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NUMBER 5995

An Updated Message from the First Catholic Slovak Union



Thank you for being a valued member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. You are the reason we do what we do, so we want to reach out to you regarding our proactive decisions and our ongoing commitment to all of you.

We continue to meet the needs of our members and agents while operating with the safety and health of our members and staff in mind. Per current COVID-19 government guidelines and mandates, we remain closed to in-person visits with restricted hours for our Home Office employees that allow them to practice social distancing and other methods for ensuring their wellbeing. We continue to be financially strong with a vital and vibrant portfolio of insurance and annuity products.

But perhaps most important, we continue to rely on our Society's founding values of Faith, Fraternalism and Family to guide us-- and we encourage everyone to do the same. Even during difficult times like these with so many disruptions in normal routines, our FCSU values can be acted upon without face to face contact.

Here are some suggestions:

- Call or email members in your branch to see how they are doing.
- Elicit volunteers from the younger members of your branch, district, or family to run errands for groceries or medicine for the more elderly or those in need.
- Set up a call with the officers in your branch or district to see how you can help your community by donating to a local food bank or other worthy cause.
- Set aside a regular time to pray together as a family or branch/district family, including accessing any of the Masses, Rosaries, or Divine Mercy Chaplets broadcast daily on such national outlets as EWTN, Relevant Radio, or Catholic Faith Network. For our Slovak-speaking members, there is LUX New York which broadcasts Masses and other information of interest to the faithful in the Slovak language. You can find links to all of these Catholic channels at: <https://www.fcsu.com/resources/>
- Sign up to receive FCSU news by email and encourage all FCSU members in your family and branch and district to do so by going to: <https://fcsu.com/contact/>

Faith, Family and Fraternalism are gifts we have to share with other members of our branch and district as well as with those in our homes and communities. May our support for one another and our solidarity with one another during these troubled times be a sign of hope for the future and a way of living out our shared values right now.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Andrew M. Rajec



Kenneth Arendt



May Brings
Reconsecration
of US & Canada to
The Blessed Mother

As the world continues to face the ongoing effects of the global pandemic of the coronavirus, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announced that U.S. bishops have joined the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 1 in renewing the consecrations of the two nations to the care of our Blessed Mother. An act of consecration reminds the faithful of the Blessed Mother's witness to the Gospel and to ask for her effective intercession before her Son on behalf of those in need.

- From www.usccb.org

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Attention, FCSU College-bound Seniors:



• Don't let a scholarship opportunity fly away!

See page 13 for details

Insights and Viewpoints



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

59 – 7th Sunday of Easter – May 24, 2020

Today's scriptures reflect on the experience of the disciples following the Ascension; Saint Luke reports the Ascension of Jesus twice, once at the end of his Gospel (Luke 24:50-53) and again at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:6-12), which we hear today. In the dioceses of Pennsylvania we celebrated the Ascension this past Thursday, whereas in many other parts of the U.S. it is celebrated today, on the seventh Sunday after Easter.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

Whenever we mark the Ascension we recall that it reveals Christ's return to glory with the Father. The Creed we pray together at mass each Sunday recounts our belief in this regard: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end." Christ's heavenly glorification witnessed in the Ascension is the confirmation that through his earthly life and ministry he achieved the purpose for which he was sent, and it serves as well as an invitation for us to live with Christ in the present life, with its joys and sorrows, so that we may one day come to live with him in eternal life, sharing in his glory.

Although he lived in the time before the life and ministry of Jesus, and thus only understood the glory of the Messiah by way of anticipation, we hear the Psalmist rejoice in the glory of the Lord already in this life: "One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life," and look ahead to the life to come: "I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living" (Ps 27:4, 13). Living in the time of the fullness of God's revelation in Christ our joy should exceed that of the Psalmist as we find strength and deep inner peace in the promise of the glory to come.

As we prepare to launch forth into the long season of the Church year following Eastertide the Church exhorts us to stand firm through the difficulties of our everyday lives, even enduring unmerited hardships with equanimity, so that we might eventually participate in the risen and ascended Lord's glory: "Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly" (1 Pet 4:13).

The combination of the glory we will one day share with Christ and the obstacles which stand on our path toward it are taken up in Jesus' words from today's Gospel reading. This passage is drawn from a long discourse the Lord delivered to his Apostles at the Last Supper, and it in fact forms part of the conclusion of that discourse—his final words to his disciples before the events of his passion and death.

In this prayer-like passage Jesus asks that God the Father glorify Jesus just as Jesus himself gave glory to the Father during his earthly life and ministry. Jesus then initiates the apostles, and through them, all his followers, into this movement of glory, saying: "Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him" (John 17:1-2). As we remember the Ascension of the Lord into glory let it be our prayer that we may one day come to share in it by virtue of our perseverance with him in the present life.

May 31, 2020 – Pentecost Sunday

Reading 1 – Acts 2:1-11

Gospel JN 20: 19 - 23



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

The actual Pentecost event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. The Jewish Feast is also known as the Festival of Weeks which was the completion of the seven weeks following Passover. This was a time of Thanksgiving during which the harvest took place and the first fruits were brought to the Temple. The day after the completion of the seven weeks, forty-nine days, was known as Pentecost, which means fifty. This Feast celebrated Moses receiving the Commandments at Mount Sinai. When we hear in the readings today references to Pentecost they are referring to the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. Jesus rose from the dead at the completion of Passover and fifty days later his followers experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which was on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost.

The first Pentecost was a day of anticipation and surprise. At the time of the Ascension Jesus told the apostles to go back to Jerusalem and wait. He didn't say how long they should wait. Would it be hours, a day or days, or a week or even longer? They didn't know, but they were faithful and gathered together every day to pray. For nine days they met to pray, and no doubt with the anticipation that this would be the day Jesus told them to prepare for, but nothing special seemed to happen. When they met on the tenth Day they received the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (It is from these nine days of prayer followed by the Pentecost event that the practice of novenas developed, which are nine days of prayer before the celebration of a particular feast.)

They gathered in anticipation of some great experience of God. After experiencing the Last Supper, the Passion and Death, the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, they were probably not even going to try to guess what God had planned for them. They knew from experience that it would probably be far greater than they could ever imagine. The Apostles shared their anticipation with one another and never grew lax in their coming together to pray. The Lord was preparing them to be Church.

What happened on the tenth day was a total surprise when they experienced a loud noise like a driving wind, tongues as of fire, and the ability to speak in different tongues. The Holy Spirit had come, not merely to visit these followers of Jesus, but to fill them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and found themselves living their faith and proclaiming their experience of Jesus in ways that were foreign to them. They were surprised with the suddenness of how this took place, as well as the permanence of this event in their lives. When they spread out from Jerusalem this presence and the gifts that were part of this presence stayed with them.

When they saw the numerous converts who were baptized experiencing these same gifts of the Holy Spirit they realized that the Holy Spirit is a gift to the Church. A gift that each of us received at Baptism and Confirmation. Pentecost is a time for us to become more aware of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to claim the power and gifts that we have been blessed with. These gifts are far greater and more beautiful than we can probably imagine. Let us celebrate Pentecost with a renewed anticipation of how the Holy Spirit can work in new ways within us.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 8	MONDAY, JUNE 29
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12	MONDAY, AUG. 3

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The Holy See

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Pope Francis

[Editor's Note: see page 10 for the Pope's Prayers to Mary]

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers' Board of Directors

We Entrust Ourselves to Mary

Pope Francis has entrusted the entire world to the care and protection of our Blessed Mother to guard against the current pandemic and bring an end to this terrible scourge. In an address in early March, right when so many people in Italy were falling ill, Francis prayed before an image of Mary, saying, "We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial."

Janice T. Connell opens her book *Queen of Angels: Mary's Answers to Universal Questions* by reminding us that Christ's gift to humanity in the last moments of His earthly life was to present Mary as a mother to us all. In John 19:26-27, we see this dramatic moment play out when Jesus looks down from the cross at His mother and the disciple John. Jesus then says, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He looks to John and says, "Behold your mother!"

It's interesting to note that the very next line of the Gospel states that "all things were now accomplished." What tremendous importance this places on Christ's symbolic act of giving His mother to all of humanity, and what a tremendous gift this truly was. Only Christ could have fully known the enormity of this precious gift He bestowed on us. We are left to grasp small realizations of the magnificence of the Blessed Mother.

One way to try to wrap our minds around this gift is to recall the most special things we can about our own mothers. So many of us have tremendous emotion when it comes to those qualities, and these might be considered some of the most precious things Christ has chosen to share in giving Mary to us. This image might also help us to understand the enormous sacrifice Jesus made in giving His life up for us on the cross. In that moment, He gave up everything and even gave his own mother over to us. It was a sacrificial gift, and sacrificial gifts have tremendous spiritual power, which is why Mary remains - and always will be - such a powerful intercessor.

The apparitions of the Blessed Mother around the world demonstrate Mary's closeness to humanity and reinforce Christ's intention for us to turn to her for care and protection in all our concerns. This is why Pope Francis' call for the world to invoke Mary's intercession during this trying time is the perfect remedy for our current situation.

In one of her 1531 apparitions to Juan Diego in Guadalupe, Mexico, Mary proclaimed, "I am truly your merciful Mother, yours and all the people who live united in this land and of all the other people of different ancestries, my lovers, who love me, those who seek me, those who trust in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their complaints and heal all their sorrows, hardships and sufferings."

In a time of trial, there is nothing more powerful than spiritual support from a caring mother. Let us implore Mary to guard us from this pandemic so that we can return to the activities that enliven our hearts and people around the world can come to know Christ through a relationship with His most Blessed Mother, finding peace, health, and hope in the future.

Message from the National Chaplain

May is the month traditionally set aside to honor Mary, the Mother of God. Many of us remember participating in praying the Rosary in May Processions (or perhaps still do!) and a prayer service that crowns an image of Mary. Both have long been examples of public Marian devotion and piety.

As popular as devotions to Mary are, it is easy to overlook the person whom the church honors each year on the first day of May, Mary's husband Joseph, under the title of Saint Joseph the Worker.

This feast was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 as a response to the May Day celebrations in the former Soviet Union and other nations under communist rule. By honoring Saint Joseph the Worker each year on May 1, we honor the one who is a model to the holiness of human work. We pray for his heavenly intercession that workers labor under safe conditions and earn a just wage to support their families.

Saint Joseph is honored three days each year on the church calendar. The optional memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker is May 1 and March 19 is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is also honored on the last Sunday of the year (some years on December 30) on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Like Pius XII who declared the memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker in reaction to events in the secular world, Pius IX proclaimed Saint Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church during a time of political upheaval in Europe.

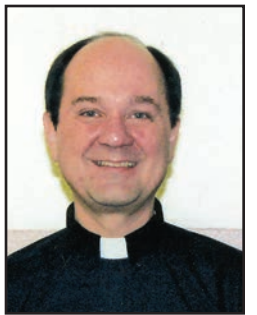
After nearly 1,000 years of existence, the Holy Roman Empire in Western Europe collapsed in the first part of the nineteenth century and was replaced by numerous independent kingdoms and monarchies. Within a matter of years, a groundswell of nationalism among several of these kingdoms and a call for unification arose. This led to the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. While international tensions were high, the world's Catholic bishops were gathered in Rome for the First Vatican Council. The outbreak of war caused the bishops from those lands at war to return home and the suspension of Vatican I.

Italy was not immune to the wave of political movements towards nationalism. The potential loss of the Papal States became a great source of concern and worry for church leaders, including Pope Blessed Pius IX. It was thought the combination of the rise of nationalism and a political takeover of the Papal States would threaten the church's existence.

As the church has always honored Saint Joseph as protector of the Holy Family, bishops and faithful throughout the world petitioned Pius IX to name Saint Joseph as a heavenly intercessor to protect the church from harm. The sessions of the First Vatican Council brought even more requests. Finally, on December 8, 1870, one hundred fifty years ago, Pius IX declared Saint Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church, with the feast to be celebrated annually on March 19.

Pius's successor, Pope Leo XIII, commented several years later in 1889 that it was God's will for Joseph to be the "guardian, administrator, and legal defender of the divine house" of the Holy Family. As Joseph was the protector of the divine house of the Holy Family, the divine house throughout the world, the church, in which resides the people of God, calls upon him for his patronage and protection.

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Universal Church, Protector of Workers, pray for us!



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



The 55th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, is scheduled to be celebrated in Washington, DC, Sunday, Sept 13, 2020*. Details in an upcoming Jednota.

*Any change for this event, including additional Covid-19 information, will be printed in Jednota and posted at www.fcsu.com as soon as possible

Annual Report of the National Vice President

Reverend Father, President Rajec, and members of the Board of Directors:

As always, I started off my report by thanking the Membership and Marketing Committee which is comprised of Brothers Andrew Rajec, Kenneth Arendt, and George Matta II, for all the time and effort they spend with me on the challenges concerning membership and marketing. Each member is very concerned with the growth and success of our Society.

On behalf of that Committee, I sincerely thanked those members who continue to help strengthen our Society by promoting our excellent portfolio of products. As a Society, we need to continue to search for ways to add membership and stay strong and viable into the future. The following are the statistics I presented to the Board at our Annual March Meeting for discussion.

Fraternally,



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President

Marketing & Membership Summary - 2019

Top 3 Insurance Sales

- 1 - Vicki Lynn Schaub
- 2 - Joseph C. Rimarcik
- 3 - Frances Tarquinio

Top 3 Annuity/IRA/Park Money Procurement

- 1 -Theresa R. Chupka
- 2 - Robert Stefanko
- 3 - Robert J. Kopco

Top 3 in Number of Contracts Sold

- 1 - Joseph C. Rimarcik
- 2 - Vicki Lynn Schaub
- 3 - Florence K. Matta

Performance Breakdown by District

1. Reverend Matthew Jankola District
2 Branches sold insurance. 4 in District. 10 Contracts
2. Reverend John J. Spitzkovsky District
8 Branches sold insurance. 12 in District. 17 Contracts
3. George Onda District
6 Branches sold insurance. 10 in District. 21 Contracts
4. Msgr. John E. Rura District
5 Branches sold insurance. 9 in District. 17 Contracts
5. Michigan District
8 Branches sold insurance. 10 in District. 26 Contracts
6. Pittsburgh District
12 Branches sold insurance. 17 in District. 39 Contracts
7. Reverend John Martvon District
5 Branches sold insurance. 8 in District. 7 Contracts
8. Reverend Stephen Furdek District
7 Branches sold insurance. 22 in District. 12 Contracts
9. Frank T. Holly Jr. District
3 Branches sold insurance. 4 in District. 25 Contracts
10. Reverend Stephen Furdek District - Ohio
8 Branches sold insurance. 12 in District. 53 Contracts
11. Msgr. Joseph Tiso District
3 Branches sold insurance. 8 in District. 18 Contracts
12. Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District
3 Branches sold insurance. 4 in District. 17 Contracts
13. Jozef Cardinal Tomko District
0 Branches sold insurance. 5 in District. 0 Contracts
14. Reverend Joseph L. Kostik
5 Branches sold insurance. 7 in District. 18 Contracts
15. Prince Pribina District
0 Branches sold insurance. 6 in District. 0 Contracts

16. Msgr. Stephen Krasula District
2 Branches sold insurance. 3 in District. 4 Contracts

17. SS Cyril and Methodius District
7 Branches sold insurance. 17 in District. 27 Contracts

18. Toronto – Byesville Ohio District
0 Branches sold insurance. 3 in District. 0 Contracts

Total- All Districts

84 Branches sold insurance. 174 Branches in US & 6 in Canada
Total Contracts: 292

Top 3 Branches With New Members

1. Branch 743 -Commerce TWP, MI: 19 Members
2. Branch 900 -Hudson, Ohio: 16 Members
3. Branch 038 - White Oak, PA: 15 Members
(Tie)
Branch 200 -Ford City, PA: 15 Members

Top 3 Districts In Insurance Sales

1. Reverend Stephen Furdek District
2. Pittsburgh District
3. Msgr. Joseph Tiso District

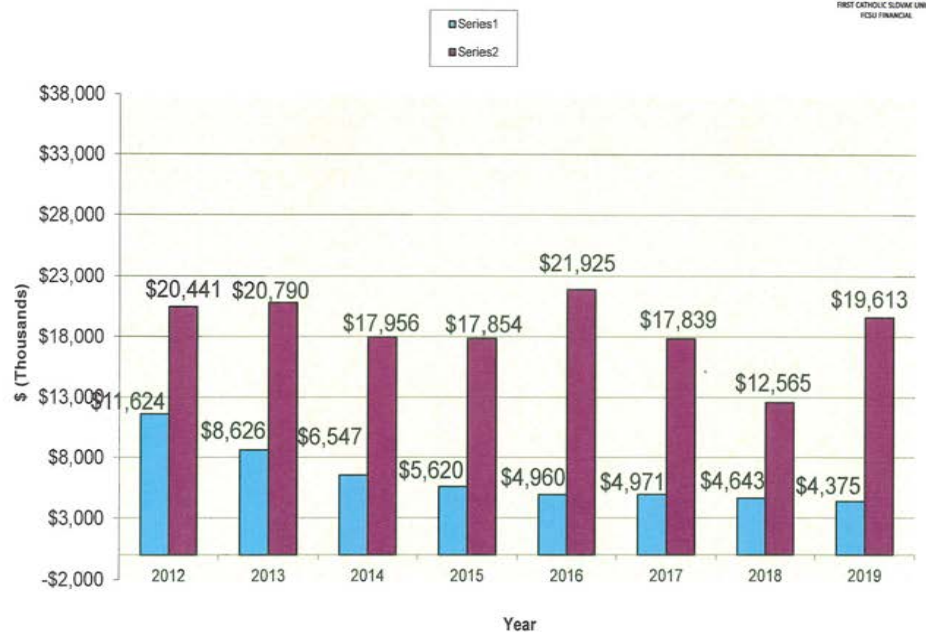
Top 3 Districts In Annuity/IRA/Park Money Procurement

