



# 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, AUGUST 12, 2020

NUMBER 5998

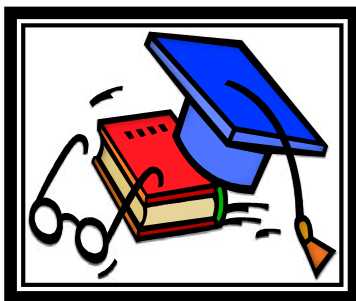
## Fraternalism Continues at the FCSU!



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*Details on p 11*



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*p 11*

## Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

Saint of the Day for August 15

The Story of the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary



Assumption of Mary, Guido Reni, 1652

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In following centuries, the Eastern Churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However by the 13th century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names—Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption—from at least the fifth or sixth century. Today it is celebrated as a solemnity.

Reflection

In the light of the Assumption of Mary, it is easy to pray her Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55) with new meaning. In her glory she proclaims the greatness of the Lord and finds joy in God her savior. God has done marvels to her and she leads others to recognize God's holiness. She is the lowly handmaid who deeply revered her God and has been raised to the heights. From her position of strength she will help the lowly and the poor find justice on earth, and she will challenge the rich and powerful to distrust wealth and power as a source of happiness

- From post on franciscanmedia.org



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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**August 23, 2020 - Twenty First Sunday  
in Ordinary Time A**

Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans is one that is filled with rich teachings and images as is the portion we hear today. While describing the great love of God in sending his Son to save both Jew and Gentile he breaks into a prayer about the greatness of God. In Paul's letters it is common for him to go into prayer as he writes about



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

the experience of God in our lives. This no doubt comes from his own experience on the road to Damascus. When we begin to reflect on the depth of love that God has for us and all that God does for us out of that love it can certainly move our hearts and souls to prayer and even song. I think of the couples I have meet celebrating their Golden, sixtieth or seventieth wedding anniversaries, as they recollect their weddings so many years ago they are noticeably filled with joy and are able to share even the smallest of details. These are beautiful moments that are never forgotten and the love we are meant to experience from God is far greater than these, and as Saint Paul writes cannot be adequately described, let alone understood.

In the Gospel we have the beautiful profession of faith of Peter proclaiming to Jesus and the others; "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This was a bold move on the part of Peter and no doubt came from his experience of Jesus. He had become so confident in who Jesus is that he was willing to publicly profess it to Jesus in front of the other apostles. This incident shows Peter's growth of faith in Jesus. It wasn't long before this that Jesus walked on water to the apostles while they were out in their boat. He called Peter to walk on water but Peter's faith wavered and he began to sink. With Peter's profession in this passage it could be said that Peter finally did walk on water, if not literally he did so figuratively with this bold statement of who Jesus is.

The readings provide us with the opportunity to reflect on who Jesus is. Like Paul we can recall how the Lord has touched our lives. We might have times we can recall in which we were touched in such a powerful way that it strengthened our faith or even brought us from no faith or a weak faith to a stronger faith. An experience that changed the direction of our lives in that it led us to take our faith more seriously. These are moments that could be buried within us as time moves by, but they are encounters that we should pause to remember and celebrate. The recollection of these moments gives us strength at challenging times throughout our lives. When Saint Paul was rejected and imprisoned, he no doubt recalled his conversion experience which strengthened him and renewed his faith, hope and joy. Peter's profession of faith in the context of his earlier failure of walking on water is a lesson for us to keep growing in faith.

This all comes down to the question Jesus posed to the Apostles today;

"Who do you say that I am?" Like Peter may we be able to profess that; "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And like Saint Paul may we be able to pray; "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

**124 – 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time– August 30, 2020**

This summer has been marked by a great deal of suffering on the part of many people. Well over 100,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the United States alone, with hundreds of thousands more around the world. In addition, we are still living under a degree of restriction regarding our freedom to move about and engage in life and business as we knew it, and many among us look to the future with deep concern on account of jobs lost and finances in tatters.

At such times we naturally tend to reflect on hope, and even run the risk of losing our sense of hope. The prophet Jeremiah was in such a position when we meet him in today's first reading. Jeremiah was angry and questioning God's providence because, although he preached the word of the Lord faithfully, Jeremiah was constantly persecuted and had been thrown into prison. Like many of us today, Jeremiah demanded to know how God's apparent actions, or lack thereof, could be squared with his understanding of God as all-good, all-powerful, and all-loving.

If we join with the prophet and ask why we suffer despite our faith in God, our Lord supplies no easy answer but in fact raises the stakes for us in the Gospel. There he announces to his disciples that they should count on suffering, not only despite their faith in him, but precisely because of their faith in him. The Lord challenges his followers: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matt 16:24-25).

Having faith does not thus mean having a life of constant happiness and contentment; rather, first it means trusting in Jesus in both happy and tragic moments of life. Next, it means learning what is truly important in life, and with this lesson in mind, having a deeper appreciation for the "folly" of the cross. Why does it have to be this hard? Why does God not remove suffering altogether from our midst, whether it be caused by COVID-19 or any of the other myriad sources of human misery?

God does not make suffering go away in the manner of the gods and goddesses of pagan mythology who are said to have rescued some persons from distress and thrown obstacles at others. These so-called "gods" are described as acting in their own interests, wooing and punishing human beings by turns. God rather acts in our interests; to put it simply, he loves us, and thus makes himself vulnerable to us, even enduring suffering for us—for this is the nature of love.

Jeremiah sensed his own vulnerability resulting from his faithful service to the Lord, and he sought to escape it. Every person who reflects honestly on his or her life does the same at times, recoiling from the pain of life and repeating with reference to ourselves the words of Peter: "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." In this present season of suffering we are all learning that self-giving love is seen beautifully in the generous "helpers," the nurses, EMTs, physicians, and so many others who are willing to risk suffering to save complete strangers.

As Christians we find the perfect sign of God's love for us when we look to the cross and see in the crucified Christ one who was sinless but suffered freely to redeem us from sin. Mindful that he walked this path before us, let us resolve not to lose hope, but to be sources of renewed hope for all whom we encounter.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

## 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, SEPT. 9	MONDAY, AUG. 31
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14	MONDAY, OCT. 5
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11	MONDAY, NOV. 2

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

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**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

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

### You Are Not a Mistake

Shame. It's not a problem you hear discussed often, but it can have an insidious effect on your mind, heart, and soul. Kristin Maher knows this first-hand because she is in therapy to deal with feelings of shame and notes that people aren't always clear on what exactly it means. During a recent interview on "Christopher Closeup," Kristin explained, "There's a difference between shame and guilt. If you feel guilty about doing something, that means you feel guilty about the action. Whereas, shame is more personal. It's not that you made a mistake; it's that [you think], 'I am a mistake.'"

When Kristin noticed her son using shame language about himself, she hoped to address it quickly, so she met with a school counselor to ask about resources. That's when they both discovered there was next to nothing that dealt with shame and kids. So Kristin set out to create something herself. In a group therapy role playing exercise once, Kristin was asked to play the doomsayer, the person who could only see negative aspects about herself. Jokingly, she referred to herself as "The Awfulizer." Then, she thought that would make a great children's book someday. Well, "someday" has arrived. Kristin recently released the illustrated story "The Awfulizer: Learning to Overcome the Shame Game," about an eight-year-old boy who struggles with this problem.

Kristin notes that mental health disorders are on the rise in children, and shame likely contributes to that statistic. She also believes that a family's faith life can play a positive role in overcoming the shame game. Kristin said, "We're created in God's image, so at our core, we are good and beautiful. Shame is a lie that wants to tell you that you're broken and beyond reach. I explained once to my husband that I always believed that Jesus forgave me, but I could never forgive myself because I felt broken. I know God loves me, but sometimes I have a hard time loving myself. That's what shame did to me...I can't explain how much purer or brighter my relationship is with God once I can see myself the way He sees me. Once I could break the glasses of shame and [realize], 'I am created in His image, and I am worthy' – that has been a real blessing for me."

One way in which Kristin and her husband, Catholic singer-songwriter Matt Maher, promote this idea with their kids is by playing "The Table Game" on a regular basis. While everyone is together eating dinner, each person has to say something positive about all the other people at the table, then end by saying something positive about themselves. "I think it's great," said Kristin, "because it teaches you to see beautiful things in those around you, but also remember what you like about yourself."

Ultimately, Kristin has one goal for kids who read "The Awfulizer": "My biggest hope is for [children] to realize that everyone struggles with this. Shame grows in isolation and in the dark. The more we can bring it to light, the more we'll be able to [fight it]...I've actually had a lot of adult friends who have read it say, 'I've learned just as much as my kid.' The idea that just because you make a mistake doesn't mean you are a mistake – that's something that we need to have spoken over us a couple of times in our lives to remind ourselves that we are not defined by what we have done."

## Message from the National Chaplain

Fifty years ago this past June I joined 260 of my 8th grade classmates in graduating from our parish grade school. (Yes, you read that number correctly. The Class of 1970 consisted of 124 boys and 137 girls. Some Catholic grade schools today do not have that many students in their total enrollment.)

Back then, the network news each day would give a casualty report on the Vietnam War. The day's tally of our servicemen killed, wounded, and missing in action, along with the numbers from the start of the war, was posted for all to see. The daily updates helped to stir up within the minds of many young American men at that time the fear of being drafted and becoming another statistic.



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

It seems that every day since the beginning of the year we are presented with a daily update of people by city, county, state, country, and the world who became victims of COVID-19 and those who died because of it. The extraordinary amount of attention being given to this is causing many to fear for their families, their future, their lives, and more.

Research on the Internet shows that at the end of July, slightly over 4.29 million of the nation's population of nearly 330 million (1.3%) have contracted the disease and 149,000 (00.45%) have succumbed to it. Of course, this is sad, but were you aware that in 2019, the National Safety Council reports close to 4.4 million people needed medical attention after receiving injuries from being in an automobile accident? Did you know the American Cancer Society estimates that 1,660 people die each day in the United States from cancer, a number that projects to nearly 607,500 by the end of the year? The nightly news doesn't give a daily update of those numbers.

The focus on daily COVID-19 updates is contributing to people to become fearful of one another. We are living with the consequences of these fears. Businesses are closing and people are losing their jobs. Parents do not want to send their children to school and teachers are afraid to teach in a classroom. Graduations, weddings, summer vacation plans were cancelled or severely downsized. We are told to wear masks just about everywhere, even for a quick 30 second stop at a convenience store to buy some milk. Fear even caused our churches to shut down from the middle of March to the beginning of June.

Even though Catholics were deprived of attending Mass and receiving the consolation of the Sacraments from Lent though the Easter Season, our Catholic faith teaches us that we are not to live in fear. We are to live in joyful hope at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. This joyful hope comes from what Pope Francis encourages us to do daily. He tells us in The Joy of the Gospel we must have a personal encounter with Jesus each day. This leads us to a close and personal relationship with Jesus. Having such a relationship, all our fears are left behind.

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain

## 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.

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

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

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020**

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

*Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. (telephonically).*

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to September 11, 2020.

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# 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 Albina Maria Žapka, who as a young child growing up in a northern Slovak village, was instilled with a sense of God's creation and His presence and love.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM



## Her Story: Sister Albina Maria Žapka

Sister Stanislaus, who later returned to her secular name, Sister Albina Maria Žapka, was born in Horný Vadičov, a small village about eight kilometers from Kysuca, Trenčianska župa, Slovakia. Her father, who came to the U. S. before World War I, saw to it that she and her mother also came to this land of freedom and prosperity. When she was still a child, her parents instilled in her a sense of God's creation and His presence and love. If today's parents counted this lesson significant, the dangers of climate change would not be a major issue in our world.

When she was still a toddler, her mother passed an orphanage and saw the Sisters taking care of the orphans. It occurred to her that if her two-year-old wanted to minister to orphans when she became a Sister, she would have no objections. It is worthy of note that when Sister Albina became a Cyrilite, one of her assignments was to the Immaculate Conception Orphanage in Middletown, PA, where she served as prefect of the boys. Just one instance of the hand of God operative in her life.

When she was a little older, just seven, Albina heard two women having a conversation about "nuns." Since the word was totally unfamiliar, she asked her mother its meaning. Her mother gave her this definition: "a girl who renounces all that is material and worldly and dedicates herself totally to Jesus Christ." In one of her later writings, Albina exclaimed "What a sublime and heavenly statement this explanation was for me." She also admitted that in her teen years and young adulthood she did give some consideration to religious life.

Though Albina was in earnest about embracing religious life, she was advised to wait and see, to go to school or get a job. At the time she was living in Bridgeport, CT, and attending Saints Cyril and Methodius parish where Father Gaspar Panik served as pastor. For six years Albina worked in three different factories where she learned how hard people had to work to earn a living. She admits that her vocation was tested—"I enjoyed my independence and having my own money. I even received proposals of marriage, but always in the back of my mind was the thought, 'Religious life is best for me.'"

