



Jednota

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Message from the President

As we enter the year 2020 I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, Šťastný Nový Rok in Slovak, and hope that the coming year will bring you and your families health and happiness.

I would also like to inform our Members of a very important transaction that closed on November 1, 2019, and culminated in the sale of most of our property in Middletown, PA. Let me explain.

History of the Sale of the Jednota Properties in Middletown, PA

The original purchase of the approximately 300 acres of farmland was made in 1911, but for reasons lost in history was not recorded in the public records until 1914. (Note that Fr. Furdek, the primary founder of the FCSU, along with others, died in 1915.)

Ultimately, the FCSU built a 3-story orphanage along with other buildings in about 1914. There also was a printing facility constructed to print the Jednota newspaper, along with other publications and books, primarily in the Slovak language.

The Pennsylvania turnpike, which bisected the FCSU property, opened in 1940 but was proceeded by land acquisition, whether by purchase or eminent domain is unclear. The FCSU lost substantial prime acreage.

In the 1950's several pipeline and utility easements were granted or taken by eminent domain for eventual construction of several pipelines across the Jednota property. Since it was agricultural land the cost of eminent domain was minimal. However, the easements meant that they not only cut off accessible land but they rendered more land not buildable.

In 1974 the remodeled Harrisburg airport needed better road access for customers. The state of Pennsylvania built the "airport connector" road, a two-mile 4 lane highway that again dissected the Jednota property.

The taking of additional land by eminent domain by the state of Pennsylvania for highways led to a series of issues. 1) the Jednota lost a significant amount of land, @ 20 acres;

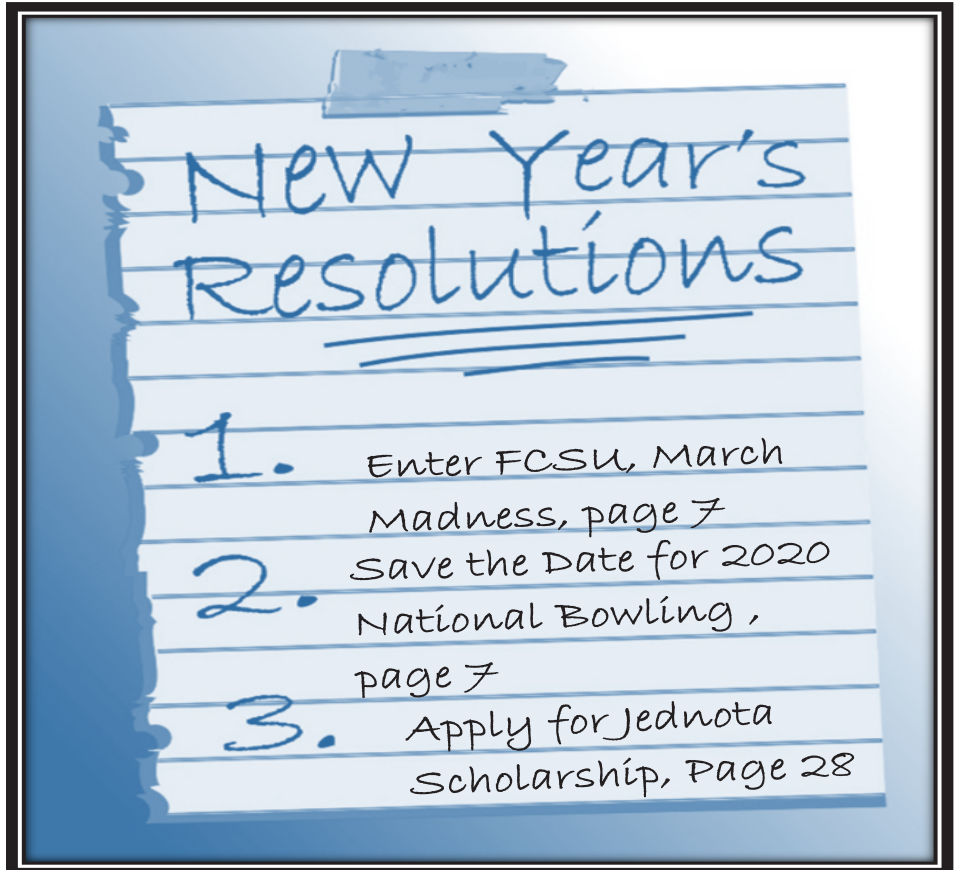
2) the new airport connector road cut off about 15 acres of land which the Society sold off to a local developer (more about that later); 3) the old printery building and residence had to be demolished; 4) the old cemetery that was cut off was the resting place for over a dozen former Jednota orphans or nun caretakers; the graves were disinterred and the remains moved, either to their relatives' cemeteries or to the Middletown cemetery.

This issue of easements again was reared in the period after 2010 when the fracking boom made those old easements even more useful to the easement holder. After hard bargaining, the Society was able to negotiate more favorable payments for easements threatened with eminent domain. The FCSU received more than \$270,000 from Sunoco pipelines.



Andrew M. Rajec

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WHAT?!... HELLOOOO....

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2019 National Photo Contest Results – Part I

See pages 14 - 15

Insights and Viewpoints



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

64 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time – January 19, 2020

Energized by the Advent and Christmas seasons, as the Church goes forth into the new year we are presented with a strong challenge and equally strong encouragement in today's readings: the challenge is the call to divine servanthood, and the encouragement comes from the prophetic words of Isaiah and John the Baptist.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

The Book of Isaiah was likely written over a span of two centuries, and as one would expect of any such lengthy period the nation of Israel saw both triumphs and tragedies in that time. One consistent theme—and challenge—that carries through Isaiah's prophecies is that of Israel being a servant of the Lord, chosen and specially equipped in order to manifest the Lord's redemption for her own citizens and for all the inhabitants of the earth.

Earlier in this long book Israel's role as the Lord's servant is traced over rocky ground, with the nation drifting from her fidelity to the Lord's service and being besieged by enemies all about. Later however, in the era today's reading is drawn from, we see signs of great hope. When today's passage was recorded Israel was in the process of coming home from a long exile in Babylon, and a new sense of joyful anticipation was emerging: here is where the challenge turns to encouragement; we read, "It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (Isa 49:6).

This verse, and this Sunday's entire first reading, are taken from the second of four so-called "servant songs" found in Isaiah. The "servant songs" are poetic outbursts of the prophet, marked both by hope and by a realistic understanding of the disappointment that often accompanies hope in human life. Israel came to appreciate the proper places of hope and realism in her role as the Lord's servant, and we must do the same. The Psalm at today's mass reflects a similar profound recognition of the Psalmist's vocation as a servant of the Lord, and in spite of the dual-edged nature of this calling he accepts the responsibility with zeal, saying: "Hear I am, Lord, I come to do your will" (Ps 40:8-9).

With remarkably pointed words John the Baptist takes up his servant role where Isaiah

and the Psalmist leave off, exclaiming, "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me" (John 1:30). John's statement points to a conclusion he will draw later in the Gospel of John, when he speaks his final words, referring to Jesus: "He must increase, I must decrease" (John 3:30). Through Isaiah and the Baptist the scriptures today express a basic yet difficult point about Christian discipleship: that we are most fully alive when we embrace, not our own will, but the will of God; that is, when we are "servants of the Lord" and serve others out of love for the Lord instead of being served ourselves.

As Catholics it is our belief that ultimately our best possible "end" is to do the will of God, since that will is always for our greatest good, even if we encounter the challenges of disappointment and suffering along the way. The "servant of the Lord" of Isaiah understood this and gave poetic voice to the summons to find greatness in humble service. John the Baptist joined Isaiah and the Psalmist in giving the perfect witness to this calling through martyrdom. May the encouragement they give inspire us to imitate their example and take up the challenge to live as true "servants of the Lord"

New Year Message from the National Chaplain

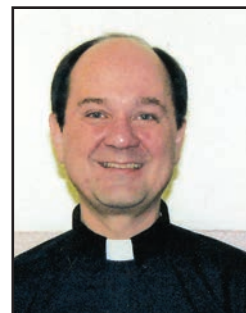
Happy New Year! May God in his goodness pour forth his blessings upon you and all your loved ones throughout 2020.

A recent survey indicated that nearly 75% adults need some form of corrective action in order to see clearly. Just about three out of four people either need reading or prescription glasses, wear contact lenses, or have had laser surgery in order to attain 20/20 vision.

Our world today frequently presents confusing, conflicting, uncertain, and/or distorted messages regarding the moral life, justice, marriage and the family, the reality of sin, freedom, and the dignity of human life. It would be extremely helpful to all who desire to seek to follow the path of authentic discipleship if there were some clarity at their disposal when facing these messages.

The Church begins each calendar year with celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. By the example of her humility, her purity, her sorrows, her single-mindedness, and her obedience, Mary is the lens through which a person can achieve 20/20 vision in 2020 and beyond, and thus be a genuine witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

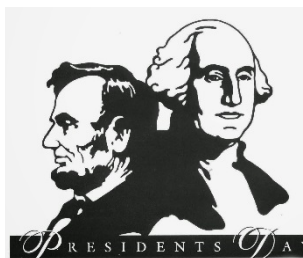
Mary, Mother of God, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death.



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2020, in observance of Presidents' Day

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
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12	MONDAY, FEB. 3
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 11	MONDAY, MAR. 2
WEDNESDAY, APR. 15	MONDAY, APR. 6

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Message from the President

continued from page 1

The 15-acre parcel noted above was sold in 1975 to a local developer that developed a small strip mall that deteriorated and was eventually sold to another developer (Mr. Nardo). Unfortunately, the original sale agreement signed in 1975 by former FCSU officers contained a provision that said: "if for any reason it becomes necessary for grantor to request grantee (FCSU) to relocate their pipelines, and grantor agrees to make available other lands of grantor for the installation and maintenance of grantee's pipeline, then and in such event, the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada agrees at its own cost and expense to relocate its pipelines to the area designated by grantor."

All the parties to that 1975 agreement have passed, and there is no record to express their reasoning.

Unfortunately, several years later, in 2007, the current owner (grantor/Nardo) sought to enforce that clause and demanded that the Society pay \$450,000 for a new sewer that he installed. When we refused, they filed suit for that amount. Incidentally, that also was the amount the Society had originally received for the land sale.

In a prolonged legal engagement, which also involved the township and issues such as the sanitary sewer capacity, the case was settled in 2018 for \$300,000.

This settlement opened the door to later sell the property because it secured sewer availability and capacity for new development. The settlement occurred with a face to face meeting with Mr. Rajec and the plaintiff Mr. Nardo, at a scheduled deposition of Mr. Nardo. To date, the only new construction on the 15 acres has been a CVS drugstore and a low budget hotel. Most of the former mall is now vacant or torn down.

The destruction of the old printery for the new highway raised the issue of a new printery. In the 1974, a new printery was built on the grounds not far from the old orphanage, which itself was closed in 1969 for lack of orphans and other reasons. The orphanage was ultimately demolished in the mid 1990's, after the building suffered major water damage. There was an effort (Save the Orphanage Fund) to repair the orphanage. However, there was only about \$75,000 raised of the approximately \$1 million needed. The money was eventually donated to the sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius who had staffed the orphanage for many years.

The new printery opened in 1974 under Joseph C. Krajsa, manager, who also was the editor of Jednota. His son, Joseph J. Krajsa, subsequently became manager several years later. A new editor, Anthony Sutherland was named after Mr. Krajsa Sr.'s retirement. The new printery was a modern building built for a designated purpose, that is to print newspapers, books and other small volume publications. It branched out to attract other commercial printing business.

As we all know the printing business has seen many changes after the 1970s. We have seen the small shop printers go out of business, great consolidation in the industry, at-home office printers, use of the internet, and less demand for the printed word.

Dollar losses and increased competition caused FCSU President Tom Hricik to close the printery operation in the mid-1990s.

The building was put up for lease, but because of the specialized single use of the building it remained vacant. It remained vacant up to the sale of the property, despite efforts of listing with at least 4 real estate firms over the years.

Meanwhile the cost of repairs (HVAC, roof etc.) and the cost maintenance, utilities etc. continued - plus it was a con-conforming use with regard to current zoning.

There was a continuing effort thru the years, to lease the printery building with no results. A "for lease" sign advertising the building constantly was on the property visible from the PA turnpike.

However, the potential threat of more easements still existed and the need to maximize the value of the undeveloped property was critical before other remaining land could be reduced in value.

In 2008 a local developer expressed interest in buying the entire property. However, the near-collapse of the economy in 2008-2010 caused them to drop their interest.

In 2017, President Rajec again began receiving unsolicited phone inquiries about purchasing the entire property. A respected Pittsburgh appraisal firm was hired to appraise the various segments of the property. The entire parcel appraised in 2018 at \$11,680,000.

The primary negative was that 2/3rds of the entire parcel was zoned "agricultural" and the remaining 1/3rd was zoned "industrial limited". For any meaningful development the zoning had to be changed. The FCSU Board of Directors believed that FCSU did not have the expertise, experience and political pull and presence in the community to be successful in obtaining the necessary zoning changes.

Jednota Properties Inc., formed in the 1980's, as a FCSU wholly -owned sub and as a taxable entity, was the owner of Building #2 (50,000 sq ft 1 story office building on 4.5 acres of the property). Jednota Properties, Inc. eventually began to pay corporate income tax after years of loss-carry forwards. In addition, the Properties Inc. depreciation benefits were becoming exhausted. The President and the Board considered the lease situation, cost of upkeep, lack of presence in the area (the Home Office is 300+miles away) and the fact that property ownership is not the core business of the Society. It is fraternal life insurance and annuities. With these factors in mind, the FCSU Board considered sale of the property.

Outside events, such as the decline of shopping malls and the rise of online shopping that has created a demand for warehousing, often on a huge scale - e.g. Amazon, etc. - contributed to these considerations.