1. Reverend Stephen Furdek District
2. SS Cyril and Methodius District
3. Michigan District

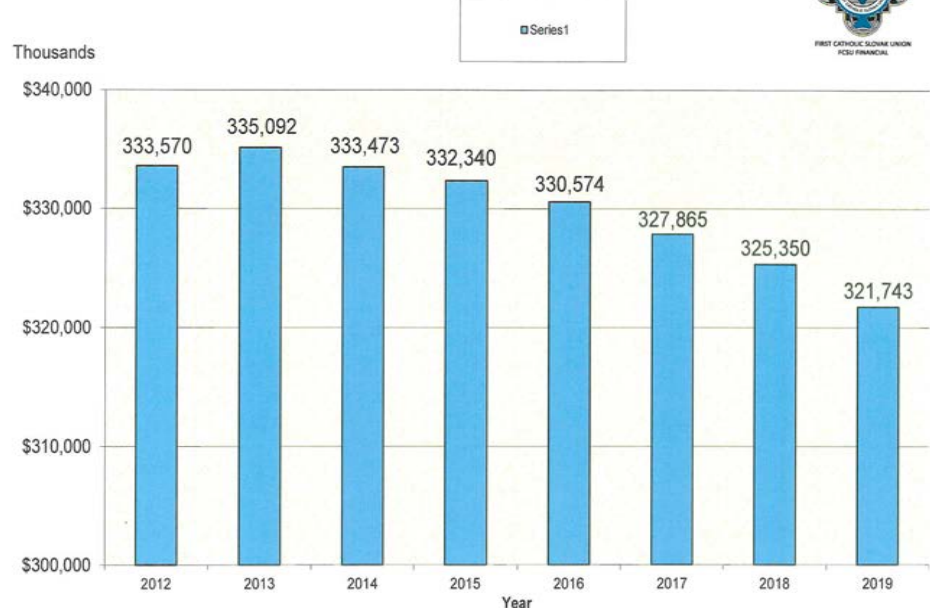
Districts Above Insurance Quota

Reverend Stephen Furdek District

8 YEAR INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES TREND NEW BUSINESS ISSUED



LIFE INSURANCE IN FORCE 8 YEAR TREND



2019 Annual Report of Region 1 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It is my honor to be an officer on the Board of Directors representing the members of Region 1. I would like to thank the Executive Board and my fellow board members for a fruitful year of engagement, deliberation, and action. I am eager to continue to work collaboratively to grow our society focusing on new approaches and ways to revitalize our society.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the incredible Jednota members in my region for the support, encouragement, and the enthusiasm they have shown throughout 2019! For our society to grow, we must promote our values and engage with our community! We cannot just focus internally on our local branch activities; we need to embrace and encourage others to want to be part of the greater FCSU!

I have performed all the duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union to the best of my abilities. As part of those duties and responsibilities as a Regional Director, I've attended all Board of Directors meetings personally or via teleconference (as requested) and participated in meetings of the Fraternal Activities Director. In addition to the responsibilities outlined in the bylaws, I have been supportive, engaged, and responsive to ad hoc requests and volunteered.

I've attended all Msgr. John E. Rura District 4 meetings and Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 meeting. I look forward to also visiting District 1 during my term. I have attended all Branch 746 meetings and events along with events held by Branch 45, 290, and 716. I happily contribute to the Jednota newspaper by providing articles and photos almost on a monthly basis. I also have engaged and kept abreast of the activities of the branches under my region and attended many of these events. I would like to extend my appreciation to the branches for the excellent cooperation throughout the year and the kind invitations to meetings and events.

Besides my involvement and support of the Jednota family, I am very active in the Slovak-American community well as in my local parish, Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ and in the greater New York City community. In addition to attending and helping to organize many events in support of the Slovak community, I have also worked to promote the society, our products, and benefits by encouraging and actively recruiting new members. Through my efforts, I have personally brought new members to the society. I also want to take this opportunity to commend Region 1 members who have been recognized as top recommenders of insurance and/or annuities in 2019!

As a Regional Director it is important to support fellow Board members in the events, campaigns, and activities which they organize. Through this solidarity and support, we not only learn from each other, most importantly it benefits our society as a whole and our respective regions. In August, I attended the FCSU National Gold Tournament in Belle Vernon, PA where I had the opportunity to engage with members from the surrounding area and practice 'my swing'! On September 13th, the FCSU Board of Directors and National Officers participated in the dedication ceremony of the Father Furdek statue at

the Home Office. A few days later, FCSU celebrated the 54th anniversary of the dedication of the Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. In attendance was Region 2 Director Damian Nasta and his wife, Peggy. I would like to recognize and highlight the work of Katherine Nowatkoski (Branch 856) in organizing this annual pilgrimage and maintaining the tradition of the Holy Mass in Slovak for so many years! Thank you, Katherine!

On a very cold winter day in November, I took the opportunity to pay a visit to our Jednota Memorial in Middletown, PA. The site has been meticulously manicured and maintained. I encourage those that have not done so to purchase a brick in memory of your loved ones. This monument will be a testament to the society's history in Middletown. I also attended the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Gala organized by Tom Ivanec Region 6 and Director the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble. The event was a wonderful display of Slovak heritage and a great opportunity for the fraternal community to gather in support of our young generation.

To encourage comradery and fraternalism, I helped to organized activities that fostered collaboration between districts and branches. I would like to extend a special thank you to the districts and branches as well as the Home Office for their active support and participation in the following events:

FCSU Sales Seminar: On Sunday, March 31st, President and Mrs. Rajec were warmly welcomed at the Region 1 Sales Seminar. Mr. Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents, outlined the various products available and provided excellent information about the benefits of joining our society to a packed room of attendees. The seminar concluded with a Jeopardy style quiz with prizes! The session was extremely informative and attracted new members.

Region 1 Summer Picnic: On August 4th, Region 1 members gathered on a beautiful sunny day under the shade of the Linden trees to enjoy delicious Slovak food catered by Julie Rada Catering at Al Kalla Park. The fun-filled day began with a meeting and recap of events and a summary of the March Jednota Sales Seminar. Fr. Mariusz Luksza, pastor of the Slovak Holy Family Church, led members in a prayer before everyone began to feast on the delicious food which included Slovak holupky and halusky as well as typical picnic foods: BBQ ribs, chicken cutlets, sausage and kraut, the obligatory picnic hot dogs, corn on the cob, watermelon and more! The excellent bakers from Branches 746 and 290 brought delicious home-made cakes!

Bus trip to the Summer Festival celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville: On Saturday, July 13th Jednota Districts 4 and 16 of Region 1 co-organized a bus day trip to Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA. The bus left from St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City in the morning, made a stop in Linden at the Church of Holy Family to pick up members of District 4 and then continued to Danville. Members visited the Basilica, participated in guided tours of the Jankola Library and the Slo-

continued on page 18

2019 Annual Report of Region 2 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It has once again been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 2.

In 2019, I performed all duties required of me as stipulated by the bylaws. I attended the Annual and Semi Annual Board of Directors meetings which were held in Nashville, TN; Independence, OH; and Hollywood, FL as well as the June quarterly board meeting via teleconference. In June, I attended the funeral mass of long time FCSU member and former Regional Director Joseph Minarovich. I had the honor of serving on our board with Joe for many years. In July, I attended the monthly Executive Committee meeting at the Home Office at the invitation of the President. I attended both of Region 2's district meetings in 2019 which were held in Bridgeport, PA, in March and Egypt, PA, in October. At both meetings I provided a written update to the delegates with information learned at the board meetings and other information as well.

In May, I participated in the Annual Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, PA. In July, my family and I attended the Annual Slovak Day celebration at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA, and in August participated in the annual golf tournament in Belle Vernon, PA. In September, following the Board Meeting, my wife Peggy and I traveled to Washington, DC, where we attended the annual mass of remembrance of the dedication of the Chapel of the Seven Sorrows at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. I also participated in these other FCSU fraternal events: March Madness, Football Losers Pool, Photo Contest, Gingerbread House Contest, and Sr. Coloring Contest. It is my intention to attend and participate in all those fraternal events again in 2020.

As always, I continue to keep my branches informed through my reports at the district meetings and will continue to do so in the future.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta
Region 2 Director

2019 Annual Report of Region 3 Director

It is an honor and privilege to represent Region 3 as Regional Director on the FCSU board. I have tried to maintain involvement in many of the ongoing programs and looked for new opportunities to promote all FCSU activities. Throughout the past year I have been supportive of, involved in, and contributed to many national, regional, and local activities.

Activities in our Region:

- Attended all district meetings
- Hosted district meeting in my area
- Strived to involve younger members in district and branch meetings
- Increased attendance and participation of branch members in branch meetings and district activities
- Reported on FCSU concerns, products, and programs to update district officers at district and branch meetings.
- Assisted Regional fraternal activity director with photos of Regional picnic.
- Encouraged district participation in March Madness and Kentucky Derby contests.
- Assisted branch and district members with FCSU concerns, policies, death benefits, and annuities.
- Participated in March Madness
- Continued to present a short program at district meetings to increase member's knowledge of Slovak history and culture

Fraternal Activities:

- Attended the Summer Picnic at Sister of St. Cyril & Methodius Motherhouse in Danville, PA
 - Attended meetings of the Fraternal Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania (FSNEPA)
 - Will become a formal member of the Fraternal Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania (FSNEPA). The goal of the FSNEPA is to promote all the fraternal groups that function throughout Northeast PA.
 - Worked with other local groups such as the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Union to promote FCSU presence to our region
 - Promoted the performance of the Bratislava Boys Choir in our region.
 - Attended the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania Annual Meeting and dinner.
 - Attended the 100th year celebration of the Sister of St. Cyril & Methodius in Danville
 - Coordinated and combined Slovak presentation and donations by the FCSU, branch groups, and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Union.
 - Distributed copies of the book "Remembrances and Testimony" by Charles Murin to local interested people.
 - Assisted Robert Zavada, professor of Slavic Studies, in providing a copy of the book "Remembrances and Testimony" to be available to the students of King's College.
 - Sent promotional items and follow up note to all personal contacts made to my branch.
 - Investigated other local avenues of advertisement of FCSU products.
 - Advertised in Church bulletin in a local Slovak parish.
 - Continued efforts to increase dialogue and communication among various Slovak organizations in our region
 - Completed and renewed professional fraternal insurance license for Pennsylvania.
- National Activities:
- Attended Board of Directors Meeting in Nashville, March 2019
 - Attended AQS seminar.

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2019 Annual Report of Region 3 Director

continued from page 5

- Participated in Board of Directors Meeting in Hollywood, FL Dec 2019.
- Attended, in person, all Board of Directors meetings throughout the year.
- Participated in telephone conference meetings of the board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Zavada
Region 3 Director

2019 Annual Report of Region 4 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew M. Rajec, Executive Officers and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors,

This past year I've attended all board meetings by personal attendance or teleconference. At the request of the president, I attended the executive board meeting held on May 24, 2018 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott.

I attended three meetings of the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District #9 this past year. On November 17th, 2019, I attended the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District #12 meeting and on October 27th, 2019, the Monsignor Martvon District #7 meeting. The major topic included the sale of the property in Middletown, Pennsylvania and getting members to acquire their fraternal sales license.

I attended the Bowling Tournament Dinner held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on May 18, 2019.

My wife, Patty, and I attended mass before enjoying the Vilija Dinner on December 1st, 2019 in Greensburg, PA sponsored by the George Onda District and on June 30th, we attended the District picnic at Mammoth Park.

I supported members of Branch 162 that decorated a Christmas Tree at the Uniontown Hospital where the trees were raffled off for a fund raiser for a nursing scholarship fund. The tree decorated by Branch 162 was won by Bette Holloman who helped decorate the tree. I've encouraged and invited others to become more involved with fraternal activities including the Kentucky Derby Hat Contest, the photo and Gingerbread House contest. As property manager of Building Number 2 in Middletown, PA, I also was involved with the sale of the 5.4 acres for \$4.7 million. The total transaction amounted to \$13 million while the F.C.S.U. retained 21 acres, north of the Airport Connector.

I want to thank all fraternal members for their hospitality where both my wife and I were graciously welcomed. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the various branch and district meetings and all activities at the national level in the upcoming year. I hope that I can inspire more members to participate in their branch, district and national activities. Look for even more activities this upcoming year. It truly was a pleasure to serve as your regional director this past year and I look forward to serving the new year as well.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at my home at 724-437-0892, on my cell at 724-970-7642 or send an email to "jrmarmol@verizon.net".

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Marmol
Region 4 Director

2019 Annual Report of Region 5 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Rajec, Fellow Board members:

In 2019 I attended all the meetings of both the Pittsburgh Okras and the Tiso District. While at the meetings I tried to make suggestions that benefited both the branches and the Society. In addition to the district meetings I also attend several branch meetings. I attend the Slovak Day festivities at Kennywood Park and participated in the Slovak Mass and Vilija in Greensburgh.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Lako
Region 5 Director

2019 Annual Report of Region 6 Director

Dear Reverend Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Officers, and Fellow Board Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

The year 2019 represents my first year as Regional Director for Region 6, Ohio. It was my privilege and promise to attend as many branch meetings and functions as possible throughout the region in order to get to know members and to give them a chance to know me. You'll see from the following list that I did attend most branch meetings held this year. I also included my participation in key events in Region 6 that – while not strictly FCSU events – are headed by FCSU members and have many FCSU members in their organizations, so helping and supporting them helps strengthen the presence of our Society throughout north-east Ohio. These Slovak-related organizations include: the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club with President Henry Horvath, Branch 855; the Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland, of which I am President; the Slovak-American Zemplin Club with President George Carny, Branch 450 President; the Slovak J Club with President Debra Speck, Branch 553 President; and St. Andrew Abbey Benedictine Order of Cleveland, under the auspices of Abbot Gary Hoover, Branch 24.

In addition, I spearheaded four FCSU fraternal activities this year: a minor league hockey game; a minor league baseball game; the first-ever pirohy-making class; and an outdoor cultural event. I worked at and/or helped coordinate attendance at two Slovak festivals, three picnics/roasts, five dinners, two Christmas parties, and a concert for performers from Slovakia sponsored by the Slovak television show Zem Spieva (The Earth Sings).

It was my honor to help pay final tribute to our deceased members by representing the FCSU at their funeral masses and/or memorials.

Finally, I fulfilled my duties according to FCSU bylaws by participating in all National Board Meetings and an Executive Committee Meeting by invitation of the National President.

In general, I am proud to report that Region 6 of the First Catholic Slovak Union is still vital – thanks to the efforts of many members who continue to volunteer their time and talents to support the founding tenants of our Society: faith, fraternalism, family.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J. Ivanec
Region 6 Director

Breakdown of 2019 Events Attended by Region 6 Director Thomas Ivanec:

- 2/8: Regional Director Orientation, Independence, OH
- 2/10: Branch 24 Meeting, Maple Hts, OH
- 2/17: Branch 855 Meeting, Brooklyn, OH
- 2/23: Branch 764 Mass & Dinner Commemorating SS Cyril & Methodius, Warren, OH
- 2/24: Branch 259 Meeting, Struthers, OH
- 3/10: District 10 Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 3/14 – 3/15: National Board Meeting & AQS Seminar, Nashville, TN
- 3/23: District 10 Hockey Night in Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
- 4/6: Branch 450 Meeting, Parma, OH
- 4/9: Eastern European Congress of Ohio Dinner, Parma, OH
- 4/10: Branch 1 Meeting, Lakewood, OH
- 4/15: Branch 228 Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 4/25: Branch 682 Meeting, Struthers, OH
- 4/27: Cleveland Slovak Radio Club 80th Anniversary, Broadview Hts., OH
- 4/28: Branch 553 Meeting, Akron, OH
- 5/5: "Cinco de Pirohy" – Pirohy-making Class, Akron, OH
- 6/12: Branch 553 President George Kacsanek Funeral Mass & Memorial, Akron, OH
- 6/15: National Board Meeting, Independence, OH; attended by teleconference
- 6/17: Branch 228 Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 6/23: Branch 731 Meeting, Boardman, OH
- 6/29: Harry Potter Movie/Cleveland Orchestra, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- 7/14: Slovak-American Zemplin Club Picnic, Broadview Hts., OH
- 8/3: Lake Erie Crushers Baseball Game, Avon, OH
- 8/7: Branch 1 Meeting, Lakewood, OH
- 8/10: National Auditor Michele Mager Funeral Service & Memorial, Lorain, OH
- 8/10: Cleveland Slovak Clubs Combined Picnic, Broadview Ht., OH
- 8/11: Slovak Fest, Youngstown, OH
- 9/1: Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival, Parma, OH
- 9/13: National Board Meeting, Independence, OH
- 9/17: District 14 Meeting, Youngstown, OH
- 9/21: Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland Pig Roast, Broadview Hts, OH
- 9/28: Slovak J Club Steak Fry, Akron, OH
- 10/10: Urpin & Martin Repan/Zem Spieva Concert, Cleveland, OH
- 10/11: Executive Committee Meeting, Independence, OH
- 10/13: Slovak-American Zemplin Club Anniversary Dinner, Parma, OH
- 10/27: District 10 Meeting, Akron, OH
- 11/3: Branch 553 Meeting, Akron, OH
- 11/9: Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble Gala, Parma, OH
- 11/19: District 14 Meeting, Youngstown, OH
- 11/23: Branch 450 Meeting, Parma, OH
- 11/24: Branch 24 Meeting, Maple Hts, OH
- 11/30: Branch 260 Member Jeffrey Peshek Funeral Service, Campbell, OH
- 12/8: Benedictine Slovak Vilija, Cleveland, OH
- 12/12: Branch 855 Meeting, Independence, OH
- 12/13: National Board Meeting, Hollywood, FL; attended by teleconference
- 12/15: Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland Christmas Party, Parma, OH
- 12/16: Branch 228 Meeting, Lorain, OH
- 12/17: District 14 Christmas Party, Boardman, OH
- 12/18: Branch 764 Meeting, Warren, OH

2019 Annual Report of Region 7 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers and fellow member of the FCSU Board of Directors.

