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2020 Easter Message from the President

A few patches of snow are still on the ground in Cleveland as I write this message. This winter for most of us has been mild.

The days are now becoming longer, and the gloom of winter is slowly changing. Along with spring comes the blossom of new and reawakened life. This includes human life.

As the Catholic Church reminds us, the focus of our salvation is the Risen Christ as we celebrate the feast of Easter. This, after all, is the foundation of our Christian/Catholic beliefs.



Andrew M. Rajec

2020 will mark the 55th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia, at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., which was funded by our Society. It also marks the 105th anniversary of the death of our founder, Fr. Stefan Furdek.

As in 2015, we again plan to have a fitting event in this September in Washington, D.C., to honor these milestones and what they mean to the First Catholic Slovak Union and to the Slovaks in North America. We hope you and your family can attend. I know many of you have visited the Chapel in D.C. It was one of the first, and still is one of the most moving, chapels in the Cathedral.

We also are planning to have two National Picnics in 2020; one in New Jersey and the other east of Cleveland. In 2021, we are

planning for the Illinois/Indiana/Wisconsin area and another in Eastern PA.

Save the Date notices for some events are already inside this issue. We will be providing more information later, and throughout the year.

As many of the churches originally founded by Slovaks and staffed by Slovak priests and nuns are merged or closed, many of the old traditions slowly die out in the United States and Canada. We give credit and urge you to support and participate in

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Easter Arrives April 12, 2020

Pán Ježiš Kristus
vstal z mŕtvych, Radujme sa!

Christ is risen,
Let us rejoice
and be glad!

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Insights and Viewpoints

March Message from the National Chaplain

March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, is the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's landmark encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, the Gospel of Life, in which he offers clear and definitive teaching on a variety of issues concerning human life. This summary is being offered to help us recall divinely revealed truths regarding God's precious gift of human life so that our consciences may be formed by the light of that truth. The encyclical is comprised of an introduction, four chapters (Present Day Threats to Human Life, The Christian Message Concerning Life, God's Holy Law, and For a New Culture of Human Life) and a conclusion.

John Paul begins his encyclical by affirming and repeating the extensive list of acts condemned by the Second Vatican Council (Constitution on the Church, 27) as sins against life:

- Any type of murder (genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or willful self-destruction),
- whatever violates the integrity of the human person, (mutilation, torments inflicted on the body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself),
- whatever insults human dignity (such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children),
- disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons.

We will come to see John Paul's focus in this encyclical is the first listing of the sins against life.

While lamenting practices once considered criminal and rejected by common sense were gradually becoming socially acceptable, John Paul admits writing the Gospel of Life to be a "precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability." He also calls his encyclical an appeal to every person to defend and protect God's gift of life.

Chapter 1 – Present Day Threats to Human Life

John Paul begins this chapter by retelling the story of Cain and Abel from Genesis 4. God's question to Cain, "What have you done?" (Genesis 4:10) is addressed to us today to make us realize the extent and seriousness of the attacks being made against life, to make one discover the causes, and to ponder seriously the consequences.

He sees as these causes the prevailing viewpoint that attacks against life in the earliest and final stages are not seen as crimes, but rather as "rights" that the state gives, and that these "rights" enjoy legal recognition and are enabled by health care personnel.

We are confronted with a structure of sin characterized by the emergence of a culture of death which is fostered by a society excessively concerned with efficiency. This argument is used to justify abortion and contraception, which John Paul describes as "fruits of the same tree."

From the moral point of view, John Paul II calls them specifically different evils. Whereas abortion destroys the life of a human being, is disposed to the virtue of justice and directly violates "You shall not kill," contraception contradicts the full truth of the sexual act and proper expression of conjugal love, and is opposed to the virtue of chastity in marriage.

At this point the pope gives a teaching on the use of pre-natal diagnosis. It is licit when used to identify a medical treatment needed by the unborn child. It is illicit when used to justify an abortion.

John Paul then addresses euthanasia and mentions two factors that influence a decision to end the life of one who is terminally ill. First, modern culture sees suffering as an evil, to be eliminated at all costs. Second, people believe they can take control of life and death by taking decisions into their own hands.

He notes a paradox in the modern world regarding human rights. In an age when the

rights of the individual person are solemnly proclaimed and the value of life is publicly affirmed, the right to life at the more significant moments of life (birth and death) is being denied.

Chapter 2 – The Christian Message Concerning Life

John Paul reiterates a fundamental truth. Through the words, actions, and very person of Jesus, we are given the possibility of knowing the complete truth concerning the value of human life. Namely, it is to accept and fulfill completely the responsibility of loving, serving, defending, and protecting human life.

All humanity is in the image and likeness of God. God is the sole Lord of life. We cannot do with our lives as we will. Human life and death are, therefore, in the hands of God. As such, human life is sacred, and the sacredness of life gives rise to its inviolability.

The deepest element of God's commandment to protect human life ("You shall not kill") is the requirement for all humanity to show reverence and love for everyone and the life of everyone. This ranges from caring for the life of a brother (blood, some people or foreigner) to showing concern for the stranger, even to point of loving enemies. An enemy ceases to be one for the person obliges to love and do good to that person. The height of this love is to pray for one's enemy. In that way, harmony with God's providential love is achieved.

John Paul II concludes this chapter by offering a reflection on the Cross. For him, the entire Gospel of Life can be seen in and through the Cross. Darkness associated with the culture of death does not overcome the glory of the Cross, which shines forth evermore radiantly and brilliantly and is the meaning, goal and center of all history and every human life. By his death, Jesus sheds light upon the meaning of life and death of every person.

Chapter 3 – God's Holy Law

John Paul reminds us at the start of this chapter that God, in giving us life, demands we love, respect and promote life. The gift is a commandment and the commandment is itself a gift.

Since each person is formed in the image and likeness of God, each person is given a sacred and inviolable character that reflects the inviolability of the Creator himself. It is precisely for this reason John Paul tells us God will severely judge every violation of "You shall not kill." This commandment encourages a positive attitude of absolute respect for life. The Church's Tradition always consistently taught the absolute and unchanging value of this commandment.

John Paul then writes of three grave evils, the direct killing of innocent human beings, direct abortion (abortion willed as a means or an end), and euthanasia. He uses the strongest language possible in condemning them. He bases these declarations on the authority Jesus gave to Peter and his Successors in unity with all bishops of the Catholic Church, natural law (unwritten law which people, in the light of reason, find in their own heart), Sacred Scripture, and the consistent teaching of the ordinary and universal Magisterium (teaching office of the Church).

John Paul then goes on to mention briefly the canonical penalty of excommunication associated with the sin of abortion. The purpose of excommunication is to make a person fully aware of the gravity of a particular sin and to foster genuine conversion and repentance. John Paul affirms a person involved with an abortion receives what is called a *latae sententiae* excommunication. A *latae sententiae* excommunication is one which is automatically received by a person who commits a morally grave act with full knowledge and total consent

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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, APR. 15	MONDAY, APR. 6
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	MONDAY, MAY 4
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10	MONDAY, JUNE 1

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

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2020 Easter Message from the President

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your church to keep and respect these traditions where and while they exist.

Easter Greetings on behalf of myself and my family and all our Home Office employees. Best wishes and prayers for good health to you and your family.

On a more temporal note, I'm pleased to report that 2019 again was a record year financially for the Society. Results will appear in an upcoming Jednota issue, along with my President's Annual Report. I hope you already have taken the opportunity to read my report regarding the sale of our property in Middletown, PA, in the January 15 issue of Jednota.

Spring is here! Happy Easter!

Christ is risen, let us rejoice and be glad!

Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, radujme sa!

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Easter Greeting from the National Chaplain

Each account of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus in the gospels mentions that a stone was rolled against the entrance of the tomb. Matthew called it a huge stone. Mark has the women going to the tomb after the Sabbath asking each other, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

The stone was rolled back. Jesus is risen. The tomb is empty. But there's something here that doesn't seem to make sense. The Risen Jesus appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room "although the doors were locked." While walking along with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the Risen Jesus "vanished from their sight." Therefore, if the Risen Jesus could appear and disappear at will, then why is the stone in front of his tomb removed?

The reason is not so that the Risen Jesus could come out of the tomb, but rather for the benefit of the first eyewitnesses to the Resurrection (Mary Magdalene, Peter, and others) as evidence that the Crucified One is "no longer here, but is Risen." The sight of the stone removed from the tomb, together with their personal encounter with the Risen Jesus, set the hearts of these original eyewitnesses on fire with an exuberant joy they maintained for the rest of their lives.

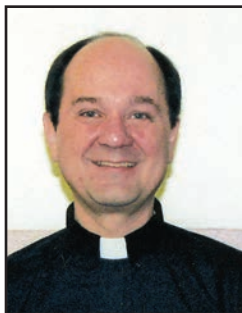
For each of us to possess the same joy and enthusiasm as the first eyewitnesses to the Resurrection, stones we may be using to block an authentic encounter with the Risen Jesus need to be rolled back. Maybe it is the stone of addiction, where we have allowed things such as gambling, drugs, pornography, alcohol, and/or cell phone usage to take control of our lives. Maybe it is the stone of secularism, whereby we separate the presence of God from every aspect of life.

Maybe it is the stone of possessing an "obtuse spirit," that which is condemned by Jesus in Mark 7:22 and is described by the late Scripture scholar Father Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P. as being incapable of noticing the plight of others, especially the poor and needy. Maybe it is the stone of resentment, prejudice, or refusing to forgive.

Once we recognize our stone and it is removed with the help of God's grace, we can come to know that same overwhelming and lasting sense of joy as those who were blessed to see Jesus face to face on that first Easter.

You and your loved ones will be remembered in my Masses on Easter. Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych! Radujme sa!

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Easter Greeting from the National Treasurer

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the holiest season in the church calendar. The Lenten Season represents a time in which we as Christians, spend time in fasting and prayer as we recall the Lords Forty Days in the desert.

As we approach Holy Week and spend time in reflection and prayer as we recall the suffering, crucifixion and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ, for the remission of our sins. May we realize that His sacrifice was to teach each of us that we are all responsible for the lives we live and how we show that in the actions of our daily lives? As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning let each of us reflect on how our Lord wants us to treat each other in these actions and words.

I wish that each of you always find peace and forgiveness in your heart during this Holy Season, and that each of you shine brightly and shed light to others in spreading this peace and forgiveness.

On behalf of my wife Cathy and the entire Matta family, we extend our prayers and thanksgiving, along with the Easter blessing to each of you and your families.

George F. Matta II
National Treasurer



George F. Matta II

Easter Greeting from the National Vice President

On Easter morning, we will get our Sunday's best ready to attend Mass, where we will reflect on our Lord Jesus who died so we could live. He rose again so we would believe. His Resurrection is the renewal of life; what more beautiful time to remember our Lord Jesus, than as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us? Spring, after all, is the beginning of new life.

On behalf of my family, and myself, may the blessings of Jesus guide you, protect you and be with you this Easter season and always.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Easter Greeting from the Executive Secretary

May the light of the Risen Christ be your everlasting joy this Holy Season. Let us remember the promise of Easter morning, that Jesus is calling every one of us to remember his Resurrection where suffering does not have the last word. On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families the blessings of Easter.

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Kenneth A. Arendt



Save the Date for the 55th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, DC, on Sunday, Sept 13, 2020. Details in an upcoming Jednota.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary –
April Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates
Office will be closed on
Friday, April 10, 2020,
in observance of Good Friday.

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



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWLERS



Hospitality Sign Up
FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS
Joint Bowling Tournament

No applications will be accepted after April 13, 2020.

9th ANNUAL NATIONAL JOINT SLOVAK
A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS
"USBC MORAL SUPPORT"
AMF Brookgate Lanes ♦ Bowling
Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16, 2020

Please complete and return this questionnaire with your bowling application.

Please note: Bowling Fees must accompany this application for

Bowler Name: _____

Friday Evening Buffet (Free for Bowlers)

_____ I will have a guest at the Friday Evening Buffet at Brookgate Lanes on Friday, May 15, 2020. Enclosed is my payment of \$12 per guest for the Friday Buffet.

Friday Buffet Guest _____

Friday Buffet Guest _____

Saturday Evening Banquet

Market Salad: mixed greens, cucumber, carrots, tomatoes, croutons, and white balsamic dressing; choice of Parmesan Herb Chicken Breast with Tomato Jam, 6oz Sirloin Filet with Cabernet Sauce or Seared Salmon with Warm Tomato Compote; Garlic Mashed Potatoes; Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables and Dessert.

_____ **YES**, I will attend the Bowlers Banquet at the Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel at 6 PM on Saturday, May 16, 2020.

_____ Parmesan Herb Chicken _____ 6oz Sirloin Filet _____ Seared Salmon

_____ I will have a guest at the Banquet on Saturday, May 16. Enclosed is my payment of \$55 per guest for the Banquet.

Saturday Banquet Guest _____ Chicken _____ Sirloin Filet _____ Salmon

Saturday Banquet Guest _____ Chicken _____ Sirloin Filet _____ Salmon

_____ **NO**, I will **not** attend the Banquet on Saturday, May 16, 2020.

Do you or your guests have any dietary restrictions? If so, please explain:

Return this form with your bowling application by April 13, 2020.
Thank You!



FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS
Combined National Bowling
Tournament

Bowling... All bowling will take place at Brookgate Lanes located at 14950 Snow Road, Brook Park, OH 44142. The phone number is (216) 676-4325 and website is:

<https://www.amf.com/location/amf-brookgate-lanes>

Hotel... The Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel located at 4277 West 150th Street, Cleveland, OH 44135 will be the location for the banquet and also has guest rooms available for \$99/night + tax for Thursday thru Saturday nights. You can reserve your room by calling 216-252-5333 and using Group Name: FCSU GCUSCS Bowling

... or scan the QR code at right with your smart phone to get to the reservation page online.



4-Bowler Teams... The format will again be 4-Bowler Teams, and team members may combine and send only one application if all fees are included. If bowlers are unable to fill all 4 positions on a team, we will assist you.

Squad Time Assignments... There will be two squad times each for the team and doubles & singles events. Team bowling will take place on **Friday, May 15 at 5:30PM & 8PM**. The doubles & singles squads are scheduled for **Saturday, May 16 at 9AM & 12:30PM**.

Friday Evening Hospitality... All bowlers (and pre-paid guests) are welcome to join in for food and fraternalism on Friday, May 17. The hospitality buffet will be served at Brookgate Lanes beginning at 7PM for the 8:30PM squad and will be refreshed as the 5:30PM squad finishes their bowling.

Saturday Evening Banquet... In the interest of fraternal camaraderie and to celebrate the FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS Combined National Bowling Tournament, a celebratory dinner for bowlers and their guests will take place on Saturday evening May 16 at the Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel. The evening will include a plated dinner (includes: Market Salad: mixed greens, cucumber, carrots, tomatoes, croutons, and white balsamic dressing; choice of Parmesan Herb Chicken Breast with Tomato Jam, 6oz Sirloin Filet with Cabernet Sauce or Seared Salmon with Warm Tomato Compote; Garlic Mashed Potatoes; Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables and Dessert) and 2 complimentary drinks (*house wine or domestic beer*) per attendee. FCSU bowlers are free but must complete the enclosed Hospitality Questionnaire form if they plan to attend the dinner. There is also a space to register any guests that will accompany bowlers for the dinner. Guests are welcome at a fee of \$55 per guest. Payment must accompany requests.

Food & Beverage Reservations... Must be made in advance so we can be precise in our attendance guarantees. We have enclosed a Hospitality Questionnaire to complete and return with your application and sent to FCSU Fraternal Activities Director Kevin Collins address on the application form no later than **April 13, 2020**. This will enable us to prepare for the proper number of attendees.

Additional Actual Prize Money... In an effort to increase participation from higher average bowlers, an additional \$1,000 has now been pledged to pay actual score prizes across all tournament events. This will not have any effect on the handicap prizes which will continue to be paid as in the past.