In late 2017 Mr. Rajec was approached unsolicited by four firms that were interested in making offers on the property. All four were invited to the Home Office to make their presentations to the Board of Directors. Two dropped out.

In January 2018, the two remaining, Trammell Crow and D&H/Kinsley made live presentations to the Board. The presentations were also attended by specialized real estate outside counsel, Atty John Feichtel, whose retention was approved by the Board.

The Board had previously, based on expert appraisal, had set a price of \$13 million for the

entire property, 300 acres, plus Building #2. Any buyer would have to pay any commission to any real estate broker.

A primary consideration was - in addition to all the other issues that had to be addressed: could the buyer get the necessary zoning changes, since any zoning changes were subject to voter challenge at the local level?

After careful deliberation, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a contract of sale with D&H/Kinsley for \$13 million, subject to various contingencies regarding zoning, timing etc. Also, the buyer had to grant the Society, by permanent easement, the recently constructed FCSU Memorial. Also, FCSU would retain 21 acres of vacant land for any future uses.

The President's and the Board's concern was that with the massive growth of online shopping and the big-box warehouse building boom it fueled, warehousing could be overbuilt. FCSU could be left with 300 acres of farmland, mostly zoned agricultural, 300 miles away from the Home Office. It was time to cash-in and concentrate on our core business: fraternal insurance.

The contract of sale, with several contingencies, was signed on August 8, 2018, after Mr. Rajec disclosed the planned sale at the Convention. Closing was set for November 1st, 2019, subject to a complicated number of contingencies including rezoning.

Note, that there was a vote at a Convention in the 1980s that would have moved the Home Office to Middletown, PA. That vote was narrowly defeated and a new Home Office building was purchased in Independence, OH.

The Sale

The following is a time-line of the actual events surrounding the sale of the property. It became very fast moving, especially in the last several weeks before the close on November 1, 2019.

The timeline of communications was presented to the Board by Mr. Rajec. During September and October 2019 there were numerous calls and emails (several dozen) between President Rajec, the realtor for a tenant (Conduent), Atty Feichtel, the attorney for D&H/Kinsley (Drew Kipnis), Jim Marmol, Gary Matta regarding the Conduent lease renewal (1-1-2020), and other critical issues regarding the sale of our property.

Fortunately, since we closed on November 1, 2019 the final resolution of the Conduent lease fell to the new buyers.

There was a flurry of activity in the last two weeks before November 1, 2019. In a conference phone call with Mr. Rajec and the buyers (D&H/Kinsley) and Atty Kipnis, representing the buyers, and Atty Feichtel, representing FCSU, the buyers in exchange for an extension of the closing date, agreed to pay 20% of the purchase price or \$2.6 million immediately as a "down payment". As Mr. Rajec promised to the Board, this must be in cash, not in escrow.

However, when the amended extension agreement was sent from the Buyers' Atty Kipnis on October 3, 2019 (passed the October 1st deadline to change the November 1, 2019 closing date), it stated, \$2.6 million would be held in escrow. When Mr. Rajec received the extension agreement, he immediately called Atty Feichtel (witnessed by Mr. Arendt). Mr. Rajec said escrow was not acceptable, as he had stated in the prior conference call with the buyers. He told Atty Feichtel that FCSU would consider this a breach to the existing contract and demanded a November 1, 2019 closing as the original contract called for.

Atty Feichtel immediately relayed that message to the Buyers' attorney. Feichtel received a response on October 10 and the closing was scheduled for November 1, 2019 as originally planned.

The closing documents were to be prepared by the title company (First American Title Insurance Co.). Mr. Rajec drove to Easton, PA on October 31st on another FCSU matter. Atty Feichtel called him en-route on cell and said that he just received the closing documents from the Title Co. and there was a nasty surprise. At the Buyers' direction the Title Co. apportioned the purchase price of the property to show a \$6.2 million purchase price for

Building #2. The professional appraisal done in 2018 had put a \$4.7 value on Building #2. Mr. Rajec got to his hotel at 7:30pm and the package was faxed to him. He immediately told Atty Feichtel to call the Buyers' attorney and the Title Co. FCSU will not complete the transaction with those allocations. The cost to Jednota Properties Inc. - and ultimately the FCSU - in additional federal and state taxes could be as much as \$450,000 (the difference between \$6.2 mill and 4.7mill at a rate of approximately 30%).

Atty Feichtel called Mr. Rajec on his cell at 8:00am on Friday, November 1, 2019 and said he had just received the new closing documents showing the \$4.7mill allocation. The buyers had relented. The FCSU saved \$450,000.

The President went to Atty Feichtel's office from Easton, PA. He and James Marmol, Jednota Properties, Inc. President, signed the closing documents on November 1, 2019.

On Saturday the President went to the former editor residence on the Jednota grounds. Tony Sutherland and he went through the documents stored on the grounds. Steve Nease (FCSU property custodian) assisted. They kept any documents that appeared to have some historical value, with any questions given a nod to save the documents.

Dozens of boxes of old materials were collected. They finally finished at 5:30pm.

Mr. Rajec returned to Cleveland on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Within two weeks Steve had loaded all the materials that had been saved into a storage pod that has been delivered to the Home Office parking lot for further examination and retention for our Museum.

The proceeds from the sale of the property will be added to the Society's surplus for investment, and for the benefit of the Members according to a plan developed by the President and the Board of Directors.

A chapter of the Society's history has been closed with the sale of the property. But a new chapter is opening for the future. How the Society meets future challenges and opportunities will depend on its leadership and Members to expand the vision of Fr. Furdek and the founders.

If you have any questions please contact the President at 1-800-533-6682.

Za Boha a Národ.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Happy Birthday Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

FCSU Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., celebrated a very special birthday, his 80th, surrounded by family and friends. Some 65 people were in attendance at the surprise birthday party thrown by his family, pictured here with the Birthday Celebrant, (L – R) All members of Branch 40: Matthew Manzella, Andy Harcar, Jr., Veronica Manzella, Tim Graves, Andrew Harcar Sr., Theresa Graves, Jennifer Manzella, and Emma Graves.



Photos courtesy of Paul Martinka



Symbolický krst novej budovy Generálneho konzulátu Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku

Dňa 10. decembra 2019 sa uskutočnil symbolický krst novej budovy Generálneho konzulátu Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku. Slávnostného aktu sa zúčastnili predseda vlády Slovenskej republiky Peter Pellegrini, minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák a bývalý minister financií Slovenskej republiky, súčasný guvernér Národnej banky Slovenska Peter Kažimír, ako aj ďalší vzácní hostia.

Na úvod odzneli štátne hymny SR a USA v podaní jedenástročnej Ariany Matolákovej. Hostí privítala generálna

konzulka Ladislava Begeč; hosťom sa následne prihovorili predseda vlády Slovenskej republiky Peter Pellegrini a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák, ktorí následne slávnostne odhalili tabuľu s názvom Generálneho konzulátu Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku. Táto tabuľa bude po dokončení rekonštrukcie spolu so štátnou vlajkou zavesená na vonkajšej fasáde budovy. Súčasťou ceremónie bolo aj podpísanie pamätnej listiny, ako spomienky na tento významný moment. Dôstojnou súčasťou podujatia bolo aj ekumenické požehnanie zástupca-

mi katolíckej a evanjelickej cirkvi a židovského náboženstva. Program ukončilo vystúpenie Luby Mason.

Nová budova Generálneho konzulátu Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku sa nachádza v prestížnej štvrti NYC – Upper East Side (167 E 73rd street). Do ukončenia rekonštrukcie bude Generálny konzulát SR v NYC naďalej fungovať v súčasných priestoroch (801 Second Avenue, 12th floor).

Ladislava Begeč, Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York

Dedication Ceremony of the New Premises of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York

On December 10, 2019, the new building of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York was symbolically unveiled. The ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák, former Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic and current Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia Peter Kažimír as well as other dignitaries.

The event opened with the singing of the national anthems

of the Slovak Republic and the USA by 11-year-old Ariana Matoláková. Guests were then welcomed by Consul General Ladislava Begeč; Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák delivered remarks followed by unveiling a plaque bearing the name of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York. This will be displayed on the exterior facade of the building together with the national flag after the reconstruction. The ceremony also included the

signing of a Proclamation of the dedication. The ecumenical blessing of the building was performed by representatives of the Catholic and Evangelical Church and of the Jewish religion. The program ended with a performance by Luba Mason.

The new building of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York is located in the prestigious NYC - Upper East Side (167 E 73rd street). Until its completion, the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in NYC will continue to operate in its current premises (801 Second Avenue, 12th floor).



Branch 746 Celebrates Christmas Together

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 held its meeting and Christmas party on Sunday, December 8th at Amici's Ristorante in Linden, New Jersey. The fruitful meeting recapped the many activities that the branch organized in 2019 and plans were made for 2020 activities as well as election of officers. We remembered in our prayers and with a moment of silence our dear Jednota members who joined the Lord in 2019. We acknowledge with gratitude their contributions to our branch. After the meeting, Rev. Mariusz Luksza Pastor of Holy Family Slovak Church in Linden said a prayer and reminded members about the spirit and meaning of the Christmas season! The Christmas festivities began with Branch 746 and Branch 290 members participating in this year's adult coloring contest – we hope that

Region 1 will take the prize for most submissions! After exerting our energies on coloring, it was time to enjoy a delicious meal and dessert! The Christmas party concluded with a visit from Santa's elves who brought gifts! Branch 746 officers would like to thank members for their active participation throughout the year. From our Branch to yours.... May your 2020 be filled with health, happiness, joy and laughter! In keeping with our Slovak traditions, a "vinc" for the New Year:

Nech sa starosť všetka zruší a nech vládne pokoj v duši. Čo bolelo nech sa zhojí, čo tešilo nech sa zdvojí. Aby boli v novom roku iba slzy šťastia v oku!

-Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Pobočka 746 oslavovala Vianoce spoločne

V nedeľu, 8. decembra 2019, sa konala schôdza a vianočný večierok Spoločnosti Svätého Jána Krstiteľa, pobočky 746 v Amici's reštaurácii v Lindene v New Jersey. Na schôdzi sme si pripomenuli množstvo aktivít, ktoré sme zorganizovali v roku 2019 a začali sme plánovať nové akcie na rok 2020. Na schôdzi sa tiež uskutočnili voľby nových úradníkov pobočky. V našich modlitbách sme si počas chvíľky ticha pripomenuli našich drahých členov, ktorí odišli k nášmu Pánovi v roku 2019. Spomíname na ich pomoc pre našu pobočku s veľkou vďačnosťou. Rev. Mariusz Lukasz, pastor zo slovenského kostola Svätej rodiny v Lindene sa s nami spoločne pomodlil a pripomenul našim členom pravý význam Vianoc. Do vianočnej nálady sme sa dostali vyfarbovaním plagátiku, ktorý je súčasťou tohtoročnej súťaže. Vyfarbovania sa zúčastnili členovia pobočky 746 a 290 a veríme, že región 1 získa

cenu za najväčší počet príspevkov! Po vyčerpávajúcom vyfarbovaní (predsa, už sme si nevyfarbovali zopár rokov) nastal čas si pochutnať na vynikajúcom jedle a chutných zákusoch. Vianočný večierok sa skončil návštevou elfov, ktorí priniesli darčeky pre členov. Úradníci pobočky 746 by týmto chceli poďakovať všetkým členom za ich aktívnu účasť počas celého minulého roka. Z našej pobočky do Vašich domovov Vám želáme nech je Nový rok 2020 plný zdravia, šťastia, radosti a smiechu. Podľa našich slovenských tradícií Vám posielame tento vinš na Nový rok:

Nech sa starosť všetka zruší a nech vládne pokoj v duši. Čo bolelo nech sa zhojí, čo tešilo nech sa zdvojí. Aby boli v novom roku iba slzy šťastia v oku!

- Submitted by Lucia Kollarova, Branch 746



FCSU Office Staff at the Gala: (L – R) Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Personal Assistant to the President; Terezia Rozmus, Annuity Department, Dorota Pietraszewski, Office Support Staff, Teresa Ivanec, Jednota Editor, and Miriam Visnovsky, Office Support Staff.

Branch 553 Members showed up in force: (L – R) Standing: Samuel Krempasky, Vice President; Greg Petrasek, Member and District 10 President; Rick Schen, Auditor, Lenny Gmerek, Auditor Emeritus. Seated Grace Bacot, Member and National Supreme Court Member; Johanna Kacsanek, Member; Linda Hanko, Financial Secretary and District 10 Secretary/Treasurer; and Marge Simkanin, Guest.



Lucina Director Thomas Ivanec enlisted the help of the junior and senior Lucina dancers to hand out the 20+ winning raffle baskets



(L – R) Branch 24's Artem and Alex Fedoriouk



FCSU Regional Directors Thomas Ivanec and Sabina Sabados

Members of the FCSU and the Cleveland Slovak Community (L – R) George Carny, Branch 450 President and Slovak-American Zemplin Club President; Paul Brunovsky, Branch 450 Member and Slovak Heritage Society President Emeritus; Renata Zahurance; George Balak, Branch 855 Member; and John Chuba, Branch 450 Member.



Lúčina Slovak Folklore Gala in Greater Cleveland

On Saturday, November 9, 2019, the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland held a Slovak Gala "An Evening in the Heart of Europe." The well-attended event was held at the Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, OH. Doors opened at 6:00PM, followed by a three-course dinner and an entertainment program that featured the Lúčina Slovak Folk Ensemble, the group's children's ensemble, Lučinka, and special guest artists Vychodna Slovak Dancers of Mississauga, Ontario. After the program, raffle winners were announced for the many gift baskets and a 50/50 raffle. Music for dancing and listening pleasure was provided DJ Denis Rozmus.

