



Catholic Fraternal Jednota

THE UNION
USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 129

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020

NUMBER 5997

An FCSU Executive Update:

Honoring Our Financial & Fraternal Services

Dear Branch Officers, Members, Agents and Friends of the FCSU –

As the world continues to confront effects of COVID-19, we wanted to provide another update on the actions we are taking at the First Catholic Slovak Union to honor our financial and fraternal obligations and services.

We have settled into regulation-compliant routines that allow us to service our members and agents with the utmost care while planning for gradual back-to-normal operations. The current precautions in place at the Home Office are designed for the well-being and safety of our members and dedicated staff. They include staying closed to in-person office visits, as well as staggering hours to allow for social distancing and sanitation practices.

Other standard practices of our great Society have been impacted, too. Normally we now would be announcing the locale of the next FCSU Quadrennial Convention. Yet ongoing business restrictions and government regulations make it impossible to research a convention site with appropriate due diligence. Rest assured we will announce the location of the 2022 Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union as soon as it is viable to do so.

Throughout it all, our focus remains, as it should, on the health and wellbeing of our members. You are integral to our FCSU family. We care about your well-being and the well-being of your loved ones. Out of an abundance of caution, we have cancelled beloved national fraternal activities for this year such as the 2020 National Bowling and Golf Tournaments, National Picnics, and the pilgrimage to the Jednota Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. We are already looking forward to next year when we can resume these enjoyable fraternal activities together.

Per decisions made at the recent FCSU Board Meeting held telephonically on June 20, 2020, the Board is discouraging all district and branch officers from holding in-person meetings. Instead, for the safety of our members during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Board strongly recommends holding virtual meetings by telephone conference or by using the latest technology such as Zoom, Google Meet or Startmeeting.com. A virtual meeting will be considered as a regular meeting toward district/branch fraternal obligations. Some of our districts and branches are already doing this [Editor's note: please see pages 6 – 7 of this issue for how members are connecting via this technology].

The staff and the leadership of the First Catholic Slovak Union want to extend our thanks and appreciation to all of you, our members and agents, for your continued faith and investment in our Society, especially in these historic and unprecedented times. Because of you we remain financially strong with a vibrant portfolio of insurance and annuity products. We remain committed to being there for you.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Andrew M. Rajec



Kenneth Arendt

APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS NOW BEING ACCEPTED



See page 13
for details

GREAT RATES



PLANT Your Funds Now

3.85%

8 Year Flex deferred Annuity or IRA

Effective July 1, 2020

3.45%

6 Year Flex deferred Annuity or IRA

Effective July 1, 2020

3.35%

6 Year Fixed deferred Annuity or IRA

Effective July 1, 2020

2.35%

Park 2 Annuity

Effective July 1, 2020

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....2

Branch Announcements.....14, 19

District Announcements.....15, 19

Articles in Slovak & English!

FCSU Financial® First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your branch officer or the Home Office
6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131
800.533.6682 www.fcsu.com annuity@fcsu.com



Insights and Viewpoints



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

**106 – 16th Sunday of O.T. –
July 19, 2020**

The Book of Wisdom we hear from today was composed quite late in the Old Testament era, likely less than a hundred years before the birth of Jesus. Its inspired author wrote in Greek rather than the Hebrew language in which the earlier books of the Old Testament were written, and he had developed a clear understanding of



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

the cultural movements of his day, both good and bad.

While his heart was set on Jerusalem our author almost certainly lived in Egypt in a Jewish diaspora community. He was concerned that his fellow Jews would be taken by the prevailing Greek culture, which had melded with ancient Egyptian lore in an unhealthy way. The message of much of the Book of Wisdom, while cloaked in colorful language, is that God is loving and gentle with those who revere him—leavening his justice with mercy—and that God deals with the impious and merciless by giving them the justice they deny to others.

First we hear: “your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved.” Next: “though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind” (Wis 12:16, 18-19).

The point that God is self-secure and has no need to flex his might to impress anyone becomes apparent: it is comforting to be devoted to such a God rather than the false gods of Greek mythology, who were said to be constantly preening and competing with each other. Christians should imitate God in every way possible, but perhaps especially in this way—being at rest in our own skin, as God made us—as it would give us great inner peace.

That seems to be part of the Gospel message delivered today in several parables, most importantly in the parable of the weeds in the field. After speaking this parable Jesus explains it to his disciples, noting that the Son of Man is sensible enough not only to sow good seed, but to refrain from pulling up the offspring of bad seed lest he uproot the fruit of the good seed as well.

The Son of Man, who is Jesus himself, is like our peaceable God as described in the Book of Wisdom. He is not easily shaken or alarmed but is content to wait until all the seed has borne its fruit, for better or for worse. Then he tells us: “The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt 13:41-43).

When we are upset by the knowledge that another person is “getting ahead” of us or is doing wrong we should certainly defend our rights, preventing the person from harming us or others. At the same time we should not let the very fact that such people exist frustrate us; rather, as the author of the Book of Wisdom urges, and like the wise sower of seed in the Gospel, we should be good ourselves, extending kindness to others, and leaving the administration of justice to God, who is “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity” (Ps 86:15).

**July 26, 2020 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
MT 13:44-52**

The Gospel begins with a series of short sayings about finding things of value; a buried treasure, a precious pearl, and a net full of fish. Jesus compares these to the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus is instructing us that the Kingdom of Heaven is the most important and valuable treasure there is. Just like those in his sayings who, when they find a treasure do all they are capable of to obtain it, including hard work and sacrifice. This reiterates a saying of Jesus found earlier in Matthew’s Gospel. In chapter 6 he says “Where your heart is, so is your treasure.” The Gospel today poses a somewhat obvious question to us: “what is your treasure?” Jesus makes it clear with this passage that our treasure should be the Kingdom of Heaven. There are many attractive and valuable things in this world, but nothing compares to the treasure of heaven.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

The experience of not being able to go to Church, attend Mass, and receive Communion is a sad and difficult one. I touched on this in more detail in my reflection for Corpus Christi, however it is appropriate for these readings in that it has stirred up in the hearts of so many the realization of what a treasure we have in the Church. A treasure that had been easy to take for granted. The longing to attend Mass and receive Communion has opened our eyes and hearts to the beauty, the grace and the gift we have from God himself when we gather for the Eucharist. Like any treasure the desire to “find” the treasure is itself part of the adventure and only increased within us the zeal and drive to possess the treasure. While making a Spiritual Communion is a meaningful way to unite us with the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist, we are united with the presence of Jesus but it is not the same as holding the Sacred Host, feeling it in our mouths and knowing that the real body of Christ is entering into my humble body. Maybe this has led us to rediscover the value of a treasure that we have always had before us.

The call Jesus gives us to identify what our treasure is can lead us to look forward to it with a longing in our heart. When the treasure seems out of reach it might even have us question why things that we might have no control over stand in the way of grasping the treasure we are longing. Saint Paul writes beautifully about this, and the brief passage we have today reminds us; “that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” The love of God is more powerful than anything that can stand in the way of our reaching the ultimate treasure of the Kingdom of Heaven. The challenge at times is being able to look beyond the troubles, obstacles and to trust in God.

Unlike those in the parables today we don’t have to spend time searching for the treasure of great value and hope that someday we might stumble upon it. Jesus tells us clearly that this treasure is the Kingdom of Heaven and elsewhere in the Gospels he tells us that he “is the way.” By following Jesus we are on the way, and in fact are already sharing in the beauty of the Kingdom. If we stay faithful to Jesus and attentive to him in our lives we will not stray from the Kingdom, but experience more and more the value of the great treasure. Let us set our hearts on God’s Kingdom, for where our hearts are, there is the treasure.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12	MONDAY, AUG. 3
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9	MONDAY, AUG. 31
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14	MONDAY, OCT. 5

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention “JEDNOTA”
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries – \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

Message from the National Chaplain on the 150th Anniversary of Vatican I

A good amount of attention was given five years ago to marking the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council. Vatican II was convoked by Pope St. John XXIII in 1962 and when it ended in 1965, several documents affecting the life of the Church today were promulgated. Some of the subjects of these constitutions, decrees and declarations include the Sacred Liturgy, Mission and Evangelization, Social Justice, Ecumenism, Clergy, including Priestly Formation, Laity, Consecrated Life, and Religious Freedom.

If there was a Vatican II, it means there was a Vatican I. This year is the 150th anniversary of the First Vatican Council, the twentieth ecumenical council of the Catholic Church. Pope Blessed Pius IX (1846-1878) formally opened the Council on December 8, 1869, which he called as a response to the prevailing influences of rationalism, liberalism, and materialism that were making inroads on nineteenth-century life.

Vatican I produced only two Constitutions. The Dogmatic Constitution on the Catholic Faith (Dei Filius) was an assertion on what the Church teaches about God, Divine Revelation, and faith. The First Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Christ (Pastor aeternus), dealt with the primacy and infallibility of the Bishop of Rome. The outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in the summer of 1870 caused Vatican I to be suspended with the idea it would reconvene at some future date. It never happened. Vatican I was never officially closed until nearly 90 years later when John XXIII announced his intention for Vatican II.

This is a summary of the four sessions of the First Vatican Council.

The first session, held on December 8, 1869, was nothing more than a formal ceremony led by Pope Pius to officially open the Council.

What essentially happened at the second session, held on January 6, 1870, was that Pope Pius took an oath reaffirming his faith in the Catholic church and her teachings. He professed his belief in:

- The Nicene Creed
- All teachings of the church handed down from apostolic times
- All truths taught in Sacred Scripture
- The Seven Sacraments
- What the Council of Trent (1545-1563) taught regarding Original Sin
- The Doctrine of Transubstantiation (the whole and complete Christ is present under each species of bread and wine)

- The Existence of Purgatory and the souls there are helped with our prayers
- The Saints are in heaven, interceding for us before God; we can pray to them for their intercession
- Christ gave power of indulgences to the Church for the benefit of the people of God

Pius IX also condemned each and every belief and teaching declared heretical by previous ecumenical councils, especially by the Council of Trent (1545-1563), and formal decrees throughout the church's history.

The third session consisted of work that ended up producing the Dogmatic Constitution of the Catholic Faith (Dei Filius). Promulgated April 24, 1870, Dei Filius begins with the assertion that Christ has and will remain with his Church to the end of the age. Then it laments the changing situations in the world whereby heresies rejecting the teaching authority of the Catholic Church (also called the magisterium) that were condemned at the Council of Trent but nonetheless continues to exist and grow. Included in these false teachings are the belief that Sacred Scripture is not of divine origin but rather a collection of myths and the doctrine of rationalism or naturalism supplants Jesus, the universal Savior of the world, as the source of morality. The Council Fathers saw the consequences of these and other prevailing beliefs and teachings of the era as the denial of core elements of the Faith, especially the divinity of God and his plan for salvation through his Son Jesus. They recognized their obligation to profess and declare the truths all the saving teachings of Christ and reject and condemn contrary errors.

The teachings found in Dei Filius center on four topics: God the creator of all things, Revelation, Faith, and Faith and Reason. All the faithful are to adhere to these teachings; any who deny them are to be excommunicated. Among the formal pronouncements found in Dei Filius are:

- God is one and the creator and lord of all things, visible and invisible.
- God's divine essence is totally distinct and different from all he created.
- God brought the world and all things in it, both material and spiritual, into existence from nothing.
- It is possible for human beings, by means of their use of reason, to know the existence of God from his creation.
- God inspires humans to "a knowledge and perfection which exceeds the natural" to possess all that is true and good.
- The Council of Trent proclaimed the definitive list of books in the Bible and that all those books are divinely inspired.
- By means of external signs (miracles), divine revelation can lead people to belief and faith.
- Miracles are possible and can be known with certainty. They are not to be dismissed as fables or fictions.
- A profession of faith is a free act of a person's will.
- Dogmas of faith are beyond the full comprehension and expression of human reason.
- Future development in human knowledge cannot supplant dogmas the church has held onto and taught.

The First Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Christ (Pastor aeternus), which concerned the primacy and teaching authority of the Roman pontiff, was the work of the fourth

continued on page 16

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

Learning to Love as God Loves

In the Beatitudes, Christ taught the disciples, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for He makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:44-45). What a poignant way for Christ to explain God's unconditional love for all people and to call His followers to emulate that love.

