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A wooden statue at the place of an apparition of the Virgin Mary in, Šaštín, Slovakia, the site of a traditional Sept 15 pilgrimage. Photo courtesy of Michael Kopanic. For more on Šaštín by Dr. Kopanic, go to page 7.

## Sept 15: A Special Day for Us Slovaks

Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain

September 15 is a special day for us Slovaks. It is the feast day of Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia. Generations of Slovaks have prayed to Mary to ask her to intercede with her Son to grant aid and comfort in times of stress, woe, depression, or sorrow.

This year, September 15 is the 100th anniversary of Spiritus Paraclitus (The Holy Spirit), an encyclical issued by Pope Benedict XV to mark the 1,500th anniversary of the death of Saint Jerome, whom the Church calls her "Greatest Doctor." It was addressed to the world's bishops for them to promote the reverent study of the Bible to their people and clergy.

One may question why an encyclical on Saint Jerome would be titled "The Holy Spirit." Encyclicals, apostolic letters, and other decrees from the Vatican are known by the first two, and sometimes three, words of the Latin text.

Benedict XV believed the life and work and holiness of Saint Jerome merited an encyclical to teach the universal church. The document is filled with Jerome's reflections on the Bible and the faith, his correspondence with contemporaries, and his instructions intended to refute false teachings about the faith. It should then be no surprise that a minimum of 25% of the text is composed of Jerome's own words. The document has 132 footnotes, 112 of which cite Jerome as the source.

The encyclical begins with a brief biography of Jerome's life. As a youth in Rome, Jerome learned Latin and Greek while having a strong attraction to Sacred Scripture and its study. He traveled to Syria where he learned Hebrew and Chaldaic. While in Constantinople (Istanbul today) for three years he studied Scripture and translated into Latin the writings of theologians. Jerome returned to Rome on church business and found a job waiting for him, courtesy of Pope Damasus. Jerome was entrusted with correcting the Latin text of the Bible. He obtained the best sources available to him and retranslated them from the Hebrew the books of the Old Testament and corrected the Latin translation of the Old Testament books originally written in Greek. In addition, he composed commentaries on various books of the Bible, particularly the letters of Saint Paul. Upon the death of Pope Damasus, Jerome went to live in a monas-

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## Life Insurance Awareness Month: More Important than Ever

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President

Life Happens – a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping consumers take personal financial responsibility through the ownership of life insurance and related products – has promoted each September as Life Insurance Awareness Month. This September, a reality check in the form of a worldwide pandemic has heightened the need to talk about life insurance. According to a new study by Life Happens two-thirds (67%) of Americans say that the pandemic has been a wake-up call for them to reevaluate their finances. Their survey, "Tough Talks During COVID-19," asked 2,000 Americans aged 18–56+ how they feel about their finances in light of COVID-19, how it has impacted family conversation, and if they've adjusted their behaviors as a result.



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

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**See page 10 for details.**

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**September 20, 2020 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

It seems that whenever this Gospel is discussed the question of fairness becomes the focal point. Was it fair that those who worked the shortest period where paid a full day's wage, the same as those who worked all day? In our day this is a case that would probably go to the Labor Relations Board or to the courts, but things were different at the time of Jesus.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

All the men were looking for work that day which is a good indication that all were suffering from financial hardship. Those in this situation looked for work to help them and their families get by, they probably also relied on the generosity of family and friends. People today are in a similar situation where they find a low paying job, have their extended family help them, and oftentimes rely on some form of government supplement in order to get by. All the men in the Gospel started that day in the same situation; they needed work. In this parable they ended the day in the same situation; the landowner gave them all a full day's wage. Some of them worked for it, and with others it was pay for a lesser amount of work plus generosity on the part of the landowner. This might sound alright on a theoretical level, but in real life it would seem unfair. Those who worked in the fields all day felt cheated that they didn't get more than those who worked only a portion of the day.

If we get so focused on the pay situation, we miss the point of a parable. Jesus taught with parables which are taking an everyday experience of life to teach a spiritual message. Jesus wasn't giving a lesson on labor relations; he used this most common life experience to begin a discussion on a spiritual message. The message is simple, when it comes to God's love for us it is not given in degrees; God's love is given totally to all. It is up to each person to freely decide to accept it or not, but the fullness of God's unconditional love is given to all.

There are times when people question why an individual who lived a public life contrary to the Gospel and boasted about never going to church is given a Christian burial. We don't know what went on between him and his parish priest and the Lord during his final time in this world, whether it be during visits to his hospital room or a last-minute visit in the emergency room. We don't know if the man had what is called, "a deathbed conversion." Regardless of when the conversion took place, whether it be a lifelong faithfulness or a last-minute conversion, we all get the same pay. There's no such thing as spending eternity in a half-way house heaven, it's either the fullness of heaven or hell. Any unfinished business is handled in purgatory, but that leads to the fullness of glory and not half of glory.

On our journey of faith it is important to keep in mind the lesson of this parable; God's desire is for us to receive the fullness of glory and in order to help us he sent his Son to die for our sins. He didn't die for half of our sins or some of our sins. Jesus died for all our sins. God is generous to us. He does not hold back his love. May we rejoice in the love God has for us and receive this love in a manner that leads us to deeper gratitude to God and closer to him.

**September 27, 2020 - 136 – 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

I have no children and so it is hard for me to grasp the full force of today's parable of the two sons. This is not to say that the point escapes me, it is simply that unless one hears this parable with the experience of a parent something of its power remains abstract. Before we consider the parable however, we first hear from the prophet Ezekiel, whose ministry in the early sixth century BC was occupied with bringing the rebellious sons and daughters of the tribe of Judah to recognize their wicked ways and return to the Lord.

We read: "If he turns from the wickedness he has committed and he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life" (Eze 18:27). The Judahites, and previously their relatives from the other tribes of the land of Israel, had constantly drifted away from the Lord and the righteous way of life that the Lord expected of them, worshipping false gods. In spite of these betrayals the Lord was always eager to welcome them back to his embrace, setting them on the path to true peace and justice.

Occasionally such a moment of conversion would occur, when someone like Hezekiah, king of Judah some hundred years before Ezekiel, turned the people of Judah away from idolatry and reformed his life and theirs. We could say that in his zeal for conversion Hezekiah embodied the words of the Psalmist we hear today: "The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not; in your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord" (Ps 25:7).

The parable of the two sons from today's Gospel puts the story of conversion bluntly. Jesus explains that after being ordered to a task, one of a man's sons replied, "I will not," but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, "Yes, sir," but did not go." The first son is then compared to the tax collectors and prostitutes who initially lived dissolute lives but converted at the preaching of John the Baptist. The second son is likened to the chief priests and scribes to whom Jesus was speaking when he delivered this parable as he taught in the Temple area.

Parents in particular can appreciate the frustration of telling a child what to do and seeing the child turn away in defiance. Parents also know the relief and joy of seeing a previously disobedient child come back and do right by them, perhaps even offering an apology for their initial defiance. The wonderful news of Jesus' parable of the two sons is that God our heavenly Father is eager to welcome us back no matter how far or how embarrassingly we have strayed—after all, Jesus purposefully chose tax collectors and prostitutes as his examples of repentance because they were seen at the time as especially disgraceful and worthy of contempt.

Regardless of our past and how ashamed we may be of it the Lord's forgiveness and a new beginning await us when we, like Ezekiel urged, "turn from our wickedness and do what is right." In his Letter to the Philippians today, Saint Paul relates of Christ: "though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped" (Phil 2:6). Taking his selfless humility as our guide let us set aside our attachments to temptations and to regrets over the past in order to live as free and faithful children of God.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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# Life Insurance Awareness Month: More Important than Ever

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## Starting Financial Conversations

In the Life Happens survey, respondents revealed they are less likely to avoid talking about financial matters at the dinner table than they were before COVID-19, with five topics dominating discussions:

1. Wills and inheritance – 33%
2. Current health issues and concerns – 32%
3. Life insurance coverage – 30%
4. Current financial status – 29%
5. Emergency savings – 27%

## Changing Financial Behaviors

Not only are people now more likely to discuss financial topics, the ongoing pandemic continues to change many of our social behaviors across the country, impacting our financial behaviors as well as how we work and play. The top changes survey respondents revealed that they have implemented in their financial habits include:

1. Cutting excess spending – 49%
2. Building up savings and emergency funds – 45%
3. Continue working and delay their planned retirement date – 43%
4. Dipping into retirement funds – 37%
5. Focusing on paying down debts – 24%

## Ensuring Your Financial Lifeline

COVID-19 has sadly reminded us that no one—not even the young and healthy—are

assured a long life. And that an untimely passing all too often leaves the ones left behind on shaky financial ground. That's where life insurance can be a financial lifeline. What if you were suddenly gone and your family had to manage on their own? When was the last time you did the math to make sure your loved ones would be OK financially? Have you checked with your employer to find out what kind of life insurance benefit you have through work and whether you have the option to increase your coverage? When was the last time you had your life insurance needs reviewed by one of your branch officers?

Life Insurance, by its very nature, is designed to offer some very reassuring benefits. It can buy loved ones time to grieve. It can pay off debts and loans, providing surviving family members with the chance to move on with a clean slate. It can keep families in their homes and pre-fund a child's college education. It can keep a family business in the family. It can provide a family's income stream for a period of time. Life insurance helps make sure that the people you care about will be provided for financially, even if you're not there to care for them yourself.

Don't let another September, the official Life Insurance Awareness Month, pass you by without taking action to protect your loved ones. Find out more about the excellent insurance products available to you from the First Catholic Slovak Union. Contact your local branch today or the First Catholic Slovak Union Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

## About Life Happens

Life Happens is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping consumers take personal financial responsibility through the ownership of life insurance and related products. The organization does not endorse any product, company or insurance advisor. Since its inception in 1994, Life Happens has provided the highest quality, independent and objective information for people seeking help with their insurance buying decisions. To learn more, visit [www.lifehappens.org](http://www.lifehappens.org).

# Sept 15: A Special Day for Us Slovaks

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tery in Bethlehem so he could be near the place of Christ's birth.

Benedict then proceeds to write of Jerome's theology. Jerome firmly believed Sacred Scripture is the word of God, written by individuals who were enlightened by God to write the truth of what God wanted to be revealed for our salvation. Since Scripture is divinely inspired and God is the author of Scripture, the Scripture is free from error or deception. When Jesus taught, he took his points and arguments from the Scriptures. "Jerome's teaching on the superexcellence and truth of Scripture is Christ's teaching."

As an aside, the pope here introduces the reader to the Society of Saint Jerome, of which Benedict was a founding member. The Society's aim is to have the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles in the hands of many Christian families as possible and hopes bishops would establish similar societies within their own dioceses.

Jerome pleaded for the faithful to read and study the Bible. He insists that the clergy do it, too, for they are the preachers of the Word. Jerome condemns clerics who think holiness is equated with merely separating oneself from culture. He wants them to rethink that position and diligently read the Scriptures.

Bishops are recommended to choose priests to come to the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome so they can pass on the knowledge gained to their people. By doing so, the faithful can have their hearts enkindled with the same intense love of the Bible as Jerome, who is looked upon as a guide and teacher of Scripture.

The pope offers goals of Scripture study and Jerome's rules for such study. The goals are:

- The spiritual perfection of the person doing the studying,
- The gathering texts to confirm and illustrate any one doctrine a person wishes to defend
- Fruitful preaching.

He follows this with Jerome's rules for Scripture study:

• The authentic literal or historical meaning can be derived only from the actual words from the original text (Hebrew or Greek).

• Once the literal or historic meaning is established, hidden or deeper meanings can be sought.

• A biblical commentator is to say what the sacred text really means, not what the commentator would like the sacred author to say.

Jerome's reading, study, and meditation of the Bible drew him to a knowledge and love of Jesus, to a love of prayer, to a love of the Holy Eucharist, and to a love of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. It led him to make this proclamation: "Ignorance of the Bible means ignorance of Christ."

Coming to the end of the encyclical, Benedict cites Jerome again: "Would that Rome had what tiny Bethlehem possessed." There is some irony in that statement. Jerome lived for a time in Bethlehem so he could reflect more deeply on the mystery of the Word become flesh. Rome is the home of Jerome's relics, which are interred near the Crypt of the Nativity below the main altar at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

The concluding paragraphs contains Benedict's desire for the voice of Jerome to:

• Call all members of the Church to return to a truly Christian life and away from a "pagan type of morality."

• Be heard by Christian nations so that those who have fallen away from the Church may return

• Be heard by the Eastern (meaning Orthodox) churches so there may be "one flock and one shepherd."

Spiritus Paraclitus ends with words that echo the mindset of Jerome. Benedict's one desire is for all members of the church, being saturated by the Bible, may come to an all-surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ.



## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

To all FCSU District/Branch Officers: Thank you for your willingness to continue meeting your fraternal obligations during these challenging times. Keep in mind the following guidelines when planning your meetings and activities for the remainder of the year:

- A VIRTUAL MEETING (one conducted with your members attending by regular phone, smart phone or computer) is considered a regular meeting.

- A HYBRID MEETING (one conducted with some members attending virtually by phone and/or computer and some members attending in person) is considered a regular meeting.

For everyone's safety and in keeping with COVID-19 recommendations & mandates throughout our Society, the FCSU is strongly recommending that all meetings for the rest of 2020 be held virtually.

There are many options available for holding a meeting virtually. The comparison chart below that highlights some of the most popular choices and key features.

### Comparison: Virtual Meeting Platforms

Service	Price	Number of participants	Meeting Recordings	Call in number	Toll Free number	Call Time Limit
FreeConferenceCall.com	FREE	1,000	Yes	FREE	Additional charge	6 hours
G Suite Essentials (Google Meet)	\$30/month	150	No	FREE	Additional charge	300 hours
G Suite Basic (Google Meet)	\$6/month	100	No	FREE	Additional charge	1 hour
Zoom Free	FREE	100	No	No	No	40 minutes
Zoom Pro	\$15/month	100	Yes	\$100/month	Additional charge	24 hours
Uber Conference - Free	FREE	10	Yes	FREE	no	45 minutes
Uber Conference - Business	\$15/month	100	Yes	Local/customizable	Additional charge	5 hours

It is important to note:

All options for conducting a meeting virtually include the ability to connect to the meeting by phone, so those members who do not have or are not comfortable with a computer, can still participate.

### MEETING REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR STIPEND

Regardless of how a meeting is held, meeting requirements to qualify for stipend have not changed. The requirements remain the same for a virtual or hybrid meeting as they do for a regular, in-person meeting; these requirements are stipulated under our current FCSU Bylaws adopted at the 2018 Convention, specifically 4.05, 4.06 Please refer to the FCSU Bylaws which are also posted on our website at <https://www.fcsu.com/about/>

30-day rule: 30-day rule applies from the date the meeting announcement is posted on the FCSU website.