Tom Ivanec, Lúčina Director, Region 6 Director, thanked the crowd for supporting the continuation of Slovak heritage through dance, particularly noting the excellent response from the Slovak fraternal. The FCSU Home Office and virtually all of its area-wide organizations attended and/or contributed to the success of the evening, including: Branch 1, Branch 24, Branch 228, Branch 450, Branch 553, Branch 855, and District 10.

Branch 162 Supports Uniontown, PA Fundraiser

FCSU Branch 162 for the third year participated in the Uniontown Hospital Volunteer Services Annual Festival of Trees. The fundraiser is open to the community and hospital departments who wish to donate decorations to adorn a Holiday Tree to be displayed in the main corridor of the hospital lobby. Proceeds from this event are utilized to support the education of RN nursing students through

The Uniontown Hospital Employee Learning Program Scholarship through Penn State University, Fayette Campus in Uniontown, PA. A total of 24 decorated trees stood in the lobby. A total of 10,000 tickets was sold. "Winter Snowflakes" was the theme of the Branch 162 tree. It was won by Branch 162 member Rudy Holloman and his wife Bette who helped decorate the tree.

- Submitted by Joanne Marmol, Branch 162 Vice President; - photos courtesy of James Marmol, Region 4 Director



Some of 24 decorated trees in various themes that lined the walkway off the hospital lobby transforming it into a seasonal showcase for the Uniontown Hospital Auxiliary's 29th annual Festival of Trees.

Ticket buyers had the chance to win their tree of choice, including all decorations and the items on and under the tree. Branch 162 member Rudy Holloman and wife Bette won the branch tree themed "Winter Snowflakes," which they also helped decorate.



Officers and members of Branch 162 (L – R): Frank Marmol, Auditor; Dolores Marmol, Secretary; Joyce Campbell, Patty Marmol, Treasurer; Joanne Marmol, Vice President; Rudy Holloman, Bette Holloman and Betty Rozzell.



(L – R) Front Row: Betty Rozzell, Dolores Marmol, Secretary; Joanne Marmol, Vice President; and Bette Holloman. Back row: Frank Marmol, Auditor; Joyce Campbell and Rudy Holloman

Scenes from a Spectacular Christmas Eve Luncheon in NYC



December 15th, 2019, Branch 716 Officers Joan and Jan Škrkon (L) were among the branch members who supported and attended the Christmas vigil luncheon at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City.



Many Slovaks attended the affair, keeping the traditions alive.



Branch 716 President Jan Škrkon (L) enjoying the traditional dishes of Slovak Christmas Eve

- Photos courtesy of Joan Škrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



March Madness Starts Again at the FCSU

March Madness – one of the biggest, most exciting and most fun events in all of sports – has once again come to the FCSU!

General March Madness Rules

The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament is a single-elimination tournament comprised of 68 teams that compete in seven rounds for the national championship. The final round is known as the Final Four, when only four teams are left.

The NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Committee selects, seeds and brackets the field for the NCAA Tournament. Then on Selection Sunday, a Selection Committee reveals the full NCAA tournament bracket, including all teams and all seeds.

In 2020, Selection Sunday is March 15th. The official bracket game of the NCAA will open immediately after the committee announces the field on Selection Sunday.

FCSU March Madness Rules

(This year the contest will take place online)

1. Each entrant in the FCSU March Madness Contest must have an active policy and be a member in good standing with the FCSU.
2. 1 Entry per person ONLY.
3. Each Player must HAVE AND USE THEIR OWN EMAIL ADDRESS.
4. Each Player MUST FILL OUT AN ENTRY FORM.
5. After the office reviews your entry and you are ruled in good standing, an email will be sent to you to enter the pool. (The email will be sent to the email address you provide. Print Clearly).

(One email address may only be used once for the contest).

6. Please CHECK YOUR EMAIL OFTEN THE WEEK OF MONDAY MARCH 9th, 2020. ALSO CHECK YOUR JUNK EMAIL.

7. All pool rules will be listed on the Official Contest Site.

8. Mail entry form to:

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

(More than 1 entry form may be mailed in an envelope).

POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Monday March 2nd, 2020

And arrive in Office by 5:00pm Thursday March 12th, 2020. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.

FCSU March Madness Prizes

1ST PLACE:	\$1000.00
2ND PLACE:	\$750.00
3RD PLACE:	\$500.00
4TH PLACE:	\$250.00
5TH PLACE:	\$50.00

Entry Form: (All Information Must Be Filled IN)

(MISSING INFORMATION WILL CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION TO CONTEST). PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY

NAME: _____

BRANCH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

(EMAIL CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE. No exceptions).

Did you play in the following events:

2019 March Madness:	Yes	No
2019 Loser's Pool	Yes	No

27. SLOVENSKÝ PLES V "THE ROYAL MANOR" - GARFIELD, NJ

Slovensko-americké Kultúrne Stredisko usporiada 27. Slovenský ples v sobotu 22. februára 2020 v The Royal Manor v Garfield, NJ. Koktail s bohatým výberom predjedál začne o 7.00 hodine večer. Nasledovať bude niekoľkochodová večera spolu s "premium open bar" po celý čas. Súčasťou bohatého programu s tombolou bude aj hudba, o ktorú sa tradične postará skupina EXPRESS. Vstupné je \$140.00 na osobu za vstupenky zakúpené do 31. januára 2020, a od 1. do 10. februára bude cena vstupeniek \$160.00.

Vstupenky sú k dispozícii na eventbrite.com (The Slovak Ball 2020). Bližšie informácie vrátane platby: SlovakAmericanCC.org.



The Slovak-American Cultural Center cordially invites you to the 27th annual Slovak Ball on Saturday, February 22, 2020!

The evening will commence with a cocktail hour at 7pm followed by a served dinner, program, music by Express Band until 2am, and entertainment.

A full premium open bar all night!

For tickets please visit the website, SlovakAmericanCC.org or call Tanya at 908-377-2446. Purchase tickets by 31 January!



Save the date for 2 days of fraternalism & fun ...

with bowlers from the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Greek Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society & the Slovak Catholic Sokols ...

Details coming in Jednota!

2019 Vilija Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 8, 2019. Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas Eve "feast" of oplatky, mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppy seed and nutrolls. Food was prepared by members of the Radio Club, of which Henry Horvath (Branch 855) is president. The first course (mushroom soup) was served by the monks, all of whom are members of Branch 24. After the meal, entertainment was provided by the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. The troupe performed dances from Slovakia and included numbers by its children's group, Lúčinka. Lúčina's director is Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director and Fraternal Activities Director for Branch 24. Many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Vilija, included several reserved tables (42 places) for Branch 24 members. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) who worked the event, included Maria Cvicela (Branch 24), Vladimir Cvicela (Branch 24), Joe Elias (Branch 1), Henry Horvath (Branch 855), Jana Horvath (Branch 1), Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450), Renee Kulik (Branch 1), Johanna Oros (Branch 24), Donna Oros (Branch 24), Joseph Oros (Branch 24), Karin Scally (Branch 855), Tim Scally (Branch 855), Barbara Sutila (Branch 855), Ann Sutila (Branch 855), and Tomas Varchola (Branch 1).



Lúčina Director, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director and FCSU Region 6 Director Thomas Ivanec introduces the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland.



Abbot Gary, Fr. Michael, and Br. Gabriel of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad lead the crowd in singing Christmas hymns in Slovak and English.



Michael Anderko (Branch 450) was a featured soloist on the Slovak overtone flute fujara.



This year's Christmas Vilija was another sellout, with some 350 tickets sold.



The children of Lúčinka were among the afternoon's performers.

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.

CHEWY IN ČIČMANY, TATRA AND STARÁ LESNÁ

As we were loading the suitcases and boarding the bus getting ready for our ride to the Tatra Mountains, Chewy started barking. We all looked to see what was causing him to bark and much to our surprise Joe Duraci was boarding the bus to wish us all a safe trip and looking forward to our return next year. As Joe was exiting the bus, he petted Chewy on his head and said, "Good Boy –dovidenia."

Čičmany – a small village surrounded by the mountains Strážovské vrchy and Mala Fatra and famous for its original log houses decorated with typical white ornamentation in geometrical patterns – was our next destination. Women were generally responsible for creating the motifs adorning the houses. The paintings were intended to protect the logs against the effects of the sun's rays. At the present time there are 136 remaining decorated houses. While there we were able to visit the small museum where many on the tour purchased souvenirs. Our stomachs were grumbling so we grabbed a bite of lunch with Chewy making his rounds among the group looking for a treat.

It was time to leave and head for the Tatra Mountains which are revered by the Slovaks. It would be difficult to find a Slovak who hasn't visited the mountains which forms a natural border between Slovakia and Poland and are the highest range in the Carpathian Range.

A raft ride on the Dunajec River, which separates Slovakia and Poland was enjoyed by all including Chewy who didn't mind getting wet as we went over the rapids. The gondolier had many legendary tales to relate as we rode down the river.

A night in the Grand Hotel Praha with its large circular staircase made all the women feel like a "queen for a day" as they descended the stairs leading to the lounge and dining room. The dining room was fantastic, and as usual the food was excellent. Once again Chewy had a full belly and started up the stairs, changed his mind and used the elevator.

Ah! Stará Lesná, or "Old Forest" and its koliba is another highlight on the tour. As the bus arrived, we were greeted by the owners who were surprised to see Chewy but greeted him warmly. Great food, drinking, dancing, music and finally a conga line joined by all, culminated a fun filled evening. We headed back to the hotel for a good nights' sleep and upon arising a great breakfast was in store for us at The Grand Hotel Praha.

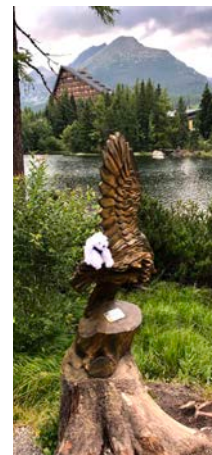
Stay tuned for Chewy in Levoča and Spišská Nová Ves.



Chewy in the Tatras at Štrbské Pleso



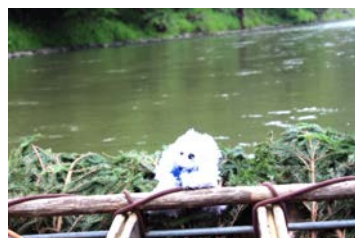
Kay Bench holding Chewy at the koliba while guide Viera Marecova places a hat on Chewy's head



Chewy placed in a place of honor at the koliba



Chewy with a view of the Tatras with the ski lodge in Štrbské Pleso



Chewy on the raft riding down the Dunajec

George Onda District's 2019 Stedry Vecer Celebration



George Onda District Officers

On Sunday, December 1, the George Onda District of the FCSU hosted its annual Stedry Vecer. 117 members and guests began the evening with Mass at 4PM in the Chapel of the Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, Pa. Monsignor Larry J. Kulick, our chaplain and Pastor of St. James Parish in New Alexandria, Pa, celebrated the beautiful Mass with Ed Mizikar as server. Geraldine Kovacina gave the readings. Musical accompaniment was by the Pittsburgh Slovaks led by Sue and Rudy Ondrejko. The guests then proceeded to the dining room where the first star in the evening sky was spotted by five year old, John Yakubisin of Branch 199. The customary Slovak dinner was served including wine with kolache for dessert. Monsignor Kulick related the symbolism of each of the foods served. The tables were adorned with Christmas decor and various fruit, nuts and candy. After dinner, fourteen year old Stephen LaPay of branch 181 distributed the door prizes. The group returned to the chapel for the customary play

highlighting the Jasliskari by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. In attendance were: George Matta II, National Treasurer and wife Kathy; Gary Matta, General Counsel; Florence Matta, wife of deceased National Treasurer Emeritus George Matta; Andrew P. Rajec, Supreme Court Member and Director of Independent Agents; James Bench, Supreme Court member and wife Kay, Greg Maurer, National Auditor; Region 4 Director, James Marmol and wife Patty; Geraldine Hricik, wife of deceased National President Emeritus Thomas Hricik; George Onda District President William Patty, Vice President and Ticket Chairman Darlene Patty; Secretary Linda Gonta; and Treasurer Stephen Gonta. Also in attendance were: Dr. Marcela Michalkova, Director of Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh with husband Martin and sons Samuel and Ales as guests of James and Kay Bench.

- Submitted by Linda L. Gonta, Secretary. Photos Courtesy of Vickie Hricik



(L - R) Andrew P. Rajec and Msgr. Larry L. Kulick



(L - R) Florence Matta and Geraldine Hricik



Jennifer Miele with Msgr. Kulick



Barb and Ed Mizikar



Mark and Micki Smolleck



(L - R) Gary Matta, Florence Matta, George Matta, and Kathy Matta



Gerry Kovacina and the Mizikars



Little Slovaks



Patty and Jim Marmol



(L - R) Guests with Greg Maurer



The Pittsburgh Slovakiana



The Pittsburgh Slovakiana





BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBER SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE

For the Fall 2020 school year, St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 of United, PA, will be offering scholarships to eligible youth members planning to attend college or career/technical school. These will be one-time scholarships selected by an independent panel that will evaluate each applicant. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the number of eligible applicants.