An old Christopher prayer card reflects this wisdom in its plea for us to grow in the love of God. It reads, "Help us to grow in Your love – a love that doesn't gloss over failings but one that stresses the good in everyone. Then, Lord, as we increase our ability to love as Jesus did, bring us closer to the kingdom prepared for us."

This prayer picks up on some key ways in which we can learn to love as God loves. It shows that God's love does not ignore our failings, but can also see past those failings to the good in each of us. This can help us to understand why God showers the blessings of this world on good and bad people alike. He understands our failings and wants us to repent and become better people, but He also sees our good qualities and knows that the best way for us to change is to increase in those good qualities rather than by simply harping on our faults.

This outlook can change the way we relate to other people. Only when we see the good in others can we respond to them in ways that invite them to increase those qualities. In a Psychology Today article titled "See the Good in Others," neuropsychologist Dr. Rick Hanson shows how noticing people's positive traits can produce amazing results, but he notes that we must first understand that good intentions are often intertwined with qualities we perceive as negative. "For example," Hanson writes, "a toddler throwing mashed potatoes wants fun, a teenager dripping attitude wants higher status, and a mate who avoids housework wants leisure."

Hanson also shares a personal story of how he was changed when someone chose to focus on his positive attributes. He recalls always being picked last for teams in gym class as he was growing up. But when he got to college, he joined an intramural touch football team led by a quarterback who understood how to draw the best out of people. Hanson writes, "After one practice, he told me in passing, 'You're good and I'm going to throw to you.' I was floored. But this was the beginning of me realizing that I was actually quite a good athlete. His recognition also made me play better which helped our team. Thirty-five years later I can still remember his comment. He had no idea of its impact, yet it was a major boost to my sense of worth. In the same way, unseen ripples spread far and wide when we see abilities in others – especially if we acknowledge them openly."

The greater people's faults, the more difficult it becomes to see the good in them, which is why we must practice this skill in little ways with all those we encounter. This way, we will prepare ourselves to act like Christ, even in the most challenging situations, because only when we see the good in the most hardened and challenging people will we truly love like God.

First Catholic Slovak Union seeking qualified Internal Auditor (Chairman)

The unfortunate and unexpected passing of the FCSU Chairman of Auditors, Leonard Zilko, has caused me to place this notice in the Jednota. May God grant Lenny Eternal Life with OUR LORD.

The First Catholic Slovak Union is seeking a candidate to fill the position of Chairman of Auditors. Per FCSU Bylaws 6.05(b) this candidate shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at their September 2020 meeting. The newly appointed Chairman of Auditors will serve until the next Quadrennial Convention at which time all Auditors will be up for election. The next Convention is scheduled for 2022.

Requirements: an associate or higher accounting degree from an accredited college or equivalent accounting experience. A candidate cannot be an employee, a retired employee or former employee of the First Catholic Slovak Union or its subsidiaries.

Duties: Internal auditors function under policies outlined in the Bylaws under the supervision of the Chairman of Auditors and report to the Board of Directors. Supervisory experience is desired for the Chairman of Auditors.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter stating interest and qualifications to:

Andrew M. Rajec, President
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Rd, #300
Independence, OH 44131
or email to: president@fcsu.com

This notice will be published in the Jednota in the July and August issues.
Deadline for applications: all applications must be postmarked by August 30, 2020.

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 next Sister I would like to introduce is Sister M. Claudia who was born in Slovakia, emigrated to the United States when she was 17, and entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1925.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

Her Story: Sister M. Claudia



Sister M. Claudia was born Helen Šipka on December 13, 1903, in Dolná Streda, Slovakia, the oldest in a family of ten children, three boys and seven girls. After immigrating to New York City at age 17, she was welcomed by the Surmik family, who considered her a special gift of God. She became the godmother of the oldest child, Helen. All the children and grandchildren enjoyed her childlike enthusiasm for nature, birds, flowers and the ocean. They enjoyed the kolačky she baked and, like typical children, were delighted with the medals and holy cards she gave them. While in New York she was a parishioner of St. John Nepomucene Church and became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. Agneška Hobrajter was the superior and when she learned that Helen wanted a more formal consecration of her life she advised her to go to Danville, "where the Slovak Sisters are."

On July 6, 1925, Helen Šipka entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She became a "house Sister," and according to the tribute read at her funeral, "a cook with a character and charm all her own." She was willing to share her wisdom, recipes, handy shortcuts, new ways of doing things. When she prepared a meal, she exerted time and energy to make it just right. She received many compliments for the food she produced, especially halušky. Her usual reply to compliments was, "You don't say!" "Is it good? Is it?" Then, "I'm amazed."

At a time when Sisters wore the full habit it was necessary to wear the guimpe even when working in the kitchen. Sister Brigid tells us that Sister Claudia minded wearing it when preparing meals because it made one hot because of the material it was made of. [Editor's note: the guimpe was made of a stiff material such as starched linen, designed to cover the neck and shoulders and sometimes the entire chest and worn in combination with a coif and wimple in the traditional habit.]

Her expertise extended to the task of cleaning the kitchen. She had good ideas for making jobs easier. Since she was small, she had to devise a way to clean the back of the large stove in the Motherhouse. Sister Brigid tells us that she used a broom wrapped in a cloth to attack the grime that may have lodged there.

Though limited in formal schooling her acquired English vocabulary was extraordinary. If you did not know she was an immigrant, you would have thought she had had a stellar education in American schools. Though limited in formal schooling, she was able to read aloud to her relatives who supplied her with books about the lives of the saints and the persecution of the early Christians. We can imagine it was just such reading that inspired her to later pursue a religious vocation.

From 1956-59, Sister Claudia was missioned to the novitiate to prepare meals for the novices. Of course, the novices were assigned to the kitchen to help in whatever way Sister needed. One day she asked Sister Celine (now Sister Mary Anne Nemeč) to get her some tutti frutti. Sister registered surprise at the request wondering what tutti frutti might be. Sister Claudia was also surprised that this request for an ordinary food was puzzling. Sister Claudia exclaimed in wonder, "You don't know what tutti frutti is? It turns out she wanted Sister to get the cans of fruit cocktail for dessert.



A photo of Sister and Archbishop Sokol during his visit to the US from the SS Cyril & Methodius archives.

Sister Claudia always used the word "wutsies" when referring to the pigs we had on the farm at that time. She often declared, "You can put that in the garbage for the wutsies." I have not been able to discover the origin of the word. No one seems to know, but everyone who worked with her was familiar with her word for "pigs."

The doctors and nurses who attended her at the end of her life were impressed by her gentle smile and serene acceptance of her illness. They were even more touched when she said sweetly, "I am sincerely indebted to you."

Her peaceful, kind approach to life were a result of her many hours of fervent prayer. She never tired of speaking of the pilgrimages to various Slovak Marian shrines she had experienced. Sister Claudia and the other Sisters who had come to the U. S. from Slovakia prayed, first of all, for perseverance, and also an increase of vocations to the congregation and unity in the Church. Since every religious community seems to be suffering from a dearth of applicants, it might be a good idea to call upon them for their intercession for vocations.

The Sisters who came to the US in their teens were always very happy to return for a visit. Sister Claudia received the opportunity to go to Slovakia for a family visit and the celebration of her Golden Jubilee. Her sister Anna was the housekeeper for Archbishop Jan Sokol. Sister was able to visit with him again when the Archbishop came to the U. S.

Sister Claudia was 88 years old when she died on October 10, 1992, Mary's day, a Saturday. Her burial took place on the 75th anniversary of the miracle at Fatima. It is evident that our Lady to whom she was so dedicated watched over her until her last moments on earth. We look forward to meeting her in heaven along with our founder, Father Matthew Jankola, who described those who came to the U. S. from Slovakia as "transplanted linden trees."

From the Editor: About the Linden Tree

As this excerpt from the 2018 book by Slovak scholars Dr. Zuzana Palovic and Dr. Gabriela Bereghazova, *SLOVAKIA: A JOURNEY INTO FREEDOM MARKED BY THE LINDEN TRADITION* notes, the Linden – or in Slovak Lipa – has always been important to the Slovak people:



Blossoms on one of the linden trees found on the grounds of SS Cyril & Methodius in Danville, PA

The Linden tree is the national tree of Slovakia and the sacred tree of the Slavs. The heart shaped Linden leaf reflects not only the location of Slovakia in the heart of Europe, its ancient roots and magnificent future, but also the heartfelt nature of her people. Slovaks truly are a people of generous heart, which is why they have chosen the Lipa insignia to represent them at every step of modern Slovak life.

For more on this book or the authors, please visit, www.globalslovakia.com



The month of July is dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. From catholicculture.org

Branch 181 Awards 2020 Scholarships

The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 181 of United, PA, is pleased to announce one-time scholarship awards of \$700 to three very deserving 2020 high graduates. Recipient awards were based on academic achievement, community service, leadership and financial need.

Congratulations and success in their academic endeavors are wished to each scholarship recipient!

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Secretary



Talia Mongelluzzo is a graduate of Greater Latrobe Senior High School. She will attend Michigan State University and plans to become a Financial Advisor. She is interested in the way money circulates and impacts our society.



George Sprock is a graduate of Greater Latrobe Senior High School. He will attend West Virginia University to study either Physical Therapy or Wood Science. His goal, if he should choose Physical Therapy, would be to own his own practice to provide help to family, friends and others in the community. If he chooses Wood Science, his goal would be to become a Wood Teacher or construct houses.



Jacob Fazekas is a graduate of Mount Pleasant Area High School. He will attend Westminster College and plans to become a State Trooper. His ambition is to protect others, save lives and make the world a better place.

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.

Focus on Heritage

A Significant Silver Anniversary:

The Founding of the Slovak World Congress

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

It was half a century ago, in June 1970, that the Slovak World Congress (SWC) was founded in New York. The meeting that brought together representatives from Slovak organisations in the Western world marked the successful culmination of efforts by its leading representatives to have Slovaks abroad speak with one voice because their compatriots in Slovakia could not do so. Since the end of World War II, when Slovakia disappeared as an independent state from the map of Europe and was brought back to an uncertain status and future in a renewed Czechoslovakia, the Slovak nation, at home and abroad, had no one to speak authoritatively on its behalf and do so in an unfettered and open manner. With the imposition of communism in 1948, its domestic representatives lost any hope of even being allowed to articulate any desires for freedom held by the Slovak people; the only ones who could do so were those who had left their native land after the war, settled in the free world, and understood the responsibility they had towards the families and compatriots they had left behind. They created many organisations that sought to do so. Thanks to financial backing from Canadian industrialist Štefan B. Roman and the intellectual and organisational leadership provided by Jozef M. Kirschbaum and others, this meeting created the conditions that allowed for these organisations to come together and to articulate to the world the hopes and aspirations of the Slovak people and give an accurate presentation of Slovak history. During the first two decades of its existence, the SWC fulfilled this role professionally, imaginatively, and successfully.

The SWC set up headquarters in Toronto, Canada, and proceeded to convene regular congresses and organize cultural activities that included youth festivals and academic conferences in Europe and North America. Many still remember the successful festivals in Waldkreiburg, Germany in 1980, in Mt. Pocono, USA in 1983 and 1986, in Semmering, Austria in 1989 and the congress in Rome in 1975 and in Toronto in 1990 at which Alexander Dubček made an appearance. It had a regular publication, Bulletin SKS, which kept its membership informed of SWC objectives and activities. During the two decades of its most intensive activities, from 1970 to 1990, the SWC gave the Slovak nation a voice in the international arena, which let the world know that their little country in the heart of Europe could be an active member of the community of nations and independent states.

Under the leadership of Štefan B. Roman and Jozef M. Kirschbaum, the SWC pursued four main objectives pertaining to Slovakia: the recognition of the right of the Slovak nation to self-determination; its right to independent statehood; its participation in the process of European unification; and a fourth one that dealt with economic, ethnical, and social issues. When Slovakia became independent in 1993, the first two of the SWC's political objectives, self-determination and independence, were attained. In 2004, Slovakia was admitted to the European Union, thereby fulfilling the SWC's third objective. Only the fourth one, concerned with economic, ethnical, and social issues, can be said to remain on the agenda of Slovak politics. The ideas that Štefan Roman and Eugen Löbl put forth in 1977 in their co-authored book *The Responsible Society* contain a message that is not unique to Slovakia; if Slovak politicians were ever to consider implementing this message, it would also have to be on the agenda of the rest of the world.