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

There are 2 ways virtual meetings differ from in-person meetings when conducting them:

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## Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

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

If my calculations are correct, fifty-one Sisters have come to the U. S. to live fruitful lives and to minister to people who always proved to be thankful for their presence.

When starting out to tell the story of one of the immigrant Sisters, it is common to find a whole array of other individuals who play a significant role in her life. The next sister in the series, Sister Emerita, is a splendid example of this. Her story is filled with the many characters who influenced her life and whose lives were impacted by her singular personality and innate goodness.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

### Sister Emerita in Her Own Words

First let us look at "Sister Emerita in Her Own Words:"



A number of people influenced my decision to become a Sister; first of all, my parents by their good example and encouragement and then, my teachers at Holy Ghost School by their presence and support, especially Sisters Hermina, Catherine, Innocenta and her sister, Sister Aniceta who was only a postulant when she taught me. Sister Teresina was my model.

When I finished school, I worked in the kitchen at the IHM Motherhouse in Scranton. There I met with Sisters who witnessed to the holiness that can be achieved in religious life. I worked with Sister Emerita who even then was considered a living saint. As we worked, she recounted stories of the saints which later helped the novices in their religious studies classes. I was privileged to be at her 100th birthday celebration which was featured in THE IHM CONNECTION Summer 2003. One photo

shows Sister blowing out the candles on her cake, and there I am by her side.

The other Sister was Mother Cyril who figures prominently in our history. One day she said to me, "Theresa, I believe you have a vocation to religious life. Today Mother Emerentia (At that time Mother Emerentia was the General Superior) is coming here on business, and I would like you to talk with her." I am grateful to Mother Cyril whose wisdom and insight gave me the impetus to take the necessary steps to become a Sister. I would never have approached Mother Emerentia on my own the day she came to Mount St. Mary's.

Sister Alphonsine who was superior and principal at Holy Ghost assisted me in preparing for my entrance into the novitiate in Danville. For two years in the novitiate the Directress of Novices was the kind and understanding Sister Joachim who kept up our spirits with her cheerful, good-natured disposition. On Reception Day I received the white veil of a novice and the name of a trusted mentor, Sister Emerita, I.H.M.

Except for the eight years I spent in several local convents, I was missioned in Danville for most of my religious life. My claim to fame is providing the Sisters with tasty baked goods, like bread and buns for Sunday breakfast. I heard many compliments, too, when I served my specialties, sticky buns, raised doughnuts, and rhubarb and shoofly pies.

I'll let my sister Helen tell you more about me and about the family that lives near her in Olyphant, PA, and the significant part they played in my life.

#### Helen Shares Stories of Her Sister

My sister (born Theresa Cherniga) was born in Turiany in what was then called Czechoslovakia on July 5, 1920. She used to say there were fireworks at the time and then she laughed because, of course, it was only the U.S. that used fireworks. Just think. She would be a hundred years old this year!

Theresa was five years old when our dad sent for our mother and our younger brother John who was two. He had been living in Hazleton, PA, with family and working as a coal miner. It took him two years to save enough money to get them passage on a boat which was leaving in August from Germany (1924 or 1925). They probably took a train to Germany to get on the boat. Because it was discovered that there was an error on Mother's passport, they had to return to Czechoslovakia. When they learned the error was straightened out, they returned to Germany to board a ship scheduled to leave on Christmas Eve.

The ship was very crowded and the weather was damp and foggy, all contributing to Mom getting a bad cold. She had to remain in bed most of the time. Someone who worked on the ship (a porter?) took care of the children.

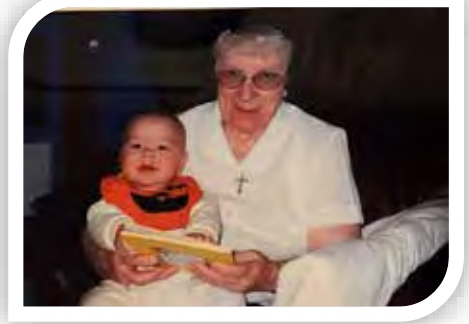
One day it was discovered Theresa was missing and no one knew where she was (Theresa was a rather mischievous child). They searched all over for her and finally discovered her under the Christmas tree. After they met up with Dad in Hazleton, the family remained there a few years and later moved to Dunmore, PA, where they lived on Sherwood Street. The park on that street is called Sherwood Park. Later they moved to Olyphant where I still live.

#### Becoming a Sister of SS Cyril & Methodius

While living in Olyphant, Theresa and her family were members of Holy Ghost parish, and Theresa belonged to the church's Sodality (an organization in which the laity assist the priest in charitable and apostolic works). One day she told them she was planning to become a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Theresa was well-known for telling humorous stories but was serious about her future plans. The other sodalists laughed when she told them what she had in mind. "We give you two weeks," they said. Of course she proved them wrong and celebrated 63 years in religious life. She entered on March 28, 1943, during the Second World War with only three other postulants, Sister Gerard, who became the com-

munity photographer, Sister Josita whose sister, Sister DeLourdes also became an SSCM, and Sister Michaeline, who celebrated her 100th birthday in May 2020.

It was customary for a pastor to write a letter of recommendation to the superior of the congregation. Father Edward A. Bellas, pastor of Holy Ghost parish in Olyphant, wrote the following in a letter to Mother Emerentia: "... it was our pleasure to note her talents and qualifications..... she is morally fit and I believe, physically capable. She is one of our exemplary young Catholic ladies."



Sister Emerita and Johnny

Many beneficiaries of her life of prayer and service can be found to attest to Sister Emerita's life of prayer and service. She took seriously every request for prayer for anyone in need. The most memorable story and the one that shows without a doubt her compassionate nature and her willingness to help a family in distress focuses on the Caines family of Olyphant who live near her sister Helen. It was Helen who told Sr. Emerita about Ellen and Kevin and their new baby Johnny. When he was 87 days old he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Chance of survival-- 25%. One night early in April Baby Johnny and his mom, Ellen, were driven by ambulance to the Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville. Several days later Johnny had his first chemotherapy, the beginning of a long journey to wellness. As they neared GMC Ellen remembers passing a long wall which she thought at the time encircled a cemetery. What was behind the wall she later found out was the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius which figures prominently in this story.

At that time I was in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Geisinger and having heard the story of Johnny I also went to see him. I'll never forget that small baby in a large crib and the green binder containing the entire program for chemotherapy. On Easter evening Sister Emerita, Paracleta and I went to visit at Janet Weis. When we learned the family had gone to St. Joseph Church in town for Mass, Sister Paracleta invited them to attend Mass at the Basilica and have breakfast with the Sisters. Ellen, Kevin and Matthew who was then three-and-a-half, did come each Sunday and stayed for breakfast. The Sisters, of course, were delighted to have them and made a big fuss over Matthew.

Ellen believes we went to visit even more than once a week. Sister Emerita, always happy to see Johnny, liked to push him in the stroller. She said she felt like his grandmother. Sister Marcellina, a Philadelphia native, had relics of the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, St John Neumann, whose intercession we implored. Sister Jean Marie's friend told her about Padre Pio and his miraculous cures. Johnny's family took him to Barto, PA, the site of the National Centre for Padre Pio near Allentown, PA. There Ellen insisted that he be wrapped in Padre Pio's shawl. He cried pitifully, but, according to Ellen, his subsequent chemo treatments were not as devastating as the previous ones. Sister Emerita once said, though, that we do not know what saint deserves the credit for Johnny's cure because we prayed to so many saints.

Ellen is especially grateful to Sister Emerita for helping her survive the ordeal and keeping her sanity. Emmy, as she is lovingly called by Ellen, is thankful to Sister for providing the family with whatever help they needed. Emmy even gave Ellen her new pajamas when she had to stay overnight in Danville unexpectedly. We also let Ellen keep her recliner at the Motherhouse between visits to the hospital. One time when the family visited, Ellen was changing Johnny in one of the rooms on our ground floor. For some reason, he kept crying and crying. Sisters Paracleta, Emerita and I came in and sang Slovak Christmas carols and he promptly fell asleep. Johnny was in the hospital from April 8, 2000 to June 30, 2001, with a few days' respite on occasion when he was able to go home briefly. The twenty-seven months of chemotherapy ended on July 5, 2002, Sister Emerita's birthday.

John Caines is now 20 years old, a sophomore at Keystone College taking Sports Management as a major and Business as a minor. We trust that Sister Emerita is looking down from heaven on him and his parents, Ellen and Kevin. The Sisters at the Motherhouse still enjoy having visits from the Caines and their sons Matthew and John. The family is dedicated to our projects, such as our Summer Festival and the yearly raffle. Ellen's sister Rosalie is another person who deserves our thanks for selling great numbers of raffle tickets.

Sister Emerita died on March 20, 2009, at Emmanuel Center and her funeral was celebrated on March 23, in the Basilica by Father Gerard Heintzelman, celebrant and homilist, with Father Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P. as concelebrant.

When Sister Emerita celebrated fifty years as a Sister, she gave the following advice in the Jubilee booklet to those contemplating religious life, "Perform your daily duties well, but above all, stay close to God by being constant in prayer." As proven by her story in this article she followed her advice to the letter.

### Sharing Sister Emerita Recipes

These recipes by Sister Emerita have been provided by her sister Helen. It's unfortunate that we don't have the recipe for those delectable sticky buns that everyone enjoyed. Helen who provided the recipes recorded here said that she probably made them from memory.

- Sr. Bernadette Marie

#### Lentil Soup

1 cup lentils  
1 and 1/2 cups cubed potatoes  
1 cup cubed carrots  
1/2 cup celery

1 small onion chopped  
Rinse lentils in a fine mesh sieve and pick them over before you cook them. Discard

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# Sharing Sister Emerita Recipes

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any shriveled lentils or debris. Fill a large 4 quart pot halfway with water, bring it to a boil, and add the lentils. Simmer until they're tender. Add uncooked potatoes, carrots, celery and onions. Cook until vegetables are tender. Then add zapařka.

## Zapařka

2 tablespoons flour  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 cup water

Cook flour and butter in a saucepan over low heat until dark caramel color, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add cold water slowly, while stirring. Return to heat and cook until it has the consistency of gravy. If too thick, add more water. Add to soup and cook for about 10 minutes.

## Baking Powder Kolačky

4 cups flour  
1 cup Crisco (or softened butter)  
1 cup sugar  
4 teaspoons baking powder  
2 egg yolks or 1 egg  
1 cup milk  
A pinch of salt

Filling: May use apple pie filling, apricot or strawberry preserves, or other fruit filling of your choice.

In a large bowl, beat together butter, milk and sugar until the mixture is light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks. In another bowl, whisk together the flour, salt and baking powder. Stir in the butter mixture to make a stiff dough. If the dough gets too soft, refrigerate for about five minutes before continuing. Roll out the dough to ¼ inch thickness. Cut into 2" squares. Spoon about ½ tsp pastry filling onto center of each square. Use finger-tip to lightly moisten 2 opposite corners of each dough square with water, then overlap corners in the center and press together to seal. Place, filling-side-up and 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets.

Bake at 400 degrees for 12-15 minutes or until light golden brown. Let cool on a cookie rack. Dust lightly with powdered sugar. Store in an airtight container

## Sour Cream Kolačky

3 cups flour  
1 lb. softened butter or margarine

3 teaspoons baking powder  
4 eggs  
2 drops vanilla  
2 tablespoons sour cream  
Powdered sugar  
Filling: Use nuts, poppyseed, apricot or apple pie filling.

In a large bowl, beat together flour, butter and baking powder. Add eggs, vanilla and sour cream and beat until well mixed.

Divide dough into thirds, shape each into a ball, wrap separately in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for one hour. Roll out the dough on powdered sugar and cut to ¼ inch thickness. Cut into 2" squares. Spoon about ½ tsp pastry filling onto center of each square. Use finger-tip to lightly moisten 2 opposite corners of each dough square with water, then overlap corners in the center and press together to seal. Place, filling-side-up and 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets. Repeat with remaining dough.

Bake at 375 degrees until light brown, 10 to 12 minutes.

## Ode to Sister Emerita's Slovak Cooking

- by Sister Bernadette Marie

Mingling with the odor of sanctity, the aroma of baking—  
Homemade bread,  
Nut and poppy seed rolls,  
Raised doughnuts,  
The ever-popular sticky buns.

And the pies,  
Rhubarb, tangy and juicy,  
Shoofly, moist and tasting of molasses.

The piece-de-resistance—

The soups, hearty and seasoned to perfection:  
Vegetable,  
Bean,  
Lentil, and a special treat,  
Caraway.

What else can one say when the mouth savors,  
The results of her master's touch.



Land for Our Lady of Mariapoch in Burton, OH was purchased by anonymous donors in 1955 and dedicated in 1956 by Bishop Nicholas T. Elko, D.D., head of the Ruthenian (then) Exarchate in America.



(L – R) Andrew P. Rajec, FCSU Director of Independent Agents and Branch 89 Member; Caroline Visnovsky, Branch 450 Member; Marco Visnovsky, Branch 450 Member; Miriam Visnovsky, FCSU Support Staff and Branch 24 Member; Elias Visnovsky, Branch 450 Member; the Very Reverend Marek Visnovsky, Protosyncellus (Vicar General) of the Eparchy of Parma and Branch 24 Member; His Excellency, the Most Reverend Milan Lach, Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma; and George Carny, Branch 450 President.

## FCSU Members Attend Annual Pilgrimage to Mariapoch

The Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch is a beautiful, peaceful, wooded area to the east of Cleveland, OH, that exists to give honor to Our Lady.

On August 16, 2020, the Eparchy of Parma hosted its annual pilgrimage there on the Sunday nearest the feast of the Dormition (Assumption) of the Mother of God, with members of the FCSU in attendance.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

### Alleviate Your Anxiety

The crisis of Covid-19 has led to an increase in depression and anxiety among people in all spheres of society and there are steps we can and should take to combat this growing problem. Catholic Charities recognized this crisis early on and shared some practical advice on their website that serves as a great starting point in learning how to cope with these issues.

On Catholic Charities' website, clinical psychologist Michael Horne advises that we start with basic everyday health measures to combat stress. He notes that anxiety and depression often prompt us to forget these basic needs, but they are vital in preventing a downward spiral. "Eat well, stay physically active, get a good night's sleep," Horne writes. "While this seems simplistic, sticking to these core points will improve health, strengthen the immune system, and are good for preventing anxiety and depression."

These basic health concerns lead us to attend to the larger issues that Horne addresses, such as maintaining a routine, staying connected, and keeping up an active prayer life. Through his advice, we can see how interconnected our physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing can be.

Routine is at the heart of maintaining balance in all of these key aspects of our lives. Routine is what turns our need to eat into a scheduled mealtime that brings people together for much needed human interaction. And routine is what reminds us to come together in prayer. These routines can exist for us even in trying times, such as a pandemic. We just have to be conscious of adhering to the routine and the need we all have to connect with one another. Especially during times of social distancing within society, we must draw closer to family in order to make sure our needs, and the needs of our loved ones, are met.