Scholarships of \$500.00 will be available on a one-time basis to be used for a college or trade school.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SOCIETY- BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBERS

You may be eligible to qualify for a scholarship if you meet the following requirements:

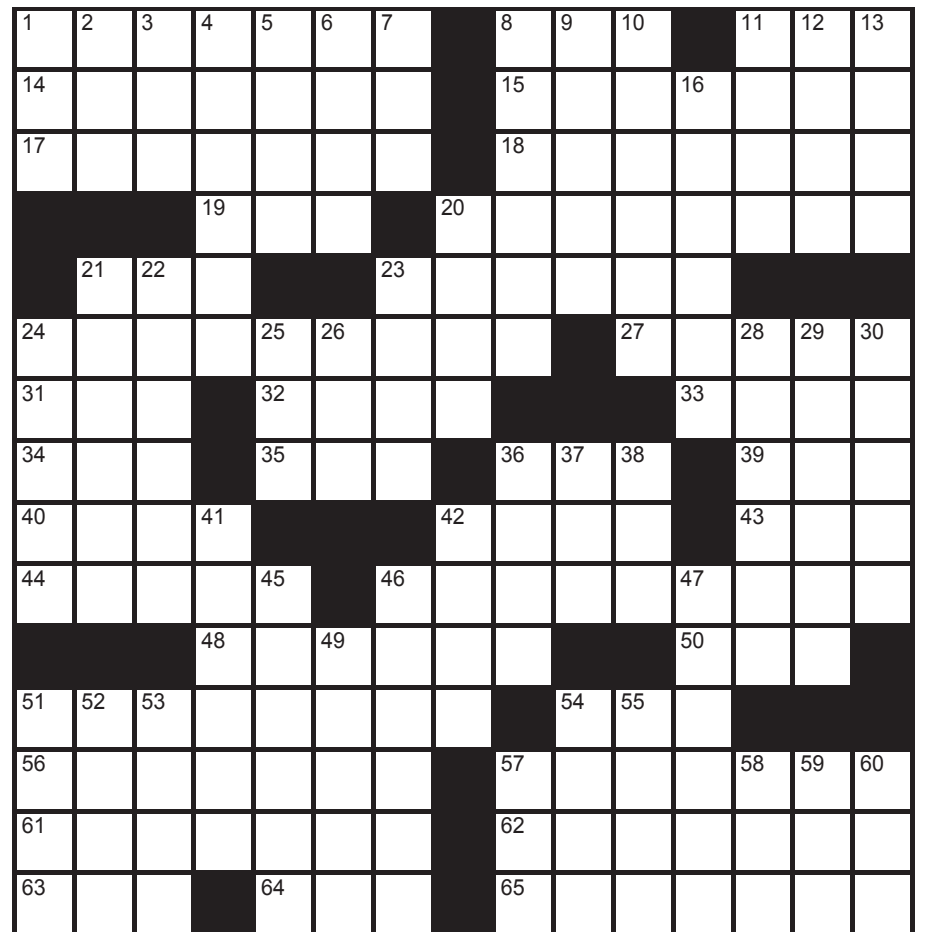
- You are a member in good standing of The First Catholic Slovak Union, St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181.
- You have been a member of Branch 181 for four years prior to applying with a minimum \$5,000 insurance policy.
- You are high school senior preparing to graduate in 2020 and have applied for the 2020/21 fall term at a qualifying educational institution.

THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE SOLELY FUNDED BY YOUR LOCAL BRANCH 181 AND ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION NATIONAL OFFICE.

To obtain an application and more information, please contact Vicki Hricik phone 724-547-0803 or email vickihricik@gmail.com.

***Applications must be postmarked by April 3, 2020 to be eligible.**

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Mountain peaks
- 8 Venus to Serena, briefly
- 11 Children's game
- 14 Dresses and hats, e.g.
- 15 Free, legally
- 17 Attractive force
- 18 Soft Italian cheese
- 19 Botanist Gray
- 20 Tactful
- 21 Knowledge
- 23 Showered
- 24 Positioned
- 27 Arrive
- 31 Electrify
- 32 Kings Peak locale
- 33 Irritate
- 34 Obese
- 35 Predatory fish
- 36 Gossip
- 39 Dejected
- 40 Feudal estate
- 42 Zilch
- 43 Kind of nut
- 44 Courtyards
- 46 Asian cuisine
- 48 Lighter fuel
- 50 Bring to bear
- 51 Adulthood
- 54 Groove
- 56 Marine rock-clinger
- 57 Aardvark fare
- 61 Less cloudy
- 62 Gambled
- 63 Moray, e.g.
- 64 Commercials
- 65 Spaghetti sauce ingredient

Down

- 1 Kind of wheel
- 2 Mar. follower
- 3 Health resort
- 4 Wise one
- 5 Eye part
- 6 Salad cheese
- 7 Cunning
- 8 Fairy tale figure
- 9 Gaelic
- 10 Goal-oriented activity
- 11 Carry
- 12 ___ meridiem
- 13 Weed eater
- 16 Abut
- 20 Short run
- 21 Persian Gulf kingdom
- 22 English cathedral city
- 23 Wild hog
- 24 Tel Aviv part
- 25 Summer mo.
- 26 Bake sale org.
- 28 Theater sections
- 29 Contract provisic
- 30 Windbreak
- 36 Kind of pool
- 37 College major
- 38 Halloween sound

- 41 Leg bone
- 42 Kooky
- 45 Sky lights
- 46 Supplies food
- 47 Eggnog additive
- 49 Pronged
- 51 Riot spray
- 52 Proficient
- 53 Old Chinese money
- 54 Bring up
- 55 Exhort
- 57 Low card
- 58 Author Levin
- 59 Gymnast's goal
- 60 Old Tokyo

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
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

See Solution on Page 19

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 5P – 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 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special Branch 24 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7PM), March 28, 2020, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$24. A Branch 24 member ticket is \$5. Reservations are required and available by calling Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to Branch 24 FCSU. The deadline is February 24, 2020. These are lower goal end tickets and the Monsters are selling out games, so seating is limited. Don't delay. Order now, and join other FCSU members and guests – from Branch 24 and other branches in our Ohio District 10 – for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism [Editor's note: please see page 27 of this issue for details].

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 will host its annual meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, in the residence of our Financial Secretary, Marilyn Montemurro, 80 Mohawk Road, Yonkers, NY, 10710 beginning at 7PM. All members are invited to attend. Important issues will be discussed.

Daniel F. Tanzone, Vice President

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 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the Secretary-Treasurer in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by brunch.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers, Delegates and their Alternates to the District 8 meetings. Please call the President at 215.613.8987. We will celebrate the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Patron Saints

of Slovakia. These two Monks from Greece successfully evangelized Slovakia and all of Eastern Europe as well with the message of the Love of Jesus Christ after the French failed because their efforts were based on using the sword and the Slovaks didn't buy it.

We will recognize all the school-age who submitted an essay by the end of the year about the contribution of SS. Cyril and Methodius to our Catholic Faith with a prize of \$10 in accordance with the Resolution made at the last Semi-Annual meeting.

Regular business will also be conducted. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid for Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's recently published book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. Joe, a multi-faceted entrepreneur, is a member of the FCSU, who shares his insights and experience in building a successful career centered in the field of music. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Brunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by Thursday, February 20, 2020 in order to make reservations at Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the Secretary-Treasurer at (215) 613-8987. In the event of severe weather, any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting, if feasible, with those who cannot attend. Otherwise, we will postpone the meeting to the following Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Helena T. Gaydos, Secretary-Treasurer

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 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. at Eastern Buffet Sushi & Grill, 129 Matthew Drive, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

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

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the luncheon meeting. Call for reservations by March 1, 2020, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 as well as for any changes to policies or address changes.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEK- SKILL, 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 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. 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 21, 2020. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This past December, incumbent branch officers President Leonard Zilko, Vice-President Luis Palos, Financial Secretary Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were re-elected to their respective 1-year term of office. Leonard Zilko and Kathleen Trifiletti were re-elected to a 3-year term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

Once again, I ask that our members plan to attend our meetings whenever possible. FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt attends each of our meetings. In addition, our Region 6 Director, Thomas J. Ivanec is a frequent attendee. Their reports not only give us current information about the ongoing concern of our organization, it provides a relaxed forum to ask a particular question you may have. The FCSU would like to see the fraternal activities of all districts and branches increase. Attendance at our Branch 228 meetings can give you first-hand knowledge of items and events being discussed as well as an opportunity for personal input. The meetings are fun and help to promote comradeship so give us a try!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording 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 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will hold its 2020 Spring meetings at 1 PM on Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, May 17. A Fall meeting is planned for November 15. The meeting on March 15 will be held at Twin Oaks Restaurant in the Rainbow Shopping Center on Lincoln Way, White Oak, PA. We will be collecting information to RSVP for both the district meeting and the Father's Day Brunch.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

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

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 Roof Fund is slowly increasing but we still need your assistance. Until January 31, 2020 all donations of \$100.00 or more will receive 4 Spaghetti Dinner Gift Certificates, a \$32.00 value. Mail checks payable to the Slovak J Club and on the memo line denote Branch 553 Roof Fund. Checks should be mailed to 485 Morgan Ave., Akron, OH 44311.

Upcoming Events:

1-18-20 Winefest – featuring George's Famous Sausage and "Big Tony" as DJ

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

2-15-20 50's-60's Dance – featuring Larry Alltop - \$10.00 includes finger food

2-19-20 Beef Tips & Noodles Dinner \$10.00 – requires advance purchase of tickets

2-28-20 1st Fish Fry of the 2020 Lenten Season – Served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm

4-26-20 Lodge Meeting 3:00 pm –Mark Your Calendar

7-25-20 Kielbasa Open at Mayfair Country Club

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 29, 2020, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day.

continued on page 13

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 12

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:15 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620.

No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Jednota Branch 746 members are invited to attend the Choral Art Society of New Jersey's Concert, "Americana: A concert of American Musical Treasures on Sunday, January 26th at 3pm at the United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence, NJ. Our very own Lois Schmidt will be performing! If you would like to attend, please RSVP to 732-589-1608 by January 22nd. Tickets will be subsidized by the branch. Please be sure to arrive by 2:30pm.

Sabina Sabados, President

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 796 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Feb. 23, 2020. Meeting will convene at 1:00 pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the alter server room. Location is 4456 Main St., Egypt, PA.

We would enjoy seeing some new faces at our meetings.

God Bless,

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold a branch meeting on March 14, 2020, beginning promptly at 11:30AM. The meeting will be held at Armando's in Charleroi, PA. On the agenda will be to discuss activities for the year.

Members are urged to attend.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 – Holy Name of Jesus Society – Happy New Year to all of our members.

We will be having a breakfast meeting on Saturday February 22nd at L.A. Pete's 6080 Brecksville Rd. in Independence at 10:00a.m. This year we will be supporting Womankind; an organization that provides free support to pregnant women. At this meeting we will be collecting diapers. If you would like to participate in our diaper drive please bring diapers of any brand any size.

See page 27 of this issue regarding a District event Saturday March 28th at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse to see the Monsters hockey team take on the Lehigh Valley Phantoms. Our branch will support this event with members-only pricing. A Branch 855 member ticket is \$5.00. A non-branch member ticket is \$24.00. Reservations are required by February 22nd. Please call or text Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Coordinator Stephanie Sutula at 440-409-9405 to reserve a seat as soon as possible. This is a sell-out event!

Barbara Sutula, President

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 35 will host the Spring Business Meeting on Sunday, April 26 at 1 PM at Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Street Extn, West Mifflin 15122. Contact information for RSVP's will be posted in the next issue.

Brad Matta was elected District Activities Director at the December 8 business meeting. He is considering a Pirates baseball game and raffle. We are open to suggestions; bring them to the April meeting. Branch 38 will host the Fathers' Day Luncheon on Sunday, June 21. Details will be finalized at the April meeting. Branch 628 will host the Fall Business Meeting at a date to be determined.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments.

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:

** WPSA 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. 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 WPSA 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 start.

** 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. You can get discount tickets at the Fathers' Day Lunch.

** 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.cgsi.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 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

Mark your Calendars – the first District 10 meeting of the new year will be held on March 29, 2020 at The American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH 44055 at 2:30 pm

Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 14 – THE REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Reverend Joseph L. Kostik, Region 6, District 14 will hold its first meeting of the New Year, 2020, on Tuesday, February 18 at 6PM at the Falcon Grille, 29 N. Canfield-Niles Rd. (Rt.46) in Austintown, OH. We will be discussing possible events for this year. We encourage all Branches to send representation to the meeting, please try to attend. We will be alternating meeting places and need your input. Hope to see you then.

Grace Kavulic, Secretary

DISTRICT 16 - THE MSGR KRASULA DISTRICT

The semi-annual meeting of the Msgr Krasula District 16 will be held on Sunday, March 1st, 2020 in the rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church immediately following the 10:15 AM Slovak Mass. The agenda will be a continuing discussion and planning on future activities for District 16 in 2020 and a financial report. All members from District 16 are cordially invited to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served immediately after the meeting finishes.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Secretary

Attention Branch 670 Members: 2020 Scholarship Program Now Open for Applications



Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2020 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to two, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an approved educational institution is eligible to apply. For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 30, 2020

Branch 581 Officers

On December 8, 2019, St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, held a meeting at the Lake Park Restaurant in Hobart, IN, including election of officers. The 2020 Branch 581 officers: (L – R) Standing: Bernadette Bailey, Secretary; and Ann Buczek, President; Seated: George Kelchak, Financial Secretary; and Kathy Demeter, Treasurer.

