



Catholic Fraternal

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NUMBER 6000

The First Catholic Slovak Union Announces 2020 Jednota Scholarship Winners



The students pictured on pages 4 - 6 are chosen scholarship recipients by the Jednota Scholarship Committee as a result of SAT scores, cumulative grade point average and class rank. In addition, each applicant was judged on the basis of his/her involvement in extra-curricular and volunteer activities. Emphasis was placed upon pride of being Catholic and Slovak as evidenced throughout the required essays on the applications. Finally, financial need and the cost of their chosen colleges were evaluated.

Continued on page 4

Message from the National President



Andrew M. Rajec

I wanted to give you an update on the Society in the midst of this Covid 19 epidemic.

As you know our Home Office is operating on a reduced hours schedule with employees working online or attending days in the office. There is no walk-in business. Sanitizing and mask protocol is being observed.

Claims continued to be paid with some delays in the mail. Insurance and annuity applications are being timely processed and in fact, August 2020, has seen a record in annuity sales.

The Society again recorded another new record surplus of over \$44 million as of June 30, 2020.

Our Board Meeting scheduled for September 19, 2020 was held virtually as you have experienced in your own branch

and district meetings.

Hopefully the country will have an effective and widely distributed vaccine this year.

I wish the best of health to you and your family and may God in his wisdom bless the First Catholic Slovak Union and all its Members.

Until we meet again.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
National President



**In College? Catholic?
Slovak descent?**

**If you hurry, you may qualify
for \$500 scholarship!**

See page 12 for details.

Articles in Slovak & English Inside!

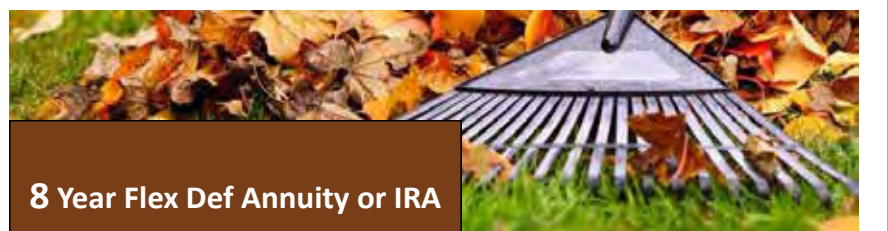
Články zo slovenčiny a angličtiny vo vnútri

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8 Year Flex Def Annuity or IRA

3.85%
\$500 Minimum

6 Year Flex Def Annuity or IRA

3.45%
\$500 Minimum

6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA

3.35%
\$5,000 Minimum

Park 2 Annuity

2.35%
\$1,000 Minimum

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6611 Rockside Rd, # 300, Independence, OH 44131

Insights and Viewpoints



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

October 18, 2020 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Whenever this Gospel passage come up with the well-known saying of Jesus; "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" I think of Thomas Jefferson's view of "separation of church and state" which led to the Supreme Court ruling that stated; "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable." The



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

debate of what this means continues even now two thousand years after Jesus. For us it is a constitutional issue, at the time of Jesus it was a religious and political issue.

The Roman Empire was occupying Israel and to use their coins could indicate your agreement with the occupation. In order to keep the peace the Romans permitted the Israeli leaders some authority over religious issues. We see during the arrest and trial of Jesus. The Jewish leaders arrest him and try him, and then take him to the Roman leader so he could be sentenced to death because the death sentenced was reserved to Rome. The Pharisees' question to Jesus was a question of political loyalty; Israel or Rome, and of religious fidelity, in that Roman coins were engraved on one side with the image of the Emperor, on the other side was inscribed "Pontifex Maximus" which means the highest priest and head of the state religion. The Roman emperor considered himself a deity. A devout Jew carrying a Roman Coin with a graven image could be considered guilty of idolatry. In addition to this it was also a political issue at Jesus' time. All of this is important to understand what is occurring in the Gospel.

When the Pharisee asks Jesus; "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" it is a question intended to trap Jesus. If he says, "yes" he will be considered a traitor to Israel by supporting the Romans, if he says, "no" he can be handed over to the Roman officials for speaking against the government. The Pharisee sees it as a "win – win" situation. Jesus asks him to show a coin and the Pharisee presents one. Now we have a Pharisee with a Roman coin that recognizes both the authority of the Roman Empire and Caesar as a deity. The Pharisee is now in a losing situation and Jesus finishes it by saying; "If you are going to use Caesar's money, then pay Caesar's taxes." (my paraphrase)

We live in a world of Church and State and while the separation generally works out, there are times when it is challenging. Is it possible for us to "repay to Caesar" when it is against the Gospels and the teachings of the Church? While we can proudly pledge allegiance to the flag, we cannot follow particular laws that are immoral. We have to avoid the tendency of putting our various political leaders on the same level of authority as the Holy Father. I have seen it happen when a teaching of the Church as expressed by the Pope is different than that of our national politics and people seem comfortable with taking the side of the one that they agree with and not the one that is in agreement with the Gospel. Jesus calls us to "seek first the kingdom of God.", and as much as I love our country it must be put second to God's Kingdom where we hope to spend eternity. As we head toward the Fall elections

may we make our decision on who to vote for one that is first and foremost based on who we are as followers of Christ. The separation of church and State does not separate us from our faith and morals.

148 – 30th Sunday of O.T. – October 25, 2020

The Old Testament reading at this Sunday's mass is drawn from a long passage of the Book of Exodus which recounts the giving of the Mosaic law at Mount Sinai. At first the words of Exodus are reassuring, reminding us that God is a faithful protector of the innocent and the vulnerable: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien... You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry" (Exo 22:20-22). This is the image of God many of us cherish in those moments when we feel pinched by life, and it is absolutely true, for God is indeed the shelter of the helpless.

If we read on, however, we find that the Lord's discourse takes an unexpected turn; to those who oppress others he says: "My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans" (Exo 22:23). How do we reconcile these seemingly disparate images of God? The question is not simply a pious exercise; many people who depart from the Judeo-Christian traditions of faith today do so on account of the apparent contradiction presented in the Bible of a loving yet vengeful God.

The key is found at the end of the passage, where the Lord concludes: "If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate" (Exo 22:26). To be compassionate is to give oneself over to the experience of another's suffering, not out of necessity but out of love. In other words, compassion is both the root and the flower of love.

With this in mind we turn to the Gospel reading from a section of Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus is facing a series of questions intended to trap him. As one group after another of those seeking to destroy him were stymied by his wisdom and virtue, yet another challenge rose up as a scholar of the law tested him, saying: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" (Matt 22:36).

Jesus response is simple and it is drawn from the Bible—the greatest commandment is love. To be specific, he says that the first and greatest commandment is that "You love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind," and the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt 22:37, 39). Our Lord takes the first commandment he cites from the Book of Deuteronomy (6:5) and the second from the Book of Leviticus (19:18).

In a beloved passage of scripture the Psalmist today reflects the same confidence, saying of the Lord: "I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock of refuge, my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!" (Ps 18:2-3).



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

For news about Slovakia, Financial Tips, and more,
find us on:  Facebook.

Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11	MONDAY, NOV. 2
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9	MONDAY, NOV. 30
WEDNESDAY, JAN 13	MONDAY, JAN 4

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

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Why is October referred to as the Month of the Rosary?



The answer is relatively simple but needs a historical context in order to be fully appreciated. The short answer is this: October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary because we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7.

The origins of the rosary are complex. The use of knotted ropes to count prayers or scriptural verses (including the Lord's Prayer and the Jesus Prayer) is an ancient practice and is even found in non-Christian cultures. Most probably, the Christian recitation of 150 such prayers was intended to mirror the monastic prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours in which monks prayed all 150 psalms each day.

The structure of the rosary as we know it today developed significantly from the 12th to the 14th centuries as the larger collection of 150 prayers was further divided into groups of 50 and separated by biblical verses or themes (now referred to as mysteries). It is these mysteries, like a grouping of common roses in a garden, that gave the name rosary to this prayer form.

The rosary is a living prayer form and continues to develop even in recent times. An invocation known as the Fatima Prayer was commonly added in the early 20th century. In 2002 Pope John Paul II added a new set of five reflections called the Luminous Mysteries which encourage additional meditations on the life of Jesus.

The rosary is an invitation to experience the grace of Mary's spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus. For this reason, it has been an invaluable source of countless spiritual graces for the saints. Remember, every time you pray the rosary you are given the privilege and honor of pronouncing the holy name of Jesus more than 50 times.

The wealth of spiritual graces offered through the rosary comes not from the multiplication of prayers (see Matthew 6:7) but from the imitation of Christ through obedience to the Father's will, according to the example of the Blessed Mother.

Maybe October would be a good month to turn off the radio or podcast as you commute to work or school and pray the rosary instead. See what graces the Lord wants to pour into your life from the rose garden of this daily meditation.

- Excerpted from a post on Northwest Catholic - October 2018 by Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg.

Message from the National Chaplain

In October of 1884, Pope Leo XII had just finished offering Mass when, while gazing at the tabernacle, he had a mystical experience. He saw and heard Satan tell the Lord that he, Satan, intends to destroy the church in 75 to 100 years. Jesus basically tells Satan, "Try and do it." Saint Michael then comes and drives out Satan.

The vision greatly disturbed Leo and he retired to his study. While there, he composed a prayer that is known to us today as the Prayer to Saint Michael. The prayer has undergone a few revisions since it was originally penned by Pope Leo. This is the version familiar to us.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the divine power, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Pope Leo had the priest and the people offer this prayer, along with the Hail, Holy Queen, at the end of what was then called a Low Mass. (A High Mass had singing; a Low Mass had no singing.) The practice of praying the Prayer to Saint Michael was suppressed by the liturgical reforms introduced by Pope Saint Paul VI in 1970, but it has found new life in recent years. One day in 1994, the International Year of the Family, Pope Saint John Paul II was giving a reflection after the Regina Coeli when he said the Prayer to Saint Michael should be prayed daily.

There is good reason for this. Personal sin and social sin continue to be present in the world today. Abortion, theft, adultery, slander, perjury, jealousy, and greed are all examples of personal sin. Racism, prejudice, exploiting the poor, hoarding goods, and poverty are examples of social sin. It does not matter if it is personal sin or social sin. Sin tears us apart. Sin tears us down. In the end, sin has the power to separate us from enjoying the vision of God's eternal love.

Pray the Prayer to Saint Michael each day so Satan and his minions can be put where they belong, and we can be truly free to love God and one another.

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal Continues in October

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 September 30, \$26,178.50 has been received from 173 donors. All Districts and Branches received invitations earlier this year to make a donation to the Appeal. Thank you, Branches 1, 3, 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. The 42nd Annual Appeal concludes on November 30, 2020. Gifts received after that date will be credited toward the 2021 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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

42nd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

True Devotion to Mary

Saint Louis de Montfort wrote, "Because Mary remained hidden during her life she is called by the Holy Spirit and the Church 'Alma Mater,' Mother hidden and unknown. So great was her humility that she desired nothing more upon earth than to remain unknown to herself and to others, and to be known only to God." Saint Louis made this observation in one of the opening lines of his book True Devotion to Mary, a spiritual classic in which he explains why cultivating a relationship with the Blessed Mother is so important in our lives.

Written in 1712, four years before Saint Louis' death, the manuscript for True Devotion to Mary was not discovered until 1842, at which point it was published and welcomed as a worthy addition to his other works on devotion to Mary, including Secret of the Rosary and Secret of Mary. In True Devotion to Mary, Saint Louis explains that God gave Jesus to the world through Mary and therefore the best way for each one of us to find our way to Jesus in our everyday lives is through the intercession of Mary.

Saint Louis shows how often Mary played a mediating role in the ministry of Jesus, writing, "We see that He chose to begin His miracles through Mary. It was by her word that He sanctified Saint John the Baptist in the womb of his mother, Saint Elizabeth; no sooner had Mary spoken than John was sanctified. This was His first and greatest miracle of grace. At the wedding in Cana He changed water into wine at her humble prayer, and this was His first miracle in the order of nature. He began and continued His miracles through Mary and He will continue them through her until the end of time."

It's interesting that Saint Louis' book should have remained hidden from the world for such a long time after his death. But it serves to remind us that sometimes the greatest treasures in life remain hidden and are only discovered by those who choose to search for them. Catholics know that a relationship with Mary is proclaimed by the Church to be one of these great hidden treasures in life. But it bears studying the writings of saints like Louis de Montfort in order to understand and stay in touch with this reality.

It is in Mary's humility that we find the path to holiness, and it is humility that makes the story of her life such a quiet and hidden treasure that must be sought after in order to fully understand its value and importance in salvation history. What a paradox that such a quiet life should be chosen by God to occupy such a high status.

In True Devotion to Mary, Saint Louis highlights what may be the greatest hidden treasure of Mary's life when he writes, "Jesus gave more glory to God His Father by submitting to His Mother for thirty years than He would have given Him had he converted the whole world by working the greatest miracles. How highly then do we glorify God when to please Him we submit ourselves to Mary, taking Jesus as our sole model."

This statement exemplifies the treasure that awaits each and every one of us when we seek a relationship with the Blessed Mother. It is not a worldly treasure, but for those who understand its value, it opens up a world of happiness that will last for all eternity.

