



Jednota

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NUMBER 5990



*Narodil sa Kristus Pán,
veseľme sa!
Christ the Lord is Born,
Let Us Rejoice!*

*... child
is born,
to us a
son
is given...
And he
will be called
Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty
God,
Everlasting
Father,
Prince of
Peace.*

President's 2019 Christmas Message Veselé Vianoce ! Šťastlivý Nový Rok !

Dear Members and Friends:

The first snow of the season has arrived as I write this message. The much-publicized Black Friday sales are behind us with Christmas on the horizon.

Christmas for many of us, middle age and older, is a time of reflection and memories. Our Society ages and most of the older Slovak immigrants have passed on. I urge all of you to promote our Society and its financial and fraternal benefits.

Our fondest memories are often of family and events years past. The Christmas tree, the Christmas dinner, the family gathering, Midnight Mass. Many of us were originally born in the Northern climates and Christmas means snow, cold and warm fires, as it was and is in our ancestors' homeland in Slovakia. I personally have a hard time imaging Christmas in Las Vegas or Miami. But with many people, including many of our Members, living in the South, it is reality.

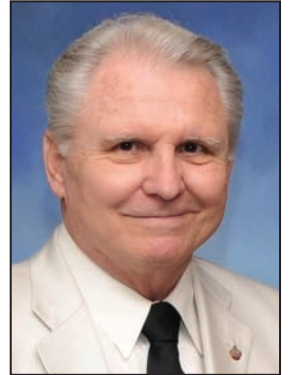
Wherever you are, North, South, East or West, I, my family and everyone at our Home Office wishes you and yours a Blessed Christmas. To our older Members and those in ill health, we pray that you have a Christmas filled with peace, joy and the blessings of God our Savior.

One of the purposes of the First Catholic Slovak Union is to try to continue the identity and the values handed down to us from our predecessors. We take this obligation seriously and will do our best to be successful.

In September of 2020 we are planning a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrow at the Basilica in Washington D.C. to celebrate the 55th anniversary. Watch the Jednota for updates.

I want to thank and encourage those Branches and Districts that hold, sponsor and support the traditional Slovak Christmas dinners ("Vilija" or "Štedrý Večer") in their area.

On a business note you will see that the Society has achieved a new record high surplus of over \$34 million dollars as of September 30, 2019. A larger surplus means a stronger Society and a more secure investment for our Members. More exciting news will follow. In closing, I want to thank all our Members and Recommenders for their support.



Andrew M. Rajec

continued on page 3



Tis the Season for FCSU
Fun & Fraternalism

Christmas Coloring
Contest for Kids
See p 4

All-new New Year's Coloring
Contest for the Young At Heart
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All-new Gingerbread Contest
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AND ... Qualified Members:
apply now to the FCSU 2020
Scholarship Program!
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Insights and Viewpoints



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

T16 – The Nativity of the Lord – December 25, 2019

Each Advent season we begin anew our yearly immersion into the mystery of the faith. This is only natural since during Advent we await the birth of the Christ child—the beginning of the life of the one who will bring about our redemption by means of his life, death, and resurrection.

The essence of this expectation is captured prophetically by Isaiah in the first reading at mass on Christmas day: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings ... bearing good news” (Isa 52:7). In this brief pronouncement Isaiah twice uses the word which we often translate in English as “evangelize,” meaning to announce good news or to bring a good message. This word was adopted by early Christians to describe the core message of their faith, the “Gospel.”

Turning to the heart of that Gospel message we encounter three themes on this Christmas day which capture the spirit of the good news that Isaiah foretold and the Christ child brought to completion. First, discovering joy in the Advent and Christmas seasons means having faith in the one whose birth we await – we need to believe in the “glad tidings” and “good news” of which Isaiah spoke. If this sounds like a challenge, we might think of how Christmas is a traditional time to renew family acquaintances and patch-up old misunderstandings. Such healing within a family is based on trust, and our faith in God is at its core a form of loving trust in the Lord.

Next, our faith naturally should carry over into action, for as baptized Christians we are all called to the mission of sharing the good news in one form or another. On Christmas Day, though the Christ-child has just arrived, already the call to mission is clear: both Isaiah and the Psalmist proclaim “All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God” (Isa 52:10; Ps 98:3), recognizing that the wonderful news of the Christ child’s birth is intended to bring joy to all peoples and all nations.

The third and final theme we encounter today is that Christ, whose coming we have been awaiting in Advent, is the fullness of God’s revelation and salvation—his very name “Jesus” means “he saves.” A powerful passage of today’s second reading witnesses to this, as we hear in the opening verses of the Epistle to the Hebrews: “In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son” (Heb 1:1-2). All that we have and all that we believe in as Christians comes through Jesus: there is no one else to await.

These three themes are brought together once more in the Christmas Day Gospel reading, taken from the beautiful Prologue of the Gospel of John. There we hear “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,” and “to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name” (John 1:1, 12). Here we have the affirmation that Jesus Christ, the Word of God, truly was the perfect revelation of God to his people, and that “those who believe in his name” find their salvation in him. Sent forth like John the Baptist to help people put faith in Christ, (John 1:7), we give thanks to God this day for the gift of the Christ child—the Word made flesh (John 1:14)—in whom the mystery of faith finds its beginning and its glorious end.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

December 29, 2019 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

This celebration of the Holy Family, just a few days after Christmas, is one that puts the coming of Christ into an important context for us. When God sent the Redeemer he did not mysteriously appear from nowhere, nor did he drop down to earth from Heaven. The Redeemer is God himself, the second person of the Trinity. This second person is also the Word of God which is the creating power that made all of creation. In the Prologue of John’s Gospel we are told that “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” God himself as second person of the Trinity, is the Divine Word, who took on flesh and was born into the world just like those who he came to re-create. We have just celebrated his birth to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and today we celebrate how they truly were a family.

The Gospel takes place when Jesus is a baby. King Herod heard from the Magi that a king was born and they were seeking him to pay him homage. From their descriptions Herod determined that this child was less than two years old, and Herod ordered that all males under the age of two should be killed, with the hope that this new born king would be killed. This tragedy which showed a total disrespect for Human Life has been looked upon for millenniums as a barbaric act of genocide. Unfortunately, we live at a time in which various government officials are advocating and supporting laws that allow the killing of children in the womb up until birth, during birth through partial birth abortions, and even after birth. This barbarism of the past continues to be with us and we need to pray for the respect for life and to speak about this horror. Meanwhile, in the Gospel, an angel appeared to Joseph to warn him of this and to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt where Jesus would be safe. Joseph, the faithful, quiet husband and father, listens to the angel and they flee to Egypt.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that this family, comprised of Mary, who was conceived and remained without sin, Joseph, the model of faith and justice, and Jesus, fully human and fully divine, were indeed human. What parent cannot identify with the worry, anxiety and even fear that comes from knowing their child is in danger of being put to death. This worry was no doubt on both Joseph and Mary as they fled to Egypt and remained with Mary as the “sword that would pierce her heart” until she stood beneath the cross. Regardless of what possible danger a child is in the emotions that touch a parent’s heart are the same. Almost every family experiences these situations in one way or another.

This Feast of the Holy Family presents us with two important reminders that can help us in our faith. The first is that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were the Holy Family, and they had their difficult moments. We should not hesitate to take our own family situations to the Holy Family and know that they understand and help us through their intercession and intervention. The second point is that each family is called to be a Holy Family. We grow in holiness by growing in unconditional love for one another, praying for one another, and praying for each other. As Servant of God taught us, Fr. Patrick Peyton taught us, “The family that prays together, stays together.”



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

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.

Issue Date	Copy Date
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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12	MONDAY, FEB. 3
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 11	MONDAY, MAR. 2

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Message from the President

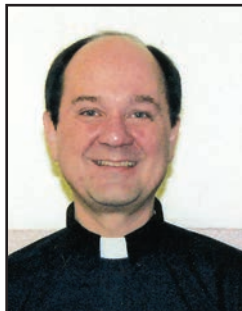
continued from page 1

“Jednota” means union or unity. We are a Catholic Slovak fraternal that was founded to serve the needs of its Members, both financial and fraternal. During this Christmas season and beyond I know we will continue doing this, showing love and respect for each other as we work for the future. “Make your family a Jednota family”.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Andrew M. Rajec, National President

Christmas Greeting from the National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Dear Friends,

Pope Francis has designated two Sundays in Ordinary Time with specific themes to guide and aid all members of the Church in their prayer and spiritual growth. The third World Day of the Poor was observed last month on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. The initial Word of God Sunday will be celebrated next month on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Midway between these two observances we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Whether it is the Pope’s intention or not, one cannot help but notice that the Solemnity of Christmas forms the center and the connection between these newest observances on the church calendar. After his birth, Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. From his birth, Jesus is identified with and in solidarity with the poor. John writes the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The words spoken by Jesus, the Word of God, invite us to share in eternal life.

To him who was born poor, to him whose words are spirit and life, to him all glory and praise and adoration, now and forever.

God bless you and your families now and throughout the New Year. You will be remembered in my Christmas Masses.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

The Christmas Cradle

Kids are used to getting presents for Christmas, and likely giving a few themselves. But Meadow Rue Merrill wants to expand their horizons by making it a fun family tradition to also give gifts to Jesus in a special way. That’s what inspired her children’s book “The Christmas Cradle.”

Merrill won a Christopher Award last year for her memoir “Redeeming Ruth,” about her adoption of a disabled orphan from Uganda. The mother of five joined me on “Christopher Closeup” recently to discuss “The Christmas Cradle,” which tells the story of a girl named Molly and her family who visit her Aunt Jenny to celebrate the holiday. Molly comes across a Christmas cradle in a box, and asks her aunt its purpose. Aunt Jenny explains, “Growing up, we played a game to share God’s love with others. Each December, we sang carols, delivered meals, and visited people who were lonely. Then we wrote each act of love on a card and put it in the cradle as a gift for Jesus. On Christmas morning, we read the cards and prayed for each person we’d served.”

In writing the book, Merrill said she contemplated the questions, “How do we give a gift to Jesus, who has everything? I feel like we can do that best by giving gifts to other people in His name.”

Merrill doesn’t just approach that idea from the standpoint of a giver, but also a recipient of kindness. She recalls, “One of my favorite Christmas memories was when we truly had very little to give our kids, and a neighbor encouraged them to write letters to Santa. I was thinking, ‘Why? We don’t even have the ability to [afford anything].’ But on Christmas Eve, [this neighbor] invited our family over to her home, and there in the middle of her living room was a pile of Christmas gifts [for my family], including for the baby that I was pregnant with. As my husband and I brought those home that Christmas Eve, it really was the kind of magic that we all hope for – but somehow spending it on ourselves doesn’t make it happen. It’s when we find someone with a greater need than ourselves to give it away.”

Part of Merrill’s awareness of poverty stems from her experience adopting Ruth. She says, “Ruth won our hearts with her bright smile and the laughter in her eyes. It took a great amount of sacrifice to meet her physical needs, and yet the joy she brought us was so incredible.”

Unfortunately, Ruth passed away due to health complications, but her legacy lives on. Merrill says, “Getting to know Ruth and meeting her needs opened our eyes to the needs of children around the world, and in our own communities, who don’t have what they need. I realized how far our gifts, donations, and even time, can go when we invest those in the lives of someone else. Ruth changed our hearts forever in the way we look at things, and we want to reach out and share what we have with others.”

Merrill hopes that people don’t just read “The Christmas Cradle,” but act on it. She concludes, “When [families] have the opportunity to do a good deed for someone else, they can write it on a little piece of paper and put it in the cradle. Then on Christmas morning, we can remember those people who we served by taking out their names on the cards and praying for them.”

Christmas Message from the National Vice President

The snow is falling, tree lights are sparkling and decorations line the store windows.

Once again we are in the turmoil of the Christmas shopping season. Since Halloween, I’ve noticed that our daily newspaper has been crammed full of circulars from various stores.

The circulars are all colorful and eye appealing. Every store is trying to outdo the others in hopes of enticing you to buy merchandise from them.

With all the commercialism, we are losing sight of the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of the Holy Christ Child, who brought new faith and hope to all the world.

Just as the wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus, so should we give gifts....gifts of love, compassion and understanding to our children and loved ones.

May this Christmas bring many graces and heavenly gifts to you and to all those dear to your hearts.

On behalf of my family and myself, I will pray that the peace of Christ and His holy love be with you and your loved ones this Christmas season.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. National Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.



Christmas Greetings from the Executive Secretary

It’s easy to get caught up in the “business” of Christmas, as carols start playing in the stores earlier and earlier and holiday shopping starts before the month of December is underway. My prayer is that this year we allow the true spirit of Christmas to enter our lives and our hearts. May this holy season remind us all of what Christmas is truly about –the birth of our Savior. On behalf of my wife Theresa and my family, I extend our wish that the joy and peace of Christ is reflected in the many blessings of family, friends and faith we share.

Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Kenneth A. Arendt



Christmas Message from the National Treasurer

As we start the season of Advent and prepare ourselves for the holiest time of the year, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let each of us practice being kinder, more understanding, helpful and grateful. During the Christmas Holidays let each of us take the time to reflect on these virtues, the true meaning of Christmas and what the birth of our Savior Christ Jesus was to the world.

We as Slovaks celebrate our Christmas Eve dinner (Štedrý Večer) as a special time filled with rich traditions, special foods, family and friends. As we gather around our tables to rejoice and give thanks for the birth of our Lord, please take the time to be grateful for our families, prayer for each other’s continued health and for the opportunity it gives each of us to be able to celebrate and share this special time with each other.

Also, as we always do, we thank our Almighty Lord for the blessing he has bestowed upon us and continue to shower his blessing on us all, watch over our loved ones in the Armed Forces, protect them and bring them home safely.

During the Christmas Season, my wife Cathy and I, and the entire Matta Family extend to all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

VESELÉ VIANOČNÉ SVIATKY A ŠĎASTLIVÝ NOVÝ ROK

George F. Matta II, National Treasurer



George F. Matta II



For news about Slovakia, Financial Tips, and more,
find us on:  Facebook.

Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion

FCSU 2019 Christmas Coloring Contest

B



A



C



PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:

1st Place – \$25.00 Gift Card
2nd Place - \$15.00 Gift Card
3rd Place - \$10.00 Gift Card

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
 4 – 6 year olds – picture A
 7 – 9 year olds – picture B
 10 – 12 year olds – picture C
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures may be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
6. Your child's completed entry form & colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2019.**
7. Mail to:
 Kevin Collins
 Fraternal Activities
 Director 628 Heather
 Brite Cr. Apopka, Fl.
 32712

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Certificate Number: _____

Branch Number: _____ (MUST be filled in)

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2019

FCSU New Years' Coloring Contest for All Those Young at Heart

Happy New Year!

Šťastný Nový Rok!

Color the image below and submit according to instructions



RULES

Please submit this form with your entry by December 31, 2019. Please print legibly

1. This contest is for all those Young At Heart Members: **You must be 55+ to enter**
2. Enlarged reproductions of the picture will be disqualified.
3. You **MUST** be a member in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for a prize.
4. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
5. Your completed entry form with colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2019**
6. Mail to:

Kevin Collins
 Fraternal Activities Director
 628 Heather Brite Cr.
 Apopka, Fl. 32712

Name: _____	Age: _____
Certificate Number: _____	Branch Number: _____ (MUST be filled in)
Street Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone Number: _____	
Email Address: _____	

PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:
1st Place –\$50 Gift Card
2nd Place –\$35 Gift Card
3rd Place –\$25 Gift Card

Junior Šarišan from Michigan travels to Slovakia

Renata Zelenak

July of 2019, the Junior Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble from Sterling Heights, MI, had the great opportunity to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a two-week tour to Slovakia.



Their journey took them through the western, middle and eastern parts of Slovakia, exposing them to Slovakia's rich history, culture, nature, folklore and Slovak cuisine.

The group got to appreciate the history and various styles of castles: Devin, Bratislava, Bojnice, Strečno and Spiš as well as the old painted folk village of Čičmany, and the largest open-air museum skanzen, in Martin. The children climbed up the tall mountains of Tatras, down the ice caves of Slovak Paradise and rafted down the Vah river, singing Slovak songs they learned back in Michigan. Their echo-

ing voices down the valley was ours as well as the villagers' highlight of that day.

However, the children were not just merely passive observers, but seventeen of the members got to show off their hard work by performing their Slovak dances in front of numerous audiences. Through a direct invitation and support of the Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, our group

performed in front of a full audience in Bratislava's Main Square, alongside with other groups coming from Australia, Čierna Hora, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine and Czech Republic. After performing in the cobblestoned Main Square in the capitol of Slovakia, the children experienced their own as well as many other groups' performances in the Slovak mountains. The Folk Festival under Poľana, Detva, organized by the city of Detva in co-



operation with the Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, is one of the oldest and largest festivals in Slovakia. It offers celebration of folklore, filled with music, singing, dancing, folk crafts and ancestral traditions.

In Eastern Slovakia, in Presov, the group was welcomed in the City Hall by the assistant of the mayor Dr. Felbaba and the two groups, Šarišanček, our sister group from Prešov and Jr. Šarišan from USA, performed side by side in a fully sold out Theatre, Kino Scala. It was a great experience and success concluded with a social get-together of both groups.



This event was organized by Alena Paulusova.

The continuation and deepening of our Slovak heritage would not be possible without this year's generous financial support from the First Catholic Slovak Union, the organization and grant of Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, and all the volunteers putting this tour into reality. Thank you all for this unforgettable experience and memories that will be treasured forever.



The choir "Liptov" at the Orientale

Byzantine-Slovaks and the Roman pilgrimage of 1969

Daniel Černý

The invasion of Soviets and their allies in 1968 put an end to any more efforts toward democratic reform in Czecho-Slovakia. From that period of the so-called "Spring of Prague" only two reforms lasted: the federative model of state which had Slovakia as part of the federation and the renewal of the legal existence of the Greek (Byzantine) Catholic Church. The invasion of Soviet troops and their allies in August of 1968 brought an end to democratization processes, and halted the complete implementation of the rebirth of the Byzantine Catholic Church. For many this period was so painful that they decided to become refugees. Many of them settled in Canada and reinforced the Byzantine-Slovak communities there.

It might come as surprise to many, but the year after the invasion it was still possible for many to travel, and even to Rome. The Communists feared the citizen's revolt and waited with their repressive actions for another year. This period of time thus became a blessing in regards to the festivities of the 1100th anniversary of death of St. Cyril. Slovaks from the homeland and abroad met in Rome to celebrate and give thanks to God for the gift, which we received in person of St. Constantine-Cyril.

The feast day of St. Cyril is celebrated each year on February 14th. His earthly remains are located in Basilica of St. Clemente in Rome. In the underground of the basilica memorial plaques surround his presumed gravesite, with a marble altar over the grave itself. The altar was gift of the Slovaks from USA and Canada, dedicated during the Byzantine liturgy in 1952, presided by Russian Archbishop Alexander Evreinov.

Among the many Slovaks who participated in the pilgrimage of February 1969 were several famous artists (Julián Filo, Ludovít Fulla, Vincent Hložník, Alexander Trizuljak, Eva Trizuljaková, Ladislav Záborský). Several of them used the opportunity to go to confession (some of them did so after many years of absence). Thus the pilgrimage really bore spiritual fruits. Several of the artists were received in private audience with Paul VI. As their gifts, they offered the pontiff many pieces of their original artwork. This was not well received by the Communist authorities, and several of the participants were persecuted upon their return, lost their jobs and were harassed for many years to come.

Besides participating in a special audience, many of the pilgrims did the sightseeing of Rome. But it was not only them to learn about the Eternal city, but also the Eternal city learned something about them. Another highlight for the pilgrims was a special ceremony in honor of St. Cyril, which took place on February 16, in Aula Magna of the Pontifical Oriental Institute. It is the Oriental institute which is the core of the scholar activities of Rome regarding the Christian East. It was also the place, where one of the most famous Byzantine Slovaks, Fr. Michael Lacko SJ was active as professor. The choir Liptov from the village of Hubová performed during the ceremony in front of the full auditorium. The choir was conducted by Rev. Olos, who was a clandestine Salesian priest. This event was well received.

For many it was indeed a joy to meet the young Byzantine-Slovak bishop, Most Rev. Michael Rusnak, CSsR, Apostolic Visitor of the Byzantine Slovaks in Canada. He flew to Rome from Canada. He was the voice of the persecuted church on the Vatican II council. Speaking on behalf of the persecuted brethren in Slovakia. In those days, when the future of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Slovakia was endangered and Bishop Hopko was ill and under surveillance, his personal presence gave joy and hope to those who were Byzantine Catholics in the pilgrimage (as well



St. Peter's square in Rome (L - R): Fr. Potocký SJ; Bishop Rusnák CSsR; Fr. Leukanič; Seminarian Zima; and Dr. Pichonský

as a symbol of courage and encouragement to those back in Slovakia). He won hearts of many even before they met him during this pilgrimage.

This pilgrimage of 1969 was the last joint celebration with such number of pilgrims from among Slovaks from both, Slovakia and abroad, until the fall of Communism in 1989.

About the Author

Daniel Černý (1983) was born in Košice, Slovakia. He received his PhD from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, with a thesis on the Slovak Greek Catholics in Canada. He focuses in his writings on Slovaks and their diaspora, especially those of the Byzantine rite. Since 2018 serves as Director of the Slovak Institute of History in Rome.

1st Annual FCSU Gingerbread Contest 2019

Hot cocoa in your Hand or maybe eggnog
 Cold crisp air on your noseor warm sunshine
 Let's get ready for the Christmas Holiday!
 What would be more fun than to build a gingerbread house – by yourself, or with your family, or maybe with other members at your FCSU Holiday Party?
 So Merry Christmas and welcome to our 1st Annual FCSU Gingerbread Contest.

CONTEST RULES:

1. You enter by emailing a digital picture of each participant with your gingerbread creation (making sure the photo includes a recent copy of the Jednota Newspaper) to the Home Office at: contest@fcsu.com.
2. You must be a member to enter. You must include your name, address, and branch number in the body of the email with your digital photo.
3. Entry must consist of all these elements to qualify: name, address, and branch number of each/all participant (s) along with a photo of participant(s) with your gingerbread creation, and a copy of the Jednota newspaper in the photo.
4. You may build and decorate your gingerbread house or village any way you choose.
5. There are two divisions to enter: individual and group (see details below).
6. Deadline to enter is Thursday December 19th, by midnight.
7. All qualified entries will be posted on the FCSU website from December 20, 2019 – January 6, 2020, after which the winning contest photos will be announced on the website.
8. Contest winners also will be published in the January 15, 2020 issue of Jednota.

VOTING FOR A WINNER:

1. You must be a member to vote.
2. All members are allowed to vote for 1 winner in each category. You can vote by mail or email (see contact info below)
3. All voting must be received/postmarked by the close of the day on Monday Jan. 6th, 2020.
4. The photo in each division (individual and group) with the most votes wins.

2 WAYS TO VOTE

By Mail:

Clip out entry form below and mail to:

Kevin Collins
 Ginger Bread Contest
 628 Heather Brite Cr.
 Apopka, Fl. 32712

- Be sure to include your name & branch number!
- Only 1 vote per division (individual & group)
- Must be postmarked by Jan 6, 2020.

By Email:

Email your vote to:

Kevin Collins @ Kevinfcsu@outlook.com

- Be sure to include your name & branch number!
- Only 1 vote per division (individual & group)
- Must be received by Jan 6, 2020.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

INDIVIDUAL DIVISION DETAILS:

- ❖ Members Only!
- ❖ 1 entry per member
- ❖ 1 Gingerbread House per entry
- ❖ Build your Gingerbread House and decorate it any way you prefer. Have fun; be creative!

GROUP DIVISION DETAILS:

- ❖ Members Only!
- ❖ You must have at least 2 houses in your photo to qualify in this group division; the houses can be built and decorated any way you prefer. Consider building a Village or Town, perhaps honoring your home town or ancestral village. Have fun; be creative!

PRIZE LEVELS (Individual & Group):

- ❖ FIRST PRIZE – \$100
- ❖ SECOND PRIZE – \$50
- ❖ THIRD PRIZE - \$25

Your Name: _____

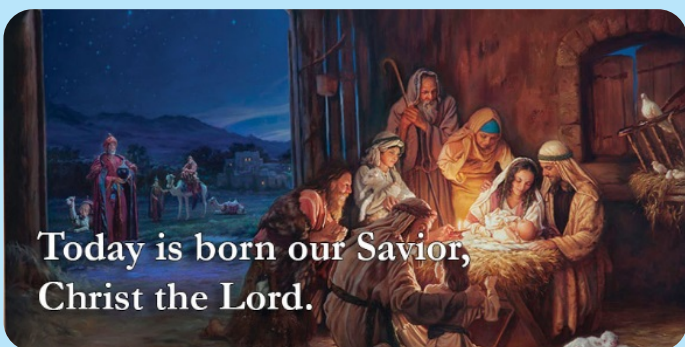
Your vote (individual): _____

Your vote (group): _____

Your Branch Number (MUST include): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____



Today is born our Savior,
 Christ the Lord.

For Christ the Lord is Given
 A Babe is born in Bethlehem,
 A star shows bright in heaven;
 The angels sing and shout for joy:
 For Christ the Lord is given!

Rejoice! Rejoice! God's only Son,
 Incarnate One Most Holy:
 Descends to free from sin's dark death
 The humble and the lowly.

 Rejoice! Rejoice! The Light has dawned:
 For Christ the Lord is given!
 The Father's word who leads to life,
 And endless bliss in heaven.

* 2016 George Kossik, Branch 584

Vianočný pozdrav z Matice slovenskej

Zuzana Pavelcová

Na cesty sa sype ťažký čerstvý sneh, plný mesiac sa skvie medzi miliónmi zlatých hviezd a ľudia, z takmer celého sveta, v teple domova, ticho, túžobne i radostne očakávajú začiatok najkrajších sviatkov roka – sviatkov vianočných.

