Bronze Sponsor:

AQS Asset Management
 ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting
 Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood
 Certified Public Accountants



Attendees & Volunteers

I also would like to thank everyone who attended the golf tournament as well as the following members who helped out before and during the event:

- Tom Ivanec
- Brad Matta
- Milos Mitro
- Damian Nasta
- Father Tom Nasta
- Sabina Sabados
- John Tokarsky
- Christine Tokarsky

And a special thank you to Peggy Nasta who volunteered to sit and watch the HOLE IN ONE CONTEST the entire round on Saturday.....

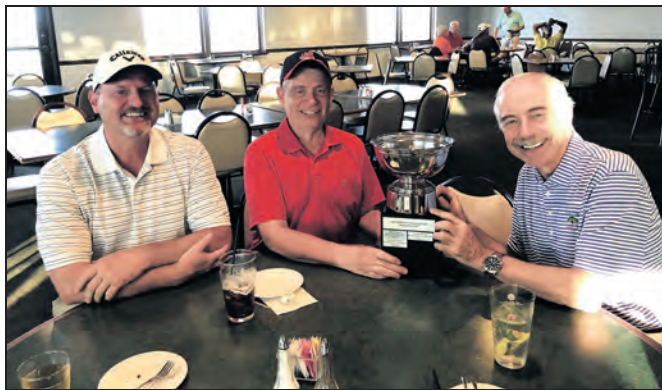
Kevin Collins
 National Fraternal Activities Director



Golf Tournament Results



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
FCSU FINANCIAL



For more tournament photos go to fcsu.com/community/category/fcsu.com

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch #1 will hold its annual Christmas party on November 24, 2019 at The Market which is located at 1137 Linda Street Rocky River, Ohio 44116 at 1:00 p.m. A brief meeting will be held prior to the brunch. At this time, election of officers will be held and other business matters will be discussed. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by November 3, 2019. The restaurant needs to know no later than November 3, 2019 due to seating arrangements.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michael's Branch 2 will be having a meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7 pm at Eat N' Park on Ohio River Blvd, 15202. Election of officers will take place at this meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne at 412-715-5577.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Society, will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2019, in Minneapolis, MN. The meeting will be held at 11:30AM in Father Dargay Memorial Hall, Church of Sts. Cyril & Methodius. The agenda includes: reports of officers; merge or dissolve Branch 3; or elect new officers. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Fraternally,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2019, at 1:00PM. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business, activities, and the election of officers. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Marion Rubino, President

BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6, will provide a fraternal activity for all their members. The branch will provide tickets to the performance of "Bright Star." "Bright Star" tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and 40s. Engle Lane Theatre is located at 1012 Columbus Rd, Streator, IL. The play is October 8th (Tuesday). Any member that intends on going, please call (815) 822-8851 or (815) 672-1764. The play starts at 7:30PM.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The annual meeting and election of officers of St. Stephen Society Branch 06K is scheduled to be held on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 12 noon at 1406 N. Baker St., Streator, IL. Following the meeting and election of officers the branch will provide a lunch for all in attendance. The branch encourages members to attend and to call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 if you plan to attend.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2019, at 1:00PM at the HBT Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Attention Branch 24 members: the branch is once again offering its CHRISTMAS IN JULY MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION. For every WHOLE LIFE

INSURANCE POLICY or ANNUITY you purchase or sell by November 1, 2019, Branch 24 will give you a complimentary ticket to the Vilija (Christmas Eve) Dinner sponsored by St. Andrew's Abbey every Christmas season.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 524-0952. For more information about FCSU products and to download applications or forms, go to our website at www.fcsu.com. We hope you take advantage of this great opportunity and can join us at this year's Vilija.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels Branch 35 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 1:00PM at 100 LeGrande Drive, Pittsburgh, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2020, discussion of branch and district activities and officers' reports.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, October 12, 2019. It will begin at 11:30AM at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL. Officers will be elected at this meeting. A complimentary fraternal luncheon will be served. You must have a reservation, if you plan to attend this meeting. Please call Dorothy at 773 763 0810 before October 5.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Home Office and the Branch are unable to contact the following members because we do not have their current addresses:

John Baraniak	Linda Johnson
Joseph Bishop	Thomas Kerch
James Carboneau	Edward Lorence
Audrey Cermak	Joseph Makurat
Peter Cortez	Mary McGibbon
Dennis Dean	James Morvay
Susan Donis	John Nuter
Susan Doyle	Chun Pesko
Robert Hakala	Joann Porter
Joseph Hovanec	Stephen Supa
Richard Hudziak	Rob Tomasek

Anyone with information, please contact me at (773) 763 0810.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, September 22, 2019, at 8:30AM at the Ramada Restaurant, 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office.

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for reservations by September 16, 2019, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 as well as any changes for policies or address changes.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 - BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166K, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at 2:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, NY. On the

agenda will be the Election of Officers and a discussion of District and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by September 28, 2019, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All members are encouraged to attend the St. John the Baptist Society Branch 181 meeting on Saturday, November 2, 2019, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian R.C. Church in United, PA. The meeting will be held in the St. Florian's Social Hall. The election of officers and finalizing plans for the District 3 Vilija will be on the agenda. Refreshments will be served. For more information or directions call Vicki at 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Congratulations to Paul Klacka who took 2nd place and Jack Augustine who took 3rd place bowling in the Armstrong County Senior games. Jack Augustine and Ed Skukelak recently loaned me some historical information on Holy Trinity Parish book from 2001 and the CU Sokol baseball team from 1922-July 1931. I also have made copies of the "Dedication and Souvenir Banquet Program" booklet from September 5, 1954. Branch 200 was organized by Jacob Matava Sr, Frank Sporny Sr. and George Ondrechowski on October 11, 1895. I have also made a copy of "Sokol, Slovak, Czech Folk Songs" booklet. Branch 200 would truly appreciate any historical information and/or pictures any member would like to donate or loan to Vicki to make copies. Phone: 724-763-9229 or email vschaub123@gmail.com.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Vicki Schaub Financial Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

We invite all members to attend Branch 200's meetings held in the upstairs Social Hall @ 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. The Officers and Board of Directors meet @7:00PM with the members to meet directly following. The remainder of the 2019 meeting dates are as follows: 10/03/19, 11/07/19 with Nomination of Officers, and 12/05/19 with Election of Officers. We are asking our members to attend the meetings and we welcome any involvement you are willing partake.

Branch 200's 125th Anniversary is coming in 2020.

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, has meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings start at 7PM and are held at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 16, 2019. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Once again, I ask that our members plan to attend our meetings whenever possible. It is pleasing to see the attendance at our monthly meetings slowly trending upward. Let's keep that trend going. Our District 10 officers are currently discussing ways to increase fraternal activities in our district. Attendance at our Branch 228 meetings can give you first-hand knowledge of items and events being discussed. All of this helps to promote comradery. Please attend the branch meetings to stay informed. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their annual meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 8, 2019, at 1:00 PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2020, followed by a luncheon. Reservations can be made by calling 330-755-8316. We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 1:00PM at Salvatore's Italian Grill Restaurant in Austintown, OH. On the agenda: general branch business. A luncheon will follow directly after the meeting.