When Albina finally decided to take the step she had been considering for some time, she told her employer, Mr. Campbell, of her plans. "God bless you, Albina," he said, "but I hope you realize convent life is tough." She admitted that for a moment she was frightened by his comment. Since it was the Great Depression, she naturally feared being unemployed if she did not persevere in religious life so she asked Mr. Campbell if she would be able to get her job back. When he replied, "I will take you back," she breathed a sigh of relief.

Sister Stanislaus did persevere and over the years was involved in a variety of ministries. She taught in the parish schools and Sunday morning religious education classes and served as a teacher's aide. Sister was also a sacristan and baked altar breads, served as a dietitian and did other domestic duties and engaged in clerical work and sewing. As was already mentioned, she was boys' prefect at Immaculate Conception Home in Middletown.

Like the other Sisters from Slovakia who visited their home towns on their jubilees, she had the opportunity to visit Horný Vadičov. Later she traveled to Canada to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre. Her most memorable journey was to Rome to attend Mother Katherine Drexel's beatification. Because her name had been drawn at random, she was able to travel with the group from the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA.

Sister claims that her retirement years were as active as her years in ministry. She collected cancelled stamps for the benefit of the missions and also the congregation. Sister provided spiritual reading for prisoners and collected religious pictures from Christmas and Easter cards which she sent to the Slovak and Czech Republics and also to the St. Jude Ranch for Boys and Girls. She visited at the Danville State Hospital and crocheted baby sets for Birthright and the Maria Hall Craft Department. Sister also found fulfillment in writing letters to the ill and those in distress.

To add to her accomplishments, Sister Albina Maria was a published author. The January 1995 issue of Sisters Today had her article entitled "A Precious Witness, My Crucifix," which told of her visit to Slovakia during the Communist regime. An area newspaper had a supplement in the 1998 SUSQUEHANNA SENIOR that featured the joy and fulfillment she experienced in her stamp ministry. Also in 1998 the GOOD SHEPHERD published an article on her stamp ministry entitled "Fruitful Retirement Days" and another called "Revisiting My Roots" in which she reminisces about her childhood in Horný Vadičov. Youngsters, she wrote, were taught to practice the Presence of God and to observe the Ten Commandments. They saw firsthand the living out of Christian principles and spiritual practices. When the church bells rang, for instance, men and women stopped to say the Angelus. In order to learn responsibility youngsters were given

In her retirement, Sister collected cancelled stamps to benefit the congregation and the missions



chores to perform suited to their age. "For example, I was given the task of caring for our geese. I loved the goslings in particular and hugged them to myself while mother goose watched me and her offspring with pride." The older children were permitted to take care of the cows in the pasturelands.

Sister admitted that she "found caring for cows a weighty responsibility, very trying at times, especially during rainstorms." One hot July day when she was nine her cow Prosie suddenly disappeared. She panicked, but schooled in prayer, she went to the top of the greenwood (haj in Slovak) and fervently prayed the Our Father. When she had finished imploring the Lord for Prosie's return, she saw the cow prancing down the road. Prosie continued until she found a cool stable, a shady respite from the heat. "I entered the stable, too, and proceeded to discipline Prosie for her reckless behavior and for failing to remain in the pasture where she knew she should be. I thought to myself that my mother would discipline me in this way if I were so disobedient." Sister shared a number of other tales which were both inspiring and humorous.

Sister Albina retired to Maria Hall in 1993. She died on March 2003, at age 93, and her funeral was celebrated on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25. On that day at the very time of the funeral in Danville, memorial prayers were offered up in Stratford, CT by Sister Madonna, Mary, Sister Albina's sister and her friend, Helen.

The Stained Glass Windows of the Basilica of SS Cyril & Methodius, Danville:

*A beautiful reflection on the history of the congregation and the Sisters from the Central European nations who immigrated to serve it*

Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

## THE NEW COLOSSUS

by Emma Lazarus

*Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning  
to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your  
teeming shore.*

*Send these, the homeless, the  
tempest-tossed to me,*

*I lift my lamp beside the  
golden door.*



When I know I am to give a guided tour of the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, at our Motherhouse, I ask the Lord to send a sunny day. I want the sunlit blue, reds, and greens in the stained glass windows to illumine the glories of our faith and the history of our congregation founded in 1909.

Naturally it is impossible to provide details of all the windows so I highlight a few that are most meaningful and underscore what is important for us to understand today.

After examining the window of Our Lord and the Blessed Mother situated in the front of the Basilica, I turn to the window of our holy patrons, Saints Cyril and Methodius. The bottom panel in the Central lancet shows the mother of the two brothers blessing them before they embark on their journey to central Europe. It is not difficult to imagine what emotions surfaced in all three and perhaps other family members who may have been present. Neither is it difficult to wonder about the experiences they had as they made the journey from Thessalonica to Greater Moravia—without the benefit of a jet liner.

The next window I point out is the window of Slovak history situated on the right in the rear of the Basilica. This window contains the window most central to the issue I want to highlight. Once again in the bottom of the middle lancet we see the first immigrants landing on

our soil in 1870. Even though there is no movement in the window one seems to sense what the family must have experienced as they moved forward to Ellis Island with what little they carried with them from their homeland. In the background, however, is a comforting sight, the Statue of Liberty and the words of Emma Lazarus imprinted there, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses..." Significant also is what is depicted in the panel directly above, the Church of St. Joseph, Hazleton, PA, a spiritual refuge for all who have left their homeland and whose faith will be supported and encouraged in their new home.

The next significant window that bears a special message for us is in the choir loft. To the right is the window of St. Gregory, founder of Gregorian Chant. Then there is the clear depiction of the message of this series of essays: Holy Mother Church is holding her cloak open to protect all classes of people in her motherly care.

At a time when immigration is a controversial issue the window of Slovak history enables us to look back at the history of the congregation and the Sisters from the Central European nations, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, and Austria-Hungary who entered a young religious community and provided it with a remarkable dedication to God, service to their religious Sisters as well as the people they encountered in their daily ministry.



# Book Corner

## Osudové príležitosti: Životný príbeh Zoltana Georga Meška

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

Dvadsaťe storočie je už za nami dve desaťročia. Pre mladšiu generáciu sa môže zdať, že udalosti, ktoré formovali tých predchádzajúcich sto rokov, sú dávnou históriou. Ale nie sú. Tvar nášho dnešného sveta je produktom udalostí, ktoré označili jedno z najdôležitejších a najsmrteľnejších období v histórii. Nikdy sa nestalo toľko pozitívnych a negatívnych zmien, ktoré sa udiali tak rýchlo, tak hlboko a všadeprítomne ako v prírodných vedách, spoločenských vedách, strojárstve, medicíne, vojne a bohužiaľ, tiež v politike. Historici nám povedia, že pokiaľ ide o ľudské správanie, na slnku nie je nič nové, že sa ľudia v staroveku správali inak ako dnes. To môže byť pravda, čo je pravdepodobne dôvod, prečo diela gréckych a rímskych autorov s nami stále rezonujú. Treba však pochopiť, že dvadsaťe storočie so sebou prinieslo príležitosti pre zdravší a dlhší život, väčšiu mobilitu, lepšiu a rýchlejšiu komunikáciu, ale aj väčšiu sociálnu kontrolu, masové politické správanie a totalitné režimy, ktoré by sa mohli dotknúť a zničiť jednotlivca, žijúci spôsobom, ktorý bol v predchádzajúcich obdobiach neznámy. Toto storočie nás však tiež naučilo, že následky tohto vývoja na ľudské správanie nemôžu zničiť ľudského ducha a určite ho nemôžu donútiť do beznádejného podrobenia. Toto je posolstvo z životopisov a autobiografií jednotlivcov, ktorí žili v tomto osudovom storočí. Recenzovaná kniha rozpráva taký príbeh.

Tu netreba zdôrazňovať, že obyvatelia Slovenska zažívali v 20. storočí sociálne, ekonomické a politické otrasy. Obrysy slovenských dejín sú známe už dnes; boj o prežitie tejto krajiny a jej obyvateľov vytvára fascinujúci príbeh. Dejiny ľudí sa lepšie pochopia, keď existujú individuálne výpovede, ktoré rozprávajú nielen príbehy o prežití, ale ktoré nám dávajú zmysel pre prostredie, v ktorom žili, a osobné výzvy, s ktorými sa stretli. Pridajte k týmto neočakávaným udalostiam, ktoré nútia odísť, hľadať nový život v inej krajine, ktorej jazyk, spoločnosť a spôsob života sú úplne odlišné od tých vlastných; toto sa potom stáva príbehom dvoch krajín.

Životný príbeh Zoltána Georga Meška, narodeného v Košiciach, je zábavne rozprávaný v autobiografii, ktorú autor preložil zo slovenčiny, ktorá znie ľahko a zanecháva vám pocit, že sedíte pri ohni a počúvate príbeh rozprávaný priateľským spôsobom. Už ako úspešný lekár na Slovensku v komunistickom režime (a nebol členom komunistickej strany) rozumel spoločnosti a jej politickému systému dostatočne dobre na to, aby si uvedomil, že inváziu Československa v Auguste 1968 nepovažuje za dobré, možno aj jeho rodina bola ohrozená. Príbeh tejto autobiografie je, ako opustil svoju rodnú zem, s akými problémami sa on a jeho rodina stretla, ako sa vyvíjal jeho život v USA, kde sa nakoniec uzemil. Jeho opis situácií, v ktorých sa ocitol, ľudí, s ktorými sa stretol, miest, kde skončil, a jeho zmysel pre údiv a údiv nad tým, čo vidí a prežíva, robí nielen príjemné čítanie, ale tiež patrí do autobiografického žánru. To veľmi prispieva k spoločenskej histórii ak nášmu porozumeniu spoločnosti a ich ľudí. Toto je ďalší príbeh úspešného slovenského emigranta na Západ, o človeku, ktorého duch zostal neohrozený a ktorý v dôsledku toho mohol významne prispieť vo svojom odbore v USA. Je to povzbudivo dobré čítanie.

Zoltán G. Meško, Vyznanie emigranta. 21. august 1968, Bratislava: Marenčin, 2016, www.marencin.sk.

ISBN 978-80-8114-731-9

## Fateful Opportunities: The life story of Zoltan George Meško

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

The twentieth century is already two decades behind us. To the younger generation, it may almost seem like the events that shaped those previous hundred years are ancient history. But they are not. The shape our world is in today is the product of the occurrences that marked one of history's most crucial and deadly periods. Never have so many developments, positive and negative, happened so fast, so profoundly, and so ubiquitously as those in the natural sciences, the social sciences, engineering, medicine, warfare, and alas, also politics. Historians will tell us that there is nothing new under the sun when it comes to human behavior, that humans in ancient times behaved no differently than we do today. This may be true, which is probably the reason why works from the Greek and Roman authors still resonate with us. What must be understood, however, is that the twentieth century brought with it opportunities for a healthier and longer life, more mobility, better and faster communications, but also greater social control, mass political behavior, and totalitarian regimes that could touch and destroy individual lives in ways unknown in earlier periods. Yet, that century also taught us that the consequences of all these developments on human behavior could not destroy the human spirit and certainly not force it into hopeless subjugation. This is the message from biographies and autobiographies of individuals who lived during that fateful century. The book under review tells such a story.

It need not be stressed here that the inhabitants of Slovakia experienced social, eco-

conomic, and political upheavals in the twentieth century. The contours of Slovak history are known today; the struggle for survival of that country and its people make a fascinating story. The history of a people is better understood when there are individual accounts that tell not only tales of survival, but that give us a sense of the environment in which they lived and the personal challenges they encountered. Add to that unexpected events that force one to leave, to seek a new life in another country, whose language, society, and way of life are quite different to one's own; this, then, becomes the tale of two countries.

The life story of Zoltan George Meško, born in Košice, is told entertainingly in an autobiography, translated from the Slovak by the author, that reads easily, leaving you with the feeling that you are sitting by the fireside listening to a tale told in a friendly way. An already successful physician in Slovakia under the Communist regime (and he was not a member of the Communist Party), he understood the society and its political system well enough to realize that the August 1968 invasion of Czecho-Slovakia bode little that was good, perhaps even put him and his family at risk. How he left his native land, what challenges he and his family faced, how his life unfolded in the USA, where he finally landed, are the story in this autobiography. His description of situations in which he finds himself, of people he meets, of the places where he ends up, and of his sense of wonder and amazement at what he sees and experiences make not only delightful reading, but also belong to an autobiographical genre that contributes greatly to social history and to our understanding of societies and their people. This is yet another story of a successful Slovak emigrant to the West, of a man whose spirit remained undaunted, and who, as a result, was able to make an important contribution in his field in the USA. It is an upliftingly good read.

Z. George Meško, Confessions of a Refugee. A Journey to the Unknown: August 21, 1968, Pittsburg, PA: Dorrance Publishing Co. 2020, www.dorrancebookstore.com. ISBN: 978-1-6461-0851-0 and eISBN: 978-1-6461-0051-4.