Práve v tomto čase si maticiári intenzívnejšie pripomínajú, že slovenský svet sa nerozprestiera iba od Bratislavy po Košice, ale jeho hranice objímajú takmer celý svet. V starých archívnych dokumentoch sa neraz nájde fotografia slovenskej rodiny, ktorá oslavuje slovenské Vianoce v Austrálii, Argentíne, zámorí, na Dolnej Zemi či v inom meste Európy. Zdá sa, že z tradícií, ktoré si mladí Slováci odnášali z domoviny, boli azda najdominantnejšie práve tie, ktoré sa praktizovali v magickom čase vianočnom. Naši krajanovia, či už tí, čo inde žili 200, 100 alebo iba 10 rokov na svoje korene nezabudli. Mnohí z nich si spomínajú na tradičné Vianoce, ktoré zažili ešte s ich prastarými rodičmi v neslovenskej krajine alebo si spomínajú na tie, ktoré zažili v časoch, keď ešte žili na Slovensku.

Vianoce sú azda najkrajší kresťanský sviatok. Človek k človeku má v tomto čase bližšie, v hruďoch bijú slovenské srdcia hlasnejšie, náruč sa otvára širšie, ruky viac hladia, ústa viac chvália...

Pre slovenskú národu však celoročne ostáva typické, že si z pokolenia na pokolenie zachováme svoje zvyky, lipneme na starootcovskom dedičstve a nezabúdame na tradičné...

Mnohí z krajanov ešte stále na stromčekoch majú zavesených vyrezávaných drevených anjelíkov, krehké bábiky zo šúpolia, kúsky sušeného ovocia, vlašské oriešky, voskové sviece a na štedrovečernom stole sa tkvie krásna, slovenská výšivka.

Podľa starých zvykov je pod ňou ukrytá šupina z kapra – pre bohatstvo a na nej sú položené misky s cesnakom, medom, oplátkami, jablkom i trnkami – pre zdravie i poslušnosť. A poznáte poveru s orechovou škrupinkou? Keď sa vlašský orech rozpolil, položila sa škrupina na vodu a tomu, komu odplávala najďalej, predpovedala odchod do cudziny. Kto vie, či sa takáto predpoveď ukázala i našim krajanom, ktorých osud zavial ďaleko od svojej domoviny...

Po Štedrej večeri mnohí odchádzali do kostola, iní vytvárali živý Betlehem a chodili spoločne koledovať z jedného konca dediny na druhý.

Aj my, tak ako betlehemijskí koledníci, Vám chceme adresovať naše pranie do všetkých kútov zeme, všade tam, kde žijú naši krajanovia. Zo sídla a srdca Matice slovenskej, z Martina, Vám chceme z úprimného srdca zaželať krásne, pokojné, radostné a najmä šťastné a veselé Vianoce, plné vzájomnej lásky a pokoja.

Matica slovenská je hrdá na to, že i dnes, v roku 2019, udržujete slovenské zvyky a cítite sa byť Slovákmi.

Šťastné a požehnané, milí krajanovia!



Christmas greetings from Matica slovenská

Heavy fresh snow is falling on the road, a full moon is shining among millions of golden stars, and people around the world, from the warmth of their own homes, quietly, eagerly and joyfully await the beginning of the most beautiful holiday of the year - Christmas.

It is at this time that those of us working at Matica slovenska are best reminded that our Slovak world does not extend only from Bratislava to Košice, but its borders embrace almost the entire world. Old archival documents often contain a photograph of a Slovak family celebrating Slovak Christmas in Australia, Argentina, overseas, in the countries south of Slovakia, or any cities in Europe. It seems that among the traditions young Slovaks took with them from their homeland, perhaps the most dominant were those practiced during the magical time of Christmas. Our countrymen - whether they went abroad 200, 100 years or only 10 years ago - have not forgotten their roots. Many of them recall the traditional Christmases they experienced with their grandparents in a non-Slovak country, or those they themselves experienced while still living in Slovakia.

Christmas may be the most beautiful Christian holiday. Man is closer to his fellow man at this time, Slovak hearts beat louder, arms are opened wider, hands reach upward, mouths are filled with more praise ... And it is inherent in the Slovak nature that, from generation to generation, we preserve our customs, cling to our time-honored heritage and do not forget our traditions. Many compatriots still have carved wooden angels, fragile corn husk dolls, dried fruit, walnuts, and wax candles adorning trees while beautiful Slovak embroidery rest on the Christmas Eve table.

According to the old customs, a carp scale may also be hidden beneath the tablecloth - for wealth - and bowls of garlic, honey, wafers, apple and cranberries are placed on it - for health and obedience. And did you know the superstition involving a nut shell? When a walnut was cracked open, the shell was laid carefully in water and depending on how far it floated, it would predict who would be traveling abroad. Who knows if such a prediction was shown to our compatriots, whose fate flowed them far from their homeland ...

After celebrating Christmas Eve, many Slovaks attended church; others recreated a living Bethlehem scene and then went carolling together from one end of the village to the other.

We, like the Bethlehem carolers, send out wishes to every corner of the earth, wherever our countrymen live. From the headquarters and heart of Matica slovenská in Martin, Slovakia, we wish with a sincere heart, a beautiful, peaceful, joyful Christmas, full of mutual love and peace for all of you.

Matica slovenská is proud that even today, in 2019, you maintain Slovak customs and you still identify as Slovak.

Happy and blessed Christmas, dear countrymen!

VILIJA The Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper

Slavic peoples throughout eastern Europe preserved their strong Catholic faith for centuries through the use of sacred signs and symbols. These symbols were used both in church and at home in various celebrations throughout the liturgical year. Slovak-Americans can rediscover the beauty and meaning of these traditions in order to renew and deepen their religious faith which is often weakened by our secular culture.

The "Vilija" means the "Vigil" or eve of Christmas with its "bountiful supper" (Štedrý večer). After the prayerful simplicity of the four weeks of Advent preparing for the coming of Christ, the Slovak family comes together on Christmas Eve with a generous table of assorted symbolic foods.

Even though the various regions of Slovakia have made their own adaptations to the way Vilija is celebrated, some basic elements are common to many of them.

Breaking the Oplatky wafer

These unleavened wafers symbolize Christ, the Bread of Life. Father and mother give each child or guest a wafer with honey on it. They may also trace the sign of the cross with honey on the forehead of the children to symbolize the "sweet burden" of following Christ's commandments. In some traditions all then embrace each other in friendship and break pieces off each other's wafers. The honey also represents our ability to see Christ in each person despite their shortcomings and faults.

Sauerkraut Soup with Mushrooms (Kapustnica s Hubami)

The tart taste of the soup reminds Christians that the joy of Christ's birth will give way to the bitterness of Good Friday.

Fish (Ryby)

The abstinence from meat formerly required of all Catholics on Christmas Eve reminds them of the need for self-denial in this life as they prepare for heaven.

Bobalky, Orechovníky, and Mákovníky

The small biscuits that are scalded in hot milk and mixed with poppy-seed as well as the nut and poppy-seed rolls are sweet delicacies that remind Christians of the Infant King who brought joy into a sinful world in the same way that these sweets provide a welcome conclusion to the Advent penitential season.

Pirohy and Halušky

These traditional foods of dough pockets stuffed with prunes, cheese, sauerkraut or potatoes and noodles with cabbage are common in Slovakia and Eastern Europe. Their simplicity reflects the fruit of the land and the hard work of the Slovak people.

The Vilija supper traditionally ended with the giving of gifts of fruits or nuts and the singing of Christmas carols.



Chewy visits Skalica, Piešťany and Trenčín

Skalica is the largest town in the Skalica District in Western Slovakia in the Záhorie region located near the Czech border. It was here that Chewy was introduced to Trdelník, a pastry also known as chimney cake, which he thoroughly enjoyed. While visiting Kláštor Františkánov, a Franciscan monastery in Skalica the tour group enjoyed wine tasting, and Trdelník made by the monks. Chewy of course was much too young to enjoy the wine and also it is not good for canines however, he really visiting each person on the tour for a taste of their Trdelník.

Traveling from Skalica, with his belly full, Chewy curled up on the bus and fell asleep on our way to Piešťany which is located within the Trnava region.

Piešťany is the best known and largest spa town in Slovakia. As the bus came to a stop in Piešťany, Chewy awakened and was ready to explore another new city. Piešťany is Europe's only spa island with lily ponds and peacocks wondering about in the middle of Slovakia's River Vah. It is best known for its medicinal thermal waters and medicinal sulphuric mud. After a small snack and drink and a trip to the bushes, it was time for the bus to pick up Chewy and the group.

We proceeded to Trenčín, which is about 75 miles from Bratislava, with its famous medieval castle situated on a rock above the city. Our hotel was located directly below the castle. From a specially constructed window on the second floor of the hotel it is possible to see the Roman inscription on the rock dated 178-179-AD. This is a major attraction in Western Slovakia. One has to wonder how many people it took to build the castle without modern machinery and how many people fell to their death during the construction. It is a long walk up to the castle but the beauty of it is well worth the effort. In the central portion of the city one can see the clock from which the song Trenchanski Hodina originated.

A great evening was in store for everyone with a grand folk performance by Kornica a gold-medal winning group. Our great friend Joe Duraci arranged this for us along with his delicious goulash, bread, kolačy, and drinks of all kinds flowing freely. Chewy enjoyed the goulash however his drinking was limited to water. A great time was had by all and it was with sadness when we had to leave for the hotel.

Stay tuned for Chewy in the Tatra Mountains.

* Articles written by Kay and Jim Bench and Photos by Greg Maurer. They are all members of United Branch 181. Jim is President of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Organization and a Member of the Supreme Court of the Jednota. Kay is the Tour Director of the Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities and Greg Maurer is a National Internal Auditor of the Jednota.



Chewy in front of the window where you can see the Roman inscription on the rock in Trenčín.



Chewy by the fountain in front of the Thermia Palace in Piešťany,



Chewy with a tray of Trdelník in front of him in Skalica



ATTENTION

COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

From the desk
of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2020 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Ninety (90) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 85 scholarships in the amount of **\$1000.00**.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of **\$1,250.00** each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of **\$1000.00** each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

For rules, requirements and applications go to
www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
February 29, 2020

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed Monday, December 23 – Wednesday, December 25, 2019 in observance of the Christmas holiday.



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed January 1, 2020 in observance of New Year's Day.



2020 Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia



Come join us as once again as we tour our beautiful homeland of Slovakia. Walk the streets of your ancestors. Do a little research on your family, visit your ancestral village and perhaps find long lost relatives. Talk with your oldest living relatives, they have much to offer. This past year we had a reporter from Slovak radio who interviewed the tour participants and recorded them for Slovak International Radio and Slovak radio. Reserve your slot now. We have a 49 passenger bus, air conditioned, with rest room. Our tour is first class. We have the best guide in all of Slovakia and the best bus driver. We can give you names of tour participants that will tell you about our tour. Space is limited. The tour will be in July, 2020. Dates to be determined once festival dates are established. Approximate cost \$4000 depending on air fares. The cost includes first class hotels, 2 meals a day, entertainment, and admissions. Lunch on your own. For additional information call Jim Bench at 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com or Kay Bench at 724-771-7900 e-mail skbench@gmail.com Our tour cannot be topped for sightseeing, entertainment, fun, memories, and lasting friendships.

**If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately**
THINK ABOUT IT!

The 2019 Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska

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

On October 15-19, 2019, the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) hosted its 17th Genealogical and Cultural Conference at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. It organized around the theme "Pioneers on the Prairie," since many Czech immigrants settled on farms in the Midwest from the mid-19th century until World War I.

The CGSI promotes family research and cultural/historical information about the lands and nationalities of former Czechoslovakia. These include peoples with the following backgrounds in alphabetical order: Bohemian (Czech), Carpathian German (from Slovakia), German-Bohemian (Böhmisch), Hungarian (Magyar), Jewish, Moravian, Ruthenian (Rusyn), Silesian, and Slovak.

The topics presented covered all aspects related to the history and cultures of the peoples of the former Czechoslovakia – a history of the region, immigration, and how-to-do sessions about researching one's family. The sessions were presented by leading writers, genealogists, researchers, and historians, who aimed to assist attendees who wish to know more about the region and learn how to assemble their own family histories. Those attending also received an informative booklet (Program and Syllabus) with summaries of all the presentations, useful for future reference.

The conference also featured a vendor room with an array of books, music, folk materials, and exhibits for display and purchase. CGSI's Traveling Library allows attendees to consult important books and relevant online websites to assist with research on history and genealogy. A Networking room provided for assistance in translating, small group discussions, and sharing information with other researchers.