Until Slovakia abandoned communism in 1989, the activities of the SWC were not only opportunities for Slovaks abroad to get together and celebrate their national origin, their culture and their faith at festivals and scholarly conferences, but a means to alert the world that those in Czechoslovakia who claimed to speak on behalf of the Slovak nation did not do so. Only when Slovakia achieved independence in 1993, was the voice of Slovakia finally its own. The role and future of the SWC became uncertain, especially without the financial backing it had received from Štefan B. Roman, who had passed away in 1988. Nevertheless, in 1996, when the Slovak American Paul Rusnák became president, he gave the SWC its last triumph a year later: the abrogation of the 1929 Treaty of Naturalization between the former Czechoslovakia and the United States, which meant the recognition of dual citizenship for American Slovaks. In the years that followed, the SWC quietly faded into obscurity, never being officially dissolved, and also never having its activities on behalf of Slovakia and the Slovak nation formally recognized by any official of the second Slovak Republic. That, however, is not a reason not to celebrate this anniversary. The founding of the SWC and its activities earned a chapter in the history of Slovakia and the Slovaks, a chapter of which we, outside our native land, have a right to be very proud.

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



District 4 meets via the Zoom video platform

District 4's Successful Virtual Meeting

The COVID-19 pandemic has touched our lives in ways we never imagined. In these uncertain times, it is important that we have the support of our families and community. Although businesses, schools, and churches have closed, District 4, the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey decided that there was no reason to "shut down" our close-knit Jednota community of members. So, we began to brainstorm on how to keep connected – being together yet apart.

Initially the District planned an annual meeting in March which also was to include a luncheon. As the weeks passed, we realized that not only was the March meeting not feasible, but it also wasn't feasible to reschedule any meeting in the near future. By late April the officers of District 4 devised a plan to proceed virtually. We began our organization of a virtual annual meeting by notifying members well in advance via email (which included detailed guidance on how to connect to the meeting) and a district announcement in two issues of Jednota, as well as connecting with members on an individual basis via text, telephone and Facebook messenger to encourage them to attend. This personal approach with plenty of advance notice gave our members a chance to get comfortable with the idea of a new way of meeting, and to ask any questions.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon of June 14th, we successfully held our first virtual Jednota District 4 meeting with 22 members joining in. Most attendees participated this way, allowing themselves to be seen and to see others during the meeting via the video teleconferencing software platform Zoom. Two members connected by telephone; one of which is one of our longest standing members, Mrs. Mary Tkach, who even in her 90s, was excited to participate!

To our surprise we had no issues with connectivity and we even all chuckled when the meeting started promptly at 1:01pm – not typi-



Sabina Sabados providing her Regional Director's report.

Tim Ranahan (Branch 746) taking some "extra" precautionary measures wearing his mask for the virtual meeting.



Our 90+ Member Mrs. Mary Tkach opted to "dial-in" to the virtual District meeting using her home phone.

cal for our group! The technological skill-sets of our 22 attendees ranged from beginner to expert as well as represented a fairly wide age range but we were all able to connect and participate!

As compared to our previous District meeting attendance, we had an excellent turnout – more people attended virtually than have normally for in-person meetings. The virtual meeting was conducted in accordance with FCSU bylaws. Those of us participating in this annual meeting had fruitful discussions that included sharing ideas for potential future events and discussing, at length, the benefits of meeting virtually. We agreed that a future meeting would be a hybrid format, a combination of in-person and virtual. Our hope is that this will allow those members – who otherwise would not be attending in person due to distance, health or scheduling conflicts – to participate by video and/or telephone. As District 4 covers a large portion of the great state of New Jersey, this new format is a great way to encourage more members to be involved!

There are many ways you can host your meeting "virtually" including the good old-fashioned telephone using a conference service system where everyone has a phone number to call and then be connected into the meeting by voice. The District 4 virtual meeting was hosted via the Zoom application which allows participants to join a meeting using their mobile device, computer, or telephone. There are a slew of other platforms from which to choose such as Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting, Skype, Google Hangouts, and others. Many of these are free or low cost.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the members of Branch 290 and Branch 746 for joining the District 4 meeting virtually and for their active participation and engagement!

- Submitted by Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados on behalf of District 4 officers



Branch 746 meets virtually with members connecting by video and using their home phones. We even had one international member, Ivana Mikulaskova, who dialed in from the UK.

Bring Your Own Refreshments: Branch 746's Virtual Meeting

From the comfort of our living rooms, dining rooms, sofas, and outdoor decks, members of Branch 746 met on Sunday, June 28, 2020, at 1PM virtually through the Zoom platform. Some members decided to dial-in using their traditional home phones. The meeting was a great opportunity to connect with our "Jednota family" whom we hadn't seen in many weeks since the outbreak of the pandemic. Branch 746 also participated in the virtual meeting of District 4 earlier in June. During the meeting upcoming planned activities which had been postponed were discussed. Ideas were shared on how members could continue to be engaged in "no contact" activities where we could attend together but separately such a drive-in, online lectures, etc. The branch also agreed to collect used eyeglasses to be later donated.

During the "heat" of the pandemic which was rather in-

tense in our area, members remained connected by reaching out to each other by telephone. Many helped the community and each other through volunteer activities. With the opening up of churches, we were finally able to meet in-person from a socially acceptable distance on Sunday, June 21, 2020, at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. It was a surreal not to have been able attend services in person and receive the Holy Eucharist. While churches were closed from mid-March to mid-June, our members watched live streamed masses through LUX New York from St. John Nepomucene which continues to stream live Slovak masses every Sunday at 10:15am EST.

Though both New Jersey and New York are in Phase 2/3 of their re-opening, we want to take the utmost precautions and will not be organizing in-person meetings or events for

the time being. Technology can help us better connect to one another and sustain our fraternalism during these difficult times; but it also has forced us to approach our meetings and events from a different angle. The virtual meeting had all the elements of an in-person meeting except ONE BIG thing was missing -- the refreshments!

Branch 746 encourages members who may have not attended meetings in the past to please reach out if they are interested in becoming active. The officers of Branch 746 would like to thank our incredible members for "going with the flow" and trying new things! We look forward to "seeing" you soon whether through virtual meetings and events and eventually.....in-person!

- Submitted by Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados



Branch 746 members modeled their new face masks!

See page 17 for more information

News From Slovakia

V júni bolo do bezplatného cestovného zoznamu pridané 16 nových krajín

Bratislava 9. júna (TASR) - Predseda vlády Igor Matovič (OLaNO) oznámil, že od 10. júna sa zoznam krajín, do ktorých môže slovenská verejnosť voľne cestovať, rozšíri o 16 krajín, a to Nemecko, Lichtenštajnsko, Švajčiarsko, Slovinsko, Chorvátsko, Bulharsko, Grécko, Cyprus, Malta, Estónsko, Litva, Lotyšsko, Fínsko, Nórsko, Dánsko a Island.

Tieto krajiny sa pripoja k Českej republike, Rakúsku a Maďarsku, pre ktoré už takéto cestovanie existuje.

Vládny poradca pre epidemiológiu označil nové prírastky za bezpečné krajiny voči koronavírusu. Matovič zároveň poznamenal, že občania krajín uvedených na bezplatnom cestovnom zozname nepredstavujú pre Slovákov hrozbu. Keďže však Slovensko nemá dvojstranné dohody so všetkými týmito krajinami, mali by si Slováci pred cestou do krajiny skontrolovať cestovné podmienky krajiny.

Matovič zároveň vysvetlil, že obe formy povinnej karantény, a to tá, ktorá je v štátnych zariadeniach a elektronická karanténa, sa rušia a ľudia vracajúci sa z ktorejkoľvek krajiny sa nemusia podrobiť karanténe. Bude na nich, či sa na nejaký čas rozhodnú izolovať. Hlavný hygienik Jan Mikas však vyzval týchto cestujúcich, aby sa po návrate obrátili na regionálny úrad verejného zdravotníctva, podstúpili domácu karanténu a sami sa otestovali.



Letisko Bratislava
(foto TASR)
Bratislava airport
(photo by TASR)

dajú sa niektoré bezpečné krajiny, zatiaľ čo iné sa môžu vzlietnuť," uviedol Mikas. „Občania EU budú môcť tranzit cez Slovensko bez súhlasu ministerstva vnútra. Budú však povinní prejsť cez Slovensko bez zastavenia," uviedol Mikas.

Od 1. júla bude možné organizovať hromadné akcie s viac ako 1000 ľudí sa zúčastňuje, ale iba vtedy, ak je k dispozícii stupňovité posedenie. Podľa Matoviča to platí najmä pre športové podujatia. Vstupné a výstupné body musia byť pod dozorom. Mikas dodal, že maratóny bude možné usporiadať aj od júla.

Matovič povedal, že treba mať na pamäti, že sa situácia môže opäť zhoršiť. "Situácia vo svete sa trochu zhoršuje, musíme na ňu dohliadať," uviedol premiér. Verí, že ľudia, ktorí prichádzajú na Slovensko z krajín, ktoré nie sú bezpečné z hľadiska koronavírusu, sa budú testovať sami. Mikas očakáva, že sa ľudia v nasledujúcom období vrátia na Slovensko zo zahraničia, najmä zo Spojeného kráľovstva. Vyzval ľudí, aby zostali opatrní.

Povinnosť nosiť masky vo verejných priestoroch vo vnútri a vo verejnej doprave zostane v platnosti. "Nebudeme sa zbavovať tvárových masiek tak skoro, možno nie na niekoľko rokov alebo dokonca na celý život," uviedla hlavná expertka ministerstva zdravotníctva na epidemiológiu Henrieta Hudecková. Mikas poznamenal, že v tejto súvislosti sa však opatrenia postupne zmierňujú. Podľa nových pravidiel nebudú študenti stredných škôl, ktorí sa do školy vrátia v pondelok 22. júna, povinní nosiť masky.



Predseda vlády Igor Matovič a hlavný hygienik Jan Mikas (foto TASR)
Prime Minister Igor Matovic and chief hygienist Jan Mikas (photo by TASR)

16 New Countries Added to Free Travel List in June

Bratislava, June 9 (TASR) – Prime Minister Igor Matovic (OLaNO) announced that as of June 10, the list of countries to which the Slovak public can travel freely will be expanded by 16 countries, namely Germany, Lichtenstein, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

These countries will join the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary, for which such travel is already in place.

The Government's epidemiology advisory board marked the new additions as safe countries vis-a-vis coronavirus. Matovic at the same time noted that the citizens of the countries on the free travel list don't represent a threat to Slovaks. However, as Slovakia doesn't have bilateral agreements with all of these countries, Slovaks should check the country's travel conditions before going on a trip there.

At the same time, Matovic explained that both forms of compulsory quarantine, namely the one at state facilities and e-quarantine, are being cancelled, and people returning from any country won't have to undergo quarantine. It will be up to them whether they opt to isolate themselves for some time. However, chief hygienist Jan Mikas called on such travelers to contact a regional public health office upon their return, undergo home quarantine and have themselves tested.

Slováci teraz môžu cestovať do Poľska, Monaka a Čiernej Hory

Bratislava 19. júna (TASR) - Slováci budú môcť v sobotu 20. júna voľne cestovať do Poľska, o tom informoval predseda vlády Igor Matovič (OLaNO) v deň, ktorý nasledoval po stretnutí s konziliom epidemiológov 18. júna.

Napriek tomu predseda vlády varoval ľudí pred cestovaním do regiónu Sliezska, ktoré má najvyšší výskyt koronavírusov.

Hlavný hygienik Jan Mikas dodal, že Slováci budú mať možnosť cestovať aj do Čiernej Hory, Monaka a Faerských ostrovov. „Zoznam bezpečných krajín bude aktualizovaný. Pri-

Slovaks Now Free to Travel to Poland, Monaco and Montenegro

Bratislava, June 19 (TASR) – Slovaks will be able to travel freely to Poland on Saturday (June 20), Prime Minister Igor Matovic (OLaNO) announced on this date following his meeting with a consilium of epidemiologists on June 18.

Nevertheless, the prime minister warned people against travelling to the region of Silesia, which has the highest occurrence of coronavirus.

Chief hygienist Jan Mikas added that Slovaks will be free to travel to Montenegro, Monaco and the Faroe Islands as well. "The list of safe countries will be updated. Some safe countries will be added, while others might be taken off," stated Mikas. "EU citizens will be allowed to transit Slovakia without the Interior Ministry's approval. However, they will be obliged to pass through Slovakia without stopping here," said Mikas.