Forms on FCSU Website... Remember, if you need extra applications, all of the forms for the National Bowling Tournament are available on FCSU website—www.fcsu.com.

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	
Name: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Phone: _____	Last 4 Digits SS# _____
E-mail: _____	_____
Name: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Phone: _____	Last 4 Digits SS# _____
E-mail: _____	_____
Name: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Phone: _____	Last 4 Digits SS# _____
E-mail: _____	_____
Name: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Phone: _____	Last 4 Digits SS# _____
E-mail: _____	_____

Please check one: Men's Application Women's Application

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 15

5:30 PM 8 PM

Team Name: _____

(Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name of your Local USBC: _____

Association Secretary: _____

Address: _____

Make all Checks or Money Orders payable to: First Catholic Slovak Union

Mail to: Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL 32712.

Important: Every Individual and Captain on this entry agrees to relinquish his rights to prize money if it should be found that any information herein is false.

BOWLERS: SAVE THE DATE IN MAY



BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SS & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
"USBC CERTIFIED"

Brook Park, OH

May 16, 2020

the bowlers to be registered in the tournament.

No applications will be accepted after April 13, 2020.

FCSU TOURNAMENT INFORMATION	
Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____	USBC No. _____ Branch/District _____
Team: _____	
Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events	
Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____	USBC No. _____ Branch/District _____
Team: _____	
Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events	
Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____	USBC No. _____ Branch/District _____
Team: _____	
Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events	
Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____	USBC No. _____ Branch/District _____
Team: _____	
Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events	

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENT—SATURDAY, MAY 16

9 AM 12:30 PM We could bowl Sunday if necessary.

1. The Tournament shall be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

2. This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol and GCU. The goal of the tournament is to promote fraternalism and good sportsmanship and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol and GCU wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to attend the tournament.

3. **ELIGIBILITY:** This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

4. **CONSENT RULES:** Any grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by USBC and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13.

5. The total cost per person for each event shall be:
 a. Prize Fee \$10.00
 b. Bowling Fee..... \$7.50
 c. Hospitality Fee..... \$4.50
TOTAL COST (per event)..... \$22.00
 Banquet Fee (Optional)..... \$0
 *All Events (Optional)..... \$5.00
 *Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 for the All-Events will be eligible for the cash awards.

PRIZE FEE WILL BE RETURNED 100 PERCENT IN EACH EVENT At least 1 of 10 of participants in each event will win prizes.

Note: Contestant may win only one cash prize event (gross or net), whichever cash prize is higher. Excluding special prizes. Awards will be presented to the Contestants who roll the highest gross and highest actual net scores in each event.

6. **SUBSTITUTES.** Bowlers may compete only once in each event. However, the tournament manager may allow a bowler who has previously bowled to substitute on a four bowler team when one of its original entrants is absent. The score of such bowler in the team event rolled with his entering team must count for all events. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered before the tournament opens or such substitutes who may be authorized by the captain of a team or his appointee provided the individual whose name appears on the entry blank is unable for sufficient reason to attend the tournament at the time scheduled. The National Fraternal Director shall have power as to the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitutes score and handicap from the said event will be used. 7. Any contestant whose current average as of March 15, 2020 of at least 21 games is ten pins or more above his highest average from the previous season must use his current average.

HANDICAP - Handicap (Men) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2018-2019 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2020. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 175 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

Handicap (Women) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2018-2019 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest

sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2020. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 150 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

Under no circumstances will handicaps be increased after participant has bowled.

Contestants in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.

8. **FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY -** The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members, and they are responsible to him. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling.

All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.

9. **Rerating of Bowlers -** According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-E, bowlers may be rerated by the Tournament Committee. 10. All entry applications and bowling fees are to be sent directly to: Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL 32712; not later than April 13, 2020. Rule 310-A2 is in effect.

11. Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before public and when possible to use an emblem attached to shirt or dress so that participant can be identified.

12. Both USBC and eligible non-USBC members may participate in moral support tournaments with high score protection automatically extended to USBC members. Eligible non-USBC members can qualify for high score protection at their option by paying a \$21.00 fee for which the Congress will issue an unattached membership card.

13. **NO MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.** All prize fee money will be paid in prizes.

14. In the Doubles contest the names of both members of the team must be given, because entries with the word "Partner" will not be accepted.

Entry blanks so compiled will be returned and the entry money retained until proper blank is received. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as they have been entered on the original entry blank and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry blank has been filed.

15. **Assignment of Alleys -** The Tournament Committee will make up the alley assignments for all entrants in the Doubles, Singles and Team Events.

Entrants in the Doubles and Singles Events are required to report fully 30 minutes prior to the time they are scheduled to bowl.

Captains of teams must report their line-up at least 30 minutes before scheduled to bowl.

16. In the Doubles & Singles Events bowling entrants will bowl all six of their games on the same pair of lanes. Bowlers entered in the Singles Event only will be assigned to alleys by the Committee.

17. A team may use a name other than its league name for tournament entry without the payment of additional membership dues as formerly required.

18. Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.

Entries will close at midnight April 13, 2020.

Please note: all forms must be filled in completely and sent to: Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL 32712. Entry fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry. All incomplete forms will be returned to team captain to be completed and re-submitted.

Financial Totals for this Application

_____ Singles Event..... @ \$22 ea. =	\$ _____
_____ Doubles Event..... @ \$22 ea. =	\$ _____
_____ Team Event..... @ \$22 ea. =	\$ _____
_____ All Events..... @ \$5 ea. =	\$ _____
_____ Banquet Fee (Bowler)..... @ \$0 ea. =	\$ _____
_____ Banquet Fee (Guests)..... @ \$55 ea. =	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Focus on Heritage

How Branch 55 Celebrated Annual Christmas Eve Vilija, Epiphany & Blessing of Homes

The Slovak custom of the Christmas Eve Vilija was held at Wesley on December 29, 2019, for members of Branch 055. This event took over for the one that we sponsored for several decades at St. Agnes-St. John Nep. Slovak Church until it was cancelled after the passing of our beloved Pastor, Father Francis G. Lendacky and Branch 055's Chaplain. Of those present, four generations of the legacy of John Gaydos (longtime President of Branch 055) and his wife Mary, were in attendance at this beloved Christmas Eve Vilija, combined with the Epiphany, the Blessing of Homes and "Chalking of the Doors."

The dinner was opened with a prayer in English by Erik Payne, President of Branch 055K, for all members living and deceased, followed by the Prayer Before Meals in Slovak by our ten-year-old Jayden Adiletto. We observed the tradition of eating in solemn silence in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. We began with lighting the candles, then the Oplatky dipped in honey were eaten after the Wine toast, offered by Mary (Gaydos) Golden—these, that is the Oplatky and Wine, symbolize the sweetness of God's Graces in Holy Communion. The members blessed each other on the forehead with the honey. The garlic cloves dipped in salt to guarantee good health during the year were then passed around. Then Erik Payne, the oldest male Head of House among us, broke the bread and passed it to everyone, as a sign of unity in faith.

Although, this year we were not able to prepare the usual soups that are the traditional main courses, we well remembered the aromas of these being cooked at Babi's house. Both the dried mushroom soup and the sauerkraut soup symbolize the bitterness of life. While the dried vegetable soups (pea, bean, and lentil soups) provide nourishment, and are the gifts from the plowed soil—gifts from God and work of human hands - these are also part of the diet eaten by Daniel and his friends in the Old Testament. The last dish served was the fish entree served with the



Tristan (Golden) Hack blessing his great-grandmother, Mary (Gaydos) Golden, with Honey during the Epiphany Celebration of Branch 055 KJ

Lilyanna Rose Payne as the Blessed Mother, and Jayden John Adiletto as St. Joseph during the Christmas Eve Celebration of Branch 055 KJ.

pirohy, made by Jill Payne. The meal ended with dessert, the traditional assortment of kolače, and conversation was resumed.

We then had the children enact a miniature manger scene. Lilyanna Payne was the Blessed Mother and Jayden Adiletto was St. Joseph. A fifth-generation newborn, two-week old Remington Grey Davis, would have been our Baby Jesus, but was at risk to travel the distance from New Jersey, so we used a doll. We sang O Come All Ye Faithful, and Silent Night. Tristan played the drum with the help of Laura Lynne Payne while everyone sang The Little Drummer Boy. When Mary Golden sang Babi's favorite Slovak Christmas carol – Kedy Jasna Hviezda (When the Eastern Star Rose) – everyone had tears in their eyes recalling how Babi sang it from the very depth of her soul. Our beloved Josephine Gerba, who is also no longer with us, translated the song into English and sang it for us every year after Babi died. Then, for the benefit of the children, Mary Golden, told the story she wrote about 45 years ago for her daughter, Kathe Golden-Brady, about Winky, the Littlest Elf who didn't have anything to do for the Baby Jesus. And the one about The Tear Drop that Became the Star of Bethlehem. We reminisced about Winky remembering when

we did it as a play and had enough young ones to play all the parts, and recalling that our President, Erik Payne, was the first Santa; Kurt Payne, the first Winky; Jeanmarie Payne-Abate, the first Star; Rosemarie Payne-Smyth, the first Mrs. Santa; Dyanmarie Payne-Chitty, the Raggedy Ann Doll; and Cyril Nicholas and Paul John Gaydos were the elves.

We are happy to add that several groups of members within our branch who have moved out of state, were able to gather together in their own States of Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio, and assimilate our Branch activity of December 29th, 2019. They joined us in spirit by texting and sending photos of their Vilija and Christmas Pageant Event.

And it just so happens that over the many years that Branch 55 performed our production of the Christmas "Shepherd's Pageant" and "Winky Play," at the home of John and Mary Gaydos in Broomall, PA; we also, upon request of the Community Service, presented our Play to the residents of Havertown Hospital Nursing Home on Christmas Day.

Vice-President Cathie Litwinowicz told the children a few stories she learned from her father, Steve Gajdos, about the games the children played in Slovakia. She then gave them a clue to search for the coins and



candies hidden under the tablecloth—one of the games played in Slovakia. The children were delighted to hunt for them.

Helena Gaydos explained that the Epiphany menu is the same as the Christmas Eve menu and is eaten on the Eve of The Epiphany, but this time we are anticipating the Magi (said in later tradition to be Kings) from the East who are credited with manifesting the Birth of the Christ-child for the salvation of souls to the whole world. So, we sang We Three Kings. Everyone proceeded to Helena Gaydos' apartment where the President led the Epiphany prayers, sprinkled the apartment with Holy Water. And Kurt Payne wrote, with blessed chalk, the year and initials of the Three Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar: 20+C+M+B+20 on the inside of the front door. Everyone was given a piece of blessed chalk and a copy of the prayers to take home and bless their own homes.

It turned out to be a very enjoyable and nostalgic day.

- Submitted by Helena T. Gaydos, Branch 55 Secretary-Treasurer

Learn Slovak This Summer

Kathleen Manukyan,
Managing Director, SLI

Renáta Kamenárová, Director of Pittsburgh in Bratislava Program, SLI

We are very excited to offer a unique intensive Slovak summer program at the University of Pittsburgh's Slavic East European, and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute (SLI) that includes a study abroad option in Bratislava. Significant scholarship funding is available for 2020, and all applicants to the Slovak courses are eligible.

The Slavic department at the University of Pittsburgh prides itself as being a principal center for the teaching of Slovak language and culture in all of North America. SLI is the only US-based summer intensive program to offer Slovak at the beginning through advanced levels.

For the summer of 2020, we have developed a new partnership with Comenius University's renowned Studia Academica Slovaca for our 10-week hybrid program, offering 6 weeks of intensive Slovak at SLI in Pittsburgh (a city proud of its deep cultural ties to Slovakia) followed by 4 weeks of continued language study and cultural immersion in Bratislava. Students may also choose to attend just the Pittsburgh course during a given summer. Dr. Kamenarova, a leading expert in Slovak pedagogy and the author of the most widely used Slovak textbook, will be in attendance as an instructor in Pittsburgh and serve as the students' guide in Bratislava. More information about the domestic and hybrid programs can be found on our webpage: <https://www.sli.pitt.edu/program-listing/slovak/domestic>

SLI accepts undergraduates, graduates,

and highly-motivated non-affiliated learners. Moreover, all applicants to our programs, including non-traditional students, are eligible to apply for one of our generous scholarships, regardless of academic affiliation or rank.

Our students come from all over the county for the learning opportunities, which include not only language training in all four modes (speaking, reading, listening, and writing), but also a rich program of extra-curricular activities including film screenings, lectures, ethnic picnics, music, crafts, and other community and cultural activities. Each summer we welcome a cohort of students of diverse backgrounds, ages, and motivations for learning Slovak, all united by their focus on acquiring Slovak proficiency rapidly and enjoying learning about Slovak culture with expert faculty and collegial peers.



Out-of-state students may study at SLI for fees equivalent to the in-state tuition rate. With SLI scholarships applied, our courses are one of the most affordable options out there for this kind of specialized training.

We are enthusiastic about the expansion of our Slovak program and honored to help students to learn the beautiful Slovak language in Pittsburgh and Bratislava.

Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, slovakcooking.com

Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



1 yolk, 2 cups flour, 2 sticks margarine, 100g ground walnuts, 100g powdered sugar, 1 packet of vanilla sugar
Mix all ingredients until you get a sticky dough with the consistency of play-dough. Grease and dust with flour crescent-shaped metal baking forms. Press the dough into the forms and bake for 8 minutes at 375F. Coat with powdered sugar or dip ends in chocolate.

Hearts (Srdiečka)



4 cups flour, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1.5tsp baking powder, 200g margarine, 2 eggs
Knead the dough until you get a smooth texture. Then roll out and cut out various shapes. Bake for 12 minutes at 350F. Join two matching halves with jam (raspberry and red currant work great) and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rings (Venčeky)



250g flour, 250g margarine, 100g ground hazelnuts or almonds, bit of salt, half a spoon of cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of orange zest and juice, 1 egg, 5 spoons of white wine
Combine the ingredients to make the dough. Roll out and use dough circle cutters of two different sizes to cut out the ring. Bake for 15 minutes at 350F. Coat in powdered sugar combined with vanilla and cinnamon. Combine the cut out dough and repeat.

Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



2 cups powdered sugar, 2 cups ground walnuts, 1 yolk, shot of rum
Mix all ingredients together and roll into a ball. Coat in powdered sugar, chocolate, or coconut shavings. That's it, no baking required!

Walnuts (Oriešky)



Dough: 150g ground walnuts, 5 cups flour, 1.5 sticks butter, 1-2 eggs, 0.8 cups sugar, 2 tbsp cocoa
Cream 1: 4 eggs, 0.5 cups powdered sugar, 1 packet vanilla sugar. Cream 2: 1.5 sticks butter, 0.5 cups powdered sugar
Mix the dough ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured metal form for 8 minutes at 375F. Whisk ingredients for Cream 1 in a double boiler until it becomes like honey. Let cool down. Whip Cream 2 ingredients together and add to Cream 1. Use the cream to join two halves to make a delicious walnut.

Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



Chocolate: 150g chocolate, 3/4 stick of Crisco, 3 tsp cocoa
Filling: 100g of ground nuts, 150g powdered sugar, 1/2 stick of Crisco, 2 teaspoons of cocoa, 0.4 cups milk
Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or on low heat. Stack paper cups on a tray and pour quarter inch of chocolate into each. Save half the chocolate for later. Let cool. Cook the ingredients for the filling on low heat. Spoon onto the chocolate. Top off with the remaining chocolate and a walnut for decoration.

Fánky



2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 yolks, 2 tbsp powdered sugar, half a stick unsalted butter, 4 tbsp cream, 2 tbsp white wine (or rum), 1/2 cup of milk

Mix the ingredients and place the dough in a fridge to cool. Then roll out to 1/6th inch. Cut into rectangles the size of your palm. Cut two slits near the short edges. Tread the ends through the slits to make bow ties. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Top with powdered sugar.

