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## Solemnity of Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - An Important Reminder

January 1, 2020 was like any other New Year's Day. Parties small and large were held the previous evening. Life was wonderful as we began the decade of the 2020's. No one could have foreseen that a virus would change everything within a matter of weeks.

Civic authorities ordered their citizens remain at home. Workplaces classified as "non-essential" were told they must close. (If your place of employment gives you a paycheck that pays your bills and puts food on the table, how can it be called "non-essential" workplace? But that's a topic for another time.) How sad it is that so many are now unemployed.

Of course, this "new normal" is affecting our lives as Catholics. Many of our churches have been empty on Sunday mornings for eleven weeks and counting. Some dioceses are just beginning to permit priests to offer public Masses. Sure, we can pray – the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours, novenas, litanies, and other devotions – at home. But it isn't the same as going to church for Mass and receiving Holy Communion.

"Social distancing" is a phrase that entered our vocabulary at the beginning of March. We are told to separate ourselves from each other by a minimum of 6 feet. The intention of social distancing is good; it is to help minimize the spread of the coronavirus.

But social distancing can have long-lasting effects, particularly with the practice of our Catholic faith. The longer the crisis continues, the longer the last time it will have been for people to have attended Sunday Mass. The longer the crisis continues, the more we can allow ourselves to socially distance ourselves from Jesus, the Bread of Life.

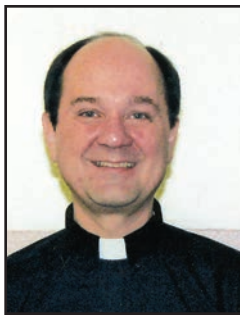
The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is celebrated this year on June 14. The solemnity reminds all Catholics to reflect upon and remember what Christ's gift of the Holy Eucharist is and what Christ's gift of the Holy Eucharist does. We learned at a very young age when preparing to receive our First Holy Communion that under the appearances of the bread and wine consecrated by a priest at Mass, Jesus, the Son of God, is really and truly present. Each time we receive Holy Communion we continue to learn a major effect of the Sacrament, unity.

Through the Holy Eucharist, we become one with Christ and one with each other. With the Holy Eucharist, we are drawn closer to Jesus. In the Holy Eucharist, we grow in unity with the Lord.

Social distancing due to COVID-19 is being carried over to practically every aspect of our lives. It is causing many to be filled with worry and anxiety, to live in isolation and loneliness. Jesus, who gives us his Body and Blood as true food and true drink, tells us many times in the gospels, "Do not be afraid." In him, in the Eucharist, we find true joy, peace, and love.

Fraternally,

Father Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta



The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors, the First Catholic Slovak Union, extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Fathers and Members on Father's Day!

Thank you for keeping the traditions alive.

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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.

**94 – 12th Sunday of Ordinary  
Time – June 21, 2020**



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

In today's first reading the prophet Jeremiah finds himself denounced and pursued on every side, though he does not lose heart, saying: "the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion" (Jer

20:11). The prophet cries out for relief from his persecutors and expresses confidence that they will have their comeuppance and Jeremiah himself will be rescued by the Lord.

This fits perfectly with the Gospel passage from Matthew, where we hear: "Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed...what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna" (Matt 10:26-28).

Jesus teaches his listeners that those like Jeremiah who are hounded by oppressors need not fear them, for they can only take one's earthly life, not one's heavenly inheritance. The words of denunciation whispered against Jeremiah by his detractors will be shouted from the rooftops, and their secret scheming to kill him will be made known as well. This still sounds like quite a toll that our opponents can take, yet Jesus is pointing to the fact that the fullness of human life and purpose lies not in the present life—"do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul"—but we prepare for it in the present life and only experience it in its perfection in the life to come.

We have seen before that in arranging the Lectionary the Church began by selecting a Gospel passage and then chose a first reading, generally from the Old Testament, to introduce and support the Gospel. The second reading, normally taken from the New Testament epistles, often takes up a different theme. Today we find that the second reading, from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans, might be the key that helps us understand Jesus' Gospel lesson and draw hope from it.

Paul writes: "Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death...But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many" (Rom 5:12, 15). We see two critical points here: the universality of sin among human beings and the universality of God's saving grace which comes to us through Christ.

The first point—the universality of sin—is what Jeremiah felt the sting of as he was chased by his persecutors. It is also what we sense when we are the victims of another's sin and when we ourselves stoop to sin against others: we feel the guilt that always accompanies sin and is one of its destructive side-effects. The second point, that of God's all-encompassing and all-powerful saving action in Christ, is what Jeremiah anticipated with great longing and we what share in its fullness.

The next time we feel pressed on every side by foes of any sort, let us pray with the Psalmist, "Lord, in your great love, answer me," (Ps 69:14) knowing that in Christ God has already defeated the power of sin and death once and for all, and has given us the hope

of living in virtue in the present life that we might enjoy the fullness of his glory in the life to come.

**13th Sunday of Ordinary Time – June 28, 2020  
Matthew 10; 37-42**



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

In the Gospel today Jesus asks a very difficult question. Who do we love most? If one were to pose this question to people on the street most would likely answer; my husband/wife, mother, father, children, fiancé', etc. These are the people we have close contact with and hold close to our heart. Married couples have vowed to love one another until death, regardless of sickness, poverty or bad times. Can we love someone more than that? According to Jesus we can. Jesus tells us the answer he expects is to love Jesus more than anyone else. Few people on the street would probably answer "Jesus" if asked who they love most. This is not because they don't love Jesus, but rather that we tend to put our immediate relationships first. They may very well love Jesus and have great faith and devotion, but don't keep him in the forefront. We are the "people on the street." We might sincerely love Jesus and spend time in prayer and reflection. We might read the Bible and other spiritual books and find great inspiration that leads to changes in our lives. However, we have trouble with thinking that we don't love the people in our lives who we are close to, more than anyone else. We might not consciously think that we don't love Jesus "with all our hearts, all our souls, all our mind, and all our strength," but we're not quite to the "all" part of the relationship.

It can be difficult for a husband or wife to say that they don't love each other more than anyone else, or for someone to say that they don't love their children and grandchildren, nephews and nieces, and siblings more than anyone else. Yet Jesus tells us that to be his follower we cannot love anyone more than we love him. In the First Letter of Saint John he tells us; "God is love...." Love originates from God himself including the love we have for others. It was out of love that God created us and that God sent his Son to suffer and Die for us, and to rise from the dead. This love fills us and unites us with Christ. For Jesus tells us that whoever welcomes one of his followers welcomes Jesus himself; whoever gives a cup of water to someone gives it to Jesus. When we love Jesus above all we are filled with his love and the ability to love others more than ever before. This is the love that graces us with the ability to forgive the spouse, the children and grandchildren. It is the source of grace to remain faithful to someone during sickness or other difficult times. It is the pure and unconditional love of God that flows through us when we accept the love of Jesus and respond to him with total love.

The expectation of Jesus that we love him more than others, is not meant to have us rank the people in our lives, and it is not meant to have us love the important people in our lives less. The expectation of Jesus that we love him above all is one that is meant to lead us to a deeper experience of love. God's love is so great that when we open our hearts to it we grow in that love throughout our entire lives. It is the love that forgives and transforms us to look at others the way that Christ himself does. This love is impossible for us to fully understand, yet by growing in God's love we experience it more and more each day of our lives.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

### Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers Actress Bonnie Hunt Influenced by Catholic Family

Actress Bonnie Hunt is familiar to anyone who has watched her classic films, such as "Cheaper by the Dozen," "Jumanji," etc. She wrote, directed, and co-starred in the beloved movie "Return to Me," and has voiced numerous characters in Pixar movies, including Dolly in the "Toy Story" franchise. She has also been the pioneering creative force behind numerous TV sitcoms, as well as the daily talk show "The Bonnie Hunt Show." And most recently, she co-starred in the Emmy nominated mini-series "Escape at Dannemora." But it all began for Bonnie in her hometown of Chicago, growing up in a Catholic family where she honed her storytelling talents by observing her dad Bob, mom Alice, and six brothers and sisters.

During a recent interview on "Christopher Closeup," Bonnie told me, "When you grow up in a blue collar neighborhood, there's those summer nights on the front porch of the house and everybody stopping by and talking. You see the storyteller...and a lot of times it was my dad telling a story and everybody listening and hanging on to every word and laughing. You see how healing and comforting and joyful it is, and you go to bed as a kid feeling the power of that."

Watching "The Andy Griffith Show" as a family was also influential because Bonnie got to see her parents relax, laugh, and forget their troubles while enjoying a story to which they could relate and learn something from characters who were "genuine, dimensional, and charming." TV and movies were not just fun diversions, she discovered, but they could be "cathartic and comforting."

Family was the center of Bonnie's life back then. Her father Bob worked two or three jobs to get all the bills paid, while her mom Alice took care of the kids. At the heart of everything were love and faith. "I still envy my Mom's faith," said Bonnie, "because it's unwavering and beautiful. It's a wonderful thing to have as a guide in your life."

Bonnie's father influenced her life tremendously as well. That's why it was so devastating when he died suddenly at age 50. How did Bonnie handle that tragedy?

#### A Father's Message From Heaven

Bonnie Hunt's father Bob is never far from her mind, be it on Father's Day or any day of the year. Though she wanted to travel to Hollywood to be an actress and storyteller from an early age, Bob convinced her to pursue her interest in nursing first. Bonnie followed his advice and was newly into nursing school at age 18 when Bob unexpectedly suffered a heart attack and died.

Recalling the experience on "Christopher Closeup," Bonnie endured near-total despair and felt angry at God, asking, "How could you take our dad?!" She also decided to quit nursing school. Her motivation for that career died with Bob. Bonnie's mom, Alice, convinced her to at least go back to school for one more week in honor of Bob. On her first day back, Bonnie regretted her decision when one of her instructors took her aside and said, "You know, Hunt, you're not the only person whose father ever died, so buck up...You can't be telling people what's going on in your life." Though Bonnie accepted these orders without complaint, she felt pained at the heartlessness of the comments.

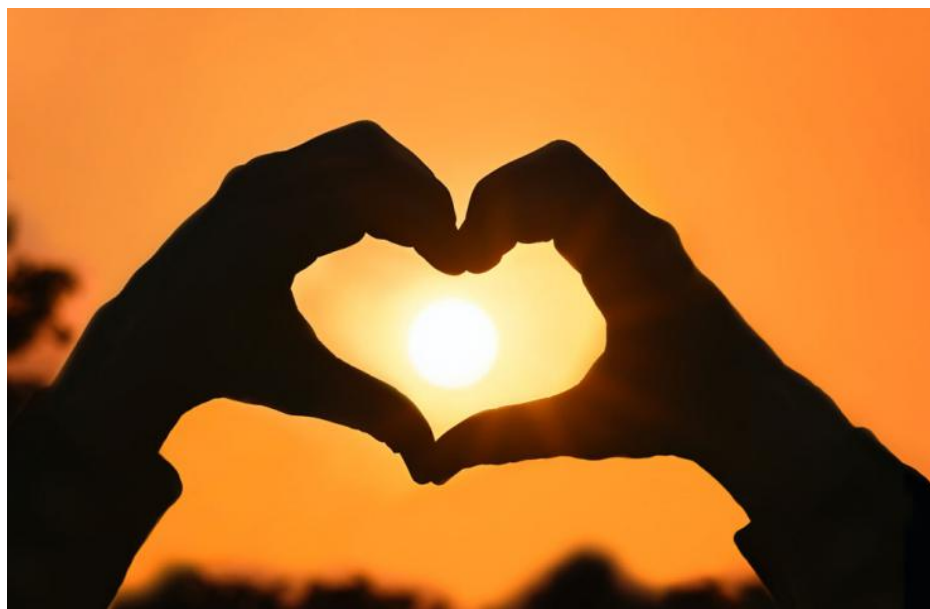
Then, the time came for the nursing students to be assigned the patients they would care for. Though there were hundreds in the hospital, Bonnie was directed to a man named Mr. O'Brien. After she introduced herself, he cheerfully called her "my Bonnie lass" and told her he was "doomed" because he had terminal cancer. Bonnie was shocked by how casually he spoke of his own impending death, but Mr. O'Brien explained, "I feel lucky to have cancer... I'm Irish, and there's a lot we don't say to our families. We're kind of stoic. But now I've been able to tell my boys how much I love them and tell my bride...I had a friend who died suddenly, and he'd always talk about his kids as his greatest accomplishment. He didn't get to say goodbye, and I'm getting that opportunity."

Bonnie developed a real affection for Mr. O'Brien. When she learned he worked at the Board of Education, which was where her father had worked, she broke the rules her instructor had given her by asking him if he knew Bob Hunt. Mr. O'Brien touched Bonnie's arm, saying, "That's the man who died suddenly that I've been speaking about."

Bonnie and Mr. O'Brien cried together about Bob's death and this unlikely connection between the two of them. She decided she couldn't leave Mr. O'Brien, so she stayed his student nurse until his death a few months later. Bonnie told me, "When I look back at my life, becoming a nurse defined me in so many ways and gave me a more thoughtful approach to life. And patients gave me a deep perspective. I really believe in divine intervention because I think my Dad got to heaven and said, 'Don't let her go to Hollywood! Can we find anyone within a five mile vicinity that could stop her?!' Somehow, they found this one patient out of 500. I mean, I was assigned one patient!"