A Visit to Wilber

Before the CSGI conference commenced, attendees were offered the opportunity to take tours of the various neighborhoods in Wilber, Nebraska. Wilber is known as the "Czech capital of the USA." Since my wife and I were coming by car from the Notre Dame-USC game in South Bend, Indiana, we visited Springfield, Illinois, and then came from the southeast via St. Joseph, Missouri and northeast Kansas. We stopped at Nebraska's Homestead National Monument, which featured a museum to the homesteaders of the prairie. The 1862 Homestead Act, which offered free land to those who would build a small home and farm it. Many immigrants took advantage of that opportunity, including numerous Czechs, who make up 5.5% of the state's population today. Only about 3 percent of all Slovaks in America turned to farming, so very few settled there.

Later that afternoon, we visited Wilber, a small town of 1,855 people. A Czech and Slovak Festival every August, and Wilber becomes one of the larger towns in Nebraska! It also hosts a Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant that has grown in popularity. This year, a Rusyn-American won the contest for the first time, Anna Tombazzi, who hails originally from the Cleveland area and is now a rocket engineer in California.

Unfortunately, the Czech Museum had



Genealogical Research Analyst Iveta Blahútová with the author at the 17th Annual CGSI Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska.



The Parade of Kroje (Folk Costumes) is one of the conference's regular and popular events.

just closed, but we could enjoy the architecture of the town, with Czech decorated buildings and even benches with the writing "Jak se máš?" (How are you!) The residents are proud of their Czech heritage, but unfortunately, the only Czech Hotel and Restaurant had closed a few years ago, and the town offered a pork and sauerkraut lunch only every Thursday. We did visit a couple traditional butcher shops, and Frank's Smokehouse offered some smoked sausages and beef jerky, which we purchased, along with some delicious home-baked apple turnovers. Frank is continuing a business his father started, specializing in Czech sausages. One may also find Czech beer (pivo) at the local tavern, and we bought some groceries at the Food Město (Food Place).

Presentations

The next day we headed for Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska, for the CGSI conference. On Wednesday evening, the CGSI offered two films. The first was a documentary entitled "The Resurrection of a Nation," produced by Maria Silvestri and John Righetti, surveyed the 20th century history of the Carpatho-Rusyns of Central Europe. Filmed in Slovakia, Canada, and the USA, it details the struggle of a people trying to maintain their ethnicity, for after World War II, the new Communist regime claimed them to be Ukrainians. With the Velvet Revolution of 1989, new freedoms enabled them to freely recognize their own unique culture and language.

The other viewing was the 1995 TV film "My Antonia," based on Willa Cather's famous 1918 novel about life of Bohemian immigrants on the Nebraska prairie. Directed by Joseph Sargent and starring Jason Ro-

bards, Eva Marie Saint, and Neil Patrick Harris, the film won the 1995 Emmy for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Cinematography. The story features magnificent views of the tall grasslands and cornfields of Nebraska and beautiful landscape shots. In case you missed it, you may view the film on YouTube at this address: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCQsm_qlsQY.

The conference offered a wide range of lectures to attend, with four selections for each hour and fifteen minutes session. Here I will just mention those which I attended, but topics varied from cultural craft workshops to a variety of presentation on history, culture, and genealogy.

The first talk I attended was by Greg Nelson, who works with the Content Strategy group for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The organization hosts www.FamilySearch.org a free online site that includes many genealogical records, such as births, deaths, land records, immigrant info, census data, etc. He pointed out that many more records from Slovakia will be posted by March 2020, including more death records. Those require a 90-year gap from a death. He did note that the Slovak and Czech sites are the most used of any on the [FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) website.

After this, Michal Razus spoke on "Slovak Traditional Crafts and Professions." A professional genealogist, he lives in Prešov, and speaks excellent English. He has helped many in CGSI find their relatives and records; he also guides visitors who seek ancestral information in Slovakia. The lecture covered typical occupations of Slovaks, including the history and evolution of craft productions. He touched on guilds (cechy), the production of ceramics in places like

Modra and Pozdišovce, the tinkers from the Kysuce region, and the clay pipemakers of Banská Štiavnica. The talk offered examples of how one may purchase traditionally handmade items at festivals such as the annual early July event in Kežmarok, at the European Folk and Crafts Festival (See: www.elro.kezmarok.sk/fotogaleria). Another popular traditional craft show is Remeslo má zlaté dno (The Craft has a golden helmet), based on a Slovak idiom. One can see how ordinary people can learn crafts at these websites:

www.rtv.s/televizi/archive/13741

www.tv-archiv.sk/remeslo-ma-zlate-dno

www.facebook.com/remeslomazlatedno/

One may find more information about folk culture at this site: www.facebook.com/ludovakultura.sk.

Here I might add that one can have kroj (Slovak folk costume) made and fitted for you personally. Cipisek, a firm outside of Prešov, will fill your order to match one's native town or village, and even send it to you. In 2018, I purchased a vest (lajblik or vesta) from the region of my ancestors at the following site: <http://www.cipisek.sk/>.

Or you may write or contact in Slovak:

421- 51-776-59-40

Cipisek, Jozef Karahuta

Podhradik 9

080 06 Prešov, Slovakia

Michal Razus offered another lecture which expanded on this theme, "Slovak Folklore in Photography, Music and Fairy Tales." Here he covered many customs and traditions which often started in pagan times and adopted a Christian character after the Slovaks converted in the 9th century. The Slovak treasures discussed included the parta, the fancy headbands women wore, particularly Slovak brides, as well as many traditional Slovak instruments such as the fujara (shepherd's horn) and the pištalka (flute). His powerpoint slides illustrated the renown work of the Czech photographer, film director and ethnographer, Karol Plicka, who dedicated his life to recording traditional ordinary life in Slovakia. His most famous work is the film Zem spieva (The Earth Sings), which one can view at www.vimeo.com/90543979.

A contemporary photographer worth mention is Jano Stovka, who has documented the nature, folklore and history of Slovakia, including some modernist interpretations of historical portraits. Those remind me of Mona Lisa with a moustache! See www.tinyurl.com/yymd9n. Another artist, Martin Martinček, has achieved widespread recognition for his captivating photos from the Liptov region. His work is widely displayed on Facebook and in many books.

Razus's presentation also introduced many folklore and dance troupes, such as the professional súbory (ensembles) SLUK (The Slovak State Traditional Dance Company) and Bratislava's Lučnica, which promote national traditions. Several amateur groups that perform at a high level include Šarišan and the Rusyn group Pul's from Prešov. More contemporary bands include Hrdza, which plays Slovak and Rusyn contemporary folk music, N30 Sila v Koreni (Strength in Root), and the very popular

continued on page 18

Save the Date

The Slovak CU Branch 200

Celebrating our 125th Anniversary

Saturday, October 3, 2020



Watch for
FUTURE
DETAILS



Online Beginning Slovak Language Course Starts in January



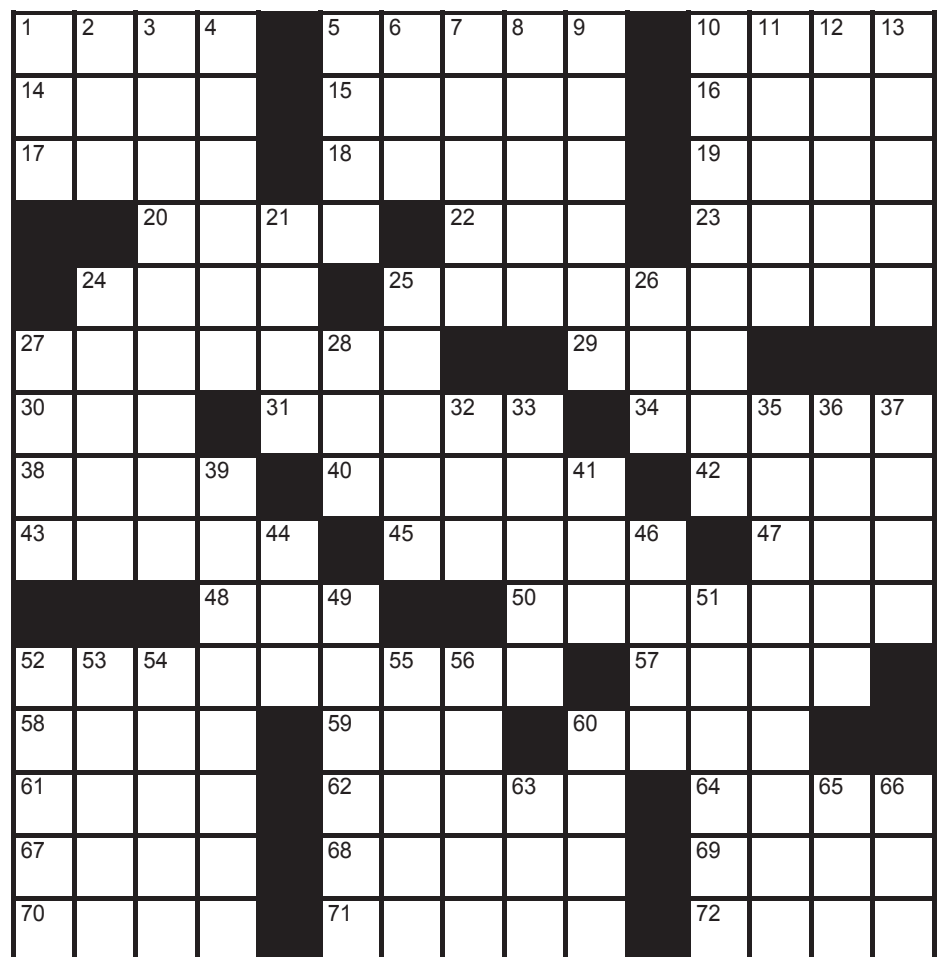
An online Beginning Slovak Language course sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI) is being offered January 16 to March 26 (Thursday evenings) from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm (EST). In this 10-week, 20-hour course, participants will learn basic Slovak vocabulary and phrases and be introduced 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.

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
January 15	January 6
February 12	February 3
March 11	March 2
April 15	April 6
May 13	May 4
June 10	June 1
July 8	June 29
August 12	August 3
Sept 9	August 31
October 14	October 5
November 11	November 2
December 9	November 30

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Golden, for one
- 5 Small lizard
- 10 Energy source
- 14 Between ports
- 15 Elaine's last name on *Seinfeld*
- 16 French Sudan, today
- 17 Twinge
- 18 Gives off
- 19 Rainbow goddess
- 20 Dismounted
- 22 Daisy ____
- 23 Sheltered nook
- 24 Maple genus
- 25 The ocean, e.g.
- 27 Cut of meat
- 29 Have a bawl
- 30 Shogun's capital
- 31 Driving hazard
- 34 African antelope
- 38 ____ de force
- 40 Wrangles
- 42 Buffalo's lake
- 43 Illegal firing
- 45 Position
- 47 Gasteyer of *Mean Girls*
- 48 Defective
- 50 Drool
- 52 Yellow or orange flowers
- 57 Salon supplies
- 58 Astronaut Bean
- 59 Quilting party
- 60 Brewer's need
- 61 *Bill & ____ Excellent Adventure*
- 62 Corkwood
- 64 Water color
- 67 Donald Duck's nephews, e.g.

Down

- 1 Mountain pass
- 2 Fit ____ fiddle
- 3 Obstinate
- 4 High fliers
- 5 Opposite of hinder
- 6 Rare find
- 7 True inner self
- 8 Beryllium, e.g.
- 9 Stocks and such
- 10 Friendly
- 11 Gypsy's deck
- 12 Martini garnish
- 13 Scrooge
- 21 Nettles
- 24 Passion
- 25 Walks
- 26 Heartache
- 27 Kind of blocker
- 28 Raised railroads
- 32 "Mangia!"
- 33 Lock of hair
- 35 1966 Peck, Loren thriller
- 36 He was dressed to the ____
- 37 Expensive
- 39 First name in a Defoe book
- 68 Cay
- 69 Beach feature
- 70 Collar type
- 71 Retreats
- 72 On its way
- 41 *Dog Day Afternoon* role
- 44 Henpeck
- 46 Extinct pigeon relative
- 49 Workhorse
- 51 Go around
- 52 Photo finish
- 53 Like Argus
- 54 Dashboard feature
- 55 Renter's paper
- 56 Small wooded hollows
- 60 Derbies
- 63 Tennis unit
- 65 Fancy vase
- 66 Toward the stern

See Solution on Page 19



OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



A Typical Slovak Christmas Eve Menu

- Oplatky
- Wine
- Honey
- Garlic
- Dried Peas
- Mushroom Soup
- Pagach
- Bobalky
- Stewed Prunes
- Mushroom Soup (Machanka)
- Caraway Soup
- Mushroom Stuffed Cabbage
- Bread for Christmas Eve
- Christmas Bread
- (Figs, Dates, Oranges, Apples, Tangerines)
- Mixed Nuts
- Nut Rolls
- Poppyseed Rolls
- Pirohy

PIROHY

- 1 cup flour
- About 4 tablespoons water
- 1 egg

Mix flour and egg with enough water to make a soft dough; knead well. Roll out on floured board until thin. Cut into squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square. Fold in half, making a triangle. Pinch edges well to keep filling inside. Drop into boiling salted water and cook until they rise to surface. Cook 5 minutes longer. Rinse in colander with hot water. Drain. Pour melted butter over pirohy and serve.