Šišky (Donuts)

2 cups flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar, 1/5 stick unsalted butter, dash of salt. Topping: jam filling and powdered sugar



Mix all ingredients to get a smooth dough. Let rise. Then roll out on a dusted board to one inch thick. Dust the rim of a drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles. Fry in oil. Top with jam and sugar.

Easter Treats!

You will find all these recipes along with step-by-step photo instructions at SlovakCooking.com



Come Join Us



FCSU National Picnic

Sunday,
August 8, 2020

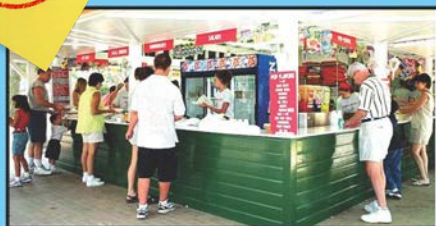
Frogbridge
7 Yellow Meeting House Road
Millstone Township, NJ 08510

SAVE THE DATE

This all-day National Picnic, filled with food & fraternal fun, is free for FCSU members ... look for details in upcoming issues!



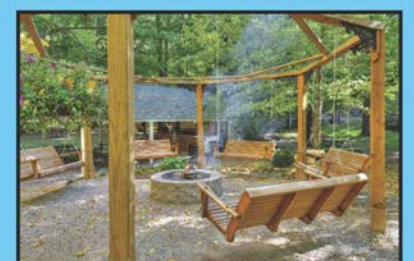
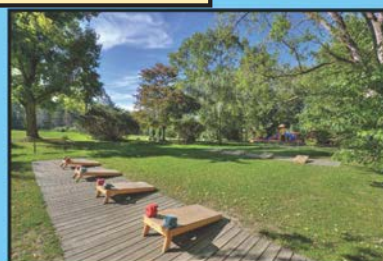
Making Memories at Wiegand Lake Park



Saturday,
June 28, 2020

Wiegand Lake Park
9346 Kinsman Rd
Novelty, OH 44072

This all-day National Picnic, filled with food & fraternal fun, is free for FCSU members ... look for details in upcoming issues!



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

An Interview with Slovak Basketball Player Marek Dolezaj at Syracuse University

Joanne Engle Austin Branch 112, Secretary of the Supreme Court

We Slovak-Americans are a proud group and when we hear of our ancestral country or someone from our ancestral country in the news or in sports, we take notice. That's what happened to me when I learned my alma mater, Syracuse University (SU), has a Slovak playing for their Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's Basketball team. His name is Marek Dolezaj and he graciously agreed to meet me before practice on a typical Syracuse afternoon in February: just above freezing and with a fresh coating of snow. Marek is tall and lean at 6'10" and 185 lbs. and is playing his third year with the team as a Forward. He sat down with me in the beautiful Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center up on the SU hill to talk for a few minutes about his Slovak upbringing and how he ended up coming to Syracuse for basketball.

Marek was born in Bratislava, Slovakia, to Milos and Ladislava, a banker and professor respectively, in April of 1998. He has height and athleticism in his genes: his father is 6'8", his mother was a high jumper, and his older sister played volleyball. Marek first played soccer like much of the rest of young European children but around the age of seven he said a coach suggested he give basketball a try and the rest, as they say, is history. Marek played basketball for the Karlovka Basketball club in Bratislava and represented Slovakia in the Under-16, Under-18 and Under-20 national teams. He also played in Spain for one year at age 16. He was good at basketball, not just with the natural height but with talent, and on top of that he enjoyed playing. Marek began thinking that he could possibly make a living doing what he loved. During this time, he started putting videos of himself



Marek Dolezaj from Bratislava, Slovakia, currently plays for Syracuse University

on YouTube which was noticed by SU Assistant Basketball Coach Adrian Autry. Autry had seen the videos, called Marek in Bratislava, and eventually traveled to Slovakia to recruit Marek. He was given a basketball scholarship to Syracuse University and began his freshman year at SU in 2017.

He had learned English in school as a student but he said learning it in a classroom is completely different than having a normal conversation with English speakers. He said his first three months at SU were mostly spent with his head down and his keeping quiet. Coming to a new land and getting the full immersion experience can be daunting but Marek had help. He met up with several Slovak families in the area and he's grown close

to a couple of them over the past three years. I asked if he speaks his native tongue with the families but he said he actually speaks English when he's hanging out with them. He has also had an American girlfriend for about two years so even though he's only been in the US for three years, his English is fantastic!

Syracuse basketball sometimes has events over the summers, like last summer when SU played in Italy, but Marek tries to get home to Bratislava every summer when he can. He visits anywhere from two to six weeks if he can manage it. His family also comes to the US to see him. His parents were here last Thanksgiving and his sister came for Christmas and he meets up with them in New York. He hopes to get home again to Bratislava for a few weeks after this semester.

The key differences Marek notices between Slovakia and the United States, besides the language, is that Americans tend to have a faster pace; we work a lot, eat on the go, get our food in drive-through's, Starbucks to go, we go to work, go home, and do it again, and again, and again...

He said that folks in Slovakia tend to sit and talk over a meal or will sit down over coffee instead of always getting everything to go. Slovaks also have more time off than Americans, and I guarantee that

that contributes to the more relaxed pace.

We were running out of time and basketball practice was going to start soon so I asked Marek what his plans were post-SU. He was pragmatic and said he has a year to go in school and wants to finish his degree in Education at Syracuse. He said he'll figure out what to do when the time comes and I cannot agree with him more. He was friendly, relaxed, and genuinely pleasant to talk to and I'm hoping for the best for Marek. If he wants to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA) I will be rooting for him all the way! I googled Slovakian NBA players and found only one from the early 1990's (Richard Petruska from Levice, Slovakia, drafted by the Houston Rockets in 1993). As a Slovak-American I'm proud of my heritage and cheer on the country of my ancestors when I see teams from it; the Slovak Olympic Hockey team, Slovak tennis players competing in Grand Slam matches, and Marek Dolezaj playing some awesome hoops here for my own alma mater. Way to go Marek!



Marek talking to FCSU's Joanne Engle Austin

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.



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.**

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.




ATTENTION

COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

Deadline Extended
MARCH 31, 2020

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,
March 31, 2020**



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

Attention Recommenders

Per state regulations, starting April 1, 2020 commissions will not be paid to non-licensed recommenders who sell insurance or annuity policies for the First Catholic Slovak Union. Only licensed agents will receive a commission. Non-licensed recommenders will receive a referral fee.

A \$25 referral fee will be paid to non-licensed recommenders for each insurance policy issued once underwriting is complete and the first-year premium has been paid.

The referral fee applies to the following policies:

Whole life or single premium whole life policies with a face amount of \$5,000 or more

Term policies with a face amount of \$25,000* or more

A \$25 referral fee will be paid to non-licensed recommenders for each annuity policy once underwriting is complete and the policy has been issued.

The referral fee applies to the following policies:

Annuity policies with a deposit of \$2,000 or more

If you wish to become a licensed agent in your resident state, please contact the Home Office for further information.

Fraternally,

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary

*Referral fee does not apply to JEP policies

Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sisters Cities Tour 2020



If you would like to be a King, Queen, Prince or Princess for four days, then come join Kay and Jim Bench on our 22nd Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour of Slovakia from July 10-24, 2020. We will spend the first two days of the tour and the last two days in castles that have been made into hotels. Never before have we done this! For a sneak preview of these castles you can visit the websites of Palace

Art Hotel Pezinok at <https://www.palacearthotel.sk/sk/> and the Grand Viglaš at <https://grandviglas.com/>. Both castles are breathtakingly beautiful.

We will be flying from Pittsburgh, PA, to Newark NJ, and then non-stop to Vienna Austria. Our 49 –passenger, air-conditioned bus with a rest room will be awaiting us along with our guide Viera and bus driver Arnie.

Talk with the oldest living relative you have and find out where their ancestral village is located. Walk the streets of your ancestral home and visit with relatives.

Castles, churches, kolibas, tour of Vienna, folk performances, rafting on the Dunajec, visiting caves, boating in a cave, visit Hungary for lunch, shop in Poland, see the beauty of the Tatras, see where Janošik (the Slovak Robin Hood) was born, visit Litmanová, Čičmany, Červený Kameň, Marianska Hora, and many other places too numerous to mention. Get your walking shoes out as we will be walking all over Slovakia.

Space is limited so book your slot now. First come, first served.

Total Costs (Air fare and Land Arrangements):

\$4,469 per person from Newark (airfare included \$1969)

\$4,269 per person from Pittsburgh (airfare included \$1769)

Adventure international Travel Service Paul Hudak Ph 216-228-7171; 800 542-2487

Jim and Kay Bench 428 W. 4th Ave Derry, Pa 15627 Cell phones Jim 724-858-5843 Kay 724-771-7900 or e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com or skbench@gmail.com

We are waiting for your call!



15th Egg EGGstravaganza in Uniontown, PA

15th Egg EGGstravaganza, Sunday, March 29, 2020, from 12-5PM, will be held at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, PA. Egg artists display, demonstrate, and sell decorated eggs, Easter items (embroidered basket covers, lamb butter molds, decorated candles) and crafts for purchase, children's Easter theme activities, explanation of traditional Easter foods for basket blessing, Lenten lunch menu, baked goods (including long rolls and more) workshop on making pysanky, raffles and basket raffles, door prizes. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. For info: call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9AM-3PM Leave message.)

Your Phone Call Is Important to Us

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



1. Leave a brief reason for your call.
2. Be sure to state your full name, and spell your last name.
3. Along with your phone number, let us know the best time to contact you between the hours of 8:00AM and 4:30PM, M- F.
4. Remember that we can only discuss a contract or certificate with the owner or with permission from the owner.

Attention Branch 743 Members: 2020 Scholarship Program



Branch 743 of Sterling Heights, MI, is pleased to announce that it is providing funds for the 2020 Branch 743 Scholarship program. Any member of Branch 743 who qualifies for a FCSU scholarship will be eligible to receive \$250.00, on a one-time basis, from the Branch. You must be a member of Branch 743; have had a policy for at least 4 years; current in premiums; a high school senior and attend

an approved educational institution. If you are awarded a FCSU Scholarship you must attend the Branch annual meeting to be held at St. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, MI on Sunday December 13, 2020 at 1 PM. If a candidate fails to appear at the December 13, 2020, annual meeting they shall not be eligible for the \$250.00.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Embracing Weakness

Many people associate this month with great happiness and joy due to the Feast of St. Vln college, Shannon K. Evans joined a charismatic evangelical community. She met her husband Eric through that church, and they moved to Indonesia to become missionaries, due to a sense of obligation to convert people. But that obligation felt like a burden when Shannon's efforts weren't having the effects she envisioned. She was supposed to be the American swooping in with the answer to eternal life, yet the natives were unresponsive. Then came the ballet class.

As a fun activity for the young girls in her community, Shannon watched ballet tutorials on Youtube and began to teach them simple steps. As a result, it was the first time Shannon experienced a "sense of actual connection with these people," she told me during a "Christopher Closeup" interview. They were all beginners learning together. In a culture that emphasizes God's power and strength, Shannon realized that approaching people with humility was the better option. It wasn't just the information she had to impart to them that was important, but also what she could learn from them – and how she could connect with them.

Shannon came to see that embracing weakness gave her a better understanding of the Incarnation and Passion of Jesus – and she wrote a book about her insights called "Embracing Weakness." She said, "The inclination to gravitate to the power of God is prevalent wherever you go in the Christian tent. It feels good because it makes us feel like winners...It enables some of us to feel superior to others who might not be looking as good and shiny from the outside. But when we look at the gospels, that is not the message that Jesus was coming to present...[We have] a God who came from perfect glory and comfort, who took on the discomforts of flesh, the grief, the pain of what it is to be human. That transforms us, and I think that is the model that can transform the world when we embody that in our relationships the way that Jesus did."

As her views on faith evolved, Shannon and Eric converted to Catholicism. One reason was that Shannon felt uneasy about the evangelical view of salvation – the idea that you're saved forever. She said, "I think that salvation is a more mysterious and long-term journey. So that spurred us to begin looking into Catholic teaching, and there we found other things that we agreed with and fell in love with." One of those areas was the Church's "theology of suffering." It struck a chord with Shannon and Eric because of the challenges they were facing with their adopted son, who endured trauma early in his life. Their prior church believed that anything could be healed if you just prayed more. That view, however, fell short when healing didn't happen.

Shannon said, "We came to identify with this idea that suffering doesn't always have neat and tidy answers...So, finding that [idea that] suffering could be beautiful, and could lead us closer to Christ – and, more specifically, to birth compassion for our fellow human beings – that is so much of what God has shown me suffering is for."

Ultimately, Shannon hopes that reading "Embracing Weakness" leads people "to rest in God, and be able to stop striving and stop putting pressure on themselves, and simply be in God. When we do that, we are broken open and able to see how God is moving in the world around us – and that the world around us is actually really beautiful."

News From Slovakia

OLaNO zvíťazilo, v parlamente by malo 53 kresiel, PS/Spolu mimo NR SR

Tesne pred bránami parlamentu ostala koalícia PS-Spolu, ktorej sa len tesne nepodarilo získať sedem percent hlasov, celkovo dostala 6,94 percenta

Bratislava 1. marca (TASR) - Po sčítaní všetkých okrskov na Slovensku by malo byť víťazom parlamentných volieb hnutie OLaNO, ktorému sa podarilo získať 25,02 percenta hlasov. Za ním skončila strana Smer-SD s 18,30 percenta hlasov a hnutie Sme rodina s 8,24 percenta hlasov. Vyplýva to z priebežných neoficiálnych výsledkov zverejnených Štatistickým úradom (ŠÚ) SR. Volebná účasť dosiahla 65,79 percenta.

Do parlamentu by sa mala dostať aj ĽSNS so 7,98 percenta hlasov, strana SaS so 6,20 percenta hlasov a strana Za ľudí s 5,76 percenta hlasov.

Tesne pred bránami parlamentu ostala koalícia PS-Spolu, ktorej sa len tesne nepodarilo získať sedem percent hlasov, celkovo dostala 6,94 percenta. Neuspelo ani KDH, ktoré získalo 4,65 percenta hlasov.

Do parlamentu sa nedostane Maďarská komunitná spolupatričnosť so ziskom 3,92 percenta hlasov, SNS so ziskom 3,16 percenta, strana Dobrá voľba, ktorá získala 3,06 percenta ani strana Vlasť so ziskom 2,92 percenta. Neuspela ani strana Most-Híd so ziskom 2,06 percenta hlasov.

Celkovo sa podarilo Matovičovi získať od voličov najviac preferenčných krúžkov, a to 495.126. Za ním najviac hlasov získal Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD), a to 411.254 a predseda Smeru-SD Robert Fico konkrétne 242.098. Päťicu kandidátov, ktorí získali najviac krúžkov, uzatvára predseda ĽSNS Marian Kotleba a líder hnutia Sme rodina Boris Kollár.



Vodca OLaNo Igor Matovič deň po víťazstve jeho strany vo všeobecných voľbách. Foto - TASR

OLaNO leader Igor Matovic the day after his party's victory in the general election. (Photo by TASR)

Official: OLaNO Wins Slovakia's General Election on 25 percent

Bratislava, March 1 (TASR) – The OLaNO Opposition party of Igor Matovic won the general election on Saturday on 25.02 percent of the votes, gaining 53 seats in the 150-member House, ahead of the current main governing party Smer-SD on 18.29 percent (38 seats), according to official election results announced by the State Electoral Commission on Sunday.

Other seats in Parliament will be taken up by We Are Family (8.24 percent – 17 seats), the far-right People's Party Our Slovakia (7.97 percent – 17 seats), Freedom and Solidarity (6.22 percent – 13 seats) and For the People (5.77 percent – 12 seats).

The Progressive Slovakia-Together liberal coalition, which produced President Zuzana Caputova last year, hasn't made it into Parliament, somewhat surprisingly, as it received a mere 6.96 percent, while it needed at least 7 percent as a coalition of two parties. The threshold for single parties was 5 percent.