That connection also helped Bonnie begin to resolve her anger at God and her grief in general. Though she went on to a successful career in Hollywood in movies like "Return to Me" and "Cheaper by the Dozen," she still relies on her nursing skills in both personal and professional settings. She added, "Until this day, whenever I experience great sadness...the thing that helps me the most is to help someone else."

## Praying with the Pope in June



#### The Way of the Heart

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

Pope Francis,  
June 2020

## JUNE'S PRAYER INTENTION

This month, Pope Francis takes us to a fundamental aspect of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, since its earliest days as the Apostleship of Prayer. At its beginning, over 175 years ago, and ever since, this ministry has been rooted in devotion to the Heart of Christ, the Sacred Heart. This month, during which the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart occurs, the Pope asks that "We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus".

Our prayer, with the Pope in both his monthly and his new daily Intentions, is always oriented towards changing our own hearts, preparing ourselves for mission in whatever life-situation we're in. For almost every person on the planet, that situation changed drastically since before Lent this year. We are only just beginning to learn and to reflect on how much of that change is permanent, on how much life has changed forever. Many indeed are suffering, whether through illness or by watching loved ones sicken. Part of us longs for a return to normal, leading us to examine what we meant by that normal, and to face our fears that it might never return. Therefore, it is important not to let fear control us; the love of the Heart of Christ will be our great strength.

#### Novena to The Sacred Heart

There has long been a tradition in the Church of dedicating nine days of prayer to the Heart of Christ, concluding on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, June 19th. Many parishes already pray this Novena every year and there are many beautiful variations. This year, we present a version, composed by the Pope's Prayer Network Director in London, which is available online at [www.popesglobalprayer.net](http://www.popesglobalprayer.net).

Here is the Novena Prayer which you can pray every day, even when you can't pray the rest of the meditation:

"Lord Jesus, you have said, 'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you'. I come to you in faith and trust, in love and hope. Let me know your closeness to me and your care of me and for all who are dear to me."

- As posted on The Pope's Global Prayer Network <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/org/popes-global-prayer-network/news>



In the May 13 Jednota (p. 23), we introduced readers to Branch 24's Fr. Marek Visnovsky and Episode 1 of his excellent series on iconography for children. To view Episode 2, go to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sG4Q1cey0H0>



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# Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

It is no secret that immigrants have provided our nation with a strong and blessed support. Our Sisters who emigrated from central Europe have contributed mightily not only by their spiritual presence but also by the works they have performed in convents, parishes, schools, hospitals, homes for the elderly and by their very presence which has brought joy and comfort to all with whom they came into contact.

If my calculations are correct, fifty-one Sisters have come to the U. S. to live fruitful lives and to minister to people who always proved to be thankful for their presence. I would like to introduce you to several of these Sisters who made a contribution to the health and well-being of their companions on the journey, especially those whom we called "house Sisters." Some of them, of course, became teachers in the parish schools and sacristans in parishes and large institutions.

The first Sister I would like to introduce is Sister Bernardine Balint from Bridgeport, CT who knew Father Matthew Jankola and had a spot in his funeral procession.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

## Her Story: Sister Bernardine



Sister Bernardine was born Mary Balint in Brestov, Slovakia, January 9, 1904, (some of the records call it Austria-Hungary, given the political situation at that time).

In one of her Jubilee stories Sister Bernardine tells us that in her parish church in Slovakia there was a statue of St. Rita. One day when she was only five some Sisters came to her home to take up a collection for an orphanage. Mary thought they were heavenly visitors and that those who dressed like St. Rita lived in heaven.

The story continues with her father returning to Slovakia in 1912 to get "Marinka" and her mother to take them back to the U. S. To make it easier for her to leave Slovakia, he told her she would be taught by Sisters.

Their new home was in Bridgeport, CT, and Father Matthew Jankola was pastor of their church, Saints Cyril and Methodius. At the time of her arrival, Mary was eight-and-a-half. Her sister Anne had been Father's housekeeper for four years.

Father spoke these prophetic words when he met Mary: "Even though Anne didn't enter the newly-founded Sisters of Saint Cyril and Methodius, maybe Mary will."

## Recalling Father Jankola

Father Jankola was the quintessential pastor. Although his greatest concern was establishing a religious congregation of Sisters to teach the children of immigrants, he did not wait until this would become a reality. His parishioners became the recipients of his ideas to help them grow in their faith and to become productive American citizens. He conducted catechetical classes for public school children, for instance. Father also offered naturalization classes for immigrants applying for citizenship and evening school for adults interested in learning math, English, Slovak, community singing and drama. Naturally, he started a choir and also a drama club.

Mary was twelve when her pastor Father Jankola died at the age of 43. His death was a devastating blow to the entire parish. It is evident that Mary, a twelve-year-old, felt the loss as keenly as all the other parishioners. It conveys the strong regard Mary had for her deceased pastor. She was delighted for the opportunity to be a part of the funeral procession.

As Sister Bernadine recalls: I was twelve years old when Father Jankola, our pastor, died. Stephanie Tybor (Sister Martina's sister), who was Prefect of the Sodality, chose Mary Valo and me to be the leaders of the schoolgirls in the funeral procession. We wore white dresses and black sashes; some also wore black ribbons in their hair. We slowly entered the church, walked up the aisle and then parted at the railing. My place was under the mission cross. I began to grow very uncomfortable. I had been all right while I was moving around, but now that I was kneeling I became hotter and hotter. I could feel the perspiration pouring down my face. Suddenly blackness came and I fainted. One of the ushers took me out to the side porch and sat me on a chair and said, "Mary, I'll take you home" "No, no, no—even if I die, I'm going to walk to the cemetery. I loved my pastor and I don't care if I die."

## Entering Religious Life

Mary entered on March 18, 1919. Earlier that day Sister Bernadette Malaskanic had died. Mother Monica, I.H.M. directress of novices, told Mary, "God will give you many graces and much suffering." It proved prophetic later in her last days.

Evidently Sister liked to record events that were especially meaningful to her as demonstrated by her account of her role in Father Jankola's funeral. Here is her account of the arrival of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville and their first encounter with their new Motherhouse:

I was the last postulant to enter the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Middletown, the site of our temporary Motherhouse. The date was March 18, and although entering a religious community is in itself an exciting venture, little did I realize then that in the early days of our religious life, eight other young ladies and I would embark on an adventure few have ever experienced.

Several months after my entrance, on June 18, 1919, nine postulants and several novices

boarded the train at Middletown to travel to Danville to take possession of the mansion that the congregation had purchased for its Motherhouse. Mother Emmanuel, the General Superior, met us at the station with the news that, because of an irregularity in the deed, we would not be able to occupy Castle Grove after all. The high spirits that had marked our trip to Danville were suddenly dashed. Our disappointment knew no bounds. Mother asked us to remain at the station, but the Immaculate Heart Sisters at St. Joseph's offered our dejected group hospitality for the night. We slept on the floor of the convent on mattresses and blankets provided by the Sisters. The next day after Father Dougherty, the pastor of St. Joseph's, spoke with us, we received word to proceed to Castle Grove. We quickly collected our luggage, not forgetting to take along the three cats we had brought with us in a box from Middletown. As we walked through town, we commented to one another how quiet and pleasant it was. When he arrived at the gate, Mother Emmanuel led us in a prayer to the Sacred Heart. Then we walked up the narrow path to a spot near the top of the hill where Mother Emmanuel declared a statue of the Sacred Heart would one day be placed. Later a bronze statue of the Sacred Heart was erected on the spot, thanks to a donation made by Mr. and Mrs. T.W. Walsh.

Our first look at the Bennett mansion was forbidding indeed. What was behind the boarded up windows and doors was as yet a mystery. After eating a dinner prepared by Mrs. Scott, the wife of the caretaker, we toured our new home. That night, exhausted from our first day in our very own Motherhouse, we slept soundly on the floor on the large mattresses from the double beds. The next morning we walked to St. Joseph's for Mass. After our return from church we breakfasted and then began the task of cleaning a building that had been uninhabited for fourteen years. We had brought along some dusters and the Scotts provided other cleaning materials. Later when our beds and other furnishings arrived by train from Middletown, stopping at the station at the foot of the hill where the Buckley Carpet Store is now, the once gloomy mansion became more cheerful and habitable.

Mrs. Scott also loaned us a few of her plates. Additional plates had to be improvised, and since the ornamentation from the chandeliers was flat, it was used as tableware! After housecleaning chores had been completed, the barn and the outdoors demanded our attention. Mr. Scott cut the tall grass and we weeded around the house. We also spent happy hours weeding around the cobblestones that formed the pathways circling the grounds. At mid-morning Mother Monica brought us bread and jelly and milk which we heartily enjoyed as we took a break from our labors.

Doing laundry was another very important and time-consuming task. Until our washer arrived, it was necessary to wash clothes by hand. When we had decided on a spot to hang the bedding, we purchased rope for the clotheslines. For many years after, the novices hung clothes on the lines adjacent to the barns.

Mr. Scott had also planted a vegetable garden and asked that a few of us help him weed and cultivate it. Also from Middletown we had brought a few chickens and when the rest arrived, we housed them in a section of the barn. They had ample room in the courtyard to exercise and peck about for food. One day in preparation for the Reception ceremony Sister Ferdinand and I gave the courtyard a good scrubbing. Then we fed the chickens. I got the feed and Sister Ferdinand held the large door open as she called the chickens to the feast. She suggested letting them in two by two. Suddenly the heavy door collapsed, pinning her and number of the chickens beneath its weight. When I saw Sister was bleeding badly, I ran for Mother Monica who discovered that Sister was quite seriously hurt. While Mother got her medical attention, Sister Madeleine killed and cut up the injured chickens. The survivors went to roost after their fright. Needless to say, the courtyard needed another scrubbing.

We postulants were also commissioned to perform a frightening task—killing the snakes residing in the ruins of the greenhouses located where the cemetery and the statue of St. Joseph are now. Amid the stones, cement and shattered glass were numerous families of snakes. Armed with hoes and pitchforks, postulants and novices set out to exterminate them. After each frontal attack, aiming our weapons at the head of the formidable creatures, we retreated, screaming. Though the tiny ones posed little threat, the large snakes were dauntless as they tried to protect their offspring. After seventy years I can still vividly recall our war against the snakes.

The date for the first Reception in Danville of young women into the congregation had been set for August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. Since the sun-parlor floor was rusty from leaks from both the roof and the radiators, we postulants had to remove the stains with lye. To protect our shoes from the strong solution, we wore our overshoes. The Reception ceremony was held as scheduled, not in the sun parlor, however, but in the chapel. At that time the altar was situated in the back on the sun-parlor side, opposite its present location.

After accomplishing the assigned tasks both inside and outside our Motherhouse, I was sent at the end of August to our elementary school in Jessup. I had 125 first and second graders in my charge. The superior and principal was Sister Elizabeth, who at mid-term came to my classroom to administer tests in all the subjects, reading, writing, spelling, math, and, of course, religion. I spent those three days with Sister's third and fourth graders. After the testing was over Sister Elizabeth complimented me, telling me how pleased and satisfied she was with the children's academic progress. I was so relieved for I had feared the worst, being sent home for not fulfilling the responsibility of maintaining a classroom. At the time I started my teaching career I was only 15 years old! In January I turned 16 and continued teaching until the end of the school year when I returned to Danville to be received into the congregation as a novice.

For the next two years my companions and I learned from Mother Monica the basics of religious life. The entire time of preparation for religious profession I consider one of the happiest of my life. On the occasions when all the Sisters, both novices and professed, over

continued on page 5

# You can make a difference during the lonely days of the COVID lockdown, especially among lonely seniors whether they be friends or family, says AMAC

If you don't have the heebie-jeebies by now, you soon will if you don't take precautions during this new era of self-isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic. The anxiety most of us feel for the victims of COVID-19 is exacerbated by the loneliness of the enforced seclusion required to keep ourselves safe.

"It takes a lot of self-discipline and spiritual moxie to overcome the sadness, boredom, disquiet and agitation of solitary confinement. It's a far cry from those moments when you want some alone time and it can lead to bouts of depression. Unfortunately, once again seniors are among the most susceptible," according to Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC].

Weber cites data from the University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging (NPHA). It shows that long before the pandemic overwhelmed the U.S. in October of 2018, 34% of older Americans between the ages of 50 and 80 reported that they felt a lack of companionship. And, she points out, the authors of that study recently noted that "as social distancing and stay-at-home orders continue in many states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, feelings of isolation and loneliness may be amplified among older adults."

Meanwhile, the same poll showed that individuals who engaged in social activities were less likely to feel isolated.

So what can you do about it?

According to the experts, simply engaging an elderly friend or relative in conversation is a good way to start, says Weber.

Social stimulation without face-to-face contact is, indeed, possible and easy enough to do. Think about making a phone call every day or a couple of times a week to a lonely neighbor, friend or family member. Better yet, make it a video call using your cell phone. You may have to provide easy to follow instructions and maybe even the device, but it will be well worth it. It's a good and effective substitute for a physical visit.

And, when you are on one of your calls, you might use the occasion to explain that the lockdown doesn't preclude getting physical by taking a walk at least once a day, for example. A trip around the block or even in the backyard or the confines of your home provides a healthy dose of fresh air and exercise, even if you have to wear a face mask.

If you notice a tinge of negativity in your conversation, deal with it. Reminisce about happy events in the past or talk about food, old friends and old movies-- topics that provoke a smile

or a laugh. After all, the purpose of making the contact is to spread cheer.

Give that person a purpose by suggesting "chores" such as gathering family recipes, organizing family pictures or encouraging him or her to take up a new hobby such as jig saw puzzles.