As I look back on my first full year as Regional Director of Region 7, I am truly humbled. I have found it to be quite a learning experience thus far. With the help of Veteran Directors and the Home Office, it has been a pleasure.

I have performed all the required duties in 2019 as listed in the FCSU. I have attended District and Branch meetings in my Region. I was in attendance at the Annual Board of Directors meeting in Nashville, TN, as well as the AQS Insurance Symposium at the same location. I also attended the Semi-annual meeting in Independence, OH. I took part in quarterly meetings (one via teleconference and one in Fort Lauderdale, FL). I also had the honor of attending the December Executive Committee meeting by invitation from President Rajec.

I look forward to my future years at Regional Director. It is an honor to represent Region 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Respectfully,

Timothy C. Graves
Region 7 Director

2019 Annual Report of Region 8 Director

Mr President, Executive Committee, Father Nasta and Fellow Board Members:

As always, it has been a privilege and honour to represent the First Catholic Slovak Union as a Regional Director for Region 8 for the year 2019. I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.

The following details are a summary of the activities and events that I participated in and represented the FCSU Region 8.

Fraternal Activities

✓ I have attended both Semi Annual meetings of the Board of Directors in March 2019 held in Nashville TN, and September 2019 at the Head Office, as well one Executive Committee meeting by the invitation of the President. In June 2019 I participated in the teleconference meeting. The December quarterly meeting was held this year in Hollywood Beach Florida, which I attended.

✓ I personally attended two fraternal activities of the Jednota. They were the annual bowling tournament in May 2019, which was held in Pittsburgh PA and the annual golf tournament, August 2019 which was held in Belle Vernon PA.

✓ I attended the final Luncheon for Branch 784 in Montreal, Quebec on Oct 27, 2019, as they are now amalgamated with Branch 785.

Local Activities – District 8

✓ I have attended the local annual meeting of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba District 19 and Branch #785, as well as their semi-annual meetings. I also keep in touch with Alex Drobnik, President of Okres Prince Ratislav District 20 for any updates to the district and branches in the Province of Quebec.

✓ I attended the annual “Spolky Easter Communion Breakfast” which was held in March 2019 at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church. This annual event brings together the other local Slovak Societies in the Mississauga area.

✓ The other fraternal activities I assisted and participated in was the annual summer Regional Picnic held July 7, 2019 in Mississauga Ontario. This event was well attended by our local members and other Slovaks.

✓ The Vychodna Dancers celebrated their 35th Anniversary in 2019. Our district and branch supported their efforts in producing a beautiful performance and show, which included the “Zemplin Band/Hudba” from Slovakia.

✓ I assisted Emil Jursa with the Ramada Casino Bus and Fallsview Casino trips, which was organized through Branch 785.

✓ I also attended funeral services of our deceased members in Mississauga Ontario. Respectfully submitted

Miloš Mitro
Region 8 Director

The Ongoing Success of the First Catholic Slovak Union: *Members Can Help Add to Our Strength*

The First Catholic Slovak Union has now been in existence for 130 years. From then until now, we have relied on four factors to ensure our continuing success: maintaining strong assets and surplus; effective sales and the promotion of FCSU insurance and annuity products; controlling operating expenses; and attracting new members. Even during unprecedented times such as these, our Society continues to make great strides in all of these areas.

As reported by our National President and Executive Secretary at our March Board Meeting, the First Catholic Slovak Union set records once again – in assets of \$416 million and surplus of more than \$42 million. These funds protect and assure our members during times of market downturn, or the kind of unforeseen emergency like the current COVID-19 outbreak.

The effective management of our investment portfolio also holds us in good stead. Our Society enjoys excellent bond quality, with over 97% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. And as our Executive Secretary reported in his annual statement, total operation expenses were more than 6% lower and general expenses were approximately 11% lower for the year.

That leaves membership. Let me start off first by saying our existing sales force, which consists of contracted general agencies, independent agents, and member agents, is doing a tremendous job for the First Catholic Slovak Union. Annuity premium income has increased more than 65%. Overall total premium income increased 57%. Total income for the year was more than 23% higher.

The Society continues to actively recruit agents and general agents. We are instituting a program to recruit new agents in the states we are newly licensed. The Home Of-

fice is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products.

You Are Important to Our Continued Success

On behalf of the Membership and Marketing Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks to each and every recommender who consistently helped increase FCSU business year after year. You have helped build the strong foundation that our Society enjoys today.

We are now entering a new phase of member participation in the promotion of our products. Driven by state regulations, commissions are no longer paid to non-licensed recommenders who sell insurance or annuity policies for the First Catholic Slovak Union. Only licensed agents are eligible to receive a commission. Non-licensed recommenders are eligible for referral fees.

Here's how it works: A \$25 referral fee will be paid to each non-licensed recommender 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 excluding JEP policies.

Of course, if you want to solicit any amount of insurance or annuities with no restrictions, you can become a licensed agent. I did. In my personal history of sales with the FCSU, I signed up over 240 new members through insurance and annuity sales. You can do it too; and the FCSU will help. The FCSU will pay ½ (one half) of the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the required courses and the license fee (the tuition and license fee varies by state). Based on productivity, the FCSU

will pay for ½ (one half) of the renewal. If you wish to become a licensed agent in your resident state, please contact the Home Office for further information. It's worth noting that in some states, such as Pennsylvania, you can apply for a restricted fraternal license and not be required to take an exam or to take continuing education classes. A restricted fraternal license limits the amount of insurance or annuity products sold.

Last but not least, I personally want to thank the branch and district officers for your untiring commitment to our great Society. Please keep up the good work – continue to let others know about not only our excellent insurance and annuity products but also the many fraternal activities we offer on a branch, district, region and national level. On our part, the Home Office will continue to keep all branch and district officers up to date on products and events. This can be through email, direct mail, or via seminars which we are happy to conduct around our district meetings once those are able to get underway again.

With God's help and our own careful deliberation during these uncertain times, we can continue to make progress and keep our Society strong and growing. Together, we will ensure that our beloved Jednota continues to thrive now and well into the future.



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in May

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 42nd year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry.

As of April 30, \$15,688.50 has been received from 121 donors. This amount includes donations received from these Branches of the FCSU: Branch 40, Branch 41, Branch 45, Branch 112, Branch 166, Branch 173, Branch 276, Branch 450, Branch 746, and Branch 764. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2020 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount

are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2020 will be credited toward the 2021 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator

42nd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Sacred Heart Church
120 Jefferson Street
Swedesburg, PA 19405

News From Slovakia

Epidemiológovia: Pozitívne čísla na Slovensku z dôvodu zodpovedného prístupu

Bratislava, 28. apríla (TASR) - Pozitívny vývoj vo vzťahu k šíreniu nového koronavírusu na Slovensku možno pripísať všetkým, ktorí sa k epidemiologickým opatreniam pristupovali zodpovedne, epidemiológom, premiérovi Igorovi Matovičovi a ministrom zdravotníctva Marekovi Krajcovi (obaja OLaNO) vyhlásené v utorok po spoločnom stretnutí.

„Pozitívny vývoj, ktorý v súčasnosti môžeme pozorovať, je výsledkom uložených obmedzení, zodpovednosti ľudí, ale aj hospodárskych strát, ktoré sme utrpeli,“ uviedol Matovič. „Nepokazme to, zostaňme zodpovední. Budeme odmenení možnosťou postupne zmierniť obmedzenia,“ dodal.

Krajci poznamenal, že systém opatrení na Slovensku v kombinácii so skutočnosťou, že ich ľudia pozorovali, urobil zo Slovenska model pre iné krajiny.

Bývalá ministerka zdravotníctva Andrea Kalavská uviedla, že systém „niečo za niečo“ stále existuje. „Rovnaké pravidlá stále platia a ak ich budeme dodržiavať, budeme odmenení väčšou slobodou. Ak to neurobíme, mohli by sme tvrdo padnúť,“ poznamenala.

Vedúci stáleho krízového tímu a odborník na tropické lekárstvo Vladimír Krčmery zdôraznil, že rizikové faktory stále existujú. „Jedným z nich je, že ak sa staneme samoregiónmi a pustíme sa do svojej disciplíny, pokiaľ ide o sociálne distancovanie a nosenie tvárových masiek. Ďalším faktorom je režim na hraniciach,“ uviedol a poznamenal, že ak sa v krajine vyskytne druhá vlna choroby, je takmer vždy, dovezená „z inej krajiny. „Hraničný režim samozrejme nesmie znevýhodňovať tých, ktorí nepredstavujú riziká,“ naznačujúc, že ústredný krízový tím sa bude v utorok zaoberať otázkou cezhraničných dochádzajúcich.

Pokiaľ ide o nebezpečenstvo dovezených prípadov a letných prázdnin v zahraničí, odborníci odporúčili, aby Slováci strávili dovolenku na Slovensku.



(foto TASR) Stock photo by TASR

Epidemiologists: Positive Figures in Slovakia Due to Responsible Approach

Bratislava, April 28 (TASR) – The positive developments vis-a-vis the spread of novel coronavirus in Slovakia can be attributed to all those who've approached the epidemiological measures responsibly, epidemiologists along with Prime Minister Igor Matovic and Health Minister Marek Krajci (both OLaNO) declared on Tuesday after their joint meeting.

“The positive developments that we can currently observe are a result of the imposed restrictions, people's responsibility but also the economic losses that we've suffered,“ stated Matovic. “Let's not spoil it, let's remain responsible. We'll be rewarded with the opportunity to alleviate the restrictions gradually,“ he added.

Krajci noted that the system of measures in Slovakia when combined with the fact that people have observed them have made Slovakia a model for other countries.

Ex-health minister Andrea Kalavská said that the system of 'something for something' is still in place. “The same rules still apply and if we follow them, we'll be rewarded with more freedom. If we don't, we could have a hard fall,“ she remarked.

Head of the permanent crisis team and tropical medicine expert Vladimír Krčmery pointed out that risk factors still exist. “One of these is if we become complacent and let go of our discipline up to this point when it comes to social distancing and wearing face masks. Another factor is the regime at the borders,“ he said, noting that if a second wave of a disease occurs in a country, it's almost always 'imported' from another country. “Of course, the border regime mustn't penalize those who don't represent risks,“ hinting that the central crisis team will deal with the issue of cross-board commuters on Tuesday.

Speaking of the danger of imported cases and summer holidays abroad, the experts recommended that Slovaks should spend their vacation in Slovakia.

Ventilátor navrhnutý mladými slovenskými vedcami ide do výroby

Bratislava, 27. apríla (TASR) - Alternatívny objemovo regulovaný prenosný pľúcny ventilátor s názvom Q-vent, ktorý navrhli mladí slovenskí vedci, už prešiel do sériovej výroby, dozvedel sa TASR v pondelok.

Pľúcny ventilátor, ktorý zabezpečuje preklenovaciu ventiláciu v podmienkach, v ktorých nie je možné používať profesionálne vybavenie, bol vytvorený doktorandmi Katedry fyzickej a teoretickej chémie na Univerzite Komenského v Bratislave, medzi ktore patria Samuel Furka a Daniel Furka, vedúci ambulancie chemoterapie Národného onkologického ústavu Patrik Palacka a študent Lekárskej fakulty Komenského Dalibor Gallik.

Hneď ako bola zahájená sériová výroba ventilátora, bola bezplatne ponúknutá Taliansku a iným krajinám ako súčasť humanitárnej pomoci prostredníctvom slovenského ministerstva zahraničných vecí.

Q-vent pomocou dýchacej trubice pomáha sedatívnemu pacientovi dýchať 24 hodín a v prenosnom režime šesť hodín. Jeho senzor indikuje, kedy sa pacient prebudí a začne spontánne dýchať. Jeho filter obsahuje UV sterilizátor a špeciálnu keramickú filtračnú vložku, ktorá bola vyrobená 3D tlačou tímom Mariana Janka z Katedry anorganických materiálov Slovenskej technickej univerzity v Bratislave.

Vedecký tím financoval vývoj zariadenia z vlastných zdrojov a sériová výroba sa začala vďaka podpore dekanátu Prírodovedeckej fakulty Komenského a dvoch spoločností s názvom Koval Systems and Embasys. Tvorcovia projektu poukázali na skutočnosť, že na pokračovanie výroby je potrebná finančná podpora, a mladí vedci o to požiadali niekoľko inštitúcií. „Paradoxne je získanie aspoň malého množstva finančnej podpory pre projekt, ktorý reprezentuje Slovensko v medzinárodnom kontexte, oveľa náročnejšie ako celý proces vývoja, testovania a spustenia sériovej výroby zariadenia,“ uviedol Samuel Furka.

Tvorcovia projektu veria, že slovenské vládne inštitúcie budú podporovať sériovú výrobu ventilátora Q-ventilátora, aby sa klinické testovanie mohlo začať čo najskôr.



Serial production of lung ventilator developed by young Slovak scientists

Ventilátor navrhnutý mladými slovenskými vedcami ide do výroby

(photo by TASR)

Ventilator Designed by Young Slovak Scientists Goes into Production

Bratislava, April 27 (TASR) – An alternative volume-regulated portable lung ventilator called Q-vent, which was designed by young Slovak scientists, has already gone into serial production, TASR learnt on Monday.

The lung ventilator, which provides bridging ventilation in conditions in which it isn't possible to use professional equipment, was created by PhD students of the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Department at the Bratislava-based Comenius University, Samuel Furka and Daniel Furka, head of the outpatient chemotherapy department of the National Oncology Institute Patrik Palacka and student of Comenius's Medical Faculty Dalibor Gallik.

As soon as serial production of the ventilator was launched, it was offered free of charge to Italy and other countries as part of humanitarian aid via the Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Using an airway tube, Q-vent assists a sedated patient to breathe for 24 hours and in portable mode for six hours. Its sensor indicates when the patient wakes up and begins to breathe spontaneously. Its filter contains a UV sterilizer and a special ceramic filter insert that was produced via 3D printing by Marian Janek's team from the Inorganic Materials Department of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava.

The scientific team financed the development of the device from its own resources, and serial production was launched thanks to support from the dean's office of Comenius's Faculty of Natural Sciences and two companies called Koval Systems and Embasys (not sure if it is right) The creators of the project pointed to the fact that financial support is needed in order to continue production, and the young scientists have asked several institutions for this. “Paradoxically, gaining at least a small amount of financial support for a project that represents Slovakia in the international context is much more demanding than the whole process of development, testing and launching the serial production of the device,“ stated Samuel Furka.

The project's creators believe that Slovak governmental institutions will support serial production of the Q-vent ventilator so that clinical testing can start as soon as possible.

FCSU Members and Parishioners in Mississauga, Ontario, *Show Appreciation to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Clergy* *Online Celebration of Mass during COVID-19*

On April 25th, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga, after livestreaming Saturday Mass, Father Grzegorz (Gregory) Nowicki and visiting priest Father Bartolomej Urbanec got a wonderful surprise from parishioners – a procession of cars in appreciation of their efforts during the current COVID-19 isolation to celebrate Mass online every day. Our Slovak Mass is from Monday-Friday at 19:00 (7:00PM) with 19:30 (7:30PM) Rosary and Saturday at 17.00 (5:00PM), Sunday 9:00AM English Mass and 11:00AM Slovak Mass, 10:30AM Rosary. Everyone is invited to join us in worship via Zoom or on You Tube:

<https://zoom.us/j/885626696>

or <https://www.youtube.com/user/slovak-parish>

We don't know how long this will last but all of us feel good that we can still celebrate Mass "together" in the familiar church with our beloved priests presiding. THANK YOU Fathers!