Cheese Filling

- 1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon butter
- pinch salt
- Mix together
- Potato Filling
- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter

(Optional-grated cheese to taste)

Lekvar may be used as filling. Cooked sauerkraut may also be used as filling. Drain and rinse sauerkraut in cold water. Brown diced onion in shortening, add sauerkraut. Cook for a few minutes.

BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/2 cup lukewarm water
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 6 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons salad oil

Dissolve yeast in warm water with 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. Set in warm place to rise. Sift 6 cups flour in deep bowl, add 2 cups warm water, 4 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons salad oil.

Knead well and set aside to rise. When double in bulk, punch down, let rise second time until double. Punch down. Divide dough in two. Shape one part into round bread, cover and let stand 20 minutes. Punch down

and reshape. Place in greased pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Note: The second part of this dough will be use for Bobalky.

CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

Use other half of above dough for bobalky. Knead and roll on floured board into rope. Cut and roll into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on floured pan, let rise 15 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until just slightly brown. Cook then place in deep bowl, pour boiling water over just to soak a little. Drain in colander. Then place in serving dish, heat honey with a little water, pour over bobalky.

Mix 1/2 cup ground poppyseed and 1/4 cup sugar and then add to bobalky. Let stand several hours in cool place (or refrigerator) for several hours before serving.

Note: some bobalky are served with sweet cabbage or sauerkraut. Sautee cabbage or sauerkraut with onion in salad oil, then mix with bobalky.

NUT ROLLS

- 8 cups flour
- 2 cups milk (scalded)
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large yeast or 3 envelopes dry yeast
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1/2 pound oleo or crisco
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm milk. Stir well. Add sugar, shortening and salt to rest of the milk and cool. Beat egg slightly and add to mixtures, then add the yeast mixture to the rest of the lukewarm mixture. Put half of the flour in a bowl and add the above mixture a little at a time. Mix well. Add remainder of flour to make soft dough using just enough flour to knead without sticking. Cover. Let rise double in bulk.

Keep in warm place. Takes about 2 hours to rise. Knead down a little to get out puffiness. Divide into 6 parts and let stand 10 minutes. Roll out and spread with nut mixture. Roll tightly and place on greased baking sheet and let rise about 1 hour and bake in 350 degrees over 35 to 40 minutes. Brush each roll with slightly beaten egg before baking. Brush with melted butter after baked.

NUT MIXTURE

- 4 pounds nuts (ground)
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 1/4 cup milk (enough to moisten nut mixture)

PAGAČ

- 10 cups flour
- 2 yeast cakes (or 2 packages dry yeast)
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 1/2 cups milk (or more necessary)

Knead all together until well blended as for bread dough. Let rise double in bulk in warm place. Punch down, let rise once again. Turn

out on floured board, separate into 8 or 10 portions. Let rise until light. With rolling pin flatten enough to place about 1 cup of filling in center of each mound of dough. Bring dough up over mound and pinch together to shape a round ball. Let rest about 1/2 hour with filling then carefully roll out as thin as you want it. Place on cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown then butter on both sides. Rounds should be about 14 inches in diameter or as thin as you like them.

Filling: Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

TWO HOUR NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS

- 6 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 packages dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 1/4 pound butter
- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1 cup sour cream

Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Sift together flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and butter. Mix as for pie crust. Add beaten eggs and sour cream. Add yeast - blend well.

Divide dough in four parts. Let rise 30 minutes. Roll each part thin as for jelly roll. Spread with one of the following fillings. Roll and place on greased pan and allow to rise for one hour or until double in bulk. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

NUT FILLING

- 1/2 pound chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup scalded milk
- 1 teaspoon melted butter
- Melt butter. Add walnuts, sugar and vanilla.
- Add scalded milk. Mix well.

POPPYSEED FILLING

- 1/2 pound ground poppyseed
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup scalded milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- Combine all ingredients, mix well.

CHRISTMAS BREAD

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 cups scalded milk
- 1 cup warm water (NOT HOT)
- 2 packages dry or compressed yeast
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup seedless raisins

Put sugar, shortening, salt and scalded milk in a large bowl; stir until shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Pour warm water into small bowl; sprinkle or crumble in yeast, stir until dissolved. Add eggs and yeast to lukewarm milk mixture and blend. Add 2/3 of flour and beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining flour, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and turn out on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic; place in greased bowl. Brush with melted shortening, cover, and let rise in warm place until it doubles (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch down divide into 3 equal portions. Shape

into 2 round loaves; let rise again until it doubles. Brush with beaten eggs. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes at 450 degrees then turn to 350 degrees and continue baking for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

MUSHROOM CABBAGE

- 1 head cabbage (about 3 pounds)
- 1 large can sauerkraut
- 1 cup ground mushrooms (either canned, dry or frozen)
- 1 cup rice (uncooked)
- 2 tablespoons oleo
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- For Sauce and Brown Gravy
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 1 tablespoon flour

Cut core out of cabbage to loosen leaves. Place cabbage into boiling water for a few minutes. Remove leaves, cut away the thick rib from cabbage leaves. Fry the onions in the oleo until soft, add to mushrooms, rice. Season to taste. Place about 1 teaspoon in each cabbage leaf and roll. Drain sauerkraut, use about half the kraut in the bottom of the pot. Arrange rolls over the kraut, cover the remaining kraut. Fill pot with water, to top off the rolls. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

Sauce: Brown flour in shortening. Add about a cup of water. Bring to boil, then pour over the cabbage rolls. Cook for just about 5 more minutes.

MUSHROOM SOUP (MAČANKA)

Wash dried mushrooms. Soak overnight. In morning cook mushrooms in the water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cook slowly for 2 hours or more.

Zapraška (Soup thickening)

Brown 1 chopped onion in 2 tablespoons salad oil, add browned onion to mushroom soup. To remaining oil add 2 tablespoons flour slowly, brown and then add to mushroom soup to thicken. Cook for a few minutes and serve hot.

MUSHROOM SOUP

- 7 cups fresh mushrooms (chopped)
- 3 quarts water
- 1 quart sauerkraut juice
- Salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1 small onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour

Cook mushrooms in water about 1 hour.

Brown butter onion; add flour and brown well. Add sauerkraut juice and boil this for 5 minutes. Add to soup and boil 1/2 hour longer.

CARAWAY SOUP

- 3 tablespoons oleo
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 3 cups water
- 3 tablespoons flour

Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion and cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend into 3 cups cold water and bring to boil, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.

**From all of us at the FCSU Home Office to all of you:
Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce 2019**



Hey Boys & Girls (& All Those Young at Heart)

It's me Chewy, in my crazy elf outfit, wishing you all Veselé Vianoce (Merry Christmas)!

Here's Some Facts about Christmas I Betcha Didn't Know 😊

- The word "Christmas" means Christian Mass. Xmas is not irreligious because "X" stands for Christ in Greek.
- During the late 1300s, the word "noël" was used in the English language. Noël came from the Latin word "natalis", which means "day of birth."
- Christmas wreaths originally symbolized Jesus' crown of thorns. The colors red, green, and gold became the traditional Christmas colors. Red represents the blood of Christ, green symbolizes life, and gold stands for light and royalty.
- During the early 16th century, German Christians were the first to use trees inside their homes.
- St. Francis of Assisi started the custom of singing carols in church during the Christmas season.
- Santa Claus came from the legend of St. Nicholas, who was born in Patara, an ancient city in present-day Turkey.
- St. Nicholas became the most famous non-Biblical saint of all time. There are more than 2,000 churches dedicated to him in Germany and France, and 400 in England.
- In 1819, Washington Irving, author of the Headless Horseman, created the image of Santa Claus riding a sleigh.
- In 1931, Coca-Cola ads solidified the image of Santa Claus as a jolly, fat man in a red and white suit.
- Gift-giving during Christmas symbolizes the gifts that the three kings/wise men/magi gave to baby Jesus: Frankincense, gold, and myrrh.
- In 1886, France gave the largest Christmas gift to the United States – the Statue of Liberty.
- Christmas was declared as a federal holiday in the United States in 1870.
- The first Christmas cards were produced by Hallmark in 1915.
- In 1829, Joel Poinsett brought a flower to the United States that became the traditional Christmas flower. Poinsettia is native to Mexico, where it's also known as the "Flower of the Holy Night."

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 will be holding their semi-annual meeting on February 25, 2020, at Eat n' park on Ohio River Blvd. The meeting will start at 7PM. We will discuss upcoming activities. Please RSVP to Joanne at 412-715-5577.

Joanne Lako, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 3P - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P will hold its annual meeting on Sunday December 22, 2019 at Saint Joseph Church, 600 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, PA. The meeting will begin at 9:30am in the church basement and all members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served. Election of officers for 2020 will be held.

M. Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5 – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 1:00 pm. 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 and activities. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Marion Rubino, President

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 12th 2020 at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members of Branch #40 are urged to attend the meeting. Election of officers will take place. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6142 (Please leave a message) before January 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Dear Members: Please join us for our meeting and election of officers on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Topics of discussion are: election of officers, 2020 donations, and activities. Luncheon to follow. Social time: 11:30AM to 11:45AM. Meeting from 11:45AM to 12:30PM (approximate). Lunch to be served at 12:30PM. Location: Alliot's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53222. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20.00.

Reservations must be made by 1/17/2020 by calling Mike Novak @ 414.445.5382. Reservations are required as I need a number attending for the restaurant.

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

Michael P. Novak, President

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW YORK

We held our second meeting for the year on June 22, 2019. Twelve members were present: we planned a garage sale in Sept that was somewhat successful, although due to rainy conditions it had to be held indoors. We focused on school supplies and textbooks for private middle schools

and used workbooks. All items went fast and many parents purchased supplies to be used as references at home for their children. Members feel another one should be held in July 2020.

We heard great news from our Scholarship Winners of 2018 after finishing successful years at their chosen colleges. Below are excerpts that Maggie and Erin gave after their first year:

Maggie: "I use public transportation and the Metro; the finances sure come in handy. Thank you, First Catholic Slovak Union." Erin: "Money goes so fast in the city. Every time I turn around, it is another buck gone. Thank you, Jednota and Gram for buying those policies when I was young."

Insurance is important and vital to everyone – young and old.

Please remember in your prayers and thoughts the first president, Mr. Bolcar, who initiated Branch 132K. He is a great grandfather to many of our members and passed away years ago in his late eighties.

Remember the coloring contests due by December 31.

We elected our newest, young secretary, Josephine Copp. The members blessed her and wished her well in her new role.

Keep in touch everyone by phone or email. Our next meeting will be December 29, 2019, at 7PM. Have a Merry Christmas and see you all on the 29th.

Josephine Copp, Secretary

BRANCH 157 – N.CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 157 is having a meeting in the upstairs hall of the Social Club, 5th & Grove, N. Catasauqua, PA. The date is December 15, 2019, at 12 noon. At this meeting there will be election of officers. Following the meeting will be a Christmas party for the children; doors open at 1:00PM. Those ages are 0 –10 years of age will have opportunity to meet Santa at 2PM. You need to sign up by calling the Social Club @ (610) 264-0740 to reserve your spot. Another meeting will be on Sunday December 29, 2019 at 1:00PM. All are welcome to the meeting and bring new ideas. We will discuss activities for the coming year. Branch 157 wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, March 29, 2019, at 2:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be information from the District Meeting and Branch business. Please bring any questions about life insurance or annuities for discussion at the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by March 26, 2019, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania Area, will hold its annual meeting on January 12, 2020, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, beginning at 12:30PM. General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. In addition, officers will be elected for the new year.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President

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 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold an interim meeting on Sunday, December 15, at 11:30am at Panera's Restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at Panera's Restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers and a report of activities as well as a financial report. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 23, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, Ohio.

We will conduct an audit and discuss the activities for 2020. The members are invited and encouraged to attend.

On behalf of all the officers, we would like to extend our wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 266 – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday December 22, 2019, in the basement of Saint Joseph's Church at 600 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, PA. The meeting will begin at 9:30AM. All members are urged to attend. Election of officers for 2020 will be held. Refreshments will be served.

R. Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312 - BAGGLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its annual meeting, with election of officers, on Sunday, February 9, 2020, starting at 1:00PM at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr, Latrobe, PA, 15650. For more information, contact Branch Secretary/Treasurer Micki Smolleck at 724-539-

8326.

Wishing everyone a very blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Michaelene Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

The new roof has been completed. We need your support at all activities of St. John the Baptist Branch 553 and any financial support you can provide in helping to pay off the loan for the roof. Make checks payable to the Slovak J Club and in the memo line denote Branch 553 Roof. Checks should be mailed to 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

Donations of \$100.00 or more from November 28, 2019 to January 31, 2020 will receive 4 Spaghetti Dinner Gift Certificates, a \$32.00 value.