Writing for the Catholic Apostolate Center, Colleen Campbell highlights another crucial idea. She says, "Focusing on our mental health allows us to be stewards of God's creation, specifically good stewards of the body that God has created and given to us. Though we are living in a time of panic and uncertainty, we have agency and the ability to take care of ourselves in a way that allows us to continue the hard work of bringing forth the Kingdom of God."

As we take the time to attend to our own needs and the needs of those closest to us, we can also prepare ourselves to point others in the right direction to receive help for whatever is troubling them. When we hear about people in need, we should have answers for where they can get help, and we should be prepared to reach out within our own communities to make sure that help is offered.

We must also remember that the anxiety people manifest is often the result of a complex set of circumstances and sometimes the best way to relieve their anxiety is to address underlying problems. If we come across people who are anxious about finances and day to day survival, the best way to help alleviate that anxiety is to point them in the direction of those who can provide solutions to those financial difficulties.

So let's remember that by attending to our own needs and the needs of our loved ones, we prepare ourselves to be a resource for others, which is ultimately the best way to take our minds off our own suffering and return to a life of joy.



## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

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1 - Attendance sheets - most virtual meeting platforms include a report of who has attended each meeting. The FCSU will accept a hard copy of this report; if the member has logged in with just a phone number, a corresponding member name must be submitted for each phone number listed as an attendee. FCSU also will accept an attendance sheet that has been filled in by the reporting officer.

2 - Election of officers: as one of your two meetings for the year is for the election of officers, you have some choices when conducting your meeting virtually. You can elect officers during the virtual meeting itself, with an open count of each attendee's vote. To have a secret ballot you can have attendees' email in their vote for each elected officer or submit via regular mail to their branch officer.

### FCSU BRANCH MEETING NOTIFICATION EMAILS:

We will continue to notify your members of your upcoming Branch/District meeting via email as we have in the past.

### FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

Finally, please remember that a fraternal activity is not limited to attendance at an event. Other examples of fraternal activities include: sending flowers to a sick member, donating to a charity, offer mass for deceased members etc. BE CREATIVE.

Fraternally,

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

## Focus on History

# Honouring Historical Personalities: Milan R. Štefánik (1880-1919)

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

Since time immemorial, as an act of self-definition and as a way to encourage social cohesion, societies and states have honoured historical personalities in a variety of ways, from etched portraits on temple walls that we see in Egypt, the Yucatan, or Angkor Wat to the erection of statues like the ones that have lasted to this day in Greece and Italy. Our modern world has maintained this tradition, adding the naming of streets or squares in cities and towns, and major events in national and international life have seen important people honoured in these ways.

Recently, however, we have also witnessed the toppling of statues or public protests targeting historical figures as a result of a re-examination of their role in history and/or in response to social movements that demand the recognition and redress of past wrongs with which they were connected. Examples abound these days: In addition to the monuments of Confederate leaders that have been removed, Christopher Columbus statues have come down in American cities, statues of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, have been taken away in Canadian cities, that of Ed Colston, a British merchant and slave trader, was dumped in Bristol harbour, Winston Churchill's in front of Parliament in London was defaced, and a petition was circulated in Toronto to rename Dundas street, named after Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville, a Scottish politician and First Lord of the Admiralty because, as we know today, he obstructed the abolition of slavery in the British Empire at the end of the eighteenth century. In the light of these contradictory tendencies around historical personalities, one can ask: why are they honoured? Let us seek to answer this question by looking at the case of Milan Rastislav Štefánik, recently voted in a public poll Slovakia's greatest Slovak.

The reasons for honouring Štefánik were not only the Slovak government's declaration that 2019, the centenary of his death, was the year of M.R. Štefánik, the 140th anniversary of his birth this year, and his first place in the poll, but also political considerations. The second Slovak Republic, created in 1993, has been searching for historic figures to give it historical continuity and legitimacy. There is nothing unusual about this, as we indicated above. However, given the timing and conditions that brought about Slovakia's independence less than three decades ago and the turbulent times the people of Slovakia have undergone throughout their history, the search for acceptable historical figures proved to be problematic: Whom to choose and from what period in history? Before the creation of the second Slovak Republic, Slovakia's inhabitants experienced four forms of government in modern times: A restricted democracy in Austria-Hungary; a flawed democracy in the First Czechoslovak Republic; authoritarian government in the first Slovak Republic; and totalitarian rule in Communist Czechoslovakia. After the fall of communism in 1989, the citizens of Slovakia opted for democracy. The preamble in the constitution of the second Slovak Republic, while mentioning Cyril and Methodius, left out any previous historical experience that might have given historical continuity to the new state: It was a deliberate but also strange omission. The fact is that the creation of the second Slovak Republic was part of a historical process to which many past events and historical personalities contributed.

It is not difficult to find Slovak men and women who fought for the national and political rights of their nation in each of these periods and who deserve to be honoured. Many appeared on the list in the national poll – Cyril and Methodius were in 5th place; others were deliberately excluded for political reasons. The political elite of the second Slovak Republic was looking specifically for someone whose life and activities reflected the values of the new state and its society. The process was guided by principles found in the preamble of the constitution, which refers to "a democratic form of government, the guarantees of a free life, the development of spiritual culture, and economic prosperity." The choice fell on a man who had spent only part of his childhood and less than half of his life in Slovakia and who became a citizen of another country, France, where he also became a general in its army. What was it about Milan Rastislav Štefánik, other than being Slovak, that earned him the honour bestowed upon him?

Štefánik's life was exceptional by any standard. He was a polyglot and is characterized by some scholars as a Renaissance man. He moved to France in 1904 and became a citizen in 1912. There are three areas of endeavour where he made a major contribution not just to its citizens but to the world: International communications, military meteorology, and international politics. It is in the latter where his Slovak origin and his military and political activities intersected. Born on 21 July 1880 in Košariská, a small Slovak village in northwestern Slovakia, his early schooling was in Bratislava, Sopron, and Szarvas, the latter two cities in Hungary. Instead of going to Budapest to study engineering, as his father wished, he left Slovakia for Prague in 1898, where, at Charles University, he earned a doctorate of philosophy in astronomy. During his university studies, his political views about Slovakia's future came into focus. He was a member of Detvan, a Slovak student club established in 1882 whose activities were aimed at acquainting the Czech public with Slovak culture. He contributed regularly to Slovak and Czech periodicals and became president of the club. He also met Professor T.G. Masaryk, a Czech teaching at Charles University, who persuaded him of the importance of Slovak-Czech cooperation once both nations severed their ties with Austria-Hungary. However, only after the Great War was well underway was Štefánik able to contribute actively and effectively to the fulfilment of such an objective. In the meantime, life in France beckoned him.

Upon completion of his studies in Prague in 1904, Štefánik left for Paris and became an astronomer, working first at the Meudon observatory; then a scientist commissioned by the French government to set up a communications link between France and Tahiti; a traveller; an artifact collector; a photographer; and, after the war broke out, a soldier and aviator in the French army. For his achievements in these areas, he was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur in November 1917, France's highest decoration, and was promoted to the rank of grand officier in January 1918. In June of that year, he was also given the rank of acting brigadier general in the French army. After the war was over, on 4 May 1919, he returned to Slovakia only to die suddenly when his plane crashed upon landing. He was almost 3 months shy of his 39th birthday. These activities and his stature in France made it possible for the second Slovak Republic to establish a special relationship with that country, a significant diplomatic asset for a small state in Central Europe and a member of the European Union. This was an important criterion in his selection.

It was his rank as a senior officer in the French army that enabled Štefánik to contribute to European politics. He was one of the three founders of the Czecho-Slovak National Council in 1916 along with two Czechs, Professor Masaryk whom he had known in Prague, and a student named Eduard Beneš. By virtue of his military activities and his connections in the French army and government, he made it possible for Masaryk, who led the Czech liberation movement, to advocate in the highest French government circles the creation of an independent state not just for the Czechs but for the Czechs and Slovaks. His signature was also added to the 1918 Washington Declaration that announced the creation of that new state. His most effective personal contribution was in the military sphere: In March 1916 he received orders from his French superiors to go to Russia to recruit prisoners-of-war of Czech and Slovak origin from captured Austro-Hungarian units to serve with the French army on the Western front; the Czecho-Slovak Legion was born. As he traveled to various war zones, it is interesting to note that he proposed to create a Slovak air squadron in the French army in Serbia, and a Slovak infantry division in the Czecho-Slovak Legion in Siberia; unfortunately, he failed to do so. He went to the United States in 1917 to further his goals for the legion and he organized units in France and Italy. In the end, it was largely his personal diplomatic skills and contacts, especially in France and Italy, that made the Entente recognise the Czecho-Slovak National Council as a de facto government and the Czecho-Slovak Legion as an Allied force in the summer and autumn of 1918.

His membership in the Czecho-Slovak National Council, his diplomatic activities on its behalf, and his military activities on the side of the Allies naturally made Štefánik the Slovak founding member of Czecho-Slovakia, the new common state of the Czechs and Slovaks that was created in October 1918. The new state's initial spelling, found in the peace treaties and other documents, had a hyphen to indicate its binational composition. Štefánik's death in May 1919 precluded his participation in its development and its politics, especially its rapid transformation into the state of a single "Czechoslovak" nation that did not recognize the existence of a Slovak nation. Unlike many of his Slovak contemporaries at home, namely Vavro Šrobár, Ivan Dérer, Milan Hodža, and Andrej Hlinka, he did not become involved in defining the parameters of Czech-Slovak relations during the existence of the First Czechoslovak Republic. Everything that he had done up to his death had a positive outcome: He was, so to speak, the "bullet-proof" co-founder of this new democratic state, a state that, unfortunately, did not live up to its initial promise to Slovakia and the Slovaks and that broke up within a generation. Masaryk and Beneš, on the other hand, had a role in this unexpected outcome.

At first glance, therefore, honouring Štefánik publicly should not present any problem. Yet in some circles in Slovakia today, the way he is honoured in Bratislava, the capital city, has raised questions because he is perceived as celebrating the Czecho-Slovak Republic he helped create. People note that the positioning of his statue at the Eurovea centre along the Danube, put there in 2004, replicates a monument erected in 1938 on another square in Bratislava to honour Czecho-Slovakia on its twentieth anniversary. Some wonder about the message this monument is conveying, whether it is there to celebrate Czecho-Slovakia rather than him and is using him to do so?

That his statue would provoke debate around Czecho-Slovakia and his role as one of its founders is not surprising; it is one of many issues under discussion about Slovakia's past today. Under communism, the inhabitants of Slovakia underwent almost five decades of bizarre interpretations and major distortions of their history. In such circumstances, it was difficult to achieve a public consensus in a short span of time, about periods that are dramatic in the nation's history, some still in recent memory, and, until recently, officially allowed only one reading. Modern democratic societies constantly debate their past to understand what changes to make, what historical wrongs to redress, and, sometimes, simply to appreciate or link up with past events and personalities to highlight new values.

Given what has been happening around the world to historical figures recently, rare are the ones who are as well chosen as Štefánik is in Slovakia. This is because of his ideals and the objectives he pursued at a crucial time in Slovak history, namely Slovak-Czech cooperation and the participation of the Slovak nation on an equal footing with the Czech in a binational democratic state. He was bestowed public honors in Slovakia soon after his death and throughout the twenties and thirties statues were erected to honour him: In Trnava in 1924; in Spišská Nová Ves in 1928; in Brezno and Košice in 1929; in Komarno and Predmier in 1930; in Levice in 1932; in Šurany in 1934; in Bratislava in 1938; and in Spišská Belá in 1939. One should not forget his burial memorial on Bradlo barrow in Brezová pod Bradlom unveiled in 1928. He was honoured not just in Slovakia, but also in Cleveland, Ohio with a statue in 1924, in Prague with an astronomical observatory named after him in 1928, and in Paris with a city square in his honour in 1932 and a statue at the Jardin des Tuileries in 1933, that ended up in the village of Paulhan in 1955.

It bears repeating that Štefánik was and is honoured for representing, defending, and leading the Slovak nation forward at a time when the world was going in new directions and offering new perspectives as well as for his other achievements. The fact that the future unfolded in unexpected ways for the common state of the Czechs and Slovaks does not take anything away from what he accomplished. That future, but also the state he helped create, were also unkind to him: During the Communist era, the regime destroyed his statue in Bratislava, removed those in all other locations except in Predmier, and condemned him to historical oblivion.

After the regime fell in 1989 and Slovakia became democratic, Štefánik's appeal to the elite of the second Slovak Republic and to people in Slovakia came as no surprise and was both a reaction to the recent past and a logical choice in the new state's search for historical continuity and legitimacy; the statues of yesteryear also reappeared there where they had been removed or destroyed. The process of honouring him as an historical personality was not just official policy but, with every public ceremony in memory of him, an acknowledgement of his positive role in Slovak history and the values that he stood for and defended.

There are other Slovak personalities who also deserve to be honoured because their lives and activities likewise reflect values present not just in Slovak history and but also in today's Slovakia. New times and different circumstances will perhaps make it possible for them to be similarly acknowledged and honoured for what they represented, accomplished, and defended.



# Šaštín: The Pilgrimage Site of the Patroness of Slovakia, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.**

Šaštín is the home of the monastery and church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows (Panny Mária Sedembolestná), the patroness of Slovakia. Annual pilgrimages involving thousands of faithful from across Slovak and abroad take place at Šaštín several times each year, including on Pentecost, the feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius, and on the feast-day of Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15).

Slovaks have long identified their trials and tribulations throughout history with Our Lady of Sorrows. The Virgin Mary and her sufferings came to be identified with the people of Slovakia, and the association with Šaštín dates from a miracle which occurred long ago in the 16th century.

## The Town of Šaštín-Stráže

Situated in the Trnava region of western Slovakia, Šaštín-Stráže lies between the Myjava Hills and the Záhorie Lowland, not far from Moravia. The Myjava River separates the two parts of the town. Šaštín is situated about 18 km from Senica and 65 km, or about an hour, from the Slovak capital, Bratislava. Although the town's two parts, Šaštín and Stráže nad Myjavou were for long two separate villages, their history is closely connected to each other. The villages merged to create Šaštínske Stráže in 1961; in 1971 to the current name of Šaštín-Stráže was adopted. In 2001, the joined villages officially became a town.

## Historical Background

Historians and archaeologists have found evidence of settlement in the Šaštín area from the second half of the 10th century until about 1250. The town's official history dates back to the early 13th century; its oldest record dates from 1218, when the Hungarian King Emeric II (Imrich, in Slovak) granted the property of the Lebény Benedictine Monastery to the Győr family. The name of the town derived from the Magyar word "sás," (meaning šašina or trstie in Slovak), a reference to the marshy grass (reeds) with solid stems in the marshy wetlands area where the town started.