2020 Jednota Scholarship Winners

JEDNOTA SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN MEMORY OF FRANK PALENCAR & FAMILY - \$1,000

PHILIP HROBAK SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,250
Top Male



PULVER, ANDREW
Parents: Tanya and Daniel Pulver; Branch: 716K; College: Northwestern University; Major: Computer science and Vocal Performance



BANAS, ELIZABETH
Parents: Dana and Robert Banas; Branch: 746K; College: Stevens Institute of Technology; Major: Business and Technology



CERESKE, HANNAH
Parents: Kimberly and Thomas Cereske; Branch: 633K; College: Michigan State University; Major: Kinesiology



CHAIT, THEODORE
Parents: Lisa and Ted Chait; Branch: 001K; College: Cleveland State University; Major: Computer Science



STEPHANIE HUSEK SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,250
Top Female

KOVAC, VICTORIA
Parents: Jana and Jozef Kovac; Branch: 743K; College: University of Michigan; Major: Business Administration



CHILTON, SPENCER
Parents: Kathleen and Darren Chilton; Branch: 735K; College: Seattle University; Major: Product Design



COLACARRO, NICHOLAS
Parents: Maria and Jeffrey Colacarro; Branch: 900K; College: The Ohio State University; Major: Pharmacy



COST, MADISON
Parents: Kimberly and Dominick Cost; Branch: 430K; College: Fordham University; Major: International Studies/Pre-law

JOHN A. SABOL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND NURSING AWARDS - \$1,000



HERSHBERGER, MADISON
Parents: Kathy and James Hershberger; Branch: 410K; College: Kent State University; Major: Nursing



HRICKO, ANNA
Parents: Michelle and Peter Hricko; Branch: 382K; College: Merrimack College; Major: Nursing



KELLY, MACKENZIE
Parents: Roxanne and Kevin Kelly; Branch: 367K; College: California University of Pennsylvania; Major: Nursing



COVAL, MIA
Parents: Kaye and Scott Coval; Branch: 796K; College: Villanova University; Major: Communications/Business



DAVIS, JAMES
Parents: Leane and James Davis; Branch: 007K; College: Pennsylvania State University - Altoona; Major: Atmospheric Science/Meteorology



DEAN, STEVEN
Parents: Krista and Richard Dean; Branch: 003P; College: King's College; Major: Mechanical Engineering

SOLTIS & BOSAK FAMILY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,000



BAHU, EMILY MARIE
Parents: Katie and Anton Bahu; Branch: 743K; College: Michigan State University; Major: Nursing



DIEHL, ERICH
Parent: Christina and Dan Diehl; Branch: 290K; College: Suny Maritime College; Major: Naval Architecture



ELLIOTT, WILLIAM
Parents: Melanie and John Elliott; Branch: 743K; College: University of Michigan - Dearborn; Major: Engineering or Computer Science



FANDRAY, EMMA
Parents: Jennifer and Ryan Fandray; Branch: 038K; College: Kent State University - Honors College; Major: Chemistry and Bio-Chemistry

2020 Jednota Scholarship Winners

JEDNOTA SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN MEMORY OF FRANK PALENCAR & FAMILY - \$1,000



FOLEY, GRACE

Parents: Barbara and Michael Foley; Branch: 153K; College: Illinois State University; Major: Psychology



GLOVA, ALEXANDRA

Parents: Dana and Gregory Glova; Branch: 024K; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Nutrition and Dietetics



GOURASH, MATTHEW

Parents: Linda and James Gourash; Branch: 060K; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Mechanical and Computer Engineering



GUSCIORA, LUCAS

Parents: Loretta and John Gusciora; Branch: 085K; College: North Carolina State University; Major: Mechanical Engineering



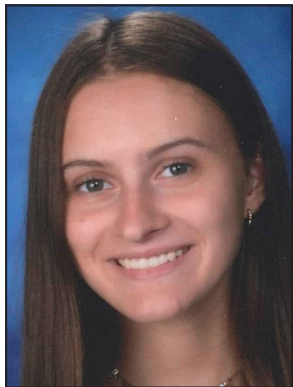
GUSTAFSON JR., WILLIAM

Parents: Tracy and William Gustafson; Branch: 831K; College: Penn State University; Major: Mechanical Engineering



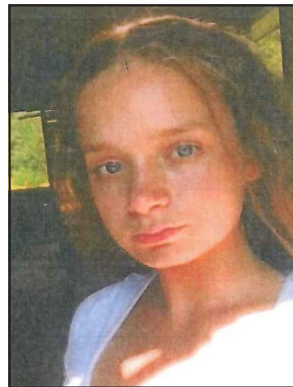
HANLON, ZACHARY

Parents: Donna and Brian Hanlon; Branch: 004K; College: Slippery Rock University; Major: Mechanical Engineering



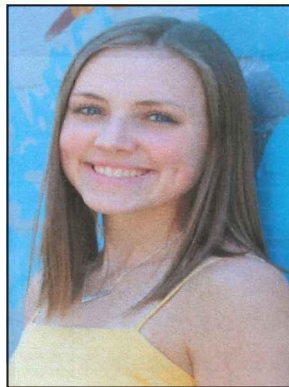
HARDING, RACHEL

Parents: Christina and Michael Harding; Branch: 075K; College: Delaware Valley University; Major: Small Animal Science Major: Environmental Studies



HOMER, ALEXIS

Parents: Carla and Corey Homer; Branch: 312K; College: Georgia Gwinnett College; Major: Exercise Science;



JANUCK, KATELYN

Parents: Jennifer and James Januck; Branch: 199K; College: Chatham University; Major: Graphic Design



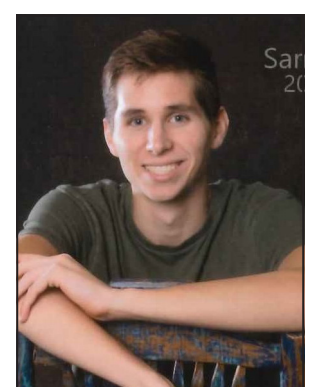
JURCENKO, AIDEN

Parents: Nelsy and John Jurcenko; Branch: 153K; College: John Hopkins University; Major: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering



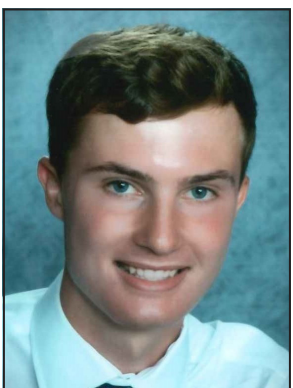
KOVAL, NICHOLAS

Parents: Amy and Michael Koval; Branch: 003P; College: Temple University; Major: Actuarial Science



LEMEROND, SAMUEL

Parents: Michelle and Matt Lemerond ; Branch: 553K; College: Grand Valley State University; Major: Business/Finance



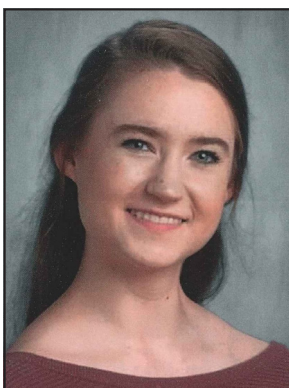
MAGEE, ANDREW

Parents: Mary Ellen and Thomas Magee; Branch: 157K; College: Rowan University; Major: Finance and Marketing



MALLETTE, AMIE

Parents: Stephanie and Sam Mallette; Branch: 497K; College: Walsh University; Major: Criminal Justice ;



MENARCHEK, ANNA

Parents: Catharine and Donald Menarchek; Branch: 199K; College: Mercyhurst University; Major: BFA in dance;



REGULAR WINNERS - \$1,000



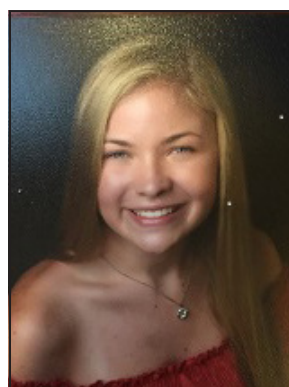
MOHRBACH, GRACE

Parents: Diane and Edward Mohrbach; Branch: 038K; College: Grand Valley State University; Major: Nursing, Radiology



MONGELLUZZO, TALIA

Parents: Teresa and John Mongelluzzo; Branch: 181K; College: Michigan State University; Major: Business/Finance



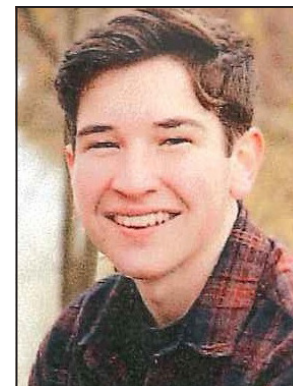
MONTELEONE, MARIA

Parents: Sherry and Gabriel Monteleone; Branch: 085K; College: Misericordia University; Major: Speech Pathology;



MURGAS, PAIGE

Parents: Cathleen and Stephen Murgas; Branch: 299K; College: Pennsylvania State University; Major: Food Science



MYSCHISIN, MICHAEL

Parents: Stacy and Jason Myschisin; Branch: 200K; College: Slippery Rock University; Major: Safety Management



NAJDA, JULIA

Parents: Melissa and Chris Najda; Branch: 855K; College: Miami University; Major: Sports Management





2020 Jednota Scholarship Winners



REGULAR WINNERS - \$1,000

**NGUYEN, CALEB**

Parents: Rhea and Charles Nguyen; Branch: 367K; College: Kennesaw State University; Major: Computer Science

**ORLOVSKY, AIDEN**

Parents: Kimberly and Raymond Orlovsky; Branch: 260K; College: The Ohio State University; Major: Civil Engineering

**OROS, MATTHEW**

Parents: Nadezda and Joseph Oros; Branch: 024K; College: Baldwin Wallace University; Major: Computer Science

**PAFFORD, ROBERT**

Parents: Margaret and Robert Pafford; Branch: 382K; College: Rochester Institute of Technology; Major: Computer Engineering

**PECHMANN, REBECCA**

Parents: Karen and Joseph Pechmann ; Branch: 166K; College: Allegheny College; Major: Math/Education

**PETERS, SARAH**

Parents: Sherrie and Ken Peters; Branch: 493K; College: Trinity Christian College; Major: Speech Language Pathology

**RAY, JAMES**

Parents: Karen and Christopher Ray; Branch: 735K; College: Oregon State University ; Major: Engineering

**ROBINSON, LANE**

Parents: Gina and Randy Robinson ; Branch: 855K; College: Johnson and Wales University; Major: Culinary Arts/Food Photography

**ROGERS, OBADIAH**

Parents: Gloria and Bradley Rogers; Branch: 290K; College: University of Wyoming ; Major: Wildlife Biology/Wildlife Management

**RYALL, HANNAH**

Parents: Allison and William Ryall; Branch: 831K; College: Florida Institute of Technology; Major: Forensic Psychology

**SCHWAB, JOSEPH**

Parents: Tara and Michael Schwab; Branch: 735K; College: University of Puget Sound; Major: Business Administration

**SHEMO, JOACHIM**

Parents: Dolores and Michael Shemo; Branch: 085K; College: Indian River State College; Major: Business Administration

**SIMPSON, SHANE**

Parents: Katherine and Clarence Simpson; Branch: 670K; College: Seton Hill University; Major: Cyber Security

**SMEARCHECK, LUKE**

Parents: Beth Ann and Mark Smearcheck; Branch: 367K; College: Penn State University; Major: Mechanical Engineering ;

**SOBOTA, ALEX**

Parents: Sara and Chris Sobota; Branch: 181K; College: University of Richmond; Major: Political Science

**SOLTIS, ETHAN**

Parents: Cherise and Roger Soltis; Branch: 410K; College: Rivier University; Major: Bachelor of Science in Business

**SPROCK, GEORGE**

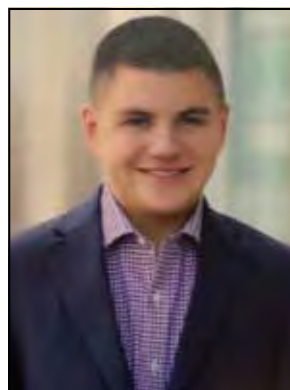
Parents: Wendy and George Sprock; Branch: 181K; College: West Virginia University; Major: Physical Therapy/Wood Science

**STAS, RYAN**

Parents: Susan and Randall Stas; Branch: 199K; College: West Virginia University; Major: Industrial Engineering

**TODOROWSKI, BLAKE**

Parents: Diane and Michael Todorowski; Branch: 002K; College: Mercyhurst University; Major: Cyber Security ;

**WESTFALL, BRYAN**

Parents: Donna and Bryan Westfall; Branch: 024K; College: Lakeland Community College; Major: Engineering

**YUHAS, PATRICIA**

Parents: Michele Moore and Francis Jay Yuhas; Branch: 731K; College: John Carroll University; Major: Mathematics

**ZIELINSKI, EMILY**

Parents: Sharon and Kevin Zielinski; Branch: 756K; College: Boston University; Major: Film and Television

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.

The next Sister in the series is Sister Josaphat who immigrated to the U. S. from Kriviany, Slovakia, taking the religious name of one of the congregation's special patron saints.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

Sister Josaphat



Sister Josaphat was born Veronica Gernat in Kriviany, Slovakia. As a teenager, Veronica worked in the post office there as an errand girl. Since the postmaster's daughter was a Sister, she became acquainted with Sisters. When she saw a picture of a Sister, Veronica decided that this was the vocation she wished to follow. She had some doubts about achieving her goal, however, since it cost \$200 to become a Sister and she was making only \$10 a year.

When Veronica's godfather was leaving for the U. S., he suggested to her family that perhaps one of their daughters would like to go along. Though it was the last thing she wanted to do, she managed to get ready in two days. Later she joined her two brothers in Bridgeport, CT. Although she found employment as a domestic and/or governess, she knew deep down that there was much more to life, recalling at the same

time that she had once thought about becoming a Sister. She lived across from St. Cyril and Methodius Church and as Divine Providence decreed, happened to be in the rectory when Father Jankola died.

Of course, Veronica was acquainted with the SSCM's mission to St. Cyril's and when they left for Middletown, PA, she was able to accompany them and remain a part of them. It was the beginning of a long life of service with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, seventy-one years to be exact. "I was happy all the time," she once said. "I loved the Sisters and I loved my work."