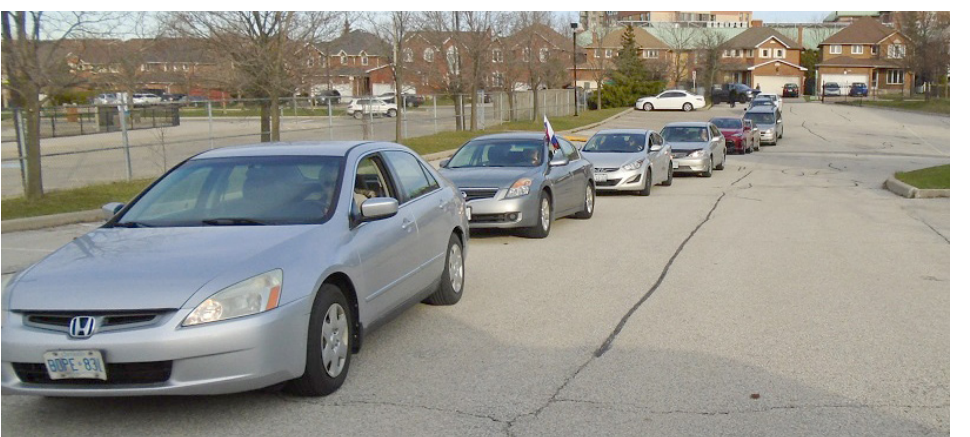
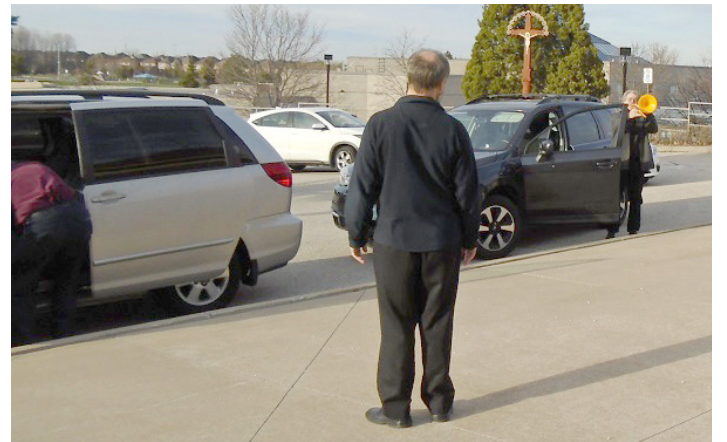
- Submitted by Helen Von Friedl, Branch 785



Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Ontario live streams Mass every day so that parishioners can celebrate Mass online



Friday, April 24th, also was Father Gregory's birthday so he was serenaded by Miro Letko (far right) He also was presented with a birthday cake (shown L) courtesy of bakers Martha Zjalkova and Jana Puskarova.



Pope Francis Prayers to Mary

First Prayer to Our Lady

O Mary,
You shine continuously on
our journey as a sign of sal-
vation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to
you, Health of the Sick, who,
at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus'
suffering, and persevered in
your faith.



“Protectress of the Ro-
man people”, you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring
us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

The second Prayer

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly
to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort
those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried
in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones
who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to
them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the conse-
quences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great
suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son,
as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their
hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of
this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and
grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral
concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that
they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to
the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic
solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing
and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent
similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to rec-
ognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to
alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in
service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God
will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can
serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves,
O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

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Dobré, dobre: Good words to know

- From post by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

The words **dobré**, **dobre** have variable uses in the Slovak language – and the accent
mark makes a big difference in meaning.

DOBŘÉ –meaning good (spelled with an accent above **É**)

DOBRE –indicating “how” something or someone is (spelled **E** without an accent)

So, for example:

To víno je **dobre** staré. (That wine is **VERY** old.) OR To víno je **dobré** a staré. (That wine
is **GOOD** and old)

You also can use dobre to intensify negative attributes as well:

On je dobre sprostý. (He's so incredibly stupid.)

Dobre, in particular, is used a lot in everyday conversations. Here are some examples:

Dobre - Good/Fine - Ako sa máš? (How are you?) Dobre.

Dobre - Ok - Máš padáka! (You're fired!) - Dobre.

Dobre - Yes. - Example: Pomôžeš mi? (Can you help me?) - Dobre.

Dobre - Enough. - When someone pours wine into your glass and you see it's enough,
just say **Dobre**. 🖐️🍷

Dobre - Leave me alone - When you're on a phone call and you try to end it repeating:
Dobre.dobre dobre... 📞

Dobre - I got it - Choď stále rovno a teraz odbočiť doprava. (Keep going straight and then
turn right) - **Dobre**

Dobre! - Wow! - When Petra Vlhová finishes 1st in slalom ski race and all you're able to
say about it is **Dobre!** 🙌

Dobre - Well, that's awkward... - When someone says the Earth is flat and you, surprised
by this incredulous statement, just say **Dobre** slowly... with a dramatic pause afterward.

Save the Date*

**FCSU National
Golf Tournament**

**Sat Aug. 15–
Sun Aug. 16, 2020
Chestnut Ridge Resort
Blairsville, PA**

*Any change for this event, including additional Covid-19 information, will be printed
in an upcoming Jednota issue and posted at www.fcsu.com as soon as possible.

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



As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, the First Catholic Slovak Union remains committed to our membership. We are updating our website regularly to keep you informed – including any changes to the current branch and district announcements printed in Jednota. Please regularly visit our website at www.fcsu.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Get FCSU In Your Inbox – Never More Important than Now

Today when we are all facing rapidly changing challenges, it's more important than ever to stay up-to-date with information from the First Catholic Slovak Union. Provide/update your email address at the link below – and receive the FCSU latest info right in your inbox. It's free, easy and safe. We'll never share your email address! Please go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/contact/>

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

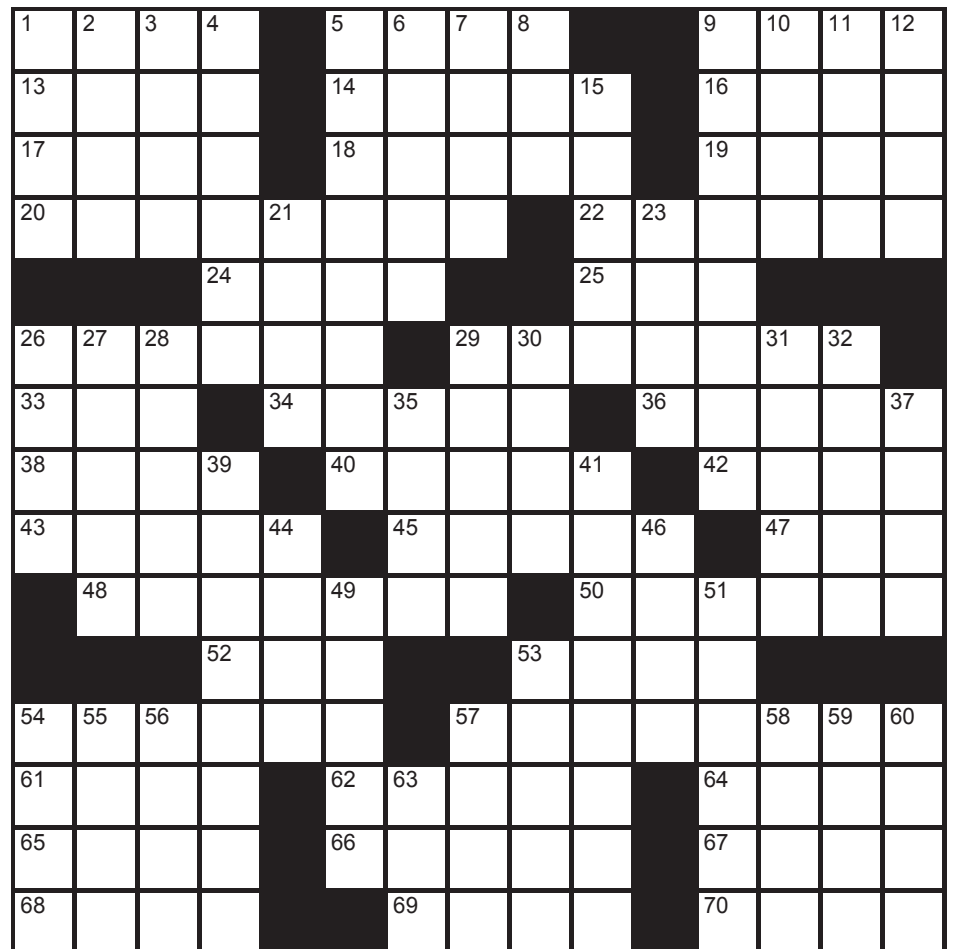
Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
June 10	June 1
July 8	June 29
August 12	August 3
Sept 9	August 31
October 14	October 5
November 11	November 2
December 9	November 30

Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682. Her extension is 123.

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, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 They, in Trieste
- 5 Turkish title
- 9 At a distance
- 13 Voting group
- 14 Excitement
- 16 Cousin of a mandolin
- 17 Murray of *What About Bob?*
- 18 Kidney secretion
- 19 Jockey's whip
- 20 Stabilized
- 22 Clutches
- 24 Persia, today
- 25 Race unit
- 26 Turkey's highest peak
- 29 Third tonsil
- 33 Fall behind
- 34 Like Chicago
- 36 Kind of ink
- 38 Picnic pest
- 40 Citadel student
- 42 Sparkle
- 43 High points
- 45 Man with a mission
- 47 Compass pt.
- 48 Nova Scotia capital
- 50 Steel man Carnegie
- 52 Author LeShan
- 53 "Gimme ___!"
- 54 Toddler
- 57 Hair style
- 61 Son of Jacob and Leah
- 62 Driving hazard
- 64 French bread?
- 65 Lover of Aphrodite
- 66 Postal scale unit
- 67 Train station

Down

- 1 Trails off
- 2 Narrow opening
- 3 Seafood selection
- 4 French pastry
- 5 Mediterranean arm
- 6 Clover color
- 7 Full house, e.g.
- 8 Pal for Pierre
- 9 Famous gangster
- 10 Wraps
- 11 Above
- 12 Gym set
- 15 Vantage point
- 21 No-win situation
- 23 Eastern royal
- 26 Aquatic plant
- 27 Dressing type
- 28 Old World lizard
- 29 African antelope
- 30 Like Easter eggs
- 31 Slacker
- 32 *Cheers* role
- 35 California wine valley
- 37 Over again
- 39 Broadcast
- 41 Rookies
- 44 Fries, maybe
- 46 Begrudge
- 49 Red River city
- 51 Execrate
- 53 Compel
- 54 Thick slice
- 55 Matinee follower
- 56 Say for sure
- 57 Glazier's item
- 58 Garage occupant
- 59 Vitamin additive
- 60 Easy gait
- 63 Big galoot

See Solution on Page 21

Memorial Day is May 25th



Memorial Day, a federal holiday in the United States, honors the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday is observed every year on the last Monday of May, which this year is May 25, 2020. It originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged, and Memorial Day

eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service. It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.



JEDNOTA MEMORIAL, MIDDLETOWN, PA. Dedicated, 2015



JEDNOTA MEMBERS: MEMORIAL DAY IS A GREAT TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR OWN MEMORIAL

Memorial Day provides a wonderful opportunity for members to participate in the Jednota Memorial by purchasing a brick to honor those who served in any wars and also to honor and remember ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great. Dedicated in September 2015 for our members and their families, the site is on a permanently reserved 1½ acres of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose.

All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" in the granite panels found throughout the Memorial will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted. If you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com/about/jednota-memorial/ to download your order form or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

12	IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED UNCLE FRANCIS J. LACHY	IN LOVING MEMORY GERALD AND MURIEL CARLTON BRANCH 313	IN LOVING MEMORY CHARLES AND BESS JURNAK BRANCH 313
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY WIFE MARIA M. HARGAR REST IN PEACE ICH LIEBE DICH MEN LIEBLING	FOREVER THANKFUL FOR STEPHEN AND LINDA GOHTA BRANCH 181KJ	DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF REV. FRANCIS G. LENDACKY, PASTOR OF ST. AGNES-ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE SLOVAK PARISH AND CHAPLAIN OF BRANCH 55 IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS FAITHFUL SERVICE BY FCSU ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY BRANCH 55	
IN LOVING MEMORY JOSEPH AND THERESA BUGEL BRANCH 313	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY PARENTS JOHN AND ELIZABETH HRONEC	GRATITUDE AND LOVING MEMORIES FOR FAMILY OF JOSEPH A. WALICK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MICHAEL & CATHERINE SKLENAR FAMILY-BR595
IN MEMORY OF THE TOTH AND KRHLA FAMILIES	REMEMBERING KORCHNAK FAMILY MEMBERS JOHNSTOWN PA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE & DIXIE KINEK ALLENTOWN, PA	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS MARGARET AND GEORGE DINDAK	ANDREW & OLGA CAPKOVIC-FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS-MMAAK	IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BR.450 CLEVELAND, OH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED AUNT GERTRUDE P. STASH
IN MEMORY OF ALL DECEASED MEMBERS BRANCH 682	IN MEMORY OF ANDREW J. HIRT BRANCH 682	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY KARCH XOXO	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND JOSEPH A. WALIKIS	JANKOLA LIBRARY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 1968-2018	TOMANEK AND MASARYK FAMILIES DONATED BY LIEUT. PAUL TOMANEK	
DEDICATED TO THE LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 735K PORTLAND, OREGON ESTAB. 3/31/1910	IN MEMORY OF ALL THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE MEMBERS OF BRANCH 166K GOD'S BLESSINGS	ST. MARTIN'S BR. 810 MONTREAL QC. CANADA DEC. 1936-NOV. 2018 DEDICATED TO LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS	FRANK J. SEMANCIK SUPREME AUDITOR MSGR. JOSEPH SEMANCIK KEEP ON SINGING AND PLAYING THE BASS KEN JAVOR REST IN PEACE



Come Join Us



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

FCSU National Picnic

Saturday, August 8, 2020*

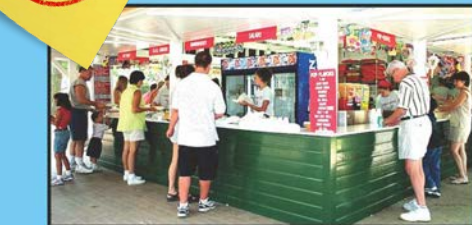
Frogbridge
7 Yellow Meeting House Road
Millstone Township, NJ 08510

SAVE THE DATE



*Any change for this event, including additional Covid-19 information, will be printed in an upcoming Jednota issue and posted at www.fcsu.com as soon as possible.

Making Memories at Wiegand Lake Park

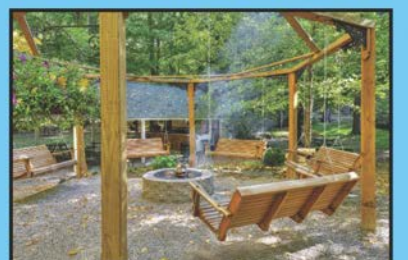


Sunday, June 28, 2020 *

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!

**Any change for this event, including additional Covid-19 information, will be printed in an upcoming Jednota issue and posted at www.fcsu.com as soon as possible.





ATTENTION

COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

**Deadline Extended
JUNE 30, 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,
June 30, 2020**

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 –

Due to the Coronavirus epidemic and the current state-wide stay-in-place order, the meeting scheduled for April 26, 2020 at Burntwood Tavern in Rocky River, OH, has been cancelled. Future meetings are anticipated and will be printed in upcoming issues of Jednota and posted on the FCSU website (www.fcsu.com) as soon as details are available.

Marie Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 will be holding our Annual meeting on November 10th 2020 at 7PM at Eat n Park on Ohio River Blvd in Bellevue PA. We will be discussing upcoming events and we will also have election of officers. Please RSVP to Joanne at 412-715-5577.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch has cancelled its meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 9:00 A. M. at Holy Trinity Church 52 Parish Street, Ramey, PA. Due to the coronavirus epidemic, we are not permitted to use the church at this time. We will try to have our next meeting in August. Details will follow in an upcoming Jednota or on the FCSU website www.fcsu.com.

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

In compliance with the orders of the Governor of Connecticut and in the interest of the health and safety of our members, the branch meeting of St. Joseph Society, Branch 19 scheduled for April 28, 2020 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a future date. May God bless our members and keep us all safe.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the meeting scheduled for May 17, 2020, has been rescheduled to August 2, 2020. The meeting will be held starting at 1:00PM in the Activity Center of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church, 8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH, 44141. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting. For reservations, please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Robert Kopco, President

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm at Red Robin: 175 E Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on 2020 fraternal social activities. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend. Any change for this meeting, pending additional Covid-19 information, will be posted in the Jednota newspaper and on the FCSU website www.fcsu.com as soon as possible. Also, please refer any meeting questions to Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LLHASELHOFF@gmail.com.

If anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

Logan Haselhoff, President of Branch 38
**Florence Matta, Secretary/
Treasurer of Branch 38**

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the semi-annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2020, has been cancelled. We hope to reschedule the meeting at a later date. Please check upcoming issues of the Jednota paper for details. We pray for the health and safety of all our members.

Julie Perla, Branch Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Branch 153 meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 20, is cancelled. No new

date has been set. Please watch the paper for a new announcement.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2020, at 9:00AM at the Dairy Queen Restaurant, 575 West Main Street, 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 breakfast meeting. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 for reservations by June 9th 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, June 28, 2020, at 2:15PM, at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, N. On the agenda will be District information and a discussion of 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 June 24, 2020, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting. If necessary due to continued restrictions in New York, we will reschedule, so please check your next issue of Jednota as well as our branch announcement posted on the FCSU website www.fcsu.com for any updates.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All members of Branch 181 are invited to the annual family picnic on Sunday, June 28, 2020. We will gather at Pavilion #13 in Mammoth Park in PA. Festivities will include celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181. Registration will begin at noon with refreshments being served at 1 p.m. Members and guests are encouraged to bring their favorite potluck dish to share. Beverages and main entree will be provided. A branch meeting will be held directly after the picnic.