During the Middle Ages, the settlement served as a vital part of the Székely border defense of the Hungarian Kingdom. Therefore, the village has historical connections with the Székely ethnic group, which originated from southern Hungary and the Vojvodina area of contemporary Serbia.

In the late 14th century, Šaštín acquired the formal privileges associated with the status of a town. Aside from serving as the site of several battles and the home to a thriving craft industry, Šaštín did not have any special economic significance until the 18th century. Acquired by the emperor due to outstanding debts, Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa's husband, Francis of Lorraine, used this newly acquired estate for business purposes. He had calico textile factory (kartúnka) built there and it soon became one of largest enterprises in central Europe. By acquiring a monopoly of the business in the empire, it would employ over 20,000 domestic spinners and foreign skilled workers. The crown sold the factory to the Viennese banker, Johann Puthon, in the 1780s. It continued to prosper until the late 19th century, when the business declined due to competition during the industrial revolution.

## Apparitions of the Virgin Mary

Šaštín had no special religious significance until 1564, when the Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of Sorrows, first appeared to Angelika Bakičová, the wife of a landowner by the name of Imrich Czobor. The apparition occurred while she was praying for her intercession to deal with some personal trials in her life.

In thanksgiving for answering her prayers, Pani Bakičová commissioned an unknown artist to sculpt a wooden statue at the place of the apparition. Soon afterwards, word spread of her vision, and the faithful from nearby towns and villages began to visit the site as a place of pilgrimage. Before long, pilgrims from far away heard of the apparition and also started to make longer journeys to Šaštín in order to pay homage to Our Sorrowful Mother. A small triangular Marian chapel was then built to house the statue in the late 16th century.

During the long series of wars with the invading Ottoman Turks, the statue was moved in 1654 for protection to the Chapel of St. Imrich, in a nearby manor house. It did not return to its original chapel until 1710. Once returned to its original chapel, the statue again attracted throngs of pilgrims who credited Our Lady of Sorrows for many spiritual and physical miracles of healing.

## Official Church Recognition

Not until the early 18th century did the Catholic Church officially grant its approval for public worship of the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows. Recognition involved an extensive official Church investigation. On August 25, 1732, the statue was moved to the Loreto Chapel of the town church. In the meantime, an official Church commission found that as many as 726 proven miracles associated with the statue.

Finally in 1732, Archbishop Imrich Eszterházy in Esztergom, the center of Catholicism in Hungary, sanctioned the chapel in Šaštín as an official place of pilgrimage, and Pope Urban VIII confirmed its sanctity. The statue returned to its original location in the triangular chapel, under the care of Rev. Ján Schon. A throng of over 20,000 people gathered to celebrate the first Holy Mass at the chapel. This sealed its sanctity as place of worship for centuries to come.

## Building the Basilica and Adjacent Monastery

The Pauline religious order received responsibility to minister and take care of the shrine starting in 1733. Upon arriving in Šaštín, the Paulines decided to build a church to accommodate pilgrims and a monastery to house the clergy. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on July 16, 1736. Johann Damian and later Matej Vepý from Vienna directed its construction. The builders completed construction of the main part of the basilica and its roof in 1748, and three years later, the adjoining monastery was completed. The main nave is 13 meters in width, and an arcaded corridor joins the basilica with the adjoining monastery.

Once the building was finished, attention turned to the decoration of the interior. In 1757, the Austrian court painter, Jean-Joseph Chamant, adorned the basilica ceiling and the side altars with a series of colorful frescoes and murals. Another important Austrian master of the era, Johann Lucas Kracker, painted three side altars of the basilica.

During the reign of Empress Maria Theresa, the renowned Habsburg imperial architect, Franz Hildebrand, recommended additional adornments, including the construction of a main altar made of red marble and the decoration of the façade of the basilica. The donations of thousands of ordinary people of Slovakia and Maria Theresa's personal contribution funded the project. All was done to prepare for the 200th anniversary of the apparition in 1764.

The official blessing and dedication of the basilica occurred on August 15, 1764. The culmination of the ceremony featured the presentation of the statue at the main altar. In addition to the many thousands of pilgrims who came for the grand event, the attendees at the event sounded like a list of "who's who" in the Habsburg Empire – the Esztergom Archbishop Barkoczi, Empress Maria Theresa

and her husband Francis of Lorraine, and many other distinguished clergy and dignitaries.

Other improvement continued in the ensuing years. Just a year later, the bells were blessed and the domes finished. In 1771, a grand lectern was completed, as well as a magnificent organ with 25 variations to fill the basilica with heavenly music. Gradually over time, construction workers completed the side altars and finished the project.

## Decline and Revival

When the "enlightened" emperor and reformist Emperor Joseph II (1780-90) dissolved the monasteries in the empire, the basilica became government property. The Paulines fled to Poland in 1786. The Šaštín pastor Jakub Schneider and four chaplains then closed their parish church, moved to the monastery quarters, and took over administering the basilica. The Salesian Order would later take over the ministry of the shrine when the monastery was later reopened after Joseph II's reign.

The next notable event occurred in 1864 – the 300th anniversary of the apparition. In preparation for the event, Deacon Štefan Hrebiček contracted Jozef Bárta from Hodonín to raise the two towers to their current height and renovate the basilica. A grand ceremony took place on September 8, 1864, at which 300 clergy and over 120,000 pilgrims attended. Presided over by the Esztergom Archbishop, Cardinal Ján Scitovsky, he placed on the statue a crown of gold blessed by Pope Pius IX.

Šaštín appeared in the news again when the Emperor Franz Joseph paid a visit to the shrine in 1902. But details were lacking about this historic visit.

Next mention of the shrine occurred during World War I, when the bells were hidden to protect them from possible damage or melting down to make weapons. After the war in 1926, the basilica had four more large bells consecrated.

## Patroness of Slovakia

The greatest moment for the shrine came the following year in April, when Pope Pius XI declared that Our Sorrowful Mother would be the patroness of Slovakia. In order to acknowledge the Holy See's decision, this patronage, three bishops celebrated a Holy Mass on May 22, 1927, attended by over 40,000 pilgrims.

Improvements to the basilica continued over the next couple decades: in 1929 a new national bell to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows weighed about 5,000 pounds. The next year the basilica acquired electric lighting. During World War II, renovations improved the sanctuary, the organ, and the building itself. Slovaks living in Vienna donated the Stations of the Cross for the shrine.

## Communist Suppression

After the Second World War, the communist dictatorship attacked all Holy Orders and in 1950, state police forcefully expelled the Salesians (the Order that had taken over the ministry of the shrine in the late 1790s) from the shrine. The shrine once again came under the administration of the diocese and the local parish. Nonetheless, the pilgrims continued to flock to the shrine and a new grander organ was installed.

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Angelika Bakičová's apparition, Pope Paul VI declared in 1964 the church in Šaštín would be a minor basilica. Trnava's Bishop Lazik presided at the celebration Mass shortly after Christmas in that year.

When Slovak leader Alexander Dubček relaxed many of the anti-religious in Czechoslovakia during 1968, the Salesians could return temporarily to minister the shrine. While short-lived, further improvements to the bells and church included a new marble altar completed in 1975.

Another great moment in the history of the shrine was the visit of Mother Theresa of Calcutta, who made a pilgrimage to Šaštín in 1987. The then newly appointed Archbishop-Metropolitan of Trnava, Rev. Ján Sokol, hosted the occasion.

## Renewal in a Free Slovakia

After fall of communism in 1989, the Salesians returned once more to take care of the shrine in February 1990. The Rev. Ján Malženický continued to renovate the basilica and monastery in preparation for the first national pilgrimage after years of totalitarian rule. During his sojourn to Bratislava, Pope John Paul II flew over the shrine in a helicopter during April on his first visit to Slovakia and blessed it, promising to return personally to pay homage to Our Lady of Sorrows. The faithful of Slovakia responded with a massive celebration, which counted 900 priests and many thousands of pilgrims at the odpušt in May of that year.

The Holy Father fulfilled his promise to Our Lady and the people of Slovakia in 1995, when he visited the shrine on July 1. Over one half million pilgrims attended for the papal visit. In a field near the basilica, he concelebrated Holy Mass with 48 high Church dignitaries, but his sermon addressed the poor, whom he said gave him strength to carry on his mission. He repeatedly mentioned how he joined with the poor in prayer. The Pope also blessed 20 cornerstones from which new churches would be built across Slovakia.

The papal visit in 1995 indeed marked the culmination of the revitalization of the Šaštín shrine to Our Lady of Sorrows. Since then the annual pilgrimages continue to take place annually on September 15, on Pentecost, and on the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius on July 5. Improvements to the basilica continue and the slow process of restoring the beautiful interior and Chamant's frescoes is ongoing. September 15 is a state holiday in Slovakia today, and a day free from work obligations, so all may devote special attention to Our Lady of Sorrows.

In 1998, the Slovak Republic also issued a stamp with the Pieta statue from main altar of the Marian Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows.

## The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 1) The prophecy of Simeon that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's heart (Luke 2:25-38).
- 2) Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt with Jesus to avoid King Herod's murderous plot (cf. Mt 2:13-18).
- 3) Jesus' parents search for Him in Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-52).
- 4) Mary's encounter with Jesus on the way to Golgotha.
- 5) Mary's witnessing His crucifixion (John 19:16-30).
- 6) Jesus' body placed in His mother's arms (depicted by the Pieta statue, such as the one at Šaštín).
- 7) The burial of her Son (Luke 23:50-55).

This site offers prayers in Slovak associated with the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary: [http://www.sedembolestna.sk/krizova\\_cesta.html](http://www.sedembolestna.sk/krizova_cesta.html).

*[Editor's note: this abridged article is from one published in the Sept 7, 2016 edition of Jednota; to access the article in its entirety, go to pp 1, 8 – 9 of that issue which can be found at [fcsu.com/newspaper/newspaper-archive](http://fcsu.com/newspaper/newspaper-archive). Reprinted with the author's permission.]*

# News From Slovakia

## August 1968 nám pripomína, že demokraciu nemožno považovať za samozrejmosť

Bratislava, 21. augusta (TASR) - August 1968 nám pripomína, že suverenitu štátu nemožno považovať za samozrejmosť, pretože ide o hodnotu, ktorú musia rezolúcie štátu chrániť rezolútne, uviedla v piatok prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová na podujatí pri príležitosti 52. výročia okupácie Československa armádami Varšavskej zmluvy.

„Pretože sme v našej krajine zažili udalosti augusta 1968, vieme, aký zločin sa pácha na celom svete tými, ktorí nerešpektujú ľudí ako jediný zdroj štátnej moci a ktorí stavajú svoju moc nad štátnu suverenitu.“, povedala Čaputová.

Podľa nej spomínanie na tieto udalosti nielen vzdáva hold obetiam; Pripomína tiež všetky správy pochádzajúce z augusta 1968, najmä to, že „ľudia sú suverénnym majstrom a zdrojom moci a demokraciu nemožno považovať za samozrejmosť“.

„Veľmi dobre vieme, prečo sa takáto vec nikdy nemôže znovu objaviť. Na jar roku 1968 sa veľká časť spoločnosti domnievala, že vo vtedajšom režime bude možné dosiahnuť mierovým spôsobom stav, v ktorom by štát rešpektoval základné práva a slobody verejnosti. Udalosti z roku 1968 a nasledujúce udalosti dokázali, že táto vízia bola iba ilúziou,“ poznamenala prezidentka.

Podľa jej názoru vlády východného bloku považovali každú zmenu k lepšiemu v Československu za hrozbu. „Obávali sa, že naša demokratizácia by vyvolala dominový efekt, ktorý by im potom na oplátok mohol stáť monopol na moc,“ poznamenala Čaputová a dodala, že pod stopami tankov, ktoré boli vyslané do krajiny, bola zničená teória, že socializmus môže byť ľudský a demokratický.



Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová vystúpila s prejavom na podujatí pri príležitosti 52. výročia okupácie Československa armádami Varšavskej zmluvy v Bratislave 21. augusta 2020 (foto TASR)

President Zuzana Caputova giving her speech at an event commemorating the 52nd anniversary of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact armies in Bratislava on August 21, 2020 (photo by TASR)

## August 1968 Reminds Us Democracy Can't Be Taken for Granted

Bratislava, August 21 (TASR) – August 1968 is a reminder that the sovereignty of a state can't be taken for granted, as it's a value that needs to be protected by representatives of the state with resolve, President Zuzana Caputova stated at an event commemorating the 52nd anniversary of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact armies on this date. "Because we experienced the events of August 1968 in our country, we know what crime is committed all around the world by those who don't respect the people as the only source of state power and who put their status of power above the state's sovereignty," said Caputova.

According to her, remembering these events not only pays homage to the victims; it also recalls all the messages stemming from August 1968, especially that "the people are the sovereign master and the source of power and that democracy can't be taken for granted."

"We know very well why such a thing can't ever be allowed to reoccur. In the spring of 1968 a large section of society believed that it would be possible in the-then regime to reach in a peaceful manner a status in which the state would respect the public's basic rights and freedoms. The events of 1968 and what followed proved that this vision was only an illusion," noted the president.

In her view, the governments of the Eastern Bloc viewed every change for the better in Czechoslovakia as a threat. "They feared that our democratization would trigger a domino effect, which in turn could cost them their monopoly on power," remarked Caputova, adding that the theory that socialism can be human and democratic was crushed beneath the tracks of the tanks that were sent into the country.

## Očkovanie proti koronavírusu bude na Slovensku dobrovoľné

BRATISLAVA 23. augusta (TASR) - Stratégia Slovenska týkajúca sa očkovania proti koronavírusom je v súčasnosti založená na dobrovoľnom prístupe verejnosti a predpoklade, že ľudia si do veľkej miery uvedomia svoje výhody, uviedol minister zdravotníctva Marek Krajci (OLaNO) v online diskusnom programe TV Markiza. „Na telo plus“ (Tough Questions Plus) v nedeľu.

„Určite inzerujeme výhody očkovania prostredníctvom informačnej kampane. Nechceme

však nikoho nútiť,“ povedal Krajci.

Minister školstva Branislav Groehling (Sloboda a solidarita / SaS), ktorý sa tiež pripojil k diskusi, sa tiež domnieva, že pozitívny vzdelávací program je tou správnou cestou.

„Myslím si, že potreba ochrany pred novým koronavírusom, s ktorou sa musíme naučiť žiť, bude mať z hľadiska ľudí osobitný význam,“ povedal Groehling.

Krajci potvrdil, že vakcinácia proti koronavírusom na Slovensku bude bezplatná, pričom uprednostňujú sa najrizikovejšie skupiny. Pokiaľ ide o ďalšie skupiny ľudí, Krajci pripustil, že ak sa v nich nájdu protilátky, nepotrebujú očkovanie.