Upcoming Events:

12-18-19 Wednesday Dinner - DiRusso Sausage Sandwiches \$8.00. Call the club at 330-786-9972 to make your reservation. NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

1-8-20 Wednesday, Spaghetti Dinner – Served 4:30-7:00 pm

1-18-20 Winefest with Tony the DJ

1-22-20 Wednesday Monthly Dinner – Pork & Kraut – Served 4:30-7:00 pm

2-5-20 Wednesday, Spaghetti Dinner – Served 4:30 – 7:00 pm

2-15-20 50's-60's Dance featuring Larry Alltop

2-19-20 Wednesday Monthly Dinner – Served 4:30 – 7:00 pm

2-28-20 First Fish Fry – Served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm

7-25-20 Kielbasa Open – Mayfair Country Club

We are issuing new key cards in 2020 to all Bonafide Member – please stop by the Slovak J Club to obtain your new card.

The Board of Directors and Employees wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Linda M Hanko

Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 will hold a branch meeting on Saturday, December 14, 2019, at 2PM at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI. On the agenda: election of branch officers. All members are welcome.

Mindy Redmon, Vice President

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628 St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, December 22, 2019 at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, Pa 15235 at 3:30 PM. The agenda will include ongoing business of the branch, review of the past year's activities, and election of officers for 2020.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The next meeting of Branch 682 members will take place at the District 14 Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6pm at Magic Tree, 7463 South Ave., Boardman, OH 44512. As we have the highest level of attendance at this function we will be holding election of branch officers for the 2020 fiscal year.

Contact Drew Hirt, drew@hirt.com or 330-750-0776 to make reservations by November 25th. Also, any interested in an officer position with Branch 682 should contact Drew.

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will include the assembly of the branch annual report.

Drew Hirt, President

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 731 members will celebrate Mass at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 22, 2019 in commemoration of our deceased members. The Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

At noon, following the Mass for the deceased, we will have our annual meeting for the election of officers for 2020. We will be at Saint Matthias Church on Sunday, December 22, 2019 for this meeting also.

As a Branch 731 member, if you purchased a ticket for the Disney on Ice performance scheduled for December 29, 2019 at 5 pm, please call Grace Kavulic at (330) 530-7454. We need to know how many Branch 731 members will be at the performance. In order to be reimbursed the \$15 member amount, you will need to call Grace and then bring your ticket to Saint Matthias Church on December 29, 2019 at noon following Mass. We look forward to seeing you.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Home Office and Branch 743 are unable to contact the following members because we do not have their current address:

John Bacha, Michael J Bires, Kimberly Ann Bobinski

Lynette M Brink, Louise M Cassar, Patricia Fahner

Stephen Forish, Charles Furchak, Natalia Grelkova

Christine Harman, Elizabeth Harman, Sharon Langlois

John Latchney, Dorothy J Lendel, Judith Likavec

Zdenka Lovas, Judith Madar, Ann Moss
Valerie Moss, Diane F Rench, Daniel M Reszka
Paul Skwarko, Emily Turcol

If you have information, or know of someone who might, please contact me @ 248-714-9620.

**Joseph Rimarcik, President &
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold its next meeting on December 18, 2019 at 9:30AM at Kozy Kitchen Family Restaurant, 2723 Elm Road, NE, Warren, OH, 44483. On the agenda: election of 2020 officers and also a discussion of proposed activities for Spring, 2020. For more information, call William Hrusovsky at 330-372-1948 or by email: hrusovskyy@embarqmail.com

William Hrusovsky, Secretary

BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society will hold their Annual Meeting on December 15, 2019. We will

have Election of Officers for the coming year. For more information, members may call Catherine Karlsen at 989-280-4916. Please call if you have any concerns or wish to nominate someone for an office.

May everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Fraternally,

Catherine Karlsen, President

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

On Sunday January 5, 2020, the annual meeting for Jednota Branch 785 will be held at 2:30PM at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Drive, Mississauga Ontario.

The vitality of the branch is dependent on the attendance of all members to this meeting. Elections of officers for the branch will take place. Lunch will be available. Please R.S.V.P. Milan Zoldak at 647-350-0604 if you are able to attend or if you or someone you know are interested in becoming a new member. We hope to see all soon!

Best Wishes for a Christmas filled with Christ's love and peace,

Sharon Tomas, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Lunch on Saturday December 21, 2019 at noon at The Rivers House in Charleroi, PA. All members attending will be treated to lunch. Non Members costs of the lunch will be \$25. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at 412-341-1577, by Dec 15, with your name, phone number and number of attendees.

Along with celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we will hold a meeting after the lunch which will include the election of officers for 2020.

Branch 853 extends to all, wishes for a safe and blessed Christmas season.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Monday December 16, 2019. The meeting will be held at 7:00PM at 34 Crabtree Drive, Levittown PA. If you plan on attending, please call 267-795-7930 and leave a message.

Merry Christmas from the Officers of Branch 857.

Fraternally,

Nicole L Nasta, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 60 hosted the Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, December 8 at the Holy Trinity Social Hall. More information about the meeting will be posted in the January issue of the Jednota.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota monthly 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. January 6: Folk Art; February 3: Summer School in Slovakia; March 2: Folklore in Slovakia; April 6: Summer School in Slovakia #2; May 4: Current Issues in Slovakia; June 8: Immigrant Experience. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events and other newsworthy items.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. February 19: Intermediate/Advanced classes begin. July 18: Kids Language Camp starts. September 8: Beginner classes begin.

** Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Program at Pitt – March 19-21

** Slovak Wine Tasting – April

** Slovakia Boys Choir – April 26-28

** Bus tour to EU Embassies in Washington DC – May 10

** Slovak Day at Kennywood Park – Sunday, July 16

** SeptemberFest at NSS Heritage Museum – Saturday, September 26

** "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.

** Thanks to FCSU for supporting the recent conference of the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International in Lincoln, Nebraska. The next conference will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in October, 2021. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsl.org. The Foundation for Eastern European Family History Studies holds an annual conferences in Salt Lake City. The next conference is August 5-7, 2020. See feefhs.org.

** 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 9- THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 1:00 PM at Caporella's Italian Ristorante at 90 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Election of officers for the year 2020 will be on the agenda. Regional Director Marmol will be informing the members of Jednota events for the upcoming year. All branches are invited to attend. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 11, 2020, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-437-0892. All members are urged to attend.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – THE MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

On Sunday January 5, 2020, the annual meeting for the Monsignor Michael Shuba District will be held at 1:30PM at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario. At this meeting the election of Officers for the District will be held, financial statements will be reviewed, and any new business will be discussed.

Lunch will be available; please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111.

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

St. Stephen Society Branch 716 Annual meeting



Attendees at the November 17, 2019 meeting for Branch 716 at St. John Nepomucene in New York City enjoy a great meal served up by Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon. - Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Secretary

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FUN!

Receive the latest info on FCSU Fun. It's free, easy and safe. We'll never share your email address! Please make sure to provide/update your email at:

<https://www.fcsu.com/contact/>

Check out the
First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

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
001P	George Kormonick	085K	Richard Skovira	313K	Colleen Komar	743K	Ann Barbara Germaine
002K	Irene Porvaznik	089K	Richard Steven Budiack	320K	Helen Yanchak	746K	Stephen Sisolak
002K	Eileen Veneziaie	157K	Thomas Babyak Sr	372K	Ann Yartin	746K	Thomas Zsak
005P	Agnes K Cheyne	162K	John McManus	382K	Rita Spampinato	769K	Helen V Buran
019K	Paula Hessenius	173K	Margaret Caccia	543K	Richard E Janega	769K	Rosalie M Kuzma
019K	Barbara O Silano	173K	Ira J Colaneri	553K	Karen A Capanna	796K	Elsie T Chervanik
024K	John J Marinyak Jr	173K	Donald Lowry	553K	Robert L Capanna	796K	Helen Potrako
038K	Jackeldean M Svetz	199K	Edna J Reese	581K	Margaret Vriik	831K	Catherine G Stanko
055K	Walter Houghton	224K	Mary Ann Pape	584K	Mary Toth	855K	Agnes Bunsey
060K	Anna M Blazina	228K	Mary M Pepa	618K	Helen Protyniak	855K	David G Handlovic
060K	Joseph J Harchar	254K	Douglas B Sabol	636K	Gerald R Mravec	857K	Helen Rodgers
075K	Margaret M Schnelly	259K	Joseph Garcar	652K	Kathryn H Folse	916K	Robert J Beranek
085K	Anna Marie Cicchillo	276K	Dolores Marie Solomon	706K	Edward J Tanco		

*Processed through the month of November

OBITUARIES

NANCY MARIE SNYDER BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA



Nancy Marie (Seraphin) Snyder passed away peacefully on July 3rd 2019, surrounded by her loving family at Neighborhood Hospice in West Chester, PA. She was 54. Mrs. Snyder was a resident of King of Prussia, PA, and a former resident of Elderton, PA. She graduated from Elderton Junior and Senior High School. She was a member of Mother of Divine Providence Church in King of Prussia. Nancy worked as an office manager for various businesses including: All About Eyes, Moore Eye Institute and Empower Physical Therapy, and also worked 18 years for Indiana Regional Medical Center. She was a loving wife, daughter, mother, nana, sister, aunt and friend who was known for always saying, "I love you to the moon and back."

Born in Spangler, PA on August 11, 1964, she was the beloved daughter of Albert H. and JoAnn (Bucca) Serafin of Elderton, PA. Surviving, in addition to her parents, is her husband of 25 years, Orvil "O.J." Snyder; a daughter, Jessica Marie Dernus; two grandchildren, Avery Maria and Hudson Henry; a brother, Richard Serafin; a sister-in-law, Kim Serafin; nephews Chris Serafin and Jeremy Serafin and his wife, Lacey; brothers-in-law, Rick Snyder and his wife, Faye, Jim Snyder and his wife, Marsha, and Rusty Snyder and loving grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Albert H. "Tooze" Serafin, Jr. and Daniel Patrick Serafin; her grandmother, Olive Bucca; in-laws, Orvil and Barbara Snyder; and brother-in-law, Scott Snyder.

- Submitted by Mr. & Mrs. Albert Serafin

MILAN JOHN KRIVAN BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO



Milan John Krivan, 80, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019.

He was born July 17, 1939, in Pohorela, Czechoslovakia, a son of Mary and John Krivan.

After graduating from Wilson High School, Milan became a private first class in the United States Army, where he earned the

coveted Soldier of the Year Award. He then moved on to graduate from Youngstown State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration and retired as an account executive from Ralston Purina Co.

He was an active member in the GCU social club, and also served as the treasurer for Branch 682 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He was always helping at Infant Jesus of Prague Byzantine Catholic Church with services and social gatherings.

His favorite pastimes involved fast-pitch softball (he was known by many as "Hawk"), golfing, fishing and enjoying breakfasts with his dear friends, whom he always thought of as family. He was the most gentle soul and his love will carry on through all his family and friends.

He will be deeply missed for his love, admiration and dedication to his family and friends.

He is survived by his beautiful wife of 50 years, Rosalie Mihalik Krivan; three daughters, Kristina (Michael) Nanosky of Medina, OH; Laura (Robert) Stoy of Columbiana, OH; and Stephanie (David) Patrick of Columbiana; eight grandchildren, Michael Nanosky, Nicholas Nanosky, Jacob Nanosky, Robert Stoy, Alexia Stoy, Katrina Patrick, Annaka Patrick and Milana Patrick (who is named after her papa); his siblings, Steve (Janey) Krivan of Tampa, FL., and George (Patty) Krivan of South Bend, IN; and his younger sister, MaryAnn (Dave) Verbic of Chardon, OH; his brothers-in-law, Monsignor Alexis Mihalik of Canfield, OH; and Roger (Patty) Mihalik of Avon Lake, OH; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

- Submitted by Drew Hirt, Branch 682
President

CLAIRE KUCZBANSKI BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

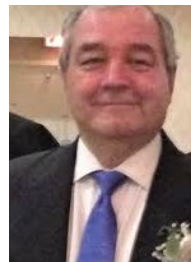
Claire Kuczanski, age 95, of Parlin, NJ, peacefully passed away on Saturday, September 21, 2019 in New Brunswick, NJ. Born in Perth Amboy, NJ, Claire resided in Parlin before her passing. Before her retirement, Claire worked for Sunshine Biscuit. Claire was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend and so much more. She will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Claire is predeceased by her husband Walter Kuczanski and her parents Michael

& Catherine Clebock. Surviving are her beloved children Janet Grossman & Eugene Kuczanski as well as her granddaughters Jeanette & Regina, her brothers Frank Clebock & Eugene & wife Kathy Clebock and many nieces & nephews.

- Submitted by Janet Grossman

THOMAS SENSACOVIC BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY



Thomas Sensakovic, 65, of Hanover, PA, passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

He was born in Rahway, NJ, and was a resident of Monmouth Junction, NJ, for 30 years. He was a member of the Monmouth Junction First Aid Squad and received the Barry Indik Memorial Award for his service in the South Brunswick Community. Thomas was an avid bowler and Green Bay Packers fan. He was very kind and generous and had an amazing sense of humor.

Predeceased by his parents William and Sophie (Jablonski) Sensakovic Sr.; he is survived by his wife of 40 years Nadine S. (Seguine) Sensakovic; his daughter Justice Sensakovic; his sister Jean (Vladimir) Jadro; his brother William (Joy) Sensakovic Jr.; his many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and his dogs Libby and Lila.