In cooperation with Slovak Professionals and Slido, the Slovak-American Cultural Center hosted a virtual launch for Dr. Mesko's book on June 30th at 7pm EST.

## Missed it?

To access the recorded version please go to:

<https://www.fcsu.com/community/culture/>

## Also by Dr. Kirschbaum, in cooperation with the Slovak-American Cultural Center:



## Honoring Historical Personalities: M.R. Stefanik

Join us for a fascinating and interactive virtual discussion with renowned historian Professor Stanislav J. Kirschbaum.

August 2020

Tuesday, August 25

7:00-8:00 pm EST via Slido

25

To attend, go to: [www.Slido.com/Stefanik](http://www.Slido.com/Stefanik)



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# Branch 746 hosts Virtual Watch Party of "Love and Mercy"

The COVID-19 pandemic did not keep Branch 746 from organizing "virtual" events and activities for its members! The constant message throughout the intense period of this pandemic has been "adapting" to unusual and unprecedented circumstances. All of us needed to approach normal daily activities in different ways -- shopping, eating out, going to the doctor, and even attending church services have all changed! Normally our branch would have organized a trip to the movie theatre to watch a newly released Catholic film. Due to the circumstances, we brought activities to our members -- literally to their doorsteps through the United States postal service! With the releases of the DVD of "Love and Mercy," we decided to share this brilliant movie with our active members, encouraging them to watch with their families and reflect on the life of Sister Faustina and the importance of Divine Mercy especially in these times. We sent DVDs or books to 23 families. At our virtual meeting, we had the opportunity to share our insights and thoughts about the movie!

As an overview, the movie "Love and Mercy" is about the life of Saint Faustina Kowalska, whose visions of Jesus Christ inspired the Roman Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy. The movie premiered in December 2019 in select theatres and has recently been released on DVD and available through Amazon Prime. The movie was filmed in the US, Poland and Lithuania, and is a compelling hybrid of dramatization and documentary-style storytelling that will leave viewers in awe of this spectacular account of unknown facts and recently disclosed documents that shed new light on the vision of Faustina.

The Divine Mercy is prayed by the Slovak Rosary Society of Holy Family Church with a special devotional novena during the Lenten season. However, for some it was the first time they heard of Sister Faustina's message. Milan and Mary Olexa found the film to be very interesting especially since they were not familiar with the story of Sister Faustina. They were moved by her determination to fulfill her calling and the importance of love and mercy.

The movie also strongly resonated with Mary Ann Ranahan who notes, "Love and Mercy is the true story of St. Faustina, and it was quite inspirational! The movie showed how God appeared several times to St. Faustina with the message to all of humanity of His love and mercy no matter how difficult and evil the world can seem to be at times. God wants to remind us through His 'Divine Mercy' to trust in Him, to spread the message of peace; and, by means of the image He asked St. Faustina to paint of Him as He appeared to her, He would grant many graces to all souls drawn to Him, in spite of their sins. Miracles happen. God can touch our lives, and 3 o'clock, as shown in the movie, is the Hour of Great Mercy." Tim Ranahan added, "Watching this movie enlightens our faith in the goodness of God."

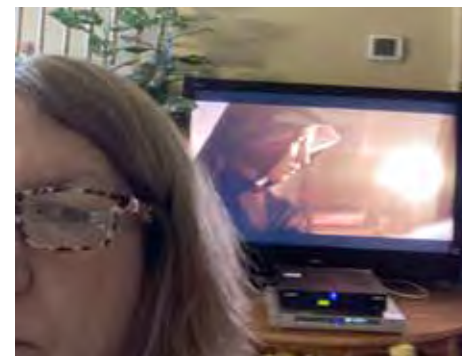
The Rada family say they pray the Divine Mercy novena often. The movie gave them additional insight into the life of Sister Faustina. Joanne Polt comments that it was "a very inspirational and impactful movie!" Emilia Filak found it to be interesting that the message of Divine Mercy, at first, was banned by the Catholic Church but despite the ban, devotion spread throughout the



Joanne Polt



Lucia Kollarova



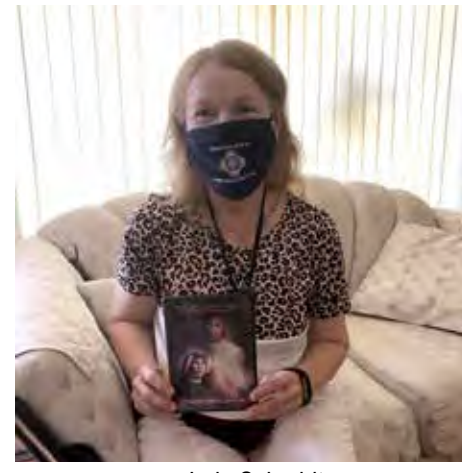
Mary Kapitan



Milan and Mary Olexa



Danka Mikulaskova



Lois Schmidt



Sabina Sabados



Anne Zofchak



Mary Tkach



Gloria Waldron



Emilia Filak



Jule, Bart, and Stephen Rada

world.

According to Mary Kapitan, "the incredible story of Sister Faustina is thought-provoking and inspirational. The DVD documentary explained how Maria Kowalska, a young, intelligent Polish girl, became God's 'Apostle of Mercy,' delivering the Divine Mercy message and devotion to the world as directed by Jesus Himself. Sister Faustina documented her conversations with the Lord in her diary. The well-known image of 'Divine Mercy' Jesus was painted by Eugene Kazimirowski according to Sister Faustina's specifications, which were based on her many encounters with Jesus Himself. It is astounding to note that the face of Jesus of the painted portrait is EXACTLY the image from the Shroud of Turin! In collaboration with Father Michael Sopocho, Saint Faustina showed and taught

the world how to obtain God's mercy, to trust in God's mercy, and to show mercy to others. Divine Mercy Sunday (also known as the Feast of the Divine Mercy) is celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter."

Anna Balas, Lucia Kollarova, and Mary Tkach read the book "Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul" which is based on the contents of Sister Faustina's diary which she kept from 1934-1938. This excerpt from the diary is perhaps the most touching: The Lords says, "My daughter, look into My Merciful Heart and reflect its compassion in your own heart and in your deeds, so that you, who proclaim My mercy to the world, may yourself be aflame with it." We pray that as we gaze into the Merciful Heart of Jesus, may we reflect



Mary Ann and Tim Ranahan

His mercy in our hearts and radiate it to others. May our lives be aflame with His mercy. In these difficult and trying times, let us daily pray, "Jesus, I trust in You."

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

# Fraternalism in Action



## Branch 764 Answers the Call: Honoring Interred Military Vets

On the evening of June 2, 2020, in keeping with the ideals of community service, members of Branch 764 met at All Souls Cemetery in Bazetta Township in Trumbull County, Ohio to honor the military veterans interred there.

One of the branch's officers, George Yurichek, on one of his frequent visits to the cemetery, noticed that many of the American flags marking the graves of veterans were askew, having been knocked from vertical by either high winds or possibly groundskeepers with mowers. Whatever the reason, the feeling was expressed that these flags should be straightened, especially with the July 4th holiday approaching.

The members of the branch spent several hours roaming the aisles of the cemetery, straightening the flags. The sight of hundreds of American flags standing at attention was rewarding, as was the honoring of those whose graves are adorned by those flags.

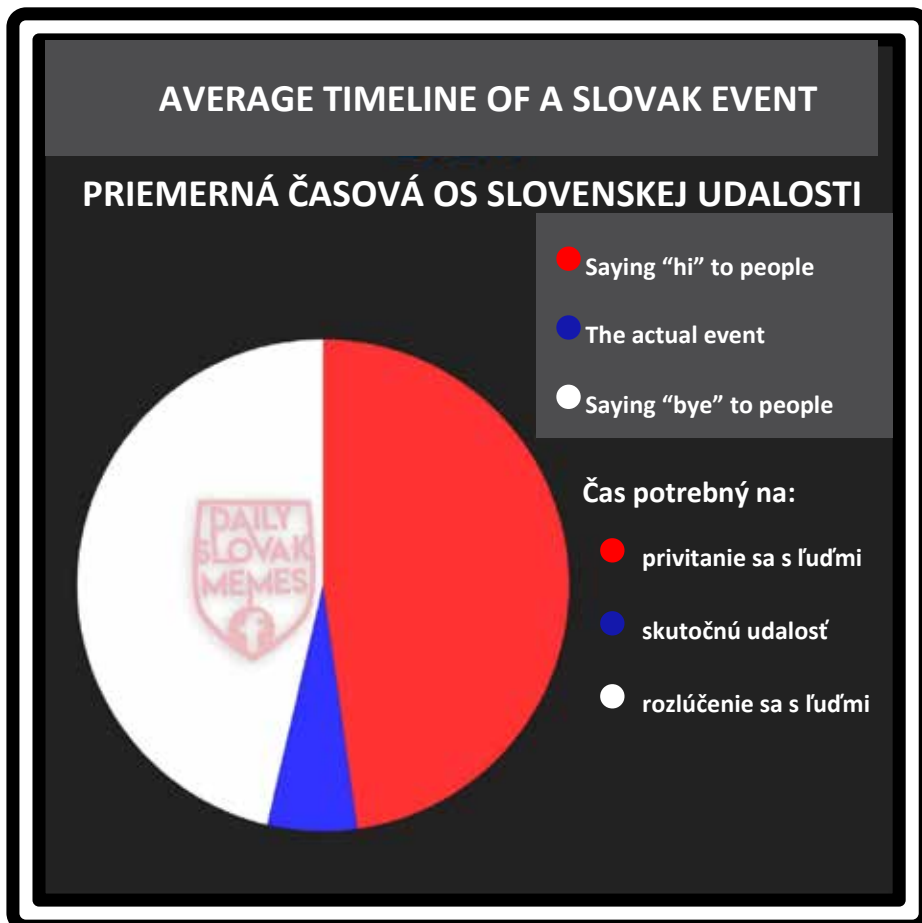
With the pandemic limiting what we can do socially within our branches, strolling in the cemetery was an acceptable substitute, and we also noted while reading the headstones a large number of deceased who'd been members of our branch.

- Submitted by William Hrusovsky, Branch 764 Recording Secretary

Good to remember when we are able to meet again ...



Je dobré si pamätať, keď sa môžeme znova stretnúť ...



## Branch 181 Answers the Call: Donates to Pennies from Heaven Fund

The Pennies from Heaven Fund of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh recently received donations from the St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United, PA. The first donation of \$500 in April 2020 was presented on behalf of Branch 181 by Robb and Lindsay Patty and son, Reid. Since the Annual Family Picnic had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the officers of Branch 181 decided to send in a second donation of \$500 in June 2020. At a previous meeting, the branch had discussed donating to a worthy local organization. Robb Patty, son of Darlene Patty, President of Branch 181, suggested the Pennies from Heaven Fund. Lindsay Patty is a Registered Nurse working as a Clinical Leader in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital. She sees first-hand the difficulties families face when their child is hospitalized.

Ashley Laber, Development Coordinator, Community Giving, of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation explained that the Pennies from Heaven Fund was created to ease some of the financial hardships parents face when their child is hospitalized for a serious illness or injury – and help to keep families together when they need each other the most. Funds can cover expenses such as overnight kits, brown bag lunches, household bills, car repairs, travel needs, out-of-pocket expenses, child care for siblings, or other expenses that will allow a family member to spend more time at the hospital with their child.

Branch 181 invites other FCSU branches, districts or individuals to donate any amount to the Pennies from Heaven Fund. Contact Ashley Laber at 330-806-5386 or ashley.laber@chp.edu for more information, visit the website - www.penniesfromheavenpittsburgh.org or mail donations directly to Pennies from Heaven Fund, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, 4401 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA , 15224.

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Secretary



Robb, Lindsay, and Reid Patty with donated check



Reid Patty holding big check



Branch 181 officers- From left - Ed Mizikar, Vice President, Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary, Darlene Patty, President, Richard Mizikar, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

## FCSU Fraternalism in Action: 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 181 and Branch 764 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.

# News From Slovakia

## Čaputová: Potrebujeme Štefánikovu vôľu na dnešné obete

Bratislava / Kosariska, 21. júla (TASR) - Uplynul čas, keď niekto mohol vziať Štefánikovu legendu slovenskému ľudu; je o to dôležitejšie, aby sme sa ho sami nevzdali, ale žili a konali v duchu jeho odkazu, uviedla prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová vo svojom príhovore počas osláv z príležitosti 140. výročia narodenia generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika v Kosarisku (Trenčiansky región).

Podľa prezidentky aj dnes veľmi potrebujeme Štefánikovu jasnozrivosť „aby sme neprehliadli naše historické možnosti“ a jeho vôľu obetovať sa, aby sme ich naplnili. „A ešte častejšie si musíme pripomenúť, ako chápal demokraciu - ako vašu povinnosť si priemyslieť niečo skôr, ako to urobíme; ako povedal, uistite sa, že svojou činnosťou „nepoškodujete svojmu susedovi, národu, spoločnosti.“ To znamená prevziať kontrolu nad svojimi vášňami a nielen hovoriť, ale aj pracovať na riešení problémov,“ uviedla prezidentka.