Photo: TASR

## Vaccination Against Coronavirus Will Be Voluntary in Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, August 23 (TASR) – Slovakia's strategy concerning vaccination against coronavirus is currently based on a voluntary approach by the public and the assumption that the people will largely realise its benefits, said Health Minister Marek Krajci (OLaNO) on TV Markiza's online discussion programme 'Na telo plus' (Tough Questions Plus) on Sunday.

"We'll certainly advertise the benefits of vaccination by way of an information campaign. We don't want to force anyone, however," said Krajci.

Education Minister Branislav Groehling (Freedom and Solidarity/SaS), who joined the discussion as well, also believes that a positive education programme is the way to go.

"I think that the need of protection against the novel coronavirus – with which we'll need to learn to live – will be of particular significance in people's considerations," said Groehling.

Krajci confirmed that vaccination against coronavirus in Slovakia will be free of charge, with the most at-risk groups to be given priority. When it comes to other groups of people, Krajci conceded that if anti-bodies are found in them, they won't need vaccination.

## Celoplošný zákaz letu zrušený od 7. Septembra

Bratislava, 25. augusta (TASR) - Podľa hovorca Ministerstva dopravy a výstavby, Ivana Rudolfa, Tim Centrálného Krízového Riadenia schválil zrušenie celoplošných zákazov letov, ktoré požiadalo Ministerstvo dopravy a výstavby.

Tento krok nadobudne účinnosť 7. septembra o 24.00 hod., podliehajúc prísny proti epidemickým opatreniam stanoveným Úradom verejného zdravotníctva.

Z tohto dôvodu bude zrušený zákaz civilných letov, ktoré odlietajú z územia iného štátu a pristávajú na Slovensku. „Zákaz sa uplatňuje na krajiny, ktoré boli identifikované ako riziká z dôvodu šírenia COVID-19,“ uviedol hovorca.

Ministerstvo dopravy odôvodnilo svoju žiadosť vyhlásením, že všeobecný zákaz letov z vysoko rizikových krajín nemal žiaden účinok. „Zákaz letov do a z vysoko rizikových krajín má veľmi negatívne následky pre našu ekonomiku. Z hľadiska prenosu vírusu do krajiny predstavuje ešte väčšie riziko, pretože cestujúci z vysokorizikových krajín môžu prísť na Slovensko jednoduchým transferom v akejkoľvek bezpečnej krajine, a v takom prípade neexistujú informácie o ich príchode.“, Povedala štátna tajomníčka ministerstva dopravy Katarína Brunčková.

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M.R. Štefánik Airport in Bratislava (stock photo by TASR)

Letisko M.R. Štefánika v Bratislave (fotka od TASR)



## Fraternalism in Action

### Branch 716 Answers the Call

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 716 answered the call.

Family, friends and fellow Slovaks gathered at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City on August 1, 2020, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for FCSU member John Holy. The Mass was celebrated by the pastor, the Rev. Richard D. Baker and concelebrating was the Rev. Stefan Chanas, associate pastor of the Church of St. Clare on Staten Island. Branch 716 members, including Branch President Jan Škrkoň, were in attendance to pay tribute to Mr. Holy, husband of Nina Holy, Vice President of Branch 716. After the Mass, Branch 716 helped to provide refreshments outside the church for everyone.

- Joan Škrkon, Branch 716 Recording Secretary



(L – R) Branch 716 President Jan Škrkoň with Reverend Stefan Chanas, associate pastor of Staten Island's Church of St. Clare.



Branch 716 helped with refreshments outside St. John Nepomucene after Mr. Holy's Mass of Christian Burial



### How Are You Helping?

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

continued from page 8

### Across-board Flight Ban Lifted as of September 7

Bratislava, August 25 (TASR) – The Central Crisis Management Team approved an across-the-board lifting of flight bans requested by the Transport and Construction Ministry, according to ministry spokesman Ivan Rudolf.

The move will take effect as of 12.01 a.m. on September 7, subject to strict anti-epidemic measures determined by the Public Health Office.

The ban on civilian flights that take off from the territory of another state and land in Slovakia will be lifted, therefore. "The ban applied to countries that have been identified as being a risk due to the spread of COVID-19," said the spokesman.

The Transport Ministry justified its request by stating that the across-the-board ban on flights from high-risk countries was having no effect. "The ban on flights to and from high-risk countries has very negative consequences for our economy. From the point of view of bringing the virus into the country, it poses an even greater risk because passengers from high-risk countries can come to Slovakia via a simple transfer in any safe country, and in that case there is no information concerning their arrival," said Transport Ministry State Secretary Katarina Brunckova.

## Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance 2020 Scholarship Program



The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2020 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. Applications can be obtained by going to <https://tinyurl.com/y4xtzu5q> or by contacting the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Secretary-Treasurer at [Theresa@lpsc.org](mailto:Theresa@lpsc.org) or 888-834-6614.

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a 2020 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2020 as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "What does fraternal mean to you? What would you do to increase the relevance of fraternalism to you and your peers?"

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than October 1, 2020.

At least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

## Online Slovak Language for Beginners Starts this September



Beginning Slovak 1, a live online language course sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI), will be offered Thursday evenings from September 17 to November 19, 2020, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm EST. In this 10-week, 20-hour course, participants will learn basic Slovak vocabulary and phrases and be introduced to Slovak grammar. The course is designed to be interesting and informative and although its focus is learning the Slovak language, it includes various aspects of Slovakia's rich culture and traditions. A 100-page PDF Course Book and audio files are provided. The instructor is Dennis Ragan, who has been teaching basic Slovak language courses and 'real' halušky culinary classes for 18 years. The cost is \$195 (\$180 for members of CGSI). For a copy of the course syllabus, please contact Dennis at [dragan322@gmail.com](mailto:dragan322@gmail.com)

- Submitted by Dennis Ragan

## Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in September

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 August 30, \$23,628.50 has been received from 160 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, 85, 112, 166, 173, 276, 290, 313, 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. HvozdoVIC, 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



**DON'T MISS OUT!**

**THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC  
2020 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCT 31**

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**



# Jednota Members: Have you Participated in our Memorial?

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

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

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



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## Celebrating Mary in September

This September, we celebrate Mary's birthday on the 8th, her name day on the 12th, and her feast day as Our Lady of Sorrows on the 15th. So this month is a good time to consider how truly blessed we are to have a unique intercessor in Mary.

God's significant choice was to gift us with Jesus' own mother. She is present to us in both her spirit and body. Thus she understands our struggles – physical and spiritual.

As she stood beneath Jesus' cross, His final words to her were, "Woman, here is your son" (John, standing in for each of us). Then to John, Jesus said "Here is your mother" (Jn 19:26-27).

How comforting it can be for us to prayerfully repeat Mary's name as we ask for her help. I can well understand why the following hymn was so treasured and often sung by my mother.

- Sr. Maria Theresa Hronec, SSCM



Ty si najlepšia Matka,  
ta si moja radosť.  
Ty si všetka potecha  
mojej duši žiadost'.

Od toho času, jak ma  
Matka naučila,  
tú krásnu, milú pieseň  
Zdravas buď, Mária!

Kam sa pohnem, kam idem,  
všade si ju spievam,  
tebe, Matička milá  
česť a chválu vzdávam.

Keď v nebezpečí stojím,  
keď mi hrozí skaza,  
volám ku tebe vŕucne  
Zdravas buď, Mária!

Keď sa hriechu dopustím,  
keď teba nahnevám,  
jak strateným sa cítim  
a horko nariekam.

Slzy sa mi po tvári  
zarmútenej ronía,  
ústa moje volajú  
Zdravas buď, Mária!

A ty, predobrá Matka,  
zas ma k sebe vinieš,  
moje žalostné srdce  
zas k sebe pozdvihneš.

A keď ma nemoc trápi,  
bolesti zachvátia  
ústa moje šepkajú  
Zdravas buď, Mária!

Ty bolesti uľaviš  
a trpkosť osladiš,  
laskou svojou materskou  
srdce mi napojiš.

Keď už pride posledná  
žitia môjho chvíľa,  
aj vtedy budem volať:  
Zdravas buď, Mária!

A ty, Matička Božia,  
v tej sláve nebeskej,  
budeš úbohú dušu  
moju čakať. Amen.

### We Sing with Joy, O Mary

We sing with joy, O Mary,  
We praise and call on your name!  
Our own dear one, we claim you  
As Mother, loving and true.  
You are the best of all mothers,  
The blessed joy of my life.  
You are my solace and comfort,  
Each day, my soul's delight.

Yes, I can now remember  
As Mother taught me to pray,  
And sing out: Hail dear Mary,  
To call on you day by day.

Where'er I go on life's journey  
My fervent hopes, prayers I raise.  
Protect me, guide me, dear Mother,  
I honor you with praise.

When dangers rise to harm me,  
Misfortune heightens my fear,  
I pray with earnest pleading:  
Hail Mary, Mother most dear.  
When sin and weakness o'erwhelm me,  
You comfort me through this pain,  
So lost, forsaken I struggle,  
And cry to you again.

My eyes with tears are streaming,  
I seek your kind, gentle gaze.  
My lips these words are praying:  
Hail Mary, honor and praise.  
As you, compassionate Mother,  
With loving arms hold me close,  
With tender mercy embrace me  
And in your heart enclose.

When I am ill or aged,  
And live with pain day by day,  
I trust and say these simple words  
Hail Mary, Mother, I pray.  
You are my strength and supporter,  
My healing hope, help and rest.  
You comfort me, dearest Mother.  
Your loving heart knows best.

When one day comes the moment  
In which I breathe my last breath,  
Once more I raise my fervent plea:  
Hail Mary, be near in death.  
For you as God's own dear Mother,  
With Jesus rejoice now above,  
Receive my poor soul and welcome  
Your child to you with love.

### Ó, Jak sa sladko spieva

Ó, Jak sa sladko spieva  
tvé meno Mária!  
ó, jak ťa srdce žiada,  
Matička premilá.

## Focus on Heritage

### Facebook Websites for Learning about Slovak History, Language and Culture

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

I have created two new website groups on Facebook to help facilitate learning and the exchange of information and ideas about Slovaks and Slovakia. One is entitled "Slovak History" and the other is "Learning the Slovak Language and Culture."

The sites originated because the action of the administrator of the "Learning Slovak" site which I had posted on for several years at his request. The administrator, an instructor at Comenius University and a teacher at the summer school Studia Academica Slovaca, censored some of my posts because they used some religious content as examples of using Slovak words. Since I regularly read the Scriptures in Slovak, I often incorporate sentences from the Holy Word of God, but also use a wide variety of sentence examples from many other sources.

I was also censored for posting a quote about Father Marián Kuffa, a Slovak priest who defends traditional Catholic teachings. No politics was intended, but the administrator alleged that he was a fascist, but I could find no evidence to prove such an assertion. Rev. Kuffa is a well-known parish priest in Žakovce, a village in the Kežmarok District of the Spiš area. The priest's brother is a very conservative politician, Štefan Kuffa, but Father Kuffa's site has strictly religious postings. Father Kuffa also speaks out on social issues and provides special assistance to the poor and neglected in society. At his parish house, he cares for the homeless, former prisoners, orphans, handicapped, and abused mothers with children. He has uploaded a number of Youtube films and is controversial to some because he is not afraid of refuting those who deny the Church's teachings on subjects which the secular world promotes today. One may visit Father Kuffa's site on Facebook as well, Otec Kuffa - Slovenský dohovor za rodinu (Father Kuff - Slovak Convention for the Family):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kuffasdzr/>

Regardless, the experience and my wish to have free reign of my posts and avoid needless censorship led me to establish my own groups. At first I formed "Learning the Slovak Language and Slovak History," but then decided to divide it into two sites, "Slovak History" and "Learning the Slovak Language and Culture." Some people might want to focus more on the learning the language and the culture, whereas I still wanted to share my expertise in Slovak history with interested readers who might not want to learn the language.

Slovak History - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3011520245599598/>

The Slovak History site aims to introduce the general public to Slovak history, provide suggested

sources for further reading, and promote a discussion of multiple topics concerning the history of the peoples of Slovakia and their past, including Slovak-Americans and Slovaks who emigrated abroad.

#### Professor Kopanic's Slovak History

In partnership with Global Slovakia, the site also shares links posted as "Professor Kopanic's Slovak History." Global Slovakia has suggested merging the sites, but as of now, I am just sharing the entries with it. I strongly urge readers to visit the Global Slovakia Facebook site and its regular website - <https://globalslovakia.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/globalslovakia/>.

For navigating topics on the Slovak History site, topics can provide some direction. For instance, if one wishes to read some General Slovak History, one could just click on that topic and read anything from a quick survey of Slovak history to some longer works suggested. Books on Slovakia provide more in depth suggestions for further reading and research. These entries will grow over time.

Here is a list of the topics as of August 2020, and of course, new themes may be added. Suggestions are always welcome.

General Slovak History  
Books on Slovak History  
Slovak and Rusyn America  
World War I  
Czecho-Slovak Legion  
Stefánik  
Interwar Slovakia  
World War II  
Communism  
Post-communist Slovakia  
Slovak bios  
Slovak towns  
Music history  
Museums

Jews of Slovakia  
Radio  
Historical personalities  
Matica slovenská  
Athletes of Slovak background  
Slovaks in Europe  
Czech history  
Castles  
Staré fotky-Old photos  
Rusyns  
Global Slovakia site  
Magyarones - pro-Hungarian  
Slovak literature  
Religion in Slovakia

Learning the Slovak Language and Culture - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/281030579692957/>

The other site focuses on the Slovak language and helping participants learn new words and

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## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
October 14	October 5
November 11	November 2
December 9	November 30

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2021 - Proposed

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
January 13	January 4
February 10	February 1
March 10	March 1
April 14	April 5
May 12	May 3
June 9	June 1 (Memorial Day, May 31)
July 14	July 6 (Observed Independence Day, July 5)
August 11	August 2
Sept 8	August 30
October 13	October 4
November 10	November 1
December 8	November 29

## Facebook Websites for Learning

Continued from page 12

expressions, grammar, and various aspects of Slovak culture which help understand the language and people. Participants are welcome to chime in and share ideas, and help me as well, even with corrections, as I am always learning more Slovak words, phrases, and culture as a lifelong project. Those who are native speakers can be most helpful, but anyone who grew up in a Slovak or Slovak-American home can offer some useful additions to assist our learning together.

"Learning the Slovak Language and Culture" is also divided into topics. As the site is relatively new, I might add a few more such as Slovak films, Slovak jokes, dialects, etc.

When possible, I also include links to Slovak radio shows and the live Catholic Mass in Slovak under the Religion topic on every Sunday at 10:15 am. For example, here is a post from August 30, 2020:

Radio Lux, New York City - Slovak Mass on Sundays at 10:15 am  
 LIVE SV. OMSA Z KOSTOLA SV. JANA NEPOMUCKEHO  
 Live Slovak Mass from St. John Nepomucene Church in NYC  
<https://www.facebook.com/luxnewyork.net/videos/1493595987491482/>

Here is a list of those which I have thus far formed.