- Submitted by Ann Buczek, President



2019 National Photo Contest Results - Part 1

Activity



First Place

"Entry of Home Office," Independence, OH
James Marmol, Branch 162



Second Place

"Branch 112 Tailgating at Michigan v Penn State Football Game"
Matt Sterling, Branch 112



Third Place

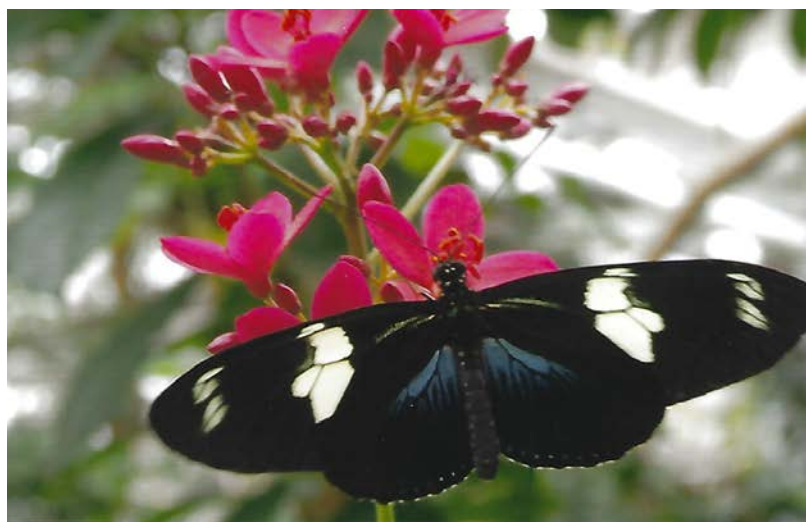
"Branch 746 Meeting," East Brunswick, NJ
Ryan Ranahan, Branch 746

Nature



First Place

First Place - "Neighborhood Lake," Apollo, PA
Patricia Wojnar, Branch 35



Second Place - "Westminster, Colorado"
Emily Collins, Branch 2



Third Place
"Looking out window at work,"
Greensburg, PA
Diane Aland, Branch 181

2019 National Photo Contest Results - Part 1

People



First Place
"Renaissance Festival," Bristol, WI
Mary Fayta, Branch 706

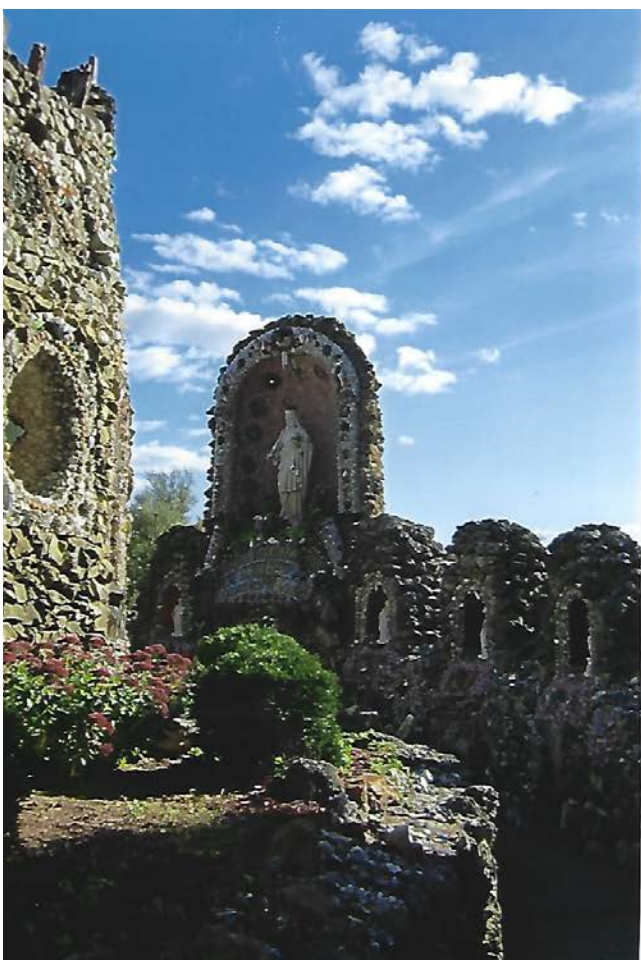


Second Place
"Myrtle Beach,
South Carolina"
Kathryn Stover,
Branch 831

Third Place
"Craftsmen Cutting
Church Shingles,"
Kizhi Island, Russia
Dennis Tepper, Branch 923



Travel



First Place
"Dickeyville Grotto," Dickeyville, WI
Judy Kirchner, Branch 510



Second Place
"St. Thomas,
Virgin Islands"
Amanda Zavada,
Branch 5

Third Place
"Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania"
Shane Simpson,
Branch 670



**Look for 2019 National
Photo Contest Results -
Part II in the next Jednota!**

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
002K	Nicholas Steve Chomko	157K	June A Straka	382K	Jane M Garnecki	746K	Slavomir Kozar
003P	Edward P Palushock	162K	John R Nypaver	404K	Frances Rittman	746K	Michael P Savoia
006K	Stella T Elias	173K	Robert A Sabol	410K	Martha M Toth	796K	Catherine Lorah
006K	Ronald Havrilka	173K	Edward David Ungvarsky Jr	484K	Rose M Hamer	796K	John Michael
010K	Michael Russen	181K	Roy R Buncie	484K	Nancy M Snyder	796K	John Michael
019K	Edward Kunick	200K	Margaret Fabjance	553K	Linda S Lamb	831K	Anthony J Goralka
024K	Bernard J Arendas	224K	Henry C Prekop	580K	Robert A Scholle	855K	Bernard Komar
024K	Michael P Bukovsky	228K	Andrew Breitenbach IV	595K	Dorothy Sklenar	855K	Joseph John Lucas Sr
038K	Gertrude S Maxin	228K	Hazel D Novotni	628K	Raymond Jacob	857K	Andrea J Hutt
085K	John A Dearson	260K	Jeffrey A Peshek	670K	Joseph J Hornak	857K	Joseph Patrick Krall Jr
112K	Matilda R Flaim	293K	Violet Marczyk	682K	Milan J Krivan	916K	Robert J Beranek
152K	Christina A Bargella	313K	Dennis Grapenthin	706K	Matilda Mrmich		
152K	Thomas Patrick Kirby	313K	Anna T Kangas	721K	Josephine A Cubr		
157K	Stephanie Gaal	315K	Patrick Zorich	746K	Marlene Ann Bodner		

*Processed through the month of December

OBITUARIES



**RICHARD MICHAEL KOSTIVAL
BRANCH 157 –
CATASAWQUA, PENNSYLVANIA**

Richard Michael Kostival, 75, passed away February 9, 2019 in his Maiden Creek Township residence.

He was the husband of Helen C. (Zuchowski) Kostival, to whom he was married for 52 years.

Born March 16, 1943 in Reading, he was a son of the late Joseph George Kostival, Jr. and Amelia Mary (Kowalski) Kostival.

Richard was a 1960 graduate of Central Catholic High School.

He was employed with Firestone, now Occidental Chemical, for 39 years, retiring in 2005.

Richard served in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Richard was a longtime member of SS. Cyril and Methodius R.C. Church, Reading, PA, until the time of their closing. He then became a member of Holy Guardian Angels R.C. Church, Hyde Park. He was also a member of the First Slovak Catholic Union. He enjoyed meeting with fellow retirees for breakfast monthly. Richard loved trips to the casinos with his wife, and spending time with his family in general, especially his grandsons.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are his daughter, Cynthia A. (Kostival), wife of David N. Bentz of Maiden Creek Township; and his two grandsons, Jason David Bentz and Adam Richard Bentz. Other survivors include his brother-in-law, John R. Zuchowski; and his sister-in-law, Carol Ann Zuchowski; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his seven siblings: Nancy Kostival, William Kostival, Andrew Kostival, Josephine Reddington, Steven Kostival, Joseph Kostival, III, John Kostival and Paul Kostival.

- Submitted by Cynthia Bentz

**JEFFREY A. PESHEK
BRANCH 260 –
CAMPBELL, OHIO**

Jeffrey A. Peshek, 56, passed away at home on Monday, Nov. 25th, surrounded by his loving family.

Jeffrey was born May 21, 1963, in Mentor, OH, the son of Howard and Mary Harris Peshek.

He was a 1981 graduate of Austintown Fitch High School and went on to attend Mount Union College, where he played football and was a division champion.

Jeffrey was a tour bus and limo driver for Fabulous Limo for many years.

Jeffrey was a member of the World Natural Powerlifting Federation and the World Association of Benchers and Dead Lifters. He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Austintown Eagles, and was involved with the Austintown High School Football Program.

He was a drug free power lifter and was a world record holder in bench pressing, lifting 825 lbs. Jeffrey enjoyed power lifting, golfing, bowling, playing football and going on cruises and enjoying the buffets. He loved to shop and if there was an outlet shopping center, he would find it.

Jeffrey enjoyed attending his nephew Aidan's basketball games and most of all, he loved spending time with his best friend and wife, Carlie – they did everything together.

Jeffrey will be deeply missed and always remembered by his wife; the former Carlie Terek, whom he married March 18, 1995; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Carl and Geri Terek of Campbell; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Carl and Lisa Terek of Hilliard, OH, and their son Aidan; brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Cindy Miller Peshek of North Jackson, OH, and their children, Stephanie (Brad) of Austintown, OH, Matt of Las Vegas, NV and Amanda Miller of Richmond, VA; Jeffrey's daughter Jordan; many aunts, uncles, and cousins; Mark and Kim and all of his Fab bus tour customers; and all of his power lifting family, including Ken Anderson of Dallas, TX.

The family would like to thank his friends both near and far, who were his great sup-



port system throughout his illness, and especially the doctors and staff at Salem Regional Medical Center and AVI Food Systems and Dr. Tiffany Hodges and staff at Ahuja Medical Center/University Hospital in Cleveland, OH.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Mary Peshek; and his nephew Stephen Peshek.

To everyone, he was the "Iron Teddy Bear" with the biggest heart and softest voice. As he made one more lift...A lift that he struggled as the Lord spotted him to Heaven.

- Submitted by Carlie Peshek

**MARGARET MARILYN
YOUNGER CHICWAK
BRANCH 472 –
CALDWELL, OHIO**

Margaret Marilyn Younger Chicwak, age 100, of Caldwell, OH, passed away Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at Summit Acres Nursing Home in Caldwell. She was born August 30, 1918, in Noble County, the youngest child of the late Joseph and Mary Dovec Younger, who immigrated to America from Eastern Europe in 1904. Margaret worked as an assembler for RCA and NCR in Cambridge, OH, for several years before retiring to help on the family dairy farm. She was a member of the Corpus Christi CWC and the First Catholic Slovak Union. She loved cooking her Slovak foods and baking her nut rolls to give to all, well into her 90s. She also enjoyed entertaining family and friends from the Cleveland, OH area several times during the year, especially deer hunters.

She is preceded in death by her husband, George Chicwak, in 1980; her son, James, in 2008; her brothers, Joe, John, and Steve; and her sisters, Mary, Sue, Ann, Julia, and Elaine.

Surviving are three daughters, Shirley (George) Spence of Enon, OH; and Karen (Lynn) Mallett and Regina (Chris) Crock, and daughter-in-law, Ruth Chicwak, all of Caldwell; her grandchildren, Jimmy Chicwak, Carol (Andy) Pakes, John Chicwak,



Lori (Colby) Blair, Lisa (Mike) Zeller, Linda (Justin) Shidu, Sherry Trenner, Janay (Mark) Eisenmenger, and Renee Mallett; her step-grandchildren, Gordon (Diane) Wheatley and Barbara (Greg) Clark; 14 great-grandchildren; 6 step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Shirley Spence

**JOHN P. BOBBY
BRANCH 731 –
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

John P. Bobby Jr., 85, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019, at Hospice House with his family at his side.

John was born Dec. 8, 1934, the son of John P. and Helen Ferencak Bobby Sr., and was lifelong area resident. He graduated from Wilson High School and went on to serve in the United States Army. John worked at Wean United, then Park Vista in Youngstown.

John was a devout Catholic. He belonged to St. Dominic Church and prayed the rosary for a different person every day. He went to daily Mass at St. Dominic Church, as well as St. Matthias. He belonged to the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

He was an avid golfer and belonged to several leagues; he liked football and baseball and was an Ohio State and YSU fan.

John enjoyed the simple life: sitting outside, grilling, feeding the birds, and day trips in the car. He was a gentle, patient man with a good heart and a good sense of humor.

He leaves cherished memories to his daughter, Kim Bobby of Boardman, OH; his sister, Isabelle Walko of Poland, OH; his brother, Jim (Jackie) Bobby of Poland; and his sister, Jane Baran of Austin, TX; plus several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Joyce, whom he married Feb. 16, 1963, — sadly, she passed April 2, 2005; his brothers, Gerald and William; and his sister, Geraldine.

- Submitted by Jim and Jackie Bobby



Slovak Heritage Society Celebrates Christmas 2019

The Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland (SHS) held their annual Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 15, 2019. More than 100 members, families and friends including 20+ children, gathered at the Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, OH. Thomas Ivanec is the SHS president as well as FCSU's Region 6 Director. SHS Officers in attendance who also belong to the FCSU included: Joseph Oros, Vice President – Membership and Branch 24 Treasurer; Michael Anderko, Vice President - Activities and Branch 450 Member; Henry Horvath, Treasurer and

Branch 855 Member; Karen Scally, Corresponding Secretary and Branch 855 Vice President; Vlad Cvicela, Trustee and Branch 24 Member; and Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Chaplain and Branch 24 Member. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of American and Slovak Christmas music and song, courtesy of the popular folk band Harmonia. Beata Begeiova-Fedorouk, Branch 24, was the featured soloist with her husband Alex Fedoriouk also of Branch 24 performed on cimbalom. Special performances by children who chose to come forward, included Branch 24's Artem Fedoriouk on

violin and performing a special rendition of Jingle Bells on the saxophone by Branch 24's Henry Strekal, while Branch 24's Matthew Oros performed his own composition as well as Christmas carols. Along with a luncheon of klobasa, sauerkraut, chicken paprikas and potatoes, party goers enjoyed assorted party trays of appetizers and a full array of delicious desserts, coordinated by Joseph Oros. A very special appearance was made by Mr. and Mrs Claus, with gifts for all the young children, some of whom performed songs or sang for Santa.



The Slovenske Mamicky join Harmonia with featured singer Beata Begeiova-Fedorouk on stage to lead attendees in singing Christmas carols in Slovak and English



Branch 855's Christian Scally



Branch 24's Artem Fedoriouk on violin



The many door prizes were coordinated and handed out by Slovak Heritage Vice President and Branch 24 Treasurer Joseph Oros.