Finally, you may want to suggest getting involved with a local charity. Lending a helping hand to a local charity such as a food-for-the-needy organization. Simple tasks such as mailing solicitations for contributions and/or packaged food items can make a shut-in feel not so isolated and can give them a "helper's high." In other words, helping others reinforces our sense of worth.

"It's all about creating distractions that replace the negative thoughts that come to mind when you've got too much idle time on your hands, making you feel useless, all alone and in despair," according to AMAC chief Weber.



## FCSU Fraternalism in Action: How Are We Helping?

It's one of the founding tenets of our Society – fraternalism. Jednota has been asking FCSU members to think about how to put our fraternalism into action.

What are you doing? Email Jednota at [fcsulife-editor@gmail.com](mailto: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.

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

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1-800-JEDNOTA

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

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

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

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

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

## Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

continued from page 4

100 by then, gathered together on the lawn, our beautiful, harmonious community spirit was evident. Such bonding had taken place as we all joined our hands and hearts in establishing our Motherhouse at the former Bennett mansion in the peaceful borough of Danville.

### Following a Significant Role Model

Sister Bernardine indeed had a significant role model in her pastor, Father Jankola, when it comes to diligence and service. She was a teacher for 46 years. Sister was also principal and superior. During that time she reached out to anyone in need of guidance and instruction. Sister was only a postulant when she was given a teaching assignment in Jessup where she taught 125 children in the first grade. In this class were two future Sisters and two future priests. According to Sister Bernardine, "A little portion of ME went into them." These touching words demonstrate the sort of person she always was. It is not difficult to imagine that Father Jankola himself had such feelings for his people. As a member of the congregation he had founded, Sister proved her diligence and care for the individuals to whom she ministered over many years: she directed altar boys, conducted children's choirs, taught First Communion and Confirmation classes and instructed converts at a time when there were no RCIA programs in parishes. Among the young ones she instructed in the sacraments of communion and confirmation was a boy with cerebral palsy. From 1930-1932, Sister Bernardine served as Directress of Novices. A special role she fulfilled was that of sacristan at Maria Joseph Manor for 19 years. Father Augustine Zan who also immigrated to the U. S. served as chaplain. According to Sister Paracleta, "Sister Bernardine was known for her conscientious exercise of her responsibilities, reverence for the Eucharist, and the care of the sacred vessels and the linens."

In 1984, Sister retired to Maria Hall. Another side of her personality became evident on occasions like Mardi Gras and Halloween. Sister was the first to put on a costume for the evening get-togethers, Slovak dress, a bridal outfit, a dress suit with a top hat in the role of MC. It was evident she enjoyed performing and adding humor to the occasion.

The serious side also became evident, especially at the end of her life when she dealt with her illness with patience and resignation. One wonders whether she remembered Mother Monica's words at the beginning of her life as a Sister: "God will give you many graces and much suffering." In difficult moments she no doubt uttered this sincere prayer: "Eternal Father, I offer you the wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ to heal the wounds of our souls; my Jesus, pardon and mercy, through the merits of your Sacred Wounds. Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on me."

At her last moments she may have whispered these words: "Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul; Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you."

Her last day on earth was First Friday. She died shortly before 11 p.m. on Friday, October 7, 1994, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

## Apoštol Slavónie – Ján Kutlík st.

*„Bo Kutlíkovská vzácna rodina  
Je perlou slovenských rodín.“  
Felix Kutlík III.*

V tomto roku si budeme pripomínať 130. výročie úmrtia Jána II. Kutlíka známeho najmä ako Jána Kutlíka st. Rod Kutlíkovcov je na Dolnej zemi dobre známy najmä vďaka dlhoročným pronárodným snahám, bojmi o posilnenie národnej identity Slovákov i vďaka kňazskej a učiteľskej práci trvajúcej takmer tri storočia.

Krajanské múzeum Matice slovenskej dlhoročne vlastní monografiu Dejiny Kutlíkovcov, ktoré zostavil potomok rodu Félix Kutlík III. Uvádza ju slovami: „Môj nebohý otec Felix Kutlík I, bývalý evanjelický farár kulpinský, žiadal, aby v záznamoch o rodine Kutlíkovcov, ktoré on započal robiť, po jeho smrti niektorý člen rodiny pokračoval. Rád plním túto jeho žiadosť, lebo z lásky k svojmu rodu aj sám sa ochotne zaoberám minulosťou svojich praotcov.“

Azda najvýznamnejšie sa do slovenských dejín Dolnej zeme zapísali otec a syn druhej a tretej rodovej generácie, ktorým venujeme krátku spomienku.

Ján Kutlík st. sa narodil 9. mája 1806 vo Vyšnom Kubíne, v remeselníckej rodine mäsiara Jána I. a Kataríny III., rod. Irešovej (pôvodom Poľky). Dva roky navštevoval elementárnu školu v Jasenove, rok sa škoľoval v Dolnom Kubíne, navštevoval gymnázium v Šajó-Gemeri, neskôr prestúpil kvôli výučbe nemčiny do Kežmarku. Jeho učiteľom bol Ján Chalupka, ktorému podľa písomných prameňov možno vďačiť za jeho národné prebudenie. Kvôli nedostatku financií na školné poplatky prestúpil na menšie gymnázium do Banskej Štiavnice, kde sa stretol s evanjelickým farárom a národovcom Jánom Seberinyim. V roku 1826 prestúpil na kolégium do Prešova, kde dokončil kňazské vzdelanie.

Prvé pracovné miesto získal v Starej Pazove. Tu úradoval ako kazateľ a učiteľ 13 rokov (1828 – 1841). Krátko pôsobil v banátskom Sv. Mikuláši (1841 – 1843), neskôr prestúpil do dnešného Rumunska (Mokrá pri Arade) a odtiaľ bol povolán na Pitvaroš (1844). Jeho pôsobenie v Pitvaroši trvalo viac ako dve desaťročia. Tu dlhoročne slúžil a učil iba v slovenčine, čo mu prinieslo nemalé komplikácie s maďarským obyvateľstvom. Neúnavne podporoval všetky národné snahy, podujatia, angažoval sa literárne a publicisticky. Zaslúžil sa o výstavbu slovenských škôl i nedeľnej slovenskej školy v Pitvaroši. K presadzovaniu národných snáh a k angažovaniu sa vo veci národnej povzbudzoval a vyzýval mnohých kolegov. Bol obľúbencom Jána Kollára, ktorý ho nazval „apoštol Slavónie“. Kontakt nepretržite udržoval i s Ľudovítom Štúrom, ktorému pomohol na Dolnej zemi pripraviť finančnú zbierku na podporu Katedry česko-slovenského jazyka na evanjelickom gymnáziu v Bratislave.

Pod značkou J.K. st. nájdeme jeho články v Orlovi Tatranskom, Národných novinách, Obzore, Pohľadoch, Cirkevných listoch, Vedomostiach, Vestníku, Hlásnikovi...

Samostatne vydal Pohrâbník, Pohrebné verše, Nedeľné kázne, Oltárik, Kroniku dejepisnú, Jubileum Palatína Jozefa, Náboženskú čítanku, Makrobiotiku.

Bol zakladajúcim členom Matice slovenskej a jej predsedom pre odbor MS na Dolnej zemi. Na jej podporu venoval 12 zlatých. Zaslúžil sa o vznik a chod slovenského gymnázia v Revúcej. V Pitvaroši inicioval čitateľský spolok, venoval sa i výchove ľudu najmä v otázkach včelárstva, záhradkárstva i ovocinárstva. Z Pitvaroša odišiel označovaný ako pansláv do Slovenského Bánhedéša ku svojmu synovi, ktorý pôsobil ako farár a učiteľ a nasledoval jeho životné učenie. Ján Kutlík st. umrel 22. decembra 1890.

Rodinná kronika písaná jeho potomkom Felixom III. končí slovami: „V mojej osobnej opatere sa nachádzajú mnohé vzácne relikvie rodinné, znamenité obrazy, listy, knihy a iné veci, ktoré po mojej smrti dľa môjho želania odovzdané majú byť za účelom úschovy čiastočne v Matici Slovenskej, čiastočne Slovenskému Národnému Múzeu v Turčianskom Sv. Martine.“

Matica slovenská vo svojom fonde uchováva Dejiny Kutlíkovcov už viac ako celé štvrtstoročie.

Zuzana Pavelcová

## Apostle of Slavonia - Ján Kutlík Sr.

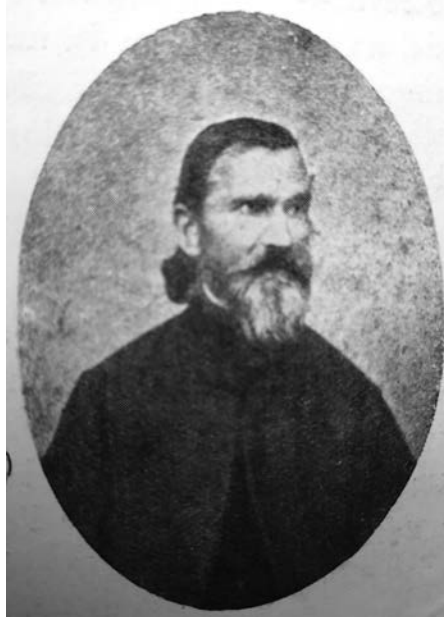
*"Because of Kutlík's rare family  
They are the pearl of Slovak families."  
Felix Kutlík III.*

This year we will commemorate the 130th anniversary of the death of John II. Kutlík known mainly as Ján Kutlík Sr. The Kutlíkovci family is well known in the Lower Land (Editor's note: the Lower Land is south of the Slovak borders through Hungary, Romania, Serbia, where Slovaks lived) mainly due to many years of nationwide efforts, struggles to strengthen the national identity of Slovaks and to priestly dedication and teachings over almost three centuries.

The National Museum of the Matica slovenská has long owned a monograph (editor's note: a detailed written study of a specialized subject) on the History of the Kutlíkovci, compiled by a descendant of the Félix Kutlík III family. He states it: "My poor father Felix Kutlík I, a former evangelical pastor of Kulpin, asked that a member of the family continue the records of the Kutlík family that he had begun to make after his death. I am happy to comply with his request; out of love for my family, I am willing to deal with the past of my ancestors."

Perhaps the most important in the Slovak history of the Lower Land was the father and son of the second and third generation, to whom we dedicate this brief memoir.

Ján Kutlík Sr. was born on May 9, 1806 in Vyšný Kubín, into a trade family of butcher Ján I and Katarína- Irešová III (originally from Poland). He attended elementary school in Jasenov for two years, then school in Dolný Kubín for a year, followed by gymnasium (high school) in Šajó-Gemer, and later moved to Kežmarok to learn German. His teacher was Ján Chalup-



ka, who, according to written sources, can be thanked for his student's national awakening. Due to the lack of funds for school fees, he moved to a smaller gymnasium school in Banská Štiavnica, where he met the Evangelical pastor and nationalist Ján Seberinyi. In 1826 he transferred to the college in Prešov, where he completed his priestly education.

He got his first job in Stará Pazova. He served there as a preacher and teacher for 13 years (1828 - 1841). He worked briefly in the Banat Sv. Mikuláš (1841 - 1843); later he moved to today's Romania (Mokrá pri Arade) and from there he was called to Pitvaroš (1844). His work in Pitvaroš lasted more than two decades. He served here for many years and taught only in Slovak, which brought him considerable complications with the Hungarian population. He tirelessly supported all national efforts, events, and became involved in literature and journalism. He was responsible

for the construction of Slovak schools and the Slovak Sunday school in Pitvaroš. He encouraged and called on many colleagues to push for national efforts and to get involved in the national cause. He was a favorite of John Kollar, who called him the "Apostle of Slavonia." He also kept in touch with Ľudovít Štúr, who helped him prepare a fundraiser in the Lower Land to support the Department of the Czech-Slovak Language at the Evangelical Grammar School in Bratislava.

Under the name of J.K. Sr. we can find his articles in Orlov Tatranský, Národné noviny, Obzor, Pohľedy, Church letters, Vedomostiach, Vestník, Hlásnik ...

He independently published Pohrâbník, Funeral Verses, Sunday Sermons, the Altar, the Historical Chronicle, the Jubilee of the Palatine Joseph, the Religious Reading Book, and Macrobiotics.

He was a founding member of Matica slovenská and its chairman for the World Cup in the Lower Land. He donated 12 gold coins to support it. He was responsible for the establishment and operation of the Slovak gymnasium (high school) in Revúca. In Pitvaroš, he initiated a reading association, he also devoted himself to educating the people, especially in matters of beekeeping, horticulture and fruit growing. He left Pitvaroš, known as panslav, to his son living in Slovenský Bánhedéš who worked as a pastor and teacher and followed his life teachings. Ján Kutlík Sr. died December 22, 1890.

Family chronicle written by his descendant Felix III. ends with the words: "In my personal care there are many rare family relics, excellent paintings, letters, books and other things, which after my death, according to my wishes, are to be handed over for safekeeping partly in Matica Slovenská, partly to the Slovak National Museum in Turčiansky St. Martin."

Matica slovenská has kept the History of Kutlíks in its treasury for more than a quarter of a century.