Carlie Peshek, Vice President

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will hold its next 2019 meeting at 1 PM on Sunday, November 10, 2019, at the Twin Oaks Lounge in the Rainbow Shopping Center on Lincoln Way in White Oak, PA. Officers for 2020 will be elected. We will also discuss other branch and district business matters. The next district business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 2019, at the Holy Trinity Church social hall in West Mifflin. Members are urged to check both the Jednota and the FCSU web site for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 290 Members: the next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 1:00 PM. Branch 290 will host the meeting at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 by October 10th if you plan on attending. Agenda will include recap of 2019 events including the Regional picnic and bus trip to Danville. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Mary Kapitan, District Secretary

BRANCH 312 - BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 1:00PM at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr, Latrobe, PA, 15650. For more information, call 724-539-8326.

Michaelene Smolleck, Secretary

BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313, St. John the Baptist Society, will be holding a semi-annual meeting on Monday, October 14, 2019, at 11:30AM. The meeting will be held at "Doc's Smokehouse BBQ", located at 19081 Old LaGrange Road #105 in Mokena, IL. The meeting will be followed by a fraternal luncheon. The agenda for this meeting, will include the Election of Officers. Branch members are welcome to attend. If interested, please contact Branch 313 President, Marge Dickinson at (708)226-8157.

Branch 313 would also like to congratulate all of our members that have received their "50 Year Pin" this year. Thank you for your loyalty.

Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at 11:00AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. There will be an election of officers at this meeting. Since a light

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2019. Officers and members will gather at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and representatives to the District 17 meeting. Members will also discuss future branch activities. Information from the home office will be disseminated. Election of officers for 2020 will be held. Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is branch president. Other officers include Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; Michael J. Czankner, recording secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 393 will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2019, starting at 5:00PM, with dinner directly following the meeting. The meeting will be held at Giannilli's II Restaurant & Lounge, 4816 State St #30, Greensburg, PA, 15601. On the agenda: election of officers. If you plan on attending, please call John at 724-396-6256 and leave a message with your name and the number of people attending.

John Nalevanko, President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401K of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting to be held at 6:30PM on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at the Hillview Tavern located at 1517 Hancock Ave., Apollo, PA. 15613. Members are encouraged to attend as your input is vital and welcomed. In addition to general branch business, election of 2020 Branch 401 officers will be conducted.

Fraternally,

Patrick Froncek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 2:30 at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Election of officers for the year 2020 will take place. Call for reservations by Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 724-425-2576. All members are invited to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 23, 2019.

The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma OH, 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Rd). On the agenda will be officers' reports, the 2019 financial report, discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch. The election of branch officers will take place at this meeting. All members are urged to attend.

Refreshment will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2019, at 2:00PM at the Eat'n Park Restaurant, 2301 Rt. 286 So., Indiana, PA. The agenda will include election of officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, scholarship recipients, membership and general discussion of branch issues.

We wish our members and all families and

friends a beautiful fall season, a Blessed Christmas, and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will be meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 3 pm at The Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. We will be electing officers to serve on the Board of Directors in 2020.

If you are interested in serving on the board please send a letter of intent to run to: Sandie Klucar, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, c/o Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Please indicate in your letter the position you are interested in serving the organization on the board. Letters must be received by Saturday, October 26, 2019.

Mark your calendars:

9/18 Stuffed Pepper Dinner – call club to reserve tickets only 90 dinners to be served 4:30-7:00PM. No tickets sales at the door

9-28 Steak Fry featuring the Lucina Folk Ensemble

Dinner 6:00PM; Dancers 7:15PM

\$15.00 per person/ \$25.00 per couple

Only 125 tickets to be sold

Childs menu \$5.00 3 pc. Chicken tenders/fries

Call the club for ticket reservations.

10/9 "Raise the Roof" Casino Night

Admission \$10 Food Provided/Cash Bar

6:45 pm-10:30 pm Games/Chinese Raffle

Proceeds for roof repairs

10/29-30 Overnight Casino Trip to Meadows – call Joan Lewis 330-730-8285 if interested

11/3 Lodge Meeting of Branch 553 3PM at club (see above)

Nov. Mystery Monthly Dinner/Scotch Doubles call club for dates

12/15 Annual Vilija Celebration – 4:00PM

Cost \$20.00 per person. Call Linda Hanko to reserve tickets, no sales at the door.

Jan. '20 Winefest

Feb. '20 50-60's Dance

Hope to see you at the meeting and listed events,

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 580 Sacred of Jesus of Holy Trinity Church will hold a meeting on Sept 25, 2019, at Abruzzi Restaurant in Irwin, PA, at 1PM. Members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. General business will be discussed and there will be an election of officers. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 FCSU, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2019 after the Slovak Mass at 1:00PM in downstairs hall of St. John Nepomucene Church, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, activities of past year, election of officers for 2020 and discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend. Light refreshments will be served after meeting.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 meeting will be on September 22, 2019 at 4PM at Café 422, South Avenue, Boardman, OH. Also, as a reminder, Branch 731 members are invited to the performance of Disney on Ice at the Covelli Center, Youngstown, OH. The designated date is December 29, 2019 at the 5pm performance. Any Branch 731 member

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - REVEREND JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

District 2 will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. Hospitality will begin at 1:30PM. Meeting will begin at 2PM. Officers will be elected. Future events will be discussed.

All branches are asked to send representatives. Come and share in fraternalism and enjoy a delicious complimentary dinner.

John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 1:00 PM. Branch 290 will host the meeting at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 by October 10th if you plan on attending. Agenda will include recap of 2019 events including the Regional picnic and bus trip to Danville. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at the Deer Lake Inn located at 7504 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI 48346 (that is exit 93 on I-75, and just 1 mile west of I-75).

Our meeting will begin at 12:45PM. Lunch will be served at 1:00PM. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports and New Business which includes 2020 FINANCIAL BUDGET, ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2020.

Branch 633 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (PHONE NUMBER) 248-714-9620 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than October 12th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$20.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will NOT be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Dianna Rimarcik, Secretary

4945 Wavewood Dr.

Commerce twp., MI 48382

248-714-9620

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 60 will host the Fall Business Meeting on December 8 at the Holy Trinity Social Hall. The meeting will include planning of events for 2020. District officers will be elected for the next year.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. This notice is also posted on the FCSU District 6 web page.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meetings, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd, Mt Lebanon PA. Meetings resume October 7 with a discussion of Slovak genealogy. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** SeptemberFest at the NSS museum in McMurray – Saturday, September 28. Free admission. Vendors, Slovak music, Slovak food.

** Slovak beer tasting – Saturday, October 12 – contact Joe Senko.

** Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt – Sunday, November 3, 2019 – Noon to 4 PM. Free admission. Lectures on Slovak culture, Slovak entertainment, Slovak food, & many vendors.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. There is a summer class for children.