Branch 24's Matthew Oros on keyboard



Slovak Heritage Society Vice President – Activities and Branch 450 Member Michael Anderko tending bar with finance Jessica Jurcevic



Branch 450's Pete Anderko, Adriana Scally and Luke Scally pose with Mr. And Mrs. Claus



Branch 24's Madeline Halley



Branch 24's Henry Strekal on sax



Slovak Heritage Chaplain and Branch 24 Member Fr. Michael Brunovsky



Branch 24's Miriam Visnovsky



Branch 24 Auditor Joseph Moynihan



Slovak Heritage Corresponding Secretary & Branch 855 Vice President Karin Scally



Greeters Terri and Tom Ivanec, with granddaughter Cora Strekal – all members of Branch 24



Branch 450's Nora Olexa



Branch 450's Marco Visnovsky is set to recite a poem



Treasures tour goes greeted with bread and salt, the necessities of life

The 100th Treasures of Slovakia Tour Takes Off in 2020

A joyful group celebrated our Treasures of Slovakia Tour - our 100th tour over the past 30 years. We immersed in Slovak culture and found living family for all participants which led to some very joyful reunions.

Our 31st TREASURES OF SLOVAKIA TOUR will take place July 9 - 19, 2020. The land cost is \$2,399 per person. It will be led again by Helene Cincebeaux and Jozef Kaufmann.

The trip offers the Best of Slovakia! East to West and North to South! A chance to experience castles, culture, folklore, folk art, museums, local food, wine tasting, village parties, festivals, music, song, museums, visit ancestral villages and find long-lost family!

Two former travelers have already signed on, one has been on 13 of our Treasures Tours and the other on 10!

Our speciality is arranging visits to ancestral villages and finding long lost family - we have a 98% success rate.

We also have a popular add on for Golden Prague, the Czech Republic's historic and gorgeous capital.

Questions or more info contact Helene Cincebeaux, 585 342-9383, helenezx@aol.com or write her at 7 Walt Place, Palm Coast FL

Look for more information and photos of past tours in an upcoming Jednota

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers
And Lovely It Is

Sarah Hart recalled that her grandfather was a lovely man with a servant's heart who always turned strangers into friends. But one day, during the last few years of his life, they were talking on the phone and she realized he sounded out of sorts. "Are you grumpy, Grandpa?" Sarah asked him. He acknowledged that he had gotten a little crotchety lately and that he'd even yelled at somebody that day. Sarah told him, "That's so not like you."

The message registered, so a few days later, Grandpa called her back to say he had found a solution to his problem. Using the old style printer paper that still had holes on the side, he made himself a banner that read, "Be Nice" and hung it over the door so it was the last thing he saw before he left the house. It proved to be a reminder that worked, and the phrase "Be nice" even became a family mantra for the Harts. So when Sarah was working on songs for her latest album, entitled "And Lovely It Is," she turned the words "Be Nice" into a song - not just because of her grandfather, though.

During a "Christopher Closeup" interview, Sarah told me, "I wrote it right before the 2016 presidential election when everybody was being so mean to each other, and I just couldn't take it. Songwriters are lovers, not fighters, but our weapons are the pen and the melody. So my weapon was to write a song about the fact that we should work on our civility, our kindness."

Though Sarah is a Grammy-nominated Christian music mainstay, "And Lovely It Is" is outwardly more secular, inspired by her love of her daughters Rose and Evelyn, husband Kevin, and other family members and friends. Implicitly, however, the light of the divine is reflected on the album's songs in various ways. Sarah notes, "I'm very much of the school that the Lord is in all things...And we as believers, if we have that in our hearts...then our hearts can't help but radiate it."

Some songs are meant to simply inspire joy in the listener, as is the case with the track "C'est La Vie." Joy doesn't always get the attention it deserves when it comes to living a fully Christian life, but Sarah hopes to change that. She said, "[Music] is a beautiful gift that God gave us, and sometimes it's intended for fun."

In order to tap into this spirit of joy, Sarah made one major change in her life: she stopped watching the news on TV or listening to it on the radio because it has "a tendency to report on nothing but the negative." To stay abreast of what's going on in the world, she will read some stories, but she refuses to go back to being a full-fledged consumer of all media.

Sarah said, "It's amazing the effect that [a news fast] has had on my spirit. I think there's something that happens in the way that you look at other human beings when you're not constantly hearing every day about how bad human beings can be...Instead, [you're] looking at people and trying to see the face of God in that person and be one-to-one communicating with people and loving people in the world. That has changed me, so I highly recommend it. Don't listen to the news. If you need to know something, read it. But listen to good things instead. Like 'Christopher Closeup.'"



z'ava - Farár Martin Kertys, Martin Lišhák - producent TV LUX a Rev. Richard D. Baker.



Martin Lišhák - producent TV LUX a Helen Brchnel - najdlhšie aktívna členka v spolku sv. Matúša.



z'ava - Ján Vasil', Helen Brchnel, Renáta Jurášiová-Vasil', Rev. Richard D. Baker, Mária Juráši s Janik Vasil, Daniel Tanzone, Rev. Martin Kertys a Joseph Juráši.

z'ava - Renáta Jurášiová-Vasil', Nina Holy - sekretárka/pokladníčka Slovenskej Ligy v Amerike a Mária Juráši.



Spolok sv. Matúša č.45 v NYC pri Štedrovečernej večeri - "Vilija"

Každoročne sa stretávame v kostolnej hale sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC po slovenskej svätej omši pri Štedrovečernej večeri - "Vilija". Tak aj v tomto roku 15. decembra 2019 sme sa spoločne pomodlili, zaspievali si tradičné slovenské koledy, povečerali vianočné jedla pri peknej vianočnej výzdobe a hojnej účasti. Fotografie sú dôkazom peknej slovenskej tradície.

Mária Juráši
Pokladníčka



Cooking Staff - Viera Lukacovic, Laco Korcek, Elena Nigrovic with Branch 45 Financial Secretary Maria Jurasi, and Vladimir Nigrovic.



Two year old Janik Vasil adoring gorgeous Christmas lamp.



L-R Stan Krcmar, Joseph Jurasi, Maria Jurasi, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Martin Lishak-TV LUX producer, and Jan Vasil with Janik Vasil.



L-R Jan Vasil, Helen Brchnel, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Rev. Richard D. Baker, Maria Jurasi with Janik Vasil, Daniel Tanzone, Rev. Martin Kertys, and Joseph Jurasi.

St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 Christmas Dinner - "Vigilia"

Annually our branch gets together for a Christmas Dinner - "Vigilia" at St. John Nepomucene Church after the Slovak mass. As tradition continues, this year on December 15, 2019, together we said a prayer, sang traditional Slovak Carols, ate traditional Slovak food unique for "Vigilia", in a beautifully decorated hall full of attendees with an excellent Christmas atmosphere.

Jozef Jurasi, Activity Coordinator

“Biele Vianoce v Lipke Academy”

Oslava narodenia Ježiša Krista patrí k najkrajším obdobiam. Deti Lipky Academy spolu s učiteľkami mesiace predtým nacvičujú program, aby týždeň pred Vianocami všetkým prítomným priniesli vianočnú atmosféru a pripomenuli, že naše slovenské zvyky a tradície si chceme naďalej udržiavať a viesť k nim aj našu najmladšiu generáciu. Témou tohtoročnej oslavy boli Biele Vianoce s perinbarkou, s anjelíkmi a Jakubkom. Všetci sme sa preniesli do rozprávkového sveta, kde víťazi dobro nad zlom a kde ak si navzájom pomáhame máme sa lepšie a svet je krajší.

Vianočnú oslavu otvoril duchovný otec farnosti sv. Rodiny Mariusz Luksa, ktorý je jedným zo študentov Lipky Academy, keďže slovenčina nie je jeho prvý jazyk. Veľmi rýchlo napreduje čo je značne vidieť a počuť na slovenských omšiach. Všetkým prítomným sa prihovril v slovenskom jazyku.

Keďže tento rok sa oslavy nemohla zúčastniť predsedníčka Spolku č. 746 a riaditeľka Regiónu 1 IKSJ, Sabina Sabados, no nezabudla na nás a svojou prítomnosťou nás potešili jej členovia, Joanne Polt (pod predsedníčka Spolku č. 746) a Anna Balas (audítorka Spolku č. 746) a neprišli naprázdno, prišli so šekom, ktorým vyjadrili obdiv učiteľom za ich prácu a možnosť vzdelávať deti v našom krásnom slovenskom jazyku. Sabinka nám poslala, krásne slová ktorými nám vyjadrila svoju radosť podporiť program, ktorý má význam. FCSU členom zo srdca ďakujeme a ich peňažný dar použijeme na skvalitnenie kultúrnych programov zakúpením ozvučenia.

Pani generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku Ladislava Begeč sa taktiež nemohla zúčastniť vystúpenia pre pracovné povinnosti, no jej vŕcný pozdrav, podpora a spolupráca nás vždy poteší.

Taktiež ďakujeme všetkým rodičom, že si uvedomujú, že slovenský jazyk budeme počuť z úst našich detí len vtedy, keď ich k tomu budeme viesť.

A na záver, Lipka Academy praje všetkým členom FCSU veľa úspechov v Novom roku 2020, a od Pána Boha im vyprosujeme veľa požehnaní za ich úžasnú prácu.

Želáme Vám, nech medzi Vami nechýba láska.

Láska k Bohu, rodičom, súrodcom, starým rodičom a všetkým okolo nás.

Nech sa nikdy nevytratí zo sveta mier.

Nielen na Vianoce, ale počas celého roka.

- Článok napísala Marianna Fecová, riaditeľka Akadémie Lipka

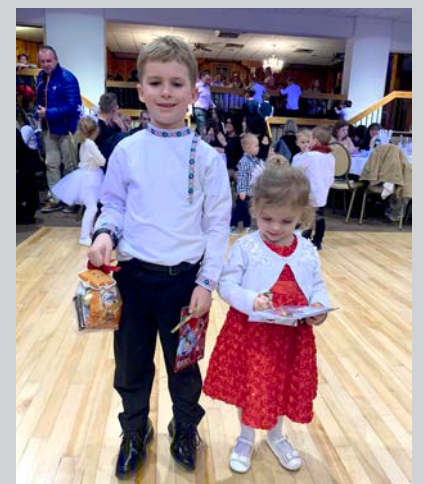
-Článok zaslala Sabina Sabados, riaditeľka Regiónu 1 IKSJ

Lipka Academy Performs in Linden, New Jersey

Lipka Academy of Linden, New Jersey performed at their annual Christmas Children's Concert on December 15, 2019 at Msgr. Komar Hall. Their songs comprised of Christmas Slovak culture and they enchanted the audience that filled the hall! After the concert, there was a delicious meal along with scrumptious home baked desserts. Santa then presented each child with a conversation and a gift while two lovely angels stood by.

Slovak language and heritage is studied by Lipka Academy at Holy Family Slovak Church in Linden throughout the year under the direction of Ms. Marianna Fecova with the assistance of teachers and many parents. FCSU's Jednota Branch 746 in Linden was honored to financially donate to Lipka Academy for their continued outstanding studies of our Slovak heritage through song, poetry and skits. We have supported their efforts in the past with donations and we enjoy their performance year after year!

- Written and submitted by Joanne Polt, Vice President of Branch 746



FUN!

FCSU Fun – Right in Your Inbox

Receive the latest info on FCSU Fun like these great pics from the 2019 Membership Meet Cruise to the Caribbean. 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/>



Discover Slovakia's Rich Folk Traditions on September Tour

Be a part of Slovakia's exciting folk art and traditional music revival on the 2020 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 11-20. This nine-day, small group tour (limit of 15 travelers) brings you back to your Slovak family roots as you explore the vibrant culture, intriguing history, and spectacular countryside of your ancestral land.

Over the past few years Slovakia has seen a revival of interest in its traditional music, dress and crafts. Once again people are sewing, embroidering and wearing the traditional kroj (clothing) distinctive to each village. Traditional folk patterns are finding their way into contemporary fashion as well as home and product design. Musicians playing the folk music of each region can be found in cafes, restaurants, street corners and parks bringing back the old-country melodies that you might remember from your childhood. For young people it's now "in" to dance and play music with a folk-dance company, filling the stages of local festivals with the swirling of colorful outfits, and acrobatic dance moves to the lively, haunting village tunes.

From the Danube plains to the Tatra Mountains and Eastern Slovakia, we'll travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and small cities with well-preserved medieval buildings, Soviet-era remnants, and the vibrant life of Slovakia today. You'll see Slovakia up-close and personal, joining with Slovaks as they celebrate age-old Wine, Harvest and Mining Festivals.

One of the most important parts of the tour is for travelers to explore their own Slovak roots with personalized visits to Slovak family and ancestral villages. Working with our genealogist, we'll help you trace your family history and reconnect with family if that's possible. We'll also help you extend your stay with pre- and post-tour extensions in Slovakia or to



Prague, Budapest or Krakow.

Look for more information and photos of past tours in an upcoming Jednota For more information and to discuss your personal family plans, please contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144, slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com For a day-by-day itinerary and photos of past tours, visit www.slovakiaheritage.com

Scenes from the Pittsburgh District's Fall Meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2019, held at the Holy Trinity Social Hall and Hosted by Branch 60

Submitted by Margaret Nasta, District Secretary



My First Visit to Slovakia, 1978 (Part One)



Comenius University

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

The University of Maryland Global Campus

I will never forget the first time I visited communist Czechoslovakia. That occurred in the summer of 1978, during the era of "normalization". After the 1968 Soviet-led invasion, Communist Party chief Gústav Husák had determined to crush all reforms and potential opposition. My first impressions of communism would be quite grim, but they would also stir my curiosity and my wish to pursue further studies in the country itself.