As of July 1 it will be possible to organize mass events with more than 1,000 people attending, but only if staggered seating is provided. According to Matovic, this mainly applies to sporting events. Entry and exit points must be supervised. Mikas added that it will be possible to organize marathons as of July as well.

Matovic said that it should be kept in mind that the situation could worsen again. "The situation in the world is deteriorating somewhat, we'll have to keep an eye on it," stated the prime minister. He believes that people who come to Slovakia from countries that aren't safe in terms of coronavirus will have themselves tested. Mikas expects people to return to Slovakia from abroad, mainly from the United Kingdom in the upcoming period. He called on people to remain cautious.

The obligation to wear face masks in public areas indoors and on public transport will remain in effect. "We won't get rid of face masks so soon, maybe not for several years or even for a lifetime," said Health Ministry chief expert in epidemiology Henrieta Hudeckova. Mikas noted that measures are gradually being eased in this regard, however. According to the new rules, secondary school students, who will return to school as of Monday (June 22) won't be obliged to wear face masks there.

His Story:

Branch 254'S Shane Peremba Named PIHL Player of the Month



Shane Peremba is a senior at South Park High School, South Park, PA. Shane, a member of the FCSU Branch 254 since birth along with his brother Aaron, is the youngest son of Daneen and Rick Peremba.

Shane has been playing hockey since he was 8 years old. His current position is as a goalie on his high school's team in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL). Last November, Shane was named the PIHL Player of the Month. Then in February of this year, Shane was among those honored at a Senior Recognition Dinner held at South Park High.

As a post on the PIHL site details, the honor was awarded based on Shane's "consistently strong performances in net to put his South Park team in championship contention in PIHL Class AA this season." In further describing Shane's accomplishments, both on and off the ice, the site details:

Peremba has an 8-2 record as a senior goaltender for the Eagles, with 4 of those wins coming via shutout. He has a 1.29 Goals Against Average and a .958 Save Percentage, leading the classification in both statistical categories. He also leads Class A in shutouts and is tied for second in wins.

Peremba carries a 3.65 GPA at South Park High School, where he has been recognized as an Academic Scholar-Athlete Award winner. He is a member of South Park's Interact Club, which routinely does volunteer work in the community. Peremba continues his volunteerism at his local church, which includes his annual contributions to the Christmas Nativity. Congratulations, Shane!

- Submitted by Rich Peremba, Branch 254

Fraternalism in Action

Branch 2 Answers the Call

Memorial Day is the day we remember the heroes who gave everything – for the soldiers serving next to them and the people they left at home. Memorial Day is a day we are reminded of what combat veterans have given to this country, whether it's years of service, the first year of their marriage, or their lives.

This year members of St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2 Northside, Pittsburgh, joined together with, St. Gabriel VFW Post 1365, St. Cyril Boy Scout Troop #348, Scout Troop #81 from Wexford, PA, and Cub Scout Troop #935 also from Wexford, PA, to place flags on the graves of Veterans in Christ Our Redeemer Cemetery, (formerly North Side Catholic).

Several evenings were needed by the volunteers to place all 5,247 flags honoring Soldiers from Korea, WWI, WWII, and Vietnam, as well as the recent wars on terrorism.

Many thanks, to Carol Lako, wife of Region 5 Director Mike Lako, for coordinating the efforts from ordering and picking up the flags at the County Office, to organizing all the groups involved.

- Submitted by Sue Ondrejco, Branch 2



Fraternalism in Action

Branch 682 Answers the Call

FCSU Branch 682 used a combination of e-mail and Zoom meetings to join with the Struthers Rotary Club, Struthers Rotary Community Corps and CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation to provide sustenance for residents in the Struthers Community in desperate need due to the Covid-19 crisis. The combined donations were used to support those identified with the greatest need in the community that includes one of the Slovak parishes in the area. The remaining funds were donated to Second Harvest Food Bank to provide ongoing community support. The combined funding has/will provide about \$15,000 in food items to assist those most in need in our community.

- Submitted by Drew Hirt, Branch 682 President



The Struthers Rotary made a \$1000 donation to the Second Harvest Food Bank. The money came from the Rotary and donations from the Rotary Community Corp, CASTLO Community Improvement Corp, the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 682m and community donations.

FEED THE HUNGRY: STRUTHERS STRONG

If you know someone that has lost their job, or is struggling during this difficult time, submit their name and phone number and address to:

Struthers Rotary
Feed the Hungry
PO Box 127
Struthers, OH 44471
Individuals must have proof of Struthers residency.
Struthers Rotary and Struthers Rotary Community Corps, First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 682, and CASTLO Community Improvement Corp have made generous contributions to this fund.



- As posted on Struthers Rotary by Denise Loboy

How Are You 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. Branch 2 answered the call.

What are you doing? Email Jednota at fcsulifeeditor@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.

97th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood



The 97th Annual W. PA Slovak Day will be held on THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020, in Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA. The Slovak Kitchen will be open with a limited menu. The Pittsburgh Area Slovaks will provide a virtual performance while the Pittsburgh Slovaks will provide a live performance. There will also be music provided by George Batyi and the Gypsy Stringz..

- Submitted by Sue Ondrejco, Ticket Chair, W. PA Slovak Day Committee

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours



The Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020, in observance of Labor Day.



Chewy sitting atop rocks by the fountains with the town of Banská Bystrica in the background



Group picture at the Geographical Center of Europe in Slovakia; note Chewy atop the monument

Chewy in Sliač, Banská Bystrica, Nitra, and Pezinok

Jim and Kay Bench*

All good things must come to an end and so must the tour. Chewy as well as all the tour participants are saddened and can't believe we are almost finished with the tour.

As the bus pulled into the parking lot of the Kaskady Hotel & Spa Resort everyone perked up – even Chewy's little ears raised in anticipation of a day of sun, healing waters and relaxation. Upon checking in, most people put on their bathing suits and robes and headed for the thermal pools, saunas and spa. Chewy, however, had to be content to view the water from his window as no dogs are allowed. Following our day of rest everyone was getting hungry and Jim and Kay had promised them a special dinner that evening.

After a short ride to Banská Bystrica, famous for the National Uprising with and its memorial called The Broken Heart Museum, and a short walking tour of the town, we arrived at our destination: the Červený Rak. Instead of eating in the koliba, small tables had been arranged outside and we were able to view a wedding party that reserved the koliba building. The owners are good friends of Kay and Jim, and The Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities were the first group to use the koliba. The service was excellent, and the food delicious. People on the tour kept asking when we were going to get halupki, and now that day had arrived. Not a menu item, they make it especially for us along with mashed potatoes, bread and a delicious desert that tastes like our cream puffs. Chewy once again would go from table to table getting samples from all his new friends on the tour. He must have looked hungry as the owners gave him several bites also. The owners then presented each one of the tour group with a book on the town.

Upon return to the hotel, an invitation was extended to anyone who wanted to stay on the bus for a small get together as tomorrow was going to be a long day. Some people chose to go to their rooms and pack and get to bed early while the rest of us partied on the bus. As in Las Vegas what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, well what happens on the bus stays on the bus.

On the road again! After a good night sleep and a large breakfast as only the Slovaks know how to make, Chewy curled up and went right back to sleep with a full belly. Destination Nitra –to visit St Emeran's Cathedral built in 1660. This is a must see for anyone traveling to Slovakia. A long walk to the cathedral



Farewell party in Pezinok



Chewy atop the Červený Rak sign in Banská Bystrica

but its beauty is well worth the walk. Half way up the hill, Chewy looked up with his beautiful canine eyes and we all knew he wanted to be carried the rest of the way. The niches in the cathedral are something to see and we have been privileged to hear the monks chant in them, and the tones are simply heavenly.

As we were traveling to our Pezinok for our final night, we stopped at the Slovak geographical center of Europe and had a group picture taken by the monument. It is located right next to the gothic church, St. John the Baptist.

Pezinok's Hotel Tilia, was our final night in Slovakia and the site of our farewell dinner. It is with sadness that we knew we would be leaving our second homeland but we all vowed to return. It was a whirlwind trip, filled with great memories, new friendships (both human and canine), a great love for Slovakia, and happiness at finding Slovak relatives after so many years. You can't understand the feeling until you experience it. With tears of sadness and happiness we took our leave of Slovakia – but WE SHALL RETURN!!!

SLOVAKIA AND THE UNITED STATES - LANDS THAT WE LOVE!

WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE ADVENTURES OF CHEWY AND HIS YOUNGSTOWN SPISSKA NOVA VES SISTER CITIES TOUR AND HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US ON OUR NEXT ANNUAL TOUR OF SLOVAKIA.

SLOVAK SOM, SLOVAK BUDEM (SLOVAK I AM AND SLOVAK I WILL BE)

** All articles in the Chewy in Slovakia series have been written by Kay and Jim Bench; Photos have been courtesy of Greg Maurer. They are all members of United Branch 181. Jim is President of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Organization and a Member of the Supreme Court of the Jednota. Kay is the Tour Director of the Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities and Greg Maurer is a National Internal Auditor of the Jednota.*



Chewy sitting in one of Niches in St Emerans Cathedral in Nitra



Chewy atop monument at Geographical center



Site of St. John the Baptist Church in Kremnicke Bane Geographical center



Chewy with Owner of Cerveny Rak and Kay Bench



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



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/>

Branch 40 Scholarships Available for Grade School & High School Students



St. Clement's Society Branch 40 is once again offering scholarships to its eligible youth members. They will be giving out 1 One-Time \$500.00 scholarship for college and 1 One-Time \$250.00 scholarship for a private grade school student in 2020.

These scholarships are solely funded by your local lodge Branch 40, not the (national) First Catholic Slovak Union.

You may be eligible to win a scholarship if:

You are a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union's St. Clement's Society Branch 40 of Streator, IL.

You are in high school and have applied for a fall term at a qualifying institution of higher learning.

You are attending a private grade school.

For more information and an application, please call Theresa at 815-672-6142 (leave a message) or email her at ttegraves@mchsi.com.

Applications must be postmarked by August 10, 2020.

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

Issue Date

Deadline to Receive Information

August 12

August 3

Sept 9

August 31

October 14

October 5

November 11

November 2

December 9

November 30

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14			15		16			
17						18					19			
20					21					22				
			23						24					
25	26	27		28		29		30			31	32	33	
34			35				36			37	38			
39						40					41			
42				43		44			45	46				
47				48	49			50				51		
			52	53					54		55			
56	57					58	59	60				61	62	63
64						65					66			
67						68					69			
70							71				72			

Across

- 1 Return to ___ (NSF)
- 6 Get it wrong
- 9 Vegas attraction
- 13 Publicist's concern
- 14 Derriere
- 16 Newcastle's river
- 17 Filled to excess
- 18 Kind of pool
- 19 Doing business
- 20 Bureaus
- 23 Work on a doily
- 24 Old red letters?
- 25 Gardner of film
- 28 Hole goal
- 30 Octopus's defense
- 31 ___ Lanka
- 34 Brush aside
- 37 Hound's trail
- 39 Likewise
- 40 Altar vow
- 41 Division word
- 42 Secluded valleys
- 44 Redemption
- 47 Musical ability
- 48 Big cheer
- 50 A few: Abbr.
- 51 Weep
- 52 Mitchell mansion
- 54 Corn site
- 56 Party hardy
- 64 Chipping choice
- 65 Smidgen
- 66 Actor's line
- 67 Numbers game
- 68 Content word
- 69 Fencing move
- 70 Like pie?
- 71 Mediterranean fruit tree
- 72 Passover feast

Down

- 1 Catchall abbr.
- 2 Asian nurse
- 3 Actress Winslet
- 4 Discharge
- 5 Bureaucratic stuff
- 6 Hence
- 7 Snorkeling site
- 8 Big name in mapmaking
- 9 Tucks away
- 10 Five times the speed of sound
- 11 Unique person
- 12 Pilar cysts
- 15 Any "Seinfeld," now
- 21 Doe's mate
- 22 Inquires
- 25 Maxim
- 26 Fancy home
- 27 Accusations
- 29 Worker's demand
- 30 Paragons
- 32 Helicopter part
- 33 O. Henry specialty
- 35 Ely of Tarzan fame
- 36 Nutritional inits.
- 38 After sand or tar

- 43 Nature
- 45 Kind of power
- 46 Professions of truth
- 49 Res gestae, e.g.
- 53 Nettle
- 55 Succeed
- 56 Freshwater fish
- 57 Bailiwick
- 58 Animal foot
- 59 Fancy handbag
- 60 Zest
- 61 Marmalade ingredient
- 62 Drop-off spot
- 63 Big game

See Solution on Page 20

Jednota Members: Have you Participated in our Memorial?