Other notable parties also fell short, including the Christian Democrats (4.65 percent), Hungarian Community Solidarity (3.9 percent), and two co-ruling parties – the Slovak National Party (3.16 percent) and Most-Híd (2.05 percent).

The turnout reached 65.80 percent.

impulsively, willing to invest more money due to the election. "After reflecting these data on the whole Slovak airline ticket market, these are thousands of people," said Pelikan PR manager Jozef Rybar.

Rybar noted there's need to consider the fact that contrary to the presidential election, Slovaks are able to vote by mail in the general election. "Therefore, Slovaks' current demand for airline tickets is enormous and definitely a record-high in the history of the elections in Slovakia," he said.

According to Pelikan's data, Slovaks are returning home to vote in the election chiefly from Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium. These are countries where a considerable number of Slovaks have been working or studying.

Pelikan analysts filtered out as many as possible external influences from election statistics, including the general growth in the number of passengers in air transport, currently decreased interest in travelling due to coronavirus spread, new flight lines and clearance sales of tickets by airline companies.

Na letisku v Bratislave sa začalo s meraním teploty priletajúcich pasažierov

Bratislava 27. februára (TASR) Na Letisku M. R. Štefánika v Bratislave sa už podrobili meraniu teploty prví cestujúci, ktorí prileteli na Slovensko. Podobné kontroly pasažierov by mali trvať až do odvolania, a to aj na letiskách v Košiciach a Poprade. Opatrenie nariadila Bezpečnostná rada SR v súvislosti s hrozbou koronavírusu.

S meraním na bratislavskom letisku sa začalo v piatok. V rámci monitorovania sa sleduje, či má pasažier teplotu nad 38 stupňov. Podľa vedúcej hygieničky rezortu Kataríny Chudíkovej zatiaľ nemuseli riešiť žiadny takýto prípad.

Cestujúci sú informovaní aj prostredníctvom materiálov, ktoré sú k dispozícii na letisku. Budú sa im tiež rozdávať letáky s inštrukciami zamerané na to, aby sa pasažieri sledovali a v prípade zvýšenej teploty oslovili zdravotnícke zariadenie. Zdôraznila, že je vhodnejšie zavolať rýchlu zdravotnú pomoc a nenavštevovať ambulancie osobne.

Hygienici kontrolujú všetkých pasažierov priamo v priletovej hale. K dispozícii majú teplomery aj termokamery. Ako uviedol rezort dopravy, v priestoroch letiska sú zariadenia na penovú dezinfekciu rúk pre cestujúcich a zamestnancov a v najbližších dňoch bude k dispozícii aj zariadenie na celopriestorovú povrchovú dezinfekciu, ktorou je možné čistiť vzduch.

Príznaky, pri ktorých je podľa nej potrebné kontaktovať lekára, sú podobné príznakom chrípkového ochorenia. Na základe toho sa v zdravotníckom zariadení vykoná vyšetrenie, či už röntgen pľúc a virologické potvrdenie na prítomnosť vírusu. Tým sa podľa jej slov potvrdí alebo vyvráti, či je daný človek postihnutý koronavírusom.

V rámci preventívnych opatrení je podľa nej dôležitá osobná hygiena, časté umývanie rúk aj dezinfekcie priestorov. Útvár vedúceho hygienika rezortu dopravy sa aj preto v nariadeniach smerom k letisku zameril na to, aby sa stierali plochy ako držadlá či kľučky dezinfekčnými prostriedkami.

Pracovníci letiska, ktorí prichádzajú do kontaktu s cestujúcimi, musia byť vybavení respirátormi a rukavicami. Momentálne je za ministerstvo dopravy v opatreniach zapojených 15 zdravotných pracovníkov celkovo, teda nielen na letisku v Bratislave, ale aj v Košiciach a Poprade.

Doposiaľ sa na letisku realizovali opatrenia bez merania, pričom zahŕňali aj vyplnenie formulára, ktorý hovorí o tom, či sa u posádky alebo pasažierov prejavili príznaky ochorenia. Týkalo sa to všetkých letov z Talianska. Od piatka sa na medzinárodných letiskách SR vykonáva meranie teploty každého pasažiera.



Letisko M. R. Štefánika v Bratislave Foto – TASR

M.R. Stefanik Airport in Bratislava (Photo by TASR)

Every Passenger from Abroad to Be Checked for Coronavirus at Slovak Airports

Bratislava, February 27 (TASR) – Medical checks on every passenger arriving from abroad at three international airports in Slovakia will be carried out as of Friday as a measure aimed at preventing the spread of coronavirus, Slovakia's Security Council decided at a meeting on Thursday.

Random checks will also be performed and leaflets distributed at border crossings, mainly those for vehicles coming from Austria.

A permanent emergency team has been set up at the Health Ministry to deal with measures to contain a possible epidemic. This body will also be able to propose that the Government should declare a state of emergency in the country.

The Interior Ministry has been asked to provide information on the risks of coronavirus to Slovaks who are currently abroad. It should be possible to reach them via their registered mobile phone numbers. Public service Radio and Television Slovakia (RTVS) has been tasked with preparing an information campaign on the risks of coronavirus on radio and TV.

The Foreign and European Affairs Ministry should consider restricting its consular services in countries affected by coronavirus.

Slovak hospitals can currently provide 7,700 beds within measures to tackle a possible epidemic, while the Defence Ministry has presented a project that involves placing around 2,500 patients at the Lest military exercise facility in central Slovakia.

The State Material Reserve Administration will receive €2 million for purchasing 148,000 pieces of protective clothing and other items.



Treasures tour goers 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

Online Slovak Language Course This April



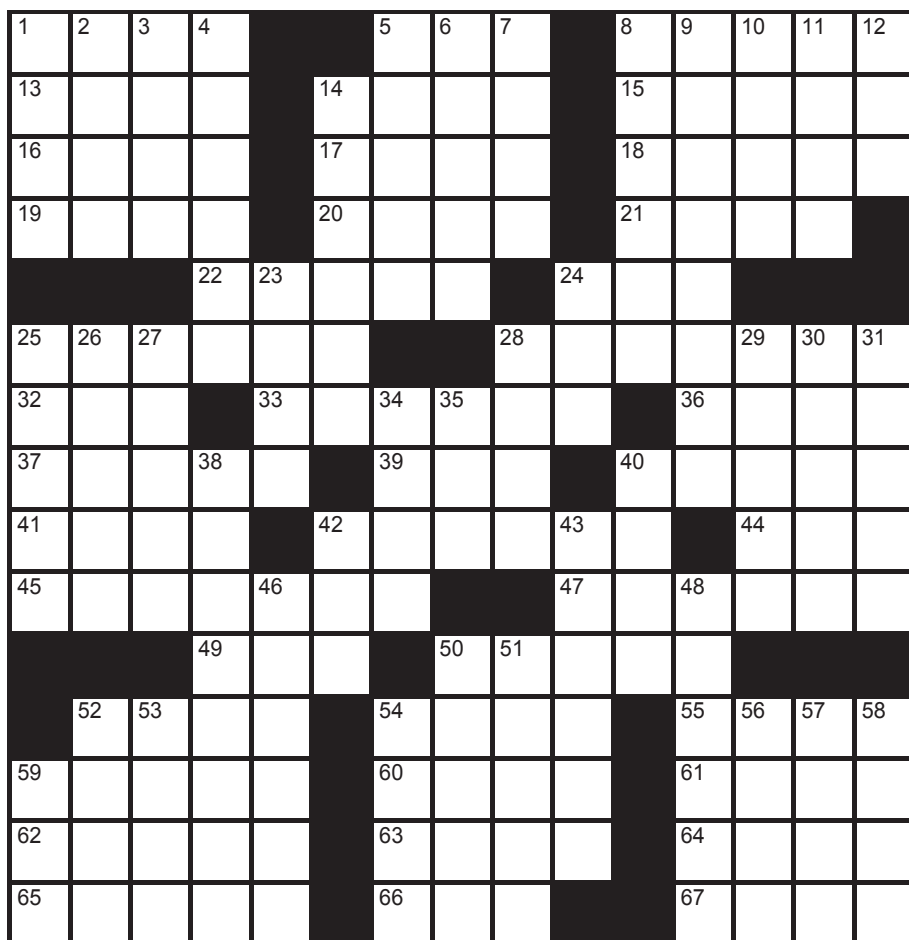
An online Beginning Slovak Language course sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI) is being offered Thursday evenings from April 2 to June 11 (but no class on April 9) from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm EST. In this 10-week, 20-hour course, participants will learn basic Slovak vocabulary and phrases and be introduced to Slovak grammar. The course is designed to be interesting

and informative—and also includes various aspects of Slovakia's rich culture and traditions. A PDF Course Book and audio files are provided. The instructor is Dennis Ragan, who has been teaching basic Slovak language and 'real' halušky culinary classes for 17 years. The cost is \$195 (\$180 for members of CGSI). For additional details and a copy of the course syllabus, please contact Dennis at dragan322@gmail.com

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 French cleric
- 5 Inquire
- 8 Bathroom item
- 13 Cell phone items
- 14 Remote button
- 15 Red fluorescent dye
- 16 Actor Stoltz
- 17 Pressing need?
- 18 Wept
- 19 Tibetan monk
- 20 Shopping place
- 21 Horse color
- 22 Plain writing
- 24 Gymnast's goal
- 25 Some movie roles
- 28 Bullfighter
- 32 Family card game
- 33 Venomous Aussie snake
- 36 Opportune
- 37 Bungle
- 39 Tank
- 40 Sour sort
- 41 Brainstorm
- 42 Morning starter
- 44 African antelope
- 45 After root and wine
- 47 Movie preview
- 49 Mormons, initially
- 50 Western resort lake
- 52 Expressed
- 54 Busy place
- 55 Country bumpkin
- 59 Yule melody
- 60 Panache
- 61 Persia, today
- 62 Wide open
- 63 Large butte
- 64 Exchange premium
- 65 Court wear
- 66 LAX setting

67 Permits

Down

- 1 Biblical shepherd
- 2 Vamp Theda
- 3 Fedora feature
- 4 Slip away
- 5 Mystiques
- 6 Squirrel away
- 7 County in SE England
- 8 Password, usually
- 9 Heart attack
- 10 Atlas section
- 11 Property claim
- 12 Dissolve
- 14 Silver wattle
- 23 "Zuckerman Unbound" novelist
- 24 Crayola color
- 25 Brick-shaped
- 26 Battery terminal
- 27 Traveler's stop
- 28 Chess ending
- 29 Fender mishaps
- 30 Offer one's two cents
- 31 Happen again
- 34 Currier's partner
- 35 Norm
- 38 Muse of poetry
- 40 Disney goldfish
- 42 Accounting entries (Abbr.)
- 43 Goddess of wisdom
- 46 Confuses
- 48 Forward pass
- 50 Scrabble pieces
- 51 "Cease!" to a salt
- 52 Palm starch
- 53 Oman man
- 54 Cord fiber
- 56 Exhort
- 57 Can of worms?
- 58 Hazzard County lawman
- 59 Beetle, e.g.

See Solution on Page 23

2019 JEDNOTA COLOR

REGION 1

Age Group 4-6

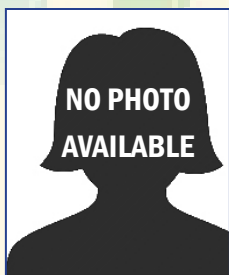


First Place
Madison Shenloogian
Morris Plains, NJ

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Shea Griffis
Land O' Lakes, FL



Second Place
Kaitlyn Shenloogian
Morris Plains, NJ



First Place
Violet McNamara
Point Pleasant, NJ



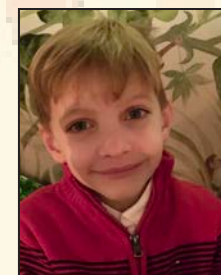
Second Place:
Luke Griffis
Land O' Lakes, FL

REGION 4

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Maria Meyer
Torrance, PA



Second Place
Joseph Bunta
Canonsburg, PA

REGION 2

Age Group 4-6



First Place:
Olive Keller
Pacifica, CA



Second Place
Charleigh Gross
Levittown, PA



Third Place
Jonah Sterling
West Orange, NJ

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Joshua Desiere
San Diego, CA

Age Group 10-12



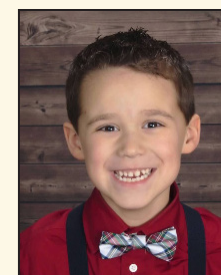
First Place
Ethan Logan
Warminster, PA

REGION 5

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Braden Skoloda
Latrobe, PA



Second Place
Miles Walsh
Monongahela, PA

REGION 3

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Zach Keiser
Cary, NC



Second Place
Oliver Pechmann
Salt Lake City, UT



Third Place
Adelaide Carone
Norfolk, MA

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Noah Pittsman
Mayfield, PA



Second Place
Paige Keiser
Cary, NC



Third Place
Nadia Pluto
Foster City, CA

REGION 6

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Georgia Victory
Akron, OH



Second Place
William
Akron, OH

Age Group 10-12



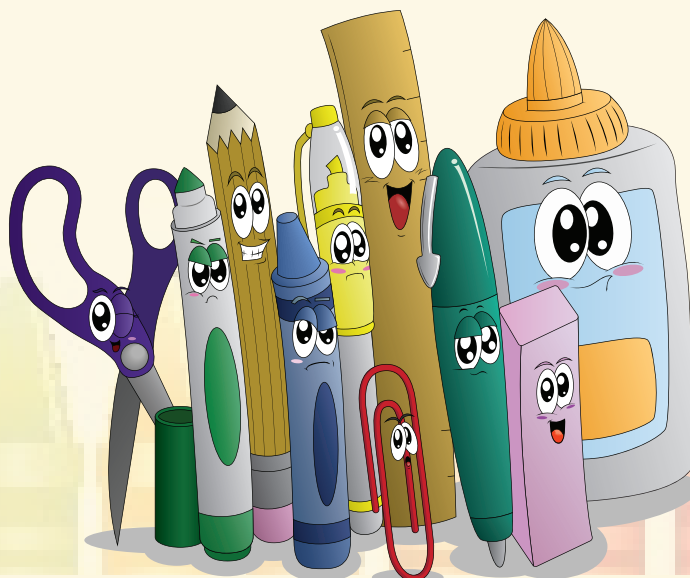
First Place
Michaela Hilley
Waxhaw, NC



Second Place
Bridget Fay
Nicholson, PA



Third Place
Arthur Eddy
Wilkes Barre, PA

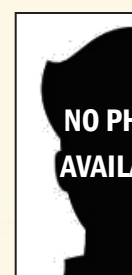


REGION 7

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Carolyn Riedmuller
Oaklawn, IL



Second Place
Emm
Whittier, MO

SPRING CONTEST RESULTS



Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Third Place
Jackson Dlugos
Latrobe, PA



First Place:
Symeon Kardohely
Clearfield, PA



Second Place
Alivia Rizza
McMurray, PA



Third Place
Leo Divonzo
Elizabethtown, PA



First Place
Abigail Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Second Place
Max Dlugos
Latrobe, PA



Third Place
Martin Meyer
Torrance, PA

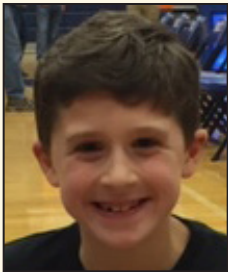


Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



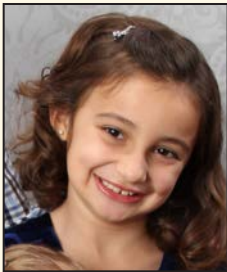
Third Place
Daniel Zemelman
Woodbridge, VA



First Place
Zachary Skoloda
Latrobe, PA



Second Place
Ethan Fibbi
Pittsburgh, PA



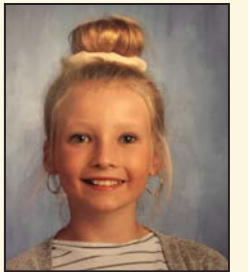
Third Place
Cara Zemelman
Woodbridge, VA