- Submitted by Nadine Sensakovic

STEPHEN J. SISOLAK BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY



On October 18, 2019, Stephen Joseph "Steve" Sisolak, age 86, died peacefully surrounded by loved ones.

Steve is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen Liebhart Sisolak (Bridgewater, NJ); his five children, Edward Sisolak (spouse Luz Maria Angelitudo Sisolak, children Joshua, Sarah, Jacob); Daniel Sisolak (spouse Sonia Gutierrez-Sisolak, children Stephen, Aiden, Tristan); Carl Sisolak (Alexian Brothers); Joy Sisolak Lizarraga (spouse Daniel Lizarraga, children Sofia, Veronica, Eva, Carmen); Joel Sisolak (spouse Julie Watts, child Zula Rose). He is welcomed to heaven by his parents, Elizabeth Solar and Stephen Sisolak Sr., siblings Joseph, Michael, Mary, Helen, and Paul,

and a rowdy host of extended family, friends and fans.

Steve was born on February 1, 1933 in Perth Amboy, NJ. Following service in the US Navy, he married Kathleen "Kathie" Liebhart on December 26, 1959. Steve had a career in the sheet metal trade before working at Allied Signal Corporation (Honeywell), an American aerospace, automotive and engineering company headquartered in Morristown, NJ. Between 1963 and 1970, Steve and Kathie welcomed five children into their lives and together raised them to love each other and God. Steve's children remember their dad as a strong, faithful and loving husband and father with a quiet sense of humor and beautiful tenor singing voice.

Steve was a devout Roman Catholic and long-time member of Blessed Sacrament Church in Bridgewater Township, NJ. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus and loved to sing with the church choir. When not found in the parish kitchen preparing food for a church function, Steve loved to work with his hands in his downstairs workshop or tinker with old Volkswagens in the garage. He was gifted at fixing just about anything and had many active projects to occupy both his imagination and space in the basement.

- Submitted by Kathleen Sisolak

ANTHONY J. GORALKA BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA



Anthony Joseph Goralka, 91, of Tarentum, departed this life and went to be with the Lord Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, at Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights, PA, after suffering a lengthy illness. He was born May 28, 1928, in Tarentum, a son of the late George L. and Julia (Bros) Goralka. Anthony was a lifelong resident of Tarentum.

Tony was a 1947 graduate of Tarentum High School and also attended Community College of Allegheny County. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War, serving as a corporal in the 25th Reconnaissance

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District 16's Fall Meeting



Attendees at the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 meeting held on November 24th, 2019.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Secretary

News From Slovakia

Twenty-Five Entities Seek to Take Part in General Election



(photo by TASR)

Bratislava, December 2 (TASR) – A total of 25 political parties, movements and coalitions intend to run in the 2020 general election, TASR learnt from the Interior Ministry's press department after the deadline for submitting slates to the ministry passed at midnight on this date.

The parties are: 99 percent-Civic Voice, the Democratic Party, Good Choice, Voice of the People, Voice of the Right, Kotlebovci-People's Party Our Slovakia, the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), Magyar Kozossegi Osszefogas-Hungarian Community Solidarity, We've Had Enough of This!, Most-Hid, Ordinary People and Independent Personalities (OLaNO)-NOVA-the Christian Union (KU)-Change from Below, Work of the Slovak Nation, Freedom and Solidarity (SaS), the Slovak League, Andrej Hlinka's Slovak People's Party, the Slovak National Party (SNS), the Slovak Revival Movement, We Are Family, Smer-Social Democracy, Socialisti.sk, Solidarity-Working Poverty Movement, Mayors and Independent Candidates, Homeland, For the People and the Progressive Slovakia (PS)-Together coalition.

Along with submitting their draft slates, political parties had to pay an election deposit amounting to €17,000. This will only be returned to parties that gain at least 2 percent of votes in the election.

The general election in Slovakia is slated for February 29, 2020. The election campaign officially started on November 5. Political parties can spend a maximum of €3 million (including VAT) on their campaigns. Each party must have a transparent bank account. The campaign will end with an election moratorium 48 hours before election day.

Attention All Branch 853 Members: Educational Stipends Available



Branch 853 members who are paying for an education program are eligible for the yearly Branch Educational Stipend. If you are interested in receiving an application, please email FCSUBBRANCH853@gmail.com with your request or mail for an application for the stipend at Branch 853 Educational Stipend, 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. All requirements for the stipend must be fulfilled and provided by the applicant and be submitted by mail. Stipend will not be greater than the cost of

the course. Branch 853 encourages all types of educational enrichment to apply for the stipend - from formal classroom costs (i.e., college) to adult fun enrichment classes (i.e. - cooking classes, yoga classes, or other types of fun learning.)

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President

OBITUARIES

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sance Company, 25th Infantry Division. He was wounded in action March 2, 1952, at A Satae-ri, North Korea, alongside his twin brother, Ernest. He received the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, United Nations Korea Service Medal, Republic of Korea War Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Combat Infantry Badge. Tony retired in 1988 after 38 years of employment at Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp., Brackenridge, PA. He was a member of Holy Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, Tarentum, where he had served as an usher and altar server for many years. He was a member of the former St. Peter Church, Tarentum, and sang in the Men's Choir and also belonged to the St. Vincent DePaul and Holy Name Societies. He was a 65-plus-year member of American Legion Post 226 of Brackenridge, a life member of The Disabled American Veterans and The First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) Branch 831 of Tarentum. Tony enjoyed watching sports on television and was especially a fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pirates and Penguins, as well as Notre Dame football. He enjoyed watching daily Mass on EWTN and at one time he was a member of the New Kensington Elks Men's Chorus and also enjoyed bowling and traveling. Tony is survived by his nephew, James Goralka, of Tarentum; a niece, Kathy Schreiber and husband, Joseph, of Allegheny Township; two great-nieces, Krista and Kelly Schreiber; and his sister-in-law Kay Goralka, of Tarentum. In addition to his par-

ents and twin brother, Ernest, he was preceded in death by brothers, the Rev. George J. Goralka, the Rev. Albert A. Goralka and Francis A. (Frank) Goralka; his sister, Josephine Dusko; as well as brothers, Rudolph, John and Clement and sister, Mary, all in childhood.

- Submitted by Jim Goralka

HEDDY E. HAMANN BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Heddy E. Hamann, a.k.a. Mary H. Hamann, previously of Hazleton, Lansdale, and Norristown, PA, passed away on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 and Lehigh Valley Hospital Cedar Crest.

Born in Pottstown, Montgomery County, PA, on September 28, 1947, she was the daughter of the late Mary A. Kovach and John W. Yanik, Jr. She was raised in the Norristown/Philadelphia area where she graduated from Bishop Kenrich High School, Philadelphia Business School and College. She retired from Merck and CO., Inc in December 2001, moving from Lansdale to "Eaglerock Resort" in Hazleton, PA, and then Arnoldsville, GA, in 2007 and Drums, PA in 2012.

Surviving are her husband; Charles W. Hamann (Chuck) in Drums, PA; a son, David J. Paschal with wife Debra and his children Casey and Taylor and Sam; and a daughter Denise A. Howard and her children Aaron and Dylan, all in PA. She also has two step children: Thomas and his family in Oregon and Doreen in CA.

- Submitted by Denise McNally

Slovakia Ready for Changes Related to Climate Protection

Madrid, December 2 (TASR-correspondent) – Slovakia understands the need for action on climate change and is ready for the necessary transformation to protect climate, said Slovak Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25) in Madrid on Monday, adding that this is why we've increased our ambitions and support the acceleration of action to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

"Slovakia is already projecting these ambitions into strategic planning, especially in our Energy and Climate Plan by 2030 and the Low-carbon Technology Development Strategy by 2050. This strategy should be completed early next year," said the premier, adding that Slovakia supports the plan to make Europe the first carbon-neutral continent.

Pellegrini pointed out that Slovakia has decided to reduce electricity production from coal, leading to a gradual phasing out of brown coal mining in some regions. At the same time, the prime minister stressed the need for social security in the region after the mines are shut down.

The premier announced an increase in emission reduction targets from 12 to 20 percent by 2023. He also pointed to an increase in energy efficiency and renewable energy targets by 2030.

The premier also said that Slovakia has decided to set aside another €2.5 billion for investments in climate change and the environment. "Internationally this year Slovakia has contributed for the first time to the Green Climate Fund and is planning to continue this in the coming years," said Pellegrini.

Pellegrini called for joint action in this respect. "The fight against climate change will require strong partnerships from global to local levels and across all sectors. We must not allow fear of losing political popularity or profit from business to be greater than all rational arguments," he stressed.



(photo by TASR/AP)

From left, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Slovak Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini at the Climate Change Conference in Madrid

Genealogical

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group, the Kandráčovci. One may find samples of all of these groups with a YouTube search.

At another lecture, I introduced Lisa A. Alzo, a professional writer who specializes in teaching genealogical research. Her topic was "Slovaks Settled Here, Too: A Look at Slovak Chain Migration to the Midwest." Earlier in the day, she had a talk on "Beginning Slovak Genealogy" and on Friday, she spoke about how one needs to look at information on both sides of the ocean in order to understand emigration and immigration. She explained how Slovaks formed many "cluster communities" throughout the USA and Canada, including states like Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. One may find records about immigrants through census records, church records, immigration records, and ethnic newspapers and publications. Public Libraries usually have many genealogical materials and website access that is free to sites like www.ancestry.com. And state historical societies and various blogs, such as "The Accidental Genealogist," or "Duquesne Hunky Blog," offer other ways to find out information about one's ethnic group and ancestors. The syllabus for all conference attendees offers a list of very useful websites.

Friday October 18

Friday commenced with an offering of a variety of Czech-style kolache for all conference participants. The official Opening Session followed, with the singing of the Czech, Moravian, Slovak, Carpatho-Rusyn national anthems and the American Star-Spangled Banner performed by Sister Anita Smisek, John Sabol, and Laurel Tombazzi. Then Dr. Mila Sasková-Pierce delivered the Keynote Address. A native of Czechoslovakia, she emigrated in 1968 and studied Slavic languages and literature in Belgium, and then went on to earn her Ph.D. in Slavic linguistics at the University of Kansas. She spent her academic career working at the University of Nebraska until she retired in 2015.

Her speech centered around the history of Czechs in Nebraska, though a smattering of Slovaks also settled there. The Czechs formed a vibrant nationality group in the state and built many ethnically homogeneous villages. Since 90 percent were literate in Czech and often German as well, they founded Czech schools, and Sokol halls with libraries and theaters, in addition to numerous churches. When Czecho-Slovakia was founded, despite their humble financial situation in the early 20th century, they sent a half million dollars to help their former homeland.

Today, the Love Library at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln is the depository of a vast collection of Czech materials, and the school has continually taught Czech since 1912. The university offers scholarships related to Czech studies and sponsors and exchange program with the Czech Republic. Thus, it is not surprising that Nebraska has been the source of many Czech publications and the original home of many notable professionals and politicians of Czech background.

Later that morning, I presented a talk on "Industrialization in Slovakia before and after the Great War." The lecture pointed out that although Slovakia as part of Hungary had a mainly agricultural-based economy, industry

did start to develop quickly in the late 19th century, and it never reached the high level of industrialization of the Czech lands. Still, Slovakia's industry grew due to generous government subsidies and several large factories emerged, and they relied mainly on a work force from nearby villages. However, it did not grow quickly enough to provide adequate jobs for a growing population, and emigration skyrocketed. Economic expansion halted after World War I, and Slovak industry suffered setbacks due to Czech competition and lost markets after the disintegration of Austria-Hungary. Some factories even shut down permanently, and pre-war levels were not attained until 1929, and then the Great Depression started. I will discuss this talk in more detail in a future Jednota article.

In the afternoon, Steven G. Potach, an attorney who co-edited with me the translation of Konstantin Čulen's *Slovaks in America*. In "A Time of Passage: History of the Czechs and Slovaks, 1781-1918," he outlined the major events in the history of both peoples, from the reforms of Joseph II to the emergence of the national movements, the evolution of economic development, emigration, and the Great War. Emigration was so pronounced that Slovakia lost 17% of its population.

Saturday October 18

On Saturday, Jan Dus, a genealogist and Presbyterian minister, surveyed the early history of the Austrian Empire, with an emphasis on the history of Habsburg family, the ruling dynasty which came to dominate Bohemia and Moravia, and much of Central Europe. He focused on its Medieval origins through the 17th century, when the Habsburgs imposed its rule and religion on the Czechs, which explained the Czech disdain for Austrian hegemony.

Again, Michal Razus offered a lively lecture on "The Life of Nobility and Peasants in the 19th Century." The topic rings home for those working on genealogy since many of our ancestors came from the peasantry and lived under the dominance of a small group of privileged nobles who were exempt from many taxes and obligations. Noble Hungarians such as the Andrassy, Csáky, Pálffy families held huge tracts of land and owned castles, manor houses, and hunting lodges. They subjected the peasantry to required labor on their lands and controlled the local enforcement of law. Those who disobeyed suffered cruel punishments, including torture.