**Publish  
Today**



**Slovak Catholic  
Federation  
2021 "Dobry  
Pastier" Good  
Shepherd**

The Slovak Catholic Federation is accepting articles for its 2021 edition of the "Dobry Pastier" Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd is a collection of literary articles submitted by contributing authors on all things Slovak, Catholic, faith, cultural and heritage, the arts, and personal essays or other topics the writer wishes to share with the readers. The Good Shepherd also serves as the only source for contact information for the Church in Slovakia, and those Slovak clergy and religious in the United States, as well as Religious congregations and places of worship. The articles come from authors in the United States, Slovakia and the Slovak Diaspora from around the world.

Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can submit their articles to Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821 or barbarasable@hotmail.com. The Deadline for submitting an article is December 31, 2020. The articles submitted need to be double spaced typed. Assisting Sister Barbara Sable with the editing and layout of the Good Shepherd is Daniel Tanzone, Editor of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, "Falcon", and the editorial staff at the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

**Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union  
website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**

OUR STORY:

# Celebrating a Century of Family

Family patriarch, Josef Galetka (1881-1928), Slovak immigrant and early member of Jednota FCSU Branch 484, Coral, PA, was honored recently in a unique way. Grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, spouses and friends gathered at his burial site at St. Francis Cemetery for the culmination of a year-long headstone restoration effort on the one hundred eighteenth wedding anniversary of Josef and his wife Agnes (Monka).

The original headstone, made of unpolished marble, became weathered and cracked with age. To preserve the historical value, the family entrusted Shoemaker's Monuments, Blairsville, PA, to repair, clean, and refurbish the headstone.

To celebrate the completion of the project, the family came together for a Rededication Service. The para liturgy included an opening prayer, scripture reading, responsorial psalm, prayer petitions, a musical interlude performed by a guest vocalist and guitarist, and a final blessing. Group singing of "Amazing Grace" and placement of pink carnations symbolizing gratitude and eternal remembrance of the deceased concluded the service.

Afterwards the group enjoyed lunch together in Indiana, PA, and attended evening Mass at St. Louis Church, Lucernmines, PA.

Mark Geletka, grandson of Josef, said, "Beyond the satisfaction of restoring a family headstone, I was overwhelmed by the sense of family unity that this effort promoted. I not only enjoyed our ceremony but the whole day we spent together."

Elizabeth (Kort) Von Bargaen, great granddaughter, reflected that she was proud to be a part of the gathering and also proud to be able to share the event with her husband and young son. For her, the special day strengthened the bond between ancestors and cousins.

Theresa (Kort) Moran, great granddaughter, remarked, "It was a beautiful event and I



feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to embrace my Slovak heritage with family members I haven't seen in years."

Joseph Geletka, grandson, writes, "When we were first informed about how badly Grandpa's headstone had become deteriorated, I was so impressed by the immediate willingness of all the cousins to participate in its restoration. Restoring the headstone became a way for us to show our gratitude to him and Grandma for the sacrifices they made so that we could have a better life. None of us ever knew or met him. And yet, he and Grandma had fourteen children and twenty-four grandchildren.

Their sons fought in WWII and then their grandchildren served in the military all down through the years. The grandchildren excelled in the fields of science, medicine, business, engineering, aviation, and education. It's a common story repeated everywhere all over this country - the tremendous contributions made by immigrant families to our nation. And this re-dedication was our way of saying thanks."

Anyone interested in obtaining information on how this family project was planned or to obtain a copy of the rededication service can contact Joseph Geletka at [geletka1950@gmail.com](mailto:geletka1950@gmail.com).

- Submitted by Joan (Galetka) Kort, Branch 484



## 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  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Entertainment in the Social Club & line-up**

- **Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>:**  
Solo guitarist, Greg Iskat
- **Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Band, Dreamcatchers
- **Light foods/snacks will be provided and drink specials.**
- **Main Event: Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **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!**

# News From Slovakia

## Slovensko zjednodušuje cestovné obmedzenia pre osem krajín

Bratislava, 26. mája (TASR) - Ľudia s trvalým alebo prechodným pobytom na Slovensku budú môcť cestovať do Maďarska, Poľska, Českej republiky, Rakúska, Slovinska, Chorvátska, Nemecka a Švajčiarska na 48 hodín bez toho, aby bolo potrebné preukázať negatívny preukaz COVID-19 testov a bez uvedenia do dvojtyždňovej povinnej karantény po návrate od tohto dátumu, podľa slovenského úradu verejného zdravotníctva.

Medzitým budú mať ľudia s trvalým alebo prechodným pobytom v Českej republike a Maďarsku možnosť prísť na Slovensko z Českej republiky alebo z Maďarska na 48 hodín za rovnakých podmienok.



Člen osobitného pluku osobitnej skupiny Ozbrojených síl SR, ktorý vykonáva hraničné kontroly spolu s policajtom. (Foto: TASR) A member of the Slovak Armed Forces' Special Task Force Regiment carrying out border checks along with a police officer. (Photo by TASR)

## Slovakia Eases Travel Restrictions for Eight Countries

Bratislava, May 26 (TASR) – People with permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia will be allowed to travel to Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Germany and Switzerland for 48 hours without the necessity of showing proof of negative COVID-19 results and without being placed in a two-week compulsory quarantine upon return as of Wednesday, announced Slovakia's Public Health Authority on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, people with permanent or temporary residence in the Czech Republic and Hungary will be able to come to Slovakia from the Czech Republic or from Hungary also for 48 hours under the same conditions.

## Slovensko odošle konvoj s Humanitárnou pomocou Ukrajine

Bratislava, 22. mája (TASR) - Slovensko vyslalo konvoj s materiálnou humanitárnou pomocou pre obyvateľstvo Ukrajiny na pomoc v boji proti šíreniu COVID-19, so štátnym tajomníkom ministerstva zahraničných vecí Ingridou Brockovou, štátnym tajomníkom ministerstva vnútra Lukou Kyselicu a ukrajinským veľvyslancom na adresu Slovensko Jurij Mushka za účasti, TASR sa toho istého dňa poučil z tlačového oddelenia ministerstva zahraničných vecí.

„Ukrajina je našim kľúčovým partnerom a susedom, takže rozhodnutie poskytnúť pomoc bolo úplne prirodzené. Najpriamejšou možnosťou podpory je odovzdanie materiálov potrebných v prvej línii boja proti pandémie. Zároveň je to výrazný prejav solidarity a jasný signál, že Slovensko je pripravené pomôcť svojim partnerom a susedom v ťažkých časoch,“ uviedla Brocková.

Podľa ministerstva zahraničných vecí Ukrajina požiadala o humanitárnu pomoc prostredníctvom oficiálneho listu ukrajinského ministra zahraničných vecí Dmytra Kulebu jeho slovenskému kolegovi Ivanovi Korčokovi (nominant za slobodu a solidaritu / SaS). Poskytnutý materiál obsahuje 200 000 chirurgických masiek, 200 litrov dezinfekčného koncentrátu, 450 prenosných stolov a 480 prikrývk.

„V súlade s požiadavkou ukrajinskej strany sa materiály prevezú do mesta Záporožie a



Fotky od užívateľa TASR Stock photo by TASR

spolu s materiálmi priamo určenými na podporu lekárskeho aktív s novým koronavírusom Slovensko vyslala na Ukrajinu tri sanitky,“ uviedla tlačová správa ministerstva.

Podľa Kyselice bude možné hovoriť o úspechu, ak sanitky pomôžu zachrániť aspoň jeden ľudský život. Veľvyslanec Muška opäť poďakoval Slovensku za poskytnutie humanitárnej pomoci v krátkom čase po žiadosti Ukrajiny a je presvedčený, že táto pomoc nebude posledná.

Podľa ministerstva je hodnota materiálnej humanitárnej pomoci vo finančnom vyjadrení 186 000 EUR.

## Slovakia Sends Convoy with Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine

Bratislava, May 22 (TASR) – Slovakia sent a convoy with material humanitarian aid for the population of Ukraine to help combat the spread of COVID-19, with Foreign Affairs Ministry State Secretary Ingrid Brockova, Interior Ministry State Secretary Lukas Kyselica and Ukrainian Ambassador to Slovakia Yuriy Mushka in attendance, TASR learnt from the Foreign Ministry's press department on the same day.

“Ukraine is our key partner and neighbor, so the decision to provide assistance was completely natural. Handing over the materials needed in the front line of the fight against the pandemic is the most direct option for support. At the same time it's a strong expression of solidarity and a clear signal that Slovakia is ready to help its partners and neighbors in difficult times,” said Brockova.

According to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ukraine requested humanitarian aid via an official letter from Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba to his Slovak counterpart Ivan Korcok (a Freedom and Solidarity/SaS nominee). The materials provided include 200,000 surgical masks, 200 liters of disinfection concentrate, 450 portable tables and 480 blankets.

“In line with the request of the Ukrainian side, the materials will be transported to the city of Zaporizhia, and along with materials directly intended to support medical activities related to novel coronavirus, Slovakia is sending three ambulances to Ukraine,” stated the ministry's press department.

According to Kyselica, it will be possible to talk about a success if the ambulances help save at least one human life. Ambassador Mushka again thanked Slovakia for supplying the humanitarian aid in such a short time after Ukraine's request, and he believes that this aid won't be the last.

According to the ministry, the value of the material humanitarian aid in financial terms is €186,000.

## Začiatok fázy štyroch zdvíhacích antivírusových opatrení

Bratislava, 18. mája (TASR) - Štvrtá fáza zrušenia antikoronavírusových opatrení na Slovensku sa začne v stredu 20. mája, uviedol v pondelok predseda vlády Igor Matovič (OLaNO).

To znamená, že napríklad divadlá a kiná sa budú môcť znovu otvoriť, avšak pod podmienkou, že obmedzia počet návštevníkov na 100. Posledná fáza sa týka aj nákupných centier (okrem krytých detských ihrísk), krytého plávania, bazény, vonkajšie športové zariadenia, športové zariadenia pre športové kluby a reštaurácie, v ktorých sa podáva jedlo kryté.

Podľa Matoviča je zdvíhacie opatrenie v takomto objeme odvážne, ale zároveň zastáva názor, že zodpovednosť verejnosti vykazuje dobré výsledky. Jednotlivé predajne, poskytovatelia služieb a centrá budú povinné dodržiavať prísne hygienické opatrenia.

Pokiaľ ide o obchody, príslušné orgány zvažujú zmiernenie pravidla prenájmania len pre

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# News From Slovakia

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jednu osobu na 25 metrov štvorcových až 15 metrov štvorcových.

Napriek tomu, že štvrtá fáza sa začne v stredu, obchody zostanú v nedeľu zatvorené. Platia aj špeciálne nákupné hodiny pre starších ľudí.

Vnútorne priestory turistických pamiatok sa budú môcť v stredu opäť otvoriť, s výnimkou zoologických záhrad a botanických záhrad.

Matovič zároveň poznamenal, že neočakáva, že sa tento rok uskutočnia akcie na viac ako 1 000 ľudí.



Predseda vlády Igor Matovič (foto TASR) Prime Minister Igor Matovic (photo by TASR)

## Phase Four of Lifting Anti-virus Measures To Begin

Bratislava, May 18 (TASR) – The fourth phase of lifting anti-coronavirus measures in Slovakia will start on Wednesday, May 20, Prime Minister Igor Matovic (OLaNO) stated on Monday.

This means that, for example, theaters and cinemas will be allowed to re-open, however, under the condition that they will limit the number of visitors to 100. The last phase also concerns shopping centers (except for indoor playgrounds), indoor swimming pools, outdoor sports facilities, sports facilities for sport clubs and restaurants serving food indoor.

According to Matovic, lifting measures in such volume is bold but he's also of the opinion that the responsibility of the public has been showing good results. Individual outlets, service

providers and centers will be obliged to observe strict hygienic measures.

When it comes to shops, the competent authorities are considering alleviating the rule of only letting in one person per 25 square meters to 15 square meters.

Despite the fact that the fourth phase will begin on Wednesday, shops will remain closed on Sundays. The special shopping hours for the elderly are also staying in effect.

Indoor premises of tourist landmarks will be also allowed to re-open on Wednesday, with the exception of zoos and botanical gardens.

At the same time, Matovic noted that he doesn't expect events attended by more than 1,000 people to take place this year.

## Learn to Play Fujara from the Comfort of Your Home



This year was to be the 10th year of the popular Fujara and Koncovka course I lead at the musical summer camp the Common Ground on the Hill in Maryland.

But due to the extraordinary circumstances we all face, the 2020 class will be available online, using the Zoom app which is available for download free of charge on your device of choice (desktop, laptop, tablet, or smart phone).

This opens up a unique opportunity for those of you who were interested in playing fujara but in the past postponed registering because of distance, work, vacation plans, or the overall expenses of travel, room & board.

Covid 19 changed all that, and THIS YEAR ONLY you can take the course from safety of your home, the comfort of your favorite chair, and on top of all the other savings, enjoying a reduced tuition courtesy of the music summer camp organizers Common Ground on the Hill.

### Class Day & Time

The fujara / koncovka class will run from Monday 7-13 to Friday 7-17, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm Eastern time. No previous musical experience or knowledge is necessary. Students start playing their instruments on the first day of class.

Do you like to sing? You might be interested in another class with me, on the same days, 3 hours later, starting at 4 pm Eastern time.

To have enough time for individual attention to everybody, I'd like to cap number of students at 10 max, so please don't delay in registering, as the course might fill in quickly. Once you are registered, I will email you my class material before start of the course.

Of course, please let me know, if you have more questions or concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you, and playing or singing music together.