Please call Vicki at 724-547-0803 with any questions or directions. Any change for this event, including additional Covid-19 information, will be printed in an upcoming Jednota issue and posted at www.fcsu.com as soon as possible.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 is still planning the 125th Anniversary event at this time [Editor's note: please see page 22 of this issue for details]. We will reschedule our dates should continuing COVID-19 restrictions affect our October 1st -3rd schedule should that be necessary.

Due to the virus, we cancelled our April and May branch meetings. Any member that may want to attend future meetings that may be held in June or July, please send me your phone number or email address, so I can notify you due to the deadline and printed JEDNOTA dates. Our next regular meeting scheduled is August 6th 7:00pm at the Slovak CU, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226 either in the Bowling Alley or Social Hall.

The Officers and Board of Directors wish you all good health and safety at this unprecedented time in our lives.

Fraternally,
Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 200 Members: Your District, District 11, is planning a meeting on Sunday June 28, 2020, at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at the Slovak C U Club @ 910 6th Avenue Ford City, PA, 16226. The meeting will be held in the

large event room on the second floor which will allow for social distancing; please be sure to also bring your mask. There is a back entrance with a ramp that is handicapped accessible. We will be discussing events for the rest of the year. The District prays for all members' safety and health. Please try to attend, all safety measures and CDC guidelines will be followed.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen Greggs, District Secretary

BRANCH 213 – NORTH VERSAILLES, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2020. The meeting will take place at 1:00 pm at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA.

Branch 213 invites all members to attend. The agenda will include current business of the Branch, and discussion of upcoming Branch and District events and activities.

Respectfully,

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Statewide Stay-At-Home order to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Ohio, the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 did not hold its March meeting and will suspend our regular meetings until AFTER the statewide stay-at-home order is lifted and the American Slovak Club is available to us. Notice of our next meeting will appear in Jednota.

Our meetings normally begin at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. 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. At this time, the exact date for this year's election meeting is December 21, 2020. We will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors during this meeting.

May we all pray to our Dear Lord God to bless the world with a cure for the pandemic virus and bless all those in the healthcare field and all support services that keep the world population supplied with their needs. Please pray that God blesses them all with good spiritual, mental and physical health to provide their services to our sick ones and their special support to the families of those who have contracted the virus. May God bless and comfort all those who have contracted the virus with His Love and Peace. May they return to good health to love and serve our Lord God.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING CANCELLED. The Branch 276 meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 17 is cancelled. A Fall meeting is planned for Sunday, November 15. The Pittsburgh District meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 26 is also cancelled. The district may still hold a Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 21. A Pirates game & Tailgate is planned for Saturday evening, August 1. Please check the Jednota or your email for additional information.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292 KJ, will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 21, 2020. The meeting will be held at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church, 604 Graham Ave, Windber, PA. A Mass for the feast of St. John the Baptist will be celebrated at the aforementioned church (see church bulletin for date and time). All members are asked to attend both events. A buffet dinner will follow.

Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C., President

BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Dear Members of Branch 313,

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the May

4th semi-annual Branch 313 meeting is cancelled. The meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, August 3rd of 2020 at 11:30am and will be followed by a fraternal luncheon. The meeting will be held at Fox's Restaurant, located at 9655 W 143rd St, Orland Park, Illinois 60462. Branch members are welcome to attend. Call, 313 President Marge or 313 Secretary Jennifer at (708)226-8157 before 7/15/2020, if you would like to attend. Thank you!

Keep well and God Bless!!

**Jennifer Carlton,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, for the safety of our members, we are not scheduling any branch meetings at this time. A meeting in June is anticipated. Future meetings will be posted on the FCSU website (www.fcsu.com) and be printed in an upcoming issue of Jednota as soon as details are available. Hoping and praying for the health and safety of all our members.

Frances Tarquinio, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

All members of Branch 320 who are interested in attending the District 6 Annual Pittsburgh Pirates game on Saturday, August 1, 2020, should contact Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788. Please see page 22 of this issue for details on the event.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all Branch 401 Members: our District, District 11, is planning a meeting on Sunday June 28, 2020, at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at the Slovak C U Club @ 910 6th Avenue Ford City, PA, 16226. The meeting will be held in the large event room on the second floor which will allow for social distancing; please be sure to also bring your mask. There is a back entrance with a ramp that is handicapped accessible. We will be discussing events for the rest of the year. The District prays for all members' safety and health. Please try to attend, all safety measures and CDC guidelines will be followed.

Fraternally submitted,

Patrick Froncek, 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. See page 17 of this issue for Pirates Game info.

Patrick Froncek, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 429 – LYNDORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 429 Members: Your District, District 11, is planning a meeting on Sunday June 28, 2020, at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at the Slovak C U Club @ 910 6th Avenue Ford City, PA, 16226. The meeting will be held in the large event room on the second floor which will allow for social distancing; please be sure to also bring your mask. There is a back entrance with a ramp that is handicapped accessible. We will be discussing events for the rest of the year. The District prays for all members' safety and health. Please try to attend, all safety measures and CDC guidelines will be followed.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen Greggs, District Secretary

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BRANCH 450 — CLEVELAND, OHIO

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, for the safety of our members, the April 18, 2020, meeting at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Parma, OH, has been canceled. Meetings later in this year are anticipated. These meetings will be posted on the FCSU website and be printed in an upcoming issue of Jednota as soon as details are available. Hoping and praying for the health and safety of all our members.

George Carny, President

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

We are complying with Ohio's Directives concerning the pandemic and are unable to serve our members with open doors at the J Club. We anticipate future directives from the state in the coming weeks. As the situation evolves and directives change – call the Slovak J club @ 330-786-9972 for updates.

Mark your calendars for the July 25th Kielbasa Open at Mayfair Country Club. We are looking forward to share fraternal activities with all members. Stay safe and healthy.

Linda Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Gary-Whiting Branch 581, will hold its semi-annual meeting at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN, on Sunday, June 28, at 1 p.m. The agenda will include information from the recent district meeting, officer's reports and donations to our charitable causes. RSVP Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793 or George Kelchak, 219-926-2410.

Ann Buczek, President

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 670 — DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, for the safety of our members, we are not scheduling any branch meetings at this time. A meeting in June is anticipated. Future meetings will be posted on the FCSU website (www.fcsu.com) and be printed in an upcoming issue of Jednota as soon as details are available. Hoping and praying for the health and safety of all our members.

Joseph A. Matinko, President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, the St. Stephen Society Branch 716 is rescheduling its Sunday April 26th meeting to Sunday, June 14, 2020. Provided the church is opened and restrictions have been lifted, the meeting will be held after the Slovak Mass at 1:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room in St. John Nepomucene Church in NYC. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Any changes to this new date will be posted as soon as possible on the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com and in the next available issue of Jednota.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Due to the current coronavirus epidemic and the safety of our members, Branch 721 is cancelling their previously scheduled spring meeting on April 26, 2020. Future meetings are anticipated and will be printed in Jednota or posted on the FCSU website (www.fcsu.com) as soon as details are available.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731, will hold our meeting on July 19, 2020, at Café 422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, OH, at 4PM. We hope to see you there.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The archdiocese of Detroit canceled all Masses until at least April 5, accordingly we canceled our Branch 743 meeting scheduled for March 29. Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, any future Branch meeting is postponed until further notice. Please look for details in upcoming issues of Jednota or on the FCSU website www.fcsu.com.

Joseph Rimarcik, President

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 1:00 PM telephonically. We encourage all Branch 746 members to participate from the comfort of their homes. Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 (please call between 7-9pm) by June 21st. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect. You can participate by video for those who are able or via telephone. Dialing in is an easy option and we encourage all members to try to participate. The agenda will include the summer picnic, pilgrimage to Washington, DC, potential fall events and new business.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 831 Members: Your District, District 11, is planning a meeting on Sunday June 28, 2020, at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at the Slovak C U Club @ 910 6th Avenue Ford City, PA, 16226. The meeting will be held in the large event room on the second floor which will allow for social distancing; please be sure to also bring your mask. There is a back entrance with a ramp that is handicapped accessible. We will be discussing events for the rest of the year. The District prays for all members' safety and health. Please try to attend, all safety measures and CDC guidelines will be followed.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen Greggs, District Secretary

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have cancelled plans for our spring and summer meetings and activities. A fall meeting is anticipated. Details will be published in a future issue of Jednota as well as posted on the FCSU website.

Barbara Sutilla, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, for the safety of our members, we are postponing our meeting for April 27, 2020 at the Tavra Restaurant in Chevy Chase, MD. At this time no date has been set to re-schedule. More to follow. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638. We want our members to be safe

**Katherine Nowatkoski
Financial Secretary**

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - REVEREND JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the April, 26th 2020 Semi-Annual F.C.S.U. meeting of District 2 is canceled. The District 2 meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 2pm. 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 II, Region 7 are encouraged to attend. Please take part and represent your Branch! The meeting will be followed by a complimentary fraternal luncheon. If you plan on attending the July meeting, please contact Dorothy Jurcenko by July 4th, at (312)608-7852. Only a sufficient amount of food will be ordered, for those in the reservation count!

From your District 2 Officers,
Keep well and GOD BLESS!!

**Fraternally Submitted by,
Jennifer Carlton, Recording Secretary**

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

The George Onda District's Semi-Annual Meeting, which we were hoping to have in April, has been cancelled. This for the safety of our members and is in cooperation with the "isolation" order of the state of Pennsylvania that remains in effect. Future meetings are anticipated. Please look for details in upcoming issues of Jednota and on the FCSU website (www.fcsu.com) as soon as they are available.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary, George Onda District

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM telephonically. We encourage members to participate from the comfort of their homes. Kindly RSVP by June 12th to: Emilia at 908-486-2921 (please call between 7-9pm). If you want to participate via video, instructions will be emailed. If you would like to dial in using your home phone this is also an easy option. For security purposes we will share the dial-in number and meeting ID once you RSVP. For regular attending members with e-mail addresses, you will receive an email with detailed instructions. We encourage everyone to participate so we can catch up and start planning our post-pandemic events. The agenda will include recap of 2019 events, discussion of the National Picnic in NJ set for August 8th, the Pilgrimage to Washington, DC set for September 13th, potential fall activities and other business.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Due to the current Coronavirus-related statewide stay-in-place order, the April 26, 2020 meeting at Deer Lake Inn has been cancelled, and a future date is yet undetermined. Please continue to check upcoming issues of Jednota and the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com.

Diane Rimarcik, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT FATHERS' DAY BRUNCH CANCELLED

Due to the COVID 19 epidemic and the need for continued social isolation, it has become necessary for the district and host branch to cancel our traditional Fathers' Day Brunch this year. We feel that for the safety of all members it is wisest that we not schedule any event with a large gathering. Fathers' Day will soon be here, so on behalf of all of us from the Pittsburgh District we wish all fathers a happy and blessed day.

Our hope is to still have the Pirates game and tailgate in August. Please check the advertisement on page 22 of this issue of Jednota for details.

Until then,

Be Safe, Be in Health, and God Bless.

David Matta, District President

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

Dear members of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8: Due to the Coronavirus epidemic we the officers have decided to postpone the meeting that was scheduled for April 26, 2020, in Mahanoy City, PA. At this time no new date has been selected to re scheduled. We are doing this for the safety of our members. Thank you for understanding; we want everyone to be safe.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President

DISTRICT 10 - THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

After careful consideration of recent and evolving developments concerning potential exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Sunday, March 29, 2020, meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District, District 10, was postponed. Plans are underway for a meeting at a later date. Details will be forthcoming. Please call me at 330-398-1888 if you have any questions.

Greg Petrasek, President

DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The District is planning a meeting on Sunday June 28, 2020, at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at the Slovak C U Club @ 910 6th Avenue Ford City, PA, 16226. The meeting will be held in the large event room on the second floor which will allow for social distancing; please be sure to also bring your mask. There is a back entrance with a ramp that is handicapped accessible. We will be discussing events for the rest of the year. The District prays for all members' safety and health. Please try to attend, all safety measures and CDC guidelines will be followed.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen Greggs, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

For the safety of our members during the COVID-19 crisis, the officers of District 12 have decided to postpone any district meetings until June at the earliest. Please check the website and upcoming issues of Jednota for details of future meetings.

We hope and pray for the health and safety of all our members.

Joseph Tarquinio, President

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Due to the current Covid 19 virus situation, the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020 has been cancelled. It is tentatively rescheduled for 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at The Fireplace [Coronavirus Tentative Location and subject to cancellation] Please check the FCSU website for our posted District 14 meeting notice prior to attending, or call John J. Leskovyansky Jr. District President @ 330.549.3788, or 330.559.5981.

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for the remainder of 2020:

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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	Sophie Hudak	060K	Ronald Pastor	393K	Mildred Ulicny	731K	Katherine Sefcik
004K	William Krainak	112K	Paul David Costy, Jr.	401K	Ann M Kicmol	746K	Michael Surma
023K	Kathleen Ann Stolar	153K	Anna Vicchiarelli	497K	Patricia Jerles	831K	Barry Lee Powell
024K	Eugene L Krajnak	162K	John F Painley	553K	Joan C Goubeaux	855K	Robert J Schurdak
024K	Anna M Luzicka	166K	Mildred E Macek	580K	George A Balta	855K	Blanche A Wallace
024K	Salvatore J Maggio	166K	Joseph E Slavick	636K	Daniel D Ceparski	900K	Anna Marie Cahoon
035K	Louise Litvak	173K	Francis A Iskra	670K	Rudolph J Katrencik	924K	Helen M Kerschner
038K	Ruth Ann Seech	260K	Chester Allen Boland	682K	Emery J Stanchin		
055K	Margaret J Lukacko	393K	Edward A Ulicny	721K	Joseph J Fabus Jr		

*Processed through the month of April

OBITUARIES

FCSU Chairman of Auditors Leonard Zilko Passed into Eternal Life April 27, 2020

Leonard J. "Len" Zilko, 72, of Amherst, died Monday, April 27, 2020, at Mercy New Life Hospice Center of St. Joseph in Lorain, OH, after a short illness. He was born August 28, 1947, in Lorain and had been a lifelong area resident. Len graduated from Admiral King High School. He was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Germany in the Quartermaster Corps. He attended Baldwin Wallace University where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree. Len served as auditor for the First Catholic Slovak Union and was recently elected to a four-year term as Chairman of Auditors. In January of this year, he retired as president of the American Slovak Club in Lorain, having served for seven years. He had worked at Lorain Products in Lorain in accounting for 10 years. He was an active member of the former Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lorain where he sang in the church choir and served as an usher. He was president of United Slovak Societies,



had served on the board of the American Slovak Club for almost 15 years, and was president of St John/Holy Trinity Lodge 228. Len was an accomplished musician having played many instruments in which the accordion was his favorite. His band, the Len Zilko Trio, covered Top 40 songs during the 1970s at many local establishments. For many years, Len enjoyed coaching his children in softball, t-ball, and baseball. He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Joyce; children, Stephanie Zilko of Canton, OH, Jamie (Christina) Zilko of Amherst, OH and Cynthia Zilko of Parma, OH; granddaughters, Lilly and Natalya Zilko; and grandson, Stephen Edward Leonard Zilko. He was preceded in death by his parents, Stephen and Irene Zilko (nee Trnian); and brothers, Edward and Stephen Zilko. Memorial contributions can be made to Mercy New Life Hospice, 3500 Kolbe Rd., Lorain, OH 44053. Online condolences can be made at www.gluvna.net.

go out feet first, just like Joe!" She leaves behind her sons, Michael (Noreen) of Pittsburgh, and Gregory (Roberta) of Akron; five grandchildren, Megan, Lauren, Michael and Leah of Pittsburgh, and Bianchi of Akron, along with ten great-grandchildren and the "daughters" she never had, Pat (Ford) Beach and Delores (Ford) Courie. One of seven children, Cel was preceded in death by her parents and several brothers and sisters. Her proudest accomplishments were serving as officer of Branch 553 of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Recording Secretary), and Hoban High School Mothers' Club (President). She was "deliberate" (some would say slow) in all she did. Her knitted caps and sweaters were things of beauty and are still worn to this day. When she canned produce from the garden, her peppers, relish, tomato juice and green beans graced our meals and were raved about by all. A 1946 graduate of Hower High School, Cel studied cosmetology and used that education to become an accomplished manicurist and beautician for many years. She also earned a letter at Hower as a cheerleader (much to her sons' skepticism) and still had the sweater to prove it. The family wishes to thank and commend the Summa Health System, especially the Health at Home and Hospice staff, for their care and genuine loving attitude. Throughout Mom's hospitalization and health demise, the Hospice nurses, aides and doctors were always available to help us - always with care for her comfort and ours. A special thanks, as well, to our new friend, Cindy, for her love and assistance during this time, too. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

- Submitted by Gregory Petrasek

siblings and settled in Linden, NJ. There he met and married Anna (Tkach), his bride of 71 years, and they began their family, having four children.