The 18th century reforms of Maria Theresa went a long way toward standardizing the relationship of lord and serf. The *urbar* (land regulations), which she introduced in 1767, did away with some of the cruelest penalties inflicted on serfs and composed a registry of lands in the empire. The records which she directed would provide genealogists and historians with an invaluable source of documentation of the population and the property they owned. Serfdom would not be abolished until 1848, but smallholding peasants remained relatively poor, and subdividing their land would contribute to rising poverty in the latter half of the 19th century. The several *skansens* (museums of folk architecture) in Slovakia provide a window into the types of housing and furnishings which these peasants had.

Another interesting modern topic is DNA testing, and Marek Blahuš, a tech and linguist genealogy specialist from Brno, Moravia, provided some new insights about Y-DNA testing. Apparently, the Y-DNA chromosome is only inherited on the paternal

side of one's ancestry, and this tool traces patrilineal relatives linked through the male line. This can facilitate research because a mother is always certain, but a father's line can be obfuscated by cases of illegitimacy. He has even found it can link large groups of people through the paternal side and can verify ancestral origins, even sometimes enabling one to pinpoint a locality of ancestors.

The final talk elaborated on here was that of Iveta Blahútová, a genealogical research analyst at the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri. Fluent in multiple languages, she provided a wealth of information about how you can work backwards to commence research, starting with yourself (whom some forget to include!). She recommended collecting data from one's extended family and then moving on to primary sources such as census material, certificates, etc. The reading county history books, visiting archives and libraries and researching courthouse legal documents can bring your family's history to life. She stressed that finding the right location of a relative in Europe is a key element, and such sources as passenger lists, naturalization records, genealogical societies, and many websites can assist in your quest. But church records are the best source, and usually are very accurate. She especially recommended the www.familysearch.org site.

The Parade of Kroje (Folk Costumes)

Entertainment is also part of the CGSI conference. On Friday evening, a regular very popular event at every conference took place- the Parade of Kroje (Folk Costumes). The Parade of Kroje is a colorful fashion show in which many participants had the opportunity to model folk dress from Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and the Sub-Carpathian Rus area. Many of the towns and villages of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire and Czechoslovakia wore the unique styles of colorful folk costumes. Louise Wessinger and Janet Jeffries organized the event and introduced the various groups and individuals in what has become an ongoing feature at CSGI conferences. CGSI vendors also offered a map for sale which detailed the kroje (folk costumes) of the various regions of former Czechoslovakia.

Entertainment on Saturday

On Saturday, the conference concluded with a banquet of a typical Czech pork dinner followed by a performance of the Southeastern Nebraska Bohemian Bagpipe Band. Czech immigrants from the area around Domažlice in southwestern Bohemia brought the tradition to America. In addition to the violin (house, in Czech) and clarinet, the band features some little-known instruments. The common folk made music from materials available to them. For instance, one lady used a jar to make unique whistling sound. Another instrument is the *pukl*, the dialect term for a bagpipe, which means *kozol* (buck, billy-goat), as the instrument was made from goat skin. They are also called *dudy* (bagpipes), and their usage dates back to the 13th century. Czechs also played sounds with *rakes* (*hrabe*), as most were peasant farmers. A most unique instrument is the *vozemboch* (*ozembuch* in Slovak), a percussion instrument on a pole that makes a clanging sound by striking the ground. Photos provide a better idea of the instruments.

You may view a short recording of the band playing at this Facebook web address:

<https://www.facebook.com/cgsi.org/videos/2381312628774705/>

Following the Bagpipe Band, children from the Wilber Czech Folk Dance Group performed, continuing a tradition since the first Wilber Czech Festival in 1962. The danced a series of polkas and waltzes, demonstrating how the youth are endeavoring to maintain Czech traditions.

Conclusion

The conference was a huge success and everyone attending noted that it was well worth their time, as they enjoyed themselves as they learned. Credit belongs to the many volunteers who helped make the event possible, and particularly to Paul Makousky, the Conference Chair.

Having attended many past conferences, I can assure our readers that these are very well-planned, superbly organized, and very worthwhile events which enrich our understanding of our ethnic heritage and provide us with the tools to pursue our own family history. Whether a beginner, or someone with a longtime interest in the history of Czechoslovakia and its peoples, one is sure to learn a great deal, find some great contacts, meet new friends, and enjoy an overall very pleasant experience.

The next CGSI conference will be in two years in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the state was home to many Slovak and Czech settlements dating from the late 19th century.

Whatever one's interests in genealogy, many of the sessions are general as well as specific, offering something from everyone from the beginner to a seasoned researcher. And one gets not only learn about ways to discover more one's own family and learn fascinating information, but also to make many new friendships, some of which can last a lifetime.

Besides the personal joy of finding out more about who we are, there are added benefits to attending a CSGI conference that are hard to put a price tag on. For now, and even after we pass away in this life, what better gift can leave our progeny and extended family than a history of where we came from. Genealogy is about discovering one's self, and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's conferences are a marvelous way to start and/or continue that quest.

For further information, see the CGSI Genealogical Society website. It is well worth joining. See <http://www.cgsi.org/>.

Those interested in reading a good book about Slovak immigration to America may purchase a copy through CGSI. The translated book is entitled *The History of Slovaks in America* by Konstantin Čulen. Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. and Steven G. Potach both edited the book, and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International published it in 2007. One may write the CGSI if interested in purchasing it, or by visiting the website on books available: <http://www.cgsi.org/store/item/40284>.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

P.O. Box 16225

St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-0225

Call (651) 964-2322 to record a question or to record a message.

E-mails:

General questions: info@cgsi.org

Research: research@cgsi.org

Membership: membership@cgsi.org

Publications: publications@cgsi.org

Branch 162 Members Help Support Fall Harvest Fundraiser

On November 16 and 17, 2019, the St. Mary (Nativity) Parish of Uniontown, PA, hosted a Fall Harvest Dinner and Brunch along with a Miniature Train Extravaganza as a prelude to the upcoming holiday season.

Members of the parish who are train enthusiasts, set up 13 running trains which were decorated and displayed in various seasonal vignettes. The train themes included an intricate city scape, colorful autumn, hunting and fishing, the Christmas season, a snowy winter mountain and Steeler football.

The trains varied in types, size, gauges and ages. Manufacturers of the trains included Lionel, Bachman, Athearn, HTM and Lego. The HTM Rail King had a sound effects console that provided authentic train whistling, talking engineers and the clickety-clack of trains running on the rails. It was a real hit with the kids who were allowed to press the sound button.

Other specific trains included the Polar Express, Bradford Steeler train, Santa Fe., Norfolk Southern, Chessie engine, 2025 steam engine, San Francisco Trolley, Gold Hill Express, and 3 Lego train cars. The oldest running train was the 62 year old Erie Lionel that can still blow its whistle.

In conjunction with the train display, a Fall Harvest Dinner and Brunch were offered after St. Mary's scheduled masses. Also, included in the event were a decorated tree raffle, a Chinese auction and bake sale. This extravaganza not only assisted in fund raising for St. Mary's repair fund, but brought parishioners together to plan, collaborate and enjoy this unique holiday event.

- Submitted by James Marmol, Region 4 Director



(L – R) Regional Director James Marmol, granddaughter Garlow Marmol, Jennifer Marmol, Michael Marmol holding Ezra Marmol. All are members of Branch 162.



Train display by Dave Dulick



Train display by Charles Kosco



Garlow Marmol, member of Branch 162 prepares to be the "engineer" on a train display by Dave Dulick. Looking on are her grandmother, Patricia Marmol, treasurer of Branch 162, and family members of Branch 162, her father Michael and mother Jennifer holding little brother Ezra.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Ohio Fraternal Alliance 2020 Scholarship Program

Attention FCSU members: the First Catholic Slovak Union holds membership in the Ohio Fraternal Alliance, which annually awards a college scholarship to a qualifying graduating high school senior – up to \$500. For Ohio Fraternal Alliance scholarship requirements and/or applications go to:

<https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>



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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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
 Thomas Ivanec, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

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

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 September 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 September:

Disbursements for the month of September 2019:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 257,415.70
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 47,774.83
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.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

Mr. White led a review of the possibility of new investments to be added to the FCSU portfolio.

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.

The Executive Committee will review the recommendations presented by Mr. White for further action.

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 321 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 Committee decided to continue the first year free on the JEP policy until December 31, 2020.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are in the final stage of converting the 2010 CSO's over to the new 2017 CSO's and should be completed before January 1, 2020. We will also have to configure our computer system, re-do our marketing materials, update our website, and have all new application forms. The branches will be updated with the new information and seminars will be scheduled after the first quarter of 2020.

The Executive Secretary updated the Committee on the FCSU Membership Meet to be held November 9-17, 2019 aboard Carnival Magic. The Executive Secretary reviewed the agenda for the Membership Meet.

The Executive Secretary stated that the forms for the branches to complete for the branch

stipend have been mailed out several times. If the branches have any questions on completing these forms, they can contact the Home Office.

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 November.

RATING AGENCY:

The President stated that we are in the final stages of gathering the information required by the Kroll Bond Rating Agency to obtain a rating for our Society.

MISCELLANEOUS:**Middletown**

The President gave an update on the progress of the sale on the property in Middletown, Pennsylvania. All the paperwork to complete the transfer is being completed and we are scheduled to close on November 1, 2019.

Board of Directors Meeting

The President stated that the December Board of Directors Meeting will be held offsite. The Executive Secretary will update the Board once the final arrangements have been made.

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

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- information you provide to us in an application or other form;
- information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public Information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

Statement as of September 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.....	368,643,755		368,643,755	353,011,701
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,836,525		2,836,525	2,987,141
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	281,902		281,902	371,258
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	355,628		355,628	373,070
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	961,658		961,658	991,961
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	785,946		785,946	785,946
5. Cash (\$.....11,915,020), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	11,915,020		11,915,020	15,831,904
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,156,521		1,156,521	1,107,398
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	7,913,880		7,913,880	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).....	394,850,835	0	394,850,835	382,670,437
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	5,090,526		5,090,526	4,627,912
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	20,233		20,233	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).....	2,676	2,676	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).....	399,964,820	3,226	399,961,594	387,320,134
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	399,964,820	3,226	399,961,594	387,320,134

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

1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts \$.....0 less \$.....0 included in Line 6.3 (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	321,124,000	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).....	32,792,365	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.....	47,080	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.....	878,056	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.....	10,948	14,273
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
12. General expenses due or accrued.....	64,700	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.....	6,093,073	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.....	2,954,333	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.....	575,238	100,013
24.10 Payable for securities lending.....		
24.11 Capital notes \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	649,693	424,693
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25).....	365,917,680	354,945,549
27. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27).....	365,917,680	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).....	34,043,914	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).....	34,043,914	32,374,585
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37.....	34,043,914	32,374,585
39. Totals of Lines 28 and 38 (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	399,961,594	387,320,134

Statement as of September 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.....	12,164,449	9,087,319	12,068,358
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	12,239,877	12,106,812	15,936,994
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	289,744	346,302	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.....	77,540	2,151	13,273
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	24,771,610	21,542,584	28,479,730
10. Death benefits.....	2,430,368	2,052,953	2,642,835
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	11,823,877	13,428,499	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.....	422,927	439,533	572,287
16. Group conversions.....			
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	126,214	137,955	179,936
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts.....	5,958,739	870,796	2,026,057
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19).....	20,762,125	16,929,736	22,937,577
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	199,755	132,002	166,490
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	2,857,533	3,229,516	3,721,729
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes.....	93,066	81,829	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.....	(507,105)	200,789	(409,342)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27).....	23,405,374	20,573,872	26,522,795
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28).....	1,366,236	968,712	1,956,935
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members.....	302,370	301,621	422,699
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30).....	1,063,866	667,091	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).....	1,063,866	667,091	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 \$.....125,733 transferred to the IMR).....	106,659	90,932	97,832
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34).....	1,170,525	758,023	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).....	1,170,525	758,023	1,632,068
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	660,306	175,679	(162,804)
39. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
40. Change in net deferred income tax.....			
41. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	2,189	2,189	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.....	(171,010)	436,954	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.....	7,319	10,625	(10,155)
54. Net change in capital and surplus (Lines 37 through 53).....	1,669,329	1,383,470	1,591,738
55. Capital and surplus as of statement date (Lines 36 + 54).....	34,043,914	32,166,317	32,374,585

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Deadline Extended: December 31, 2019

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- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
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- Youth activities

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



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with the certificate	AGE 5	AGE 5
	\$5,000 for \$475	\$5,000 for \$410
	AGE 10	AGE 10
	\$5,000 for \$565	\$5,000 for \$485
	AGE 15	AGE 15
	\$5,000 for \$670	\$5,000 for \$570

- Features:**
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Look for the continuation of the Slovak Section in an upcoming issue of Jednota.
 Pokračovanie slovenskej sekcie najdete v nadchádzajúcom vydaní Jednoty.