** "Notes of Slovakia" has programs in English and Slovak. You can find them on Facebook or at notesofslovakia.com.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

** The Carpatho-Rusyn Society maintains a web page at www.c-rs.org.

** Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

** If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. Plan a trip to see the hand-carved Bethlehem scene with 80 animated figures.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 15-19, 2019. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsi.org. The Eastern European Family History Society holds annual conferences in Salt Lake City. See feehs.org.

** Mass in honor of the Mother of Sorrows will take place at Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, PA in on Monday, September 16th at 7 PM. Services will begin with a procession and Slovak hymns. Afterwards everyone is invited downstairs to the social hall where they will have, kolbassi sandwiches, haluski, ceregi etc. available.

** FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 7 – THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

The Annual meeting of the Rev John Martvon District 7, will hold its meeting on October 27, 2019, the last Sunday in October, from 2-4PM. Hosted by Branch 372/ Beaverdale. It will be held at The Homestead Inn, 1939 Forest Hills Drive, Elton PA, 15934. All members including Southfork and Gallitzin are welcome to attend. Officers will be chosen at this meeting. Your input is greatly appreciated. Please mark the date on your calendar. Always happy to see new faces.

Sharon Allison, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

District 8- Rev. Stephen Furdek - will be having its annual meeting October 13, 2019. Mass will be held at 10:00AM, at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 4456 Main St, Egypt, Whitehall Township, PA. 18052.

Immediately following the Mass, a luncheon will be served, concluding with our annual meeting. The cost of meal will be \$17.50 per delegate. The location for the luncheon/meeting will be held at the VFW Post 7293, 5209 Springmill Road Whitehall PA. 18052.

All branches are encouraged to attend District 8 meetings. Also, it is important all delegate forms be returned promptly by September 30, 2019. There will be no exceptions. Thank you.

Any branch dues can be paid prior to the meeting or at the meeting. We have a few branches who have not yet paid the district dues. They can mailed to Gerald Fabian 4137 Wilson St, Whitehall, PA 18052-1615.

Any questions regarding the meeting please contact Monica Fabian at mfabian922@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

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Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

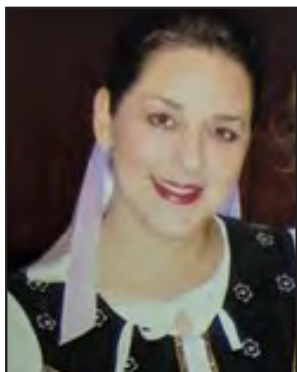
Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Janice Biro	102K	Anna A Wade	200K	John Anthony Herbst	553K	Frank P Knapp
001K	Leonard Skala	122K	Norma M Nicholas	200K	Josephine F Humenik	581K	John J Marencik
003K	Regina D Bona	128K	Joseph J Vercellotti	200K	Dorothy M Rotto	584K	Gerald J Lesko
003K	Bernadette M Hackbarth	153K	Mary T Gormley	228K	Mary Ellen Breznai	595K	Shirley A Polanyi
003P	Margaret M Enama	153K	Genevieve M Kerpec	228K	Richard P Shullick	628K	Mary C Soncini
005P	George William Hizny	153K	Mary Elizabeth Schueler	260K	Thomas Jarabek	670K	Rita Cole
005P	Stefan Melnikoff	157K	Herman F Hanzl	260K	John J Rozum Sr	670K	Donald G Sento
005P	Eleanor A Sebolka	157K	Barbara M Reichard	290K	Joseph F Minarovich	682K	Anna M Milakovich
005P	Margaret Thomas	162K	John R Mateosky Sr	293K	Veronica Bench	716K	Elizabeth Dubec
006K	Dale G Masley	165K	Paul Andrew Onachila	312K	Sophia E Churley	729K	Edward J Sandor
019K	Kenneth Ritzinger	166K	Jeanette Slavetsky	312K	Harry R Ridilla	731K	Dolores M Vargo
019K	Laura Zuk	166K	Michael Voytila	313K	Anna I Remy	746K	Paula Suich Drigel
038K	Michael F Valko Jr	169P	Sharon R Sheffler	367K	Stella Slovak	746K	John J Reseter Sr
040K	Laird E Grampp	173K	Joseph J Blizman	373K	Mary Ann Hudok	746K	Joan Tkach
041K	Stephen J Kubasek Jr	173K	Joan Keppick	382K	Jennie Lupini	764K	James J Ulishney
045K	Joseph S Junas	173K	Joseph J Tremko	419K	George J Kubasko	769K	Henry J Pochily
060K	George W Astrab	181K	Helen E Knapp	419K	Irene G Latsko	796K	Joanne Marie Hudak
075K	Emily Gilotti	181K	David E Mizak	450K	Ann M Revay	831K	Mary Ann Kwitkowski
075K	Francis L Pavlovsky	181K	Robert A Skomra	465K	Elizabeth Hudicek	855K	John T Mandinec
075K	Joseph L Sarisky	181K	Elizabeth L Ungvarsky	497K	Richard Andrew Sebek	900K	Ludene A Thompson
083K	Donald G Beno	199K	George Papson	553K	Dorothy J Adzema	914K	Marcella R Dwyer
086K	Donald Svonavec	199K	George Yokopenic	553K	Ann Kacsanek		

*Processed through the month of August

OBITUARIES

National Auditor Michele Mager Entered Eternal Life on August 2, 2019

Michele Mager passed away in peace on August 2, 2019 following a six-month illness. Born in Lorain on July 1, 1968 to Paul S. and Mary B. (nee Mariotti) Mager, she and her family relocated to Amherst Township where she graduated from Marion L. Steele High School in 1986. During her schooling years she worked as a Customer Service Supervisor for Friendly Ice Cream Corporation and a Consumer Loan Underwriter and Student Loan Administrator for Premier Bank and Trust. Michele earned an Associate Degree in Banking and Finance from Lorain County Community College, a Bachelor Degree in Finance and Accounting from Cleveland State University and a Certificate in Intelligence Analysis from Notre Dame College of Ohio. She was employed by the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Forensic Accountant. She spent the majority of her career working counterterrorism matters and most recently, narcotics. Always wanting to be a farmer, she had a lifelong passion for raising animals and loved all of her cattle, goats, lambs, horses, dogs, cats and poultry dearly. Michele had an immense love of dance. She studied ballet under Lois Gremore of Oberlin for decades, danced at Ohio Ballet in Akron and was a dancer and director of the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland. Michele was very active in the Slovak community. She served as the secretary and scholarship chair of United Slovak Societies, an auditor and served on the board for the American Slovak Club, both of Lorain. She served as National



Auditor for the First Catholic Slovak Union and was a member of Branch 228. She also was treasurer of Wreath 111 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol of Lorain and trustee, treasurer and director of the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland. Michele held the position of national auditor for the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. Her favorite season was winter and she loved to snow ski and ice skate. She loved traveling, attending musicals, concerts and hockey games. She had traveled all over the Caribbean, Europe, Middle East and the United States. Her most cherished vacation was a tour to Italy in 2006 with her mother. Michele was a person of character with strong convictions whose true happiness lied in living a life of purpose and meaning, placing a higher value on significance rather than success. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church until its closure, currently a member of St. Peter Parish of Lorain. She was also a member of St. John the Baptist Lodge Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, St. Ann's Branch 114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111 and the Italian American Veterans Post 1. She was preceded in death by her father, Paul Steven Mager in 2011; paternal grandparents, Paul and Sophia (Mudrova) Mager and maternal grandparents, Zaccario and Maria (nee Cherubini) Mariotti, as well as many aunts and uncles. Surviving is her mother, Mary Barbara (nee Mariotti) Mager; siblings, Marie, Sandy, Susie, Paullette and Paul.