If you haven't yet participated in the Jednota Memorial, consider purchasing a brick to honor those who served in any wars and also to honor and remember ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great. Dedicated in September 2015 by the First Catholic Slovak Union for our members and their families, the permanent site of 1 1/2 acres is located in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose.

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

This is another of the latest panels to be completed. To view more complete panels, or if you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form. Or you can request an order form by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.



JEDNOTA MEMORIAL, MIDDLETOWN, PA. Dedicated, 2015



Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren (0 -18) and receive

FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD

with the certificate

Features:

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

MALE NEWBORN

\$5,000 for \$455

AGE 5

\$5,000 for \$550

AGE 10

\$5,000 for \$665

AGE 15

\$5,000 for \$805

FEMALE NEWBORN

\$5,000 for \$405

AGE 5

\$5,000 for \$490

AGE 10

\$5,000 for \$595

AGE 15

\$5,000 for \$720



CALL US 800-533-6682

FCSU Financial - - First Catholic Slovak Union,
 Contact your branch officer or the Home Office
 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,
www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



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.



Come Join Us



Saturday, August 8, 2020*

Frogbridge
7 Yellow Meeting House Road
Millstone Township, NJ 08510

CANCELLED



FCSU National President Helps Honor General Štefanik



To honor the 140th birthday of General Milan Štefanik, the President of First Catholic Slovak Union, Andrew M. Rajec placed this wreath at the statue which was erected by the Cleveland Slovaks in 1924.

The statue, by the noted Slovak sculptor Frico Motoska, was unveiled at a site in Wade Park and is now located at the Slovak Gardens in Cleveland, OH.

- From the Slovak Embassy Summer 2020 Newsletter



FCSU National Golf Tournament

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



ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC
2020 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is accepting applications for its 2020 Scholarship Program.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO **TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS** TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA. Applicants, even those who are chosen for a scholarship, may apply yearly.

Jednota Benevolent Foundation Award Criteria:

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who is currently enrolled in college or another post secondary educational institution is eligible for a Scholarship.
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official high school or college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT or SAT scores; (if applicable)
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant;
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement;
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant;
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability;
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives;
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing.

For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.
First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131
Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com – Website: <http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2020

*Family members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.



The 55th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, scheduled to be celebrated in Washington, DC, Sunday, Sept 13, 2020, has been cancelled.



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-GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY-PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District plans to hold its semi-annual meeting on August 8, 2020, following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church in United, PA. We will meet in the Social Hall so that we may observe the CDC rules for social distancing. This will be a combined meeting with Branch 181. Our District meeting will be held first. We plan to serve light refreshments following the CDC guidelines. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to our Vice President, Darlene Patty, at 724-493-8712 prior to August 2, 2020.

Linda L. Gonta, 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

At this present time, the FCSU board is recommending against all district and branch in-person meetings. They suggest holding virtual meetings via telephone conference or video meeting service. We have selected Sunday, November 22, 2020 for our meeting. Please save the date. As a back-up to a virtual meeting, we have also reserved the Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Street Extn, West Mifflin, PA, 15122 for Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 1 PM. We will discuss events for 2021 and district officers for the next year will be elected. As the meeting date approaches, we will notify branch officers as to where and how the meeting will take place.

Other local news: Holy Trinity Church recently became one of eight churches merged into the new St Thomas the Apostle Parish. Slovak Day at Kennywood has been rescheduled for Thursday, July 23. Please check the Kennywood web page for the current guidelines for visiting the park. Ticket prices: \$27 for ages 4 - 54, \$17 for 55 - 69 and \$13 for 70 and up.

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

We hope all of you are safe and well during these uncertain times.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
manasta@verizon.net

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 9 –THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, August 30, 2020, at 1:00 PM at Caporella's Italian Ristorante at 90 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA.

Election of officers will be on the agenda. Regional Director Marmol will be informing the members of Jednota upcoming events. All branches are invited to attend. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, August 19, 2020, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-437-0892. All members are urged to attend.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - OHIO

For the safety of our members and in keeping with directives from the FCSU Board of Directors during the continued COVID-19 pandemic, District 10 is cancelling its previously scheduled meeting at 3:00PM on Sunday, July 19, 2020, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Look for updated information on this page of the FCSU website as well as in upcoming issues of Jednota.

Linda Hanko, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

For the safety of our members during this continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the FCSU Board of Directors has issued strong recommendations that all district and branch meetings be conducted virtually via telephone conference or video meeting service rather than in-person. Therefore, District 12, the Msgr. Hlinka District is planning its next meeting of Sunday, September 13, 2020, at 1:00PM as a virtual meeting. Please call District 12 Secretary Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788 by September 3 for details as to how to participate. On the agenda: general district business as well as plans for our Sunday, December 6, 2020 meeting at which district officers for the next year will be elected.

Fraternally,

Joseph Tarquinio, President

DISTRICT 14 – THE REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The following is directive from our FCSU Board of Directors from their June meeting: "Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Board strongly recommends holding virtual meetings by telephone conference or by using the latest technology such as Zoom, Google Meet or Startmeeting.com. A virtual meeting will be considered as a regular meeting toward district/branch fraternal obligations."

Therefore, I am canceling the July 21, 2020 meeting at the Fireplace and designating the September 15, 2020 meeting at the Fireplace as our semi-annual meeting. In the meantime, I would like everyone to contact me by telephone or email regarding platforms mentioned above that you have access to so that we could have a virtual meeting in September if need be. Telephone (Home): (330) 549-3788; (Cell: (330) 559.5981; Email: jjleskjr@zoominternet.net

After discussions with several individuals, due to continuing COVID-19 issues and ages of the majority of our participants, the OKRES will not be participating in the Slovak Fest by selling pop and water.

Fraternally,

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT

Due to continuing restrictions and concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, and for the safety of our members, the Annual Summer Picnic of Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 that has taken place in September at McDade Park in Scranton, PA, has been cancelled for this year. If you have any questions, you can call District 17 President Michael Slovenkai at (570) 342-7562.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President



Let's think Christmas in July.

Attention Branch 853 –

“Let's think Christmas in July” and have some fun with a Branch 853 Coloring Contest.

Eligibility to participate: Must be a Branch 853 member as of August 1, 2020. Changing the size of the picture from the FCSU will disqualify the entry. You must submit an entry form and colored picture to be judged. Entries must be mailed and postmarked by August 15, 2020. Gift Card to the winning entry. Entries will not returned. Winning entries will be decided upon by an independent judge and the decision will be final. One entry per policy.

Send your colored entry to:
Branch 853 Coloring Contest, c/o Monica Rodacy Boone, 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

With everything that is going on in society today, if you listen closely, you can almost hear the music playing for the 1966 Jerry Herman song - We Need A Little Christmas. This now popular Christmas song was first sung in the Broadway musical, Mame.

“We need a Little Christmas”

Haul out the holly; Put up the tree before my spirit falls again.

Fill up the stocking, I may be rushing things, but deck the halls again now.

For we need a little Christmas, Right this very minute,

Candles in the window, Carols at the spinet.

Yes, we need a little Christmas,

Right this very minute.

It hasn't snowed a single flurry,

But Santa, dear, we're in a hurry....



continued on page 19

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	John J Gecik	181K	John E Denis	293K	Stephen J Utrata	652K	Jerome J Harcar
001K	Vincent R Svrcek	181K	Paulette K Gentry	294K	Irene Farley	670K	Charles Daniels
002K	Donna Marie Krass	181K	Stephen L Goblinger	294K	Joseph La Monica	670K	Clifford L Jericho
002K	Edward A Silay	181K	Anna Lee Hunka	294K	Conor James Rogan	682K	Paul M Gbur
004K	Anna S Mager	181K	Thomas M Novak	299K	Darlene S Girardi	682K	John T Hirt Sr
004K	Thomas B Yanosick Sr	181K	Joseph J Sosko	313K	Robert Werniak	716K	Ronald P Rusnak
006K	Irene Farris	181K	Timothy A Sosko	320K	Diane Taylo	721K	Joseph F Batora
019K	Colleen Marie Grant	181K	Anna M Suman	333K	Miriam Joanne Koleno	729K	Tillie C Lunda
019K	William Thomas	199K	Daniel Levendusky	372K	Sarah Maloskey	743K	George Gonschak
019K	Henry J Zack	199K	Charles Rebrick	382K	Joan Bulzoni	746K	Donald Alena
023K	Mary Ethel Luther	199K	Regina Sestak	393K	Rose M Trumbetta	746K	Edward Magotch
024K	Stephen J Strazek	200K	John A Holizna Sr	419K	Loretta M Havrilchak	746K	Joseph Mudrak
038K	Thomas J Breznai	213K	Katherine R Gornick	450K	Edward M Profancik	746K	Mary Pakla
041K	Anna V Matula	215K	Matthew S McGasko	484K	Judith E Gribus	746K	Joseph Petty
060K	Dorothy Makrancy	224K	Stephen G Yourek	484K	Louis Joseph Jacobs	746K	Roger Stopkie
085K	Mary Jane Monteleone	228K	Kenneth J Ganobsik	484K	Mary Kotula	831K	Richard P Fajbik
153K	Sandra C Kloster	259K	Ann Jacobs	493K	David Letrich	831K	Joseph Pracko
157K	Rose M Kowalczyk	292K	Donna Mae Goodrich	553K	Loretta A Sixa	831K	Patricia Marie Ross
166K	Evelyn Petrick	292K	Michael Svach	581K	John J Babinec	831K	Stephen J Strelec
169P	Anna O'Connor	293K	Elizabeth Boyle	581K	Richard J Chovanec	857K	Stanley J Wayock
173K	John J Kolinofsky	293K	Kevin J Doll	581K	John G Mateja Jr	890K	Louis George Liptak Jr
173K	Anna Sutherland	293K	Thomas B Trusa	595K	Emily Jean Miklosovic	890K	John P Pitoniak
				595K	Margaret Sagat	900K	Irene H Limberger
				628K	Raymond G Bodnar	900K	Francis J Marflak
				633K	Joseph Pirich		

*Processed through the month of June

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH ANTHONY PIRICH
BRANCH 633 –
MT. MORRIS,
MICHIGAN



Joseph Anthony Pirich, age 93, of Mt. Morris, MI, died at home May 15, 2020, surrounded by his family. Joseph was born July 22, 1926, in Humenne, Czechoslovakia. As a young man, Joseph moved to Michigan to start a new life. Upon his arrival to the United States, he was drafted into the United States Army where he proudly served his country in the Korean War. After his honorable discharge, Joseph would find work at General Motors-Turnstedt, where he worked for 30 years, until his retirement in 1983. It was there he met the love of his life, Eva Serban. Joseph won her over with his ability to speak Hungarian. Joseph and Eva were united in marriage in January of 1956. Their union would bear five beautiful children. Joseph was a devout member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church for over 65 years, and he was a Cantor there for 40 of those years. Joseph loved being Up North at the cottage he built on Higgins Lake in 1971. Joseph was President of Branch 633 for 32 years, and then went on to become Treasurer for an additional 12 years. In his free time, Joseph enjoyed Polka dancing, playing tennis, traveling, watching soccer, and hockey, especially the Detroit Red Wings. The family would like to extend their sincerest thanks to the staff at Ascension Genesys Reverence Hospice for their love and outstanding care.

Joseph leaves to cherish his memory: wife Eva; children: Andrew, Eva Craine, Leslie, Robert, Kathleen; grandson William Craine; three sisters in Europe; four nieces and one nephew.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents.