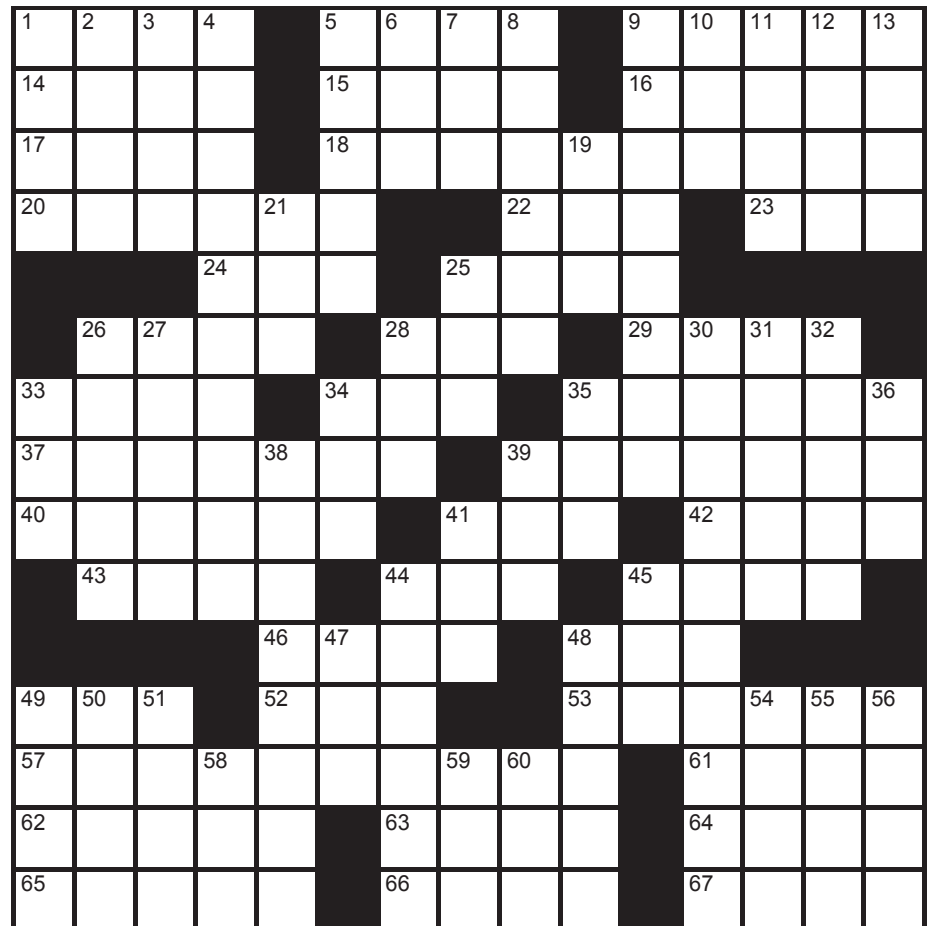
Basic Slovak	Pranostiky - Weather Lore
Slovak words	Slovak foods
Basic Slovak Phrases for Conversation	Museums
Slovak grammar	Global Slovakia
Customs	Ľudové príslovia Folk expressions
Radio a TV	Slovak Americans
Visiting Slovakia Travel	Castles - Hradý
Religious	Slovak Music
Slovak News	Folk traditions & customs
Old photos - Stare fotky	Meniny - Name Days
Mothers and Fathers	Spiš dialect - Spišské nárečie

In conclusion, I welcome all Jednota members and readers to visit both websites and request membership. For admission to the groups, you have to state why you wish to join, and I screen members since it is a public site. I need to make sure there are not participants who post ads, promote political issues, or use inappropriate foul or profane language. I reserve the right to remove non-complying participants and wish to maintain both sites as a way to share ideas about the language, culture and history of Slovakia.

Feel free to apply to enter the group, and you may even mention that you are a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU), the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the National Slovak Society, or some other Slovak fraternal organization. All interested in matters Slovak and readers of Jednota are always welcome! Czechs and Rusyns as well, even Hungarians and interested non-Slavs.

Nech sa učíme spolu viac o slovenskej kultúre! Let us learn more about Slovak culture together!

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 1 Bridge actions
- 5 Styptic
- 9 Preface, briefly
- 14 China setting
- 15 Shopper stopper
- 16 Water wheel
- 17 Split apart
- 18 Audio recording
- 20 Tease
- 22 Kind of party
- 23 \_\_\_ amis
- 24 Fortune
- 25 Chime
- 26 Old World duck
- 28 EU language
- 29 Guitar relative
- 33 Heroic poem
- 34 It can be shocking
- 35 Tiny swimsuit
- 37 Eyeglass
- 39 Weakling
- 40 Unsaturated alcohol
- 41 Office machine
- 42 River isles
- 43 British gun
- 44 Word of possibility
- 45 Fair attraction
- 46 Group of two
- 48 Go for the gold?
- 49 Heating fuel
- 52 Double curve
- 53 Good-for-nothing
- 57 Final demands
- 61 Dismounted
- 62 Memorize
- 63 Great times
- 64 Straight, at the bar
- 65 Fringe benefits
- 66 Pickable
- 67 Not all

### Down

- 1 Owl's hangout
- 2 Fortuneteller's opening
- 3 Have supper
- 4 Horseback riding result, maybe
- 5 Good point
- 6 Asian language
- 7 Eskimo knife
- 8 Teacher
- 9 Printing process
- 10 \_\_\_'easter
- 11 Streetcar
- 12 Food grain
- 13 Acorn producers
- 19 Family room
- 21 Depressed
- 25 Toothpaste type
- 26 Vision problem
- 27 "Haystacks" painter
- 28 Command to a horse
- 30 Slavic natives
- 31 Not bold
- 32 Related maternally
- 33 German spa
- 34 Annex
- 35 Kind of seat
- 36 "\_\_\_ show time!"
- 38 Denounces

- 39 Period of time
- 41 Craze
- 44 Overlord
- 45 Kind of race
- 47 It's a free country
- 48 Sheriff's group
- 49 Swig
- 50 Toward shelter, nautically
- 51 Hollywood Boulevard sight
- 54 Butter alternative
- 55 Musical kingdom
- 56 Fem. suffix
- 58 Peeve
- 59 Mentalist Geller
- 60 Tourist's aid

See Solution on Page 19

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on November 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Saint Cyril and Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Election of officers will be held at this time, and it will also be our annual Christmas party. Those interested in attending, please call 216-338-8179 by October 23, 2020 to confirm that you will be attending so that proper accommodations can be made. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. All members are encouraged and invited to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

## BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Joanne Lako, Secretary

## BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will not hold its annual meeting for 2020. If members have questions concerning their policies, please refer to the Home Office: 1-800-533-6682.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 10, 2020, at 3:00PM at the Avenue Diner, 22 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA.. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business, activities, and the election of officers. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend the branch meeting via Zoom or phone need to contact Martha Zavada, Branch Treasurer, at 570-954-3771 by September 30, 2020.

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will conduct a (virtual) Zoom meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2020, at 10:00AM. The annual District 1 Meeting will be held directly after the branch meeting. During this branch meeting, we will plan our scholarship meeting for November 8, 2020. We cordially invite interested members to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

## BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 will hold a meeting on Sunday Sept.20, 2020, at Voma Hall, 307 Chestnut Street. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30PM. We had to cancel the meeting that was scheduled for March 22, 2020. This will be the first of two meetings that will be scheduled for our Branch for 2020. Topics to be discussed will be the situation of our Branch and meeting requirements. Fraternal Events to take Place will be discussed. We'll get together as best we can. Distancing and masks will be required upon entering. (No hugging this time.) Pizza and subs will be served. Please, as a branch member, consider attending.

Note: The Johnstown Area Heritage Association has reluctantly concluded that it is not possible to hold the Slavic festival in 2020 due to restrictions designed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The next Johnstown Slavic Festival will be held Sept. 17-18, 2021. This is a wonderful event. FCSU has participated in this the last 3 years, with dancers coming from Cleveland. District 7/Branch 23 set up a table that receives quite a few visitors. Giving away information and gifts. This is free admission. Plenty of ethnic food for sale. If you have any questions call Theresa Cassat 814-254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

## BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 has scheduled a Fun Fall Fraternal Bingo. The date is Sunday October 8, 2020. The time is 2:00 PM - 4PM and the place is The Venue of Merging Arts at 307 Chestnut Street, Johnstown, PA, 15906.

We will meet as a fraternal family just to share some good times and BINGO. Prizes will be given to winners. Light snacks will be served. All the guidelines to disinfect and protect will be followed. Masks and distancing will be required. Please consider joining us. There is

limited seating because of COVID, so please RSVP by Oct 1, 2020. All members of Branch 23 are welcome. If you have any questions you can call Theresa Cassat 814-254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

In keeping with continuing restrictions due COVID-19 and per directives from the FCSU Board of Directors discouraging in-person meetings to protect our members, Branch 24 will hold a virtual meeting on Saturday, October 3, 2020. The meeting will begin at 11:00AM. The branch has chosen a virtual platform that can be accessed by phone, smartphone, or computer. Please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797 by Friday, October 2, 2020, for instructions on how to participate in the meeting. Branch 24 members who attended a 2019 Branch 24 meeting and provided an email address will automatically receive the meeting details via email by Saturday, September 26, 2020.

Robert Kopco, President

## BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels, Branch 35, will hold a virtual meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2020, at 1:00PM. The agenda will include officers' reports and branch business. Branch members who would like to attend the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185 for information on how to access the meeting.

Fraternally,

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Due to continuing restrictions and concerns about Covid-19, and for the safety of our members, the Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 canceled its semi-annual June 17, 2020 meeting at Red Robin in Homestead, PA. A rescheduled meeting is anticipated. Future meeting details will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on the FCSU website. Please refer any meeting questions to Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LLHASELHOFF@gmail.com.

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

Hoping and praying for the health and wellbeing of all our members.

Logan Haselhoff, President of Branch 38

Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer of Branch 38

## BANCH 45 – NEW YORK NEW YORK

The semi-annual meeting of Branch 45 will be held September 20, 2020, at 1PM. The meeting will be virtual, instructions on how to proceed will be sent to members electronically.

POLROČNÁ SCHŔDZA SPOLKU Č. 45 IKSJ bude 20. septembra 2020 o 1PM. SchŔdza bude virtuálna, inštrukcie ako postupovať dostanú členovia elektronicky."

Maria Jurasi, Secretary

## BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Dear Members: Please join us for our meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. The meeting will be held at Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI, 53222. Topics of discussion are 2021 donations and activities. We will start with social time at 5:45PM, with the meeting to follow at (approximately) 6:00 – 6:30PM. Dinner to be served at 6:30PM. Reservations are required in order for the restaurant to know the number attending and must be made no later than 10/19/2020 by calling Mike Novak at 414.445.5382. Dinner is complimentary for members. Guest cost is \$20.00. Please make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

Mike Novak, President

## BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 will hold a virtual meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 1 PM. Members planning to attend are asked to email Steve Engle at sgenle1@cs.com. Members that attend will need to download ZOOM, a no charge app. Steve will help any member with the download if necessary. The agenda will include new business, old business and the date for the annual December meeting. Thank you and hope to see you on ZOOM.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

## BRANCH 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 11:30AM.

This meeting will be by telephone. Please call Dorothy at (708) 995 7378 on November 12 or 13 for instructions on how to connect to the conference call. The agenda will include election of officers and charitable donations.

Please pray for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic so that our lives may return to normal.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 9:00AM, virtually via Zoom. We will advise those who want to attend with access by phone or computer with details.

Officers' reports will be given and upcoming branch activities will be discussed. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before August 23rd if you wish to be connected to the meeting.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting as a Phone-In-From-Home Event on Sunday, September 27, 2020, at 2:15 P.M. On the agenda will be District information and a discussion of Branch business. You are invited to ask questions about life insurance or annuities at the meeting. All members are encouraged to participate.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by September 23, 2020, to receive call-in and passcode information for our virtual meeting. We hope to hear from you.

Arlo Meeker, President

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting as a Phone-In-From-Home Event on Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 2:15 P.M. The agenda will include a discussion of Branch business and the election of Branch officers for 2021. You are invited to ask questions about life insurance or annuities at the meeting. All members are encouraged to participate.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by October 16, 2020, to receive call-in and passcode information for our virtual meeting. We hope to hear from you.

Arlo Meeker, President

## BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its semi-annual meeting on October 11, 2020 at Norm's, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA starting at 12:00PM. Due to COVID-19 requirements, face masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

It must be noted that because of these requirements, the semi-annual meeting of August 9 was cancelled. General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and the insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy Ungvarsky at (570)403-2067 so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky President

## BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold an outdoor meeting at the Sportsman Association of Greensburg pavilion on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 1:00PM. The meeting will be held according to the recommended guidelines of the CDC. Lunch will be provided by the branch. See you there.

The next meeting of Branch 199 will be a luncheon meeting at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, October 10, 2020, at Chestnut Ridge Resort & Conference Center in Blairsville, PA prior to the Branch Golf Outing (see notice below). This meeting will be for the Election of Officers for 2021. CDC Guidelines will be in place.

BRANCH 199 GOLF ACTIVITY: ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS!

Branch 199 is hosting a Scramble Golf Outing for Branch 199 Members on Saturday, October 10, 202, at 1:00PM at Chestnut Ridge Resort & Conference Center

in Blairsville, PA, with golf taking place on the Chestnut Ridge Golf Course. Event includes "Golf, Food & Prizes." Teams will be randomly selected the day of the event. Please arrive by 12:30 PM to confirm arrival and team selection. For registration details, contact Barb Patula at 724-423-4745 by Sunday, September 20th. CDC Guidelines will be in place.

Barbara Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Please note that we are continuing to hold in-person meetings as we are able to follow the COVID-19 guidelines for PA. Face masks are required and we have ample space by distance. Our Social Club's doors, however, remain locked. We cannot operate with no seating at the bar and we would only be permitted up to 25% of customers in order to accommodate the 6' distancing requirement. Hopefully in the near future this will change. We wish all members and your families and friends stay safe and healthy.

Fraternally,  
Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7 P.M.

Please Note: This and all other meetings held by Branch 228 will be held virtually as strongly recommended by the FCSU Board of Directors. We will be using the FreeConferenceCall.com Audio Conferencing service method (virtual format) until further notice. To join in the meeting, participants would make a phone call at the appropriate time and enter an access code followed by a pound sign or hash mark (#) when prompted. For the phone and access code numbers to participate virtually, please call Lisa at 440-773-1442.