First Place
Natalie Walsh
Monongahela, PA



Second Place
Morgan Skoloda
Latrobe, PA



Third Place
Camille Berg
Bridgeville, PA



Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Third Place
Scarlett Victory
Seven Hills, OH



Third Place
Scarlet Victory
Akron, OH



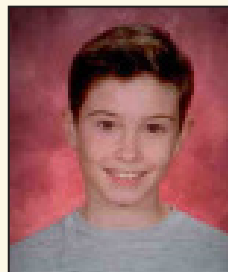
First Place
John Valencik
Brooklyn, OH



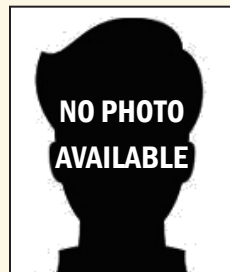
Second Place
Zachary Sedlacko
Poland, OH



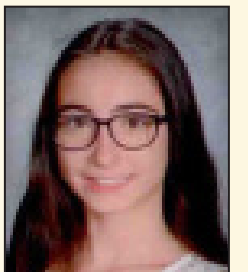
Third Place
Elliot Kandra
Aurora, OH



First Place
Artem Fedoriouk
Seven Hills, OH



Second Place
Kamden Dubber
Lakewood, OH



Third Place
Sofia Fedoriouk
Seven Hills, OH



Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



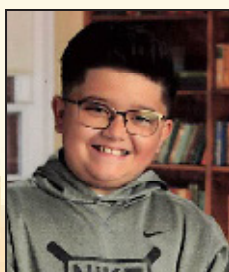
Third Place
Brent Oost
Neenah, WI



Third Place
Brent Oost
Neenah, WI



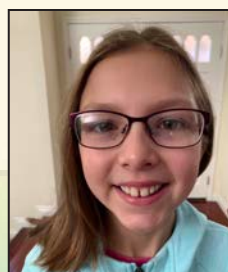
First Place
Ryan Riedmuller
Oaklawn, IL



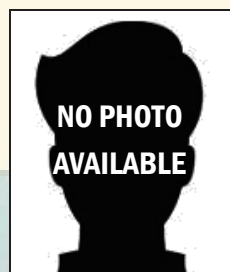
Second Place
Max Bacon
Streator, IL



Third Place
Juliana Oost
Neenah, WI



First Place
Elizabeth Vadkerti
Orange, CA



Second Place
Logan Lazzara
New Lenox, IL



Third Place
Nicholas Jurcenko
Orlando Park, IL

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on April 26, 2020, at 1:00PM at Burntwood Tavern located at 19304 Detroit Road, Rocky River, OH. The meeting will be held before the luncheon. Those interested in attending, please call 216-338-8179 by April 14, 2020, so that the restaurant can properly accommodate our branch. All members are invited to attend.

Marie Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 9:00AM at Holy Trinity Church 52 Parish Street, Ramey, PA, 16671. The meeting will take place in the church basement. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The first meeting of the year will be held on April 26, 2020 at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Rd., Trumbull, CT at 9:30 a.m. Officers' reports will be given and plans for activities during the year will be discussed. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

"PARTY!!" "PAINTING PARTY" ... relax... EXPRESS YOUR SELF!! BE CREATIVE ... Come have fun with your Jednota Family.

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Branch 23 will be hosting a Painting Party. The Party will be held at the Venue of Merging Arts (VOMA), 305 Chestnut St. Johnstown, PA.

The Painting Party will begin at 2PM, under the direction of Professional Arts Educator and professional artist Karen Mesaros. Karen, who is also a member of FCSU, will lead us and teach us to paint. By the end of the class (Party) you will have your own painting to take home.

Bring a friend. The cost is \$30 but ---will be FREE to Branch 23 members. All are welcome.

If you never tried this before and always wanted to – please come. No experience necessary. All supplies included. RSVP to Theresa Cassat: 814-254-2532.

Theresa Cassat

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2020, at 1:00PM in the Activity Center of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church, 8111 Brecksville Rd, Brecksville, OH 44141. On the agenda: a discussion of general branch business and upcoming activities for the year. A catered luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2020, at 1:00 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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční polročná schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 29. Marca 2020 o 13:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdži.

Mária Juráši, pokladníčka

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2020, at the Eat'n Park in Edgewood Towne Centre (1605 S. Braddock Ave. Pittsburgh, PA. 15218) at 1:00PM. On the agenda will be Officers' reports and discussion of upcoming events. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Branch Secretary

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

Branch 132 will hold its second meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 1PM.

We will continue discussing the various annuities and IRAs that are paying rates higher than most banks and institutions. Bring any question you have; we will have all forms available to complete at the meeting for any IRA or annuity you would like processed. Senior high school students please remember to call Sue for the scholarship forms and Sue will mail those to your address.

We all would like to see another scholarship winner from Branch 132K – Erin and Maggie are so grateful and appreciative to know that it was enough to pay for all their books and incidentals that are so necessary going off to college. Erin and Maggie have already finished three semesters and are going on their forth. We wish the ladies continued success.

Discussion will be held for our next garage sale: we can all start bringing items and we will hold them for late July's garage sale.

The members at our December meeting –after making the gingerbread house – found out it was too late to enter. We all had fun and friendship doing it and promised ourselves it won't happen next year.

Please bring any suggestions, questions, opinions, or ideas that you feel would make our Branch 132 more productive and fun.

Have a great and warm March.

Josie Copp, Secretary

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, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

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

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

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 of will meet on Saturday, April 25, 2020 after 5 p.m. mass in the St. Florian Church Social Hall.

Refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend.

Plans for the annual family picnic to be held Sunday, June 28th will be discussed.

Any eligible Branch 181 high school students graduating in 2020 planning to attend a higher education institution or career/trade school, please submit your scholarship application by the April 3 deadline. See scholarship flyer on page 9 of this issue. For more information call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Meetings for Branch 200 are held upstairs in the Banquet Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City. Officers meet @ 7PM with the Members meeting directly following. We meet the first Thursday of each month except June and July. Meeting dates for this year (2020) are as follows: April 2nd, May 7th, August 6th, September 3rd, October 1st, Nomination of Officers November 5, and Election of Officers December 3rd. We look forward to you attending.

Plans are going well in preparation of our 125th Anniversary celebrating October 1st – October 3rd. I would appreciate any history of the Slovak Club. It started in 1895 in a home next door to the current building. The Sokol and the Slovak Club were once affiliated with each other. If anyone has pictures or the names of the Men's baseball or Women's softball teams members pre WWII, please contact me at vscglaub123@gmail.com or leave a message @ 724-763-9229. Also contact me if anyone would like to put an ad in the program. So far confirmed we are having a band on Friday evening Oct 2nd. Saturday Mass will be held at the Christ Prince of Peace Church on 4th Avenue, Ford City, PA, at 1PM with Bishop Malesic and Father Nasta. Cocktail social @ 2:30PM with dinner following @ 3PM. Johnny Murphy Big Band to literally "play" for their supper (free of charge). So "Save these Dates" and look for more information to come. Invitations will be going out to neighboring Districts and Officers of the FCSU.

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

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 comradery so give us a try!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will hold its 2020 Spring meetings at 1 PM on Sunday, March 15, 2020, and Sunday, May 17, 2020. A Fall meeting is planned for November 15, 2020. 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 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313, St. John the Baptist Society, will be holding a semi-annual meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020, at 11:30AM. The meeting will be held at Fox's Pizza, located at 9655 W 143rd St, Orland Park, IL, 60462. The meeting will be followed by a fraternal luncheon. Branch members are welcome to attend.

Please R.S.V.P. to Marge or Jennifer @ (708)226-8157 before 4/19/2020, if you would like to attend.

**Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary/
Treasurer**

BRANCH 358K – SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

There has been a merger between Branch 358K Superior, WI and Branch 926K Wisconsin, WI.

All members of Branch 358K will now hold membership in Branch 926K. This merger has taken place as of January 21, 2020. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
6611 ROCKSIDE RD
STE#300
INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131
(800) 533-6682

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Branch 367, Fairchance, PA will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 25th, 2020 at noon. We will meet at the Mountain View Café, 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA. All members are invited to attend. Please call Audrey Balazik, President 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary 724-569-1006 for reservations.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, will conduct its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2020, in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Auditors will meet at 12:30PM to check the books.

Officers and members will gather for the business session at 1:00PM.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and auditors. Members will also discuss future branch activities. Information from the Home Office will be disseminated.

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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A copy of the Annual Report to the Home Office will be presented.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend.

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Slovak Ambassador to the United States Ivan Korcok will be in Pittsburgh for a meet and greet on Monday March 23, 2020. The meet and greet will be at The Crown Plaza, 164 Fort Couch Road, Pittsburgh PA, 15241. The Ambassador will be available for the meet and greet 7-9:30 pm. Members from 401K will be attending.

On Monday April 27, 2020, at 7PM, the Bratislava Boys Choir will be appearing at The Frick Fine Arts Center, 4127 Schenley Dr. Pittsburgh, PA, 15260. The group consists of 45 members ages 7-28. The choir has performed around the world; here in the US they have performed in Chicago, LA, San Francisco, NYC and DC. They have won many International awards. Their music has a wide repertoire including Georgian chants, contemporary composers, concert Masses, Renaissance music and folk songs, to name a few. Members from 401K plan to attend. See page 18 for details.

Patrick Froncek, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401, invites all branch members to attend the 2020 Semi Annual meeting to be held at 1:30PM July 19, 2020, at China Lobster Restaurant, 3215 Leechburg Road, New Kensington, PA, 15068. Members are encouraged to attend; your input and involvement are important to the branch. The Branch 401 focus for 2020 will be on our local Slovak Heritage (the idea birthed from the JEDNOTA article titled Focus on Heritage). Branch 401 wants to collect biographical member's family histories both electronic and hard copy for future generations. It is the branch's hope to create an electronic archive. Members interested in contributing to this archive, please contact Recording Secretary, Kathy Froncek at 724-689-3369 or kmfroncek@yahoo.com. Be watching for summer activity of Pittsburgh Pirates ball game!

Fraternally submitted,

Patrick Froncek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020, at 2:30 at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Call for reservations by Thursday, March 19 2020, at 724-425-2576. All members are invited to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2020, at 11:00 AM. Meeting will be held at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH. 44129. On the agenda will be discussions of branch business and the summer activities for members. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary.

BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2020, at 2:00PM at the Eat n' Park Restaurant,

2301 R. 286 So., Indiana, PA. Discussions will include scholarship applications, advertising of our branch, participation in Jednota-sponsored activities, membership, and more.

Hopefully we will be discussing information from our most recent district meeting.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Lent is a special time of the year – a great opportunity to support your Branch by attending our weekly Fish Frys. Served from 4:30-7:00 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave 44311. Come enjoy our Fried Fish All-You-Can Eat Buffet – which included macaroni and cheese, hot rice, cabbage and noodles, French Fries, Cole Slaw, roll and butter for Adults \$10.00, Children 10 and under \$7.00. We also have a Baked Cod for \$15.00 which includes the buffet. Baked Cod must be pre-ordered each week by 5 pm on Thursday – call 330-786-9972 to reserve this option. We also offer chicken strips.

Mark Your Calendar:

Mar. 18 Sandie Klucar's Homemade Lasagna \$10.00

April 1 Spaghetti – Served 4:30 – 7:00 pm

April 12 HAPPY EASTER

April 15 Wednesday Monthly Dinner – call the club for meal info

April 26 Lodge Meeting 3:00 pm

May 6 Spaghetti – Served 4:30 – 7:00 pm

July 25 Kielbasa Open at Mayfair Country Club

Your participation in events and Lodge Meetings help to make the Branch stronger. Come join us. Hope to see you at all events.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Saturday, April 4: Easter Party from 2 – 4PM, at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth Street, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444. Free and open to the public, the party includes hot dogs, chips and dessert plus candy for the kids – and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny! All are welcome.

Cora Garcia, Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628 St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 141 Bellevue Drive, Penn Hills, Pa 15235 at 2:00 PM.

The agenda will include current business of the branch and plans for activities throughout the coming year.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society Branch 716 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday April 26th, 2020 after the Slovak Mass at 1:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room in St. John Nepomucene Church in NYC. The agenda includes will include a financial report and discussion for upcoming activities for the Branch. All members are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Jednota Branch 721 will have their spring meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2020, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary, located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. All members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, May 17, 2020. The meeting

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - REVEREND JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The District 2 Semi-Annual(Spring) Meeting will be held on the date of, April 26, 2020. The meeting will take place in the dining room of "The Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict Convent" located at, 5900 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL. Hospitality begins at 1:30PM, followed by the meeting at 2:00PM. Delegates from each Branch in District 2, Region 7, are encouraged to attend...take part! Represent your Branch! Hear about what is happening and/or join in on the discussions... then stay after for a little more fellowship and a tasty complimentary fraternal dinner!

Fraternally Yours,

Jennifer Carlton, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 –THE GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold our Semi-Annual meeting on Saturday, March 21, 2020. We will meet following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church in United, Pa. in the Formation Room. On the agenda will be discussion of district and branch news and our successful Stedry Vecer. Food and beverages will be served. We look forward to a great attendance.

Secretary, Linda L. Gonta

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2020, at the Deer Lake Inn located at 7504 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI 48346 (that is exit 93 on I-75, and just 1 mile west of I-75).

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports and New Business which includes 2020 District Financial Report.

A special election will take place for the election of District Treasurer and District Secretary. Both Officers stated at the October 2019 meeting of their intention to retire. In addition the vacancy for Vice President exists as no one was elected for this position at the October, 2019 meeting.

Branch 743 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (PHONE NUMBER) 248-714-9620 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 20th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$20.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will NOT be charged.

Branches are reminded that FCSU Bylaws EFFECTIVE January 1, 2019 have been published and additional copies are available from the Home Office.

The Branch representative is asked to bring a raffle item to the meeting.

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

Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary
4945 Wavewood Dr.
Commerce twp., MI 48382
248-714-9620

DISTRICT 6 – 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. You must RSVP. Please contact Janet Sullivan at 412-824-4185 by Sunday, April 19 (a week prior to the meeting).

Branch 38 will host the Fathers' Day Luncheon on Sunday, June 21. Details will be finalized at the April meeting. RSVP to Flo Matta at 412-466-7460 by June 1. Save yourself time and trouble and bring your information to the April business meeting.

Pirates Baseball Game – Saturday evening, August 1 – Includes Fireworks Night – Seats on the third base line with a great view of the city. More information will be available at the April business meeting. Bring your reservations to Activities Director Brad Matta.

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:

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd, Mt Lebanon PA. March 2: Folklore in Slovakia; April 6: Summer School in Slovakia #2; May 4: Current Issues in Slovakia; June 8: Immigrant Experience. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events and other newsworthy items.

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

** Tour to Slovakia, Poland, Vienna & Prague – August 21 to September 5 – Contact Joe Senko for itinerary.

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

** Pierogi Day at Kennywood – Sunday, September 27

** "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.

** 2020 Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Tour – June 22 to July 3 – Poland, Slovakia, & Ukraine. 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.