EDWARD P. MAGOTCH
BRANCH 746 –
LINDEN, NEW
JERSEY



Edward P. Magotch, 87, passed away May 5, 2020, at Holy Name Medical Center. He was born in Mahanoy City, PA, on August 1, 1932, to the late Andrew and Susan (nee: Jenchik) Magotch, and was a long-time Bayonne resident. Edward proudly served the nation as a member of the Air Force in which he was a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal. Upon being discharged from the Air Force, Edward moved to Jersey City, NJ, where he met and married the love of his life, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee: Barba) Magotch on May 31, 1959. Edward was a Key Shop worker for Western Electric until his retirement after 40 years. Edward also worked at Two Guys, Steve's 4th Street Shop-Rite, and Hanley's Tavern/Ray Lynns. Edward was an avid sports fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates in addition to his granddaughters' teams where he would always be found on the sidelines cheering them on. Edward was a true character that always knew how to bring a smile to someone's face. Edward was predeceased by his beloved wife, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee: Barba) Magotch. He is survived by his loving children, Edward S. Magotch, and Maria (Neil) Reynolds; his cherished grandchildren, Brooke and Alyssa Reynolds; his brother Joseph Magotch; and many loving nieces and nephews. Edward is predeceased by his beloved siblings, Robert and Josephine Magotch, Mary Kmec, Helen Debusky, Theresa Holdsworth; and his beloved niece Bernadette Kmec

- Submitted by Maria Reynolds

Message from the National Chaplain

continued from page 3

and final session of the First Vatican Council. This Dogmatic Constitution was promulgated on July 18, 1870.

Pastor aeternus turns to Matthew 16: 13-19 and John 21: 15-17 as proofs that Jesus himself appointed Simon Peter the visible head of the church on earth, giving him immediate, true, proper, and direct primacy of teaching and jurisdiction over the entire church. It further declared that it is the divine will for Peter to have perpetual successors, that the primacy given to Peter is to be handed down to his successors, and the Roman pontiff is the successor of Peter. Those who believe otherwise are to be excommunicated.

The authority of the pope is ordinary and immediate over each and all churches and each and all pastors and faithful. All clergy and faithful are bound to submit in obedience in faith and morals as well as discipline and governance to the Vicar of Christ. In this way, all members of the church become one flock under one shepherd.

It decreed that since the pope governs the whole church, he is the supreme judge of the faithful and in all cases that fall under church jurisdiction may be brought to him for judgment. There is no higher authority or revision. Decisions by a pope cannot be appealed to a future ecumenical council, as if it were an authority superior to that of the Roman pontiff.

The final part of this document, and what some may call the most important teaching that came from Vatican I, centers on papal infallibility. Years prior to Vatican I, Pius IX in 1854 declared infallibly the Dogma of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At Pius' insistence, the Council addressed issue of papal infallibility so that its meaning would be clearly understood.

After citing supporting documents from previous ecumenical councils and offering reflections on the universal teaching authority of the pope, the Council made the following declaration:

Therefore, faithfully adhering to the tradition received from the beginning of the Christian faith, to the glory of God our Savior, for the exaltation of the catholic religion and for the salvation of the Christian people, with the approval of the sacred council, we teach and define as a divinely revealed dogma that when the Roman pontiff speaks EX CATHEDRA, that is, when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole church, he possesses, by the divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, that infallibility which the divine Redeemer willed his church to enjoy in defining doctrine concerning faith or morals.

Therefore, such definitions of the Roman pontiff are of themselves, and not by the consent of the church, irrefragable.

Since Vatican I, a pope has used the doctrine of infallibility only one time. Pope Pius XII declared in 1950 that Mary, the Mother of God, was assumed body and soul into heaven after her life on earth was completed.

Faternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

Branch 746 Says: We've Got You Covered!

The newest summer fashion for 2020 is wearing a mask! Not only is it fashionable, it is also a way of promoting the FCSU! All jokes aside, wearing a mask can also keep you healthy by reducing the amount of virus you might spread into the air and onto surfaces if you happen to be sick. Moreover, a mask, depending on the type of fabric, how tightly it fits, and how diligently you wear it, can help reduce your exposure to virus that might be present in the air, reducing your chances of catching the disease.

Slovakia became a trail blazer during the COVID-19 pandemic that spread across globe with a wildfire with early adoption of wearing of masks as early as mid-March with Slovakia's television anchors and politicians taking the lead in wearing masks. The new prime minister, Igor Matovič and new government wore masks and gloves during the swearing-in ceremony. In a now famous photo of President Zuzana Caputova, she wore a burgundy dress and matching mask helping to remove the stigma. In the past few months, Slovakia was cited in a plethora of reputable news articles highlighting their success at curbing the virus and mandatory mask wearing protocols.

To aid Branch 746 members in following the CDC guidelines and state regulations, we decided to design custom masks with the FCSU logo and a clever slogan: We've got you covered! Branch 746 members are wearing their masks to do all kinds of activities -- going to work, playing on the jungle gym, going to church, shopping, at family picnics, gardening or and even at virtual branch meetings!

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



Nancy Krall wears her mask to meetings and shopping



The Ruszkiewicz kids - Lucas, Olive, Radek, and Ivy wear their masks when playing outdoors!



The Ranahan family wears their masks at family picnics



Lucia Kollarova wears her mask at her law office.



The Rada family wears their masks to church.



Mr. and Mrs. Filak wear their masks while gardening!

Sabina Sabados wears her mask when she leaves the house!



Mr. and Mrs. Choma wear their masks when outdoors



Magda and Jan.

Vyšla nová publikácia venujúca sa krajskej problematike

Analýza starostlivosti Slovenskej republiky o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí z pohľadu Matice slovenskej a odborníkov na krajskú problematiku z Chorvátska, Čiernej Hory, Poľska a Srbska

Dopyt po posilnení, lepšom plánovaní, cieľavedomejšej politike v oblasti starostlivosti SR o krajanov (nielen v zmysle činnosti ÚSZ) je neustále prítomný a silný na všetkých oficiálnych i neoficiálnych fórach krajanov.

Na zasadnutí poradného orgánu Matice slovenskej pre krajskú problematiku – Rady pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri MS, ktorú tvoria zástupcovia z Čiernej Hory, Srbska, Poľska, Chorvátska, Českej republiky, Francúzska, Kanady, Maďarska, Švédska, Rumunska, Ukrajiny, ÚSZ a SZSZ, odznela požiadavka na vypracovanie analýzy starostlivosti SR o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Po odkonzultovaní projektu a jeho účasti na ňom, prejavili záujem pripraviť čiastkové štúdie odborníci z MS a MN, PL, HRK a SRB, ktorí vytvorili výskumný tím. Projekt mal ambíciu aspoň čiastkovo analyzovať danú starostlivosť a priniesť odporúčania pre prácu subjektov so sídlom na Slovensku, ktorým zákon vymedzuje starostlivosť o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

Cieľom tejto analýzy bolo nielen analyzovať systém podpory Slovenskej republiky voči krajanom, ale porovnať ho aj so systémom v iných štátoch, t. j. ako v Európe zabezpečujú túto starostlivosť európske národy pre svoje komunity v zahraničí. Výstupom analýzy je súbor odporúčaní a návrhov pre činnosť SR v tejto oblasti, ktorá poskytuje bázu návrhov na zefektívnenie podpory krajskej problematiky na základe výsledkov bádania expertov podľa zvolenej témy a ich osobnej praxe.

Na tvorbe štúdií pracovali dlhoroční odborníci na krajskú problematiku, a to: Michal Spevák, predseda Čiernohorsko-slovenského priateľstva (MN), ktorý sa zaoberal stavom krajanov v Čiernej Hore, projektmi zameranými na ich podporu a zhodnotil starostlivosť SR o krajanov v Čiernej Hore. Sandra Kralj Vukšić, riaditeľka Slovenského kultúrneho centra v Našicích a šéfredaktorka krajského periodika Prameň (HRK) ponúkla rozsiahly rozbor inštitúcií, s ktorými krajanovia v Chorvátsku spolupracujú a porovnávala ho s podobnými inštitúciami Chorvátskej republiky. Katarína Melegová-Melichová, predsedníčka MO MS Báčsky Petrovec a predsedníčka RSZZ pri MS (SRB) spracovávala starostlivosť o krajanov najmä z pohľadu inštitúcií, ktoré krajanov podporujú finančne a porovnávala ich so systémom Srbska, Milica Majeriková-Molitoris, historička a redaktorka krajského periodika Život ponúkla veľmi rozsiahlu a detailnú výskumnú prácu. Zamerala ju na mnohé inštitúcie, ktoré Slovákom v Poľsku pomáhajú, so zhodnotením ich činnosti a odporúčaniami. Inšpiratívnym a veľmi podnetným čítaním je kapitola starostlivosti Poľska o Poliakov žijúcich v zahraničí. Zuzana Pavelcová, riaditeľka KM MS (Matica slovenská), autorka projektu a jeho koordinátorka, pripravila rozbor starostlivosti SR o krajanov z pohľadu Matice slovenskej a zostavila syntetické odporúčania a závery z analýz.

Zborník vydala Matica slovenská, tlač zabezpečil Spolok Slovákov v Poľsku, grafické spracovanie pripravila Eva Kozioł, o jazykovú korektúru sa postarala Eva Čulenová z Vydavateľstva Signis, grant finančne podporilo Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR.

Zuzana Pavelcová

A new publication dealing with compatriot issues has been published

An analysis of how the Slovak Republic is caring for Slovaks living abroad from the point of view of Matica slovenská and experts on expatriate issues from Croatia, Montenegro, Poland and Serbia

The demand for strengthening, better planning, and a more purposeful policy of caring for compatriots in the Slovak Republic (not only in terms of ÚSZ activities) remains constant and strong among all official and unofficial compatriot forums.

At a meeting of the advisory body of Matica slovenská for expatriate issues – Council for Slovaks living abroad at the World Cup, consisting of representatives from Montenegro, Serbia, Poland, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Canada, Hungary, Sweden, Romania, Ukraine, ÚSZ and SZSZ – there was a request to prepare an analysis of how the Slovak Republic is caring for Slovaks living abroad. After examining the project requirements and participation in it, experts from MS and MN, PL, HRK and SRB, expressed interest in preparing partial studies, and formed a research team. The project aimed to at least partially analyze existing levels of care and offer

recommendations for the duties of existing entities based in Slovakia, which the law defines as “the care of Slovaks living abroad.”

The goal was not only to analyze the support system of the Slovak Republic towards compatriots, but also to compare it with systems in other countries, i.e. – how do European nations care for their communities abroad. The output of the analysis was defined as a set of recommendations and proposals for the Slovak Republic to act upon in this area, providing a basis for proposals that would streamline support for expatriate issues based on the research results of experts on the selected topic as well as the personal practices of these experts.

The experienced experts on compatriot issues who worked to create the studies included: Michal Spevák, chairman of the Montenegrin-Slovak Friendship (MN), who dealt with the state of compatriots in Montenegro, with projects designed for the support and evaluation of the care of Slovak compatriots in Montenegro; Sandra Kralj Vukšić, director of the Slovak Cultural Center in Našice and editor-in-chief of the compatriot periodical Prameň (HRK), who offered an extensive analysis of the institutions with which compatriots in Croatia cooperated and compared it with similar institutions in the Republic of Croatia; Katarína Melegová-Melichová, chairwoman of the MoD World Cup Báčsky Petrovec and chairwoman of the RSZZ at the World Cup (SRB), who processed the care of compatriots primarily from the point of view of institutions that support compatriots financially and compared them with the Serbian system; a very extensive and detailed research work that focused on many institutions that help Slovaks in Poland with the evaluation of their activities and recommendations, and an inspiring and very inspiring reading in a chapter on Poland's care for Poles living abroad; Zuzana Pavelcová, director of KM MS (Matica slovenská), author of the project and its coordinator, who prepared an analysis of compatriot care in the Slovak Republic from the point of view of Matica slovenská and compiled synthetic recommendations and conclusions from the analyses.

The collection was published by Matica slovenská, the press was provided by the Slovak Association in Poland, the graphic design was prepared by Eva Kozioł, proofreading was provided by Eva Čulenová from Signis Publishing House, and financial support was provided through a grant from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Book Corner

A Brief Review of Jozef Banáš's book *Prebijem sa! Štefánik. Muž železnej vôle* (I shall prevail! Štefánik – a Man of Iron Will).

Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.
University of Maryland Global Campus

Global Slovakia has published another important book -- an English translation of Jozef Banáš's historical novel about General Milan Rastislav Štefánik. In the last decade, Banáš has become one of Slovakia's most widely read and popular authors. It is appropriate that the book would come out now, for July 21, 2020 commemorates the 140th anniversary of his birth in the western Slovak village of Košariská.