When she was received as a novice, Mother Emmanuel granted her a special favor—reserving the name "Josaphat" especially for her. Although it is not known why Sister wanted Josaphat as her religious name, it is important to note that St. Josaphat is one of the congregation's special patron saints. In 1983, a small booklet containing short biographies of our SSCM patrons was compiled, including that of Saint Josaphat. As archbishop of Polotzk, Josaphat worked untiringly for Church union and succeeded in uniting his diocese with Rome. A martyr for unity, he once declared, "I am ready to die for the holy union, for the supremacy of St. Peter and his successor the Supreme Pontiff." Canonized in 1867, St. Josaphat is known as the Apostle and Protomartyr of Union. Since Father Jankola wanted the Sisters to pray for the return of Slav dissidents to unity with Rome, St. Josaphat was named one of the community patrons. No doubt Sister Josaphat was well aware of the need to pray for unity and thus chose his name.

On November 12, the feast day of St. Josaphat, our morning and evening prayers include the following intercessions to St. Josaphat:

A.M.—Father, in working for the unity of the Eastern Church with Rome, St. Josaphat imitated your Son, Jesus, by shedding his blood. Help us to work for the unity of all Christians.

P.M.—Father, through your Son you have commanded us to love one another. After the example of St. Josaphat and through our unity of heart and mind, heal the divisions among Christians.

Sister Josaphat ministered to the culinary needs of the Sisters in the local convents but also served in parishes as sacristan and made altar breads and cared for church linens.

Because Sister had cared for the children at the orphanage in Middletown, it was easy enough to extend special affection to a youngster who lived near the convent in Mount Carmel. She loved to see him press his nose against the screen door of the kitchen at St. John the Baptist Convent. Sister Josaphat knew what had brought him there. The delectable aroma of the cookies she had just baked or his need for a nap told him it was time to pay a visit to the convent where he knew he would find a special friend. When he was there, this friend even let him hand her the clothes pins as she hung the laundry out to dry. Though many years passed, he always had a special place in her heart and her prayers.

It was evident that Sister had a deep reverence for the priesthood and when her grand-nephew was ordained in 1980, she prayed fervently for him even though she was unable to attend the ordination because of poor health. The Very Rev. Joseph M. Stanichar, V. F., with whom she became acquainted in Yonkers, NY, invited her to his 25th ordination anniversary to the priesthood in St. John Chrysostom Greek Catholic Church in Seattle, WA. In one of his letters to Sister Clementia who wrote letters for Sister, Father wrote, "Sister Josaphat has made a lasting impression on my life as a quiet and reverent religious." He also makes a brief mention of the cookies he received on occasion.

Sister learned early in life from her mother the importance of practicing generosity. Sister took to heart her instruction and showed herself generous in both prayer and labor. Her formula for happiness was "Peace is the result of serving God. Your peace will be in proportion to your generosity."

Known always for her peaceful smile, she spent her retirement years at Maria Hall praying the rosary, playing Parcheesi and volunteering to be a member of the group of Sisters who

helped the kitchen staff by doing the paring.

Sister Josaphat died on May 18, 1993, and her funeral was celebrated at Maria Hall on May 21. The homilist likened her life to a gem of mutual hospitality which is a hallmark of the members of Christ's body. She was, he said, "a root in the soil of her community for 71 years and an example of humility with a halo." He continued with a Scriptural reference, saying that "her life is a reminder of the widow's mite unnoticed by everyone but Jesus." He concluded with these words, "Her life invites all of us to concentrate not on how valuable we are but on how we are valuable."

The homilist's words give us pause and underscore the purpose of the biographical sketches that have been appearing in the Jednota—to illustrate the countless ways that our immigrant Sisters have contributed to the congregation of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and to the nation and its inhabitants. Their lives of prayer and service have benefited not only the people of parishes in the East and the Midwest but the youngsters in the parish schools as well as the elderly to whom the SSCM's minister in their institutions, for instance, the Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community and Maria Hall.

Without the gifts the immigrant Sisters have contributed over the years the ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius would be sadly diminished.



Slovenská Vilija Slovak Christmas Eve Sunday, December 6, 2020

*Take-out only 1—3 PM
Benedictine High School*

*Pre-sale tickets only
\$20 for full meal*

*Tickets through Rose Stiftar
at St. Andrew Abbey
Please call 216-721-5300 ext. 0
to reserve your tickets*

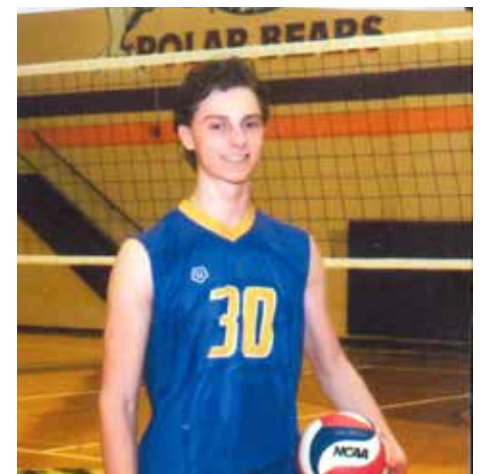
*Last day for ticket purchase is
November 21*



Branch 410's Ethan Soltis Awarded Founders Merit Scholarship

Ethan J. Soltis, son of Roger and Cherise Soltis, residing in Massillon, OH, and recent graduate of Massillon Jackson Senior High School, has earned the Founders Merit Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes academic achievement, leadership and extracurricular activities; it supports Ethan's participation in the volleyball program while attending Rivier University in New Hampshire. Ethan's ambition is to receive a degree in Sports Management and pursue a career as a sports agent and coach. His family and friends wish him the very best in achieving his goals.

- Submitted by Roger and Cherise Soltis, Branch 410



Editor's Note: Ethan also is a 2020 Jednota Scholarship winner; please see page 6 of this edition.

News From Slovakia

Stav núdze vyhlásený na Slovensku k 1. októbru

Bratislava 30. septembra (TASR) - Vláda v stredu schválila návrh predsedu vlády Igora Matoviča (OLaNO) na vyhlásenie výnimočného stavu v krajine v súvislosti pandémie koronavírusu.

Núdzový stav bude všeobecný a začne platiť od 1. októbra.

Predseda vlády Igor Matovič (OLaNO) vysvetlil na Facebooku, že výnimočný stav bude trvať 45 dní. [Núdzový stav nemôže trvať dlhšie ako 90 dní - pozn. poznámka].

Podľa predsedu vlády a príslušných orgánov chcú vidieť, ako tento krok ovplyvní situáciu v cestovaní počas sviatkov Všetkých svätých. "Potom sa rozhodneme, či bude stav núdze pokračovať, alebo sa vrátíme do normálu," poznamenal.

Základné práva a slobodu je možné v stave núdze v súlade so zákonom obmedziť v nevyhnutnom rozsahu a na nevyhnutné obdobie. Vláda môže vyhlásiť výnimočný stav, ak sú ohrozené životy a zdravie ľudí a / alebo životné prostredie.

Na tlačovej konferencii o deň skôr, 1. októbra, bude na Slovensku opäť povinné nosenie rúšok vonku, ak bude vzdialenosť medzi ľuďmi menšia ako dva metre.

Študenti stredných škôl, ako aj študenti druhého stupňa základných škôl budú musieť v školách naďalej nosiť rúška, hoci pre najmenších žiakov prvého stupňa základných škôl budú odporúčané a nie povinné.

Hromadné účastnícke akcie budú na Slovensku od októbra zakázané, s výnimkou svadiieb, pohrebov, krstov, zasadnutí orgánov verejnej správy a podujatí, kde každý jeden účastník môže predložiť negatívny test na COVID-19, uviedol hlavný hygienik Jan Mikas.

Budú zakázané športové, kultúrne a obchodné podujatia, ako aj bohoslužby. Krízový tím neodporúča organizovať rodinné oslavy.

Jedinou stravovacou službou, ktorá bude od októbra môcť na Slovensku fungovať, budú reštaurácie a kaviarne, kde sedia zákazníci. Zariadenia stravovacích služieb môžu byť otvorené iba medzi 6:00 a 22:00.

Nosenie rúšok bude v obchodoch povinné opäť od 1. októbra, spolu s dvojmetrovým sociálnym odstupom a dezinfekciou rúk. Obmedzenia sa majú znovu zaviesť, aj čo sa týka počtu povolených zákazníkov, pretože obchody budú musieť zabezpečiť desať metrov štvorcových na zákazníka.



Predseda vlády Igor Matovič (foto TASR)

Prime Minister Igor Matovic (photo by TASR)

State of Emergency Declared in Slovakia as of Oct 1

Bratislava, September 30 (TASR) – The Government on Wednesday approved Prime Minister Igor Matovic's (OLaNO) proposal to declare a state of emergency in the country in reaction to the coronavirus pandemic.

The state of emergency will be a general one and will come into effect as of October 1.

Prime Minister Igor Matovic (OLaNO) explained on Facebook that the state of emergency will last 45 days. [A state of emergency can't last longer than 90 days – ed. note].

According to the premier, the Government and the relevant authorities want to see how this move will affect the situation concerning travelling during the All Saints Day holiday period. "We'll then decide whether the state of emergency will continue or we'll return to normal," he noted.

Basic rights and freedoms can be restricted to a necessary extent and for a necessary period during a state of emergency in line with the law. The Government is allowed to declare a state of emergency if the lives and health of people and/or the environment are in danger.

At a news conference the day before it was stated that as of October 1, the wearing of face masks will become mandatory outdoors in Slovakia again, in case the distancing between people is less than two meters.

High school students as well as second-level elementary school students will need to continue wearing face masks at schools, although they will be only recommended and not mandatory for the youngest, first-level elementary pupils.

Mass participation events will be banned in Slovakia as of October, with the exception of weddings, funerals, baptisms, sessions of public administration bodies and events, where every single participant can submit a negative test for COVID-19, said chief hygienist Jan Mikas.

Sports, cultural and business events will be banned as well as religious services. The crisis team advises against organizing family celebrations.

The only food service allowed to operate in Slovakia as of October will be restaurants and cafes where customers are seated. Food service facilities can be open only between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The wearing of face coverings will be mandatory in shops again as of October 1, along with 2-metre social distancing and hand disinfection. Restrictions are to be re-introduced also regarding the number of customers allowed, as stores will need to ensure ten square meters per customer.

Čaputová na Valnom zhromaždení OSN požaduje solidaritu ohľadom vakcíny COVID-19

New York / Bratislava 23. septembra (TASR) - Slovenská prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová vo svojom prejave počas všeobecnej debaty na 75. zasadaní Valného zhromaždenia OSN vyzvala jednotlivé krajiny sveta, aby pocítili solidaritu pri vývoji a výrobe COVID-19 vakcíny.

Čaputová vyzvala na výmenu informácií medzi vedcami, výrobcami vakcín a vládami.

"Nesmieme dopustiť, aby sa vývoj a výroba vakcín a ochranných prostriedkov stala ďalšou globálnou konkurenciou," uviedla Čaputová. Svetoví vodcovia sú podľa nej zodpovední za nastolenie rovnocennej situácie vo vzťahoch medzi národmi aj vzhľadom na súčasnú pandémiu COVID-19.

"Musíme vakcínu poskytnúť všetkým obyvateľom našej planéty, bez ohľadu na to, či si za ňu môžu alebo nemôžu dovoliť platiť," uviedla s tým, že poskytovanie týchto komodít na záchranu života by nemalo byť otázkou zisku, ale ľudstva.

Čaputová poznamenala, že ak sa chce svet vyhnúť akejkoľvek kríze, je dôležité zodpovedné vedenie, ktoré má spoločný globálny záujem. Cieľom je zachovať to najlepšie z medzinárodných organizácií a režimov spolupráce, ktoré sú často hybnou silou účinných riešení.

Slovenská prezidentka poukázala na to, že je zodpovednosťou vlád a politických vodcov rozhodovať sa na základe faktov a poznatkov, nie na základe politických výpočtov. Nekompetentnosť, dezinformácie a populizmus majú fatálne následky.



Slovenská prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová (foto TASR)

Slovak President Zuzana Caputova (stock photo by TASR)

Caputova at UN General Assembly Calls for Solidarity Concerning COVID-19 Vaccine

New York/Bratislava, September 23 (TASR) – In her speech during the general debate at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, Slovak President Zuzana Caputova called on individual countries in the world to feel solidarity in the development and production of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Caputova called for an exchange of information between scientists, vaccine manufacturers and governments.

"We mustn't allow the development and production of a vaccine and protective equipment to become another global competition," said Caputova. According to her, world leaders are responsible for establishing an equal situation in relations between nations also in view of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"We must provide the vaccine to every inhabitant of our planet, whether or not they can afford to pay for it," she said, adding that providing these life-saving commodities shouldn't be a matter of profit, but of humanity.

Caputova noted that if the world wants to avoid any crisis, responsible leadership, which has a common global interest, is important. This is to preserve the best of international organizations and cooperation regimes, which are often the driving forces behind effective solutions.

The Slovak president pointed out that it is the responsibility of governments and political leaders to make decisions based on facts and knowledge, not on political calculations. Incompetence, misinformation and populism have fatal consequences.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours



The Home Office will be closed on Thursday, November 26, 2020, and Friday, November 27, 2020, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Branch 764's Michael Porter Wins Juniors Golf Championship



Michael Porter, a Branch 764 member, achieved Greatest Golfer status this summer by winning a prestigious golf tournament, the Youngstown Joe Dickey Electric Junior Championships, as described in the Tribune Chronicle July 19 Edition:

A par on the final hole helped lift Michael Porter to a one-stroke victory over Jake Sylak in the 2020 Greatest Golfer Youngstown Joe Dickey Electric 17U juniors championship Saturday at Avalon Lakes Golf Course ... Porter, who was tied with Sylak for the lead at 77 heading into Saturday's final round, shot 73 for a two-day total 150. Sylak, who won last year's 17-U event and was also the 14-U champ in 2016, finished as runner-up ... For Porter, who was playing in his fourth championship and was runner-up in 14U play his first year, the 18th hole was a real nail-biter.