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Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	George F Pastor	075K	Marie Kobi	260K	Helen E Shiller	670K	Roseann Cochran
002K	Robert A Direng	085K	Dennis Pitoniak	321P	Robert J Polacek	670K	Thomas David Kuma
004K	James T Farrell	102K	Reverend Joseph Balas	367K	Stella Medlen	686K	Mark Edward Davis
005P	Leona Verbyla	122K	George Kapusta	367K	Carolyn E Pluto	731K	Janet F Sivecz
005P	John W Wassil	144P	Edward P Shershan	382K	Edward J Chorba	731K	Anna Varso
023K	Julia Rosko	153K	Joseph Steven Bohil	382K	Barbara Ann Simonson	746K	Paul E Balas
024K	Frank R Hanobik Sr	157K	Francis Paul Holena	393K	Barbara Kaper	746K	Bennie Scibek
024K	Gerald John Martin	162K	Betty Jane Lukach	393K	Thomas S Smolka	746K	James Witos
024K	Shirley Ann Oyaski	166K	Richard Bedosky, DDS	425K	Paul John Slota	764K	Ronald A March
024K	Richard Stropki	173K	Thomas Fricovsky	450K	Frances Kleinhenz	796K	Edward Kacsur
024K	Thomas J Zele	173K	Rosemary Lombardo	484K	Thomas Kolesar	796K	Paul Kucharik
035K	Rev Joseph R Grosko	173K	Josephine C Mamola	484K	Edward Ligda	831K	Tancredi A Rucci
038K	John H Havrilla	181K	Margaret Bart	484K	Mary Ann Wolfe	855K	Anne H Adamcik
038K	Eleanor A Melko	181K	Betty Jane Harr	553K	Ronald V Olenick	855K	Joseph L Leonard
040K	Joanna Stith	181K	Leonard J Ostrosky	553K	Anthony Petrasek	855K	Florence H Ondercin
045K	Emilia Brajuka	200K	Agnes Pavlekovsky	553K	Edward S Sekel	855K	Edward J Turza
055K	Eleanor E Krkoska	254K	Elizabeth M Reed	553K	Joyce M Walsh	856K	Thomas P Liptock Sr
055K	Raymond Roncase	260K	Nancy Duigou	580K	Adam J Droschak	857K	Robert R Hegedus
055K	Catherine Tillie Taroski	260K	Thomas K Garcar	581K	Andrew J Kapral Jr	900K	Ernest A Moore

*Processed through the month of February

OBITUARIES

ELIZABETH HVIZDOS REED BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Elizabeth Hvizdos Reed, age 80, passed into eternal life after battling cancer for many years. She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years, Rex H. Reed, and their four children: Jennifer (Sister Miriam Fidelis, RSM), Dr. Steven (Jahnelle), Julia (Tom) Yazdgerdi, Roger (Vanessa), and three grandchildren: Emma, Kevin, and Lucas Reed. She also is survived by five siblings and many nieces and nephews.

THOMAS K. GARCAR BRANCH 360 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Thomas K Garcar, 68, passed away October 10, 2019.



Tom was born December 26, 1950, in Youngstown, OH, the son of Steve and Mary L Simkovic Garcar. He was a 1968 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School.

Thomas proudly served in the US Army Artillery Division during the Vietnam War from 1970 to 1972. He was a specialist second class with the rating of Sharpshooter on the rifle range. Thomas then returned to work at Youngstown Sheet and Tube and LTV Steel until their closing.

Tom enjoyed hobbies of fishing and watching football.

Thomas will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his brother, Stephen (Carol) of Livonia, MI; his sister, Ruth Garchar of Youngstown; his nieces and nephews, Stephen (Lori), Christopher, and Susan (Leonard) Minor; his great niece, Lauren and great nephews, Ryan and Jack.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family would like to especially thank his caregivers, Bob and Jewel Pluchinsky, also, friends Monty and wife, Nicholas, Jimmy and Sammy Fitch, and Frank, Tina and Josh. The family also sends many thanks to all of Tommy's doctors and nurses at the Hope Cancer Center, Saint Elizabeth Hos-

pital and Saint Elizabeth Select Specialty Hospital on Belmont Ave. and St. Elizabeth Mercy Health Hospital of Boardman, OH.

- Submitted by Ruth Garchar

STELLA J. MEDLEN BRANCH 367- FAIRCHANCE, PENN- SYLVANIA

On December 25, 2019, Stella (Ochociensky) Cervenak Medlen, passed away in Albuquerque, NM at The Woodmark Memory Care Facility, where she resided for more than seven years. Stella was born on December 1, 1921 in York Run, PA, to her Polish immigrant parents, Salomea and Joseph Ochociensky. She was the youngest of 6 siblings who grew up in Footedale, PA. Just before the beginning of WWII, Stella married Albert Cervenak from nearby New Salem, PA. Stella and Al moved to Cleveland, OH, where they worked in factories and where their daughter, Patty, was born. Al was a tool and die maker and Stella worked in a converted stove factory making and inspecting WWII airplane doors. When Al was drafted into the US Navy, Stella and Patty moved back to Pennsylvania to be near family. There Stella went to work on a coal mining tippie sorting coal. It was hard and cold outdoor work. After only one year in the navy, on May 11, 1945 her husband, Seaman 1st Class Albert M. Cervenak, was killed by a kamikaze during the Battle for Okinawa. He was serving on the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill (CV-17). Stella became very active in the local, state and national endeavors of the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 753 New Salem; the Gold Star Wives of America, and the American Medical Association Auxiliary, all of which are involved in charitable and patriotic works. At age 27, Stella experienced a Ruptured Cerebral Aneurysm from which she eventually recovered. At this time, she met Dr. Rudolph Medlen, a well-loved local physician who became the family doctor. Twenty-two years later they married. In addition to his medical practice,



for many years Dr. Medlen was the Supreme Medical Advisor for the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). Stella and "Doc" especially enjoyed the friendship, activities and travel with Jednota. Sadly, Stella was widowed again in 1991. Stella was known for her sense of style, the love of her Heritage Hills home and the knack of finding 4-leaf clovers everywhere. Stella has two interviews published in Common Lives of Uncommon Strength: The Women of the Coal and Coke Era of Southwestern Pennsylvania by Evelyn A. Hovanec. One discusses her work on a coal mining tippie. The other discusses her mother and Dr. Medlen's mother who graduated in the same Midwifery class. Stella also prepared and donated the "Medlen Family Collection" to The Coal and Coke Museum at Penn State University, Uniontown Campus. The collection is a compilation of midwifery records, papers and tools of Stella Medlen's mother, Dr. Medlen's mother and Dr. Medlen. Stella was predeceased by her parents, husbands, sisters Martha Marshall, Viola Kinkopf, Genevieve (Goldie) Natale, Wanda Olsen; brother Adam (Ike) Ochociensky, and infant grandson Christopher Michael Albani.

She is survived by her daughter, Pat Cervenak Albani and husband, Dick of Albuquerque, NM; grandson Ric Albani of Sacramento CA; granddaughter Robyn Albani, great granddaughter Kylie and great grandson Liam of Los Lunas, NM, and many nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Pat Albani

BARBARA KAPER BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENN- SYLVANIA

Barbara M. Kolonosky Kaper, 83 of Hagerstown, MD, and formerly of Mt. Pleasant, MD, died unexpectedly Thursday morning, December 19, 2019, at her son's home, with whom she resided.

She was born November 25, 1936 in Greensburg, PA, the daughter of the late



John and Elizabeth Cehlar Kolonosky.

Barbara was a faithful member of St. Pius X R.C. Church, Mt. Pleasant.

She was a graduate of Greensburg Salem High School, Class of 1953. For a number of years, Barb was employed by the Coca Cola Corporation at the former Volkswagen Corp, New Stanton, in their cafeteria, until their closing.

Barb was a loving mother, grandmother and sister to her family.

Barb is gone from our lives, but will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Her loving and devoted children: Kathy A. Dick and husband Brion, Sr., Donald A. Kaper, Jr. both of Hagerstown; her grandchildren: Kristen E. Dick and Brion E. Dick, Jr. of Hagerstown; her brother: John Kolonosky of Mt. Pleasant.

In addition to her parents, Barbara was preceded in death by: her husband, Donald A. Kaper, Sr. (February 24, 2008); four sisters: Kathryn Valentage, Mary and Elizabeth Kolonosky and Helen Porcatzi.

The family will be forever grateful to Barbara's healthcare aides, Sandy Bream, Teresa Coyle and Kathy Brenneman for their exemplary care, compassion and love shown to Barbara.

- Submitted by Kathy A. Dick

ANTHONY (TONY) PETRASEK BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Anthony (Tony) Petrasek joined his beautiful son, Little Tony, along with his brothers and parents in heaven on July 14, 2019. Tony was a charismatic and strong, caring man who was both loved by many and gave his love to many. Tony believed that life was about creating wonderful memories. Tony was a proud Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Retiree who spent years there involved in the union.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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is at Café 422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, OH, at 4PM. Plans for summer events will be on the agenda. We hope to see you there.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members are invited to celebrate Mass commemorating the feast day of Saint Joseph, Patron Saint our Branch 731. Mass will be on March 15, 2020 at 11 am at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Our December 2019 meeting included the election of officers for 2020. Elected were President Irene Makovec, Vice President John Leskovyansky, Recording Secretary Jim Bobby, and Financial Secretary Jackie Bobby. We would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2020.

Jim Bobby, Recording 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.

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 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

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

John Bacha, Michael J Bires, Kimberly Ann Bobinski, Lynette M Brink, Louise M Cassar, Patricia Fahner, Stephen Forish, Charles Furchak, Natalia Greslikova, Christine Harman, Elizabeth Harman, Sharon Langlois, Judith Likavec, Judith Madar, Ann Moss, Valerie Moss, Diane F Rench, Daniel M Reszka, Paul Skwarko, and Emily Turcol.

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

Joseph Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary Branch 743

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. This will be a planning meeting for upcoming events, namely the Kentucky Derby Party Meeting (Saturday, May 2nd) and our annual summer picnic. Refreshments will be served. Kindly RSVP to Mary Ann Ranahan @732-251-6035 by March 21st if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local pantry.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

St. Joseph the Guardian, Branch 756, will hold its Spring meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2020, at 10:45AM. The meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1259 East Main St., Owosso, MI. The agenda will include information from the recent District meeting as well as local Branch business and Officers' Reports. FCSU members are invited to join us for Chicken Dinner in the main hall following the meeting. We hope to see you there!

If unable to attend, please contact us at 989-277-8787 with any questions or policy/address changes.

Gary Gregoricka, President

BRANCH 769 – ENDWELL, NEW YORK

There has been a merger between Branch 769K Endwell, NY and Branch 166K Windsor, NY.

All members of Branch 769K will now hold membership in Branch 166K. This merger has taken place as of February 06, 2020. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

ARLO H MEEKER
54 HARVEY SMITH RD
WINDSOR, NY 13865-1053
(607) 775-4896

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 784 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

There has been a merger between Branch 784K Montreal N Quebec, Canada, and Branch 785K Mississauga, ON, Canada. All members of Branch 784K will now hold membership in Branch 785K. This merger has taken place as of

February 18, 2020.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

ANNE MITRO
1094 HEDGE DR
MISSISSAUGA, ON CANADA L4Y 1G2
(905) 279-8154

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856 will have their semi-annual meeting on April 27, 2020. This meeting will be held at the Tavira Restaurant, 8401 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, 20815. Lunch will be at 11:30AM followed by our meeting. In order to make reservations please call Marion Mistrik at 301-5638 by April 23, 2020. On the agenda will be report on district meeting that was held in Mahanoy City, PA. Financial report and election of officers for 2020. Discussion on plans for the 55th Anniversary mass of the Slovak Chapel to be held on September 13, 2020 at 11:30AM in Crypt Church in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Bring your suggestions for other activities that we could do this year. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363

Katherine Nowatkoski, President

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

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

Tony met his one true love, Connie Gogos, at the unveiling of the Harvey Firestone sculpture in 1950. They had been married for 64 years and he will forever be in Connie's heart. Tony leaves his children, Michele (Ken) Boldt, Paula (Mark) Edmunds, Leslie (Michael) and David. He also leaves his wonderful 21 grandchildren that he shared precious times with, especially on his favorite holiday - Christmas. Tony also leaves many cherished nieces and nephews along with special brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Ronnie and Gloria Smoot. Tony had more friends than we can name who were also very dear to him.

Tony was a founding member of St. John's Catholic Church and belonged to many organizations. He was a hard-working and well-traveled man who believed "sitting was not on my agenda". He will be sorely missed by all but a truly beautiful angel who we look forward to meeting again – "We will meet you by the river Dad, PopPop, Tony."

- Submitted by **Connie Petrsek**

THOMAS DAVID KUMA, SR. BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Thomas David Kuma, Sr., age 87, from Brookline, PA, peacefully passed away on Sunday, January 19, 2020. He was the son of the late John Kuma and Irene Ponchak and the loving husband for sixty-four years to Mary Kuma. Thomas enjoyed spending time golfing, bowling and even traveling to different parts of the country. He served in our United States Military as an Army Reservist and was very involved in parades and events for his VFW, Post 1810 as a Commander.

Thomas is survived by four children, Lynn (Robert) Huggins, Janet (Joseph) Meyers,



Larry Kuma (Steve) and Donna (Adam) Sodini, five grandchildren, Robert Kuma, Amber Huggins, Mark Meyers, Matthew Meyers and Sydney Sodini, five great-grandchildren, Brady Kuma, Cooper Kuma, Ettalyn Huggins, Layton Huggins and Josephine Meyers. Thomas was preceded in death by his son Thomas David Kuma Jr.

- Submitted by **Janet Meyers**

ANNA VARSO BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Anna Varso, who passed away on January 29, 2020, was born in Cleveland, OH, on December 28, 1919. She was the daughter of the late Charles and Mary Hlinka. Beloved wife of John Varso, Sr. (deceased). Loving mother of Beverly (deceased) and John Varso, Jr. (Joann). Dear sister of Helen Rabak (deceased) and John Hlinka (deceased). Loving aunt of Christina, Helen, and Frank Rabak, and James and Denise Hlinka. Dear grandmother of Ty and Keith Cook, and "Grandma Ann" of Kayleigh, Kyle, Jocelyn, Jacob, Emily, and Kaitlynn Cook.

- Submitted by **John Varso, Jr.**

ANNE H. ADAMCIK BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Anne H. Adamcik (nee Jasko), age 90, entered into rest Monday November 11, 2019.

She was the beloved wife of the late John A. Adamcik Jr. loving mother of James P. (Rowena) Adamcik and Christine A. Adamcik, cherished grandmother of Kyle C. and Casey R. (Tyler) Feitshans, dearest sister of Robert Jasko, Raymond Jasko, Rudy Jasko and the late John Jasko.

She was also preceded in death by her parents Paul and Suzie (nee Grieger) Jasko.

- Submitted by **James Adamcik**



Blow, Blow, Mighty March

Blow, blow, mighty March, Blow the winter's gloom away.

Let wet April shed her tears: And bring to bloom the golden May.

@2018, George Kossik, Branch 584

Veľvyslanectvo Slovenska vo Washington, DC

Prvá zastávka v Bratislavského Chlapčenského Zboru US Tour 2020

Bratislavský chlapčeský zbor je súčasťou slovenskej umeleckej scény od roku 1982. Skupina je súčasťou súkromnej hudobnej školy s približne 90 študentmi vo veku od 7 do 28 rokov.

Koncertný súbor, ktorý má v súčasnosti 45 členov, roky spolupracuje s poprednými symfonickými orchestrami (Slovenská filharmónia, Symfonický orchester Slovenského rozhlasu, Viedenský symfonický orchester, Viedenský rozhlasový symfonický orchester). Tieto spolupráce obohatili repertoár zboru desiatkami oratórií, kantát a symfónií (JS Bach, L. Bernstein, B. Britten, A. Honegger, G. Mahler, C. Orff, C. Penderecki, M. Ravel, I. Stravinsky, E. Suchoň...) pod s vetoznými dirigentmi vrátane O. Lenárda, E. Villaumea, J. Conlona, B. de Billyho, A. Parrota, F. Luisiho, R. Mutiho a G. Tateho.

Chlapci, ktorí spievajú po celom Slovensku i mimo neho, zaujali publikum v mestách po celej Európe - napr. V Berlíne, Budapešti, Londýne, Moskve, Paríži, Štokholme a vo Viedni - ako aj v Spojených štátoch (vrátane Chicaga, Los Angeles, New Yorku, a San Francisco), Kanada (Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto), Japonsko (Osaka, Tokio), Taiwan (Tchaj-pej) a Cyprus (Nicosia, Paphos).