„Milan Rastislav Štefánik spĺňa všetky definície a kritériá veľkej historickej osobnosti,“ uviedla prezidentka a zdôraznila, že „talentovaný chlapec z Kosariska“ prekonal zlé podmienky vďaka svojmu mimoriadnemu talentu na uplatnenie „nevyčerpatelnej snahy preraziť sa“ a dosiahnuť najvyššie vzdelávacie, vedecké a duchovné ciele svojej doby.

„Aj keby bol Milan Rastislav Štefánik známy iba tým, čo dosiahol ako astronóm, vynálezca, fotograf, meteorológ, cestovateľ, letec a vojak, stále by sa rátal medzi veľkánov slovenského národa a hovorili by sme o ňom ako o fenomenálnom človekovi,“ uviedla a poznamenala, že dnešná verejnosť považuje Štefánika za najväčšieho Slováka.

Prezidentka vo svojom príhovore zdôraznila aj úlohu Štefánika pri formovaní Československa. Počas vojny sa vedec stal politikom a diplomatom, ktorý bol po troch rokoch generálom francúzskej armády a osobnosťou najvyšších sociálnych kruhov. „Bol to on, kto otvoril dvere parížskych salónov pre Tomáša Garrigua Masaryka a Eduarda Beneša, aby mohli hľadať podporu pri založení Československa,“ uviedla.



Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová predniesla prejav počas osláv pri príležitosti 140. výročia narodenia generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika v Kosariskach 21. júla 2020 (foto TASR)

President Zuzana Caputova giving her speech during celebrations to mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of General Milan Rastislav Stefanik in Kosariska on July 21, 2020 (photo by TASR)

## Caputova: We Need Stefanik's Will for Today's Sacrifices

Bratislava/Kosariska, July 21 (TASR) – The time when someone could take Stefanik's legacy from the Slovak people has passed; it's all the more important that we ourselves don't renounce him but live and act in the spirit of his legacy, President Zuzana Caputova stated in her speech during celebrations to mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of General Milan Rastislav Stefanik in Kosariska (Trenčin region) on this date.

According to the president, today we very much need Stefanik's clairvoyance “so that we don't overlook our historical opportunities” and we need his will to sacrifice in order to fulfil them. “More often we also need to be reminded of how he understood democracy – as your duty to think before doing something; as he said, to be sure that by your action ‘you aren't harming your neighbor, nation, society.’ This means taking control of your passions, not just talking but also working to solve problems,” she said.

“Milan Rastislav Stefanik meets all the definitions and criteria of a great historical figure,” stated the president, pointing out how a “talented boy from Kosariska” overcame poor conditions through his extraordinary talent for applying “an inexhaustible effort to break through” and achieve the highest educational, scientific and spiritual goals of his time.

“Even if Milan Rastislav Stefanik was known only for what he achieved as an astronomer,

inventor, photographer, meteorologist, traveler, aviator and soldier, he would still be counted among the greats of the Slovak nation, and we would talk about him as a phenomenal man,” she said, noting that today's public perceives Stefanik to be the greatest Slovak.

In her speech, the president also emphasized Stefanik's role in the formation of Czechoslovakia. During the war, the scientist became a politician and diplomat who after three years was a general in the French army and a figure in the highest social circles. “It was he who opened the doors of the Paris salons for Tomas Garrigue Masaryk and Eduard Benes so that they could look for support for setting up Czechoslovakia,” she said.

## Viac ako 40 miliárd EUR dostupných pre Slovensko z EÚ

Bratislava, 21. júla (TASR) - Slovensko dostane v nasledujúcich rokoch od Európskej únie (EÚ) 34,1 miliárd EUR, uviedol premiér Igor Matovič (OLaNO) po návrate zo samitu EÚ v Bruseli v tento deň a dodal, že krajine by malo byť k dispozícii spolu 40 miliárd EUR spolu s zvýhodnenou pôžičkou z fondu EÚ na oživenie.

Slovensko by preto malo byť schopné minúť rekordnú sumu na projekty v priemere viac ako 6 miliárd EUR ročne. Podľa predsedu vlády bude Slovensku k dispozícii 8 miliárd EUR ako nevyužitá peniaze zo súčasného programového obdobia, 7,5 miliardy EUR z fondu EÚ na oživenie a 18,6 miliardy EUR z rozpočtu EÚ na roky 2021 - 27. Okrem toho bude môcť Slovensko čerpať pôžičky až do výšky 6,8 miliardy EUR z fondu obnovy, zatiaľ čo jeho vlastné spolufinancovanie projektov by malo dosiahnuť 2,9 miliardy EUR.

“Toto nie je dobrá, ale skvelá správa pre Slovensko,” uviedol Matovič pri hodnotení výsledkov samitu. Poznamenal však, že bude ťažké čerpať tieto peniaze. „Jedna veľká úloha leží pred nami na Slovensku - vytvoriť zodpovedné reformy, do ktorých by sme tieto peniaze investovali,“ zdôraznil.

Lidri EÚ sa v utorok ráno dohodli na sedemročnom rozpočte EÚ a pláne obnovy vo výške viac ako 1,82 bilióna EUR. Museli prekonať veľké rozdiely v názoroch na fond na oživenie hospodárstva, ktorého cieľom je reštartovať ekonomiky krajín zasiahnutých koronavírusom. Nakoniec prijali kompromis v podobe zníženia grantov na 390 miliárd EUR z celkového balíka 750 miliárd EUR navrhnutého slovenským premiérom.



Predseď vlády Igor Matovič (foto TASR)

Prime Minister Igor Matovic (photo by TASR)

## Over €40 billion Available to Slovakia from EU

Bratislava, July 21 (TASR) – Slovakia will receive €34.1 billion from the European Union (EU) in the upcoming years, said Prime Minister Igor Matovic (OLaNO) upon arriving back from the EU summit in Brussels on this date, adding that a total of €40 billion should be available to the country along with a soft loan from the EU's recovery fund.

Slovakia should thus be able to spend a record sum on projects worth over €6 billion per year on average. According to the prime minister, €8 billion will be available to Slovakia as unused money from the current program period, €7.5 billion from the EU's recovery fund and €18.6 billion from the EU's 2021-27 budget. In addition, Slovakia will be able to draw loans of up to €6.8 billion from the recovery fund, while its own co-financing of projects is planned to reach €2.9 billion.

“This isn't good but great news for Slovakia,” said Matovic when evaluating the results of the summit. However, he noted that it will be difficult to draw this money. “One huge task lies ahead of all of us in Slovakia – to create responsible reforms in which to invest this money,” he stressed.

EU leaders agreed on the EU's seven-year budget and a recovery plan amounting to over €1.82 trillion early on Tuesday morning. They had to overcome big differences in opinions on the recovery fund, which is aimed at restarting the economies of countries hit by coronavirus. They eventually adopted a compromise in the form of reducing grants to €390 billion from the total package of €750 billion proposed by the Slovak prime minister.



*Editor's Note: in the July 8, 2020 Jednota, in the second installment of Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius featuring Sister M. Claudia, we learned their founder Father Matthew Jankola described those who came to the US from Slovakia as "transplanted linden trees." Here, we learn more about the significance of the Linden tree.*

## The Linden Tree and Slovakia

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

Global Slovakia has been offering a series of webinars, and the most recent was about "The Linden and Slovakia." The Linden Tree, or lipa in Slovak (pronounced "leepa"), is a national symbol of the Slovaks, and the webinar overviewed the history of how the Slovaks came to value this sturdy tree with heart-shaped leaves. The Zoom webinar lasted about an hour, including time for several questions by attendees. Dr. Zuzana Palovic and Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyová hosted the program for the non-profit organization and presented some appropriate power point slides to illustrate their lecture.

### Ancient Roots

The talk began by emphasizing the importance of symbols in culture. Symbols are a constant among us, and many of traditional symbols draw from ancient pagan mythology. Companies use symbols for their marketing and patent their rights to symbols. For instance, they mentioned that the symbol for Nike athletic wear comes from the Greek goddess of victory. The Romans borrowed and continued the use of mythological symbols, just changing the name of the gods and goddesses. The Romans associated the Linden with Venus, their goddess of love and beauty, and compassion.

Ancient European tribes also adopted the Linden as a symbol. Germanic tribes considered the lipa tree a symbol of truth and harmony. Celts regarded it as a sign of friendship and victory. In early Slavonic culture and in Great Moravia, the Slavs regarded the lipa as a symbol of femininity and love. People even married under the linden tree for good luck. Pagan Slavs viewed it as a sacred tree of the goddess Lada. They thought tree also possessed healing properties to for the ill. Linden tree groves were sacred place and Slavic tribes agree not to attack each other in such places. Political and other important meetings took place under the tree so that they would reach wise and balanced decisions. The tree would also supposedly protect them lightning and other maladies.

### Great Moravia and the Magyars

When Saints Cyril and Methodius brought Christianity to Central Europe, they incorporated ideas of the folk to fit the new religion they were introducing. Being intelligent and prescient men, they studied the culture, norms, language, and spiritual beliefs of the Slavs. They realized that conversion would proceed smoother if they accommodated local customs. Thus they converged the two belief systems, for example, by connecting the pagan goddess Lada, the Queen Mother, with the Virgin Mother Mary, the Mother of Jesus. They also built churches in Linden groves and portrayed them as reaching out to heaven. Thus the ancestors of the Slovaks would plant a tree next to their churches. It is no coincidence that nearly all churches in northeastern and central Slovakia have a Linden Tree on their grounds!

Christianity also brought modernization and made Great Moravia more acceptable to the powerful states of Europe. Unfortunately, the Great Moravian Empire fell apart after Svätopluk (870–894) died, as his 3 sons quarreled with one another over territories and power. Then the nomadic Magyars invaded the area and a century of instability and power shifts followed. When the Magyars finally settled down, they too adopted Christianity and in 1000 A.D., a new state formed, the Kingdom of Hungary.

The Magyars realized that they would stabilize their kingdom if they treated the native Slavic peoples with respect. Having been a nomadic tribe, the Magyar rulers learned how to farm live off the land from Slavic peoples, and to this day, agricultural Hungarian terms come from Slavic root words. One Hungarian king wanted to show his respect for Slovaks, so he planted a Linden Tree in Bojnice, which still stands there, and one of the oldest Slovak trees. Thus for most of the history of Hungary, the Magyars had embraced cultural diversity. Latin was the language of official communication, and there was no attempt to force their culture on other peoples in the kingdom.

### Magyarization in Hungary

A relatively good relationship existed between Magyar and Slovaks until the 19th century. Stirred up by the French Revolution of 1789, nationalist Magyars became less tolerant of other nationalities in the kingdom and tried to force their own language and culture through the Magyarization of the 20 different ethnic groups and 13 languages in the state. Centralization in a modern state they argued meant "one culture, one state, one nationality." This led to barring the official use of non-Magyar languages and limiting public office and careers only to those who Magyarized. The ruling Magyars utilized the educational system to try to extirpate non-Magyar cultures. Among the symbols the Magyarizers went after was the Linden Tree!

Why? A Slovak national movement had also gelled in the mid-19th century. Ľudovít Štúr led the movement and codified a Slovak literary language which all Slovaks might understand. Interestingly, the followers of Štúr chose the Linden tree and its leaf as the Slovak symbol of identity.

### The Linden Tree in Czechoslovakia

World War I ripped apart the empires of Europe and Austria-Hungary. A new Czecho-Slovak state emerged in 1918, led by President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and the Slovak General Milan R. Štefánik. While Štefánik tragically died in a plane crash in May 1919, Masaryk realized the need to unify the new state with symbols and he chose the Linden to become incorporated as a national symbol of the new country. It linked the Slovaks and Czechs in a common symbol from the ancient Medieval state – Great Moravia – and helped draw Slovaks and Czechs closer together with this symbol. Thus in the new state, we find the lipa in various insignia for offices, in government documents. Masaryk also initiated a Linden tree planting campaign, and many were planted on the 10th anniversary of the republic in 1928. There are even Linden trees



**A 300 year old  
Lipa tree in Lipany,  
Slovakia.**

around Štefánik's grave at Bradlo, and around Bratislava castle.

In recent years, the Czech and Slovak governments attempted to identify these trees when they commemorated the 100th of the state's founding in 1918. Ceremonies in both Czech and Slovakia celebrated the 100th anniversary with the planting a trees of liberty (Stromy Slobody). Some Slovaks and Czechs abroad followed suit. For example, in October 1918, the Czech and Slovak School of Pittsburgh planted a liberty tree in the city's Shenley Park.

### Totalitarian Times

But darker times did put the Linden tree in a shadow. When World War II shattered Czecho-Slovakia, the Nazi regime attempted to use the Linden tree for its own propaganda purposes. The Czechoslovak government in exile adopted the lipa as its symbol and called its headquarters in London Villa Lipa. The assassins who carried out Operation Anthropoid to kill the Nazi butcher Reinhard Heydrich used the lipa as their symbol.