son was winter and she loved to snow ski and ice skate. She loved traveling, attending musicals, concerts and hockey games. She had traveled all over the Caribbean, Europe, Middle East and the United States. Her most cherished vacation was a tour to Italy in 2006 with her mother. Michele was a person of character with strong convictions whose true happiness lied in living a life of purpose and meaning, placing a higher value on significance rather than success. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church until its closure, currently a member of St. Peter Parish of Lorain. She was also a member of St. John the Baptist Lodge Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, St. Ann's Branch 114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111 and the Italian American Veterans Post 1. She was preceded in death by her father, Paul Steven Mager in 2011; paternal grandparents, Paul and Sophia (Mudrova) Mager and maternal grandparents, Zaccario and Maria (nee Cherubini) Mariotti, as well as many aunts and uncles. Surviving is her mother, Mary Barbara (nee Mariotti) Mager; siblings, Marie, Sandy, Susie, Paullette and Paul.

ANN WADE BRANCH 102 – TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Ann Wade (nee Gresko), 69, of Williamstown, NJ, went peacefully surrounded by her family on Friday, February 12, 2016.



Originally from Trenton, NJ, Ann received her Bachelor's Degree in Science from Trenton State College. Following graduation, she taught Catholic school in Trenton for two years before relocating to Southern New Jersey. In 1971, Ann became a permanent teacher at St. Mary in Williamstown where she taught for 43 years before battling esophageal cancer. During her career, Ann taught all subject areas and every grade except kindergarten, but for the majority of her time at St. Mary, Ann did what she loved-teaching math to 6th-8th grade students. In 1999, Ann received a Medal of Honor from the Bishop of the Diocese of Camden for her years of service to the Camden Diocese as a Catholic School Teacher. In recent years Ann coordinated the Advanced Math and H.O.T. Programs at the school. Professional development was important to Ann, having attended math institutes at LaSalle University and Rowan University. Beyond work, Ann organized an annual family vacation each summer and by the time her daughters were in high school they had been to all 48 contiguous states by car. Ann was also an avid fan of crossword puzzles, birding and welcoming several shelter pets into her home.

Daughter of the late Peter and Anna Gresko. Beloved wife of Thomas Wade for 47 years. Devoted mother of Mary Ellen Wade, Catherine Wade (fiancé Daniel) and the late Donald Wade. Dear sister of Peter (Margaret) Gresko, Frank (Lynn) Gresko, Rose Marie Smieszek, Sue (the late James) Kochy, the late Thomas (Gail) Gresko, Mary Jane Gresko (fiancé Yuri Machnowsky) and Joseph (Kathy) Gresko. Loving aunt of many

nieces and nephews.

GEORGE P. YOKOPENIC, JR. BRANCH 199 –

George P. Yokopenic Jr., 79, of Unity Township, PA, died November 15, 2018, at St. Anne Home, Greensburg, PA. He was born August 26, 1939, in Greensburg, a son of the late George P. Sr. and Josephine (Ulishney) Yokopenic. Prior to retirement, he worked at PPG Industries, S. Greensburg. He was a member of St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe, PA. George was a passionate golfer, enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and also enjoyed the Thursday evening dinners with his siblings. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Esther R. "Betsy" (Wolfe) Yokopenic; an infant daughter, Susan Marie; a brother-in-law, John Guarino Sr.; and a sister-in-law, Janet Yokopenic. He is survived by four sons, Jeffrey and wife, Jennifer, of Niles, Ill., Craig and wife, Julie, of Lake Elmo, Minn., Andrew and wife, Annette, of Waynesboro, and Mark and wife, Gwen, of Latrobe; five grandchildren, Kevin Yokopenic, Rachel Wonderly, and Sydney, Emily and Maria Yokopenic; five brothers, Stephen and wife, Barbara, of Youngwood, Bernard and wife, Patricia, of Greensburg, Lawrence and wife, Wanda, Richard and James Yokopenic and wife, Nadine, all of Marguerite; two sisters, Patricia DeFloria, of Greensburg, and Barbara Guarino, of Marguerite; an aunt, Anna Ulishney, of Marguerite; and numerous nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Barb Patula, Branch 199 Secretary

JOHN ANTHONY HERBST BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

John Anthony Herbst, 86, of Canton, husband of Mar-



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OBITUARIES

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cia E. (Copenhaver) Herbst, died, June 4, 2019, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. He was born May 6, 1933, in Ford City, PA, the son of the late John H. and Mary (Bartek) Herbst. Raised in Ford City, John later lived in Madison and retired in Columbus, GA, before moving back to Connecticut to settle in Canton 21 years ago. John attended the University of Notre Dame, where he double-majored in chemistry and English and played varsity football on a full athletic scholarship, and later graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan University (Class of 1960). In 1971, John was awarded his Ph.D. in chemistry from West Virginia University. Between his years as an undergraduate, John served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper. Later, he served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander before receiving his honorable discharge.

Dr. Herbst was a research chemist at Olin Corp. and Callaway Chemical Co. before retiring from ExxonMobil Corp. in 1996. His work as a research chemist led to the development of a unique chemical patent in 1975. In his leisure time, John was an experienced and passionate grower of lilies and was an honored member of the New England Lily Society. He was also a model car enthusiast, having been a long-time member of the Packards International Motor Car Club. In addition to all of this, he was also a first-rate brewer of beer.

Besides his wife of 63 years, he is survived by his daughter Julia (Herbst)Wholey and her husband Brien and their daughter Nina Wholey of Canton; his son Andrew Herbst and his children Nicole and Nathan Herbst of Seattle; his sister Maryanna Fichthorn and her husband Dr. Joseph Fichthorn and niece and nephew Joanna Fichthorn Rosebush and Ross Fichthorn and their children, all of whom reside in Maine; his brother Henry E. Herbst; his sister-in-law Mrs. Doris Herbst (widow of John's late brother Joseph Herbst) of Ford City, PA; his brother-in-law Michael Angello Sr. and wife Joann, also of Ford City; his sisters-in-law Melissa Ebig and Patty Charney; and cousin Janet Cloak

along with all of his other cousins in Pennsylvania. His many nieces and nephews include Donald, Gregory and Nanette Herbst; Drew Ebig; Deanna Angello, Michael Angello Jr. and Christine Klingsmith; and Ellen Barker and Richard, Edward and Robert Charney. Besides his brother Joseph, John was predeceased by his beloved son Arthur D. Herbst. John was always very devoted to his family and will be deeply missed by all, including his adored cats Socrates and Plato.