- Submitted by Bob Rychlik  
fujara@gmail.com  
cell: 301 452 1710

### Registration or Additional Information

For more information about the class Fujara and Koncovka overtone flutes, go to:

[https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/wind\\_wk3.html](https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/wind_wk3.html)

For more information on the class Favorite Folk Songs of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia:

[https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/sing\\_wk3.html](https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/sing_wk3.html)

To register for these or any other classes, go to:

[https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/tw\\_reg.html](https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/tw_reg.html)

For more information on the Common Ground on the Hill, go to:

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/traditions-weeks-home.html>

## 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](mailto: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!**



# Global Slovakia Offering Webinars

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

If you are serious about learning more about Slovakia, Global Slovakia is leading an attempt to inform the world about this small but important country. In addition to publishing books and facilitating lectures, Global Slovakia has started offering some engaging online webinars, which feature special guests, including history makers and experts in the field of Slovak studies.

## The May 31, 2020 Webinar

The most recent webinar, "The Power of Prayer," discussed the communist attack on organized religion after 1948 and the evolution of the Secret Church in Slovakia. It featured commentary from František Mikloško, the former dissident and member of the Secret Church, who went on to become a Velvet Revolution leader. Mikloško was the Speaker of the Slovak National Council (Slovakia's parliament) from 1990 to 1992, and served in the parliament (Slovak National Council) longer than anyone after 1989. He was also a candidate for presidential election in 2004, 2009 and 2019.

Before Mikloško's discussion, Zuzana Palovic Gabriela Bereghazyová presented an overview of the communists' position towards religion after 1948. Soon after seizing power, they abolished freedom of religion. Christians suffered more persecution in Czechoslovakia than in any other country in the Soviet Bloc, even more than in the USSR itself.

Why did the Communist Party fear the Church so much? The Catholic Church in particular held extensive influence in Slovakia which reached remote parts of the countryside, and Communists opposed the impact which the clergy exerted among ordinary people. The Church also possessed an organized bureaucratic structure and maintained connections with the Pope and the Vatican, which opposed communist regimes. The Party aimed to crush those ties and control a Church it viewed as too big and powerful; it would tolerate no alternative center of power in the country.

Even though not in the presentation, I might add that the Communists also sought to discredit the Church by associating it with the wartime regime led by Monsignor Jozef Tiso. In an effort to preserve Slovak self-rule and avoid a Hungarian occupation, Tiso had concluded a Treaty of Protection with Nazi Germany in 1939. The Slovak government made the Communist and Social Democratic parties illegal, further arousing the ire of the left. Agreeing to allow the deportation of the Jewish population of Slovakia further discredited the Slovak regime in their eyes, and the Communists played some role in the 1944 Slovak National Uprising. After the war, the Communists lost a free election in Slovakia, even though they had triumphed in the Czech lands. They spearheaded the trial and execution of Tiso, even though many Slovaks opposed the death sentence. By identifying the Church with the Tiso regime and labeling it as a supporter of fascism, the Communists saved their ammunition to muffle the Church until after they seized total control.

Once ensconced in power, the Communists employed "tactical and psychological operations to diminish influence of the Church." Starting in 1950, they closed all male monastic orders and seized their properties; then it turned to neutralize nunneries. The police incarcerated 2,300 monks, accusing them of anti-state activity. With just a few hours notice, many priests and nuns were forcibly relocated to the Czech lands, where they had no connections or supporters; there they performed hard labor, even working in dangerous uranium mines. The regime also dissolved the Greek Catholic Church and imprisoned bishops who refused to comply. These Eastern rite Catholics were compelled to join the Orthodox Church, because it had closer ties to Russia.

Once they had completed these confiscations and deportations, more subtle forms of administrative terror occurred. While never officially banning religion, so as not to alienate too many workers and farmers, the Communists enforced disincentives to discourage people from attending Mass, ceremonies and rituals. No new churches were built nor were old ones renovated.

If one held any important position, there could be no church sacraments baptism or marriage. Believers resorted to secretly attending services in another town to avoid detection by communist agents. Those who refused to comply could lose a good position, a job, or even be forced to perform manual labor, despite higher qualifications. Attending church could even affect future of their children, and this was among the most compelling reasons to practice one's faith secretly.

I might add that a relative blamed me because his son did not gain entrance into college, since I had visited with the family a number of times when I lived in Slovakia in 1982-83. Whether this was the only reason remains a mystery, but it shows the fear people had of associating or even writing to someone from the free world.

Conditions for the Church did improve somewhat in the 1960s, and more religious freedoms returned during the time of Dubček's reforms. Some clergy were released from exile and the Church strengthened very quickly. But the August 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion soon doused these freedoms and Communists reasserted tight control of Church activities. But it was never as fiercely anti-religious as during the 1950s.

The government's grip of control gradually eased. The 1978 election of Pope John Paul II encouraged Catholics not only in Poland, but also in Czechoslovakia and elsewhere. The Pope's message of hope and "Be not afraid" rang home with believers.

During the whole totalitarian era, the Secret Church played a vital role in maintaining the faith and spreading the Gospel. While a somewhat tolerated Church constrained by official actions remained externally, the Secret Church conducted independent activities without the scrutiny of the authorities. It ordained priests, who kept their office confidential. When discovered, priests like Ján Chryzostom Korec suffered persecution for being secretly consecrated as a bishop in 1951. He spent 1960-68 in prison, and afterwards worked as a street



**Candlelight Protest on March 25 1988**



**František Mikloško.**  
**Photo: TASR**

cleaner, an elevator repairman, and a factory worker. The communists even tried to kill him several times by poisoning or staging an auto accident, but he survived. His strength in dealing with such adversity made him the face of the Secret Church, stated Mikloško. He became a symbol of defending

the Church, a symbol of resistance. It was "a true miracle that he survived." After 1989, the Vatican would elevate him to position of Cardinal.

The Secret Church continued to carry out religious activities and supported the religious community. It cooperated somewhat with Polish clergy. They both often compared their plight to the suffering of Jesus and the persecutions of the early Christians. In effect, communist suppression only strengthened their beliefs.

Mikloško elaborated on how the Secret Church operated in such a repressive environment. He went so far as to state that the success of the Secret Church was owed to "God's hand protecting the Church."

Although the Secret Church could not be everywhere, especially in remote villages, people knew of its existence and it was an inspiring moral support to believers. Keeping contact in a time when there was no internet, censored phone calls, and widespread informers meant special care had to be taken. All members worked regular jobs, and they developed close relationships with those around them and learned whom they could trust.

Since the regime would not permit the publication of religious literature, the Secret Church published samizdat books on the faith illegally under the name "Fatima." Almost all people obtained a Bible, a catechism, and other literature despite the censorship. It also kept the world informed about the conditions in the country, and even the Pope had a close contact in Slovakia. German organizations helped the Church financially, and Dutch sympathizers smuggled materials into the country to assist in publishing.

The Slovak Institute in Rome also played a major role in helping the Secret Church by disseminating religious materials. The Slovak Jesuits in Ontario and the Slovak World Congress also offered support, but to a lesser degree because of the distance from Canada.

In conclusion, Mikloško said that members of the Secret Church were not superstars, but ordinary people who practiced and prayed to keep their faith. He said that the police never infiltrated their organization because the members dealt with people they knew and trusted, based on personal relationships. When new members joined, they were people they knew well. Despite total control, many secret nuns and priests worked regular jobs but went on serving the faithful. And when student members graduated, they continued the work across other areas of Slovakia.

The actions of the Secret Church culminated when Gorbachev was enacting reforms in the Soviet Union. The Secret Church organized a public protest for the first time during the March 25, 1988 Candle Demonstration in Bratislava on Good Friday. Over 10,000 non-violent gathered, including many youth, to pray, chant, and appeal for religious freedom and civil rights despite a hard rain. The communist regime had not expected so many participants and panicked. It reacted brutally, suppressing the faithful with water cannons, vicious dogs, and imprisonment. The government refused to allow any media coverage of the event. Instead, officials threatened students' academic future and could even prevent them from graduating. It hoped that the movement would fade away with oppression, but that did not happen. Thus the Secret Church played a pivotal role in paving the way for the

**continued on page 11**



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](http://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/>

### Global Slovakia Offering Webinars

Continued from page 11

1989 Revolution that overthrew communism.

**Conclusion**

We are grateful to Global Slovakia for sponsoring such an enlightening webinar. The organization welcomes any suggestions for future webinars and workshops and looks forward to future sessions online.

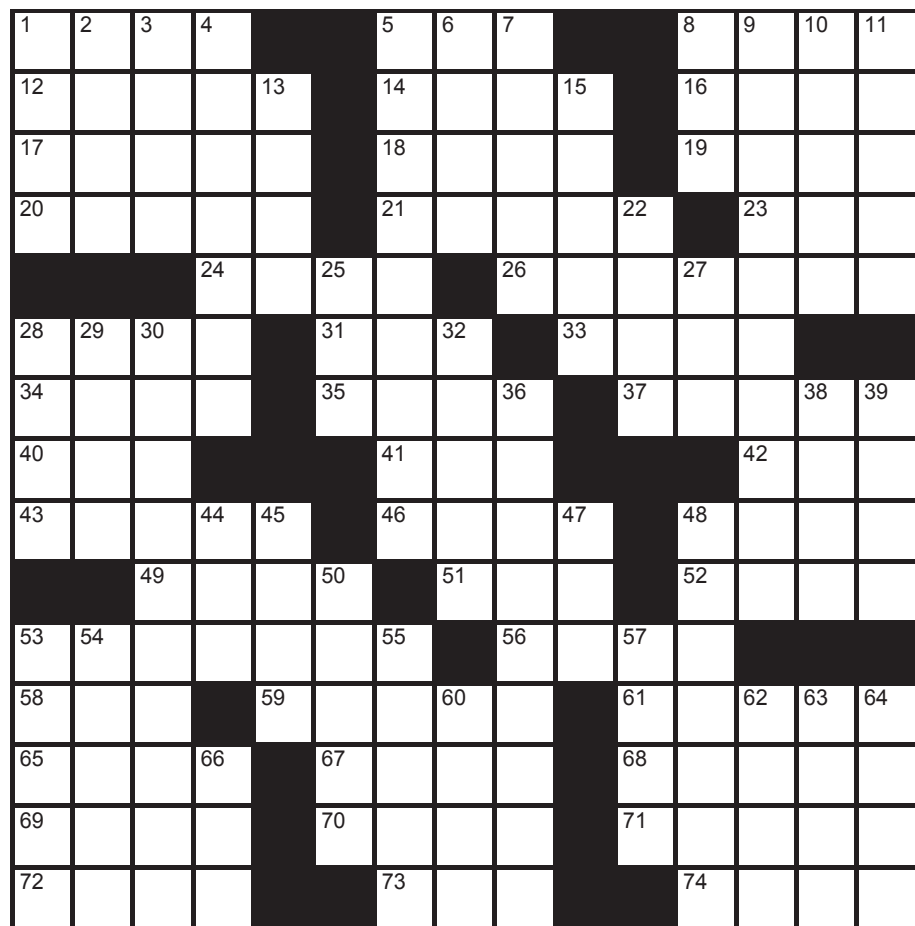
As a not-for-profit organization, it also depends on donations. The FCSU has deemed it a worthy cause and has generously supported its efforts, so you might consider assisting in this venture. To find out more about Global Slovakia, visit its website: <https://globalslovakia.com>. It also has a Facebook site.

If you would like to help this worthwhile non-profit achieve its goals, one can donate, attend its webinar sessions, or purchase its publications. It recently created a unique 40-page booklet that explores what freedom is and how we can protect it. The Global Pandemic: a New Iron Curtain extracts the timely lessons of the past and applies them to the world we live in today. If you purchase the booklet, you also gain free access to its next live webinar that will take place in June 2020.

### JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

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

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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**Across**

- 1 Squabble
- 5 Invoice amount
- 8 Pennant
- 12 Fable writer
- 14 Falls behind
- 16 Ready for picking
- 17 Cousin of a loon
- 18 Fair-sized garden
- 19 Fairy tale villain
- 20 Collar inserts
- 21 Like some lingerie
- 23 Part of H.R.H.
- 24 Tease
- 26 Railroad support
- 28 Mentor
- 31 It's a wrap
- 33 Slight
- 34 In awe
- 35 Chums
- 37 Brusque
- 40 Eskimo knife
- 41 DiCaprio, to fans
- 42 Elderly
- 43 Type of mob
- 46 Summoned
- 48 Offshoot
- 49 Twosome
- 51 Barbell abbr.
- 52 Chip in
- 53 Scorched
- 56 Western Indians
- 58 Irritation
- 59 Rich tapestry
- 61 Indian state
- 65 Black, to poets
- 67 Shed
- 68 Medicinal plant
- 69 Adjoin
- 70 Monroe flick, \_\_\_  
*Like It Hot*

**Down**

- 71 "Silas Marner" author
- 72 Don't believe it
- 73 Average
- 74 Healthful retreats
- 1 Droops
- 2 Flippant
- 3 Between ports
- 4 Drinking mug
- 5 Photo equipment, once
- 6 Apiece
- 7 Everglades bird
- 8 To and \_\_\_
- 9 Ecu
- 10 Spring month
- 11 Honkers
- 13 Cancún coin
- 15 Mediums
- 22 It's overhead
- 25 Kind of story
- 27 Seek damages
- 28 Celt
- 29 Hideous
- 30 Traffic circle
- 32 Perfect
- 36 Farmer
- 38 Open, as an envelope

- 39 Head start
- 44 Mongrel
- 45 Mother of Ares
- 47 Extreme suffix
- 48 Sword knots
- 50 Conditions
- 53 Coffee extra
- 54 Spouse, affectionately
- 55 Slump
- 57 Facilitate
- 60 Diva Gluck
- 62 Salon sound
- 63 Small buffalo
- 64 Gym equipment
- 66 Utmost degree

See Solution on Page 21

For the safety of our members during the current COVID-19 pandemic & in keeping with national and local guidelines pertaining to gatherings during the coronavirus, these National Fraternal Events have been cancelled. Look for updates in upcoming issues of Jednota.