Likewise during the communist era, the Soviets abused the Linden tree as a symbol of Slavic unity in order to solidify their domination of Czechoslovakia and other countries with the symbol. The Czechoslovak communists allowed the engraving of one crown coin (koruna), which featured a girl planting a Linden tree.

### Liberation

After the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Slovakia and the Czech Republic split in 1993 with no real ceremony or a referendum that some had called for. Having achieved independence, the new Slovak prime minister, Vladimír Mečiar, set a course that pulled the new country away from Europe, and corruption became rampant. Mečiar used symbolism of the lipa in the 1998 election, as he handed out Linden tree seeds during his campaign, and urged people to plant them. He still lost the election, and Slovakia returned closer to Europe, eventually joining NATO and the EU in 2003. But it was obvious that political leaders grasped the power of the lipa as a symbol.

Finally, we should mention that the lipa has stood out as a symbol of hope and peace, and Slovak traditions find the lipa in many places we often do not look. A common folk custom was to plant a Linden tree when a baby girl is born, for it would stand as a symbol of her femininity. Since lipa wood is malleable, woodcarvers often used to carve cradles and coffins, symbolic of those turning points at the beginning and end of the cycle of life. The tree represented one's communion with the earth and the soil. A tree has roots, just as our families do, and through family tree branches, we can trace back the lineage of our ancestors.

Today people still plant lipa near their houses for protection and the tree gives them a feeling of relief and happiness, a sense of being protected. Traditionally, the common folk and the women of the family would often gather the lipa blossoms in June. Our baby (plural form of baba = grandmother, pronounced "bubba") knew to use the flower blossoms of the lipa for their medicinal properties, as they were useful in combating colds and the flu.

The tree also was believed to have magical, superstitious qualities. For instance, Zuzana noted that her baba used to walk around a lipa so that her grandchild would recover when she was ill. Gabriella even mentioned that her mother's wedding dress had a violet Linden leaf hand sown into it, but her mother did not know who embroidered it, nor why. Their lecture helped explain why.

Finally, today the lipa remains a continuing symbol in Slovakia, both among the people and used by government. It is imprinted on Slovak passports, used in government offices, and we can see portrayals of the lipa in poetry, fairy tales, folklore, kroj (folk costume), and songs. It is also the symbol of the Ministry of the Interior, and on the uniforms of Slovak officers. The lipa still lines many streets across Slovakia. In Bratislava, we find the tree at the fountain in front of the parliament, and on Freedom Square. One may even find Linden trees planted in American communities where Czechs and Slovaks settled.

Thus the lipa has continued to be a constant symbol in Slovakia and the Czech Republic for many centuries. The people have an attachment to it, even they do not always understand why. The webinar and the book below help explain why the lipa has been and continues to be a powerful symbol of the Slovak and Czech peoples.

### To Learn More

If one wishes to learn more about Slovakia's Linden Tree tradition, the authors' thoroughly researched book is available for purchase: Slovakia: The Legend Of The Linden (Slovensko: Legendy Lipy). It offers a comprehensive overview of the history of Slovakia using the importance of the Linden Tree (lipa) and its heart-shaped leaf as a theme. It is marvelously and colorfully illustrated. One may buy a hard-copy printed on high quality paper from the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library Store in Cedar Rapids, Iowa: 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404, Phone: 319-362-8500 <https://store.ncsml.org/product/slovakia-the-legend-of-the-linden/>. The book is also available at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Slovakia-Legend-Palovic-Gabriela-Bereghazyova/dp/178808067X>. It is also available as an e-book.

One may also visit the Global Slovakia website for more information, and Youtube has short videos about the book: <https://globalslovakia.com/the-legend-of-the-linden/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWZvdbxwEo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D32TVte2o5o> and <https://www.treeoftheyear.org/Slovak>.



# PLAY THE LOSER'S POOL

## 2020 with the FCSU

### PRIZES:

1st Place - \$750

2nd Place - \$500

3rd Place - \$250

### RULES:

- 1) Each player picks one NFL Team they think will lose that week.
- 2) All picks are "Straight Up" and are not using any point spread.
- 3) If your pick (team) loses that week, you advance to the following week.
- 4) If your pick (team) wins, you are eliminated from the pool.
- 5) Pre-plan projections: You can only pick a team once to lose thruout season & playoffs.
- 6) Games that end in ties will count as your team winning and you will be eliminated.
- 7) If you miss the deadline to enter your team for that week, you will be eliminated.
- 8) Deadline for submitting your team TBD each week based on start of first NFL game.
- 9) Always use email on your submitted entry form; site blocks any other email from you.**
- 10) Email addresses can only be used once. No exceptions.**
- 11) Check email and spam folders often to find your game site invitation to register.
- 12) You must be 16 years or older & an FCSU member in good standing to play.
- 13) You must be registered on game site by 5:00PM (EST), Wed, Sept 9, 2020.**



### ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Branch : \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* MUST INCLUDE BRANCH # TO PARTICIPATE**

Street Address: City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, Fl. 32712

**Please note: this entry form must arrive by 5:00PM (EST) Sat, Sept 5, 2020**



**“THE MOST EXCITING TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS”  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL FCSU KENTUCKY DERBY HAT PHOTO CONTEST**

Ladies & Gentlemen, Children of All Ages: Help us celebrate the 146<sup>th</sup> running of the Kentucky Derby by submitting a picture of yourself in your Derby Hat and attire!!!

Listed below are some suggestions; however the more creative, the better the chance of winning.

Ladies - examples:

- Babuška
- Pillbox
- Fascinator
- Beret
- Cocktail

Men - examples:

- Klobuk
- Fedora
- Bowler
- Cowboy
- Panama

Examples of attire: cocktail dresses for the ladies; seersucker suits for the men

**ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

**FEMALE: 3 CATEGORIES: 40 – older; 16 – 39; 15 – younger**

**MALE: 3 CATEGORIES: 40 – older; 16 – 39; 15 – younger**

**FAMILY: *Sorry there will be no family category this year due to social distancing***

**PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$250

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$150

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$75

**WINNERS** - To be announced in Jednota

**RULES:**

- 1) All entries must be postmarked no later than **11:59pm, Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**
- 2) All Contestants Must BE:
  - Members of F.C.S.U.**
  - And in Good Standing**
  - To be eligible for prizes.**
- 3) **ENTRIES WITHOUT a Branch Number filled in will be disqualified.**
- 4) **Contestant must be holding a current Jednota 2020 Newspaper in picture.**
- 5) All pictures must be 8 x 10.

**Any other sizes will not be accepted.**

- 6) Please write on back of the photo:

**Name**  
**Branch Number**  
**Entry Category**

- 7) Mail to:

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



**ENTRY FORM:**

**NAME:**

**Certificate Number:**

**Branch Number:**

**Category:**

**Street Address:**

**City, State, Zip**

**Phone Number:**

**Email**



It is with great sadness that we have canceled the Mass scheduled for September 13, 2020, in honor of our 55th Anniversary of Jednota's Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, we feel it is best not to put people in harm's way. An online option will be available. Please see our President's information below. And mark your calendars for September 12, 2021, at 11:30AM in the Crypt Church. Thank you to all the faithful who come each year to celebrate this special day in Slovak history in our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, honoring the Patroness of Slovakia.

**Katherine Nowatkoski ,  
Branch 856 President**

**From the Desk of the President:**

Look for our announcement on our website at <https://www.fcsu.com/events/> for a virtual Mass to be held on September 13, 2020 to replace the cancelled Mass that that was originally scheduled at the Basilica in Washington D.C. Please note that we have already scheduled the Basilica Mass in Washington DC for September, 2021.



**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](mailto: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.

**Editor's Note: Until we can travel there again, let's all enjoy these terrific travelogues from Slovakia's news agency TASR - Summer 2020**

## Bratislava Enchants You with History and Natural Beauty



Bratislava Castle and Saint Martin's Cathedral beneath. (Photo by TASR)

Bratislava, July 17 (TASR) – A breath of history and natural landmarks can be found in Slovakia's capital Bratislava. The Celts are known to have built a settlement here, while traces of Ancient Rome have been also discovered in the city.

Between the second and fourth centuries a Roman fortification called Gerulata was located in what is now the borough of Rusovce, while a settlement called Villa Rustica emerged near what is now Dubravka. Carnuntum, which was the capital of Upper Pannonia with a population of 70,000 at the time of the Roman Empire, is less than 20 kilometers from Bratislava in what is now Austria.

**THE CASTLE:** This is a truly dominant feature of Bratislava, dating back to pre-Slavic times and a later major Slavic state now known as Great Moravia. The castle was reconstructed during the reign of Holy Roman Empress and Queen of Hungary Maria Theresa (18th century), before being heavily damaged by fire in 1811. It was renovated in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**THE OLD TOWN:** The sights include Saint Martin's Cathedral, the Primate's Palace, St. Michael's Tower (which offers a great panoramic view of the Old Town) and in fact the entire old part of the city with the unique local atmosphere of the 'Bratislava korzo' (promenade). Museum aficionados can visit the Slovak National Museum, City Museum and Transport Museum, the latter of which showcases old cars and locomotives, adjacent to the Main Railway Station. Diverse pieces of art can be viewed at the Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava City Gallery and other more minor venues.

**DANUBE RIVER:** Straddling one of Europe's main rivers, Bratislava also offers walking opportunities on the banks of both the Old Town side and the side that is home

to Petržalka – Slovakia's most populous borough. The Old Bridge, recently renovated and used only by trams, pedestrians and cyclists, connects the Old Town and riverside forests on the other side of the Danube.

**GABCIKOVO/CUNOVO WATERWORKS:** The huge water surface of the Danube River, resembling a small sea, has become the home of water birds, while the Danubiana gallery of modern art, sitting midstream, offers noteworthy cultural opportunities. The area also connects the borders of three European states – Slovakia, Hungary and Austria – and features a memorial to the Iron Curtain.

**DEVIN CASTLE & MORAVA RIVER:** The ruins on a solid rock towering above the confluence of Morava and Danube Rivers recalls the glorious past of the ancient Devin Castle, which also dates back to pre-Slavic times. The nearby Sandberg nature reserve provides a home to near passerine bird the European bee-eater, while Devinska Kobyla hill and forests along the Morava River represent unique biotopes.

**KAMZIK, LESOPARK:** Kamzik hill (440 metres) with its TV tower provides part of the local ambience. The hill and the Zelezna studienka ('Iron Little Well') tourist area are connected by a cableway.

**PAJSTUN, BIELY KRIZ:** The forests near Bratislava are replete with tourist and cycling paths, which also lead to Pajstun Castle in Borinsky kras, riddled with caves, and Biely Kriz ('White Cross') located on a Small Carpathian peak above the Raca viticultural borough.

**ZLATE PIESKY, SENEC:** Bathing in the Zlate piesky ('Golden Sands') lakes on the outskirts or in Slnecne jazera ('Sun Lakes') in the nearby town of Senec are also among the leisure activities on offer in Bratislava.

## The Wine Route from Bratislava to 'Slovak Rome'

Bratislava/Trnava, July 17 (TASR) – The Small Carpathian Mountains provide a picturesque backdrop for Slovakia's capital Bratislava, with 3,000-year-long winegrowing traditions flourishing on their southeastern slopes, mainly in the Bratislava borough of Raca, in the towns of Svaty Jur, Pezinok and Modra, and in other villages including Vinosady and Limbach. More than two dozen towns and villages now make up the Small Carpathian Wine Route.

Wine has been produced on the slopes of the Small Carpathian Mountains by the Celts, Romans, local Slovaks and, later in the Middle Ages, also by migrants from Italy, Austria and Bavaria.

**SVATY JUR:** This small town close to Bratislava boasts two churches – Saint George's and Holy Trinity – the remnants of



'Burciak' degustation (i.e., an appreciative tasting) in a vineyard in Raca. (Photo by TASR)

a fortified settlement called Nestich, dating back to the late first-millennium Slavic empire now known as Great Moravia, and the marshy Jursky Sur nature reserve.

**PEZINOK:** With a history dating back to 1208 as Terra Bozin, Pezinok features a vintage center with a promenade resembling those usually seen at seaside resorts. It has rich wine and mining traditions, both on dis-

play in local museums, and wine cellars. The Pezinska Baba ski resort is located in the mountains above Pezinok. The wine village of Limbach nestles on the nearby slopes of the Small Carpathian Mountains.

**MODRA:** The town with the largest acreage of vineyards in the area. The center of Modra is dominated by a statue of Ludovit Stur, a 19th-century national revivalist and codifier of the Slovak language. It was in Modra where Stur accidentally shot himself in the leg during a hunt before Christmas 1855 and died as a consequence of the injury three weeks later. The town is also known for its unusual ceramics, which have been produced there since prehistoric times.