- Submitted by Julia (Herbst) Wholey



**GEORGE KACSANEK
BRANCH 553 –
AKRON, OHIO**

George J. (Geo) Kacsanek, 87, passed away from pancreatic cancer Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

George was born to Andrew and Anna (Grenna) Kacsanek, Sr. in Akron and had been an area resident his entire life. He was a 1949 graduate of Garfield High School, a Golden Gloves Boxer and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He retired from Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. with 40 years of service. He was a long-time member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

George was a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union

(Jednota) Branch 553 and had held several officer positions including President with both Branch 553 and the Slovak J Club. He was a master "Wine and Sausage Maker" and passed the tradition onto his children. He loved his garden, playing cards, golfing,

bowling and fly fishing. He was a proud father, grandfather, and great grandfather and considered himself richly blessed with his family.

George is survived by his wife of 64 years, Johanna (Form); children, Georgann (Jim) Lupinetti, Suzanne (John) Oprian, Julianne (David) Reed and George Michael (Vivian) Kacsanek; 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren; brother, Edward Kacsanek of Arizona; sister-in-law, Ann Kacsanek and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Joseph E. and Andrew (Eva) Kacsanek, Jr.

**STEPHEN P.
VARGO
BRANCH 553 –
AKRON, OHIO**

Stephen P. Vargo, 86, passed away August 7, 2019, at Pebble Creek in Akron, OH. Steve was born October 31, 1932, to Stephen D. and Helen (Morrick) Vargo in Akron, and remained an Akron resident his entire life. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean War. He was a computer operations manager for Lawsons/Dairy Mart for over 38 years, retiring in 1993. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Akron. He was an avid golfer and bowler; as a longtime and active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) Branch 553, Stephen participated in Jednota national programs for golf and bowling for more than 50 years. Steve is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Theresa (McGrath); children Deborah (Dave) Breitenbach, Daniel (Kathy) Vargo and Stephen D. (Tracy) Vargo; brother Ronald (Karen); sister-in-law and brother-in-law Susan and Ed Boles and sister-in-law Jean Vondemkamp; grandchildren Brian, Laurie, Daniel, Steve, Mark, Jon and Todd; and 13 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his great grandson Ryan Vargo.

- Submitted by Daniel Vargo

**EMORY "DEE"
HOLOWATCH
BRANCH 764 –
WARREN, OHIO**

Emory "Dee" Holowatch, 87, of Warren, OH, passed away Thursday afternoon, May 24, 2018, at Shepherd of the Valley Nursing Center in Howland.

"Dee" as he was affectionately known, was born May 26, 1930 in Carteret, NJ, a son of James and Mary (Gavaletz) Holowatch.

He was employed as an electrician for General Motors in Lordstown for many years prior to retiring. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Dee married the former Judith Patrncak on October 26, 1952. They shared almost 50 years of marriage and many happy memories together until her passing May 5, 2002.

He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Warren. His greatest joy was spending time with his family, whom he dearly loved.

Dee is survived by his daughter, DeAnn (James) Williams, of Waterford, WI. He also leaves behind a daughter-in-law, Glenda Holowatch, of Corona, CA; twelve grandchildren, Rachel (David) Tran, of Costa Mesa, CA, Dylan, Samantha and Jordan Holowatch, of Raleigh, NC, Blake Hust, of Phoenix, AZ, James Holowatch, Jenna Hust, and Rebekah Holowatch, of Corona, CA and Chelsea, Connor, and Jack Williams, of Waterford, WI; and two great grandchildren, Eleanor, of Costa Mesa, CA and Gage, of Corona, CA.

Besides his beloved wife, Dee was preceded in death by four children, Jim, Ken, and Mark Holowatch; an infant daughter, Judy; three brothers, Mike and Sam Holowatch, and John Gavaletz; two sisters, Mary Casey and Helen Kuchtyak; and a grandson, Kenny.

- Submitted by DeAnn Williams



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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who purchases a ticket for this particular event on December 29, 2019 will be reimbursed \$15 for their ticket. This early announcement is in anticipation of a sellout crowd at this event and we don't want you to be left out.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

**BRANCH 746 –
LINDEN, NEW JERSEY**

Members of St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 746 - are asked to save the date for the upcoming branch meeting and Christmas party which is planned for Sunday, December 8th! More details in the next issue.

Please also note that the next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 1:00 PM. Branch 290 will host the meeting at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 by October 10th if you plan on attending. Agenda will include recap of 2019 events including the Regional picnic and bus trip to Danville. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

**BRANCH 756 –
OWOSSO, MICHIGAN**

St. Joseph the Guardian, Branch 756, will hold its Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2019, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 1259 E. Main Street, Owosso, beginning at 10:45AM. The agenda will include information from the Fall District Meeting, local branch officer reports, and an Election of Officers for the upcoming year. FCSU members and guests are invited to join us for Chicken Dinner in the main hall following the meeting. We hope to see you there!

If unable to attend, please contact us at 989-277-8959 with any policy or address changes.

Gary Gregoricka, President

**BRANCH 784 –
MONTREAL, QUEBEC**

Branch 784 Montreal will be merging with Branch 785, Toronto. Branch 784 will hold a farewell to Montreal Banquet on October 27, 2019, at the St. Cyril and Method Parish Hall following the 11 o'clock Mass. All current members of Branch 784 are invited to attend. This will be catered. We ask that members planning to attend to advise the following at least two weeks prior to the event: Anne Boyce 514-685-4236 – Anne Chandik 514-684-0177; Helen Corej 514-747-5600; or Julie Zemanovich

450-424-1279

Our sincere thanks to all past officers for their dedication throughout the years.

Alice Dobrik, President

**BRANCH 855 –
PARMA, OHIO**

All Branch 855 members are invited to participate free of charge in the following fraternal events (non-members welcome at the regular price): Sat, Sept 21 Pig Roast, Sokol Farm, Broadview Hts, OH (see Aug 14 Jednota, p 9 for details); Sat, Nov 9 Lucina Slovak Gala, Holy Spirit Party Center, Parma, OH (details on p 10 of this issue); or Sun, Dec 8 Vilija (Slovak Christmas Eve meal) St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, OH (details in the Oct 9 issue). Tickets are limited and available on a "first come, first served" basis. To place your order or for more info, please call Barbara at 440-864-4744.

All branch members also are encouraged to attend the upcoming District 10 meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at the Slovak J Club in Akron. Details are on page 15 of this issue.

Barbara Sutilla, President

**BRANCH 856 –
WASHINGTON DC AREA**

Branch 856 will hold their annual meeting for

2019 on October 15, 2019 at 1:00PM at the Tyson Pimmit Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA, 22043 Members are encouraged to attend. Would like ideas on what you are interested in your branch doing. Report on district meeting that was held in Egypt, PA. Discussion on next year's celebration of the 55th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in Washington, D.C. More information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

**BRANCH 888 –
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 6th, 2019. Both meetings will be at 6:00 pm at 6921 Isla Vista Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33412. Contact David Rafaidus, President at (561) 776-0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and information.

On the agenda for the meetings will be the discussion of future Branch activities, treasurer report, nomination/election of officers and items of mutual interest to the membership. All Branch members are invited to attend.