Bratislavský chlapčeský zbor získal prvé miesto na Medzinárodnom zborovom festivale v Spojených štátoch (Des Moines, Iowa). Taktiež sa umiestnila na prvom mieste na medzinárodnej hudobnej súťaži v Moskve, kde získala Grand Prix a Cum Laude v Lecco (Taliansko). Bratislavský chlapčeský zbor sa objavil v televíznych filmoch, spolupracoval s filmovými spoločnosťami ako Hallmark a Miramax a zaznamenal sedem CD. Z tejto skupiny prišlo veľa sólistov a vynikajúcich spevákov zborov. S týmto zborom sú pridružení aj vynikajúci slovenskí inštruktori: dirigent Gabriel Rovňák ml., Sólista a rezidentný spevák Miriam Garajová a klaviristka Dana Hajóssy. Magdaléna Rovňáková (Doctor Artis) je zakladateľkou, dirigentkou a vedúcou bratislavského chlapčenského zboru a od roku 1982 vedie skupinu. Po ukončení štúdia na Konzervatóriu v Bratislave sa venovala dirigovaniu na Vysoké škole múzických a dramatických umení a získala doktorát.

The Embassy of Slovakia in Washington, DC First Stop on the Bratislava Boys' Choir US Tour 2020



Bratislavský chlapčeský zbor

The Bratislava Boys' Choir has been part of the Slovak artistic scene since 1982. The group is part of a private music school with about 90 students aged 7 to 28.

The concert ensemble, which currently has 45 members, has collaborated for years with leading symphonic orchestras (The Slovak Philharmony, The Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra,

The Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra). These collaborations have enriched the choir's repertoire with dozens of oratorios, cantatas, and symphonies (J. S. Bach, L. Bernstein, B. Britten, A. Honegger, G. Mahler, C. Orff, C. Penderecki, M. Ravel, I. Stravinsky, E. Suchoň...) under world-renowned conductors including O. Lenárd, E. Villaume, J. Conlon, B. de Billy, A. Parrot, F. Luisi, R. Muti, and G. Tate.

Singing throughout Slovakia and beyond, the boys have captivated audiences in cities throughout Europe - e.g., Berlin, Budapest, London, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, and Vienna - as well as in the United States (including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco), Canada (Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto), Japan (Osaka, Tokyo), Taiwan (Taipei), and Cyprus (Nicosia, Paphos).

The Bratislava Boys' Choir won first place at the International Choral Festival in the United States (Des Moines, Iowa). It also placed first at an international music competition in Moscow, receiving the Grand Prix and Cum Laude in Lecco (Italy). The Bratislava Boys' Choir has appeared in television films, cooperated with motion picture companies such as Hallmark and Miramax, and has recorded seven CDs. Many soloists and excellent choir singers have come from this group. Excellent Slovak instructors are affiliated with the Choir as well: conductor Gabriel Rovňák jr., soloist and resident vocal coach Miriam Garajová and pianist Dana Hajóssy.

Magdaléna Rovňáková (Doctor Artis) is the founder, conductor, and manager of the Bratislava Boys' Choir, and has led the group since its inception in 1982. After completing studies at the Conservatory in Bratislava, she pursued choir conducting at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts and received a doctorate degree.

The Bratislava Boys Choir will perform on the following dates and venues:

- April 22 Embassy of Slovakia 7 PM. Buffet Dinner/Wine/Ample parking on the compound- \$80 (all-inclusive). For tickets, call The Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. at (202) 237-1054
- April 23 Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church Baltimore Annapolis Blvd, Severna Park, MD. 7 PM. Donations at door welcome
- April 25 St. Patrick's Church. 201 North Center St. Cumberland, MD. 7 PM. Donations at door welcome Free & Open to the public
- April 27 Frich Fine Arts Building 4200 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh. PA. 7 PM. Admission \$15. For reservations contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com
- April 28 St. Thomas More Church. 126 Fort Couch Rd. Pittsburgh. PA. 7 PM. Free will offering. Brief reception to follow. For reservations contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com
- April 29 St. Ignatius Church. Kingston, PA. 7 PM. Donations welcome.
- May 1 St John Nepomucene. 411 E 66th 1st Ave, New York City. 7 PM. Email wae@comcast.net for further information.

District 16's Semi-Annual March Meeting



Members of the Msgr Krasula District 16 at the semi-annual meeting held on Sunday, March 1, 2020 in the rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City.

- Submitted by Joan Mary Skrkon, Secretary

FUN!

FCSU Fun – Right in Your Inbox

Receive the latest info on FCSU Fun right in your inbox. 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/>



**JOIN US FOR THE
2020 CONSULAR
TOUR
OF SLOVAKIA AND
ITS NEIGHBORS**

Prague - Krakow - Vienna August 21- September 5, 2020

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has announced his 15th tour of Slovakia! Visit the historic sites of Košice, Prešov, Bardejov, Levoča, Tatras, Trenčín, and Bratislava, including a river cruise, several castles, famous churches, wine tasting, a mock wedding, rafting excursion, and spa treatments in Trencianske Teplice.

In Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, we will enjoy a river cruise, cross the famous Charles Bridge, and visit many historic sites.

In Poland, we will visit the famous salt mine, tour Auschwitz, visit the site of the Black Madonna, and shop in Zakopane.

Our full-day tour of Vienna includes a visit to Schunbrunn Palace.

ALSO

- A private reception with the U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, Bridget Brink*
- A private reception with the Mayor of Prešov (sister city of Pittsburgh), Andrea Turcanova*

As we travel through various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit your ancestral villages and families.

The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,250 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare from Pittsburgh, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412- 956-6000.

*Subject to unanticipated change in their official schedule.

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.



The audience included Branch 746 members (L – R) : Joanne Polt (VP, Branch 746), Lois Schmidt, Mary Ann Ranahan (Treasurer, Branch 746), Mary Olexa, Milan Olexa, Mary Kapitan (Secretary, Branch 746) and Tim Ranahan.

Branch 746 Attends Concert in Which Member Performs

Members of Branch 746 recently attended a concert given by the Choral Art Society of New Jersey on January 26, 2020, in New Providence NJ, with Martin Sedek as Music Director and Conductor, and Branch member Lois Schmidt performing as part of the chorus. The concert theme was "Americana" and featured a selection of American music treasures. "Frostiana", the poetry of Robert Frost set to music by Randall Thompson offered a nostalgic glimpse of rural New England life. "Old American Songs" by Aaron Copland provided music that looked back to the infancy of the nation. Selections by Bob Dylan focused on the current state of the world.

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey was founded in 1962. The chorus is a group of avocational singers dedicated to the study and performance of the great choral masterpieces, performing works spanning many centuries and styles. Choral Art Society of NJ funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. To learn more, visit: <http://www.casofnj.org>.



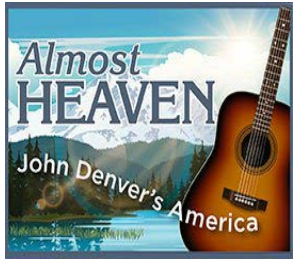
- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

DISTRICT 2 Annual 2020 Brunch and Play

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, a Brunch and Play event is scheduled at the Center for Performing and Arts, Theatre at the Center, located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Brunch starts at 1:00 pm, the show follows brunch at 2:30 pm. The show this year is called "Almost Heaven - John Denver's America." This musical tribute is an intimate celebration of John Denver's life and career. John Denver's story is brought to life in this Chicago-area premiere through his countless hits including "Country Roads," "Rocky Mountain High," "Annie's Song," and "Sunshine on My Shoulders." The show pays tribute to an artist who is always great at making people feel good.

District 2 members pay \$36.00 per person. Non-members pay full price (\$59.00, not including tax or gratuity). *District 2 members, take advantage of this \$23 discount.*

For more brunch or play information, call Lynda Tanis at: 1-630-247-7521. Make checks payable to: **Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2** and mail to **Pat Laporte** at: 9842 Terrace Ct.W. E2, Palos Park, IL 60464. The deadline is February 29, 2020. *Hope to see you there!*



PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY

District 2 Annual 2020 Brunch and Play

District 2 Members	\$36.00 x _____	= \$ _____	total
Non-members	\$59.00 x _____	= \$ _____	total

Member's Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

List names of all those attending on the back of this form or included on a separate sheet.
Make checks payable to Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2
and mail together with check to: Pat LaPorte at 9842 Terrace Ct.W. E2, Palos Park, IL 60464.



30th ANNUAL SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 4, 2020
St. Adalbert Church, So. 15th Street

10:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary (*in Slovak*)
11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

12:15 p.m. -- **SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS**
Prince of Peace Parish Center
81 South 13th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA

paska (<i>sweet bread</i>)	kolbasy (<i>sausage</i>)
kolace (<i>baked goods</i>)	hrin (<i>beets & horseradish</i>)
syrek (<i>egg cheese</i>)	sunka (<i>ham</i>)

- * Cultural Displays
- * Craft Demonstrations
- * Imported & Handmade gifts
- * Homemade Baked Goods
- * Raffles

FREE FREE FREE FREE
FREE ADMISSION

For more information call (412) 657-6364

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

Happy Birthday, Branch 716's Maria Bozekova



Branch 716 members celebrated the birthday of Branch Treasurer Maria Bozekova at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

- Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

(L – R) Father Martin Kertys, Maria Bozekova, and Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon

My First Visit to Slovakia, 1978 , Part Two

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

The University of Maryland Global Campus
(See January 15, 2020 Jednota issue for Part One.)

On the morning of August 2, 1978, we spent our second day in Bratislava, the capital city of Slovakia. After waking and having a quick breakfast at camp, we caught an 8am tram (electrička) to the center of the city and got off around 9 am at the SNP Bridge over the Danube. We walked across the bridge toward Petržalka, on the south bank. Petržalka was lined full of the cheaply built high rises (paneláky or cinžáky) and it made for a rather dull skyline, since they were all constructed the same height and were a drab, dirty white color. We did not know there also was the Janko Král park further down the Danube, but even parks had a sooty feel to them.

We headed back toward the city and decided not to go up to the saucer-like tower on the SNP bridge because it was too expensive for our tight budget of living on 10 dollars a day. And eating in the pricy restaurant of the bride's tower was out of the question as well, even with the lower prices in a communist country. But we took several photos and slides, the best souvenirs of the trip. But even with photos, we had to be conservative, for they were expensive to develop. Little did we know at time, but the X-ray machines at the airlines would bleed the color out of many of our pictures!

We tried to make the most of our time and went on a tourist walk toward the castle. We visited the Medieval Cathedral of St. Martin's and the black Donner statue of St. Martin was most impressive, but even it needed cleaned. Then we passed through the dilapidated Catholic section of the old town, which I later found out was home to the only seminary. We did see a few priests and nuns, who were quite friendly. But few people traversed here, and the streets of this area were nearly deserted and the buildings were not maintained well despite the fact that they were several hundred year-old historical treasures.

Then we headed for the old Jewish quarter, most of which had been decimated, along with the old synagogue, in order to make way for a highway leading to the SNP bridge. Crossing the street was difficult and dangerous, although traffic was light compared to today. We came to Židovská ulica (Jewish Street) on our way to the Bratislava castle. We tried to visit the splendid rococo house known as the Good Shepherd (Dobrý Pastier), but it was closed. So we proceeded up the road and then ascended the steps to the castle, where we could enjoy a splendid view of the Danube River and the city. It is a climb, but we were young and energetic, and the hill offered a good view of the city and the Danube River valley. Passing through the Vienna Gate, we entered the castle courtyard. We paid the student rate of two crowns for a tour of the inside and the grounds. We were somewhat disappointed. The castle had what we thought was a bare-bones museum with all kinds of construction equipment in the courtyard, but nobody was working on the renovation; this was typical I later found out, as materials often sat unused for months on end. We had expected much more, based on our previ-

ous two months in Europe. But today, much has changed and Bratislava Castle hosts a much improved museum with friendlier tour guides and a cleaner environment.

Everything was state property and the communists did not keep up the properties. On our way back into town, we passed by shop windows which seemed very old and not properly maintained or washed recently. The arrangements in shops were hardly appealing to shoppers' eyes. Shopkeepers were not very friendly and did not seem concerned whether we bought something or not.

My wife needed to buy some basic feminine products, and this was another fail. There was little choice of various products such as shampoos, etc., and she complained vociferously about there being nothing to buy. What she did purchase turned out to be of extremely low quality. The prices were quite low, but the lack of variety and poor quality left much to be desired.

Next we had to try to get something to eat, as we were famished after climbing to the castle. This would prove challenging. We had become accustomed to eating something simple and quickly for lunch, such as cheese or sausage and washed it down with bottled water or soda. We had to scrimp and save, for we had little money, still had a month to go before leaving Europe, and we had to pay for our trip home via Freddie Laker Airways in London. We had come to Europe to see it, not to live in the lap of luxury.

Trying to get a quick inexpensive lunch proved more difficult than we had imagined. There really were no fast food places, and restaurants were far too expensive for us on our meager budget. We first tried a smoked meat shop (udeniny), but there was nothing ready to eat and it smelled so absolutely awful that it nearly made us sick. We wandered around the old town, past St. Michael's Gate (Michalská brana) with its iconic baroque tower, and found a Lahôdky bufet (Delicatessen buffet) that served rolls (rožky) with meat and salad. There was no place to sit, and one just stood near a high table and ate. The food was horrible and cost 30 crowns, which we calculated at \$3.00 at the official exchange rate. The rolls were stale, the meat lacked much taste, and the few bits of salad were wilted. Around the corner, we found a confectioner (cukráreň) and topped off our lunch with a 6 crown dessert of cake (koláč) and Turkish coffee (turecká kava). The cake was mediocre, but we were not accustomed to drinking coffee with the grounds in the cup, and it had an odd taste for coffee. Some ice cream (zmrzlina) helped to kill off the after-taste. At least we had something in our stomachs. We decided we would later make do with just groceries (potraviny) and would make our own dinner.

Following lunch, we sauntered to the Main Square (Hlavné námestie). The Maximilian Fountain (also known as Roland's Fountain) sits in the center and made for a pleasant symmetrical appearance. In the Square, we visited the City Museum of Bratislava, the oldest museum in the city and dating from



Bratislava Castle 30 years after communist takeover

1868. It was situated in the yellow-colored 15th century Town Hall (Radnica) built originally in the Gothic style, but updated in the Renaissance and Baroque styles. A cannonball still remained on the side of the building from the time of Napoleon's bombing the city in 1805! Student admission was a mere 3 crowns and it contained some invaluable historical artifacts depicting the former life of the city, with everything from paintings and weaponry to old coins to torture devices, as it had also previously served as a mint for coins and a prison.

Outside the Town Hall, the Maximilian Fountain (also known as Roland's Fountain) stood in the center of the square. Also in the square stood the former Archbishop's Primate's Palace (Primaciálny palác), a neoclassical palace dating from the 18th century. The palace contained some marvelous tapestries and a Hall of Mirrors, but most rooms were locked and we could only get a glimpse of part of the building, for much of appeared reserved for official state functions.

Having done so much walking over the previous two months, my wife badly needed some new shoes at a nearby shoe store (Obuv). They were produced in Slovakia, seemed well-made and cost 38 crowns. They served her well for the rest of our European trip, which did not end until early September.

Our afternoon saunter took us to an art museum, the Slovak National Gallery (Slovenská národná galéria), which stood near the banks of the Danube. From the outside, it looked like a modern monstrosity, which the communists had expanded in the 1970s by building a garish white and red addition, which slanted toward the street on the upper floors. The original museum was located in the baroque Esterházy Palace and adjacent to a white-colored rococo-style courtyard, and they were quite beautiful. But we found out that communist era architecture had a taste for being large and gaudy, and the style defaced the finer buildings behind it. The museum itself was fair, containing modern and classical Slovak art, as well as some fine Gothic and baroque paintings and sculptures. But after having visiting so many impressive museums across Europe, it seemed rather small and less impressive.