**CERVENY KAMEN CASTLE:** This 13th-century castle towering above the village of Casta attracts tourists, offering them an excellent view and the chance to sit down and

relax for a while in its courtyard and adjacent meadows.

**TRNAVA:** Now a regional capital with a population of 65,000, Trnava has been nicknamed the 'Slovak Rome' since it became the seat of Hungary's primate and the center of Catholic life in Royal Hungary following the Ottoman occupation of much of the kingdom in the 16th and 17th centuries. A Baroque sculpture of the Holy Trinity and a Renaissance City Tower built in 1574 are the two main features of the central Holy Trinity Square. The monumental Saint John the Baptist's Cathedral, which was constructed in 1640, was the first early Baroque building in Slovakia with an original wooden altar. Even older are the Gothic Saint Nicholas's Basilica (built between 1380-1421), called the 'Thick Church' by the locals, the Assumption Church and Saint Helen's Church.

## Castle of 'Bloody Countess' Guards Northern Tip of Small Carpathians

Bratislava, July 20 (TASR) – The northern part of the Small Carpathian Mountains includes the highest peak of the mountain range, Zaruby (altitude 768 metres above sea level), and Cachtice Castle, which in the 16th and 17th centuries belonged to Countess Elizabeth Bathory, listed by The Guinness Book of World Records as the most prolific female murderer ever.

**DOLANY, DOLNE and HORNE ORESANY:** The villages of Dolany (formerly Ompital), Dolne and Horne Oresany – all part of the Small Carpathian Wine Route – are nestled in the south-eastern foot of the northern part of the mountain range. The recreation resort of Majdan is located next to a water reservoir near Horne Oresany. The settlement of Rybaren is further down in the valley of the Parna River, featuring a network of ponds for breeding salmon-type fish, built under the auspices of Count Palffy in the 19th century. A narrow-gauge railway was constructed here relatively recently for transporting logged wood. The entire network of railways, which ran up to Dobra Voda, had a total length of 70 kilometers.

**SMOLENICE:** A Thracian-Scythian fortified settlement was built on Molpir hill above the village no later than in the 6th century BC, while the area was also inhabited during the era of the late first-millennium state now known as Great Moravia. A castle was constructed there in the 14th century to watch over the so-called Czech Road, connecting the Hungarian capital Buda with the Bohemian capital Prague. The castle later fell into decline but was restored by the family of Count Palffy in the first half of the 20th century. Smolenice Castle now serves as a congress center for the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV). The Smolenicky kras karst includes the Hlboca Valley, with the only waterfall in the Small Carpathian Mountains, while Driny Cave can be found near the resort of Jahodnik. Tourist paths also lead to the ruins of Ostry Kamen Castle ['Sharp Rock'] and the picturesque village of Losonec.

**BUKOVA, KORLATKA:** Bukova is a lakeside resort embedded in captivating mountainous land. The ruins of Korlatka Castle are located close to the nearby village of Rozbeh.

**DOBRA VODA:** Apart from the ruins of Dobra Voda Castle, this village is also linked to priest and poet Jan Holly (1785–1849),



Cachtice Castle. (Photo by TASR)

nicknamed the 'Slovak Homer', who spend his final years there.

**NAHAC:** Even though many people in Slovakia grin at the name of the village, which can be translated into English as 'naked man', the village is actually named after the autumn crocus, also colloquially known in English as 'naked ladies'. The local familiar name for the plant has a similar origin, referring to the fact that the flowers of this plant emerge from the ground well before the leaves appear. A few kilometers further up in the mountains are the ruins of Saint Catherine's Monastery, dating back to 1618, which the locals now call by the diminutive name 'Katarinka'. The site, linked to several miracles, fell into decline after Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II shut down hundreds of contemplative monasteries in the late 18th century. The site is now being slowly reconstructed by enthusiasts.

**VRBOVE:** This village located ten kilometers from the well-known spa town of Piestany boasts a leaning bell tower. Other sights of interest include the 14th-century Saint Martin's Church and a Jewish synagogue built in the Moorish style.

**CACHTICE:** The ruins of Cachtice Castle guard the northernmost point of the Small Carpathian Mountains. The castle is most famously linked to the story of the 'Bloody Countess' Elizabeth Bathory, who became notorious for torturing and murdering many of her young maids.

**BREZOVA POD BRADLOM, BRADLO:** Bradlo hill is the site of the tomb of and large memorial to Milan Rastislav Stefanik, one of the most instrumental politicians involved in the setting up of Czechoslovakia in 1918, who was killed in an aircraft crash near Bratislava in 1919

## SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal Continues in August

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 July 31, \$20,608.50 has been received from 154 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, 290, 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.

42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

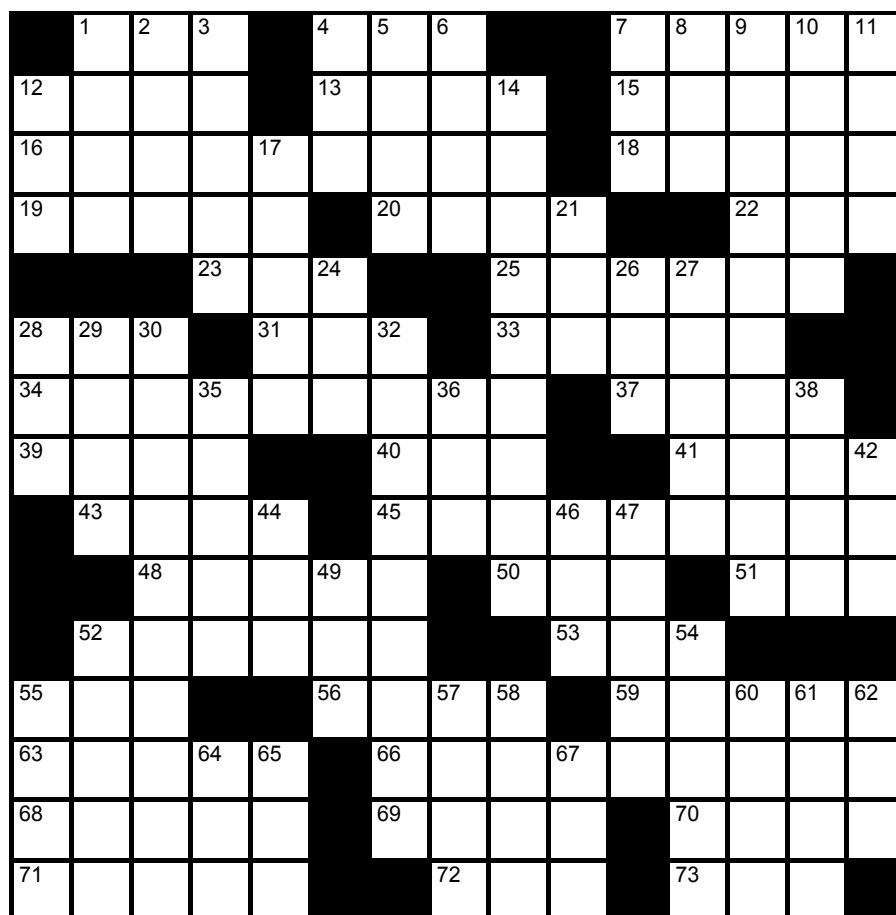
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Jednota Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Driver's need
- 4 "\_\_\_ boom bah!"
- 7 Assumed name
- 12 Pessimist's action
- 13 Inactive
- 15 Tubular pasta
- 16 Check for errors
- 18 Adjust, as laces
- 19 Star in Perseus
- 20 Copycat
- 22 Hunter's quarry
- 23 Door opener
- 25 Sci-fi weaponry
- 28 \_\_\_ mode
- 31 Dig in
- 33 Young seal
- 34 Elm Street dream
- 37 Used to be
- 39 Medea rode on it
- 40 Luau souvenir
- 41 Tableland
- 43 Synagogue chests
- 45 Teeny-weeny
- 48 Continental money
- 50 Tool with teeth
- 51 Behold
- 52 Heavy metal
- 53 Golfer's goal
- 55 Photo \_\_\_ (media events)
- 56 Small amounts
- 59 Handrail post
- 63 Pantheon member
- 66 Juicy fruit
- 68 Pilotless plane
- 69 Gin flavor
- 70 Condo division
- 71 Father Christmas
- 72 Female with a wool coat
- 73 Nancy Drew's beau

**Down**

- 1 Demoiselle
- 2 In awe
- 3 Moved back and forth
- 4 Paul McCartney, for one
- 5 Creative spark
- 6 Certain hockey shot
- 7 Abbr. in car ads
- 8 Loser at Antietam
- 9 Translates
- 10 Dye-yielding shrubs
- 11 Pursue
- 12 Health resort
- 14 Alpine plant
- 17 Armada
- 21 Arena shout
- 24 Air potato
- 26 Patch up
- 27 Fragrant resin
- 28 Santa \_\_\_\_, Calif.
- 29 Old Italian money
- 30 Hostility
- 32 Amulets
- 35 Nonsense
- 36 On Soc. Sec.
- 38 To be, to Brutus
- 42 Reply to a captain

- 44 \_\_\_ Lanka
- 46 Canine cry
- 47 Master, in Swahili
- 49 Ump's call
- 52 "The Barber of Seville," e.g.
- 54 TV show type
- 55 Bookie's quote
- 57 Remove from a manuscript
- 58 Harbor vessel
- 60 Soave, e.g.
- 61 Author Bagnold
- 62 Permit
- 64 Blast maker
- 65 Roll-call vote
- 67 Kind of time

## Get FCSU In Your Inbox – Never More Important than Now



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

### JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
<b>Sept 9</b>	<b>August 31</b>
<b>October 14</b>	<b>October 5</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>November 2</b>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>November 30</b>

See Solution on Page 20



## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 1 - REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct its annual meeting via Zoom on September 13, 2020 at 11:30AM. At this meeting, we will discuss plans for the coming year and hold the election of officers for the district. Interested members are encouraged to contact me at [csteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:csteacher3@gmail.com) to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to hearing from our dedicated members.

Deborah M. Nelson, District Secretary

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

Dear Members and Delegates of District 2, Region 7: Our rescheduled District 2 meeting will be held on October 11, 2020, at our usual location – "The Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict Convent," 5900 West 147th St, Oak Forest, IL. Hospitality begins at 1:30PM, followed by the meeting at 2:00PM. This will be our only District meeting for the year. Please send a representative of your Branch, as this is one of the requirements to receive the stipend! Though, if you are not feeling well, please stay home! And we look forward to seeing you again, when you are all better! :)

A complimentary fraternal meal will be served following the meeting. All food served will be pre-plated, instead of buffet style. Hand sanitizer will be available to use!

Hospitality would like a count of all that will be joining us for this delicious meal so that the correct amount of food can be ordered! Please, call Dorothy at (708)995-7378 for meal reservation by October 1st.

\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION\*\*\*\*\*

\*Per direction of the Home Office and for the health and safety of our members and guests. It is mandatory that all attending are required to wear a face covering/mask!

\*Safe social distancing will also be practiced.

\*Everyone must bring their own pen (to sign in and for those taking notes).

\*Hand sanitizer will be available to use.

\*Other precautions will be taken, such as providing individually packaged refreshments and serving pre-plated food.

Thank you and keep well!

Jennifer Carlton, Recording 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](http://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.

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](mailto: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 teleconference meeting on Sunday, August 30, 2020, at 1:00 PM. We will have 40 minutes to conduct this teleconference meeting.

Members who will be attending need to call President James Marmol at 724-970-7642 by August 19 and provide your smart phone number or e-mail address to receive an invitation to attend this meeting.

Election of officers will be on the agenda. Regional Director Marmol will be informing the members of Jednota upcoming events. The in-person meeting at Caporella's for August 30th has been cancelled.

All members are urged to attend this teleconference meeting.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

### DISTRICT 10 – THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10 will be holding an in-person meeting on September 13, 2020, at 3:00PM at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, 44311. Masks and social distancing will be required. There is also the option to attend the meeting virtually rather than in person. The district will be using a virtual platform that can be accessed by phone, smartphone, or computer. For security purposes, please call Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 by Friday, September 11, 2020, for information on how to connect to the meeting virtually.

Linda Hanko, 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 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Based on the FCSU Board of Directors recommendation due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, District 15 will conduct its Semi-Annual Meeting virtually via ZOOM, on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 11:00AM. Several FCSU members of the younger generation enthusiastically welcomed this new form of the meeting and are looking forward to participating. Those of you who are not comfortable with ZOOM will have the option to participate via telephone conference.

Please call the District office 714 524 5539 for details on how to participate. On the agenda will be an account of possible limited activities of members and discussion about the book Confession of a Refugee by the author Dr. Meško.

Paul Skuben, President

### DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 cancelled its Annual Spring Meeting of April 26, 2020, due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The District has rescheduled the meeting for Saturday, October 10, 2020, from 12:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. Branch delegates will gather in the private dining room at The Avenue Diner, 22 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA, or will be able to log onto ZOOM.

Following the directives of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, masks must be worn and social distancing will be observed.