**David Rafaidus, President
(561) 776-0449**

Czechoslovakia in the 1970s

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

In 2019, we remember that 50 years have passed since a neo-Stalinist style of communist rule returned to Czechoslovakia in 1969. After Soviet-led intervention of August 20-21, 1968, the USSR saw to it that the reforms of the Prague Spring would be abrogated. Twenty more years of totalitarian oppression would ensue.

During the 1970s, Czechoslovakia was a communist state which belonged to the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact. Its economy was closely tied to the Soviet Bloc as a member of Comecon, which embraced trade among members and discouraged extensive trade and exchanges with the West and any free states. The Communist Party controlled all major institutions. The Party and the secret police (ŠtB or Štátna bezpečnosť) closely monitored the activities of its citizens and Western foreigners traveling within its borders.

The peoples of Czechoslovakia (mainly Czechs, Slovaks, Rusyns, Hungarians, and Roma [Gypsies]) lived under the shroud of the recent Soviet-led 1968 invasion of the country. In August of that year, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev intervened with a massive movement of a half million Warsaw Pact military forces to snuff out the reform movement led by the Slovak party chief, Alexander Dubček. While the population did not actively resist the invasion, it had stunned them and resulted in some passive and peaceful resistance. The Soviets proclaimed what has come to be called "The Brezhnev Doctrine," which stated that "the U.S.S.R. and the other socialist states had to act decisively and they did act against the anti-socialist forces in Czechoslovakia." Basically it asserted the right to intervene directly to provide "fraternal assistance" when a socialist state and the primacy of the communist party were threatened. The Soviets retained military forces in the country, but maintained a low profile and did not interact with Czechoslovak citizens.

Until November 1968, the borders remained relatively fluid until the new Czechoslovak leadership tightened travel restrictions to the West. In a few months, about 104,000 Czechs and Slovaks fled abroad. Many educated citizens fled in this wave, including a large number of professionals, intellectuals, and some of the country's most talented citizens.

"Normalization"

Following the invasion, a so-called "normalization" occurred, i.e., the reassertion of one-party control and the abolition of freedom of expression and assembly. Threatened with a second occupation, Dubček had to resign and was demoted into positions with no real power; he had lost any real influence in shaping policy. In his place, the Soviets in 1969 agreed to accept an opportunistic Slovak politician, Gústav Husák, to head a revamped Czechoslovak Communist Party. In two years, the Husák regime completed the process which came to be referred to as "normalization", Husák abrogated most reforms and systematically purged the communist party and all institutions of any persons connected with the reform



Gústav Husák, communist who led normalization



Border fences

movement. The Party expelled a third of its members and most lost their jobs as well. Screening Commissions were established that intensively questioned 5 million people in a country with a population of about 14 million! Reform-minded intellectuals lost their positions and were often compelled to work menial labor jobs.

The Communist Party imposed again the Soviet model and modified laws passed during the Dubček era. The regime even ignored its own laws which limited its power over people and institutions, such as the 1975 Helsinki Accords on Human Rights which Czechoslovakia signed. The Party also reasserted central control over the economy, schools and universities, expanded police powers, and concentrated on increasing economic exchanges and expanding relations with other communist states.

Dissidents were not tolerated and were forced to emigrate or face prison sentences. The dreaded Secret Police (ŠtB) kept tabs on people and ensured they had informants in all housing facilities and at all workplaces. About a thousand dissidents signed the Charter 77 document, which cited the regime's failure to follow even its own laws. As a result, they suffered harassment or were imprisoned, including the post-1989 Czech president, Václav Havel.

While the regime officially allowed for religious tolerance, it interfered with church autonomy, discouraged church attendance, and encouraged Marxist atheism. In practice, those who attended church suffered discrimination by authorities, and a teacher could lose his or her job by attending reli-



Slovak party chief, Alexander Dubček

gious services.

The only reform that survived the purge was the creation of the Slovak Socialist Republic, a move which granted Slovakia more say in its internal affairs. Albeit Slovakia remained under the tight control of Prague leaders, especially regarding repressing dissent and any free expression in the media.

During the 1970s, Czechoslovakia became a neo-Stalinist regime with one of the most repressive regimes in the Eastern Bloc. Communist Party members who expressed loyalty toward the regime enjoyed exclusive privileges such as better housing, job opportunities, shopping for quality goods at state-run Tuzex stores, and even travel to the West.

Carrots to Satisfy the People

At the same time, in order to placate the general population and keep people relatively satisfied, the totalitarian regime used the carrots of job security, a gradually rising level of material comfort, and the promise of a stable living as long as citizens obeyed the written and unwritten rules. In the Eastern Bloc, Czechoslovakia enjoyed a standard of living second only to that of East Germany. Workers' wages were kept relatively high compared to that of professionals. Factory

workers often earned as much or more than university trained specialists and medical employees, including doctors. But they significantly lagged income in Western states.

Common obligations for all citizens included paying lip-service to socialism at public events. Young people belonged to party-controlled youth organizations such as the Pioneers or the Czechoslovak Socialist Union of Youth. Workers had to join the party-controlled trade unions which focused mainly on meeting centrally planned production quotas and ignored glaring pollution problems. Farm laborers worked 8-hour days on collective farms, even when more flexible hours suited the vagaries of weather conditions. By participating in the May Day parades with one's school, factory or workplace, individuals could display their "socialist patriotism." Not attending could have negative consequences.

Even though Czechoslovakia did not participate in any active war during the 1970s, all young men were required to perform military service for at least two years; the military draft was mandatory for all able-bodied males after they reached the age of 18 years-old. Reserve obligations continued until they reached the age of 50, and they could be recalled. Thus each former soldier had to maintain a military identification book which listed his name, rank, serial number, etc. Since the state considered this ID, any official maps of the country, and the location of military installations to be state secrets, travel to the West required special permission. One had to turn over his military booklet to a local army commander, and obtain a receipt. The process was time-consuming and "a tremendous hassle." Compulsory military service and reserve duties resembled that of other Eastern Bloc countries such as Hungary, Poland, East Germany, etc. (Independent Slovakia abolished all compulsory military service in 2006, and since March 2004, Slovakia has become a member of the NATO alliance.)

The regime offered free schooling but favored those of working class or Party background for university admissions. School students had to spend part of their summer vacation na brigadu, i.e., performing public service such as gathering the harvest, canning foods, and other types of seasonal work.

The overwhelming majority of people retreated into political passivity and abandoned hope of any sort of lasting change. Housing shortages persisted despite the construction of many drab, concrete Soviet-style high rise apartments (panaláky) across the country. Most young married couples often lived with extended families as they waited several years for their own house or flat.

But prices for basic necessities were inexpensive and state-subsidized. Rents and basic services were relatively cheap compared to the West and affordable. Medical care was free, although one could wait for a long time at the doctor's office, and hospitals were at substandard levels compared to the West. The state granted generous maternity leaves of several years and offered child care for working mothers. Men could retire at age 60 with moderate pensions, and a

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Czechoslovakia

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woman could retire several years earlier, with a year earlier added for each child she raised.