I was traveling with my wife Rebecca on our European grand tour for three months during the summer of 1978. I was working on a doctorate, studying history at the University of Pittsburgh and she had just completed her Masters of Library Science degree at Kent State University in Ohio. Unlike the typical American tourists, we were not traveling "in style," but rather backpacking on a very tight and skimpy budget, camping out, and sleeping in train stations to save money. We entered Czechoslovakia on the way to our first stop in Bratislava.

The main reason I went was to see the country and the village where my mother was born and my maternal grandparents lived. My mother had immigrated to the USA in 1936 with her mother and sister. My paternal grandparents arrived in 1906 and 1907, but I knew less about where they were from at the time. My curiosity put this destination on the top of my list of places to visit. While my maternal side of the family had no close relatives in Slovakia, my mother had some childhood friends she had kept in contact with, and she visited them three years later in 1981. My wife also had relatives there, her father's first cousin.

In order to visit during the communist era,

because of government restrictions on Western visitors, before our trip, we had to apply for a visa at the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington; we had to list the exact dates of the visit and our purpose - tourism. We determined that we would enter the country on Tuesday, August 1, 1978, and would stay for 8 days. That would provide enough time to enter at the border, see Bratislava, and then head out east for a few days to visit relatives and our families' villages, and then depart from the country after seeing the capital, Prague.

We rose early that morning at 3:45 am in order to be sure to catch the first train so we would have a full day in Bratislava, as there were few trains that ran back and forth to Czechoslovakia at that time. We were camping in the west suburbs of Vienna, and missed the first train to the city, so we had to board the slower tram, and then go to the South Bahnhof rail station. Luckily, we caught the 6:40 morning train for Bratislava, and arrived at the border by 9 a.m. (My wife kept a daily journal on our trip, so we have an exact and accurate record of times and expenditures.)

Our first impression of communism was distressing at the border crossing by train as we left Austria. Guard towers, heavily armed soldiers, fences, and barbed wire were not something we were accustomed to seeing in Europe. The border guards and customs control stopped us for a couple hours as we presented our passports and visa. The officials were not very nice, not at all welcoming, and rather gruff. We had to change an obligatory \$10 per day per person for our 8-day stay. The money exchanged at 10 crowns

(koruny) for a dollar, but we were only given 754.40 crowns, so we were either taken, or there was a high exchange rate fee. Later, we found out that the regime set the exchange rate and overvalued the currency to earn money off of foreigners. On the black market, which reflected the real worth of currency, the dollar fetched 34 crowns per dollar!

Certainly we did not feel welcome in any way, and the customs agents were in no hurry to check credentials quickly and send the train on its way. It seemed as if they moved slowly just to irritate passengers and flex their muscles to show how powerless we were. Though Bratislava is only 70 km from Vienna, getting to the city took nearly four hours because only local trains ran in that direction, and then we had to experience the tight border security and inspections of bag-

gage on the Czechoslovak side.

Near the border, we had to change trains, and boarded the train headed to Bratislava. The seats were rather hard and seemingly had no cushion at all. Using the restroom was no delight, for both the toilet and sink were very dirty and not cleaned at all, and smelled awful; nor was there any toilet paper - bring your own! The Czechoslovak train rode rough and was not nearly as comfortable as the other European trains we had traveled on. On our trip into the country, we could see mainly run-down buildings from the railcar window. We could already tell that we were in for a cultural shock.

When we finally arrived in Bratislava at 10:30 am, the stark colorless and drab appearance of the city shocked us. The main train station appeared gray, unkempt, and depressing, hardly what one would expect from the capital of Slovakia. It was far worse than we had expected, even though we knew it would not be as developed as in the free Europe. For a large city of over 350,000 people at the time, the train station was relatively small, and it looked like it had not been remodeled since World War III! Few shops existed in the station, and everything appeared dirty and unkempt, badly in need of some Mr. Clean. There was little evidence of the hustle and bustle we had experienced at most train stations in the previous two months of our traveling across Europe. Very few travelers were making the trip there from Vienna, and most of the train cars had detached from the locomotive and remained in Austria.

The contrast seemed all the more striking because we had just spent four days in the colorful, cheerful, and tourist-friendly city of Vienna. The dinginess and dirty gray of the Slovak city stood out. It seemed like soot hung over the city, a symptom of the terrible pollution, even though there were very few automobiles. The streets were dirty, again in contrast with the very tidy Vienna. We knew we were in for an experience. So this was communism!

We could also sense a certain sense of sadness in the faces of people. Few would look at us directly in the eye, though they might have noticed our very tattered and

continued on page 23



Hviezdoslav Square



Communist poster in Bratislava

continued from page 23

worn-out jeans, as we had few changes of clothing. No one wore shorts as in the USA, although wearing shorts at the time was generally much less common in Europe than in America. Most women wore dresses, and slacks were rarely seen on ladies.

To get around we did our best, and we had two months of experience traveling in free Europe, but this would be a challenge of a different sort. In addition, my Slovak was still weak, and I had little real practice at conversation in the USA. But I knew some basic words from having taken a couple classes in the language. No one spoke English, so I had to get by with broken Slovak and a little German, which some older folks knew. At the time, my German was better than my Slovak, since I had studied German in college. It was my first real taste of communism in practice, not in theory, and I realized how fortunate my mother was to have left the country before World War II and the subsequent communist takeover in 1948.

The first thing we needed to do was to deposit our sleeping bags, tent, and heavy backpacks (Mine weighed 40 pounds!) in lockers at the train station, something we had become accustomed to doing during our travels. Then we had to find something to eat, meet some friends, get our bearings on the layout of the city, and find a place to stay. Since this was before the age of the internet, we always headed for the Tourist Information Center in the city, as there was no information at the train station. To navigate any city, one needs a map. Luckily, some kind Slovak fellows directed us to the proper *elektrická* (tram) to the center of town.

The tram was jerky, old, and people did not talk for the most part. Most people were standing, as there were not enough seats. It cost just one crown (10 cents at the official exchange rate) to ride into town. We had heard that prices were low in Bratislava, and they were, but choices of most anything were very limited. The private street vendors one saw in the rest of Europe were not around, as the government owned all the businesses. As we were hungry by this time, we bought a few groceries and some fruit at a cost of 25 and 7 crowns, and had a quick lunch on a bench. (We kept an exact budget of everything we spent on paper.)

In town we found a ČEDOK, the Czechoslovak Travel Bureau, and someone there assisted us. At lunchtime, I had prearranged to meet an American couple, Jack and Maureen Buchko, whom I knew from studying Slovak with at the University of Pittsburgh.

They were both attending *Studia Academica Slovaca*, the Slovak language summer school at Comenius University. Thus we found them in the cafeteria at the Philosophical School, across the street from the main campus administration building.

We walked briefly around town with them, and visited a store together. They filled us in on some hints about how to get around and what to see in Bratislava. Then we said our goodbyes, as they had to go back to classes. We set out touring the town and enjoyed some *zmrzlina* (ice cream), one of my favorite treats. It cost only 4 crowns for the two of us, but we noticed that it was more watery than our ice cream and melted very quickly.

While in the center of Bratislava, we explored the town and passed numerous dilapidated buildings. Many were Renaissance and Baroque structures that were crumbling apart. The old town hall (*radnica*) which houses the city history museum was quite beautiful and better maintained, as was the adjacent Archbishop's Palace. But we decided to visit them on our next day's schedule. Instead we sauntered through the city, past the old Slovak National Theater and passed through *Hviezdoslav Square*, named after the early 20th century famous Slovak poet. By 3:30 pm, we had walked to the SNP Bridge (*Most Slovenského národného povstania*, the Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising of 1944), which spans the Danube River. People called it *Nový Most* ("New Bridge"), and in 1993, the city council changed its name to what people always had called it. It is the world's longest bridge to have just one pylon and one cable-stayed plane. It features a UFO-like tower restaurant that resembles a flying saucer on top of the bridge. At the time we did not know it, but apparently the communists had gutted the old Jewish quarter and its synagogue to build this bridge and the road leading to it.

We did not cross the bridge, but took some photos of the Bratislava Castle on the hill, and decided to leave the climb to visit the castle for the next day. We walked back into town, bought a few more groceries (15.5 crowns) for the evening. As my wife was not feeling well and was getting upset, we decided to go back to Čedok to find out where we might stay that night.

As graduate students getting by on a very tight budget, we were looking for inexpensive accommodation such as at a Youth Hostel. The Tourist Office recommended a student dormitory, as they were economical and rented out rooms in the summer. After buying some postcards and stamps to write home (50 crowns), we went to catch a tram



Bratislava town hall

to the dorm. Nobody was answering at the dorm and we wound up waiting 45 minutes for someone to arrive! So we ate a quick meal in the park while we were waiting.

When someone finally showed up at the dormitory, we said we wanted to see the room first. It was quite inexpensive, but we always wanted to see where we would stay before paying. The room with bunks that the young man showed us was unlike anything we had ever seen. The place was absolutely filthy and there were no sheets on the beds. Mattresses were piled on the side, and in the halls. When I patted one to feel it, dust flew up, and the springs were so bad they seemed 30 years old. This stunned us, for even though we had stayed in some less than luxurious places in Europe, this was by far the dirtiest and most revolting accommodations we had seen. The place needed a complete overhaul and cleaning, and we worried about possible bedbugs. We had slept in a cleaner place on the streets of Brussels!

What really surprised us is that Slovaks would tolerate such filthy conditions. Both of us had come from Slovak-American homes that kept pristine households, and all our relatives lived similarly.

It was so dirty that there was no way we would stay there. We did tell the attendant that we had a small pup tent, and we asked

if there was somewhere that we could camp. He said to try *Zlaté piesky* (Golden Sands), a camp on the edge of Bratislava). It would prove to be a much better choice.

So we headed back to the rail station, picked up our knapsacks, and asked until we found a very packed tram with more standing room than seats. We stood out as foreigners. The tram took us to another stop, where we would catch a bus to take us to *Zlaté Piesky*, the campground at the edge of the city. The ride took nearly an hour with all the stops, and we passed by row after row of drab, gray high rises (*paneláky* or *cinžáky*), which the communists had built to satisfy the high demand for housing in the industrial city. We could see workers with shabby clothing going home from their jobs, and the stench of the city and crowded bus made the journey quite uncomfortable.

When we finally arrived at the campground, we were pleasantly surprised. There were fairly nice sites to set up our tent, and it was not as crowded as some of the other many European campgrounds we had stayed at. Camping was very inexpensive, just 12 crowns, and the place was much nicer and cleaner than that filthy dormitory. We set up our tent and settled down for a good night's rest, and retired by 10:30 pm.

To be continued in an upcoming issue of Jednota.

Commemorating the Velvet Revolution's 30th Anniversary

Ken Bombara, Vice Chairman, Friends of Slovakia

This past November marked the 30th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent events that brought freedom from communist domination to many countries of the former "Soviet-bloc." In Czechoslovakia, public demonstrations, spearheaded by student movements, sparked the relatively peaceful downfall of the communist government and began the country's "return to the West," in what came to be known as the Velvet Revolution. A number of events took place in Washington D.C. in the fall to commemorate and assess the significance of the Velvet Revolution.

Since 2001, Friends of Slovakia (FOS) has co-sponsored the prestigious Annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. Each year, the Lecture alternates between a Czech and a Slovak speaker chosen by the co-sponsors, the Czech Embassy, the Slovak Embassy, the American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR), FOS, and the Wilson Center's Global Europe Program. This year's Freedom Lecture on November 13 commemorated the Velvet Revolution with a special double-lecture event featuring both a Czech and a Slovak lecturer. The Czech speaker was Šimon Pánek a key leader in the 1989 student movement, who subsequently went on to found an important NGO, People in Need. The Slovak speaker was Katarína Cséfalvayová, the Chairwoman of Foreign Relations Committee of the Slovak National Council (parliament).

Ms. Cséfalvayová, who was a young child in 1989, provided a perspective as an important legislator who is in a position to look back and assess the legacy of the Velvet Revolution in the context of current challenges to democracy in Slovakia and Central and East Europe generally. Mr. Pánek then provided a first-hand perspective as a key leader in the overthrow of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. He discussed the historical events of the period and assessed the accomplishments of the Velvet Revolution and challenges democracies have subsequently faced.

The speakers were introduced with remarks by Slovak Ambassador to the U.S., Ivan Korčok, and Czech Ambassador to the U.S., Hynek Kmoníček. After the Lecture, AFoCR President Tom Dine presented the speakers with certificates of appreciation and FOS Chairman Scott Thayer presented the speakers with the FOS Medal commemorating Milan Rastislav Štefánik and the friendship of the Czech and Slovak nations.

Those interested in a contemporary perspective on Slovakia and events in Central and Eastern Europe would do well to view Ms. Cséfalvayová's lecture. The Wilson Center has posted a video of the full lecture event at:

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/2019-czech-and-slovak-freedom-lecture-30-years-czech-and-slovak-freedom>

In addition, the full text of Ms. Katarína Cséfalvayová's lecture can be found on the Friends of Slovakia website at www.friendsofslovakia.org.

More 30th Anniversary Events in Washington

The week prior to the Freedom Lecture



From L to R: FOS Board members, Roger Kodat, Elizabeth Guran, Tom Skladony and Chm. Scott Thayer, Slovak Foreign Rel. Cmte. Chm. Cséfalvayová, Slovak Amb. Korcok, Matt Culen (SACC), FOS Board members Ken Bombara and Sabina Sabados (also FCSU Region 1 Director), Šimon Pánek, Lenka Surotchak (Pontis Foundation), and Katka Skladony.



Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, with Dr. Zora Bútorová and Amb. Martin Bútorá at the Georgetown Univ. Forum on Nov. 12.

saw additional events in Washington commemorating the legacy of the Velvet Revolution. Members of the Friends of Slovakia Board of Directors attended and participated in these events.

Forum at Georgetown University

On Tuesday, November 12, a forum was held at Georgetown University, Velvet @ 30: A Legacy to Uphold. The forum was co-sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Embassies in collaboration with the Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. The event featured welcoming remarks by Joel Hellman, Dean of the Walsh School, as well as Slovak Ambassador Korčok and Czech Ambassador Kmoníček. Then, a discussion was held between former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright and



Chm. Katarína Cséfalvayová delivering the Freedom Lecture at the Wilson Center.

Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák opening the Velvet Revolution panel exhibit at GWU on Oct. 22.



former Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the U.S., Martin Palouš. They discussed their experiences of the events of 1989 and provided perspective on the significance of the events.

The first panel then discussed "How the Velvet Revolution Changed Our World." Šimon Pánek, student leader during the Velvet Revolution, Martin Bútorá former Slovak Ambassador to the U.S., and co-founder of the Slovak-based civic movement Public Against Violence, and Angela Stent, Georgetown Professor of Government and Foreign Service, discussed the 1989 period and its implications. Gregory Feifer, Executive Director of the Institute of Current World Affairs in Washington moderated the discussion. The second panel, "Fight for Freedom Never Ends: Velvet Revolution's Legacy for Today and Tomorrow," sought to view current events in light of lessons learned and point a way forward given contemporary challenges to freedom and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and elsewhere. The panel featured Katarína Cséfalvayová, Chairwoman of the Slovak Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Václav Bartuška, a former Velvet Revolution student leader and current Czech Ambassador for Energy Security and Jamie Fly, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. The panel was moderated by František Šebej, former Chairman of the Slovak Parliament Foreign Relations Committee.

A summary of the forum can be found at the Czech Embassy website here:

https://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/culture_events/news/remembering_and_reflecting_on_the_velvet.html

Roundtable Reviews Attitudes about the Velvet Revolution

The day prior, Monday, Nov 11, FOS Board members and others in the Washington foreign policy and Slovak-interest communities participated in a round-

table featuring former Slovak Ambassador Martin Bútorá and his spouse, sociologist Dr. Zora Bútorová. The ambassadorial couple served in Washington from 1999-2003 and had a significant impact on Slovak-U.S. relations, as well as opening Slovakia's new embassy building in Washington in 2001. Dr. Bútorová presented results from her recent survey research on attitudes of the Slovak and Czech populations about the Velvet Revolution and related issues. The research was conducted under the auspices of the Bratislava-based Institute for Public Affairs (IVO) a think-tank founded by the Bútoras and others. The survey results were part of a study produced by IVO, 30 years after the Velvet Revolution: Profits and Losses in the Eyes of the Public, which is available on the IVO website at:

<http://www.ivo.sk/8585/en/news/30-years-after-the-velvet-revolution-profits-and-losses-in-the-eyes-of-the-public>

Panel Exhibit at GWU

On October 22, the Slovak Embassy in cooperation with the Elliott School of International Affairs of the George Washington University opened a panel exhibit commemorating the 30th anniversary of Velvet Revolution, We Want Freedom: An Exhibit on the Velvet Revolution of 1989. The event was held at the Elliott School in downtown Washington. The exhibit displayed a series of panels depicting the events of the Velvet Revolution with a special focus on events in Slovakia. It is hoped that students at the Elliott School as well as the GWU student community and the general public will learn about the events of 1989 in Czechoslovakia and their significance. Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák opened the exhibit and was joined by the Slovak Ambassador Korčok, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador Phillip Reeker, along with representatives of the Elliott School and Slovakia's National Memory Institute in providing remarks about the events of 1989.

It's fair to say that the attendees of these events gained a greater understanding of the events of 30 years ago. They also came away with a deeper perspective on the importance of maintaining and renewing the legacy of freedom and democracy in Slovakia and Central and Eastern Europe generally.

About the Author:

Ken Bombara is Vice Chairman, Friends of Slovakia. He also serves as representative of the Slovak League of America to the Central and East Europe Coalition (CEEC) in Washington.

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SEPTEMBER 13, 2019 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

Reverend Thomas Nasta opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. by celebrating a Memorial Mass for our deceased officers and members.

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Regional Director Sabina Sabados to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta	National Chaplain
Andrew Rajec	President
Andrew Harcar, Sr.	Vice President
Kenneth Arendt	Executive Secretary
George Matta II	Treasurer
Leonard Zilko	Chairman of Auditors
Sabina Sabados	Regional Director, Region 1
Damian Nasta	Regional Director, Region 2
Martha Zavada-Wojcik	Regional Director, Region 3
James Marmol	Regional Director, Region 4
Michael Lako	Regional Director, Region 5
Thomas Ivanec	Regional Director, Region 6
Timothy Graves	Regional Director, Region 7
Milos Mitro	Regional Director, Region 8
Kevin Collins	Fraternal Activities Director
Gary Matta	General Counsel

READING OF THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING JUNE 15, 2019:

A motion was made by Sabina Sabados and seconded by Rev. Thomas Nasta to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held June 15, 2019, as presented. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2019 and answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2019 second quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

Conversion of 2017 CSO's

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the conversion of the rates from the 2010 to 2017 CSO's. This process will be completed by January 1, 2020. The conversion consists of an actuarial study of repricing our insurance products and updating our forms to comply with the state regulations. Once this conversion is completed the Board of Directors and Branch Officers will be notified of the changes. It will also be posted on our website and published in the Jednota newspaper.

AQS REPORT:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions.

The President led a discussion of our current annuity rates and stated that they will remain at the same rate. The rates will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

The President stated a meeting was held with MAI and Clutterbuck to review our current investments.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer stated all investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company, and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

RATING:

The President stated we have been providing the necessary information to Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Inc., a financial rating firm so that the FCSU may obtain a company rating. The process should be completed by the end of the year.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

Fraternal Activities Director, Kevin Collins updated the Board on the golf tournament and the upcoming joint bowling tournament to be held in 2020. He stated that once all the details are finalized, a notice will be published in the Jednota and posted on our website. He mentioned the possibility of having a family weekend event in the Poconos in February 2020. He is making arrangements for Regional picnics to be held in the summer of 2020. He gave an update on the Football Loser's Pool Contest. He mentioned upcoming contests: a Christmas coloring contest for kids, a new adult coloring contest and a gingerbread contest. He is asking for any new ideas from the Board for future fraternal activities. All information on the contest will be published in the Jednota and posted on our website.

INTERNAL AUDITOR POSITION:

The President stated that due to the passing of one of our auditors, Michele Mager, a notice will be published in the Jednota concerning the open position. Any active member who meets the qualifications listed in the bylaws can apply for the position. The President hopes to have a decision made by the December Board meeting. Leonard Zilko, Chairman of Auditors stated that the audits can still be completed until a replacement has been named.

DONATION:

The President led a discussion regarding a request for a donation that he had received. A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by George Matta II to refer the donation to the Executive Board for further review.

DEMONSTRATION OF DIRECTORS PORTAL:

The Executive Secretary demonstrated the new Directors' portal available for only the Board of Directors to receive information from the Home Office. It is a secure site that requires a username and password. Use of the site should cut down on mailing/shipping costs. The Board of Directors will also receive personal FCSU email addresses.

SLOVAK SECTION OF JEDNOTA NEWSPAPER:

The President led a discussion regarding the Slovak section of the Jednota. Due to the passing of our Slovak Editor, Anna Sutherland, the President asked the Board if we should continue the Slovak section; he suggested that we should. The Board overwhelmingly agreed to continue the Slovak section of the newspaper. The President stated he will begin to search for a new Slovak Editor to work with our current editor, Terri Ivanec. He hopes to have this accomplished by January 1, 2020.

MUSEUM:

The President led a discussion regarding expanding our current museum and updating the Home Office. The President feels it is very important to expand the museum in order to preserve our Slovak heritage. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by George Matta II and seconded by Michael Lako to authorize the Executive Board to hire an interior designer with a design and plan budget not to exceed \$40,000. Vote was 13 for and 1 against. Motion passed.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Board of Directors. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 320 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 Home Office is currently targeting agents in Wisconsin and Ohio.

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

continued on page 26

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

CARNIVAL MAGIC

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 3:30 PM and asked Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer. The Executive Committee Meeting is being held in conjunction with the 2019 FCSU Membership Meet aboard Carnival Magic.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the October 2019 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt, 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 October 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 October:

Disbursements for the month of October 2019:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	120,924.84
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	52,287.99
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., provided an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Executive Committee before the meeting for review.

The Executive Committee reviewed the possibility of adding new investments 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 in Mr. White's report to figure out the best way to invest the money earned from the sale of the property in Middletown.

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 December.

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 Secretary gave an update on converting the 2010 CSO's over to the new 2017 CSO's. It is on schedule to be completed by January 1, 2020.

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.

There was a discussion regarding the pending branch mergers.

RATING AGENCY:

The President stated that all information requested by Kroll Bond Rating Agency has been

provided to them. After they review all the material, a meeting will be scheduled shortly after year end.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Middletown

The President stated that we are in the process moving the records and materials from Middletown to the Home Office. The President also stated that an auction will take place to sell the remaining equipment that was used to maintain the property.

Board of Directors Meeting

The President stated that the December Board of Directors Meeting will be held offsite on December 13-14, 2019.

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

Quarterly Meeting

continued from page 25

The Executive Secretary stated that they are constantly working on branch mergers. The Regional Directors will become more involved in the placement of these branches.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated that after the conclusion of the Board of Directors Meeting, a ceremony to dedicate and bless the Father Furdek statue relocated to the Home Office from Middletown, Pennsylvania will be led by Bishop Milan Lach and Father Marek Visnovsky.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Michael Lako to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Timothy Graves and seconded by Thomas Ivanec to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

From the Office of the President

FCSU Auditor Appointment



We received four applications for the recently vacant auditor position. At the December 13, 2019 Board of Directors meeting, after careful review of the applicants' resumes, the Board, by secret ballot, appointed Joseph Senko to fill the unexpired term until 2022.

We thank all the candidates for their continuing support of the Society.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Address Changes?

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



**ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA
JEDNOTA MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

Hockey Night in Cleveland
Saturday, March 28, 2020
7:00pm

Monsters vs. Phantoms
Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse -Cleveland, OH



Special Offer Includes:

- **Discounted Lower Goal End Tickets!!**
- \$24 group rate per seat, with possible deeper discounts for MEMBERS ONLY through your branch
- The Purple Game Benefiting the American Cancer Society: Special Jersey Auction
- GIVEAWAY – Light-up Cheer Sticks courtesy of Anthem

To get your branch discount and order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 1: Marie Golias, 216-338-8179
- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
- Branch 228: Len Zilko, 440-988-3236
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Linda Hanko, 330-706-0151
- Branch 855: Stephanie Sutilla, 440-409-9405



*Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch.
Contact your branch officer for details!!*

Deadline to order: Monday, February 24, 2020
Seating is Limited: First Come, First Serve, So Don't Delay

TICKET DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or Ohio Regional Director Tom Ivanec

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in the arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

M	A	S	S	I	F	S	S	I	S	T	A	G				
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Receiving Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards: (L-R) Sister Jean Marie Holup, SS.C.M. for Ecumenism; Helen "Sis" Hause for Education; Agnes Lakatos for Elder Care; Robert Davies for Evangelization; Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M., General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, who presented the awards.



Student recipients of the 2019 Servant Leadership Award

SS Cyril & Methodius Servant Leadership Award

On October 27, 2019, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 35 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg PA, and Scranton PA. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 17 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored over 1,200 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), Syracuse (NY), and Trenton (NJ) with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

At the ceremony the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, elder care and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.

Celebrate Fasiangy in Milwaukee this February

The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI is hosting its traditional Fasiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 3100 S. 41st Street in Milwaukee (NOTE NEW LOCATION). Donation is \$5.00 per person. Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance at 6:30 p.m. followed by "bury the basa" (bass fiddle). We are inviting all members of Saints Mary & Joseph Branch 89 of Milwaukee to attend. For more information, contact Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ellen at 262-893-7483.

20. zbor Slovenskej Ligy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu, 22. feb 2020 v Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 3100 S. 41st Street v Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Začiatok bude o 17:00 hodine večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstavi slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 18:30 večer. Vstupné je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty, tel. c. 414-425-6137 alebo Ellen, tel. c. 262-893-7483.

- Submitted by Kathy Valent, Slovak League Assembly 20 Secretary



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

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

According to a recent article in TIME magazine the cost of a funeral is between \$6,000 and \$15,000 with an average of \$7,775?

Don't leave a financial burden for your family or loved ones.

Inquire today about
FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE
The sooner you do, the less it costs!

Premium based on the Single Premium Whole Life rates
Call 800.533.6682 or visit www.fcsu.com

FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact Branch Officer or the home office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,
www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com

ARE YOU PLANNING ON PASSING YOUR ASSETS TO LOVED ONES?



Then consider

WEALTH TRANSFER
Wealth management
through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

Here are the benefits:

- Avoid income tax
- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

Interested? Call 800.533.6682 today!

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Winter Special

EXAMPLES

	MALE	FEMALE
Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren (0 -18) and receive FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD with the certificate	NEWBORN -6 months \$5,000 for \$410	NEWBORN \$5,000 for \$345
	AGE 5 \$5,000 for \$475	AGE 5 \$5,000 for \$410
	AGE 10 \$5,000 for \$565	AGE 10 \$5,000 for \$485
	AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$670	AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$570

Features:

- Pay one premium and have fully paid-up Insurance
- Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more)
- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren
- Cost based on age

CALL US
800-533-6682

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