District Auditors will meet at 12:30 P.M. to check the books for 2019. Lunch will be served at 1:00 P.M. The business meeting and election of officers will follow. The date and logistics for the second meeting of 2020 will be discussed.

Branches must contact Regional Director Martha Zavada at 570.954.3771 to confirm attendance in person or participation via ZOOM. Deadline to reply is Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. 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

### DISTRICT 19 – THE MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

A semi-annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 7:30PM. We will attempt to hold a "ZOOM" meeting due to the COVID -19 restrictions still in place. I will send an email to all the members whose address I have with the details on how to get into the link for the Zoom app. Please call me at 905-279-8154 for further details. If restrictions should change, I will send another email with meeting location details. Please also regularly check this page on the website and also our district announcement in the Jednota newspaper.

Regards,

Anne Mitro, Secretary



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

**Attention Members,  
Family & Friends of the  
Slovak CU & Branch 200**

It is with great sadness that the Officers and Board of Directors of the Slovak CU Branch 200 have made the difficult decision to reschedule the anniversary celebration planned for October 2020.

We are rescheduling "Our 125th plus 1" anniversary for October 2021.

We held out for as long as possible. But this reschedule was made necessary due to COVID-19 regulations and restrictions and the many continuing "unknowns" during these unprecedented times.

God bless and stay safe!!!

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial  
Secretary/Treasurer

# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
002K	Shawn Logan Crowley	152K	Josephine Tennesen Andrews	260K	Paul John Ritz	721K	Julius Paul Remenar
002K	John F Gorham III	153K	Arthur W F Eggert	292K	Alice Carolyn Yanik	731K	Marilouise Dodge
002K	Regina G Mira	157K	Ronald Makosky	293K	Eleanor M Roecker	731K	Eleanor J Farkas
004K	Donald H Haberthur	157K	Dorothy T Werley	315K	Robert C Roth	731K	Katherine Kendall
005P	Thomas Bogdon	166K	Dolores Baca	320K	Donald E Bower	731K	Philip Michael Matis
019K	Paul T Munko	166K	Anna Diachuk	320K	Luann B Hite	743K	Margaret Carson
019K	Thomas Trapp	166K	William Polakovich	320K	William Nofsker	743K	Theressa Emma Gardella
023K	Ann C Burkhalter	166K	Michael J Toth	322K	Catherine Zbailey	743K	John R Hudak
024K	Ethel M Nalepka	169P	Herbert L Stouffer	330K	John Joseph Soltis Jr	743K	Vincent Witkowski III
038K	Janet M Campbell	173K	Michael G Babij	333K	Mildred Frank	746K	Vivian M Donlon
038K	Dorothy King	173K	Cyril B Baloga	362K	Gerl Lynn Skalsky	746K	Gloria Jasper
038K	Thomas C Mihailoff	173K	Mary A Maslowsky	367K	Barbara A Lutes	746K	Diane M Munyak
038K	James P Valecko	181K	Andrew Harhai	410K	Frank P Bonk	756K	John W Duchi
038K	Edward D Virostek	181K	Robert F Larko	510K	Joseph Dolnik	764K	Joseph Prokop
040K	John Richard Chalkey	181K	Paul J Ludvik	553K	Mary Mikula	796K	Steve A Tusan
040K	George E Williams	181K	Veronica Meloy	553K	Ronald J Vargo Sr	831K	La Vonne Bordell
055K	John P Petko	181K	Timothy B Miner	581K	Mary Kupec	831K	Thomas R Bordell
085K	Kenneth Czyzyk	199K	Ceward C Poole	581K	John J Kusy	831K	Dorothy Page
086K	Sylvester R Lovis	199K	Jeffery L Smail	628K	Mary Ann Robinson	831K	Barbara Ann Pulpan
112K	Danielle A Decker	200K	Paulette M Smith	667K	Mildred Kloss	855K	Joseph J Lucas Jr
114P	Charles E Melko	224K	Edward J Severa Jr	670K	Dennis Bugar	855K	Anna Torok
128K	John Joseph Krivi Sr	233K	Paul V Fremer	670K	Marlene A Geary	900K	William J Harizal
149K	Joseph J Andrejcik	260K	Mary Bartos	670K	Bernard Lawrence		

\*Processed through the month of July

## OBITUARIES

**WILLIAM GEORGE THOMAS, SR. BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**



William (Bill) Thomas, Sr., beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend passed away peacefully on April 9, 2020, at the age of 92.

A veteran of the United States Army and a resident of Stamford, CT, his entire life, Bill spent most of his career at Phillips (Glenbrook Laboratories) in Stamford, and at Wee Burn Country Club in Darien, CT, where he worked for more than 80 years. It was at Wee Burn that he made lifelong friends, both young and old. If you were a part of his circle, you were part of something very special. He took great pleasure in mentoring young caddies and was honored to be inducted into the Caddie Hall of Fame in 2008.

His was a life well-lived, and his like will never be seen again. He was the product of a generation defined by selflessness, honesty, and integrity. He was an exceptional person with a profound love of family. The lessons learned and laughter shared with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will live on forever.

Bill is survived by his cherished wife of 70 years, Esther Troncone Thomas; daughter Barbara Melfi and husband Vito of Lakewood Ranch, FL; son Jeffrey Thomas and wife Christy of Norwalk, CT; and daughter-in-law Michele Thomas of Norwalk. He is also survived by his adored grandchildren Cheri DiStefano, David Melfi, Michael Thomas, William (Billy) Thomas, Courtney Thomas, and Jenna Thomas; his great-grandchildren Jackson DiStefano, Sofia DiStefano and Gianna Nicole Melfi. He is also survived by his sister Veronica Zurman of Stamford, and sisters-in-law Giedra Troncone of Redding, CT; and Kathy Thomas of Fairfield, CT. Bill

was predeceased by his treasured son William G. Thomas, Jr.; mother Anna Thomas; father Andrew Thomas; brothers Joseph, Edward, Andrew, and John Thomas; and sister Anna Condon.

- Submitted by Barbara Melfi

**ETHEL NALEPKA BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO**



Ethel M. Nalepka (nee Stipkala) age 86, of Lyndhurst, OH, passed away April 27, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Richard, lovingly married for 50 years; loving mother of Richard (Marie), Ann Marie Wert, Michael (Lihua), Judy (Rick) Viebranz and the late Jerome; dearest grandmother of Rich, Mark (Michelle), Todd (Ashley), Gina, Michael and Lily; dear great grandmother of four; sister of John (Elaine) Stipkala and the late Joseph (Janet) Stipkala and the late Frank Stipkala. Ethel was a great cook and enjoyed talk radio. She lived a full life, always optimistic with a loving and caring devotion to her family.

**DOROTHY JEAN KING BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA**



Dorothy Jean (Svacs) King, age 77 of Jefferson Hills, PA, passed away peacefully on May 12, 2020, in Jefferson Hospital. Born June 14, 1942 in her family home in Clairton, where she spent most of her life, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Goffa) Svacs. A member of Pine Run United Methodist Church in Clairton, Dorothy will be remembered as a sharp and dear woman and will be deeply and sorely missed by family

and friends. She is survived by her beloved husband of 54 years Alvin King; her children Rick Raposky of Clairton, PA; Lynnette (Ray) Zajac of Pleasant Hills, PA; and Debbie (Mark) Graham of West Mifflin, PA; her thirteen grandchildren Kari Zajac, Amanda (John) Vojtko, Nicole (Scott) Karel, Rachel (Adam Cornelisson) Zajac, Abby Zajac, Kevin Massaro, and Brittney, Alyssa, Brandon, Ryan, Aiden, Mason, and Jacelyn Graham; her eight great-grandchildren Savannah, Junior, E.J., Riley, Hailey, Logan, Gabby, and Nathan; her sister Margaret (John) Matus of Florida; her sister-in-law Ursula "Herky" Svac of Jefferson Hills; and numerous nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by her grandson Jason Graham, who passed away February of 2016, and siblings Michael Svac, Anne Kapusta, Irene Colavincenzo, and Mary Bodnar.

- Submitted by Alvin King

**JOSEPH J. SOSKO BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA**



Joseph J. Sosko Jr., 79, of Mt. Pleasant Township, PA, passed away January 22, 2020, at Excelsior Health Westmoreland Hospital. He was born Sept. 19, 1940, in Mammoth, PA, a son of the late Joseph J. and Mary Soflak Sosko Sr. He was employed by Latrobe Steel Timken for 31 years and was a former pipeline welder for Reese Construction. He was president of JJ Sosko Trucking of Mt. Pleasant Township, which he founded in 1974. He was a member of St. Florian Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Susan Tischke. He was married to Judith Sell Sosko for 57 years and is survived by two sons, Joseph S. Sosko III (Lita) and Jeff Sosko

(Judy); two granddaughters, Alicia Hutchinson (Nick) and family and Vicki Heide (Josh) and family; and five brothers, Eugene Sosko (Nancy), Thomas Sosko (Leatrice), Timothy Sosko, Sylvester Sosko (Linda) and John Sosko. He is also survived by four sisters, Loretta Culver, Joann Kiliany (Arthur), Margaret Stout (Vaun) and Genevieve Snively (Samuel); and many nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Judith Sosko

**JOSEPH A. DOLENIK BRANCH 510 – KENOSHA, WISCONSIN**



Joseph A. Dolnik, age 94 of Kenosha, passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at Hospice Alliance/Hospice House.

A lifelong resident of Kenosha, he was born on July 12, 1925 and was the son of the late Julius and Mary (Gerbel) Dolnik. From September 20, 1943 until his honorable discharge on April 5, 1946, Joseph served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He proudly received the American Area Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Ribbon with Two Stars and the World War II Victory Ribbon. On May 1, 1954 he was united in marriage to Thomasia Chudada. They were blessed with 66 years of marriage.

Joseph was employed by the Kenosha Unified School District as the Head Custodian of Bose Elementary School. He was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, served as a Trustee and was active in church functions. Joseph was also a past member of the V.F.W. Junker-Ball Post #1865 Kenosha and belongs to the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #155. He enjoyed golf and bowling, and was an avid fan of baseball, making several visits to spring training camps in Florida. He also enjoyed his vegetable garden and was proud of his

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## IN MEMORIUM

# John A. Holy, Slovak Cultural Activist, Laid to Rest at 98

John Alois Holy passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Pompton Plains, NJ, during the early morning of July 24. He was 98. He was a well-known Slovak cultural and fraternal activist.

A native of Nova Bana, a gold mining town in western Slovakia, he was born there February 8, 1922.

In March 1939, he left home to begin his university studies in the Slovak capital of Bratislava. Germany had

occupied the Sudetenland the prior September and Hitler proclaimed the puppet 'Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia' as John unpacked.

He graduated with a writing degree in 1944, just as the Germans defeated a Czechoslovak uprising. Months later, the armies of the Soviet Union marched through his homeland and John got his first personal glimpse of his lifelong nemesis: totalitarianism.

John went to work for a national newspaper and became a prominent anti-communist journalist. In 1947, a member of the Czechoslovak underground implicated John as a fellow member in order to receive leniency at the hands of the Soviets. John was taken from his bed at 5AM on a cold November morning in 1947 and imprisoned for three months.

While in prison, he began to contemplate a better life in the West, and to study English by reading books. His brother was able to secure John's release just before the Czechoslovak Communist party took complete control of the government. With his arraignment pending, John fled to the West. On the night of May 1, 1948, he and two other men dodged patrols and crossed the Morava River under the cover of darkness.

Fifteen months later, in September 1949, he landed in Boston. He traveled to Great Falls, Mont. to earn his visa. He worked odd jobs until 1952 when he began his employment at the Slovak Catholic Sokol as editor of its official publication. He later would return to the Sokol to serve as underwriter until his retirement.



At this time, John met Nina Friskova at a social event at St. John Nepomucene Parish in New York City. On June 13, 1953 the couple exchanged marriage vows at St. John Nepomucene. He and his family continued their attachment to the New York City Slovak parish throughout their marriage. The marriage was blessed with two daughters, Luby and Jane, and a son, Robert, who died in infancy.

John was active in numerous Slovak organizations over the years. His first love was the Slovak League of America. Since 1970, he served on its national board. In 1975, he became the national secretary. He remained in this position until 2003 when he was elected Honorary National Secretary. He was a regular at the League's office in Passaic until recent months.

In 1970, he was a founder of the Slovak World Congress and labored to preserve the oldest Slovak publication in the United States, Slovak v Amerike. He spearheaded numerous activities in the years which saw the fall of Communism and the emergence of an independent Slovak Republic. In 1997, he was presented with its most prestigious national award presented by the president of Slovakia. In 1998, he was honored with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, representing the Slovak community. In addition to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, John also enjoyed membership in the First Catholic Slovak Union (Branch 45) and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. He was also among the founders and supporters of the annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. He also supported the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

John was an individual dedicated to the high ideals of the Slovak cultural and fraternal community. He will be sorely missed. To his beloved wife, Nina and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, we extend our sympathy. May he rest in peace.