Public transport cost little and people could cheaply ride trains, trams, and buses. One could travel on the Prague Metro or Bratislava trams and buses for a mere crown (ten cents at the official exchange rate). The state subsidized politically acceptable culture, the arts, and sports so that all could afford them.

The regime also controlled the currency exchange rate and required any Western foreigners to apply for a visa and exchange at least 10 dollars in hard currency per day. A black market flourished where one could obtain three times the official exchange rate. The state discouraged extensive contact with non-socialist foreigners and regularly opened mail sent from Western countries. Local officials censored mail and even pilfered money sent to citizens by relatives abroad.

A somewhat healthy economy in the mid-1970s helped to quell potential dissent among most people, who became content to focus on their personal and family lives. More and more citizens were able to afford a car and some modern luxury items, such as washing machines and televisions. Used cars fetched a higher relative price compared to the West, as many could not afford a new car. For many purchases, there often were only one or two items to choose from, whether it be coffee or laundry detergent, and the quality did not usually meet Western standards. Shortages were common for quality meats or something as simple as a good bicycle. Connections and friends were very important if one wanted a particular item that was hard to buy.

A popular saying was: "They pretend to pay us, and we pretend to work." Building a small country house (chata) and some freedom to travel, at least within the communist bloc, helped to maintain at least a tolerance of the status quo. The so-called Revolutionary Trade Unions also offered workers free vacations to places like Bulgarian beaches to keep them happy.

The tight social control did limit the extent of crime in the country, as most feared the stiff penalties for breaking the law. Petty crimes did occur such as stealing items in short supply, (i.e. windshield wipers) or pilfering materials from one's workplace. After all, people would rationalize, everything belongs to the workers! But the streets were safe to walk and violent crimes did not pose a significant problem. Communist appointed judges staffed the civil and criminal courts, but trials were generally fair as long as defendants did not challenge the system or the Party in power.

In summary, Czechoslovak was an authoritarian state ruled by a one party dictatorship during the 1970s with tight restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly, and foreign travel to the West. Although there were possibilities for a gradual improvement in one's standard of living and a social security blanket for the population, people knew that they could not rock the socialist boat. All but a very small minority of dissidents outwardly conformed to "normalization" so that they could maintain a stable life as free as possible from state interference.

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2019, at 1:00 P.M. at the Uniontown Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, 575 West Main Street. Regional Director James Marmol will brief the group of current events taking place at the Home Office. All members are urged to attend. A Dairy Queen social will follow.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10 will be meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 3 pm at The Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. At this meeting we will be electing officers for 2020 and discussing future events.

Mark your calendars:

Dec. 8 - Vilijas at American Slovak Club, Lorain, OH and at St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, OH

Look for more details in upcoming issues of Jednota

Dec. 15 - Vilija at Branch 553 St. John the Baptist, Akron, OH

Cost \$20.00 per person. Contact Linda Hanko for tickets

March 28, 2020 - District 10 Hockey Game with Cleveland Monsters at the Q in Cleveland, OH

Please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or lhanko@neo.rr.com if you plan to attend the meeting.

Hope to see you there.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

District 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The semiannual District 11 meeting will be held Sunday, November 17 @ 2pm. This meeting will take place @ Rachel's Roadhouse, 27 Franklin Village Mall, Kittanning Pa.16201. Lunch will be provided @ no cost for members who attend. Any beneficial member is welcome to represent his/her branch at District meetings with or without formal identification by the Branch or to the District Secretary of intent to attend the meetings. We encourage members to attend, your input is invaluable.

Agenda: nomination and election of 2020 officers; and topic of discussion for upcoming events, including the Polka Party to be held in January of 2020. Questions may be directed to Karen Greggs @ 724-372-0690 or rby email @ patrick007@yahoo.com.

Fraternally,

Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Reverend Joseph L. Kostik, Region 6, District 14 will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6 pm at the Falcon Grille, 29 N. Canfield-Niles Road (Rt. 46) in Austintown. We encourage all branches of the District to try attending the meeting.

Grace Kavulic, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - THE REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Reverend Joseph L. Kostik, Region 6, District 14 will hold its Annual meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at the Falcon Grille located at 29 N. Canfield-Niles Road (Rt. 46) in Austintown. This meeting will be for the Election of Officers and Installation of Officers for the coming year. We will also discuss meeting place changes and the calendar for the year 2020. Please make every effort to attend and be a member of the District decision making.

Grace Kavulic, Recording Secretary.

DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2019 after the Slovak Mass in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church. On the agenda will be a financial report, future activities for 2020 and election of officers for 2020.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. All Members are urged to attend and voice their opinions and concerns.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 17 - STS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT - LUZERNE & LAKAWANNA COUNTIES, PA, & BROOME COUNTY, NY

The district's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at St. John's The Evangelist Church Hall, William and Church Streets, Pittston, PA. We will be included in the Mass celebrated at 11:30AM for those who can attend; the Mass will be followed by lunch at 12:20PM, with the meeting immediately after.

Jednota updates, summer activities held, and upcoming activities will be discussed. Election of officers will take place and everyone has the opportunity to hold a position. Are you active in your branch? You may be nominated from the floor. Share your gifts of talent, interest in the Jednota, and its growth and benefits. COME AND KEEP FRATERNALISM ALIVE. Make friends through your presence.

District dues - are you up-to-date?

Hope to see you on Sunday, October 27th. Reservations are not necessary. Call Michael Slovenkai, District President, at (570) 342-7562 if you have any questions.

Fraternally,

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL, QUEBEC

District 20 - Prince Rastislav District will be merging with District 19 - Msgr. Michael Shuba District - Toronto. All current members of District 20 are invited to attend a farewell to Montreal Banquet hosted by Branch 784. The banquet will be held on October 27, 2019, at the Sts Cyril and Method Parish Hall following the 11:00'clock Mass. This will be catered. We ask that members planning to attend to advise the following at least two weeks prior to the event: Anne Boyce 514-685-4236 - Anne Chandik 514-684-0177; Helen Corej 514-747-5600; or Julie Zemanovich 450-424-1279

Our sincere thanks to all past officers for their dedication throughout the years.

Alexander Dobrik, President

Your Phone Call Is Important to Us



At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we take every phone call very seriously. Our goal is to deliver the best customer service possible. Please take the following steps when you get our voice mail so that we can provide you with the level of service and attention you deserve.

1. Leave a brief reason for your call.
2. Be sure to state your full name, and spell your last name.
3. Along with your phone number, let us know the best

time to contact you between the hours of 8:00AM and 4:30PM, M- F.

4. Remember that we can only discuss a contract or certificate with the owner or with permission from the owner.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer (via teleconference)
 Damian Nasta, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the June 2019 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update to the Executive Committee. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via teleconference to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review.

The President asked Mr. White to actively look for bonds or other securities we can use as collateral for future Federal Home Loan Bank advances.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer 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. Following the report, the Executive Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions.

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of June for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of June 2019:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 224,032.39
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 46,275.85
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Executive Committee. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 300 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents. The Home Office continues an extensive Facebook ad recruiting campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in.