"On the final hole, I hit my drive that barely cleared the bunker but ended up in the fairway," said Porter, who attends McDonald High School and won his first GGY title. "I hit the green with my No.6 iron, needing to make about a 40-foot putt for birdie. I left it about two-feet short and ended up with par.

Michael Porter from McDonald hits a shot during the final round of the U17 division of the Greatest Golfer of Youngstown Joe Dickey Electric junior championships. Photo & caption, courtesy of Tribune Chronicle from original submission by Dianna Oatridge.

"I've played well all year and the last five years I've been close. The hard work really paid off today."
- Abridged from "McDonald's Porter edges Sylak from Mineral Ridge in Greatest Golfer," by Greg Gulas, pages C1 - 2, July 19, 2020. Reprinted with permission from the Tribune Chronicle.

- Submitted to Jednota by Branch 764 President & Proud Grandmother Rosemary Heald

Fraternalism in Action



(L - R) Branch 853 Members Charles Boone, Monica Rodacy Boone, Ronald Boone and Michael Bertovich



Branch 853 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 853 answered the call.

On Tuesday, Sept 22, 2020, members of Branch 853 volunteered at the Greater Washington County Food Bank in Brownsville, PA. Mike Bertovich, Charles Boone, and Monica and Ron Boone filled boxes with non perishable food items which will be given at the upcoming food distribution for the local residents in need. In less than two hours, the organization ran out of the current boxes to be filled because the members of the branch along with other volunteers, filled over 250 boxes. Thank you Branch 853 for displaying your Fraternalism in Action.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President

How Are You Helping?

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

Donate Pennies From Heaven with Branch 181



In an effort to help those in need, members of the St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 of United, PA unanimously agreed to donate \$500 to the Pennies from Heaven, a charitable foundation of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, PA. At the August 8th meeting, President Darlene Patty appealed to attending members to consider making another donation. Families face difficult situations with their children being hospitalized over long periods of time, some living a great distance away from Children's Hospital. These families may be dealing with the loss of work or lacking extra funds to help pay for parking, meals, gas and other necessities. As noted in the August 2020 Jednota news article, Branch 181 invites other FCSU branches, districts or individuals to donate any amount to the Pennies from Heaven Fund. Contact Ashley Laber at 330-806-5386 or ashley.laber@chp.edu for more information, visit the website www.penniesfromheavenpittsburgh.org or mail donations directly to Pennies from Heaven Fund, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, 4401 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15224.

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Secretary

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

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION of the "JEDNOTA"

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I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

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Date
09-15-2020

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



District 12's Virtual Meeting: Masked & Unmasked

Top row: Joe Tarquinio, Nicole Hyatt, Larry Healey, Mary Anne Higginbotham
 Row 2: Monica Rodacy, Kathy Jakela, Dorothy Rudinec, Fran Tarquinio, Tricia Davies, Maureen Massafra
 Row 3: Jim Marmol, Destyni Murray, Joseph Matinko (phone), Cheryl Hyatt, Kendyll Wiggins
 Bottom Row: Darla Hubert (phone)

The person in the masked photo that was not in the unmasked photo was Charles Boone

- Submitted by Cheryl Hyatt



September Celebrations for Branch 716

September in New York City was made more special for the members of Branch 716, who even amid the pandemic, helped celebrate several important events outside in beautiful St. Catherine Park.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



On September 13th, Branch 716 celebrated the 40th wedding anniversary of Branch 716 President Jan Škrkon and Branch 716 Secretary Joan Skrkon.



On September 20th, after Sunday Mass at St. John Nepomucene, Branch 716 celebrated the name day for its Treasurer Maria Bozekova.



Then, the following Sunday September 27th, Branch 716 celebrated Radislav Demcak's birthday after Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church. Also the branch provided lunch for all those Slovak parishioners who attended Mass, serving the traditional Slovak goulash among other foods prepared by President Jan Skrkon, while Treasurer Maria Bozekova helped to arrange the event

Branch 746 is Zoomin'

Branch 746 has gotten used to meeting virtually! As we continue to observe social distancing measures to keep our members safe, Branch 746 met for yet another successful meeting on Sunday, September 20th, 2020 at 1pm using the Zoom platform. Some members decided to dial-in to the meeting using their traditional home phones. Many logged on to the meeting earlier to have time to catch up with their Jednota friends. The virtual format of the meetings has proved to be very convenient for Branch 746 members, some of whom travel long distances to attend meetings and events. The meeting was very efficient and productive, including the establishment of a Branch 746 Scholarship for college/

university students of our branch. A committee was formed that will finalize the eligibility and criteria for applicants. Members decided that one of the main pre-requisites would include active participation in our branch. Therefore, we encourage young members of Branch 746 to become active and engaged in our branch, especially members who are high school students and currently enrolled in college! We want to hear your opinion and input into our activities! You are our future and we want to support you! Branch 746 hopes to launch its own scholarship program in 2021 so stay tuned for details.

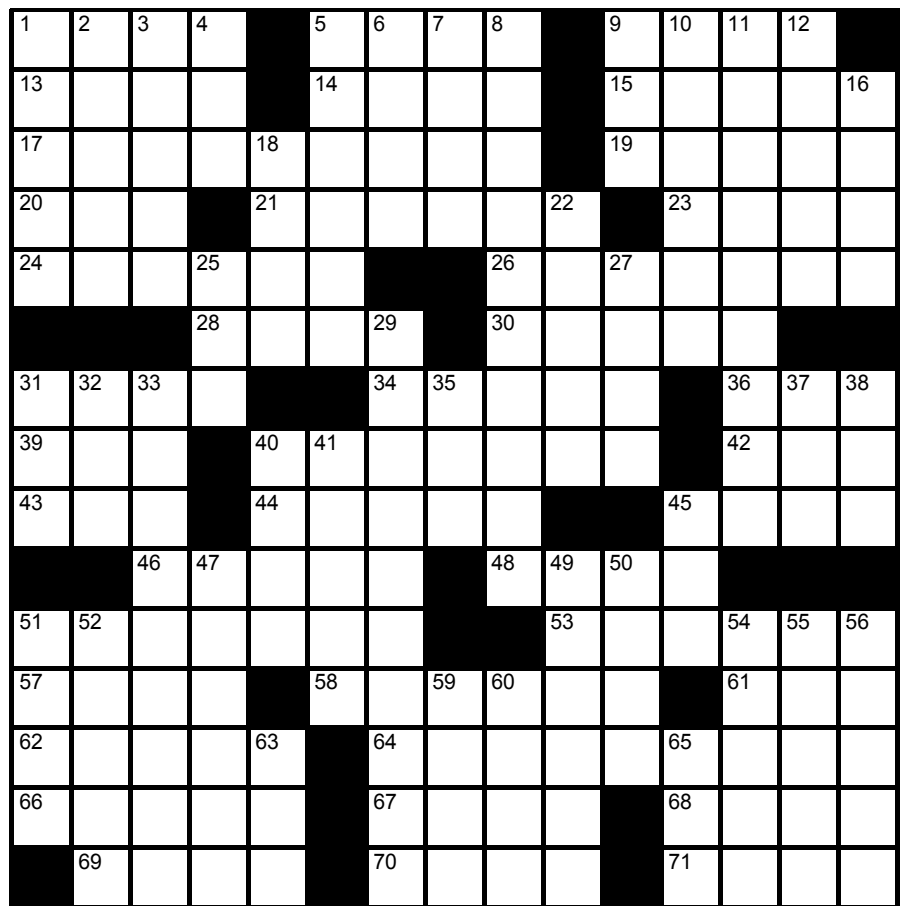
- Submitted by Regional Director Sabina Sabados



Screenshots of Zoom meetings will never go out of style!



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Slovak-American Scientists weigh in: Vaccines & Covid-19 antibodies

Join us for a robust discussion with Slovak-American scientists speaking on the Covid-19 pandemic, latest research, vaccinations and antibodies.

Tuesday, October 20th
7:00-8:00 pm EST via Slido.

October 2020

20

[https://www.fcsu.com/
community/culture/](https://www.fcsu.com/community/culture/)

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JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
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

Across

- 1 Horse course
- 5 Egg on
- 9 Crowning point
- 13 Judicious
- 14 Fishing need
- 15 Annuls
- 17 Sites
- 19 *Sesame Street* Muppet
- 20 Yale student
- 21 Typos
- 23 Jim-dandy
- 24 Chiang Kai-shek's capital
- 26 Collars
- 28 Hill dwellers
- 30 Eskimo boat
- 31 Approve
- 34 Lots of land
- 36 Actress Lupino
- 39 Carry the day
- 40 Expire
- 42 Piña colada ingredient
- 43 Hot time in Haiti
- 44 Composer Copland
- 45 Organ knob
- 46 Close-knit group
- 48 Mexican dish
- 51 Blessing
- 53 Home wrecker
- 57 Love god
- 58 Griddlecakes
- 61 Conceit
- 62 Pals, in Canberra
- 64 Some musicals
- 66 Antique guns
- 67 Conflicts
- 68 Seep
- 69 Borgia in-law

Down

- 1 Young hooter
- 2 String quartet member
- 3 Computer acronym
- 4 Place for a shepherd
- 5 Apparition
- 6 Impoverished
- 7 Armbone
- 8 Brasserie
- 9 Map abbr.
- 10 Pupil's cover
- 11 Female garment
- 12 Decree
- 16 Gets the picture
- 18 High-schooler
- 22 Sleeve stuffers, in France
- 25 Settle a debt
- 27 Ascent
- 29 Immunity holders, usually
- 31 Be in arrears
- 32 Outfit
- 33 Short stories?
- 35 Corporate V.I.P.
- 37 Twosome
- 38 Concert prop
- 40 Florida's Miami-___ County
- 41 Takes in
- 45 Ham, to Noah
- 47 Go-ahead
- 49 Disinclined
- 50 Beer buy
- 51 Sapphires, e.g.
- 52 Speechify
- 54 Dry out, informally
- 55 Staring intently
- 56 Mislays
- 59 Moonfish
- 60 Handel opera
- 63 Compass pt.
- 65 Boot part

See Solution on Page 21



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

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2020

FCSU Honors 55th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel with Livestream Mass

On Sunday September 13, 2020, Mass was live streamed from Tappan, NY, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. The Mass was in honor of the 55th anniversary of the dedication of Our Mother of Sorrows, the Jednota Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Mass was celebrated in Slovak by the Rev. George Torok, CO, with the Rev. Francis Conka, CO, Pastor. The cantor and organist was Maria Krutkova from St. Michael's Catholic Church in Trenton, NJ. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, only a very small group of people were in attendance inside the church including readers and technical support staff. In addition to the Rev. Torok who is an FCSU Member (Branch 716), our Society was represented by Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados, and her parents, Emilia and Emil Filak of Branch 746, Linden, NJ. Approximately 160 of the faithful participated via livestream. This Mass was made possible with support from the First Catholic Slovak Union, under the direction of National President Andrew M. Rajec, and Branch 856 of Washington, DC. A recording of the Mass is available at <https://youtu.be/yYkw7azS6ic>

Mark your calendars for next year, when Mass will once again be celebrated in Washington, DC; the date has already been scheduled for September 12, 2021.

- Submitted by
Katherine Nowatkoski,
President Branch 856



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NEWBORN
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AGE 5
\$5,000 for \$548.30

AGE 10
\$5,000 for \$663.90

AGE 15
\$5,000 for \$803.15

FEMALE

NEWBORN
\$5,000 for \$406.65

AGE 5
\$5,000 for \$490.75

AGE 10
\$5,000 for \$594.45

AGE 15
\$5,000 for \$720.20



CALL US

800-533-6682

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



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 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephens Society, Branch 06K, will hold its ANNUAL meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 1PM at 1406 N. Baker St., Streator, IL. Branch 06K will hold a virtual meeting. Those wishing to participate are asked to email Paul Chismar at pchismar51@yahoo.com. Members will need to download Zoom, a no charge app. The agenda for the meeting will include old and new business and the ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2021. All members are asked to participate in this Zoom meeting. You may call for information at 815-822-8851.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. A Mass will be offered for our deceased members at 8:30 a.m. at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

At this meeting, the John A. Zahor Scholarship will be awarded to the following college freshman: Matthew Proulx and Grace Sherriff.

This scholarship was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Zahor served as president of the St. Joseph Society and his commitment to the education of its young members.

In addition, the Andrew J. Imbro Grant will be given to the following college juniors: Michael DeDonato, Andrew John Madar, Kayla Rose Mercure, Tyler Nolan, Emily Rose Proulx and Hannah Jayne Sherriff.

Since we are unable to award the checks in person, they will be mailed to the eligible recipients.

Also at this meeting, the election of officers will take place and the distribution of our annual donations will be discussed.

We cordially invite interested members to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our young members.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 is providing special members-only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija (takeout only) Dinner on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH. The Abbey will have boxed dinners of the traditional Slovak Vilija meal available for pick up. Carry-out will be available between 1:00 - 3:00PM. [Editor's note: please see page 7 for details on this event.]

Branch 24 members may purchase a takeout Vilija dinner at the special discounted price of \$10. The regular cost per dinner is \$20 and may be purchased at this price for non-members. Reservations are required by calling Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 1-440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline to order your meals from Branch 24 (for members and nonmembers) is Wednesday, November 14, 2020.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

In keeping with continuing restrictions due CO-

VID-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, December 5, 2020. The meeting will begin at 11:00AM. At this meeting, Election of Officers will be held. Members can access the meeting by phone, smartphone, or computer. Please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797 by Friday, December 4, 2020, for instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020. With concern and regard for all of our members, this Branch 38 meeting will be held virtually. Any member interested in attending this meeting should contact Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LLHASELHOFF@gmail.com, to set up the virtual meeting invitation and details. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend. Thank you for your understanding and patience as together we navigate these challenging and unusual times.