As our day out was ending, I enjoyed a Slovak beer for 4.8 crowns and engaged in a conversation with a Slovak student. Then we purchased some meat for our evening meal and then went to Čedok to obtain a train schedule for our trip to eastern Slova-

kia. We caught a tram and connected to a bus to our camp and registered for another night. As Bratislava was hot and sultry that August, the camp fortunately had a shower so we could feel refreshed and have a good night's sleep.

The next morning a thunderstorm was approaching as we awoke at 5:30 am, so we packed up our camping gear in a hurry and beat the rain. We found shelter in the restrooms when the downpour commenced. Once it lightened up, we headed for the train station, where we bought tickets for 138 crowns to Spišská Nova Ves.

My wife was happy to leave Bratislava and strongly disliked the city and the depressing atmosphere there. I was more curious than anything, and approached our experiences from a learning point of view. But communism as we saw it in Slovakia's capital city was not something we could admire.

On the train, I conversed with some Slovaks who guided us when to get off. It was raining all day, so we could not see much of the Slovak countryside. But the rain let up in the evening, and the High Tatra Mountains were zooming above the clouds as we passed them by. At Spišská Nova Ves, another gentleman directed us on how to catch the local train to Spišské Vlachy, where my wife's relatives lived. Three babas (older women) boarded the train with us, and they were rather quite funny and dressed in the kind of traditional Slovak dresses that our own grandmothers had worn.

At the stop for Spišské Vlachy, another man we had spoken with in our compartment showed us the way to the town. It was a long walk with our full backpacks, but finally we arrived at the home of Ján and Anna Filip. Though they had expected us, we surprised them that evening, as they did not know exactly when we would arrive. We quickly got acquainted, and met their son Jaro and daughter Zdenka. We communicated with a mix of Slovak and German, and I copiously consulted my dictionary. Ján spoke in a heavy Spiš accent, so he had to speak slowly for me to understand. But we managed to get by and talked mainly about relatives. After enjoying a meat platter and some cookies, we retired by 11 pm, with adventures ahead of us the next day.

At last we had arrived in the homeland of our forefathers!

To be continued

March Message from the National Chaplain

continued from page 2

of the will, along with full awareness that he or she is excommunicated by committing the act.

John Paul also affirms that no circumstance, purpose, or law can permit any act that is contrary to divine law and therefore of its very nature illicit.

Turning to euthanasia, he offers a clear definition. It is an "action or omission which of itself and by indication causes death with the purpose of eliminating all suffering." Euthanasia is not the same as a decision to forego "aggressive medical treatment" when death is imminent and inevitable. Foregoing extraordinary or disproportionate means is not the equivalent to suicide or euthanasia. It rather is acceptance of the human condition. One can in good conscience refuse forms of treatment.

In light of the trend to demand a legal justification for attacks on life, John Paul offers a reflection on democracy. The notion that in a democracy the will of the majority determines virtually everything is being extended into the realm of morality. The rightness or wrongness

of a human act is becoming determined by majority vote. This leads to three things. First, every politician is forced to clearly separate his or her private conscience from his or her public conduct. Second, an ethical relativism regarding moral norms develops. Third, objective moral norms are looked upon as unbending, authoritative, and intolerant.

John Paul claims democracy needs to rediscover the essential and innate human and moral values that flow from the truth of the human person, values which no one individual, majority, or state can create, modify or destroy.

Therefore, he writes there is a need to rediscover basic elements of vision of relationship between civil law and moral law. Here he cites his predecessor Pope John XXIII and the great philosopher/theologian of the thirteenth century, Saint Thomas Aquinas. In *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth), John XXIII said that laws enacted in violation of God's laws do not bind a person in conscience to observe them. Saint Thomas Aquinas in *Summa Theologiae* wrote that a law contrary to reason is an unjust law. A law opposed to natural law is not a real law, but rather a corruption of the law.

Laws that legitimize and authorize the direct killing of innocents by means of abortion or euthanasia are against the divine will, contrary to reason, and opposed to natural law. Therefore, no one has an obligation in conscience to obey such laws. Rather, one has a clear and grave obligation to oppose them by conscientious objection.

John Paul reminds everyone, especially lawmakers, that it is never licit either to obey to take part in propaganda favoring laws that permit abortion or euthanasia or to vote for them. Elected official personally opposed to abortion could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting harm done. He explains that lawmakers who do so are not involved with an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects.

Each person has a moral responsibility for the acts he or she personally performs. Physicians, health care personnel, directors of hospitals, clinics and convalescent homes should be guaranteed the right to refuse to participate in phases of consultation, preparation and execution of acts against life.

Chapter 4: For a New Culture of Life

This chapter begins with a repeat of an earlier mentioned theme. Human life is sacred and inviolable, must be provided with loving concern.

John Paul proposes a Day for Life to be celebrated annually in each country to foster in-

dividual consciences, families, church, and civil society a recognition of the meaning and value of human life at every stage and condition.

Several universal statements that in a way summarize the Gospel of Life are then given. Universal statements are timeless; they apply in every condition and circumstance, without exception.

- Society must defend the respect and promote the dignity of every person, every moment and every condition of that person's life.

- Health care personnel, doctors, pharmacists, nurses, chaplains, men and women religious, administrators and volunteers are all to be guardians and servants of human life. Causing death can never be considered a form of medical treatment, even if patient requests it.

- Everyone has the responsibility of conscience to make courageous decisions to support life. No one can renounce it, especially politicians.

- A law that violates person's right to life is unjust and therefore is an invalid law.

- It is morally unacceptable to encourage or impose contraception, sterilization and abortion to regulate births.

- No one person has a monopoly on the defense and promotion of life. It is everyone's task and responsibility.

- The Gospel of Life is not for believers alone. It is for everyone. It is for the whole of human society.

Near the end of this chapter John Paul offers pastoral words of encouragement. He first urges women who have had an abortion not to lose hope in God's love and mercy and for them to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation where they can experience the healing forgiveness of the Lord. He then cites Mark 9:29, where Jesus tells his disciples some demons can be driven out only by prayer and fasting. John Paul encourages people to take up these two practices so that the world may be rid of demons that lead people to commit sins against life.

Conclusion

As in virtually all his encyclicals and apostolic exhortations, John Paul concludes the Gospel of Life by invoking the Blessed Virgin Mary for her motherly aid and intercession. It is she who helps the Church realize life is always at the center of a great struggle between good and evil. It is during this meditation that the Holy Father gives the reader some thought for reflection. Rejection of human life is really a rejection of Jesus.

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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** The next conference of the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International 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 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 Pittsburgh District
manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 7- THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

The first annual meeting of the Rev John Martvon District 7 will be held on April 26, 2020, the last Sunday in April. The meeting is scheduled to start at 1:30pm at Jake's Pub and Grill located at the Galleria Mall. Johnstown PA. Members of District 7 are welcome to attend. Your input is always appreciated. Please RSVP to Theresa Cassat 814-254-2532 if you will attend.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

Our semi-annual meeting will take place on April 26, 2020. Mass will be at 10:30AM, at St. Teresa Church, 600 West Mahanoy St., Mahanoy City, PA, 17948.

Following Mass, our luncheon/meeting will take place at A&C Catering located at 505 West Mahanoy St. Lunch will be served at noon. Immediately following will be the meeting.

Delegate forms must be received no later than April 10, 2020. The cost of the luncheon will be \$17.00 per delegate/Officer.

You also may submit your branch dues with your delegate form or pay them at the meeting. Forms should be send Monica Fabian 4137 Wilson St. Whitehall, PA. 18052-1615.

We hope to see some new faces at our District 8 meeting.

God Bless,

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

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 Sunday, March 29, 2020 at The American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH 44055 at 2:30 pm

Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

District 11 –the MSGR Josef Tiso District - invites all members of the district to the next meeting scheduled March 15, 2020 at 2PM, at Kings Restaurant, 191 New Castle Road, Butler, PA, 16001. The District is planning the second annual Night at the Ball game this summer (date to be announced) and also the second annual "Polka Away the Pounds" on February 16, 2020 2PM-6PM featuring Jack & the Tady Bears. This dance was well attended last year, please plan to come and enjoy the music. Admission is free!! The kitchen will be open and featuring Slovak specialties! Address is: CU Club (Slovak Club)- Ford City, 914 6th Avenue Ford City, PA, 16226. A Christmas Eve Slovak dinner is also being discussed and hopefully will be organized for December 2020! This dinner was a tradition in District 11 for many years; the District hopes to bring this special occasion back to life! If you have attended in the past, if you are familiar with the specialty foods served, or you have other knowledge of the event please come to the meetings and share your experience, knowledge and memories!

Fraternally submitted,

Karen Greggs, District Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHIDIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2020. Branch delegates will gather in the Shrine Room of St. Ann Basilica, 1233 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA.

District Auditors will meet at 1:00PM to check the books. The business meeting will convene at 1:30PM.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting.

Branches are encouraged to contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., at 570.342.7662 to confirm attendance.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

Branch 401's Sylvia Rose Ciocca Named to Notre Dame Dean's List



Sylvia Rose Ciocca of Wexford, PA, was named to the Dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business for outstanding scholarship during the Fall 2019 semester. She graduated with a double major in Senior Management Consulting and English.

Students who achieve dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

Sylvia graduated from Vincentian Academy in Pittsburgh, PA, in 2015; she is a past FCSU scholarship recipient. Sylvia was active in the youth movement of Branch 401K in East Vandergrift, PA; she served as President in 2017 and Vice President in 2018.

She has accepted a position with Maven Wave Partners in Chicago, IL, and will be starting as a Management Consulting Analyst in April.

Sylvia is the daughter of Dr. Joseph and Sharon Ciocca (current President of Branch 401k) of Wexford, PA, and a granddaughter of Rose A. Froncek, past District 11 President, now deceased.

- Submitted by Karen Greggs, District 11 Recording Secretary

Focus on Faith

Branch 24 Members Participate in Thanksgiving in Guatemala

Guatemala City, the capital of the Central American country of Guatemala, is divided into zones. Zone 18, on the outskirts of the city, has a reputation of being one of the more difficult areas to live in given its high rate of crime and extreme poverty. A common occurrence in Zone 18 is seeing children raised by older siblings due to the fact that economic hardship has driven many parents to seek employment in other areas of the city or country. Another common reality of this place is fatherless families. Many adult males have been lost to the violence that continues to plague Guatemala even after the civil war ended.

This is what motivated Father Thomas Goeckler to start up a new site in Guatemala of a program he initiated in neighboring Honduras with huge success. The focus of the association, Caminando Por La Paz (Walking for Peace), is the children of this neighborhood. It strives to provide the neighborhood children with a chance at a better future and break the cycle of gang violence. The association accomplishes this



Father Marek Visnovsky led parishioners from the Eparchy of Parma in assisting children in Guatemala City.

by encouraging education and good values through on site tutoring, meals and extracurricular activities such as soccer and movie nights. Tutoring and activities are run by volunteers; some of whom themselves participated in Caminando Por La Paz when they



Terezia Rozmus (L) was among the volunteers who helped children through onsite activities such as tutoring, meals and snacks.

were children.

In 2010, Father Tom passed away and the association is now headed by Maryknoll lay missionary Ron Covey. Sister Sandra Atha, a parishioner of St. John Chrysostom in Houston, TX has also been intimately involved with the association and she introduced this project to St. John's. This past summer, Bishop Milan gave his blessing for Father Marek Visnovsky (who is member of FCSU Branch 24 as well) and other members of the Parma Eparchy to travel to Guatemala during Thanksgiving week to assist the association in its work and learn what are the needs of the association. Among the volunteers who went on this mission was Terezia Rozmus, who is an Annuity Specialist in the FCSU Home Office and also is a member of Branch 24.

While there, Father Marek and the others assisted the regular volunteers in providing extracurricular activities for the children as they were on break from school. Activities included a dance class, an arts and crafts class, as well as an English class where the children were taught to pray the Our Father and the Trisagion prayer in Spanish. In addition to this, missionaries assisted in the kitchen preparing meals and snacks for the children. One of the highlights of the mission

was a riveting game of soccer played on a parking lot where everyone (children and adults) participated.

Without a doubt, the high point of the trip was serving the Divine Liturgy in English and Spanish for the local community on two occasions. Liturgy was served on the rooftop of the association house overlooking the entire neighborhood of Zone 18. The first liturgy was served on the 9th anniversary of Fr. Tom's passing. Both liturgies were very well attended as locals heard that liturgy would be offered and jumped at the opportunity to join in prayer.

The work of Caminando Por La Paz is truly a local community effort. Parents, grandparents, and neighbors all assist the association in whatever way they can to help the children of Zone 18 break the cycle of violence and poverty. The missionaries left Guatemala motivated to continue to assist the association from here in the States. Plans are underway to organize fundraisers to collect money and provide it to Caminando Por La Paz. A long lasting bond was certainly forged this Thanksgiving between these two communities, the Byzantine Catholic Church and Caminando Por La Paz.

- Submitted by David Dominguez



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.

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

Join Branch 853 for an Afternoon of Painting



Branch 853 will sponsor a painting event on Saturday March 14, 2020. The event will start at 1:00 in Charleroi, PA. At this event we will share fun friendship and fraternalism as each person attending will paint an individual masterpiece in two hours. At the end of the event, each person will take home completed work. The event is open to all FCSU members, with a minimum age of 12 as a strongly recommended minimum age. The cost for a non-FCSU person is \$30 per person. The cost for FCSU non-Branch 853 members is \$25. There is no cost to Branch 853 members.

Reservations are required and must be made by March 7, 2020. To make your reservation, email your request to FCSUBRANCH853@gmail.com. You can also make your reservation by phone (at 412-341-1577) by leaving your name, phone number and how many people will attend. You will receive a return phone call about the event. Payment will be required at the door. Please contact Monica Rodacy Boone to reserve your space.

Join Branch 853 for an afternoon of fun and fraternalism. Region 4 Director James Marmol, encourages all interested members to attend and have a fun and memorable time.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer
 Leonard Zilko, Chairman of Auditors (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 2019 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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 December 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 December:

Disbursements for the month of December 2019:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 242,161.95
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 23,156.87
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.

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 February.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

The Executive Committee reviewed the possibility of adding new investments to the FCSU portfolio.

The President asked Larry White to stay on the teleconference as a presentation was made by representatives from UBS.

UBS REVIEW:

At the request of the President, Sean Hardy and Zack Vaughan representing Hardy Wealth Partners presented a written report to the Executive Committee regarding our investments with UBS. The report detailed our holdings with UBS. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

The President stated that the Executive Committee will further review the report presented by UBS. The President will invite Mr. Hardy and Mr. Vaughan to join the Executive Committee for another meeting in the future to make any adjustments to our portfolio.

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 333 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. The Executive Secretary stated that all information has been submitted and we are waiting on final approval. Once approved we will update our computer system and marketing materials.

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.

The Executive Secretary stated that before the end of the first quarter a letter will go out to all recommenders regarding insurance license requirements.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Convention 2022

The Executive Secretary stated that they are currently looking for venues to hold our 52nd Quadrennial Convention. Once all the information is reviewed the Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

National/Regional Picnic

The President stated there will be 2 national/regional picnics in 2020. One to be held on the East Coast and one in between the Cleveland/Pittsburgh area. The President stated that we will hold two more picnics in 2021 in the Chicago area and another location to be determined.

Jednota Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc.

The President stated that there will be a joint meeting held with Jednota Inc., and Jednota Properties Inc., to close out the sale of the property in Middletown and transfer funds to the FCSU.

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 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by George F. Matta II to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arend
Executive Secretary



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at:
1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

A	B	B	E			A	S	K		S	C	A	L	E					
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**Deadline Extended to
December 31, 2020**

**1st Year Premium Waived on
Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)**



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
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800-533-6682
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www.fcsu.com

All applications must be received in the Home Office **postmarked by December 31, 2020.**

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

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

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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?

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