The Executive Secretary stated that the final arrangements are being made for the 2019 Membership Meet November 9-17, 2019 aboard Carnival Magic.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The President led a review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates

remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in August.

MIDDLETOWN:

The President stated that everything is moving forward with the sale of the property in Middletown and hope the transaction will close by the end of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated that the statue of Father Furdek, formerly located at the Printer Building in Middletown, has been moved and will be installed today at the front entrance of the Home Office building in Independence, Ohio. Re-dedication will be on September 13, 2019 at the Home Office. Members are invited.

The Executive Secretary stated that the President and he will visit with Ed DePerris and Ed Cowman in Pittsburgh to discuss the requirement of converting the 2010 CSO's over to the new 2017 CSO's before January 1, 2020. After the meeting, they plan to visit the Croatian Home Office and Museum.

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the FCSU Golf Tournament being held at Cedarbrook Golf Course on August 17-18, 2019 in Belle Vernon, PA. He stated that the tournament will have over 60 golfers.

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 Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., closed the meeting with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 10

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

Statement as of June 30, 2019 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	363,617,572		363,617,572	353,011,701
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,835,145		2,835,145	2,987,141
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	245,613		245,613	371,258
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	361,442		361,442	373,070
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	971,759		971,759	991,961
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	785,946		785,946	785,946
5. Cash (\$.....9,818,314), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	9,818,314		9,818,314	15,831,904
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,156,064		1,156,064	1,107,398
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	7,837,035		7,837,035	7,210,059
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	387,628,890	0	387,628,890	382,670,437
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,684,396		4,684,396	4,627,912
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	16,865		16,865	21,785
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$.....0) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$.....0).....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	3,406	3,406	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	392,334,107	3,956	392,330,151	387,320,134
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	392,334,107	3,956	392,330,151	387,320,134

Statement as of June 30, 2019 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts \$.....0 less \$.....0 included in Line 6.3 (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	319,471,090	315,165,261
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	27,920,319	28,783,032
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Policyholders' dividends/refunds to members \$.....0 and coupons \$.....0 due and unpaid.....		
6. Provision for policyholders' dividends/refunds to members and coupons payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members apportioned for payment (including \$.....0 Modco).....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members not yet apportioned (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
6.3 Coupons and similar benefits (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
7. Amount provisionally held for deferred dividend policies not included in Line 6.....		
8. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	48,930	47,645
9. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
9.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
9.2 Provision for experience rating refunds, including the liability of \$.....0 accident and health experience rating refunds of which \$.....0 is for medical loss ratio rebate per the Public Health Service Act.....		
9.3 Other amounts payable on reinsurance, including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
9.4 Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	1,037,016	1,030,876
10. Commissions to agents due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	14,925	14,273
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
12. General expenses due or accrued.....	73,432	76,626
13. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves, net of reinsured allowances).....		
14. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued, excluding federal income taxes.....	18,683	18,683
15.1 Current federal and foreign income taxes, including \$.....0 on realized capital gains (losses).....		
15.2 Net deferred tax liability.....		
16. Unearned investment income.....		
17. Amounts withheld or retained by reporting entity as agent or trustee.....	5,845,640	5,791,613
18. Amounts held for agents' account, including \$.....0 agents' credit balances.....		
19. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
21. Liability for benefits for employees and agents if not included above.....		
22. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
23. Dividends to stockholders declared and unpaid.....		
24. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
24.01 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,972,135	2,783,323
24.02 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
24.03 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
24.04 Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
24.05 Drafts outstanding.....		
24.06 Liability for amounts held under uninsured plans.....		
24.07 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
24.08 Derivatives.....		
24.09 Payable for securities.....		100,013
24.10 Payable for securities lending.....		
24.11 Capital notes \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	574,693	424,693
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25).....	358,686,374	354,945,549
27. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27).....	358,686,374	354,945,549
29. Common capital stock.....		
30. Preferred capital stock.....		
31. Aggregate write-ins for other-than-special surplus funds.....	0	0
32. Surplus notes.....		
33. Gross paid in and contributed surplus.....		
34. Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds.....	0	0
35. Unassigned funds (surplus).....	33,643,777	32,374,585
36. Less treasury stock, at cost:		
36.10.000 shares common (value included in Line 29 \$.....0).....		
36.20.000 shares preferred (value included in Line 30 \$.....0).....		
37. Surplus (Total Lines 31 + 32 + 33 + 34 + 35 - 36) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	33,643,777	32,374,585
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37.....	33,643,777	32,374,585
39. Totals of Lines 28 and 38 (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	392,330,151	387,320,134

Statement as of June 30, 2019 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year to Date	2 Prior Year to Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	8,455,627	6,724,769	12,068,358
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	8,071,057	8,046,419	15,936,994
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	191,263	219,113	461,105
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous Income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	1,810	907	13,273
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	16,719,757	14,991,208	28,479,730
10. Death benefits.....	1,565,736	1,512,267	2,642,835
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	7,771,844	9,549,036	17,516,462
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts.....			
14. Coupons, guaranteed annual pure endowments and similar benefits.....			
15. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	255,320	294,870	572,287
16. Group conversions.....			
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	84,756	93,353	179,936
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts.....	4,305,829	210,796	2,026,057
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19).....	13,983,485	11,660,322	22,937,577
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	134,330	106,306	166,490
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	1,863,514	2,006,374	3,721,729
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes.....	69,963	59,169	106,341
25. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
26. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
27. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(204,120)	(178,079)	(409,342)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27).....	15,847,172	13,654,092	26,522,795
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28).....	872,585	1,337,116	1,956,935
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members.....	142,579	139,153	422,699
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30).....	730,006	1,197,963	1,534,236
32. Federal and foreign income taxes incurred (excluding tax on capital gains).....			
33. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and federal income taxes and before realized capital gains or (losses) (Line 31 minus Line 32).....	730,006	1,197,963	1,534,236
34. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding gains (losses) transferred to the IMR) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding taxes of \$.....197,404 transferred to the IMR).....	91,645	61,594	97,832
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34).....	821,651	1,259,557	1,632,068
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
36. Capital and surplus, December 31, prior year.....	32,374,585	30,782,846	30,782,846
37. Net income (Line 35).....	821,651	1,259,557	1,632,068
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	634,014	1,846	(162,804)
39. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
40. Change in net deferred income tax.....			
41. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	1,459	1,459	2,919
42. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
43. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease.....			
44. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(188,812)	(24,081)	129,710
45. Change in treasury stock.....			
46. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
47. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
48. Change in surplus notes.....			
49. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
50. Capital changes:			
50.1 Paid in.....			
50.2 Transferred from surplus (Stock Dividend).....			
50.3 Transferred to surplus.....			
51. Surplus adjustment:			
51.1 Paid in.....			
51.2 Transferred to capital (Stock Dividend).....			
51.3 Transferred from capital.....			
51.4 Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
52. Dividends to stockholders.....			
53. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	881	34,363	(10,155)
54. Net change in capital and surplus (Lines 37 through 53).....	1,269,193	1,273,144	1,591,738
55. Capital and surplus as of statement date (Lines 36 + 54).....	33,643,777	32,055,990	32,374,585

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