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

Logan Haselhoff, President
Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 41 – BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK

There has been a merger between Branch 041K Bronxville, NY and Branch 045K New York City, NY. All members of Branch 041K will now hold membership in Branch 045K. This merger has taken place as of September 09, 2020. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

MARIA JURASI
96 MARKET ST
GARFIELD, NJ 07026-2525
(973) 253-9841

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 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2020, virtually at 1:00PM. Instructions on how to proceed will be sent electronically. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

ROČNA SCHŔDZA SV. MATUŠA ČÍSLO 45 1KSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matuša číslo 45 1KSJ bude v nedeľu 6. decembra 2020 o 13:00 hodine. Schôdza bude virtuálna, inštrukcie ako postupovať dostanú členovia elektronicky. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie, potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie.

Ďakujem s pozdravom,

Mária Juráši, pokladnička

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of Branch 055KJ that was originally scheduled for June 28th was postponed and will be held as a Zoom Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 2:00 PM. Those who plan to participate should contact John Gaydos at (919) 604-3590, or President Erik Payne at (215) 280-1554 and they will provide you with the Zoom sign-on ID Pin number.

Following the Branch meeting, we will honor all those members who have attained the age of ninety or over. As a congratulatory prize, each honoree will receive an application for a JEP policy for the youngest relative in their family with the first two premiums paid: the first annual premium will be paid by the Home Office and the second year will be paid by Branch 055K. Each Honoree will be sent the application with a return-addressed envelope.

Any recent graduate who attends the Zoom meeting will receive the book NO EXCUSES written by Joey Trojczak, a member of FCSU.

Branch 055KJ will hold a second Zoom meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2020, at 2:00PM. Members who wish to participate should contact the members listed above to be provided with the information to be con-

nected into the meeting. The final branch meeting of the year will be our annual Christmas meeting which is planned for Sunday, December 27, 2020. Details will be forthcoming in Jednota and/or on the FCSU website. Any additional changes to these meetings also will be printed in an upcoming issue of Jednota and/or posted on the FCSU website.

Fraternally,

Helena Gaydos, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Dr. Swissvale, PA) at 1:00PM. Social distancing will be practiced and masks are required

On the agenda will be Officers' reports and discussion of upcoming events. All members are urged to attend.

***If we are unable to meet in person, the meeting will still take place via telephone conference. Members may contact the branch secretary @ 412/672-1510 with their phone number to be connected to the meeting.

Fraternally,

Julie Perla, 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 – MAHANAOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 will hold an annual meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020 on Zoom at 1PM. If you are interested in attending the meeting please contact sgenle1@cs.com so that Steve can send you the Zoom link. Members that plan to attend will need to download Zoom, a no charge app. Steve will help with the download if necessary.

The agenda will include officers' reports, old business, new business and election of officers.

Fraternally yours,

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 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Congratulations to the following Branch 153 members who have recently received their 50 years pins:

Barbara Artibee
Claudette Bruschuk
Paul Harar
Michael Mokosaik
Robert Mokosaik
Michele Porter
Joan Novak
Valerie Zagorski

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 9:00AM, with a virtual/Zoom meeting. Officers' reports will be given and upcoming branch activities and Christmas donations will be discussed. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office. Election of officers will take place.

Please call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before December 1st if you plan on attending the meeting. We will give details on how to connect to the meeting by phone or computer.

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 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 area, will hold its annual meeting on December 13, 2020, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:30PM. Due to Pa. State COVID-19 Requirements face masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed. General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. In addition officers will be elected for the new year.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-4032067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

A combined meeting with the St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 and District 3 - George Onda District members is planned for Friday, November 20, 2020, at 5:30 pm in the St. Florian's Social Hall in United, PA. Members planning to be present must RSVP by November 13 since attendance will be limited to 25 according to Pennsylvania and CDC Covid-19 guidelines. The agenda will include election of officers. Refreshments will be served. Please call Vicki Hricik at 724-547-0803 or Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 to reserve your place. Any changes for the meeting, including COVID-19 information, will be printed in the November Jednota issue and posted at www.fcsu.com as soon as possible.

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

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: 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 to 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 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 200 Members: the annual meeting of the MSGR Josef Tiso District 11 will be held Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 6PM. The meeting will be held in Ford City at the CU Club, address: 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. On the agenda: Officer election for 2021 and discussion to plan events for 2021. We encourage all members to attend as your input is greatly appreciated. No advance notice of attendance is required. Members attending are asked to bring an unwrapped toy, the toys will be donated to Toys for Tots. We pray all is well with you and your family during this pandemic. Masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Be Safe. Be well. May God be with you.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen L. Greggs, District Recording Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 228 will hold their next

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Please note: due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and for the protection of our members, our annual Stedry Vecer honoring our Christmas Eve meal customs has been canceled for this year.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will offer two Masses for the intention of all District 4 members living and deceased on Friday, November 13, 2020, at 7PM at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ (Mass will be in Slovak) and Saturday, November 14, 2020, at 4:00PM at St Joseph's Church, 16 East Somerset St., Raritan, NJ. Those who are able to attend are welcome.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

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

Diane Rimarcik, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Fall meeting at the Holy Trinity Social Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Street Extn, West Mifflin, PA, 15122, on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 1PM. Branches are encouraged to limit attendance to one or two representatives. District officers are asked to attend as is anyone who wishes to be a candidate for 2021.

Please let the secretary know who will be coming from your branch. In an effort to keep everyone safe, social distancing will be required at the meeting. Please wear your face masks. No meal will be served.

We will discuss events for 2021 and district officers for the next year will be elected.

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 Pittsburgh District
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: we will be holding two upcoming meetings. The first meeting will be October 25, 2020 at 1:00PM. Our second meeting will be held December 6, 2020 at 1:00PM. At this present time the Board of Directors of the FCSU are recommending all branches and districts hold their two meetings a year either by telephone conference or video meetings. The first meeting is rescheduled from the one that was to be held on April 26, 2020, in Mahanoy City, PA. This meeting will be held by way of the virtual meeting app Zoom. Please RSVP your interest to be included by October 22, 2020 to Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 between the hours of 1:00 to 4:00PM. No calls will be taken after that time. By calling Ms. Sterling, you will be given instruction on how to connect to the meeting. We are also scheduling our second meeting for the year at this time on December 6, 2020 at 1:00 pm. It will also be by way of Zoom. Again, get in touch with Ms. Sterling to find out how to get connected. Only call between the hours of 1:00 to 4:00PM. No calls will be taken after that time. At the Oct 25th meeting we will have a financial report, and a discussion of whether our district will be represented at the Mass next year for the 56th anniversary of the Jednota Chapel in Washington, DC. At the Dec 6th meeting, we will have election of officers. For more information call Monica Fabian at 610-417-0468.

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, November 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM. Members who will be attending need to call President James Marmol at 724-970-7642 by November 1, 2020 and provide your smart phone number or e-mail address to receive an invitation to attend this meeting. Regional Director Marmol will be informing members of Jednota upcoming events. All members are urged to attend this teleconference meeting.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

District 10 will be holding the final meeting for 2020 on Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 2:30PM at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH 44311. This will be an in-person and virtual meeting. Officers will be elected for 2021 at this meeting.

If you are planning to attend in person, please contact Linda Hanko @ lhanko@neo.rr.com or 330-706-0151. If you plan on attending the meeting virtually – please contact Tom Ivanec at tivanec@aol.com or 440-668-7797 for details on accessing the meeting.

Hope to see or hear all of you at the meeting.

Linda Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR TISO DISTRICT

The annual meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District 11 will be held Sunday, December 20, 2020, at 6PM. The meeting will be held in Ford City at the CU Club, address: 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA

16226. On the agenda: Officer election for 2021 and discussion to plan events for 2021. We encourage all members to attend as your input is greatly appreciated. No advance notice of attendance is required. Members attending are asked to bring an unwrapped toy, the toys will be donated to Toys for Tots. We pray all is well with you and your family during this pandemic. Masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Be Safe. Be well. May God be with you.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen L. Greggs, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Reverend Joseph L. Kostik District - District 14 - Youngstown, Ohio will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM. This will be an Annual Meeting for the Election and Installation of Officers for 2021. The meeting will be held at the Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514. Old business and plans for 2021 also will be discussed.

Face masks will be required except when eating or drinking. Other social distancing protocols will be followed.

Fraternally,

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

District 16 will hold its annual meeting virtually at 1:30PM on November 8, 2020, with details sent to members electronically. For more information, members can call Branch Secretary Joan Skrkon at 646-258-0781.

Joan Skrkon, Secretary

Branch 888 Announces

“Slovaks in America Presentation”



On November 22, 2020, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, President & CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library will explain the history and vitality of the Czech and Slovak museum in Cedar Rapids, IA and how you can help preserve the past and forge the future of Slovaks in America.

All members planning to participate in the virtual meeting must RSVP by contacting David Rafaidus, President, Branch 888, West Palm Beach, FL, at jednota888@yahoo.com prior to November 19, 2020. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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meeting on Monday October 19, 2020 at 7 P.M. This meeting and the November 16, 2020 meeting will be held virtually using the FreeConferenceCall.com Audio Conferencing service. 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 phone and access code numbers, please call Lisa at 440-773-1442.

Important Update: The Monday December 21, 2020 election meeting will be held as a “hybrid” meeting at 7 P.M. in the downstairs hall of the American Slovak Club on the NE corner of Broadway and 30th Street in Lorain. Lodge members can attend in-person with a mask and physical distancing, virtually by cellphone using the method above or by teleconferencing. This important meeting will have delicious snacks made by our Activities Director Theresa. The decision to hold this hybrid meeting at the Club was made at the September 21st meeting so that more members could attend in the manner they feel most comfortable with and participate in the activities of our lodge. Any further updates will appear in future editions of The Jednota.

We are looking forward to safely meeting again. Please continue to pray to our Lord God for a cure for the Covid 19 virus and to bless all the sick ones, those in the healthcare field, those that provide the world 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 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 1:00PM at Salvatore's Italian Grill Restaurant in Austintown, OH. On the agenda: election of officers. 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

Branch 276 has scheduled Sunday November 15, 2020, for our Fall meeting. The meeting will be held at 1PM at Twin Oaks Restaurant in the Rainbow Shopping Center on Lincoln Way, White Oak, PA. We will discuss events for 2021 and Branch officers for next year will be elected. Please bring your face mask.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292 KJ, will hold their annual meeting and Christmas Party at 12:30 p.m., Sunday December 13, 2020, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 604 Graham Ave., Windber, PA. A buffet dinner will follow the meeting. All members are asked to attend this event. The Officers extend to all wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

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Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>
001K	Frances Moore	085K	Ann Lucas	320K	Daniel E Dyer	731K	Michael K Lesnansky
002K	Martha T Cenkner	102K	Peter J Konrad	320K	Edward A Puskar	746K	Thomas A Chamra
002K	Richard J Derbis	128K	James M Wood	320K	Mary Ann Varga	746K	Gustave D Fisher
003K	Janet Kathleen Conway	128K	Joseph J Yancik Jr	382K	Eugene Molnar	746K	Joan R Gadek
003P	Anna C Krzemien	152K	Thomas Lacek	404K	Hannah B Pfaff	746K	Anne Halmi
003P	Andrew J Skuntz	157K	Albert F Gombar	410K	Margaret Soukup	746K	Anna Hertz
004K	George Koehler	157K	William M Pramik	419K	Mary Fedor	746K	Helen Leonard
007K	Paul F Kosik	162K	Gerald Thomas Mcardle	419K	John Kreshock	746K	Thomas Habovsky
019K	Thomas John Monks	162K	Elizabeth Nypaver	450K	Stephen F Spisak	764K	Kathleen Ann Hrusovsky
019K	Andrew Spodnik Sr	173K	Helen Dicton	553K	Angela Marie Kurlich	764K	Helen Milo
023K	Louis Albert Podmanik	173K	Barbara L Drejerwski	553K	Cecelia M Petrasek	796K	Dolores M Pavlacka
023K	Edward R Vatauvuk	173K	Patricia A Gardner	553K	Lawrence Thomas Rudy	831K	Rita Kulick
024K	Richard J Bendlock	173K	John J Malina	581K	Carl D Kaminsky	831K	Deborah Ajak Mogle
024K	Dolores Blazy	181K	Catherine Rowe	581K	George Michael Sotak	855K	Paul Dennis Bardar
024K	Rudolph Mihalek	181K	Bernardine Shopsky	587K	Theresa M Trotta	855K	Ronald Wallington
024K	Margaret B Putka	199K	Stephen J Storkel Jr	587K	Joseph V R Zahorsky	856K	Helen Canfield
024K	Melva M Sobota	200K	Robert Elavski	628K	Eugene J Getsy	857K	Michael A Augelli
038K	Mary B Kosko	200K	Marie K Gispanski	633K	Randy Joe Connell	857K	John E Garwood
040K	Janice Henderson	200K	Josephine L Wingard	670K	Joseph A Hornak		
055K	Mary Makovec	254K	Vincent J Celedonia	670K	Joseph Sabol		
055K	Elaine C Roncase	254K	Michael S Dugas	682K	John J Lapinski		
055K	Margaret Yednock	254K	Andrew A Dzurek	682K	David Zalka		
075K	John J Milkovich III	293K	Joseph Polak	731K	Martha Jane Kukura		

*Processed through the month of September

OBITUARIES

**RICHARD JOSEPH DERBIS
BRANCH 2 –
PITTSBURGH,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Richard Joseph Derbis, age 93, was greeted by angels on July 23, 2020. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA, son of the late John Andrew and late Theresa (Zajac) Derbis. He met the love of his life during a performance of the high school play, "The Princess of a Thousand Moons," for which he co-authored the script and wrote all the music. He married Dolores ("Doll") Irgang on August 12, 1950, at St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church. Theirs was a special love. They looked forward to celebrating their 70th anniversary in a few weeks. He had been a proud Northside resident until moving to Allison Park. Together, they had four children, Major (U.S. Army, Ret.) Richard C. (Shirley); Ronald (Mary Ann); Robert (Lisa); and Diane (Vincent) Mezza. He was proud of his seven grandchildren: Richard M. (LTC USAF Rachel); Stephen (Bethany); Rachel (Matthew) Stimmel; Ryan (Danica); Hannah (Trale) Merz; and Austin and Jenna Derbis. He was loving "Didi" and "Pap" to eleven great-grandchildren, Kayleigh, Richard F., Evelyn, Isaac, Lydia, Joseph, Connor, Wyatt and Madeline Derbis; Cora and Celia Stimmel. Dick served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was awarded Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, WWII Victory Ribbon, and the Army Occupation Medal (Japan). He also earned the Expert Infantryman Badge. Dick was a vibrant and active man with many hobbies. He loved hunting and fishing, gardening, jigsaw puzzles and customizing model airplanes. He was always ready to do a magic trick or tell a joke. His love for gardening included a passion for making wine from the grapes he grew on vines which took over the back yard. He made his own customized bottle labels. He was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Ursula's Catholic Church. He and Doll loved

hosting bus tours to local casinos. In a nod to his proud Slovak heritage, he was a member of Jednota. He and Doll were previously active members of St. Francis Xavier and North Catholic Booster Clubs. He was also greeted by his siblings, Joseph, Emma, Agnes, John "Jack", Martha, and Bill. He was one of a kind, loved by all and will be deeply missed.