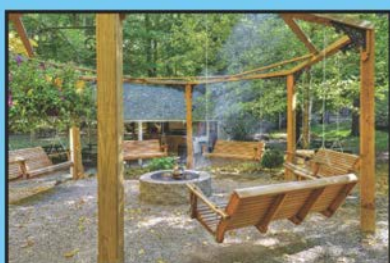
### Making Memories at Wiegand Lake Park



**CANCELLED**

Sunday, June 28, 2020 \*

Wiegand Lake Park  
9346 Kinsman Rd  
Novelty, OH 44072



Come Join Us



Saturday, August 8, 2020\*

Frogbridge  
7 Yellow Meeting House Road  
Millstone Township, NJ 08510



**CANCELLED**

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FCSU National Golf Tournament

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



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

# FREE

## Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).



**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](http://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 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

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](http://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](http://www.fcsu.com).

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

## BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a (virtual) Zoom meeting on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 10:00AM. At this meeting, we will recognize the recipients of the Margaret Evancho award. Gift cards will be sent by mail to the following;

Jenna L. Cichowski  
Lia N. Mercure  
Maxwell M. Novak  
Hector M. Santiago Jr.

Elizabeth Zahor

This award was established in recognition of the many years Margaret Evancho dedicated to the youth of Branch 19.

We cordially invite interested members to contact me at [csteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:csteacher3@gmail.com) to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Due to the coronavirus epidemic and current government guidelines and mandates, the meeting scheduled for August 2, 2020, in the Activity Center of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Brecksville, OH, has been cancelled. A meeting in the fall is anticipated. Look for details in an upcoming issue of Jednota and also under Branch 24 announcements on the FCSU website.

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](http://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](mailto: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, August 23, 2020, at 9:00AM at the Dairy Queen Restaurant, 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 by August 17th for reservations or if you have any questions or for any policies or address changes.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

Due to the coronavirus epidemic and continuing government and local guidelines and restrictions, the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, is rescheduling its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner from Sunday, June 28, 2020, to Sunday, September 27, 2020. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Oct 18, 2020.

Both meetings will 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 questions about life insurance or annuities to the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 to make reservations if you plan to attend. Also check upcoming issues of Jednota and the FCSU website for any updates.

Arlo Meeker, President

## BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic which was to be held Sunday, June 28, 2020, is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our members and guests is our greatest concern. We look forward to holding the picnic in 2021.

A combined meeting with Branch 181 and District 3 - The George Onda District members is planned for Saturday, August 8, 2020 after 5PM Mass in the St. Florian's Social Hall. Members planning to attend must RSVP by July 31 since attendance will be limited to 25. Please call Vicki Hricik at 724-547-0803 or Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 to reserve your place.

Any change for the meeting, including COVID-19 information, will be printed in an upcoming Jednota issue and posted at [www.fcsu.com](http://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 7 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 num-

ber 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 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold an interim meeting on Sunday, July 12, at 11:30am at Panera's Restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 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. A Pirates game & Tailgate is planned for Saturday evening, August 1. Please see p 9 of this issue for details

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

## BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 starting at 6:30 pm for all members. The agenda will include report of officers, membership, and branch activities. The location is still tentative, as this may end up being a virtual meeting. If that is the case you will be able to attend by either phone or computer. Please call or text Steve Minarovich at (908) 507-0505 by July 12 to get the details.

Steve Minarovch, Recording Secretary

## 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 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. Future meetings will be posted on the FCSU website ([www.fcsu.com](http://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.

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## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

Please try to attend, all safety measures and CDC guidelines will be followed.  
Fraternally submitted,

**Patrick Froncek, Secretary**

### BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

TSt. 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**

### 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

The Slovak J Club is once again open to the membership following State Guidelines for Social Distancing.

For the present time Spaghetti Night (First Wednesday of every month) will require RESERVATIONS for INDOOR DINING with Take-out orders still available. We have changed our servicing hours to 3:30 - 7:00 pm. Call the club bar 330-786-9972 to make your reservation or place your take-out order.

Other upcoming events:

June 17 Wednesday: Baked Cod Dinner \$10.00 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED/Take-out available

July 1 Wednesday: Spaghetti Night- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED/Take-out available

July 15 Wednesday: Fried Pollack Dinner- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED/Take-out available

Queen of Hearts Drawings will resume June 27

Monthly Drawing will resume June 17  
125 Club Drawings will resume June 3 and the Annual Reverse Raffle has been moved to November 14, 2020

To keep current on events at the club – check out the following website.

WWW/FCSU.com/announcements/Branch 553

Mark your calendars – Lodge Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 3 pm at the Slovak J Club.

Hope to see you soon at the club.

**Linda M 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 Thursday, July 16, 2020 at Kennywood Park immediately following the Slovak Day Mass. If the park is not open due to the corona virus situation, a new location/date will be determined closer to that time as soon as we have the information.

The agenda will include current business of the branch, update of branch activities and district events.

**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. 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 has cancelled its Sunday, June 14, 2020 meeting. St. John Nepomucene Church, in whose downstairs meeting room we regularly hold our meetings, is anticipating lifting restrictions on social meetings by September; so we hope to schedule our next meeting as soon as it is viable to do so in the fall. The new date will be posted on the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com and in an upcoming 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

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## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 2 – THE REVEREND JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The District Meeting scheduled for July 12, 2020, has been cancelled. Please check upcoming issues of Jednota or the FCSU website for the future date.

**John Jurcenko, President**

### 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 9 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

District 10, the Father Stephen Furdek District, will be meeting at 3:00PM on Sunday, July 19, 2020, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

To comply with Social Distancing we suggest that each Branch within the District send 1 or 2 representatives to the meeting. Then the representatives can share information from the meeting with their respective Branch.

We request that all who plan on attending contact Linda Hanko via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com or call 330-706-0151. We would appreciate a head count so we may prepare light refreshments for the event.

Look forward to seeing representatives from all Branches.

**Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer**

### 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 further notice. 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 REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Due to continuing concern over the Covid 19 virus, the June 16, 2020 meeting of the Reverend Joseph L. Kostik District - District 14 - Youngstown, OH, is cancelled. At our next meeting at 6:00 P.M. on July 21, 2020, at the Fireplace, 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514, unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. At this meeting we will discuss the Slovak Fest scheduled for Sunday, August 9, 2020 and other activities for 2020. I attended a meeting at St. Mathias on Tuesday June 2, at 6:30 PM that Father Jerek has set up regarding the Slovak Fest. Please be prepared to indicate the shifts you will be able to assist. I hope to have information regarding YSU vs Duquesne Football and tentative Tailgate on September 12, 2020 at that time. Please feel free to call me.

**John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President**

Home: 330.549.3788;

Cell: 330.559.5981

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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	Agnes P Gecik	085K	Michael Chismar	320K	Donna J Banish	764K	Marialice Verney
002K	Regina G Mira	112K	Anthony J Uliano Jr	465K	Bertha Domenico	780K	Benjamin Gombar
007K	Jeffery A Goldfuss	153K	Ann Tomaszek	581K	Patricia Ann Murin	796K	Gerald J Fabian
035K	Anna J Szwarc	166K	Daniel Lesko	584K	Charles Lehotan	856K	Eileen M Berger
038K	Dolores Goscicki	169P	Gerianne M Litwalk	595K	Richard Franklin Beadle	916K	Norma M Diak
038K	Gerald R Rinko	173K	Benjamin C Dragon	595K	Therese M Wykoski	916K	Richard Leser
038K	Mildred Sullivan	181K	Michael P Kaputa	628K	Paul G Cain	916K	Suzanne Schwartz
040K	Carol A Koval	199K	Ronald J Knaus	721K	Daniel Pavuk	916K	Dickson R Shipman
040K	Leona Obert	276K	Virginia M Hess	746K	Peter Mudrak	924K	Joseph F Sica
045K	Emil Pavelek	292K	Paul R Matey	746K	John S Omaster Jr		
055K	Florence Rufino	312K	Mary Metarko	746K	Mary Sorokac		

\*Processed through the month of May

## OBITUARIES

### National Fraternal Activities Director Emeritus Paul John Ritz Passed Into Eternal Life May 15, 2020

Paul John Ritz, 88, passed away May 15, 2020, at St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Paul was born June 10, 1931, in Youngstown, the son of Margaret Ritz Frelick.

He was a 1949 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School. Paul served in the US Army as a Combat Engineer from 1952-1953.

He worked as a rigger at Republic Steel, retiring with over 35 years of service.

Paul was a member of the former St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Campbell and was a current parishioner of St. Mathias in Youngstown.

He was very active in Branch 260 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, where he served as an officer. Paul also served as a National Officer as the Fraternal Activity Director from 1992-2002. He held the position as Emeritus from 2002 to present.



Paul was very active in many local bowling and golf leagues. His wife, the former Cecile V. Hudran; whom he married August 12, 1991; passed away July 1, 2006.

Paul will be deeply missed and always remembered by his sister, Kathy Frelick-Jones of Lowellville, OH, and his longtime friend, Betty Metzler of Warren, OH.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret Frelick and step-father George Frelick; and his sister, Betty Ann Muncy.

The family would like to especially thank Humility House Assisted Living Unit and Long Term Care Unit for their loving and compassionate care of Paul throughout the years.

Babe was the youngest and last surviving child of John and Katherine (Busija) Belavic. Beloved wife of 67 years to the late Robert J. Kosko Sr.; mother of Robert J. (Deborah) Kosko Jr., Karen (Tom) Thomas, Gerald (Rebecca) Kosko, Marc (Cheryl) Kosko and Cheryl (Jeffrey) Lukacs; sister of the late John, Steven, Michael, Joseph (Helen), Rudy (Barbara), and Charles (Helen) Belavic, Katherine (Joseph) Kesich and Ann (John) Roman; grandmother of Mandy (Zack) Hritz, Garrett (Kayla) Lukacs, Lauren Lukacs (Mike Orosz), Gerald Kosko Jr., Jonathan Kosko, Kristy (Ed) Shearer, Michael Fonner, Crystal (John) Aden and James (Rachel) Cassidy; great grandmother of Mia Hritz, Angelica, Sammy and Marissa Riggs, Kayla Shearer, Kayla and Alyssa Pollard, Brealle and Julia Cassidy and Baby Lukacs; and sister in laws (the late) Dorothy (John) Vaslowski and Lois (Casey) Kosko. In her later years, Mary was cared for spiritually and physically by her two angels, Cheryl and Lauren Lukacs. Mom was a prayer warrior who put the needs of others before herself along with her devotion to the Blessed Mother. She was an excellent homemaker, cook and baker for her family and church. Mary was a member of the Christian Mothers at the former St. Michael's Church in Munhall. Mary and Robert were proud members of Branch 738 (now 38), where Mary was supportive as Bob's right-hand girl while he served as Branch 738 President. Together they enjoyed attending meetings and various activities. Mary participated in a Friday night bowling club as a member of the Branch 738 Jednota team. Robert and Mary were proud of their Slovak Heritage as it was passed down to their children, grandchildren, family and friends through their cooking, baking, and sharing of food and family times together. Mary will be missed by all that knew and loved her.

- Submitted by Cheryl Lukacs

June 29, 1960 in Washington, PA, a daughter of the late Stanley F. "Birch" and Marcella Ann Atchison Frankovich. Donna lived her life in Houston, PA, and was a graduate of Chartiers Houston High School class of 1978 and the Washington Hospital School of Radiology in 1980. She was a member of St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church in Canonsburg. Donna had been employed as Chief Radiology Technologist at Canonsburg Hospital and was a member of ARRT. She was also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovenian National Benefit Society. On April 25, 1981, she married Jay Banish who survives after thirty-eight years of marriage. Also left behind to cherish her memory are her beloved sons, Jason Banish of Pittsburgh and Shawn Banish of Houston, and several nieces and nephews.