We might recall that Štefánik perished in a tragic airplane crash near Bratislava on May 4, 1919, but he lived his short life of almost 39 years to the fullest. Since 2019 marked the centennial anniversary of his death, a flurry of publicity around the occasion almost ensured that in a public opinion poll, Slovaks chose him as the most influential personality in the history of Slovakia. No one had worked harder than Štefánik to ensure that Slovakia would become part of an independent Czecho-Slovakia after World War I. His connections in the upper echelons of French society provided Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk the connections needed to place independence of the Czech, Rusyn, and Slovak peoples as a viable option on the international stage. And apart from those who emigrated, Slovaks became free for the first time in their own homeland to develop their national culture without the threat of Magyar (Hungarian) interference. An independent Slovakia today might never have happened without his contributions.

Despite his notoriety, most readers of the English-speaking world have never heard of Štefánik, or even Slovakia, a small and young state of 5.4 million people in the heart of Central Europe.

Jozef Banáš's book aims to change that with his dynamic historical novel based on solid research. A British-born poet who lives in Slovakia, James Sutherland-Smith, wrote the translation, which reads quickly and smoothly, a real treat for the avid reader.

Banáš brings life to history by including conversations as they might have taken place. At the same time, he provides historical background to give some context to the story. The son of Lutheran preacher and a patriotic mother, he grew to become a multi-lingual world class astronomer, a Renaissance man with a variety of interests, and the most globally traveled man in Slovak history. He accomplished so much despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles throughout his life, including his continual ill health from a serious gastronomic ailment. That is why Banáš calls him a man with an iron will, one who pressed on with fervid determination.

The story commences with what we know about Štefánik's childhood, and his early interests in the stars. Little wonder the boy would view the heavens through his paper telescope atop a tree or the nearby highest hill. He continues with his struggle with Magyar classmates who despised his Slovak patriotism, something which led him to pursue his university studies in Prague. Though often lacking for funds to live, Štefánik made his way to France to pursue a career in astronomy, and then became a decorated French citizen, a first-class pilot in the war, a skillful diplomat on behalf of creating Czecho-Slovakia, and the head of a Czecho-Slovak Legion to fight for the Allies.

The story ends with his tragic plane crash and Banáš's detailed description of the popular outpouring of Slovakia's citizens at the first state funeral in the newly independent state. His memory was immortalized in the 1928 unveiling of the monumental burial

mound at Bradlo overlooking his native village. Four years earlier, Cleveland Slovaks had erected a statue in his honor which stands to this day.

I highly recommend the book, and it is a must for those who wish to gain a deeper insight into Štefánik's adventurous life.

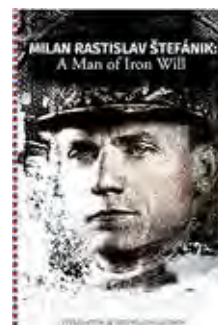
For a quick overview of Štefánik's life, one might first read my previous articles in Jednota from 2018 and 2019, and/or my short summary of his life online using this citation:

Štefánik, Milan Rastislav, in: 1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War, ed. by Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2020-04-20. DOI: 10.15463/ie1418.11464. https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/stefanik_milan_rastislav

Another English language review of his original book in Slovak is at the following website: Baer, Josette, "An iron will," New Eastern Europe, <https://neweasterneurope.eu/2019/03/04/an-iron-will/> (Accessed June 29, 2020).

Prebijem sa! Štefánik. Muž železnej vôle (I shall prevail! Štefánik – a Man of Iron Will). By: Jozef Banáš. Publisher: Ikar, Bratislava, 2018.

The book is available for purchase in paperback or e-book format through the Amazon.com website. <https://www.amazon.com/Milan-Rastislav-Stefanik-Iron-Will/dp/1951943163>



Marian Hossa bude uvedený do hokejovej siene slávy

Toronto, 25. júna (TASR) - Slovenská hokejová legenda Marian Hossa je medzi piatimi bývalými hráčmi Národnej hokejovej ligy (NHL), ktorí boli v stredu zvolení na uvedenie do hokejovej siene slávy koncom tohto roka.

"Je to obrovská česť a pre mňa to veľa znamená. Chcel by som sa poďakovať všetkým, ktorí za mňa hlasovali. Hokej mi v mojom živote dal veľa práce a som za to vďačný," uviedol Hossa.

41-ročný bývalý útočník je jedným zo šiestich hráčov NHL, ktorí zaznamenali aspoň 20 gólov v 15 sezónach a získali najmenej desať bodov v ôsmich sériách vylúčenia play-off. Zúčastnil sa tak klubu hokejových es, ako sú Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Jaromir Jagr, Brett Hull a Steve Yzerman.

V roku 2010, 2013 a 2015 sa Hossovi podarilo vyhrať tri Stanleyho pohare Chicago Blackhawks. Bol všeobecne považovaný za jedného z najlepších obojsmerných útočníkov v NHL.

Hossa bude tretím hráčom slovenského pôvodu v hokejovej siene slávy. Jeho predchodcami sú Stan Mikita a Peter Stastny.

Ako sa uvádza na slovenskom spravodajskom portáli TASR teraz.sk v ten istý deň, zvolenie Marian Hossa do hokejovej siene slávy NHL tiež potešilo jeho bývalých spoluhráčov Marian Gaborika a Miroslava Satana.

"Ráno som sa zobudil, pozrel som sa na noviny a bol som veľmi potešený. Nie som prekvapený, že Marian sa tak skoro dostal do siene slávy. Zaslúži si ju dlhé roky tvrdej práce, ale najmä to, čo urobil v Chicagu. „Klobúk dole. Klobúk dole," povedal Gáborík.

Hossa odohral celkom 1309 základných zápasov v profile, strelil 525 gólov a pridal 609 asistencií. V play-off, on vstúpil 205 duel s rovnováhou 52 + 97. Je to jediný hráč v histórii NHL, ktorý hral tri sezóny v rade vo finále Stanley Cup pre tri rôzne tímy - Pittsburgh, Detroit a Chicago, v "jastrabovom" drese. "Chcel by som Mariánovi zablahoželať k vynikajúcej kariére. Vyhrál trikrát Stanley Cup a zjavne ho žiadny Slováčok už dlho nezvládne, aby sa zúčastnil celého slovenského hokeja, uviedol Šatan na stretnutí na hokejslovakia.sk portale.



Slovenský hokejista Marián Hossa počas tlačovej konferencie k jeho zvoleniu do hokejovej Siene slávy NHL v kanadskom Toronte. Trenčín, 25. júna 2020.

Foto: TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Slovak hockey player Marián Hossa during a press conference for his election to the NHL Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Canada. Trenčín, June 25, 2020.

Photo: TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Marian Hossa to Be Inducted into Hockey Hall of Fame

Toronto, June 25 (TASR) – Slovak ice hockey legend Marian Hossa is among five former National Hockey League (NHL) players who were elected on Wednesday to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame later this year.

"It's an immense honor, and it means a lot to me. I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me. Hockey gave me a great deal in my life, and I'm grateful for such an accolade," stated Hossa.

The 41-year-old former winger is one of six NHL players who scored at least 20 goals in 15 seasons and gained at least ten points in eight play-off elimination series. He thus joined the club of hockey aces such as Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Jaromir Jagr, Brett Hull and Steve Yzerman.

Hossa managed to win three Stanley Cups with the Chicago Blackhawks in 2010, 2013 and 2015. He was widely regarded as one of the best two-way forwards in NHL.

Hossa will be the third player of Slovak origin to make it in the Hockey Hall of Fame. His predecessors are Stan Mikita and Peter Stastny.

As reported on TASR's Slovak news portal teraz.sk on the same day, the election of Marian Hossa to the NHL Hockey Hall of Fame also has delighted his former teammates Marian Gaborik and Miroslav Satan.

"I woke up in the morning, looked at the newspaper and was very pleased. I'm not surprised that Marian got to the Hall of Fame so soon. He deserves it for years of hard work, but especially for what he did in Chicago. Hat down. Hat down," said Gáborík.

Hossa played a total of 1309 basic matches in the profile, scored 525 goals and added 609 assists. In the playoffs, he entered 205 duels with a balance of 52 + 97. He is the only player in NHL history to play three seasons in a row in the Stanley Cup final for three different teams - Pittsburgh, Detroit and Chicago, in the "hawkish" jersey. "I would like to congratulate Marián on a great career. He has won the Stanley Cup three times and apparently no one in all of Slovak hockey will be able to match him for a long time," Satan was quoted as saying on the hockeyslovakia.sk portal.

SS Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in July

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 June 29, \$18,023.50 has been received from 146 donors. All Districts and Branches received invitations earlier this year to make a donation to the Appeal. Thank you, Branches 19, 35, 40, 41, 45, 112, 166, 173, 276, 450, 746, and 764 for your response. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2020 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2020 will be credited toward the 2021 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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

42nd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

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

Joseph Rimarcik, President

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold a branch meeting on Sunday August 16, 2020. The meeting will be both a virtual meeting and an in-person meeting. Virtual attendance is preferred. The in-person meeting will be held at the home of the branch president. It will begin with an outdoor viewing of the online celebration of the Holy Mass at 10am. Following the Mass, the branch meeting will be held. A luncheon will be arranged. Because of lunch arrangements and call-in instructions, RSVP by calling 412-341-1577 or by emailing FCSUBRANCH853@gmail.com. Masks and social distancing according to the Commonwealth of PA guidelines will

be followed for the in-person attendees. Branch 853 looks forward to reconnecting to our members while staying safe.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

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 postponed 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 19-OKRES MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA

Because of the strict Covid 19 issues in Ontario, Canada and for the protection of our members and guests, we will have to cancel this year's Annual Regional Picnic that was to be held on July 12, 2020. We would have celebrated 22 years of fun! Therefore our planned Semi Annual meeting will need to be postponed until such time the restrictions of the number of people who can gather is lifted and our Slovak Church hall is once again opened. A rescheduled Semi Annual meeting date is anticipated once the above rules are cancelled. Please keep checking upcoming issues of Jednota and District 19 announcements on the FCSU web site for any future information.

"Stay Safe!"

Anne Mitro, District Secretary

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

As Tour Group Cancels Travel to Slovakia, Virtual Visits to Ancestral Villages Possible

Even though Slovakia has been one of the most successful countries in Europe in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic with less than 30 deaths since March, Slovakia Heritage Tours has decided to cancel its September 2020 tour following in the steps of the spring and summer tour groups that canceled earlier.

"We waited until June to decide. Slovakia and Europe are opening but there is still too much travel uncertainty to safely take a tour group in September," explained Judy Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tour organizer. "We see a growing interest in Slovak-Americans in traveling to Slovakia and reconnecting with their roots, and many of us were very disappointed in not being able to go back to this beautiful country this year."

"I recommend that people wanting to travel in 2021 or in the future, use this year as their planning year while tour planners and genealogical researchers have time. We've been seeing an upsurge in people wanting to go back to their Slovak roots in recent years and there will be a scramble to plan and book tours when travel opens up again." She encourages people to get on mailing lists for future tours; work with families and tour planners to set up private family tours; do the genealogical research; and take advantage of the new virtual tools to get acquainted with your ancestral village and Slovak family before you travel.

Peter Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours, the Bratislava agency that has operated eight Slovakia Heritage Tours, has started a new one-stop service where he can help you plan your future private tour or personalize your group tour by introducing you to your family villages, as well as to your family, before you travel. "I have travelers who are disappointed to put off discovering their family roots to the future. They have been looking into their family history and they want to make the connection now," said Northup-Bennett. "This new service will let them continue their family exploration as they plan for their future visit."

Blazicek, who started his successful Best Slovakia Tours business with his wife Jane ten years ago, is one of many European tour operators who went from looking at a totally booked 2020 travel season to a complete turn-around in the early days of the pandemic in March. A people person who never tires of introducing Slovak-Americans to the culture, history, and beautiful countryside of their native land, Blazicek turned to communicating with his former and future travelers virtually. He began traveling to his favorite sites in Slovakia each week and producing virtual tours that you can follow on his Best Slovakia web site.

The feedback from these virtual tours led Best Slovakia Tours to the offering of a complete Heritage Services menu to help Slovak-Americans plan ahead to their future travel. People can contact Best Slovakia Tours to talk about their plans for future travel whether in personalized small groups, with organized tours like Slovakia Heritage Tours or in large group tours for organizations. Best Slovakia can connect people with genealogical services to research their family before they travel.

And, for the first time, future travelers, or people who never want to leave the comfort of their homes, will be able to hire Blazicek to do a video visit to their family village complete with overview drone footage that will capture the beauty of the countryside as well as visits to cemeteries, churches, home sites and special locations important to the history of the family and the region.