- Submitted by Dolores Derbis

**JANET KATHLEEN CONWAY
BRANCH 3 –
MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA**



Janet Kathleen Conway, of Andover, MN, passed away at The Homestead of Anoka on June 26, 2020 after a short illness. Janet was born January 29, 1933 in Minneapolis and grew up in Northeast Minneapolis where she attended Immaculate Conception and graduated in 1950 from Columbia Heights High School. During the war, Janet lived in Panama Canal Zone with her parents where she had the opportunity to fly on the China Clipper. After graduation, Janet attended the U of M and worked for Pure Oil. In 1954 she met and married Michael Conway of North Minneapolis, and in 1965, they moved to Anoka MN. Janet was active in her community and work. She was the first teacher's aide in the Anoka Hennepin School District in 1969, eventually helping to organize others into a bargaining unit. She served for a time as the organization's president, eventually retiring from the District in 1998. During the same years, Janet was also active in the DFL and League of Women Voters. Janet was a life-long learner, taking classes as varied as wok cooking and tailoring. In retirement, Janet and Mike travelled extensively, covering North America, South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. Janet is survived by her children Kathleen (Craig) Stachowski, Thomas (Rossana) Conway, Lynn (Albert) Hicks, Daniel Conway; grandchildren Paul

Watson, James Conway and Emily Conway; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Michael Thomas Conway, and her parents, Irene and Frank Ocel

- Submitted by Daniel Conway

**HELEN M CATINO
BRANCH 7 –
HOUTZDALE,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Helen M. Catino (nee Kosik), age 77, passed away September 8, 2020 at her home surrounded by her family. Beloved wife of 52 years to Robert M.; loving mother of Michael (Genamarie), Robert A. (Megan), and Lisa Craven (Keith); grandmother of Hailey, Giovanna, Ella, Ava and Benjamin; sister of Edward Kosik (Judy), Victor Kosik (Dru), Paul Kosik (deceased)(Irene) and the late James Kosik, Velma Finney (Frank), Patricia Andrako (John) and Barbara Prosser (Charles); aunt and great-aunt of many.

- Submitted by Robert Catino

**STEPHEN B. PARLAK
BRANCH 35 –
PITTSBURGH,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Stephen B. Parlak, age 82, of Monroeville, passed away on Thursday, August 27, 2020. Beloved husband of Mary Lou Parlak; father of Daniel Parlak (Donna) and Cheryl Ann Parlak; grandfather of Kevin and Kelly Parlak; brother of Patricia Counts (the late Sandy) and the late Joseph, Michael, Edward, Tom, Robert, Mary, Ann, Dorothy, Alice & Louise; also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Anna (Lyoch) Parlak. Stephen was a US Army veteran.

- Submitted by Mary Lou Parlak

**JAMES M. WOOD
BRANCH 162 –
UNIONTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA**



James M. Wood, 77, of Darien, IL, passed from our lives peacefully at home on Sunday, May 17, 2020.

He was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, great-uncle, cousin, and a friend to all that knew him. He was an avid sportsman, reader, and loved nature.

Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers. He will live on in our hearts forever.

- Submitted by Nancy Wood

**STEVE F. SPISAK
BRANCH 450 –
CLEVELAND, OHIO**



Steve F. Spisak, age 90; beloved husband of Eleanore (nee Lepi) for 64 years; loving father of Fr. Stephen M. Spisak, Br. Nicholas "Phillip" Spisak O.S.B., Richard A. Spisak (Kris) and Edward J. Spisak (Faith); dearest grandfather of Matthew, Emily, Jacob, Nicholas and Jennifer; son of the late George and Anna; brother of the late George, Mary, John and Andrew; uncle of many. Steve was a proud U.S. Army Korean War combat Veteran, Bronze Star recipient and a member of the Wolfhounds.

**MARY T. POLANDO
BRANCH 731 –
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**



Mary T. Polando, 96, who died peacefully early on Thursday morning, September 17, 2020, at Mercy Health-Saint Elizabeth Youngstown.

Mary, a life-long resident of Youngstown,

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at 4:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. Precautions for COVID-19 still in practice at the time of the meeting will be taken, including wearing masks and social distancing.

A second branch meeting for the election of officers will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 4:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. Precautions for COVID-19 still in practice at the time of the meeting will be taken, including wearing masks and social distancing.

For more information on either meeting, please call John Nalevanko at 1-724-396-6256.

John Nalevanko, President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 5PM. Due to Covid-19, this meeting will take place on Zoom. To protect our members' internet safety, members should send an email to kmfronec@yahoo.com in order to receive the Zoom code. This meeting will accept nominations for 2021 officers. Members are always encouraged to attend as your input is vital and welcome.

Also, the Branch 401K Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 1PM. Due to Covid-19, this meeting also will be held on Zoom. Again, to protect our members' internet safety, members should send an email to kmfronec@yahoo.com in order to receive the Zoom code. Election of 2021 Branch 401 Officers will take place at this meeting. Members are encouraged to attend as your input and enthusiasm are always welcome.

Fraternally,

Patrick Froncek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 401 Members: the annual meeting of the MSGR Josef Tiso District 11 will be held Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 6PM. The meeting will be held in Ford City at the CU Club, address: 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. On the agenda: Officer election for 2021 and discussion to plan events for 2021. We encourage all members to attend as your input is greatly appreciated. No advance notice of attendance is required. Members attending are asked to bring an unwrapped toy, the toys will be donated to Toys for Tots. We pray all is well with you and your family during this pandemic. Masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Be Safe. Be well. May God be with you.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen L. Greggs, District Recording Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Monday December 7, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Call for reservations by Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 724-425-2576. On the agenda, election of officers will take place for the year 2021. Members are encouraged to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 429 – BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 429 Members: the annual meeting of the MSGR Josef Tiso District 11 will be held Sunday, December 20, 2020, at 6PM. The meeting will be held in Ford City at the CU Club, address: 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. On the agenda: Officer election for 2021 and discussion to plan events for 2021. We encourage all members to attend as your input is greatly appreciated. No advance notice of attendance is required. Members attending are asked to bring an unwrapped toy, the toys will be donated to Toys for Tots. We pray all is well with you and your family during this pandemic. Masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Be Safe. Be well. May God be with you.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen L. Greggs, District Recording Secretary

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 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 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 21, 2020. The meeting will be held at 11:00AM, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma OH, 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.)

On the agenda will be officers' reports, the financial report, discussion of branch activities for year 2021 and other business pertaining to the branch. The election of branch officers will take place at this meeting. All members are urged to attend. The meeting will be held, again in the large hall, which will allow for social distancing. Also please be sure to bring your mask. Please try to attend, all safety guidelines will be followed.

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

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will be holding the final Lodge meeting of the year on Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 2PM at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Officers for 2021 will be elected at this meeting. If you wish to run for an office, send your letter of intent stating the position you wish to run for to the Nominating Committee in care of the Slovak J Club by November 12, 2020.

Mark your calendar:

October 17: Casino Night 5:30pm-9:30pm (Raise the Roof Fund). PREPAID ADMISSION ONLY (no tickets sold at the door) - \$10.00 includes wings, pizza and other snacks. LIMITED TO 90 PREPAID TICKETS due to social distancing requirements.

October 21: Fried Fish Sandwich Dinner with side \$12.00; served from 4:30-7:00 pm

November 4: Spaghetti by Reservation; served 4:30-7:00pm

November 14: Annual 125 Club Drawing; members will be sent reservation forms via US Mail

November 15: Lodge 553 and District 10 meetings (in person and virtual)

November 18: Monthly Mystery Dinner served 4:30-7:00 pm

December 2: Spaghetti by Reservation – served 4:30-7:00pm

December 6: Annual Vilija Celebration 4:00 pm Cost \$20.00 per person

ALL EVENTS are by RESERVATION ONLY – due to social distancing requirements all events limited to 90 people. Call the club AFTER 3:00PM @ 330-786-9972 to make any reservation.

Look forward to seeing you at the club.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 580 will hold its next meeting on November 15, 2020, via telephone. I will be contacting everyone to see if you have any important business. Please have your notes ready and all will be discussed. For further information or with any questions, please call me at 724-593-2715.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 670 will hold a virtual and/or telephonic meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2020 beginning at 11:30AM. For instructions on how to join the meeting please contact Cheryl Hyatt (724-622-1982).

Joseph A. Matinko, President

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The next regular meeting of Branch 682 members will take place at Noon on Wednesday, November 18th, 2020, at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH, 44471. The meeting will be conducted using face masks and social distancing and both masks and sanitizer are available at the meeting. Planning for the coming year will be discussed and election of officers will take place.

Current officers are President - Drew Hirt, Vice President - Barb Hosa, Recording/Financial Secretary - Selma Bolash, Treasurer - Suzanne Carney. Any interested in an officer position with Branch 682 please contact Drew Hirt, drew@hirt.com or 330-750-0776.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

St. Stephens Society Branch 716 will hold its out-

door annual meeting November 29, 2020, in St. Catherine Park, 1245 First Ave, NYC. The Park is half a block away from St. John Nepomucene Church. The meeting will begin immediately after the 10:15AM Slovak Mass. Election of officers for 2021 will be held. All members are urged to attend.

Joan Skrkon, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will hold our annual meeting for the election of officers for 2021 on November 8, 2020 at Café 422, South Avenue, Boardman, OH at 4:00PM.

Our annual Mass for deceased members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will take place on Sunday, December 20, 2020. The liturgy will begin at 10:30AM at Saint Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH. Stay safe and we hope to see you soon.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Due to the current pandemic and in keeping with the requirements of the Home Office, The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will conduct a Virtual Meeting (its annual meeting) on Sunday, November 22, 2020, at 2:15PM. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2020 financial report, approval of the 2021 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of 2021 Branch Officers will also take place.

All Members planning to participate in the virtual meeting MUST contact Joseph Rimarcik @ 248-714-9620 no later than Friday November 20, 2020 to receive information regarding the Zoom call procedures.

All Officers have indicated they are candidates for re-election. They are Joseph C Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary; Ruzena Kovacova, Treasurer; Auditors, Milan Straka; Stefanie Gervais; Daniela Grisak and Jozef Kovac.

Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

You can receive a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date and gender.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 is tentatively planning to host our Christmas party on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at Luciano's Ristorante & Lounge in Rahway, NJ. A final decision will be made closer to the date if state and local regulations allow us to meet in person.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

St. Joseph the Guardian, Branch 756, will hold its Fall meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at the Gregoricka home located at 825 W. Oliver St. Owosso, MI. Face masks will be required as well as practicing social distancing. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there! If you are unable to attend, please contact us at 989-277-8787 with any questions or policy/address changes.

Warm regards,

Rita Gregoricka, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

St. Joseph the Guardian, Branch 756, will be holding a (virtual) Zoom meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 1:00pm. Any members planning to attend are asked to email Tyler Gregoricka at tyler.m.gregoricka@gmail.com for further details. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there! If you are unable to attend, please contact us at 989-277-8787 with any questions or policy/address changes.

Warm regards,

Rita Gregoricka, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will meet October 27, 2020, at 2284 Bazetta Rd., Cortland, OH, 44410, at 9:30 AM. Election of officers for 2021 will be on the agenda, as well as a review of the limited activities of 2020 and possible activities for the future. Precautions will be observed for the

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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pandemic, and the meeting can be attended by video or phone conferencing in lieu of personal attendance. Contact Bill Hrusovsky at (330)372-1948, or email hruosovskyy@embarqmail.com for details by October 26th.

William Hrusovsky, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 796 will hold its annual meeting on November 8, 2020. The meeting will convene at 1:00PM at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the basement. The location is 4456 Main St., Egypt. Election of officers for 2021 will take place at this meeting.

For everyone's safety and in keeping with COVID-19 recommendations, everyone who attends the meeting will be required to wear a face mask. Hand sanitizer will be available. Social distancing will be required when sitting at the tables. At this meeting we will NOT be serving any food or beverages, as we normally would do at this meeting. We would enjoy seeing some new faces at our meetings.

Branch 796 wishes everyone a safe Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas Season.

We will continue to pray for an Improved and Happy New Year.

May God bless us all and keep us safe.