He embraced his faith and his Slovak heritage and culture, becoming a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Linden and staying involved in the Slovak American Club in Tremley, NJ. He taught his children the importance of faith and being proud of their Slovak heritage.

He worked hard to provide for his family, holding down different blue collar jobs and was taught masonry skills which enabled him to eventually build his own home and various other family projects through the years.

In 1971 he relocated his family to Hollywood, where he bought a small business with his brother, and together the two families began their lives in Florida. Eventually the business was sold and Joe began driving a delivery truck for a major department store until he retired.

Retirement meant spending more time with family, attending grandsons' little league games and cheering for the New York Yankees. It also meant undertaking projects to repair, redo, undo, and construct projects. He was extremely handy and rarely did anyone have to call a mechanic, repair or serviceman.

His passion was gardening, growing fruit trees, and bountiful vegetable gardens as well as raising exotic orchids and flowers. The family benefited with fruit and veggie shipments regularly.

His gardening was a year-round activity that began in Florida and ended in New Jersey. It was the activity he loved most and did until the day he passed.

"Dobru noc; amerika je dobra kraj"
- Submitted by Anka Petty

RUTH ANN SEECH BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA



Ruth Ann Seech, 72, of North Huntingdon, PA, passed away Sunday, March 22, 2020. She was born February 5, 1948 in Munhall, a daughter of the late Albert and Helen (Kracunovsky) Durica. Prior to her retirement, Ruth was an elementary school teacher for Norwin School District for 35 years. She was a graduate of Clarion University and was a member of St. Stephen's Byzantine Catholic Church, PSEA and Moose Lodge #236 Irwin. Ruth enjoyed going to lunch with her fellow retirees, making pierogis with the women of St. Stephen's Church Group, attending sports events for the grandkids, and playing Bingo and slot machines. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Alex and Helen (Timko) Seech and son-in-law Keith Choby. She is survived by her devoted and loving husband of 50 years, Raymond Seech Sr.; children, Michele Choby and her

fiancé, Brian Bassegio; Raymond Seech Jr. and his wife, Jamie; and Pamela Dawson and her husband, Jeremiah; brothers, Albert (Debbie) Durica, James (Judy) Durica, David (Monica) Durica; sister, Janice (Dave) Matthews, sister in law, Sandie Seech; grandchildren, Karac and fiancé Kali Halterman, Kody, Dane, Alek, Nathan, SPC Colin, Samuel, Derek and Mycah; nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and numerous cousins; and her fur baby, Sassy. The family would like to thank UPMC East Monroeville for their compassion and care.

CECELIA (CEL) PETRASEK BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO



Joining her beloved husband, Joseph, Cecelia (Cel) passed peacefully to her Eternal Reward surrounded by her sons, Gregory and Michael on April 18, 2020. She lived in the home that she and Joe built and raised their sons in since 1950, and she left the house according to her last wish "...I'll

JOSEPH PETTY BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY



Joseph Petty age 94 passed away on April 18, 2020 in Hollywood FL. He was the beloved husband of Anna (Tkach), loving father of daughters Anka, Lorraine (Gordon), Christine and son Joseph (Susan); grandfather to 7 grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Born the youngest of four children, on January 18, 1926, in Pavlovce, Czechoslovakia to Andrew and Maria (Beres) Petty. It wasn't until he was 17 years old that he immigrated to the USA with his mom and

JOSEPH M. PRACKO BRANCH 831 - TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA



Joseph M. Pracko, 85, of Ocoee, FL, passed away Tuesday, April 7, 2020, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was born May 11, 1934, in Tarentum, PA. He lived in Tarentum and Lower Burrell, PA, before moving to Florida. Mr. Pracko was a graduate of Tarentum High School. He re-

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Súťaž „Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko“ pozná tohtoročných výhercov

„Slovenčina je ako hudba, ktorú spieva naša rodná zem. Je pieseň mojej pravlasti, pieseň krajiny mojich predkov. Akoby slávik skladal a nežné tóny jej dával. Pripomína mi štebotanie lastovičiek, ako uspávanka starých mamičiek. Tá mäkkosť slovenčiny, sťa vankúš perinový. Pritúli, pohladí, pochopí a odpustí. Počuť v tebe aj stony mojich predkov, aj smiech šťastných detí, aj zvony jasne biť. Slovenčina moja milá ako zlatá niť, ako struna plná tajov a krás. Si šitá láskou našich predkov. Si pre mňa najvzácnejší chrám.

Máš okno do duše, schody do neba, máš kľúče od šťastia a stôl pre všetkých. Si chlebič i soľ. Slovenčina moja – si domov. Miesto pre pokoj. Preto ťa mám rád.“

Tomáš Kamáň, Cena Maticy slovenskej, 12 rokov, ZŠ 15.októbra, Pivnica, Srbsko

28. ročník literárnej súťaže Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko organizovaný MŠVV SR, MK SR, ÚSZZ, Maticou slovenskou, SPN Mladé letá, Spolkom slovenských spisovateľov, JÚLŠ SAV i ŠPÚ ostal v roku 2020 zatiaľ bez slávnostného ceremoniálu. Prijemné spomienkové stretnutie pri soche Antona Bernoláka i kultúrny slávnostný program, ktoré sa každoročne konali v Nových Zámkoch sa preložil na neurčito. Situácia, ktorá vznikla dôsledkom pandémie koronavírusu spôsobila, v tomto roku organizačný výbor súťaže pracoval prevažne na diaľku. V mnohom však nezvyčajná situácia dala príležitosť hlbšie sa zamyslieť a precítiť obsahy krásnych vyznaní slovenského jazyku i slovenskej krajine žiakov i študentov slovenských škôl Európy.

Celoštátna súťaž s krajskou účasťou posudzuje nielen práce tunajších, ale i práce zahraničných Slovákov, vďaka čomu má súťaž špecifické, rokmi vybudované dobré meno i za hranicami našej domoviny. Na súťaži dlhoročne spolupracuje ústredie Maticy slovenskej i Miestny odbor Maticy slovenskej v Nových Zámkoch, ktoré sa roky podieľajú

organizačne, porotcovsky i zabezpečovaním umelecky veľmi hodnotného programu slávnostného ceremoniálu.

Kategóriu prác krajanov posudzuje Matica slovenská spolu s ÚSZZ. V tomto roku z pera krajanov prišlo do súťaže 113 prác zo šiestich krajín sveta. Z Chorvátska svoje práce zaslali žiaci zo ZŠ kráľa Tomislava v Našiciach, zo ZŠ v Markovci Našickom, zo ZŠ Josipa Kozareca v Josipovci, zo ZŠ Vladimira Becića v Osijeku a zo ZŠ vo Višnjevcu. Maďarsko zaslalo práce zo Slovenského gymnázia, ZŠ, MŠ a kolégia v Békešskej Čabe, zo Slovenskej dvojazyčnej ZŠ a MŠ v Slovenskom Komlóši, z Všeobecnej školy s vyučovacím jazykom slovenským v Novom Meste pod Šiatrom. Rumunsko v tomto roku zaslalo kvalitné práce z Teoretického lýcea Jozefa Kozáčka v Bodonoši. Najhlasnejšie sa zapojili krajanovia zo Srbska. Práce prišli zo ZŠ Jána Čajaka v Báčskom Petrovci, z Gymnázia Mihajla Pupina v Kovačici, zo ZŠ Mladých pokolení v Kovačici, zo ZŠ Maršala Tita v Padine, zo ZŠ Ludovíta Štúra v Kysáci, zo ZŠ 15. októbra v Pivnici, zo ZŠ Jozefa Marčoka – Dragutina v Hložanoch, z Ekonomicko-obchodnej školy Vuka Karadžića v Starej Pazove, z Gymnázia v Pančeve. Slohy porote zaslali i zo severnej Európy, zo Švédska zo ZŠ v Štokholme a východnú Európu spolu s Rumunskom pokrýva i Ukrajina – Užhorodská všeobecno-vzdelávacia škola č. 15 v Užhorode.

Vítané a ocenené práce dostanú i v tomto roku priestor v každoročne pripravovanom zborníku prác, ktorý pripravuje Ministerstvo kultúry SR. Dojímavé čítanie osobných vyznaní ostane trvalou pamiatkou na 28. ročník súťaže, ktorá ostala zatiaľ bez sebepríznačnej slávnostnej bodky v Nových Zámkoch. Dovoľte nám však mladým talentom srdečne zablahoželať!

Zuzana Pavelcová

“Why I like Slovak/ Why I like Slovakia” Competition Reveals This Year's Winners

“Slovak is like music that our homeland sings. It is a song of my homeland, a song of the land of my ancestors. As if a bird composed it and gave her tender tones. It reminds me of the chirping of swallows, like the lullaby of grandmothers. The softness of Slovak - is as a feather pillow. Snuggle, caress, understand and forgive. Hear in you both the moaning of my ancestors, the laughter of happy children, and bells clearly ringing. My cherished Slovak is as a golden thread, a string made of mystery and beauty - and sewn by the love of our ancestors. You're the most precious temple to me.

You have a window to your soul, stairs to heaven; you have keys to happiness and a table laid for everyone. You are bread and salt. Slovak of mine - you are home. A place for peace. That's why I love you.”

Tomáš Kamáň, Matica slovenská Award, 12 years, elementary school, Pivnica, Serbia

The 28th year of the literary competition „Why I like Slovak/ why I like Slovakia“ was organized by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Culture, ÚSZZ, Matica slovenská, SPN Mladé letá, Association of Slovak Writers, JÚLŠ SAS and ŠPÚ and remained without a ceremony in 2020. The traditional meeting at the statue of Anton Bernolák as well as the cultural ceremonial program held annually in Nové Zámky was postponed indefinitely. This was due to the current coronavirus pandemic which also caused this year's competition organizing committee to work primarily remotely. In many ways, however, the unusual situation gave the opportunity to think deeper and contemplate more their beautiful beliefs in the Slovak language and in the Slovak land by participating Slovak pupils and students in Europe.

The nationwide competition with expatriate participation assesses not only the work of the local students, but also the work of foreign Slovaks, thanks to competition rules which have been designed to reach those beyond our homeland. The headquarters of Matica slovenská and the Local Department of Matica slovenská in Nové Zámky have

cooperated with the competition for a long time. They have been involved in organizing the ceremony, and providing a very valuable program for the ceremony. The category of submissions of compatriots are assessed by Matica slovenská together with ÚSZZ. This year, 113 students from six countries of the world participated. Students from Croatia sent submissions from King Tomislav Primary School in Našice, from Primary school in Markovec Nasicky, Josip Kozarec Primary School in Josipovec, Vladimir Becić Primary School in Osijek and Višnjevec Primary School. Hungary submitted work from the Slovak High School, Primary School, Kindergarten and College in Békéscsaba, the Slovak Bilingual Primary School and Kindergarten in the Slovak Komlós, the Slovak Language School in Nové Mesto pod Šiatrom. This year, Romania had submissions from Jozef Kozáček's Theoretical Lyceum in Bodonoš. Our countrymen from Serbia made the biggest noise (with the most submissions) Work came from Jan Čajak Primary School in Báčsky Petrovec, Mihajl Pupin Grammar School in Kovačica, Young Tribe Primary School in Kovačica, Marshal Tito Primary School in Padina, Ludovít Štúr Primary School in Kysáč, October 15 Primary School in Pivnice, Jozef Marčok Primary School - Dragutina in Hložany, from the School of Economics and Trade of Vuka Karadžić in Stara Pazov, from the High School in Panchevo. Submissions were also sent to the jury from northern Europe, from a primary school in Stockholm, Sweden; and Eastern Europe, together with Romania, was also covered by Ukraine - Užhorod School of Education no. 15 in Užhorod.

This year's winning and awarded works will be showcased in the annual Proceedings prepared by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. Moving readings of these personal confessions will remain a highlight of the 28th year of the competition, which was still left without a final ceremony for the competition in Nové Zámky. Let us, however, congratulate all the young talents.

Zuzana Pavelcová

Vyhodnotenie súťaže Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko

Evaluation of the competition Why I like Slovak, why I like Slovakia

Školský rok 2019/2020					
KATEGÓRIA: IV.					
Meno žiaka	Meno učiteľa	Škola	Názov práce/poradové číslo práce	Poézia Próza	
CENA POROTY – JURIED PRIZE					
1.	Peter Pavčok	Mária Andrášiková	ZŠ Jána Čajaka, Báčsky Petrovec, Srbsko	Tajovského spomienky na starého otca inšpirujú aj dnes /79.	Próza
HLAVNÁ CENA – FIRST PRIZE					
1.	Artem Pluta	Larisa Mamčurová	Užhorodská všeobecno-vzdelávacia škola č. 15, Užhorod, Ukrajina	Prečo má rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko/92.	Próza
1.	Tatiana Filipovičová	Mária Andrášiková	ZŠ Jána Čajaka, Báčsky Petrovec, Srbsko	Slovenský kroj - to je krása, dievčatko v ňom ružou zdá sa!/46.	Próza
ČESTNÉ UZNANIE – HONORABLE MENTION					
1.	Kristína Soviljová	Vesna Valihorová-Filipovičová	ZŠ Jozefa Marčoka - Dragutina, Hložany, Srbsko	Rozprávka o Tajovskom a moich starých rodičoch/42.	Próza
2.	Sára Štrbová	Jarmila Panteličová	ZŠ Jána Čajaka, Báčsky Petrovec, Srbsko	Zakáľačka/29.	Próza
3.	Mario Marošević	Josip Kvasnovski	ZŠ Vladimira Becića Osijek, Chorvátsko	Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko /106.	Próza
4.	Katja Kuricová	Boženka Dasovićová	ZŠ Josipa Kozarca, Josipovec, Chorvátsko	Prečo mám rada slovenčinu, prečo mám rada Slovensko/16.	Próza
5.	Kata Szabadi	Zuzana Benková	Slovenské gymnázium, ZŠ, MŠ a kolégium, Békešská Čaba, Maďarsko	Jednoduchá odpoveď/21.	Próza
6.	Viktória Chrenková	Dagmar Kótelešová	Všeobecná škola s vyučovacím jazykom slovenským, Nové Mesto pod Šiatrom, Maďarsko	Slovečina/113.	Poézia
7.	Marka Zetocha	Milena Lasac	Teoretické lýceum Jozefa Kozáčka, Bodonoš, Rumunsko	Moje korene/11.	Próza
8.	Iveta Bokorová a Matija Bokorová	Ana Halajová	ZŠ maršala Tita, Padina, Srbsko	Prečo máme rady slovenčinu, prečo máme rady Slovensko/77.	Poézia
9.	Amadea Čemanová	Ludmila Berediová-Stupavská	ZŠ Ludovíta Štúra, Kysáč, Srbsko	Preč mám rada slovenčinu, prečo mám rada Slovensko/82.	Próza
10.	Jakub Činčurák	Vesna Kámaňová	ZŠ 15. októbra, Pivnica, Srbsko	Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko/72.	Próza
OSOBITÁ CENA POROTY – SPECIAL JURY PRIZE					
1.	Marína Čániová	Jarmila Panteličová	ZŠ Jána Čajaka, Báčsky Petrovec, Srbsko	Mój etnický pôvod /28.	Próza
OCENENÝ PEDAGÓG – AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR					
1.	Mária Andrášiková		ZŠ Jána Čajaka, Báčsky Petrovec, Srbsko		
OCENENÁ ŠKOLA – AWARD-WINNING SCHOOL					
1.	Teoretické lýceum Jozefa Kozáčka, Bodonoš, Rumunsko				
CENA MS – WINNING PRIZE					
1.	Tomáš Kámaň	Vesna Kámaňová	ZŠ 15. októbra, Pivnica, Srbsko	Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko/69.	Próza

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vak Museum, and some took a tram tour of the beautiful, well maintained grounds. The day ended in the Basilica with a Holy Mass and Jednota members sung a few beautiful Slovak hymns and then boarded the bus to return home. Jednota members also had the pleasure of meeting a Sister from eastern Slovakia who was in Danville on an exchange program. It was great to run into Region 3 Director Martha Zavada Wojcik at the event. This joint initiative was a wonderful opportunity for members of Branches 41, 45, 716, and 746 to bond and support one of the oldest establishments which still has links to Slovakia. In addition to attending the festival, Districts 4 and 16 jointly donated financially to support the mission and work of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

In addition to the above, branch members from Region 1 supported and contributed to the success of these activities and events in our area:

The 26th Annual Slovak Ball: On Feb 23rd many Jednota members attended the annual Slovak Ball organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center which featured special guest performer, Pavol Hammel - a legendary Slovak singer, songwriter, and guitarist who performed to an enthusiastic crowd singing his greatest hits. Over 420 guests from NY, NJ, CT, PA, MA, and OH attended the annual gala event which celebrated the "Fasiangy" season along with representatives from the Slovak diplomatic community. The black-tie event brought together a vast Slovak American community. The First Catholic Slovak Union was well represented, with members from Branches 45, 716, and 746 in attendance, as well as Branch 24 members: Fr. Marek Visnovsky, representative of the Eparchy of Parma, Mrs. Miriam Visnovsky, and Terezia Rozmus. Pastor, Fr. Richard Baker (Branch 45) represented St. John Nepomucene while Mrs. Nina Holy represented the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the Slovak League of America. The Slovak-American parish communities of Trenton, Clifton, Linden, and New York City as well as the oratorians from St. Phillip Neri also attended.