Our meetings will begin at 7 P.M. on the 3rd Monday of each month via the virtual format except for January, February, July and August when no meeting will be held. The dates of the monthly meetings for the remainder of this year are September 21, 2020, October 19, 2020, November 16, 2020 and December 21, 2020. During the December meeting, the Branch will conduct its annual election of officers, bylaw review and elect two (2) lodge members to represent us on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

We are looking forward to safely meeting again. Please continue to pray to our Dear Lord God to bless the world with a cure for the Covid19 virus and bless all those in the healthcare field and all support services that keep the world population supplied with their needs. Thank you very much.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their Annual Meeting at TJ's in the Holiday Inn, 7410 South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio, on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 1:00 PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2021, followed by a luncheon. Reservations can be made by calling 330-755-8316. We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

## BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 1:00PM at Salvatore's Italian Grill Restaurant in Austintown, OH. On the agenda: general branch business. A luncheon will follow directly after the meeting. All COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines still in place will be followed, including social distancing and wearing masks.

Carlie Peshek, Vice President

## BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

At this present time, the FCSU board is recommending against all district and branch in-person meetings. They suggest holding virtual meetings via telephone

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# 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 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union plans to hold their semi-annual meeting on Friday, November 20, 2020. We will meet in the St. Florian Social Hall in United, PA, at 5:30 PM. We again will follow the CDC outlines as required. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Vice President Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 by Monday, November 16, 2020.

**Linda L. Gonta, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR RURA DISTRICT

Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Emilia at 908-486-2921 (please call in the evenings between 7-9pm) by October 1st. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include: election of officers, discussion of activities for 2021 and any other business. Unfortunately, due to concerns over Covid-19, the planned Oktoberfest event will not be feasible to organize.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Due to the current Coronavirus-related statewide stay-in-place order, the April 26, 2020 meeting at Deer Lake Inn has been cancelled, and a future date is yet undetermined. Please continue to check upcoming issues of Jednota and the FCSU website at [www.fcsu.com](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 7 – THE REV JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

The meeting we had scheduled for April was canceled due to orders by the state to stay home. Now we will have our first annual District meeting of 2020. The meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 1:30PM. The meeting place will be Jake's Pub, located at the Galleria Mall in Richland, across from the Italian Oven. Branch 23 will be the host. Mask and distancing will be required. Hoping you are all healthy and continue to be. Please RSVP by Sept 22 if you are going to attend. Call Theresa Cassat 814-254-2532.

**Theresa Cassat, Vice President**

## DISTRICT 8 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

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

**Katherine Nowatkoski, President**

## DISTRICT 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 14 - THE REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

District 14 will hold an in-person meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM, and has been re-designated as our semi-annual meeting. The meeting will be held at the Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH, 44514, in a separate room. The room is adequately sized for the number of members who normally attend. We will be spaced apart at various tables. Masks are to be worn. We will be discussing various old and new business and the resignation of an officer for "personal problems." In the meantime, I would like everyone to contact me by telephone or email. Telephone (Home): (330) 549-3788; (Cell): (330) 559.5981; Email: [jjleskjr@zoominternet.net](mailto:jjleskjr@zoominternet.net)

Fraternally,

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



**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	Frank J. Kapetanovich	162K	Stephen A Sickle Jr	312K	Gregory J Miscovich	581K	Walter S Smolar
005P	Georgianne Baron	166K	Joseph A Felo	382K	Edward J Hudak	670K	Mark Paluso
019K	Frank J Mizak Jr	166K	William Zubalik	382K	Michael J Kolebar	746K	Michael J Sudzina
038K	Helen Leskanic	181K	Joseph W Knizner	410K	Joseph M Labuda	756K	Joseph F Papanek
055K	Kathleen M Jansen	199K	William Forish Sr	419K	Joseph Michael Gvozdas	780K	Josephine Crawford
075K	James C Kingston	224K	Mary Susan Adams	429K	Delphine D Risko	855K	Carol Ann Goodman
086K	Stanley G Dombrosky	228K	Jeanne Elenin	465K	John B Palochak	855K	Richard A Kavulic
112K	Marie A Bookford	228K	Steven Joseph Verkin	465K	Margaret Rudich	857K	John E Garwood
112K	Frances Nowak	259K	Paula A Dellick	553K	George Lischak		
153K	Thomas A Walla	260K	Paul John Ritz	553K	Frederick H Rocco		
162K	Daniel Hudock	260K	Ronald J Slaven	553K	Helen Mary Simko		

\*Processed through the month of August

## OBITUARIES

### HENRY JOHN ZACK BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



Henry John Zack, Sr., 94, of Trumbull, CT, peacefully passed away on May 18, 2020. He was buried at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Trumbull, with full military honors on May 22, 2020.

Henry was born on July 16, 1925 in Bridgeport, CT, the son of Stephen and Veronica Zack and brother of the late, Stephen Zack. He was a graduate of Harding High School.

Henry proudly served as a bombardier navigator in the US Army Air Force during World War II and rose to Second Lieutenant. Upon leaving the Army Air Force, he entered Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and graduated in 1949 with a degree in engineering.

He became a member of St. John Nepomucene Church choir where he met his future wife, Jacqueline Zahor. They settled in Trumbull where they have lived for the last 64 years.

Henry was employed as a quality control engineer by Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and retired as a quality control engineer from Avco Lycoming Textron in 1987. He was the owner of Capitol Package Store in Bridgeport.

Henry was a faithful member of St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church in Trumbull, where he served as a lector and choir member. He was a Co-President of the St. Theresa Home School Association. During his administration, a successful referendum was passed giving non-public school children free busing which led to a state-wide passage of free busing for all school children. He also served on the Lay Advisory Committee and Social Action Committee.

Henry was devoted to Slovak fraternalism and served as the Recording Secretary for the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol. He and his wife enjoyed attending many conventions throughout North America and made several trips to Slovakia and encouraged his children and grandchildren to become involved in Slovak fraternal organizations.

He was a loyal Notre Dame football fan and developed a friendship with former coach, Ara Parseghian. He also enjoyed Saturday night dances at St. Theresa Church with his wife and their friends and

trips to Europe to visit family.

He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Zack, his devoted daughters Deborah Nelson and her husband Lawrence, and Laura Minese and her husband David; and devoted son Henry John Zack, Jr. He was the proud grandfather of Katherine Anne Bendin and her husband Eric; Dr. Amanda Nelson and her husband Calvin Johnson; Matthew Minese and his wife Carissa Jett, and Emily Nelson.

- Submitted by Deborah Nelson

### RAYMOND E. SOLLY BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



Raymond E. Solly, 84 of Uniontown, PA, passed on February 13, 2020. Born August 30, 1935, in Leith, PA, son of the late Jacob Sr. and Mary Ann (Ilcin) Solly. Brother of Dorothy Chuey and the late Robert, Andrew, Jacob, Bill, Charles and Frank Solly; uncle of Robert Chuey of Uniontown and David (Patricia) Chuey of Brunswick, MD; great uncle of Jordan and Kayla; and best friend to Mary. Ray was a graduate of Uniontown Senior High School, a manager at Montgomery Wards for 26 years; served in the US Army and Army Reserves; and a member of St. Mary's (Nativity) RC Church of Uniontown, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Catholic War Veteran's, and the American Legion. He was a standout athlete and earned county and state honors in high school basketball. Special thanks to his caregivers Robert and Dorothy Chuey; Mary, his best friend; and the staff at Mt. Macrina Manor with gratitude to Sr. Teresa and Sr. Barbara Jean and Shaunee Trump and 365 Hospice.

### JOSEPH F. PAPANEK BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN



Joseph F. Papanek, age 82 of Owosso, MI, passed away June 2, 2020 at Sparrow Health Systems.

Joseph was born September 3, 1937, in Marion, Michigan, the son of Rudolph and Mary (Bocko) Papanek. He graduated from Owosso High School, class of 1957 and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Joseph served in the Marine Corps from 1957-1959. He was a Lance Cpl (E3) Officer. He was very proud to be a Marine. He

always said, "Once a Marine, always a Marine". He married Rosemary McAvoy at St. Paul Catholic Church in Owosso on October 24, 1964. Joseph retired from General Motors after 35 years of service.

Joseph enjoyed wood working, feeding the birds in his back yard and making fun gadgets to trick the squirrels. He also loved food. He was always excited about trying something new or different, especially a new recipe he would find. He especially loved getting together the day after Thanksgiving for his family's annual "kolachy bake." He also loved to travel. He would always make sure that he took his family on a vacation every year while his kids were growing up. He took several amazing cruises with his wife and church group that he had fond memories of. Joseph loved getting together with his Monday morning breakfast crew. He always looked forward to that. Joseph loved his family more than anything, especially his beloved five grandchildren. He had a strong love for learning new things daily. He believed that education was very important and was so proud of all of his children and grandchildren going to college. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church all of his life and never missed a Mass.

Joseph is survived by his wife; children Mary (Mike) Rice; Karen Papanek; Mike Papanek; and Kathy (Mike) Stowe; grandchildren: Sarah, Garet, and Grace Rice; Adam and Lauren Stowe; brother Albert (Mie) Papanek; sister Mildred (Richard) Tejkl; brother-in-law Joe (Sheri) Lauro; brother-in-law Jerry Wright; sister-in-law Carol (McAvoy) Koss; and several nieces, nephews and other loving family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Rudy Papanek and his sister Ann (Papanek) Lauro.

### CAROL ANN GOODMAN BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO



Carol Ann Goodman (nee Humenik), age 80, of Parma, OH, entered into rest April 20, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Laurence Edward "Buz" Goodman of 47 years; loving, devoted mother of Laura (Scott), Carol Ann (Bob) Curts, and Laurence (Wendy); grandmother of Vanessa and LJ; dearest sister of Mary H (Allen-deceased) Knowles; Anne (Stanley- deceased) McCoy; Agnes

(Robert) Bunsey (both deceased); Joseph (Mary-deceased) Humenik; Sr Maryann Humenik, SND; Rose (Ken) Breen; Frank (Patricia) Humenik; Therese (Dr. James) Doyle (both deceased); loving aunt of numerous nieces and nephews; cherished friend of many. In addition to her dedication to her family, she also served as a director/MLSW of a large social service agency serving the disenfranchised.

- Submitted by Carol Curts

### VICTOR SEBO – BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC



Victor Sebo, age 93, of Forest Hill, MD, passed away on May 15, 2020, at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, MD. Born in Cleveland, OH, he was the son of the late Stefan and Anna (Bajanova) Sebo and husband of the late Gabriela (Omas-tova) Sebo. He served his country in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, and full-time in the Maryland National Guard, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major in 1987. He attended Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Graceland Park, MD, before moving to Harford County where he attended St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Hickory, MD, with his family. He was a member of the Sergeant Majors Association of the Maryland National Guard and a longtime member the First Catholic Slovak Union, where he served as Branch 61 President until he retired and the branch was transferred to Branch 856.

Victor is survived by his two sons Viktor Sebo and his wife Mary Ann; and COL (Ret.) Anthony Sebo, U.S. Army, and his wife Dayana. He was the devoted grandfather of Shawn Sebo, Jon Sawa, Marie Keegan, Moya Sebo, Ryan Sebo, and the late Kelly Sebo, and is survived by 11 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he is preceded in death by his sister, Helen Ziviky; and brother Stefan "Steve" Sebo.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski,  
Branch 856 President

### Is your FCSU profile up to date?



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

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at:

1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

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



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## continued from page 14

conference or video meeting service. We have scheduled Sunday, November 15 for our meeting. We will discuss events for 2021 and district officers for the next year will be elected. As the meeting date approaches, we will post information as to where and how the meeting will take place.

Fraternally,

**Margaret Nasta, President**

### BRANCH 312 – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 1:00PM. The meeting will be held at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Latrobe, PA, 15650. For more information, contact Branch Secretary/Treasurer Michaelene Smolleck at 724-539-8326. And please continue to check our branch announcements on the FCSU website as well as upcoming issues of Jednota for any changes in this meeting date that may be necessary due to COVID-19.

Fraternally,

**Michaelene Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Due to the pandemic and for the safety of Branch 313 members and officers, our 2nd semi-annual branch meeting will be held online, via Zoom, on November 9, 2020, at 1:00PM. This meeting's agenda will include, the "Election of Officers." If you would like information on how to virtually join the meeting or have any questions, please call Branch 313 President Marge or Secretary Jennifer at (708)226-8157.

Keep well and God Bless!!

**Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Due to the current pandemic and in keeping with the recommendations from the Home Office, Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K will conduct a Virtual Meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2020, at 2:00 PM. The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and the report of the audit completed in August.

Members will also discuss future branch activities and donations. Information from the home office will be disseminated. Election of officers for 2021 will be held.

All members planning to participate in the virtual meeting must contact Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570.344.3854 by Monday, November 2, to receive information regarding the conference call procedures.

To keep Branch 382 K in compliance with FCSU Bylaws 4.05, Branch President Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. has announced that the second branch meeting will take place on Sunday, December 6, 2020 (see details in second announcement immediately following this one).

Other branch officers include Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; Michael J. Czankner, recording secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

### BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Due to the current pandemic and in keeping with the recommendations from the Home Office, Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will conduct its Second Virtual Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 2:00 PM.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers. Members will also discuss future community service activities and projects during the pandemic. The status of the annual report will be discussed. Additional information from the home office will be disseminated.

All members planning to participate in the virtual meeting must contact Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570.344.3854 by Monday, November 30, to receive information regarding the conference call procedures.

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

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

### BRANCH 410- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 1:00PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Call for reservations by Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 724-425-2576. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary**

### BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 425K Barberton, OH and Branch 553K Akron, OH.

All members of Branch 425K will now hold membership in Branch 553K. This merger has taken place as of July 29, 2020.

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

LINDA M HANKO  
1473 RIES ST  
BARBERTON, OH 44203-7625  
(330) 706-0151

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

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**

### BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2020, at 11:00 AM at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH, 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Roads) This is a reschedule of the meeting originally set for April, 18, 2020 and promptly cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The September 26th meeting will be held in the large hall, which will allow for social distancing. Also please be sure to bring your mask. We will be discussing events for rest of the year. Please try to attend, all safety guidelines will be followed.

We pray for health and safety of all our members. God Bless you all.

Fraternally,

**George Carny, President**

### BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 2:00PM at the Eat'n Park Restaurant, 2301 R. 286 So., Indiana, PA. The agenda will include the election of officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, COVID-19 pandemic issues in our area, and general branch and business issues.

All coronavirus mitigation practices will be strictly followed for the health and safety of all.

Fraternally,

**Monica Rura, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist will hold a lodge meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 2:00PM at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. This will be an in-person meeting where masks and social distancing will be required. There is also the option to attend the meeting virtually rather than in person. The branch 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.