God Bless,

Monica Fabian, District Recording Secretary

BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 831 Members: the annual meeting of the MSGR Josef Tiso District 11 will be held Sunday, December 20, 2020, at 6PM. The meeting will be held in Ford City at the CU Club, address: 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. On the agenda: Officer election for 2021 and discussion to plan events for 2021. We encourage all members to attend as your input is greatly appreciated. No advance notice of attendance is required. Members attending are asked to bring an unwrapped toy, the toys will be donated to Toys for Tots. We pray all is well with you and your family during this pandemic. Masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Be Safe. Be well. May God be with you.

Fraternally submitted,

Karen L. Greggs, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold a virtual annual meeting on December 13, 2020 at 11AM. The election of officers will be on the agenda along with planning events for the 2021 year. A lunch stipend will be mailed to all attendees. Call 412-341-1577 or email FCSUBranch853@gmail.com to confirm your attendance. Directions on how to attend will be provided at that time. Branch 853 wishes all a blessed Christmas season and a Healthy 2021.

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 Sutila, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC & AREA

Branch 856 is holding two upcoming meetings. The first is our semi-annual meeting on October 26, 2020, at 1:00PM. Our second meeting will be on December 7, 2020 at 1:00PM. At this present time the board of directors of the FCSU are recommending that all districts and branches hold their two meetings a year in order to qualify for a stipend the following year as virtual meetings. These meetings may be held by telephone conference or on a virtual meeting app such as Zoom. Therefore the first meeting of Branch 856 - which is in place of the one that was to be held on April 27, 2020 - will be held virtually by way of Zoom. At this meeting we will have election of officers, a discussion about the district meeting. We will also discuss how we celebrated the 55th anniversary of our Jednota Chapel in Washington, DC, by live stream from Tappan, NY. The second Branch 856 meeting on December 7 will be conducted virtually as well.

For more information on how to connect to the meetings, call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638.

Katherine Nowatkoski

Financial Secretary/President

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The meeting schedule of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 will be as follows: Sunday November 1, 2020, at 2:00PM and Sunday December 20, 2020 at 2:00PM. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meetings will be held virtually via a Zoom meeting. Those who wish to attend, please call 267-795-7930 and leave a message (your contact information) or email n.nasta@aol.com and we will send you information on how to connect to the meeting.

Fraternally,

Nicole L Nasta, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 888 – WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Due to the current pandemic and in keeping with recommendations from the Home Office, the Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888 will conduct their next two upcoming semi-annual virtual meetings on Sunday, November 22, 2020 and on Sunday, December 13, 2020. Both meetings will be held at 1:00PM.

All members planning to participate in the virtual meeting(s) must RSVP by contacting David Rafaidus, President, Branch 888 at 561-776-0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com prior to November 19, 2020 for the November 22, 2020 meeting and prior to December 10, 2020 for the December 13, 2020 meeting. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect.

On the agenda for the meetings will be the discussion of future Branch activities, Branch financial information, nomination/election of officers and items of mutual interest to the membership. All Branch members are invited to attend.

On November 22, 2020, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, President & CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library will explain the history and importance of the Czech and Slovak museum and how they are preserving the past and forging the future of Slovaks in America.

On December 13, 2020 Dr. Blanka Kudej, President of the Czech/Slovak American Society of Arts and Sciences will present information on historical moments in the Czech & Slovak Republic.

David Rafaidus, President

To Have and to Hold – On Top of the World!



When Lucia Kollarova, Branch 746 member, met George Kapogiannopoulos three and a half years ago, they had no idea that they would get married during a pandemic. They planned an extraordinary destination wedding with their families and friends in the Caribbean but unfortunately due to travel restrictions including those imposed on Lucia's family coming from Slovakia, the wedding had to be cancelled. That didn't stop this couple in making it official!! They could not wait any longer and said their "I do's" on Sunday, September 27, 2020, at the iconic Top of the Rock with the glorious NYC skyline surrounding them! It was an intimate ceremony in the city that brought them together. They will remember those precious moments forever. Their love was not cancelled even in these difficult times!

Congratulations to the newlyweds Lucia and George! We wish them much happiness, joy and laughter and God's blessings as they embark on their journey together as husband and wife!

Prstienky zlaté, čo dnes navliekate,
nech chránia Vašu lásku, ktorú v srdciach máte.
Nič lepšieho sa nedá do života priať,
len aby jeden druhého mal rád.
Nech Vaša láska kvitne každým dňom
a šťastie sprevádza Vás celým životom.
Život je ako rozprávka, umenie je žiť,
a preto Vám dnes prajeme šťastne vykročiť.

-Submitted by Branch 746

OBITUARIES

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was born on May 12, 1924, the daughter of John and Theresa (Dudash) Horney and was a June 1942 graduate of Wilson High School.

It was on the evening of her graduation that she became engaged to her future husband, Paul H. Polando. She and Paul were married at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church on January 25, 1944 by the late Right Reverend Monsignor Stephen W. Begalla. Throughout their marriage, they shared their love by building their home, the raising of their three sons, tending their vegetable and flower gardens, traveling and appreciating their love for one another. She was deeply grieved by Paul's sudden death on January 13, 1977.

Mary continued to be a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother especially through her prayer life. She was a wonderful cook and shared with family and friends her homemade soups and noodles, cakes and cookies, the Slovak foods of holubky, klobassy, pirohy and syrek. Being the hostess of the main meal of the year, the Christmas Vilija, she joyfully carried on the Slovak family tradition of being together at the table and more importantly, a reminder

to be a family around the altar hosted by the Lord. She was a member of the Cathedral, the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 731, the Catholic Daughters of America Court Saint Ann at Holy Name of Jesus Church, and the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild at Saint Matthias Church.

Mary is survived by her sons, Paul M. and wife, Toni Lynn; daughter-in-law, Michele S. and the Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando; eight grandchildren, Michael (Charlotte) Polando, Suzanne (Jeffrey) Rosser, Kristen (Scott) Von Graff, Deborah (Jeffrey) Scanlon, Patricia (Michael) Naretta, Kathleen (Carl) Sutherwood, Meredith (Eric) Elisio and Evan Polando and great-grandchildren, Stephen and Saffron Polando, Jordin and Kyle Rosser, Anthony and Matthew Von Graff, Luke and Henry Naretta, Autumn Sutherwood, Athena and twins, Samuel and Oliver Elisio.

Besides her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her son, John P. Polando and her brothers, Joseph, John (Anna), Michael (Jean), Andrew (Ann), Steve (Margaret) and Paul Horney.

- Submitted by the Very Reverend Monsignor Peter Polando, JCL, DOY

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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in your inbox. It's free, easy and safe. We'll never share your email address! Please go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/contact/>

My First Visit to Slovakia, 1978 (part 3)

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

It was nice to get a good night's sleep on the night of August 3-4 at Ján Filip's house in Spišské Vlachy. Ján was the first cousin of my wife's father, her baba (grandmother) Elizabeth was his cetka (aunt in Spiš dialect, tetka in literary Slovak).

Born on November 17, 1886 in Bystrany (formerly Veľbachy), Elizabeth had emigrated as young girl and arrived in the USA in 1912. The 1930 census had erroneously listed her nationality as Magyar (Hungarian), but she was clearly a Slovak.

In the USA, she married Joseph Kocurek, my wife's dzedo (grandfather in Spiš dialect) after coming to Windber, Pennsylvania, where he worked in the coal mines owned by the Berwyn Company. My wife's father, also Joseph, was born in 1914, and became the eldest in the family as his older brother died around age 4. Unfortunately, we could not find much information from my wife's baba (grandmother) because she was ill and then passed away on May 15, 1978, just before our trip, but she had already lost her soundness of mind.

We heard about connections with Ján Filip from my wife's Aunt Margie who had traveled to Slovakia in 1971, and became the first one in the family to visit the Filip's. She conveyed loads of funny stories about Ján, but was often confused about many facts, so we had to visit and see for ourselves. Talking with Ján, together with archival and internet searches have since helped clarify and verify information. But like putting together any difficult puzzle, there are many missing parts in the genealogy and life stories of people.

Day 1

The first memory I have from that Friday on August 4, was getting woke up early at 6:30 am by Ján. He offered me a drink that morning, and told me to drink it quickly. Half asleep, I concurred and in an instant I was yelling in Slovak požiar, which means fire! My throat was on fire, and my stomach turning. Apparently, he had given some homemade slivovica, a plum brandy which was about 80 proof, and the strongest alcoholic beverage I ever consumed. My head was spinning. I was not accustomed to drinking much hard liquor and certainly at not such an ungodly hour. It certainly woke me up. To this day when I visit him when in Slovakia, we joke about how I shouted out that I was on fire!

Ján had a very nice house and yard, and was constantly making improvements, and he had a modern bathroom, which he has since updated again. So it was nice to take a shower and relax. We enjoyed a hearty breakfast cooked by his hard-working wife Anna, and they had their own chickens, and a large garden with fresh vegetables and fruit trees. Over the meal, we discussed what to do on our first full day there. I wanted to visit Richnava, my mother's birthplace, and walk the streets and meet the people who had known her. It was only 15 km away from Spišské Vlachy. We had to take a train to Richnava, since Ján had not taken off the day from his job at the iron ore mine in Rudňany, for otherwise he would have driven us there in his small Škoda car. But riding on the train was something we were quite accustomed to in Europe.

Kropachy

On the way to Richnava, we passed through the larger town of Kropachy, which has a population of about 8,800 residents; and around 6,000 people lived there after World War I when my mother was born in 1920. Kropachy stands out in my memory, for my dzedo (grandfather in Spiš dialect) worked at the foundry there after the Great War, but had lost his job after a February 1921 riot over cutting rations of bread for employees. One must remember there were food shortages after the war. But losing his job was one of the reasons why in 1926, my dzedo would decide to emigrate to America, leaving his family behind, who

Na Zdravie!
 Cheers!



Posing
 with the
 Richnava
 family



The village of Richnava, Slovakia



The
 Richnava
 coat of
 arms



Baba Anna
 Susova
 Kopanic's home
 in Richnava

would later join him, but not until 1936! So my baba had a hard time managing a household herself and taking care of two young daughters, my mother and my Cetka Mara (Aunt Mary), who was two years younger than my mother.

The town also had deep meaning to me because my mother said that she would wake up every morning at 5 a.m. and walk to Kropachy in order to sell milk and eggs, for they had chickens (kury) and three cows (kravy). Since dzedo had lost work, her job was vital to the family income. First, she would take off her shoes, lift her dress, and wade across the shallow Hornád River (which turns into a big creek during summers), and then walk 6 km to Kropachy. Walking took nearly an hour, and then she had to hurry back for breakfast and then go to school – quite a responsibility for a small child. As we rode through Kropachy, I took special notice of the types of houses and the large foundry on spot where my dzedo had been employed stood out. A new more modern factory had replaced it, and was billowing out dirty smoke, a sign that people were working. Finding employment had always challenged the Slovaks in the eastern part of the land.

Richnava

The small village of Richnava is a quaint little Spiš hamlet in eastern Slovakia and lies nestled in the Hornád River valley surrounded by hills. Just catching first sight of the village thrilled me and was the height of our European travels. There is something special about a place where my mother was born, played, went to school, watched cows, worked the fields, and joked with her friends. It was a hard life, but it is the land where my baba and dzedo (grandmother and grandfather) sweated and worshiped, where they married and lived, where my great and great, great grandparents worked and died. At last I had arrived in the homeland of my forefathers!

Richnava is situated on the main train line from Spišská Nova Ves to Košice, so rail travelers will pass it by. Along with my maternal grandfather's village, Kluknava, they are the last villages in Spiš before one enters the Šariš area to the north. The first written record of the Richnava dates from 1246, and it was home to a castle destroyed during the time of the Hussite wars of the 15th century and it has remained in ruins since the Middle Ages, as wars during the Reformation also ravaged the village. At the time we visited, Richnava was home to a farm cooperative and many of the men worked there and others commuted by train to other factories and mines in region. One thing that the communists did do was guarantee jobs for people.

Before coming into the village, we first noticed the shacks where the Roma people (Gypsies) lived in on the south end of the village. The Slovaks called them cigány. Railroad tracks and the river separated them from the village proper. We wanted to stop and view the Roma village, but Ján had warned us that the children would gather around us in droves and beg for something, so he advised against it.

Instead we drove into the village and asked the first person we saw where Anna Čarnoka lived, one of my mother's old friends. As it turned out, she lived in a humble home right at the start of the village on the main street. We knocked on her door, and she immediately hugged and kissed us as soon as she realized who we were. She had not seen my mother since 1936! But they had corresponded with one another over the years, especially on holidays. Then she sent for her husband who worked at the local cooperative, and he offered us some hard drinks and we drank to our health, a typical custom in a Slovak household. We struggled to talk with one another with my weak Slovak at the time, and they both spoke with a strong Spiš accent.

I let her know that I wanted to see the house where my mother was born and lived, and she knew, of course. So we set out by foot through the village. As we sauntered up the

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Hrádze a lety pri výskume dolnozemskej slovenskej literatúry

Rozhovor s Patrikom Šenkárom

Doc. PaedDr. Patrik Šenkár, PhD. (Nitra, 1979) je literárny vedec a vysokoškolský pedagóg, zaoberajúci sa dolnozemskej literatúrou, teda literatúrou Slovákov žijúcich v Maďarsku, Rumunsku a Srbsku. Po ukončení vysokoškolského štúdia (odbor slovenský jazyk a literatúra – politológia) krátke obdobie pôsobil ako učiteľ v základnej škole a gymnáziu, neskôr vyše desať rokov pracoval na pôde Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre. Aktuálne pôsobí na Katedre slovenského jazyka a literatúry Pedagogickej fakulty Univerzity J. Selyeho v Komárne. Je autorom cca. 200 vedeckých a odborných publikácií/príspevkov. Na svoju publikačnú činnosť v danej výskumnej oblasti eviduje približne 100 ohlasov. Doteraz absolvoval viacero zahraničných stáží (napríklad na Masarykovej univerzite v Brne, na Univerzite Loránda Eötvösa v Budapešti či na Karlovej univerzite v Prahe). Je pravidelným účastníkom medzinárodných konferencií na Slovensku, v Maďarsku, Česku, Rumunsku, Rakúsku, Estónsku...