Peter Blazicek, right, leads a Slovakia Heritage Tour through Bratislava.

Peter, center, takes Slovakia Heritage Tour travelers through one of his favorite towns, Banska Stiavnica.



Peter, right, reviews the long history of Devin Castle, perched high above the Danube River.



At another level, for Slovak-Americans who already know their Slovak families or who have recently discovered living relatives, Blazicek is offering a day service where he will visit the village, connect with the family and serve as translator for a Zoom visit with the families on both sides of the Atlantic. The fees for both of these Heritage Services will be quoted on time and mileage rates so that families can plan for how much of a service they would like to have.

"I think this will be a great opportunity for people who want to get started with their connection to Slovakia now and be ready for when travel opens up," said Northup-Bennett. "It's also wonderful for people who, for whatever reason, won't be able to travel to Slovakia in the future. They'll still be able to visit their family villages, learn from Peter who will be able to answer their questions, and even meet with long-lost Slovak family who are usually very eager to reconnect with the ancestors of their Slovak family members who left generations ago."

To start preparing for a future trip to Slovakia, or a personalized video visit, check out Best Slovakia and its new Heritage Services at www.bestslovariattours.com or contact peter@bestslovariattours.com. To receive information (when it's ready) on the 2021 Slovakia Heritage Tour, contact Judy Northup-Bennett at slovariatheritagetours@gmail.com or 978-544-5144.

- Submitted by Judith Northup-Bennett, Branch 19

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

Entertainment in the
Social Club & line-up

- **Saturday, October 3rd:**
Solo guitarist, Greg Iskat
- **Friday, October 2nd**
Band, Dreamcatchers
- Light foods/snacks will be provided and drink specials.
- **Main Event: Saturday October 3rd**
- 1pm Mass at Christ Prince of Peace by Bishop Malesic 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!

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA MARCH 20, 2020 (TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer.

The Board of Directors Meeting is being held as a teleconference due to the current coronavirus pandemic.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:
 Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;
 Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President – present via telephone;
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;
 George F. Matta II, National Treasurer – present via telephone;
 Leonard Zilko, Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;
 Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;
 Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 –present via telephone;
 Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;
 Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 – present via telephone;
 James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;
 Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone;
 Thomas Ivanec, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone;
 Timothy Graves, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone;
 Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;
 Gary J. Matta, General Counsel - present via telephone;

READING OF THE CALL:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary as he presents each item on the agenda with appropriate comments or recommendations. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2019:

A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Martha Zavada-Wojcik to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held December 13, 2019, as presented. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES:

The President appointed the following committees:

DONATION COMMITTEE George Matta II James Marmol	RESOLUTION COMMITTEE Gary Matta Reverend Thomas Nasta
--	--

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Michael Lako to accept the appointment of committees.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:

The President read his welcome to the Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

President Rajec turned the meeting over to Vice President Harcar, who recognized President Rajec. President Rajec read his 2019 annual report. At the conclusion of the President's Report, a motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Reverend Thomas Nasta to accept the report as presented. Motion carried. The President's Annual Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

ACTUARIAL REPORT:

Edward DePersis and Nick DePersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Inc., joined the meeting via teleconference. Mr. DePersis presented his Management's Discussion and Analysis Report and reviewed the actuarial report for 2019 from Edward Cowman of Miller & Newburg. Mr. Edward DePersis stated that since each Board member received a copy of both reports, he will not read the entire report, but will just give the highlights. He gave a very extensive positive report for 2019. The FCSU continues to be a well-run profitable fraternal with outstanding financials as noted in our excellent RBC (Risk Based Capital) rating of 1061.

Edward DePersis gave a full financial report regarding the Pension Plan and stated that the FCSU is in full compliance with all federal regulations.

Our Actuary, Edward Cowman, recommended that a dividend be paid in 2020 using the same format as used in 2019. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Michael Lako to pay the dividend. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

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

OUTSIDE AUDITORS REPORT:

Stephen Niedenberger, CPA, of the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, joined the meeting via teleconference. Mr. Niedenberger presented his annual report to the Board. He indicated the scope of his work and noted no irregularities. He found all FCSU financial reports in excellent order. Mr. Niedenberger answered all the Board's questions to its satisfaction.

Mr. Niedenberger also presented the annual report of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., for the Board's review.

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, rejoined the meeting via teleconference to introduce Jon P. Willhite, Senior Vice President of UBS. Mr. Willhite gave a presentation outlining his services as an equity stock and institutional consultant in which the FCSU may take advantage of. Mr. Willhite's report will be further reviewed by the Executive Committee for recommendations.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019:**Executive Secretary's Report**

Kenneth Arendt presented the financial summary report for the year ending 2019 and answered the Board's questions.

The Executive Secretary also presented a comparison report between what was budgeted for 2019 and the actual expenditures.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

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

Following the reports, the President and the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions. The 2019 Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer George Matta II presented the Treasurer's Report for 2019 summarizing all the financial reports. The Treasurer's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors Leonard Zilko presented the 2019 Auditors' Annual Report. The Chairman's report stated that the internal auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything in order. The Chairman of Auditors' Report will be published in the Jednota Newspaper.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:

The President turned the meeting over to Andrew Harcar, Sr., President of Jednota, Inc.

Jednota, Inc.

The President of Jednota, Inc., Andrew Harcar, Sr., gave his report to the Board of Directors and answered all the Board's questions. Mr. Harcar also led a review of the financial report presented by CPA Stephen Niedenberger regarding Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc.

Jednota Properties, Inc.

The President then turned the meeting over to James Marmol, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., for his report. After his report, he answered the Board's questions.

The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature to the parent FCSU Board.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President recognized the Vice President, who presented his annual report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions. The report covered membership and marketing, seminars, agent recruitment, and information for the proposers to assist them in obtaining their state licenses. The Vice President stated we have over 339 active independent agents and we are continuing to recruit agents.

Membership and Marketing

The Vice President distributed a written report to the Board of Directors. The report contained a listing of the top proposers of insurance and annuity sales, a detailed report of sales production by districts, and a five-year comparison report broken down by districts.

The Executive Secretary stated our marketing firm is working on campaigns to recruit agents in the 27 states we are licensed in.

The Executive Secretary stated that our conversion to the new 2017 CSO's is almost complete and we are waiting on final approval from the states. Our marketing material and quote system on our

continued on page 22

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

continued from page 21

website will be updated once we have final approval.

The President and the Executive Secretary stated that seminars have not yet been scheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions that are in place.

The Vice President's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:

The Regional Directors and our National Chaplain presented their annual reports and answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Thomas Ivanec to accept the Regional Directors' and the National Chaplain's reports as presented. Motion carried.

All reports will be printed in the Jednota newspaper.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Director of Fraternal Activities Kevin Collins presented a summary of the 2019 activities to the Board of Directors.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated that he will host the Gingerbread Contest again in 2020 and will need to come up with better voting guidelines.

The Director of Fraternal Activities announced that the Bowling Tournament, March Madness, and the Kentucky Derby Hat Contest for this year have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Kentucky Derby Hat Contest will be held if the Derby is rescheduled.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated that the winners of the Young at Heart Coloring Contest have been selected and will be notified. The winners will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated that the Poconos Ski Trip and White-Water Rafting trip have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. There were also potential liability issues.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated that the Regional Picnic scheduled on June 28, 2020 in Novelty, Ohio has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The August 8, 2020 picnic in Millstone, New Jersey is currently on hold.

The Director of Fraternal Activities congratulated Region 4 as the winner of the FCSU Cup for 2019.

The Board congratulated the Director of Fraternal Activities, Kevin Collins on an outstanding job of introducing and promoting fraternal activities.

The Director of Fraternal Activities Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:

General Counsel Gary Matta gave his brief 2019 report and answered the Board's questions.

ACTUARIAL FIRM:

The President requested a motion to re-appoint Edward Cowman of Miller & Newberg as our Actuary. A motion was made by George Matta II and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

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

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three

members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society's Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

Pension Committee

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the current FCSU Pension Plan which was passed out to the Board of Directors for review. He stated that we are in full compliance with all federal regulations and answered the Board's questions.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of three independent professional educators. Applications for FCSU scholarships are being received and they will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Secretary also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Middletown Property

The President gave a final report of the sale of the property in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The President stated that a permanent easement held by FCSU for our memorial (approximately 1.5 acres) will remain on the property. Also he noted that the FCSU continues to own approximately 21 acres of vacant land.

Kroll Bond Rating Agency

The President stated that the meeting with Kroll Bond for a rating will be rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Museum Update

The President stated that he has interviewed a few designers for our museum. He will present the plans to the Executive Committee for review.

Branch/District Meetings

The Executive Secretary stated that branches and districts that needed to cancel their meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic should reschedule the meetings for the end of the year. Two meetings per year are still required to meet the requirements of the yearly stipend. If the coronavirus pandemic continues, changes to the requirements may be considered at the next Board meeting.

DONATION COMMITTEE:

The Donations Committee made its report to the Board of Directors. All requests were reviewed and acted upon.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

The Resolutions Committee made its report to the Board of Directors. All requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:

A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Thomas Ivanec to accept all the additional reports presented. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Damian Nasta to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

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

The Executive Committee Meeting is being held as a teleconference due to the current coronavirus pandemic.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President (via teleconference)
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (via teleconference)
George F. Matta II, Treasurer (via teleconference)
James Marmol, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the April 2020 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept

the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

NEW INSURANCE RATES

The Executive Secretary stated that the new 2017 CSO insurance rates are now available on our website along with the new insurance applications. The new marketing material is delayed due to the coronavirus. The material will be sent out to the branches/recommenders and agents once it becomes available.

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.

Executive Committee Meeting

continued from page 22

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Disbursements for the month of April 2020:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	144,449.87
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	36,100.30
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.

The President stated that a representative from MAI will join the next Executive Committee Meeting to review our investment portfolio.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report via teleconference to the Executive Committee. Mr. White presented many new investment opportunities that we may consider taking advantage of. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

UBS

Sean Hardy, representing UBS joined the meeting via teleconference. Mr. Hardy presented an extensive review of our investment portfolio with UBS and discussed new investment opportunities that we may consider taking advantage of. Following his presentation, he answered the Committee's questions.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White rejoined the meeting via teleconference to review the current FHLB rates that are available to us. Mr. White stated that we would possibly need additional bonds that would be accepted as collateral in order to secure any future advancements. Mr. White will do a study on the bonds available to see which ones we should purchase if additional collateral is needed.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Executive Secretary stated that no seminars have been scheduled to date in 2020 due to the coronavirus. The scheduling of seminars for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 is under review.

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 June.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kroll Bond

The President stated that the meeting with Kroll Bond, who is located in NYC, has not yet been re-scheduled due to the coronavirus.

2020 Membership Meet

The Membership Meet for 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 have been canceled due to the coronavirus.

Chairman of Auditors

The President stated that due to the passing of our Chairman of Auditors, Leonard Zilko, an ad for his replacement will be published in the Jednota.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta II to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Branch 24's Joseph and Charmaine Mandula Celebrated 60th Wedding Anniversary

On February 15, 2020, Joseph and Charmaine Mandula celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends at Saint Columbkille Catholic Church in Parma, OH, with church pastor, the Reverend Anthony J. Suso officiating.

Son Joseph III did a reading; daughter and son-in-law Donna and Bryan Westfall along with grandchildren Charlene and Bryan Alex took up the gifts. Following the Mass

All are members in Branch 24 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Joseph also is the grandson of one of the founders of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), George J. Onda.

- Submitted by Joseph and Charmaine Mandula

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY - PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

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

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

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

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

**Deadline Extended to
December 31, 2020**

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



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



FCSU FINANCIAL®
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@fcsu.com
www.fcsu.com

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

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

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

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

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

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

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



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



ARE YOU PLANNING ON PASSING YOUR ASSETS TO LOVED ONES?



Then consider

WEALTH TRANSFER
Wealth management

through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

Here are the benefits:

- Avoid income tax
- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

Interested? Call 800.533.6682 today!



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



FEATURES:

Pay ONE premium and have fully paid-up life insurance

Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more)

Excellent for Estate Planning or final expenses.

(Subject to normal underwriting)

FCSU SINGLE PREMIUM

Protect your family's future

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your Children, Grandchildren or Yourself.

To learn more go to www.fcsu.com or contact your local branch officer or call

First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800-533-6682.