Upcoming events:

August 15: Grand Re-Opening of our newly remodeled Jednota Lanes – Scotch Doubles 7:30 pm; \$20.00 per couple. Pizza provided – bring snacks to share. Call 330-786-9972 after 3 pm to reserve your spot. MASK REQUIRED

August 19: Stuffed Cabbage Dinner with sides (limited to 90 dinners) \*\*

September 2: Spaghetti Dinner

September 13: Lodge Meeting 2 pm

September 16: Baked Chicken Dinner with sides (limited to 90 dinners) \*\*

October 7: Spaghetti Dinner\*\*

October Casino Night – date to be determined

\*\* All dinners served from 4:30 – 7:00PM; Reservations required – call 330-786-9972 after 3PM to make your reservations; take out available call the same number.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 587K is holding two upcoming meetings. The first is our semi-annual meeting on October 18, 2020. Our second semi-annual meeting is on December 6, 2020 and will be for the election of officers. A Christmas party is tentatively planned for the December 6th meeting, depending on COVID restrictions. Both meetings will be held from 2:00 – 4:00PM at the home of Branch President Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane,

Pittsburgh, PA, 15241. Or, members may attend virtually, if preferred. For instructions on how to attend virtually, please email Branch President Joanne Fibbi at jfibbi@gmail.com. For more information or if you have questions, please call Branch President Joanne Fibbi at 412-953-4721.

**Joanne Fibbi, President**

### BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

St Stephen Society Branch 716 will hold its semi-annual meeting outdoors at St Catherine Park, 1245 First Avenue, NYC, following the 10:15AM Slovak Mass in St. John Nepomucene Church. After Mass, Branch 716 will proceed to the park, which is a half block away from the church. The date is October 4, 2020.

Fraternally,

**Joan Skrkon, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

The fall meeting for Branch 721 will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2020, at 2:00PM. The meeting will take place at the Remenar home located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Face masks will be required as well as practicing social distancing. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, September 20, 2020. This meeting will be at 4:00 pm at the Café 422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio. Our annual meeting for the election of officers for 2021 has been scheduled for November 8, 2020 also at Café 422 at 4:00 pm. Stay safe and we 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 Bylaws 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 Dianna 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 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

Congratulations to all entrants of the Branch 853 Coloring Contest. The contest was a success far beyond our expectations. As stated in the instructions of the contest, only Branch 853 members are eligible to enter (for a prize). Branch 853 hopes all enjoyed a change of pace during these hot days of summer.

Attention Branch 853 members, in mid-winter 2021, look for a "Searching for Summer" Coloring Contest.

Thank you all for participating.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

### BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855, Holy Name of Jesus Society, will hold a hybrid meeting on November 14th at 12:00 noon. Members can join by telephone or online. The topic of discussion will be charitable donations and setting a date for election of officers in a December hybrid meeting. Please contact Branch Secretary Karen Habian BY TEXT at 216-409-9812 or by email at fcsu855@gmail.com to receive your instructions before November 10th. We hope this new format will encourage more participants.

Until we can safely meet again, may God keep you and your loved ones in His care.

**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. 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**

## Live-Stream Slovak Mass Sunday, Sept 13



On behalf of our faithful followers that celebrate the feast of Our Mother of Sorrows, there will be a live-stream Mass Honoring the 55th Anniversary of our Jednota Chapel. The Virtual Mass will be celebrated in Slovak by Father Frantisek Conka, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, at 1:30PM from Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church in Tappan, N.Y. To view visit:

[www.olshtappan.com](http://www.olshtappan.com)

The Mass has been made possible with the help of the First Catholic Slovak Union home office and Branch 856. For more info call Katherine Nowatkoski at 1-919-651-0363



## „Jubilantka“ Matica slovenská v Srbsku

Medzi najvýznamnejšie tohoročné jubileá krajanového sveta neodmysliteľne patrí 30. výročie oživotvorenia Matice slovenskej v Srbsku. Krajania si ho chceli dôstojne pripomenúť počas tradičných Slovenských národných slávností sériou kultúrnych i vedeckých podujatí v Báčskom Petrovci. Rok 2020 však priniesol nečakané zmeny, ktoré určila pandémia koronavírusu. Jubilujúca Matica slovenská v Srbsku ostala bez tradičných osláv i bez účasti hostí, ktorí by si jej významnú činnosť radi uctili i osobne.

NRSNM pripravila ako náhradu za slávnosti špeciálny televízny program, ktorý odvysielala RTV – slovenská redakcia televízie Nový Sad v predvečer plánovaných osláv. Krajanský webový portál kuplin.net informoval o príprave reportážneho filmu z Nového Sadu, Starej Pazovy, Petrovca či Kovačice so zameraním na národné slávnosti a ich význam pre slovenskú menšinu v Srbsku. „Tvorcovia filmu neopomenuli ani 250. výročie príchodu Slovákov do Starej Pazovy, 230. výročie Pivnice, storočnice: SKC Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Novom Sade a Ženského spolku z Kovačice, ročenky Národný kalendár a ďalšie výročia celomenšinových podujatí, akými sú Folklórny festival Tancuj, tancuj... Festival slovenskej populárnej hudby Zlatý kľúč... Žiaľ, 275. výročie príchodu Slovákov do Petrovca – kolísky slávností, bolo vynechané“, dodala redaktorka webportálu Katarína Pucovská. Popri plánovanom 59. ročníku Slovenských národných slávností si krajania chceli pripomenúť i 30. výročie oživenia Matice slovenskej.

Matica slovenská v Juhoslávii bola založená na Národných slávnostiach 14. – 15. augusta 1932. V prvom období pôsobila prerušovane počas 12 rokov (1932 – 1941 a 1945 – 1948). Vznikom Spolku vojvodinských Slovakistov (1969) bola jej činnosť na území Vojvodiny sulpovaná, pretože SVS si stanovil takmer totožnú náplň práce akou sa Matica zaoberala vo svojich prvých rokoch pôsobenia.

Návrhy na jej obnovenie vyšli zo SVS v zime 1989. Zásadný podnet na jej oživotvorenie však odznel 29. decembra 1989 na zasadnutí rozšíreného predsedníctva Ochotníckeho divadla VHV scény v Petrovci. Zo zasadnutia bol prijatý záver vzniku „iniciatívnej skupiny“ v zložení: Michal Spevák, Milina Florianová, Vladimír Lačok, Ján Častven a Rastislav Struhár, ktorí vytvorili prípravný výbor pre vznik oživenej Matice slovenskej v Srbsku. Snahy podporil i SVS, ktorý zo svojho stretnutia 26. januára 1990 uverejnil tlačovú správu Iniciatíva o obnovení Matice slovenskej. Na zasadnutí SVS bol prečítaný list Rastislava Gašpara: „Myslím si, že je načase prebudiť sa a obnoviť Maticu. Nijaký zväz, najlepšie bude Maticu. Ak sa niečo nepodnikne, viac nebudeme existovať ako Slováci. Časom bude stále menej príslušníkov slovenskej národnosti. Postupne zanikneme a to bude to najsmutnejšie“ (Hlas ľudu, 3. február 1990, s. 8).

Iniciatívna skupina si určila plán svojich stretnutí a začala pracovať na platforme pre pôsobenie Matice slovenskej v Juhoslávii (MSJ). Prvé konštitutívne zasadanie Iniciatívneho výboru pre založenie Matice slovenskej v Juhoslávii sa konalo 17. februára 1990, za prvého predsedu výboru bol zvolený Michal Spevák. Popri výbore sa naďalej stretávala iniciatívna skupina, ktorá nepretržite pracovala na programe vzniku MSJ.

Kľúčovým stretnutím bolo druhé zasadanie Iniciatívneho výboru pre zakladanie Matice slovenskej konané 3. marca 1990, kde sa diskutovalo o pracovnej náplni MSJ, o tom, či má alebo nemá byť politickou, o jej predstaviteľoch, o vzťahoch so SVS, o jej nadradenosti či rovnocennosti s ostatnými slovenskými spolkami, o pripomienkach mladých, o obnovení Slovenských národných slávností, ale i o štatutárnych otázkach, orgánoch a stanovách MS. Na treťom zjazde sa diskutovalo o názve Matice, tiež o mieste jej sídla, ale i tom, že výsledky svojej práce sa rozšíria po slovenských dedinách a vytvoria sa lokálne maticné štruktúry. Posledné zasadnutie iniciatívneho výboru sa uskutočnilo 30. júla 1990, kde sa rozhodovalo najmä o personálnych otázkach.

Veľkolepé obnovovacie Valné zhromaždenie sa uskutočnilo 5. augusta 1990 v Petrovci, vo veľkej sieni Domu kultúry, za účasti 600 krajanov z 24 osád. Rokovanie viedol predseda Iniciatívneho výboru – Michal Spevák. Práve tu sa rozhodlo o vzniku Matice slovenskej v Juhoslávii, ktorá uskutočnila svoje prvé zasadanie Výkonného výboru 18. augusta 1990 na čele s jej prvým predsedom – Michalom Spevákom. Od tej doby píše Matica slovenská v Juhoslávii (dnes už v Srbsku) svoju novodobú históriu.

Svojej dcérskej ustanovizni gratuluje i Matica slovenská so sídlom v Martine na čele s jej predsedom Mariánom Gešperom. S hrdosťou na jej nepretržitú 30. ročnú prácu na roli národnej vyslovuje svoje pranie na jej večné trvanie, energiu, silu, múdre rozhodnutia i pracovitosť.

Vivat Matica slovenská v Srbsku, vivat vojvodinskí krajania!

Zuzana Pavelcová

## The Matica slovenská Jubilee in Serbia

One of the most significant anniversaries of this year's compatriot world is the 30th anniversary of the revival of the Matica slovenská in Serbia. The compatriots wanted to commemorate this anniversary with dignity during what would normally be national festivities with a series of cultural and scientific events in Bački Petrovac. However, 2020 brought unexpected changes determined by the coronavirus pandemic. The Matica slovenská, the jubilant, in Serbia was left without traditional celebrations and without the participation of guests who would have liked to honor Matica's important work in person.

As a replacement for the festivities, the NRSNM prepared a special television program broadcast by RTV - the Slovak editorial office of the Nový Sad television- on the eve of the planned celebrations. The compatriot web portal kuplin.net informed about the preparation of a reportage film from Novi Sad, Stará Pazova, Petrovac or Kovačice, with a focus on national festivities and their significance for the Slovak minority in Serbia. "The filmmakers did not forget the 250th anniversary of the arrival of Slovaks in Stará Pazova, the 230th anniversary of the Pub, the centenary: SKC Pavel Jozef Šafárik in Novi Sad and the Women's



Matica slovenská in Báčský Petrovec

Association of Kovačice, the National Calendar yearbooks and other anniversaries of minority events such as the Dance and Dance Folklore Festival. ... as well as the Festival of Slovak popular music Golden Key ... Unfortunately, the 275th anniversary of the arrival of Slovaks in Petrovec - the cradle of festivities - has been omitted," added the editor of the web portal Katarína Pucovská. In addition to the planned 59th year of the Slovak National Festival, the compatriots also wanted to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the revival of the Matica slovenská.

Matica slovenská in Yugoslavia was founded at the National Celebrations on August 14 - 15, 1932. In the first period, it operated intermittently for 12 years (1932 - 1941 and 1945 - 1948). With the establishment of the Association of Vojvodina Slovakists (1969), its activities in the territory of Vojvodina were replaced, because it established almost the same scope of work as Matica dealt with in its first years of operation.

Proposals for its renewal came in the winter of 1989. However, the fundamental impetus for its revival was given on December 29, 1989, at a meeting of the extended presidency of the Amateur Theater VHV stage in Petrovec. The meeting concluded with the creation of an "initiative group" composed of: Michal Spevák, Milina Florianová, Vladimír Lačok, Ján Častven and Rastislav Struhár, who formed a preparatory committee for the creation of the revived Slovak Matica in Serbia. The efforts were also supported by the JRC, which from its meeting on January 26, 1990, published a press release, Initiative for the Renewal of the Matica slovenská. A letter from Rastislav Gašpar was read at the JRC meeting: "I think it is time to wake up and renew Matica. No union, the best will be Matica. If something is not done, we will no longer exist as Slovaks. Over time, there will be fewer and fewer members of Slovak nationality. We will gradually disappear and it will be the saddest outcome" (Voice of the People, February 3, 1990, p. 8).

The initiative group determined the schedule of its meetings and began working on a platform for the operation of Matica slovenská in Yugoslavia (MSJ). The first constitutive meeting of the Initiative Committee for the Establishment of the Slovak Nut in Yugoslavia took place on February 17, 1990, with Michal Spevák elected the first chairman of the committee. In addition to the committee, an initiative group continued to meet, working continuously on a program for the establishment of the MSJ.

The key meeting was the second meeting of the Initiative Committee for the Establishment of the Matica slovenská held on March 3, 1990, where it was discussed about MSJ's workload, whether or not it should be political, its representatives, its relations and superiority or equivalence with other Slovak associations –the comments of young people, on the renewal of the Slovak National Celebrations, as well as on statutory issues, bodies and statutes of the Matica slovenskej. At the third congress, the name of Matica was discussed, as well as the place of its headquarters, and also that the results of their work will spread throughout Slovak villages and that local Matica's structures will be created. The last meeting of the initiative committee took place on July 30, 1990, where decisions were made, in particular, on staff matters.

The magnificent Renewal General Assembly was held on August 5, 1990, in Petrovac, in the large hall of the House of Culture, with the participation of 600 compatriots from 24 areas. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Initiative Committee - Michal Spevák. It was here that the decision was made to establish the Matica slovenská in Yugoslavia, which held its first meeting of the Executive Committee on August 18 1990, chaired by its first chairman, Michal Spevák. Since then, Matica slovenská has been writing her modern history in Yugoslavia (now in Serbia).

Matica slovenská, based in Martin, headed by its chairman Marián Gešper, also congratulates her daughter institution. With pride in her continuous 30-year work on the role of the national, she expresses her wish for its eternal duration, energy, strength, wise decisions and diligence.

Long live Matica slovenska in Serbia, long live our vojvodina compatriots!

Zuzana Pavelcová

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 9:00 AM and asked Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

The Executive Committee Meeting is being held as a teleconference due to the current coronavirus pandemic. The Home Office is open with a limited rotating staff and limited hours to maintain day to day operations. The Home Office will remain on limited hours with no walk-in business until further notice.

**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)  
Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director  
(by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the June 20, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Disbursements for the month of June 2020:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 372,648.84
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 25,237.68
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

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

B	I	D	S		A	L	U	M		I	N	T	R	O	
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update to the Executive Committee. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

Larry White presented an extensive review of potential new investment opportunities that may be available. The President stated that we will take Mr. White's recommendations under review.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave a production report on our recommenders and agents to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

The Executive Secretary stated that the printing of our new marketing material is still on delay due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The President and Vice President stated that they hope to begin scheduling seminars in the first quarter of 2021.

**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 August.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Kroll Bond Agency

The President stated that he plans to schedule a teleconference meeting with Kroll Bond towards the end of 2020.

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew M. Rajec  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

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

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

**SATURDAY, 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

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December 31, 2020**

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