### BENJAMIN W. GOMBAR BRANCH 780 - SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

Benjamin William Gombar, age 89, passed away Saturday, April 11, 2020, after a courageous, year-long fight with Parkinson's disease. Benjamin was born August 23, 1930 in Mojtin, Slovakia. He immigrated to the United States aboard the Queen Mary and arrived on August 20, 1947, at just 17 years of age. He married the love of his life, Geraldine Ann Meyette, on July 14, 1962. Ben was a member of SS. Peter & Paul Church (St. Dominic Parish) for 71 years. It was at SS. Peter and Paul School that he learned to speak English. He was a very devoted Catholic, and a 50 year member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 780. In addition, he was also an active member of the Slovak League and Slovak Catholic Federation. During his life, he worked at numerous manufacturing facilities, and retired from Saginaw Steering Gear Plant #2 after 40 years of service. Benjamin loved being outdoors gardening, fishing, and hunting, and those life skills he passed onto his children. He also enjoyed cooking, reading and collecting recipes. His laugh was infectious and he shared it with everyone. Ben is survived by his beloved wife, Gerri Gombar and eight children: Ben (Linda) Gombar, Joe (Dawn)



### ANNA "ANN" (FUCICH) MAGER BRANCH 4 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Anna "Ann" (Fucich) Mager, 85, of Penn Hills, passed away peacefully from natural causes surrounded by her daughters on April 13, 2020. She was born July 19, 1934 in Pittsburgh, PA, to the late George and Julia Churilla Fucich. Ann was a 1952 graduate of Mount Alvernia High School in Pittsburgh. She devoted her working career to AHERF (now known as AHN), starting at the business office at Columbia Hospital in Wilksburg, PA, and retiring 30 years later as the manager of data operations. She was a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Penn Hills, PA. Ann was the proud matriarch of her family, a dedicated caregiver, an avid gambler, and a fantastic cook. She enjoyed caring for her friends and family and found great joy in watching her great granddaughters. She will be remembered for her homemade spaghetti sauce and cinnamon



bread. Her family is comforted by memories of Sunday dinners and spirited games of Five Crowns and Chinese Checkers. She was the beloved mother of Donna (Darryl) Chapman and Darlene (Doug) Cole; loving grandmother of Lauren (James) Zalin, Michael (Samantha) and Matthew Chapman, and Danielle and Jessica Cole; and adoring great-grandmother of Charlotte and Kinsley Zalin and Baby Boy Chapman. Ann is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward "Don" Mager; sisters Elizabeth "Betty" Dunbar and Georgette "Tige" Renze Miller; "sister" Patricia "Patsy" Balint; half-sisters Josephine, Helen, Jennie, Judy, and Mary; and half-brothers Rocco and Tino

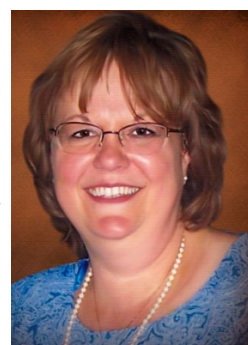
### MARY B. "BABE" KOSKO BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Age 93, Mary B. Kosko of Munhall, PA, died peacefully surrounded by her loving family on March 25, 2019.



### DONNA JEAN BANISH BRANCH 320 - CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Donna Jean Banish age 59 of Houston passed away peacefully Monday December 16, 2019, in her home with her loving family and pets by her side. She was born



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## In Memoriam

### In loving memory...

Ellen Gregus passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 16, 2020, at the Armenian Nursing Home in Emerson, NJ, of complications from the COVID-19 virus shortly after celebrating her 90th birthday.

Her burial took place on April 24th at George Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in Paramus, NJ, along with the ashes of her late husband Rudolph Gregus, a longtime contributor to Jednota. May they both rest in peace together.

Ellen was born in Liptovska Luzna, Slovakia and later immigrated to New York at the age of 16. It was in New York City where she met and married Rudolph Gregus. They settled in Palisades, NY and raised two daughters Ruzena and Luba.

Her passion was her family! Tirelessly driving her girls to music lessons and ballet and then coming home to cook hot, home-made meals awaiting everyone at the end of the day, she loved being a devoted mother and wife. Ellen excelled at baking homemade Slovak pastries, especially around the holidays when the entire home smelled like a bakery! She was also an accomplished seamstress who made many of her girls' clothes including hand crocheted dresses. She was very active in the Slovak community assisting her husband at cultural affairs and most dedicated to the Slovak church St. John's Nepomucene in NYC for over 50 yrs. where always elegantly dressed, sang in the choir, was a lecturer and even participated in Slovak plays in the earlier days. Her favorite pastimes were gardening, dancing, watching "love stories" on TV and most proud of nurturing her two daughters as they grew up.

Ellen is survived by her daughters Ruzena Goldenberg and Luba Mason; sons-in-law Dr. Alec Goldenberg, Ruben Blades; 3 grandchildren: Grant, Caitlin and Caroline Goldenberg; nieces: Vera Davies, Sonja Nienstedt, Ellen Boldis, Linda Pancari; and nephew John Boldis Jr.. It is a small but mighty family who loved her and will miss her dearly...

- Submitted by Luba Mason, Branch 45



## Prayer of the Month – June 2020



**Father, here I am.**

I know you are always with me.

I place my heart in the Heart of your Son Jesus, who gives himself to us in the Eucharist each day.

May your Holy Spirit strengthen me to live the Gospel in everything I do and say.

For my part I give you this day—all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings—all I am and possess.

With Mary, mother of the Church, I pray for the mission of the Church, for all Apostles of Prayer, and for the intentions of the Pope this month. Amen.

*Official Daily Offering Prayer of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network*

## OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

Gombar, Mike (Trudi) Gombar, Chris Gombar, Mark (Michelle) Gombar, Mary (Tim) Albers, David (Melissa) Gombar, and Tom (Tammy) Gombar; 17 grandchildren: Ashley, Sarah, Ellen, Ryan, Tim, Kody, Jadon, Denise, Matthew, Katerina, Rebecca, Sabrina, Andrew, Jacob, David, Victoria and Brewer; three great-grandchildren: Fletcher, Eliza and Addison. Ben is predeceased in death by his parents, Laurence and Katarina (Salamon) Gombar; sisters: Bertha (Gombar) Pavelka and Frances (Gombar) Svihel; and brother, Rudolph Gombar. The family would like to thank the staff and administration of the Hoyt Nursing & Rehab Centre for all of their support and compassion during Ben's stay.

- Submitted by Ben Gombar

### GERALD J. FABIAN BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Gerald J. Fabian, Gerry with a "G," passed away March 30, 2020, at home surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Patricia A. (Kyra) Fabian for over 60 years. Born in Ormrod, PA, to the late Joseph Fabian Sr. and Veronica (Pekar) Fabian.

He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Catholic War Veterans Post #454. He worked for Sears Roebuck in various capacities and Mack Trucks Engineering Department. He



was a college graduate of East Stroudsburg University and Seton Hall University earning a Master's Degree in Speech & Hearing Pathology. He previously worked in Lopatcong & Pohatcong, NJ School Districts. He then worked for Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 until his retirement. He was a Whitehall Township Commissioner for 20 years and served as secretary for the board. His summer months, he worked construction as a laborer for Local 1174, and served on the Health & Wealth Fare Board for many years. He was a longtime member & officer of Jednota Branch 796, Egypt.

He loved spending time with his family, especially his granddaughters and great-grandchildren. He was a devoted beekeeper and gardener and enjoyed traveling with his wife and good friends. He was a dedicated pirohy maker & usher at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Egypt.

Survivors are his wife; sons, Michael G. (Deborah) Whitehall, Matthew M. (Rachel) Fogelsville, PA; daughters, Mary, New Tripoli, PA, and Monica, at home; grandchildren, Laura M. (Trent, PA) Fabian-Dunn, Jessica A. Fabian & Olivia J. Fabian; great-grandchildren, (Miss) Millie Jane & Mack (a-doodle) Dunn and Theodore (Theo) Gerald Stephens; niece, Michaeleen Fabian Dom, late husband, Charles, Ohio; nephew, Deacon Gregory Fabian, Indiana; and dog, SoCo (Lil One). Predeceased by brothers, Joseph and John Fabian; sisters, Ann and Veronica, died at a very young age; nephews, Alois Fabian (Ohio) and Joseph Fabian (Colorado).

We thank our friends, family, neighbors and the Sisters of St. Francis Center for Renewal for their support, prayers and visits.

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

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](http://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 Tavira 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

continued from page 15

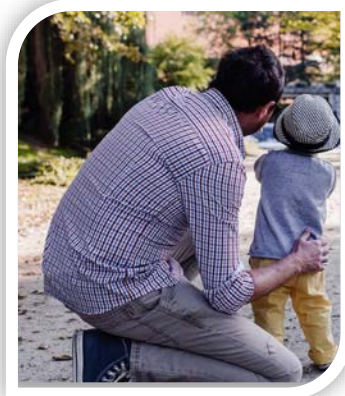
### DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT

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](http://www.fcsu.com).

**Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President**



Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union  
website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)



### Povedz mi otec

Povedz mi otec  
Ty predsa všetko vieš  
A všetko poznáš  
To čo je vôkol nás  
Tak povedz mi otec  
Jak vyzerá čas

Ako rieka, čo prúdom sa valí  
Ako z oblaku, keď padá sneh  
Ako búrka, čo buráca v diali  
Ako plač, čo sa premenil v smog  
Tak znie ten čas, tak znie ten čas  
tak znie ten čas

Povedz mi otec  
ty predsa všetko vieš a všetko poznáš  
To, čo je vôkol nás  
Tak povedz mi otec  
Jak chutí čas

Ako chleba, čo mamka ti dáva  
Ako studnička, zrkadlo hviezd  
Ako slza, čo z očí ti pláva  
Ako domov po návrate z ciest  
tak chutí čas, tak chutí čas  
tak chutí čas

Povedz mi otec  
Ty predsa všetko vieš  
A všetko poznáš  
To, čo je vôkol nás  
Tak povedz mi otec  
Jak vonia čas

Ako belostné višňové kvety  
Ako staročná pavučia tma  
Ako koráb pre kozmické lety  
Ako ľudia, jak ta, ako ja  
Tak vonia čas, tak vonia čas  
tak vonia čas

Teraz vieš, ako čas pre mňa vonia  
Ako chutí a tiež ako znie  
Svet mladý a šťastný a krásny  
Ho do svojich dlaní vezme  
A jedna z nich  
Bude tvoja, bude tvoja  
Tak ďalej leť  
Obzri si svet, ako vyzerá  
Tajomstvom dní je večnosť

### Tell me, Father

Tell me, father  
You know everything  
And you know about everything  
That is around us.  
So tell me, father  
What time is like.

Like a river that's flowing  
Like a cloud when it snows  
Like a thunderstorm that's roaring  
Like crying, which turns into fog.  
That's how time sounds, that's how  
time sounds;  
That's time.

Tell me, father  
You know everything  
And you know about everything  
That is around us.  
So tell me, father  
How time tastes.

Like the bread your mom gives you,  
Like a well that mirrors the stars  
Like a tear that falls from your eye  
Like home after returning from the road  
So this is how time tastes,  
So this is how time tastes,  
So tastes time.

Tell me, father  
You know everything  
And you know about everything  
That is around us.  
So tell me, father  
How time smells

Like white cherry blossoms  
Like the darkness of an ancient spider.  
Like a ship ready to take off into space  
Like people, like her, like me  
That's how time smells, that's how  
time smells  
That's how time smells.

Now you know how time smells to me,  
How it tastes and also how it sounds.  
The world is young and happy and  
beautiful.  
Time will take you into the palm of its hand  
And one of the palms will be yours  
It will be yours, it will be yours.  
So keep flying,  
See the world as it seems.  
The secret of days lies in eternity.

## Slovak Tributes to Fathers – In Song & Verse

Based on an excerpt from *Slovaks and Father's Day (Deň otcov)* by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D. First published in *Jednota* in 2016 and reprinted here with permission from the author.

When I first started learning Slovak, I noticed that Slovaks paid more honor to both their mothers and their fathers than is typical in American culture. I heard songs about Slovak mothers and fathers on the Slovak Radio Program on WKTL (90.7 FM, 9-11pm, Saturdays), which serves the Youngstown, Ohio, and western Pennsylvania area. I had first thought it unusual that songs about parents were so popular among Slovaks. My father and I used to spend many a Saturday evening together, listening to the Slovak Radio Program. To this day, I am grateful to the late Mary Babnič, and the current announcer, Dennis Spisak, for playing many of our favorite Slovak songs and polkas for us. And Father's Day always featured several songs about Slovak dads.

I cannot think of one popular American song that is popularly known that praises fathers in such a manner. Slovaks also have proverbs and have written poems about their fathers, and children often compose such tributes in school.

Perhaps the most famous and well-known popular Slovak proverb (Slovenské porekadlo) is the simple and short phrase, *Aký otec, taký syn* (As the father, so his son). It expresses a simple folk wisdom that a son often turns out similar to his father, both in appearance and character.

Here is one of many short poems that children have written about their fathers. Often they compose them in school and bring them home to a grateful father.

Máme radi ocka  
Deň otcov je aj pre Teba,  
otecko náš zlatý.  
Básničkou ti prezradíme,  
že Ťa máme radi. (a ako veľmi :)

Translation  
We love our daddy  
Father's Day is indeed for you,  
Our Daddy is our gold.  
The poem shows you  
that we love you. (And so much :)

One can listen to Slovak songs about fathers on YouTube, or on Father's Day on a Slovak radio program, or on radio through the internet. The following Slovak radio shows broadcast on the weekend over the air and on the web.


WKTL -90.7 FM - Saturdays 9-11pm - <http://www.913thesummit.com/>

WERE-AM 1490 AM - Sundays 11am-noon - <http://newstalkcleveland.newsone.com/listen-live/>


WPIT-AM 730 AM - Sundays 3pm-4pm - <http://www.wpitam.com/>

Among the most famous post-World War II Slovak songs about father is *Povedz mi otec*, (Tell Me Father), as published here in Slovak and English. It was sung in 1962 by Jana Beláková and Michal Belák and the Combo Tatra Revue. Viliam Bukový composed the music and Rudolf Skukálek wrote the text. The song features a young woman showing her gratefulness to her father in a heart-warming exchange of feelings.

Since first hearing the song on WKTL, I have listened to it many times since, as it is stalwart on the playlist around Father's Day. One may view the father-daughter singers in a YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEgynk7618U>



## Days in Slovak explained



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**Pondelok** - could be divided into **po** (after) & **ndel** (the core of the word for Sunday). It names a day that comes after Sunday.