Family, friends and fellow Slovaks, gathered

at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City on August 1, 2020, where the Mass of Christian burial was celebrated by the pastor, the Rev. Richard D. Baker. Concelebrating was the Rev. Stefan Chanas, associate pastor of the Church of St. Clare on Staten Island. Prior to the Mass, a prayer service was held and eulogies presented by his son-in-law, Thomas A. Masi and Daniel F. Tanzone.

- Submitted by Daniel Tanzone, Branch 41

## Eulogy for John A. Holy by Daniel F. Tanzone

Church of St. John Nepomucene  
New York City, Saturday, August 1, 2020

Recalling and appreciating greatness is no easy task. So many of us have enjoyed a special relationship with our beloved John A. Holy, who left an indelible mark on the life of each of us individually as well at the Slovak community.

John was blessed with great knowledge, dedication and a love for humanity over the nearly century of his life. A native of Nova Bana in western Slovakia, he was a successful journalist and newsmen. With the demise of the Slovak Republic and the return of Czecho-Slovakia and the advent of Communism, John chose to leave his homeland and emigrate in 1948 initially to Germany and then to the United States in 1949 via Boston. Ever the journalist, during his months in the refugee camp, he edited with the noted Slovak historian Frantisek Vnuk, a journal of information for Slovak refugees and their future in America. He arrived in August 1949 in the U.S. and immediately became active in a number of Slovak organizations. The Slovak League of America became his first love. Since 1970, he served on it national board. In 1975, he became the national secretary. He remained in this position until 2003 when he was elected Honorary National Secretary. He was a regular at the League's office in Passaic, NJ, until recent months.

In 1970, he was a founder of the Slovak World Congress and labored to preserve the oldest Slovak publication, Slovak v Amerike. He spearheaded numerous activities in the years which saw the fall of Communism and the emergence of an independent Slovak Republic. Slovakia honored him with its prestigious national award in 1997. He was also honored with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1998, representing the Slovak community. He served at the home office of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for a number of years initially the editorial office and later as an underwriter. An active Slovak fraternalist, he enjoyed membership in addition to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. During the American bicentennial in 1976, he contributed to the book, Slovaks in America, a Bicentennial Study.

Throughout his life, John promoted the good name and culture of Slovakia. He was a believer in commitment to the community and service to others. For him, serving others reflected his belief in a life worth living. He passed on that philosophy to his beloved wife Nina and members of his family. He was always a gentleman patriotic American and proud son of Slovakia. He was my friend and mentor and will be sorely missed. His activities continued well into his nineties. We salute John, secure in the knowledge of a life fully lived.

Death does bring change and adjustments for those John has left behind. The warmth and associations of former days are gone. The silence, the finality, the incommunicability disturb, but for the one who has triumphed there is rejoicing. Sorrow is centered more on self than on the deceased. One grieves, yet we would not want our grief taken from us, even if we could - for our love is wrapped up with our grief. Grief is the price we pay for love. And love is eternal, death is a horizon, and the horizon is only the limit of our sight. It has been said: "Death is not extinguishing the light, but putting out the lamp because the dawn has come."

## OBITUARIES

### continued from page 16

tomatoes and onions.

Joseph is survived by his wife of 66 years, Thomasia Dolnik; his three children, Lawrence Dolnik, Thomas (Barbara) Dolnik and Mary (Bruce) Stebbins; his grandchildren, Michelle and Alyson Dolnik, Coreen (Benjamin) Becker, Jennifer and Bethany Stebbins, Timothy Cizmowski Jr; and his great grandchildren, Avery and Maddox Becker.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Ann-Clare; his brothers, Edward Dolnik, Rudolph Dolnik and Thomas Dolnik; and his sister, Marian Casciaro.

- Submitted by Thomasia Dolnik

### RONALD J. VARGO BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Ronald John Vargo, Sr., Age 84, passed away peacefully on April 29, 2020, at his home in Uniontown, OH. Ron was born February 25, 1936, in Akron, OH, the son of Stephen D. and Helen (Morrick) Vargo. He was a school teacher for the State of Ohio for over 31 years, retiring in 1991. He was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Uniontown. If you have followed local sports, you probably ran into Ron on the



basketball court, on a football field, a baseball diamond, a tennis court, a golf course, on the running track, or even at the volleyball net as a coach or official. As an athlete at Kent State he lettered in basketball, football, and golf from 1954 to 1959. Among his coaching highlights is an 8-0 season at Akron St. Mary's High in 1961, when his team was selected the state's mythical Class A football champion. His 1980 St. Vincent-St. Mary golf team had a 25-0 record and finished as the state runner-up. His 33 years of basketball officiating including, 11 years of working in the Ohio Conference and, in 1972, he officiated Adolph Rupp's last game with Kentucky at the Pizza Hut Classic in Las Vegas, NV. He was inducted into the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

Ron is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Karen (Becker); children Ronald John, Jr. (Carol) Vargo, Edward (Mary) Vargo, Kim Vargo, Michael (Victoria) Vargo; sister-in-law, Theresa (McGrath) Vargo; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Donna and Paul Firth; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Patricia and Richard Lockhart; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Pat and Edward Becker; sister-in-law and brother-in-law LuAnn and Robert Lister; grandchildren Joseph Vargo, Matthew (Lindsie) Vargo, Emily Vargo, Craig Vargo, Jamie Vargo, Norah Vargo, Bryn Vargo, Timothy Ferrebee, Katie Ferrebee, Konner Vargo, Kamden Vargo, Kennedy Vargo

and Karsyn Vargo and great grandson, Sora Vargo. He was preceded in death by his only brother Stephen P. Vargo.

### JULIUS PAUL REMENAR JR. BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Julius Paul Remenar Jr., age 77, of Bannister, MI, moved on to eternal life, Friday, June 12, 2020, at Henry Ford Detroit Hospital, Detroit, MI.

He was a very devoted Roman Catholic, member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, where he served as Branch 721 President; Knights of Columbus; Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist; and a member of St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Bannister. Every morning after breakfast, he read about a life of a saint. Julius was very proud of his Slovak heritage and listened to Slovak music every Saturday morning. He graduated from Elsie High School with the class of 1960. He served in the United States Army Reserves and was made a staff sergeant. Julius was employed by a couple of shops and retired (after 18 years) as an Ovid-Elsie bus driver. Julius' true calling



was his farming life and was proud of his hard work. He was a kind, generous and loving husband, dad, grandfather, uncle, brother, and brother in law.

Julius was born in Elsie, MI on November 17, 1942, the son of Julius John and Ann (Vojvodich) Remenar. On August 25, 1973, Julius married Margaret Militello in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bay City, MI.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Remenar of Bannister, son Paul of Bannister, son Peter (Rachel DeSantis) Remenar of Ovid, MI; daughter Annmarie (Brian) Zalud of Grass Lake, MI; grandchildren: Daniel, Paige, Grace, Henry, George, Carmen, Reagan and Ryan, sisters: Agnes (Malcolm) Smith of Bannister; Annie Mikulka of Bannister; Rosemary (Bruce) Thelen of St. Johns, MI; brothers: Frank Remenar of Hartland, David Remenar, of Bannister, sisters and brothers-in-law: Mary (Dan) Shauger, Teresa (Bob) Wyma, Trudy (Lee) Avilla, Fred Militello, Dominic (Cari) Militello, Joseph (Melissa) Militello, Jeanmarie Militello Hagan, Rosemarie (James) Spencer, and Felix (Donna) Militello. He was preceded in death by his parents Julius and Ann Remenar, father and mother-in-law Felix and Marguerite Militello, brother-in-law James F. Militello, and sister-in-law-Jane Remenar.

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

Attention All SASW Member



## SASW Posthumously Honors FCSU 's Stephen Matula: Nominations Open for Service Award in His Name

In September 2019, the Board of the Slovak American Society of Washington DC (SASW) approved the creation of a service award in honor of our late member, Stephen Matula, to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Society. The criteria of this award could include board membership, committee assignments, leadership in SASW activities, and support of the SASW scholarship program, and contributions to the Washington-area Slovak American community, among others. Under extraordinary circumstances, the award can be presented to a non-member of the SASW.

Steve Matula was born in Middletown, PA, to Slovak parents who were active members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). He would later serve as president of Branch 856 of the First Catholic Slovak Union for many years, following in his father's footsteps. After high school, he attended Penn State University until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps shortly before World War II. He became an aviation instructor in Texas and Louisiana. Steve was one of the initial instructors in the use of instrument flying. After the war, he graduated from George Washington University and became a colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Steve served in the Korean War and later as an executive at the Federal Aviation Authority. He later served as a Director and Treasurer at the Aviation Research Corporation which investigated plane crashes. Steve was very active in all Slovak activities in the DC area. He was a founding member of the SASW and served as Jednota Branch president for 25 years.

### Stephen Matula Service Award FAQs

What is the deadline for 2020 nominations?  
September 1, 2020.

Who can nominate?  
Current SASW members.

### What information should I include in my nomination?

Please send us your name, contact information (email and phone number) and the name of person you're nominating. State your reasons for the nomination in a paragraph of 300 words or less, such as: length of membership, service as a board member, committee work, special accomplishments for SASW or the Washington-area Slovak-American community in general, and going above and beyond the call of duty.

### Where do I send my nomination?

You can email your nomination to [nominations@dcslovaks.org](mailto:nominations@dcslovaks.org) (with the subject line: Stephen Matula Award Nomination for 2020) or you can download a nomination form at <https://tinyurl.com/yyo2dk4g>

And then mail the printed out form to:  
Nominations, Slovak American Society, P.O. Box 2502, Springfield, VA 22152

- Submitted by Raymond Luca, Branch 856 Vice President



## Branch 853 Members At Kennywood's Slovak Day

Branch 853 members Charles Boone and his mother Monica Rodacy Boone, from Dormont, PA, show their Slovak spirit at Kennywood Park while donning their "Nothing can stop a super Slovak" pin. On July 23, 2020, the two enjoyed the day by attending the 97th Annual W. PA Slovak Day at the West Mifflin, PA amusement park. The scattered drenching rains, the 85 degree temperatures with high humidity, wearing a mask, and six-foot social distancing, all made for a memorable day as they enjoyed the food from the "Slovak kitchen" and celebrated their Slovak heritage.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### continued from page 14

hope to see you soon.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

### BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Because of Covid-19 the semi-annual meeting of March 29, 2020 was cancelled since the State of Michigan issued a directive eliminating any gatherings and in addition the Church meeting place was closed.

In order to meet the requirements of the FCSU By-laws 4.05, a semi-annual OPEN AIR MEETING will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 2 PM. The meeting will be held at the home of Joseph and Dina Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Twp., 48382.

Please bring a chair for social distancing and wear a mask. If you plan to attend please email: [josephrimarcik@gmail.com](mailto:josephrimarcik@gmail.com) or call 248-714-9620.

Agenda items will include, but not limited to, Branch financial status and Home Office communication.  
Joseph Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

### BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 1:00 PM virtually. We encourage all Branch 746 members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or calling using their home phone. Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 (please call in the evenings) by Sept 13th or via email. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect. We also encourage members who have been inactive to take this opportunity to reconnect with our branch. For those able, you can participate by video or via telephone (dialing in is an easy option). The agenda will include discussion of Oktoberfest plans as well as any new business.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

### BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

It is with great pleasure that I announce the St. Joseph Society, Branch 844, will hold its semi-annual meeting virtually by ZOOM on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 11:00 AM. For those of you like me, there is an opportunity to join the meeting by tele-conference. Please call the branch office at 714 524 5539 for details on how to participate. On the agenda will be the account of the limited past activities and plan for the expansion of the future activities with the aim of the Tuesday November 3th general election, and Christmas celebration, and preparation of the annual meeting with the election of officers for the next year.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

### 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 [FCSUB-ranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUB-ranch853@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

### BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC & AREA

It is with great sadness that we have canceled the Mass scheduled for September 13, 2020, in honor of our 55th Anniversary of Jednota's Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Due to the coronavirus epidemic, we feel it is best not to put people in harm's way. Live streaming of a 2020 Mass will be available. [Editor's note: see p 11.] Mark your calendars for September 12, 2021, at 11:30AM in the Crypt Church. Thank you to all the faithful who come each year to celebrate this special day in Slovak history in our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, honoring the Patroness of Slovakia.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President



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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# 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 opened the meeting at 12:00 PM 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  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (via teleconference)  
George F. Matta II, Treasurer (via teleconference)  
Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director  
(by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

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, the notice for his replacement will be published in the next two issues of 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.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAY MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the May 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.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Disbursements for the month of May 2020:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 255,565.56
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 45,279.48
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

The President stated that he received a proposal from Frank R. Burnette, a principal and senior consultant for Morrison Fiduciary Advisors for equity investment consulting. The proposal will be reviewed and a teleconference to speak with Mr. Burnette will be set up next week with the Executive Committee.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

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 July.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

National/Regional Picnic




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

## 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.

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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

## 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
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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.*

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