100th anniversary of the death of Dr. Milan Rastislav Štefánik: On May 19th the Slovak League of America hosted a reception commemorating the centennial of the death of noted Slovak scientist, diplomat, politician, and co-founder of the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, Dr. Milan Rastislav Štefánik. Well-known Jednota contributor, Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, was the main speaker. In attendance were His Excellency, Dr. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations as well as Ladislava Begeč, Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York. I was honored to say a few opening remarks on behalf of First Catholic Slovak. Branch 41, 45, 716, and 746 members attended including new member Kenneth Bombara, Slovak League vice president for Washington, D.C. It is important that the Slovak community, especially the younger generation, know about the great leaders of our nation-state. Congratulations to Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak League national president and Nina Holy, Slovak League national secretary-treasurer in collaboration with Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, for organizing this informative and educational celebration.

Slovak Heritage Festival: On September 22, many members of Region 1 attended the 42nd Slovak Festival in East Brunswick, New Jersey. The day commenced with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Martin Vavrak and co-celebrant Fr. Francis Conka. The cultural program included performances by various Slovak children's groups including Lipka Academy from Linden followed by the famous Gypsy Devils band from Slovakia and Drislak, an Eastern European folk and comedy band. Jednota was well represented. Branch 716 members Eva Lysakova and Ludmila Hlinkova served their famous traditional Slovak halusky to hundreds of Slovaks, reminding them of home! Meanwhile, Branch 746 members from Holy Family Church in Linden sold freshly baked poppy seed and nut rolls to fundraise for Holy Family Church. Branch 716 members, Mrs. Nina Holy, Jane Konzelman (VP of the Slovak Heritage Festival), Branch 45 members: Mr. and Mrs. Jan and Eva Lysak, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Anna Korcak, and Mr. and Mrs. Jurasi were part of the Slovak Festival Committee which organized this incredible event!

Branches 45, Branch 716, and Branch 746 were featured in the Slovak Festival advertisement booklet. Branch 746 members helped throughout the day in advertising FCSU Financial products and handing out promotional materials. The Jednota logo and products were prominently displayed during the festival at the Jednota promotional table where the dignitaries stopping to say hello included President of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Zuzana Čaputová, Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák and Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ladislava Begeč! Jednota members and the commemorative Jednota plate, which was given to President Čaputová's, were all over social media, including on the President's Instagram page with thousands of views! It was fantastic publicity and visibility for the FCSU!

Thank you to the Home office for supporting the Slovak Festival by ensuring that Jednota had a promotional table at the event. Miriam Visnovsky, Terezia Rozmus, Andrew P. Rajec (Director of Independent Agents), and Mrs. Idka Rajec did a fantastic job engaging almost 5,000 people who attended the event. The Jednota table had a lot of traffic and it was an excellent means of promoting our organization to Slovaks from the NJ, NY, CT, and PA.

Zem Speiva / "The Land Sings": Many Jednota members from the NJ/NYC, Pittsburg and Cleveland area attended the roadshow performance of Zem Speiva (translated, The Land Sings). The popular Slovak TV series is a competition featuring contestants, both individuals and groups, from various regions of Slovakia presenting folklore songs, dances, interpretations, etc. The winners of Season 1, Martin Repáň, and Season 2, Folklore Ensemble Urin, toured the United States and Canada. The spectacular two-hour performance was a sight to behold showcasing the beauty of Slovak folklore. The tour stopped in New York City on October 6th to perform to a packed audience at St. John Nepomucene with thanks to Fr. Richard Baker's support (Branch 45). The roadshow premiered on Slovak TV on February 22, 2020 featuring an excellent historical account of Slovaks immigrating to the US and clips of the US/Canada tour. Thank you to Branch 45, 716, and 746 members that attended! I'm sure you will recognize some Jednota members in the audience at the NYC, Pittsburg, and Cleve-

land shows! To view the full episode go to: <https://www.rtv.sk/televizia/archiv/14986/214056>

LUX New York: Jednota members value the contributions of LUX New York to the Slovak Catholic community. LUX New York is a Slovak Catholic Media Productions located in Manhattan based at St. John Nepomucene. The main goal is to help Slovaks living in the USA and Canada deepen their Catholic faith through its audio-visual productions. At the same time, LUX New York interconnects Slovak parishes and communities "across the ocean" and spreads the Gospel values in the realm of media. In 2019, Jednota members attended the 10:15 Sunday masses (in Slovak) which were streamed live to Facebook. In addition, a Saturday morning live mass was streamed live to Slovakia monthly. To learn more and listen to live or archived masses and programs, visit: <http://www.luxnewyork.net>.

A year goes by so quickly, yet there are many memories which remain etched in our hearts and minds. I'd like to share a few personal stories with you.

In May, I was happy to conclude my professional studies program at New York University focusing in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). M&E is used to assess the performance of projects, institutions, and programs set up by governments, international organizations, and NGOs with the goal of improving current and future management of outputs, outcomes, and impact. I started this intensive program the year prior, and was grateful for the opportunity to go back to school for this accreditation.

In the summer, as I typically do, I visited my grandmother and spent some quality time with family and friends surrounded by the beautiful landscapes of our native homeland, Slovakia. Along with fellow Jednota members, I was privileged to share in the celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Anna Korcak long-time active members of Branch 45. The incredible week-long festivities commenced with tours of famous Slovak sites including Pieniny, Tatry Mountains, and Nestville. Mr. and Mrs. Korcak renewed their vows at Hor Zvir in front of a myriad of loving family and friends, including many from the US. The village of Litmanová where Hor Zvir is located has been added to the official list of pilgrimage locations of the Holy Virgin, and an annual pilgrimage occurs every August. The Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to two young girls at the hill on August 5, 1990. The girls then conveyed messages from Mary to the gathered pilgrims. Repeat sightings occurred until 1995. After the Holy Mass and vow renewal, the wedding festivities began at Hotel Familia in

Stará Ľubovňa where the happy couple celebrated with over 100 guests. The entertainment included traditional folklore dances by a variety of professional folklore ensembles many of whom have been featured on Slovak television and performed at various well-known festivals across Slovakia. The partygoers continued to sing, dance, eat, drink and enjoy themselves early into the morning hours! It was a celebration unparalleled to any other. Congratulations to the Korcak's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for organizing such a memorable 50th anniversary celebration. We extend our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Korcak and wish them many more years of health, happiness, and love!

September was a very exciting time in New York especially with Slovakia's first female President and environmental activists arriving to speak at the United Nations General Assembly and the Climate Summit. I had the great honor to be invited to attend the GLOBSEC Gala Dinner where President Čaputová gave the keynote remarks. GLOBSEC is a global think-tank, based in Bratislava, committed to enhancing security, prosperity and sustainability in Europe and throughout the world. On Sunday, the President was at the Slovak Festival in New Jersey with the Jednota newspaper and logo plastered all over social media! What a wonderful way to advertise our society! A few days later, I attended a reception in her honor at the residence of the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations. At the end of the week I attended a gala celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution hosted by the Vaclav Havel Foundation. At this event, I had the pleasure of meeting Havel's wife, Dagmar Havlová Veškrnová. Havel has always been an inspiration and he reminds me of fond times working with the Global Leadership Program. The benefit gala honored very important actors in the independence era of Czechoslovakia, Ambassador Craig Stapleton and Mrs. Dorothy Stapleton.

The Fall was an opportunity to engage with iconic and influential women of our time – in September, Slovakia's 1st female president and in November, former United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright! I was privileged to receive an invitation to attend a panel discussion entitled Velvet Revolution @ 30: A Legacy to Uphold at the Riggs Library room at Georgetown University where Madame Albright was the keynote speaker. The discussion marking the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution which brought freedom and democracy back to Czechoslovakia in 1989. After the event I bravely told Madame Albright that she inspired me to study Political Science and International Relations. We exchanged a few words—in Slovak and Czech. Madame Secretary is still as tenacious as ever and an excellent public speaker. Of course, she wore a pin appropriate for the occasion!

The 2019 Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture at the Woodrow Wilson Center organized by Friends of Slovakia also focused on 30 years of Czech and Slovak freedom with keynote speaker Katarína Cséfalvayová, Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, National Council of the Slovak Republic and Šimon Pánek, former Czech student activist during the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and Executive Director and Co-Founder of the largest Czech humanitarian organization, People in Need. Following the lecture, the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Ivan Korčok, hosted a reception on the occasion of the National Day marking the 30th anniversary of the fall of communism in former Czechoslovakia and the 25th anniversary of the partnership between the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and the Indiana National Guard. November concluded with the wildly popular 'Velvet Revolution Party' at the trendy New York City club, BLUE.

In December the Slovak Consulate in New York under the auspices of Consul General Ladislava Begeč, hosted their annual Christmas Concert featuring Pianissimo Choir from Slovakia, a school choir of Jozef Branecký Piarist High School in Trenčín founded more than 30 years ago. Their performance of Mozart's Te Deum is the most viewed video of this composition on youtube.com.

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The end of the year came with on last surprise, on December 10th, the new building of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York was symbolically unveiled. The ceremony was attended

by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák, former Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic and current Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia Peter Kažimír, as well as other dignitaries. The event opened with the singing of the national anthems by 11-year-old Ariana Matoláková and Broadway star and Luba Mason (Branch 45). Opening remarks were given by Consul General Ladislav Begeč and the ecumenical blessing of the building was performed by representatives of the Catholic (Fr. Richard Baker from Branch 45), Evangelical Church, and of the Jewish religion. The new building of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York is located in the prestigious NYC - Upper East Side (167 E 73rd street). It was a truly proud feeling to be present at this historic moment knowing that Slovaks now have a home to call their own in New York City. Congratulations to the entire team that was involved in making this dream a reality!

* * *

A wise person said, "Success doesn't come from what we do occasionally, but what we do consistently." I would like to congratulate all the branches in my region on their consistent and persistent efforts to support their local parish communities, organize fraternal activities, engage in community service activities and educate others about FCSU. With thanks to the branches that submitted their activity reports, below are highlights from Region 1:

District 1 and Branch 19:

The dedicated members of District One held their annual meeting on September 8, 2019. At this meeting, election of officers was held. The executive board include: Michael Kuruc (President), Kurt Solek (Vice-President), Laura Mineese (Financial Secretary), Deborah Nelson (Recording Secretary) and Jacqueline Zack (Financial Advisor).

Our annual Branch 19 Breakfast Meeting was held on November 10, 2019. Coffee and doughnuts and traditional Slovak nut and poppy strips were served after the 8:30 mass at St. Cyril & Methodius Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut. At this meeting, John A. Zahor Scholarships and Andrew J. Imbro Grants were presented to eligible freshman and junior college students. Students who received the scholarships in person at this meeting included: Samantha Piroh for the John A. Zahor Scholarship and Patrick Jezierny, Rachel Radwill, and Alexis Zahor for the Andrew J. Imbro Grant. Other eligible students who were not able to attend included: Roman Achile for the John A. Zahor Scholarship and Michael Agoglia, William Hiza III, Logan McDonald, Bridget Monks and Patrick Monks and Courtney Skolka for the Andrew J. Imbro Grant. Also at this meeting, the election of Branch 19 officers was held: All agreed to stay on for another year: Michael Kuruc (President), Kurt Solek (Vice President), Jacqueline Zack (Financial Secretary), Deborah Nelson (Recording Secretary) and Laura Mineese (Treasurer). This meeting was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

- Summary provided by Deborah Nelson

Branch 41:

Branch 41 would like to remember branch president Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr. who passed way in 2019. He was a devoted member and eager to reinvigorate the local branch. In 2018 he organized a beautiful gathering on Trinity Sunday with 125 people participating. His dream was to repeat the activity in 2019 as the branch celebrated its 128th anniversary. In good spirits, Stephen and his wife attended the FCSU Sales Seminar in March in Linden, New Jersey. Sadly, this was the last time many of us would see our dear friend. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Kubasek family. Daniel F. Tanzone has taken up leadership of the branch.

Branch 45:

Branch 45 started 2019 with a Branch dinner at PorkFest in the Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden in Astoria on February 9th. On March 2nd Branch 45 organized a successful indoor soccer and ping pong tournament in the gym of the St John Nepomucene Church. This activity has become a tradition for the Branch. Members of Branch 45 attended and supported the annual Slovak Catholic Sokol meeting and luncheon on March 24th held in the St. John Nepomucene gym. On March 31st members of Branch 45 attended FCSU Seminar about Jednota financial products hosted by Region 1 that was held in Linden, NJ. Members of Branch 45 attended the dinner commemorating 100th anniversary of the tragic death of Dr. Milan Rastislav Stefanik that was held in the St. John Nepomucene gym on May 19th. On July 14th in cooperation with other Branches of Region 1 organized a bus trip to the Summer Festival of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA on the occasion of their 100th anniversary in Danville. Members of Branch 45 provided entertainment, organizational support and attended the Slovak Heritage Festival in East Brunswick, NJ on September 22nd. The year ended with the members of Branch 45 attending Vigilia Christmas dinner in St. John Nepomucene Church gym on December 15th.

- Summary provided by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Branch 45 Vice President

Branch 716:

Branch 716 celebrated many member birthdays this year at St. John Nepomucene including that of Fr. Martin Kertys 50th birthday and Joan Skrkon's 70th birthday. The branch provided food preparation for several events. Branch members attended the Easter luncheon at St. John Nepomucene, 100th anniversary of Dr. Stefanik celebration, participated in the Branch 45 Ping Pong Tournament, coordinated and attended the annual summer festival of Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius bus trip, provided food service for the Slovak Lutheran's Mother's Day Luncheon at Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church, attended the Christmas Eve Vigilia supper and the New Year's celebration at St. John Nepomucene. Branch members also attended the monthly LUX New York Saturday morning masses which are broadcast to Slovakia. The members of Branch 45 provided food service for the after-mass luncheons.

- Summary provided by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

Branch 290:

Branch 290 continued its charitable work by donating to Autism NJ and Saint Hubert's Animal Welfare Shelter in North Branch in memory of Regional Director Emeritus + Joe Minarovich. The branch hosted a Christmas dinner and organized the venue for the District 4 meeting. Branch members have also been active in attending District and Region 1 events such as the Sales seminar in March and the summer picnic.

- Summary provided by Steve Minarovich, Branch 290 Secretary

Branch 746:

Branch 746 successfully hosted a variety of diverse activities and events to attract member attendance and helped organize District 4 and Region 1 events. Members have actively participated in the activities organized by Slovak non-profit organizations such as the Slovak-American Cultural Center, Slovak League of America, Slovak Farmer's Club as well as events at Slovak parish communities in Clifton, Trenton and New York City.

On Sunday, March 31st Branch 746 held a meeting in the church basement of Holy Family Church Linden followed by a FCSU Sales Seminar. Special guests included President Andrew Rajec and Mrs. Idka Rajec. The FCSU Sales Seminar was presented by Mr. Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents, who enthusiastically informed attendees about the various products FCSU offers. The seminar concluded with a Jeopardy style quiz which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The session was extremely informative and attracted prospect new members. Delicious Slovak food was served, catered by Julie Rada Catering.

May through September was a very busy time for Branch 746 who was busy organizing or participating in at least one or more events each month.

On May 12th the Slovak children's school, Slovenské centrum detí- LIPKA Academy, based at Holy Family Church in Linden organized a Mother's Day program followed by a luncheon. The program was entitled "Od detstva k svadbe" which highlighted the traditions and customs from childhood through marriage. The program included recitation of poetry, songs, and Slovak folk dances which was performed by about sixty children who are enrolled at the weekend school. Branch members attended the event to show their support of the school. On June 12th the branch held a "Paint Nite" at the Blackthorn Restaurant and Irish Pub in Kenilworth, New Jersey. It was a fun evening discovering hidden talents. The participants brought home their masterpieces entitled, "Tahitian Sunset". A month later, on Saturday, July 13th Jednota Districts 4 and 16 went on a bus trip to Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA to the Summer Festival celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. The festival included many activities for children and adults, plenty of food, a flea market and craft items. It was a beautiful day and a fun filled outing for all! On August 4th Region 1 held its annual summer picnic at the Al Kalla Park in Linden, New Jersey hosted by branch 746. Members enjoyed a beautiful summer day out playing outdoor games as well as enjoying delicious Slovak food catered by Julie Rada Catering.

Members of Branch 746 attended and helped to promote Jednota at the Slovak Heritage Festival which was held on September 22nd. The highlight of this year's festival was meeting the newly elected H. E. Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic. Branch 746 members assisted all day with the Jednota advertising table promoting the organization and FCSU products.

On Sunday, December 8, 2019 Branch 746 held its meeting and Christmas party at Amici's Ristorante in Linden, New Jersey. After a delicious meal, Santa's elves visited bringing gifts and holiday cheer to everyone! A week later, on December 15th the Lipka Academy of Linden performed their annual Christmas Children's Concert. Members of Branch 746 enjoyed an afternoon of Slovak Christmas songs, poetry and skits performed by the children's Slovak School.