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**Utorok** - with an old Slavonic (linguistic ancestor) core **vtor**, which used to stand for "second". It names the second day of the week.

---

**Streda** - the core of this word is **stred**, which even in modern Slovak stands for: center, middle. It names a day that is in the middle of the work days.

---

**Štvrtok** - the core of this word is **štvrtý**, which Slovak stands for "fourth". It literally names the fourth day of the week.

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**Piatok** - the core of this word is **piaty**, which Slovak stands for "fifth". It literally names the fifth day of the week.

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**Sobota** - with Hebrew core **Shabbath**, which names a day of rest. This is when rest days (weekend) begins.

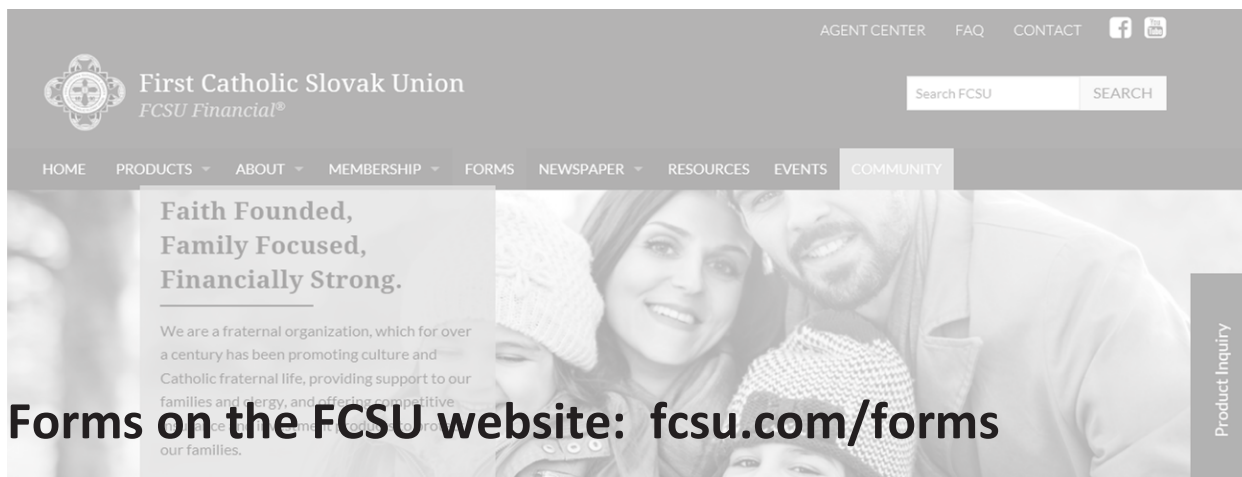
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**Nedeľa** - could be divided into **ne** from old Slavonic that means "not to" and **delati** from old Slavonic that means "to do". It names a day when we are not doing anything, we rest.

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**



Forms on the FCSU website: [fcsu.com/forms](http://fcsu.com/forms)

**Address Change Form**

**Annuity Forms**

- Affidavit of Lost Policy
- Annuity Suitability Questionnaire
- Annuity Cash Withdrawal
- Assignment of Annuity Contract
- Direct Deposit Enrollment Form
- One Time Direct Deposit Form
- IRA Transfer Form
- 1035 Exchange Form
- Preauthorized Charge Form
- Replacement Notice
- 5305-Simple
- Qualified Charitable Distribution

**Annuity Applications**

**Park 2 Applications**

**Coverdell Education Savings**

**Account Applications**

**Insurance Forms**

- ACH Payment Form
- Addendum to Life Insurance Application
- Credit Card Payment
- Dividend Request Form
- Medical Form
- Replacement Notice
- 3 Year Payment Plan

**Insurance Applications**

**FCSU Forms**

**Beneficiary/Ownership Change Form**

**Branch Forms**

- Branch Announcement Form
- Deposit Agreement Application
- Deposit Agreement Withdrawal Form
- Member Transfer Form
- Branch Annual Report
- Branch Financial Statement
- Branch Directory 2020
- Branch Attendance Sheet

**Cash Withdrawal of your Insurance Policy**

- Member Service Request Form

**Death Claim Forms**

- Affidavit for Lost Policy of a Deceased Member
- Death Claim Report
- Instructions for Filing a Life Insurance Death Claim

**District Forms**

- District Allowance Form
- District Attendance Sheet
- District Directory Form
- District Financial Statement

**Loan Request of your Insurance Policy**

- Member Service Request Form

**Lost Policy Request Form**

- Member Service Request



- June, named after Juno, the goddess of marriage, is the sixth month of the year, and is one of the four months with a length of 30 days.
- No other month begins on the same day as June.
- In the northern hemisphere, June marks the beginning of summer with the longest daylight hours of the year arriving during the summer solstice which this year is June 20th.
- In the Southern Hemisphere, winter begins on the same day. Representing the shortest amount of daylight hours of the year.
- June's birthstones are the Alexandrite, the Moonstone, and the Pearl.
- June birth flowers are the honeysuckle and the rose. Honeysuckle traditionally stands for bonds of devotion, love, fidelity and generosity. Among many meanings, roses are often associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of heaven and earth. One of her titles in Catholic Marian devotion is Rosa Mystica or Mystic Rose
- Gemini and Cancer are the astrological signs for June. Birthdays from June 1 through the 20 fall under the sign of Gemini while June 21 through the 30 birthdays fall under the sign of Cancer.
- A Bug Named June? The June Bug, also known as June beetle, is the name for several large beetles seen in the United States during May and June.
- In the US, June is regarded as National Candy Month and National Ice Tea Month.

## The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in June

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 May 28, \$17,093.50 has been received from 136 donors. This amount includes donations received from these Branches of the FCSU: Branch 19, Branch 35, 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 ap-

preciated 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.

42<sup>nd</sup> 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

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and led the prayer.

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, all non-essential businesses are closed. The Home Office is open with a limited rotating staff and limited hours to maintain day to day operations. The Home Office will remain on limited hours with no walk-in business until the Stay at Home Order issued by the Governor has been lifted.

**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)  
 Sabina Sabados, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)  
 (via teleconference)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of March 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 March:

Disbursements for the month of March 2020:			
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$		214,477.23
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$		22,009.21
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 Executive Committee. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave an update on his production report on our agents to the Executive Committee. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 345 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 President stated that annuity sales have continued at planned levels. There has not been any unusual increase in redemptions or cash outs.

The Executive Secretary stated that the new 2017 CSO insurance rates are available on our website along with the new insurance applications. The update of our marketing material has been delayed due to the coronavirus. Once this material has been updated, it will be sent to the branch officers and board members.

**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 May.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Kroll Bond

The President stated that the meeting with Kroll Bond, who is located in NYC, has been postponed until further notice due to the coronavirus.

National Bowling Tournament

The President stated that the 2020 National Bowling Tournament scheduled for May 15-16, 2020 has been canceled due to the coronavirus.

National/Regional Picnic

The President stated that the national picnics scheduled on June 28, 2020 in Novelty, Ohio and on August 8, 2020 in Millstone, New Jersey are currently on hold due to the coronavirus.

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

## Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!



At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we take every phone call very seriously. Our goal is to deliver the best customer service possible – even in these challenging times.

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.

Please take the following steps when you get our voice mail so that we can provide you with the level of service and attention you deserve.

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

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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

Statement as of March 31, 2020 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**  
**ASSETS**

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	378,246,957		378,246,957	375,195,522
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	1,952,428		1,952,428	5,373,038
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	94,501		94,501	98,970
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	344,000		344,000	573,086
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	348,707		348,707	357,633
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	223,272		223,272	
5. Cash (\$.....20,567,170), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....4,946,477).....	25,513,647		25,513,647	20,830,145
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,186,409		1,186,409	1,204,506
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	7,709,057		7,709,057	8,042,686
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	415,618,978	0	415,618,978	411,675,586
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	5,044,418		5,044,418	4,828,524
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	30,332		30,332	20,400
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$.....0) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$.....0).....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	1,216	1,216	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	420,695,494	1,766	420,693,728	416,524,510
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	420,695,494	1,766	420,693,728	416,524,510

Statement as of March 31, 2020 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**  
**LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS**

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts \$.....0 less \$.....0 included in Line 6.3 (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	329,630,722	325,561,282
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	36,028,975	36,266,916
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Policyholders' dividends/refunds to members \$.....0 and coupons \$.....0 due and unpaid.....	400,000	400,000
6. Provision for policyholders' dividends/refunds to members and coupons payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members apportioned for payment (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
6.2 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members not yet apportioned (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
6.3 Coupons and similar benefits (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
7. Amount provisionally held for deferred dividend policies not included in Line 6.....		
8. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	43,514	53,414
9. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
9.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
9.2 Provision for experience rating refunds, including the liability of \$.....0 accident and health experience rating refunds of which \$.....0 is for medical loss ratio rebate per the Public Health Service Act.....		
9.3 Other amounts payable on reinsurance, including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
9.4 Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	650,923	771,087
10. Commissions to agents due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	26,534	32,660
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
12. General expenses due or accrued.....	57,296	77,679
13. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves, net of reinsured allowances).....		
14. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued, excluding federal income taxes.....	18,683	18,683
15.1 Current federal and foreign income taxes, including \$.....0 on realized capital gains (losses).....		
15.2 Net deferred tax liability.....		
16. Unearned investment income.....		
17. Amounts withheld or retained by reporting entity as agent or trustee.....	6,083,426	6,167,377
18. Amounts held for agents' account, including \$.....0 agents' credit balances.....		
19. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
21. Liability for benefits for employees and agents if not included above.....		
22. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
23. Dividends to stockholders declared and unpaid.....		
24. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
24.01 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,941,492	3,993,202
24.02 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
24.03 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
24.04 Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
24.05 Drafts outstanding.....		
24.06 Liability for amounts held under uninsured plans.....		
24.07 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
24.08 Derivatives.....		
24.09 Payable for securities.....		
24.10 Payable for securities lending.....		
24.11 Capital notes \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	814,535	724,693
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25).....	377,005,611	374,376,504
27. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27).....	377,005,611	374,376,504
29. Common capital stock.....		
30. Preferred capital stock.....		
31. Aggregate write-ins for other-than-special surplus funds.....	0	0
32. Surplus notes.....		
33. Gross paid in and contributed surplus.....		
34. Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds.....	0	0
35. Unassigned funds (surplus).....	43,688,117	42,148,006
36. Less treasury stock, at cost:		
36.1 .....0.000 shares common (value included in Line 29 \$.....0).....		
36.2 .....0.000 shares preferred (value included in Line 30 \$.....0).....		
37. Surplus (Total Lines 31 + 32 + 33 + 34 + 35 - 36) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	43,688,117	42,148,006
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37.....	43,688,117	42,148,006
39. Totals of Lines 28 and 38 (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	420,693,728	416,524,510

Statement as of March 31, 2020 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**  
**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year to Date	2 Prior Year to Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	6,669,300	4,209,928	18,944,367
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	7,710,796	3,854,911	15,841,382
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	94,314	101,734	405,470
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous Income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	950	1,105	20,491
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	14,475,360	8,167,678	35,211,710
10. Death benefits.....	910,926	732,476	2,947,289
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	4,150,472	3,785,524	15,861,490
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts.....			
14. Coupons, guaranteed annual pure endowments and similar benefits.....			
15. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	158,613	119,748	525,812
16. Group conversions.....			
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	43,975	42,182	760,700
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts.....	4,069,440	2,221,218	10,396,020
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19).....	9,333,426	6,901,148	30,491,311
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	116,312	63,730	317,576
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	898,182	1,064,257	3,295,310
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes.....	34,282	31,770	118,288
25. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
26. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
27. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(219,673)	(169,035)	(327,461)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27).....	10,162,529	7,891,870	33,895,024
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28).....	4,312,831	275,808	1,316,686
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members.....	77,455	74,435	424,834
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30).....	4,235,376	201,373	891,852
32. Federal and foreign income taxes incurred (excluding tax on capital gains).....			
33. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and federal income taxes and before realized capital gains or (losses) (Line 31 minus Line 32).....	4,235,376	201,373	891,852
34. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding gains (losses) transferred to the IMR) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding taxes of \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....		41,175	6,960,683
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34).....	4,235,376	242,548	7,852,535
<b>CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>			
36. Capital and surplus, December 31, prior year.....	42,148,006	32,374,585	32,374,585
37. Net income (Line 35).....	4,235,376	242,548	7,852,535
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(3,754,239)	438,722	3,188,390
39. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
40. Change in net deferred income tax.....			
41. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	730	730	2,919
42. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
43. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease.....			
44. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	1,051,710	(71,719)	(1,209,880)
45. Change in treasury stock.....			
46. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
47. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
48. Change in surplus notes.....			
49. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
50. Capital changes:			
50.1 Paid in.....			
50.2 Transferred from surplus (Stock Dividend).....			
50.3 Transferred to surplus.....			
51. Surplus adjustment:			
51.1 Paid in.....			
51.2 Transferred to capital (Stock Dividend).....			
51.3 Transferred from capital.....			
51.4 Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
52. Dividends to stockholders.....			
53. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	6,534	(1,652)	(60,543)
54. Net change in capital and surplus (Lines 37 through 53).....	1,540,111	608,629	9,773,421
55. Capital and surplus as of statement date (Lines 36 + 54).....	43,688,117	32,983,214	42,148,006

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December 31, 2020**

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