Branch 746 was very active throughout 2019 organizing innovative events and activities in order to engage its members. Our local branch is aware of the need to maintain deep and personal ties to our church community and the youth of our parish. To this end, the branch supported financially its local parish, Holy Family Church in Linden, the Slovenské centrum detí- LIPKA Academy and the Slovak Federation. Branch 746 members actively participate in church fundraising initiatives such as the annual Thanksgiving, Easter and Slovak festival baking of nut, poppy seed and cheese rolls. As part of the district initiative, Branch 746 members contributed to local pantries by bringing canned goods to meetings. Branch 746 members also actively visit one another as well as sick members of the branch.

- Summary provided by Mary Ann Rahanan, Branch 746 Treasurer

* * *

The last year of the decade was fruitful with many opportunities to enjoy good times with good friends. In 2019, we also mourned the loss of dear Jednota friends. May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace. As a community we've supported one another in times of grief and provided encouragement when others were struggling with illness or deteriorating health. At these junctures in our lives, fraternity and community is most important.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President, Secretary, and Home Office staff for their support, encouragement, and administrative assistance throughout the year. The staff is responsive, friendly, and efficient in providing the requested information and support.

Last but certainly most importantly, thank you to all the members of Region 1! Thank you for being engaged, enthusiastic and participating throughout the year! Region 1 members won the Fall 2019 photo contest, the Gingerbread House contest, and had the largest number of submissions for the Christmas adult coloring contest! I am proud of the collaboration and work we've done thus far, and I am excited about the activities in 2020 which we have already started to plan together!

I look forward to working with the Board of Directors in this new decade with a focus on vision of the future of our society. Let us look with optimism at the opportunities ahead of us and open the doors to new members by sharing our unique experiences and the riches of what our society has to offer!

Respectfully submitted,

Sabina Sabados
Region 1 Director

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 12:00 PM and asked Rev. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the February 2020 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee Meeting is being held as a teleconference due to the current coronavirus pandemic. In keeping with the guidelines of the Stay at Home Order issued by the Governor Mike DeWine, the Home Office is closed March 16-23, 2020. All non-essential businesses are closed. After this two week period the office will re-open with limited rotating staff and limited hours to maintain the day to day business of the office. The Home Office will remain on limited hours with no walk-ins business until the Stay at Home Order issued by the Governor has been lifted.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer submitted a written report on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund to the Executive Committee during the Board of Directors Meeting held immediately prior to the Executive Committee meeting. Following the report, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered 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 February 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 February:

Disbursements for the month of February 2020:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 399,494.90

Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 40,137.37
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.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting held earlier. Following the report, they answered the Board's questions.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report via teleconference to the Executive Committee during the Board of Directors meeting held immediately prior to the Executive Committee meeting. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 334 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents. The Home Office continues an extensive Facebook ad recruiting campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in.

The Executive Secretary stated we have received final approval of converting the 2010 CSO's over to the new 2017 CSO's. The fcsu.com website has been updated with the new rates and the new applications are available. Our marketing materials will be updated and mailed to our branches and members when available.

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 April.

MISCELLANEOUS:

National/Regional Picnic

The President stated that the National Picnics scheduled for June 28, 2020 in Novelty, Ohio and for August 8, 2020 in Frogbridge, New Jersey are now on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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 Kenneth Arendt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Rev. Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
 FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
 OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE)
 6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
 PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-4310

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. (telephonically).

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2020.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to June 12, 2020.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
 National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Fraternalism in Action: Branch 855 Answers the Call

It's one of the founding tenets of our Society – fraternalism. Jednota asked our members to think about how to put our fraternalism into action and offered some suggestions:

Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855 President, is proud to report that her branch has responded to this call to action by donating \$500.00 to the Cleveland Food Bank to help those in need.

What are you doing? Email Jednota at fcsulife-editor@gmail.com and share what your branch, district or family is doing to help others. After all, as socially distant as we must be right now, we're all in this together.

How to help others during the coronavirus pandemic

First, wash your hands properly and practice social distancing

Then:

- Get medical supplies shipped to where they're needed most
- Volunteer with Meals on Wheels
- Donate money to reputable nonprofits
- Support your local food bank
- Give blood
- Help people experiencing homelessness

Source: MarketWatch reporting



His Story:

Branch 24's Matthew Oros Explains How Music Is an Important Part of His Life

There are three main aspects of my life outside of academics that make me who I am. These three areas include music, computers/electronics, and volunteer/church service.

Piano playing is a huge part of my life. Since third grade, I continue to take private lessons, practice and learn to master song after song through determination and discipline. However, I do not only learn songs but use them as inspiration for expressing myself. Ever since I learned the piano, I have been composing my own music. I am in the process of digitizing my songs and creating videos of more than a dozen songs I have composed over the years. I received a standing ovation at my recital for one of my own compositions that I played. One of my earliest songs, "Breezy Meadow," was one I wrote when I was twelve. I composed it for my grandmother on her 80th Birthday.

I not only play for myself and family, but also for others in the community, this includes playing for the residents at the Light of Hearts Villa Assisted Living Home and events for various fraternal and Slovak clubs.

Another main aspect of my life is computers/electronics. I joined a computer coding club at school and learned how to work as a team and lead others. I was invited by my computer teacher to take part as a team member along with three other students to represent our school for a programming competition held at Baldwin Wallace University. Our school team came in 5th place out of a total of 35 teams from different schools. This experience only solidified the idea of wanting to pursue a career in this field. I am also involved in my engineering class at school and was awarded student of the quarter from Polaris Vocational School for my leadership and teamwork. I was selected by my teachers and received five different awards from school for high GPA and excellence in classes, such as government and chemistry. I set up and currently maintain a private server on my home computer for my friends and fellow students for gaming and school group projects.

The final aspect of my life that is important to me is volunteer and community work. I have been active in the various Slovak Clubs in Cleveland. I – along with my sister, dad, aunt, uncle, and grandmother – are members of Branch 24 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. I, as my parents did, dance and perform in the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. We practice weekly and travel all over to perform for various communities, clubs, and festivals. We were featured performers at the First Catholic Slovak Union's 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2015 and at the Society's 2018 Quadrennial Convention, both in Cleveland. Our ensemble was invited to Slovakia several times to perform at festivals and we also appeared on television. This is all volunteer work, which we do to continue to spread and pursue our Slovak Culture and Heritage. I am a member in my local church's hand bell choir. I started playing bells in the third grade as an extracurricular activity at St. Joseph and John's School and afterwards joined the adult hand bell choir in church. We practice weekly and perform at Masses throughout the month. I have volunteered and worked with my father at various events such as the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast and participated in Join Hands Day at the Light of Hearts Villa.

- Submitted by Matthew Oros, Branch 24

Editor's note: Matthew will be attending Baldwin Wallace University after high school graduation. He plans on majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Music. He was accepted into and will be attending the "Young Composers" summer program at Cleveland Institute of Music. You can listen to Matthew perform his own compositions as well as other music by visiting the website <https://www.fcsu.com/community/stories/>

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

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

ceived his Bachelor's in Chemistry and his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. He served with the Army during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Pracko had worked for PPG Industries Research Center in Springdale, PA. Later, he worked as an investigator for the federal government. He also worked for his family business, Pracko's Meat Market, in Tarentum. He attended Holy Family Catholic Church, in Orlando, FL, and was a member of St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell, and St. Clement Church, Tarentum. Mr. Pracko was an avid reader, enjoyed golf, music and travel. He also loved spending time with his

grandchildren. He was a huge fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Madeline R. Waters; one daughter, Jennifer Pracko Leyva (Nicolas); two grandchildren, Madeline and Joseph, of Winter Garden, FL; a sister, Betty Backo, of Tarentum; Margaret Eberhart, of West Palm Beach, FL; a brother, Richard, of North Olmsted, OH; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Pauline Karac Pracko; six brothers, Emil, Ben, Al, Edward, Francis and John; and a sister, Marian Detman.

- Submitted by Madeline Waters

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

- Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. (Semi-Annual Meeting); Fireplace
- Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
- Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2021); Falcon Grille
- Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

Meetings will be held at alternate locations:
 The Falcon Grille; 39 N. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, OH 44515; The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced.

During this current time of pandemic, I pray and hope that all of you are well and practicing "social distancing". Please protect your loved ones and other members of the population and as much stay at home as much as possible. Remember six feet apart, wear masks, and avoid large groups.

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT

Due the Coronavirus pandemic, for the safety of our members and in keeping with current government restrictions, the April 26th Annual Spring Meeting has been cancelled. We anticipate rescheduling the meeting as soon as it becomes viable to do so. Please look for details as they are available in an upcoming issue of Jednota and on the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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B	O	R	E							G	E	E	S		T	O	N	E	



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

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

Lifelong Member Thomas Soltis Supports Future FCSU Nursing Students



Thomas E. Soltis, resident of Parma, OH, and lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 410, also is a veteran. Mr. Soltis served proudly in the United States Army Medical Corps, consisting of the most well-trained personnel in the world.

Mr. Soltis is donating his portion of the government stimulus benefit to the Jednota Scholarship Program designated for those enrolled in the nursing curriculum.

He envisions this contribution as a pay-it-forward effort to honor the courageous and compassionate efforts of the nurses during this coronavirus pandemic and wishes more scholarship recipients should consider entering into this noble profession that benefits all of humanity.



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.

Save the Date! Slovak CU Br. 200's 125th Anniversary

Entertainment in the Social Club & line-up

- **Thursday, October 1st:**
Solo guitarist, Greg Iskat
- **Friday, October 2nd**
Band, Dreamcatchers
- Light foods/snacks will be provided and drink specials.
- **Main Event: Saturday October 1st**
 - 1pm Mass at Christ Prince of Peace by Bishop Mileski and Father Nasta.
 - 2:15 Meet & Greet @ Branch's Banquet Hall.
 - Approx. 3:15 dinner followed by guest speakers concluding with Murphy's Big Band.

More Info to Follow!

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS *NOW* FOR PITTSBURGH DISTRICT ANNUAL PITTSBURGH PIRATES BASEBALL / FIREWORK NIGHT AT PNC PARK

- **Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020**
 - Tailgate to begin at 5:00 p.m. at Red Lot 6 (hosted by Branch 38)
 - Game Starts at 7:05 p.m.
 - Fireworks immediately following game
- **Cost: \$47.00/ticket**
 - Seats all together in Sections 28 and 29 (along third base line – best view for fireworks)
 - Tickets are limited so buy your tickets today!!
- **RSVP to: Bradley Matta**
 - Send check to Bradley Matta, 1811 Jane Street, Pittsburgh Pa. 15203
 - Or Venmo payment to @Brad-Alan-4
 - Call or email with any questions: bmatta41@gmail.com / 412-378-7988
 - Tickets will be mailed out prior to game or can be picked up at tailgate.
- **Special free raffle being planned for individuals that attend the tailgate!**



On the Road to Sliach with Chewy

Jim and Kay Bench*

On the road again! As we leave Kosice and head for Sliach, and our destination, Hotel Kaskady, Chewy is curled up on the bus still sleepy from the excitement yesterday of learning he has a relative in the United States. He had trouble sleeping thinking about Tatra. Soon the motion of the bus puts him to sleep along with several other members of the tour.

The Andrassy Mausoleum was our next stop. You'll have to join our tour to hear the true love story of the Mausoleum. It is an extremely beautiful place. Behind the Mausoleum is a statue of the Andrassy family dog; Chewy enjoyed that tremendously.

Domica Cave is located near the Slovak/Hungarian border, and is a beautiful cave to walk through and also to have a boat ride on the river that is in the cave. You need a sweater as it is darn right chilly in the cave. Even Chewy was shivering by the time we resurfaced. The group was getting hungry and our great bus driver Arnie, who is Hungarian, offered to take us to open air restaurants in Hungary and act as our interpreter for lunch. We all enjoyed the Hungarian food and hospitality. Chewy as usual went from person to person sampling all the foods and then curled up in the shade of the tree and took a nap.

A surprise was in store for everyone after a long ride to the village of Hriňová. Our guide Viera had contacted the village and they wanted to perform for us. This would be their first performance and they were so excited that their first performance would be for Slovak-Americans. They kept contacting our guide to make sure we were coming. We arrived and were greeted by a man in Slovak Kroj with a deep booming voice welcoming us with homemade Slivovica and introducing his family. There were chickens, cats and even two horses roaming the fields. They had prepared a dinner of sauerkraut and klobasy soup, homemade breads and more kolačky than any bakery one has ever seen. The entire village must have baked for a week for the affair. It was a true Slovak welcome. We were filled, but there was more to come. They took us to the top of the hill where the group performed on the grass. They were great. Then they took us to a bonfire with pointed sticks to cook kielbasa wrapped in bacon. Most of us were too full to eat any more but some of the group managed to cook and try some, and they said it was the best klobasy they had ever eaten. The view was fantastic and it seemed like we were close to heaven. A church was on this hill and we decided to look in and to our surprise a Mass was being celebrated. Some members of the tour joined the Mass in progress.

Promising to return next year we left loaded with desserts for the bus and headed to Kaskady, our spa hotel in Sliach, and some relaxing time.

Stay tuned for Chewy in Sliach and Banská Bystrica.

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



Man from Hrinova in Kroj with Chewy



Chewy on the Welcome Mat at entrance to the Hotel Kaskady



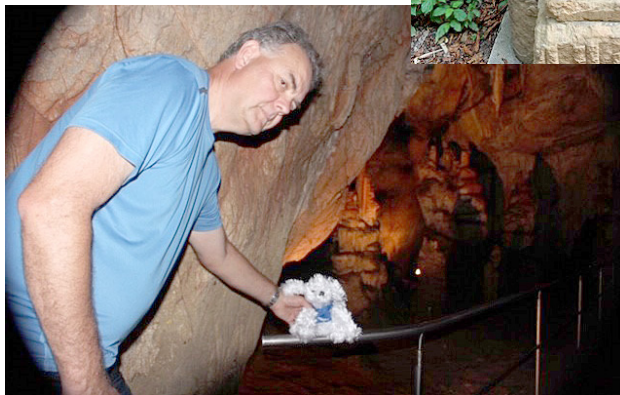
Beverly Lawrence and sister Nannette Frost by the Andrassy family Dachshund statue



Poppyseed Kolač in shape of a sunflower tasted as great as it looks



The Andrassy couple were childless and built a statue to honor their family pet Dachshund, "Tascherl" located behind the Mausoleum. The inscription reads "Loyalty for Loyalty," Chewy is snuggled up with him.



Greg Maurer with Chewy in Domica cave



Chewy with a Hotel desk worker

His Story:

Branch 24 Member Fr. Marek Visnovsky's Religious Calling Includes Iconography

Fr. Marek Visnovsky was born on November 24, 1977 in Vranov nad Toplou, a town in a Zemplin County in Eastern Slovakia.

From 1998-2004 he went through the spiritual formation for the priesthood at the Greek-Catholic Seminary of Blessed Paul Peter Gojdic in Presov, Slovakia. He studied Philosophy and Theology at the Theological Faculty of the University of Presov, Slovakia where he earned his S.T.M. (Sacred Theology Magister) degree in 2004.

On May 22, 2004, he married Miriam Miksova at the Dormition of the Mother of God Church in Dlhe Klcovo, Slovakia. On June 20, 2004 he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Jan Babjak, SJ at the Greek-Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Presov, Slovakia.

In August 2004, he arrived with his wife Miriam to the US to serve the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma. He served at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Parish in Parma, Ohio (2004-2005), St. Emilian Byzantine Catholic Parish in Brunswick, Ohio (2005-2015), St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Parish in Cleveland, Ohio (2015-present), and in 2018, he

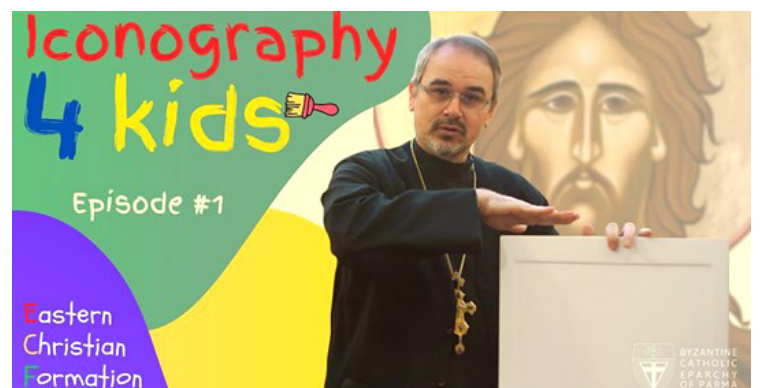
was appointed the Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma, Ohio and the Protosyncellus (Vicar General) of the Eparchy of Parma.

Fr. Marek and Miriam have three children, Caroline (13), Elias (10), and Marco (6). All are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Along with his call to the priesthood, Fr. Marek has pursued his interest and talents for iconography, a spiritualistic art form that began about two centuries after the birth of Christ. In 2000-2001, Fr. Marek studied Byzantine Iconography under the guidance of well-known iconographer Phil Zimmerman of New Florence, PA. He has been teaching iconography in hands-on demonstration classes here in the US and Europe, as well as giving talks on the subject on the radio, and at seminaries, college campuses, monasteries, and youth and church gatherings. He has created icons for private homes and churches in many countries since 2000.

Editor's Note: When we think of art, we often

think of something springing from the artist's imagination. Religious icons, on the other hand, follow strict, traditional forms with as little deviation as possible. Fr. Marek is excited to share his art, which he describes as "theology in color" with children in a new series of online lessons. To access Father's Iconography for Kids, go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/community/stories/>



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