Ste mladý, agilný vedec i vysokoškolský pedagóg, ktorý sa dlhoročne zaoberá krajanou literatúrou (najmä) na Dolnej zemi. Čo Vás k tejto problematike priviedlo?

Ďakujem za uvedené (až lichotivé) atribúty, ktoré by som mierne spresnil: ak mladosť chápeme spolu s Ladislavom Čánim, slovenským básnikom zo Srbska, ako vtáčí let, pri ktorom si zaspievame, zapískame a už ho niet, tak moju súčasnú „mladosť“ v pozadí vlastnej vekovosti a tvorivosti vnímam ako jednu z amplitúd mojej práce, ktorá ma neustále duševne obohacuje. Agilnosť (dovedna so Slovníkom súčasného slovenského jazyka) by som na svoju osobnosť a pracovnú metódu najradšej chápal v zmysle aktivity, obratnosti, čulosti, zručnosti, horlivosti... Samozrejme, len do tej miery, do akej je to akceptovateľné pre seba i pre svoje okolie. Na druhej strane: azda literatúrou sa bez týchto prívlastkov v tomto našom často až deziluzívnom svete ani nedá zaoberať. Takže koniec koncov máte pravdu: som relatívne mladý a celkom agilný literárny vedec i vysokoškolský pedagóg, ktorý sa literatúre Slovákov žijúcich na Dolnej zemi venuje vyše desať rokov. Na pôde Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre ma k tomu priviedol, na moje vrelé šťastie, docent Peter Andruška, slovenský spisovateľ a dlhoročný kultúrny pracovník, neskôr vysokoškolský pedagóg, ale najmä excelentný znalec a neúnavný propagátor tejto literatúry. A vychádzajú azda z premisy, že zákonitosti sú priesečníkom náhod, do ruky sa mi práve v tom období „nenáhodnou náhodou“ dostala v nitrianskej univerzitnej knižnici zbierka poviedok Štefana Dovála Šťastie, o ktorej som napísal svoju prvú interpretáciu. A tak onen vtáčí let odborne začal svoju cestu k spomínaným amplitúdam... Odvtedy sa permanentne venujem tejto problematike, zúčastňujem sa rôznych odborných podujatí doma i v zahraničí, kde ma – azda nie náhodou – pokladajú za akéhosi propagátora literárnych úsilí dolnozemskej Slovákov aj na Slovensku; teda za symbolického i konkrétneho pokračovateľa cesty, ktorú pred štyridsiatimi rokmi načal v Československu práve Peter Andruška... Ako akési smutné apropos by som ešte uviedol, že moja prvá cesta za krajanmi viedla do Nadlaku, kultúrneho centra Slovákov v Rumunsku, kde som sa mal stretnúť práve so Štefanom Doválom. Žiaľ, jeden deň pred mojim príchodom navždy odišiel z tohto sveta. Povedzte úprimne, sú to náhody?

Čím sa vo svojej vedeckej tvorbe zaoberáte?

Parafrázujúc názov básne slovenského básnika, doyena poetov z Maďarska, Juraja Dolnozemskeho: tichou hrou so slovami. Publikujem príspevky, štúdie, interpretácie o knihách, vydaných v minulosti, píšem recenzie o práve vychádzajúcich publikáciách dolnozemskej Slovákov. Myslím si, že som sa – v pozadí svojho symbolického doterajšieho vtáčieho letu – celkom etabloval do tvorivej panamy kultúry a kultúrnosti slovenskej Dolnej zeme... Pevne verím, že tá tichá hra a ten vtáčí let ešte pár rôčkov potrvajú...

Ako hodnotíte stav dnešnej mladej literatúry krajanov? V čom je progresívna a v čom naopak, cítite, že (podľa Vášho názoru) stráca oproti minulosti?

Je to otázka široká i úzka, hlboká i plytká. Môžeme sa k nej priblížiť – spolu hádam s vektormi pulzácie literárneho vedca Petra Zajaca – ako k akejsi spojenej „pulzácii a anti-pulzácii“. Dnešný „stav“ literatúry mladých krajanov je – zhrnúť – regresívny. (Zoširoka: ktorá časť hodnotnej (!) literatúry je dnes na výslni a napreduje, pričom cibí aj nášho ducha?) Občas sa objaví básnická zbierka či prozaický text relatívne mladého autora, ale o takom progrese, ktorého sme boli svedkami v osemdesiatych rokoch 20. storočia, sa nám dnes, čitateľom i odborníkom, môže len túžobne snívať s dúškom nostalgie. Samozrejme, to neznamená, že sa nedúcha do literárnych pahrieb aj na Dolnej zemi. Nádej (v tomto prípade) o kvantitatívnom raste však zomiera posledná... Pochopiteľne, pri tejto otázke sa črtá aj problematika stratifikácie, tradície a súčasných duchovných podmienok. O tom však inokedy, inde...

Čo je vo Vašom profesijnom živote hnacím motorom? Čo plánujete publikovať, čo momentálne skúmate?

O hnacom motore som sa už čiastočne vyjadril: nadchýna ma práca so slovom a textom, som poctený kontaktmi s niektorými autormi, ich priateľstvá ma inšpirujú, občas aj slová uznania odborníkov – kolegov pookrejú... Takže strážim hrádze, ktoré nielen rozdeľujú, ale aj spájajú (aj na južnom Slovensku). Hľadím tak aj do budúcnosti... Aktuálne sa venujem slovensko-maďarským vzťahom v spisbe Ľudovíta Haana, slovenského kňaza z Békešskej Čaby, ktorý žil v „dlhom“ 19. storočí, píšem o kultúrnej činnosti Dagmar Márie Anocovej, ktorá je smerodajnou literárnou osobnosťou súčasnej slovenskej menšiny v Rumunsku a chystám úvodníkovú esej do Nového života, emblematického časopisu Slovákov v Srbsku...

Okrem toho, ak ten spomínaný let sa z rôznych objektívnych a subjektívnych dôvodov nespomalí, plánujem publikovať antológiu z literárnych diel Slovákov v Rumunsku. Uvidíme, čo prinesie čas, ktorý, ako dobre vieme od Laca Novomeského, letí, ako vtáci nedozierní... A opäť sme pri lete... a možno aj pri zemskej príťaži Kamila Peteraja... Ktovie...

Pravidelne prispievate i do matičných periodík a vedeckých ročeniek Matice slovenskej. Momentálne žijete v Komárne. Sympatizujete i s matičiarmi, ktorí v tomto regióne tvoria najmä dramaticky. Nie je pre Vás problematiku tvoriť a pracovať pronárodne na zmiešanom území?

Pestujem, azda až prirodzene, mimoriadne dobré pracovné vzťahy s Krajským múzeom Matice slovenskej. To prináša so sebou, pochopiteľne, aj určité publikačné možnosti, ktoré rád využívam. Viacročná korektná spolupráca je pevným pilierom už spomínanej kultúrnosti a je determinantom sympatie k človeku, k dobrej veci... Áno, žijem v Komárne. Nemyslím si však, že tunajší matičný život je len o dramatickom krúžku (i keď treba uznať ich úsilie a dobré konkretizácie). Je to najmä o šírení kultúry, o spomínanom búraní predsudkov a hrádzí, o spoznávaní, o uznávaní status quo... teda o štepkovskej človečine. Tvoríť a pracovať v „mojej“ oblasti na národnostne zmiešanom území je viacrozmerné... Ako to vyjadril vo svojej preslávenej básni Naše dejiny Ondrej Štefanko, telom i dušou horlivý za vec Slovákov žijúcich nielen v Rumunsku, ale aj na celom svete: Lebo väznení / na oji obzora sme seba našli ešte. / Trváme ako na cestách prach... Aj – či najmä – preto je dôležité (hádam dennodenne) robiť zdravé kompromisy, nenechať sa nikdy zviest' pofidérnymi mikroilúziami a ísť si svojou cestou. Na nej si každý nájde ten svoj hemingwayovský ostrov pre seba (a, samozrejme, aj pre ostatných zainteresovaných). Pevne dúfam, že som si ho ja našiel a ten často až čarovný let mi vydrží až do konca môjho profesionálneho života... a možno aj dlhšie...

Ďakujem za rozhovor
Zuzana Pavelcová



Doc. PaedDr. Patrik Šenkár, PhD
Patrik Šenkár, Ph.D.

Vyšlo v SNN, 2020, roč. 35, č. 39, s. 4

Dams and flights in the research of Lower Slovak literature:

An Interview with Patrik Šenkár

Patrik Šenkár, Ph.D. (Nitra, 1979) is a literary scientist and university pedagogue dealing with "low-land" literature, i.e., the literature of Slovaks living in Hungary, Romania and Serbia. After graduating from university (Department of Slovak Language and Literature - Political Science), he worked for a short time as a teacher in a primary school and a high school, later working for more than ten years at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. He currently works in the Department of Slovak Language and Literature, Faculty of Education, J. Selye University in Komárno. He is the author of approximately 200 scientific and professional publications / contributions. He is on record for approximately 100 responses to publishing activities in his given research area. To date, he has completed several internships abroad (for example at Masaryk University in Brno, at Loránd Eötvös University in Budapest, and at Charles University in Prague). He is a regular participant in international conferences in Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania, Austria, and Estonia, among others.

You are a young, well versed scientist and university teacher who has been dealing with compatriot literature (especially) in the Lower Land for many years. What led you to this subject?

Thank you for the above (even flattering) attributes, which I would slightly clarify: if we understand youth as described by Ladislav Čáni, a Slovak poet from Serbia, as a bird's flight, a time in which we sing and whistle and suddenly it is gone, then my current "youth" can be perceived against the backdrop of my age as a time of amplifying my work, which constantly enriches me mentally and creatively. On the other hand: perhaps literature cannot even be dealt with without these attributes in our often disillusioning world. So after all, you are right: I am a relatively young and quite agile literary scholar and university teacher who has been working on the literature of Slovaks living in the Lower Land for more than ten years. While at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, I was led to do so, to my great happiness, by Associate Professor Peter Andruška, a Slovak writer and longtime cultural worker, later a university teacher, but especially an excellent expert and tireless promoter of this literature. And perhaps based on the premise that legalities are the intersection of coincidences, it was in that period that a collection of short stories by Štefan Dovál called Happiness, about which I wrote my first interpretation, came to my hands in the Nitra University Library "by accident." And so that "bird flight" professionally began its journey to the aforementioned amplitudes... Since then, I have been permanently dealing with this subject, participating in various professional events at home and abroad, where - perhaps not by chance - they consider me a kind of promoter of literary efforts of Slovaks in Slovakia; that is, as a symbolic and concrete successor of the journey that Peter Andruška started forty years ago in Czechoslovakia... With a kind of sad trepidation, I would also add that my first trip to the compatriots led to Nadlak, the cultural center of Slovaks in Romania, where I was to meet Štefan Dovál. Unfortunately, one day before my arrival, he left this world forever. Honestly, are these coincidences?

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Dams and flights in the research of Lower Slovak literature:

continued from page 20

What do you do in your scientific work?

Paraphrasing the title of a poem by Juraj Dolnozemský, a Slovak poet who was a doyen of poets from Hungary: a silent play on words. I publish contributions, studies, interpretations about books published in the past, I write reviews about currently published publications of Lower Land Slovaks. I think that - in terms of my symbolic bird flight so far - I have established myself in the creative panama of the culture and culture of the Slovak Lower Land ... I firmly believe that this quiet game and that bird flight will last a few more years ...

How do you evaluate the state of today's literature of young compatriots? How is it more progressive and what, on the contrary, do you feel that (in your opinion) it loses compared to the past?

It is a wide and narrow question, both deep and shallow. We can approach it, I would guess, together with the pulsation vectors of the literary scientist Peter Zajac - as a kind of connected "pulsation and anti-pulsation." Today's "state" of literature of young compatriots is - in summary - regressive. Literature is in the limelight and advancing today, while also captivating our spirit. Occasionally there is a collection of poems or a prose text by a relatively young author, but it is not unlike such progress as we witnessed in the 1980s. Today, readers and experts alike can only longingly dream with a sip of nostalgia. Of course, this does not mean that we don't breathe into the fire pit of the Lower Land. Of course, the issue of stratification, tradition and current spiritual conditions also arises in this question. But that is another topic for another time....

What is the driving force in your professional life? What are you planning to publish, what are you currently researching?

I have already commented in part on the driving force: I am fascinated by the work of words and text, I am honored by contacts with some authors, their friendships inspire me, sometimes even words of recognition from experts and colleagues... So I guard the dikes, which not only divide us but also connect us (as in southern Slovakia). I am also looking to the future ... I am currently working on Slovak-Hungarian relations in the writings of Ľudovít Haan, a Slovak priest from Békešská Čaba, who lived in the "long" 19th century, writing about the cultural activities of Dagmar Mária Anocová, Slovak minority in Romania, and I am preparing an editorial essay for New Life, the emblematic magazine of Slovaks in Serbia ... In addition, if my often-mentioned "flight" does not slow down for various objective and subjective reasons, I plan to publish an anthology of literary works of Slovaks in Romania. We will see what time will bring, which, as we well know from Laco Novomeský, flies like birds into the unknown ... And again, we are in "flight."

You also regularly contribute to the periodicals and scientific yearbooks of Matica slovenská. You currently live in Komárno. You also sympathize with the followers of Matica slovenska who have their theater group in this region. Isn't it problematic for you to create and work with a national appeal from such a mixed area?

I cultivate, perhaps naturally, exceptionally good working relations with the National Museum of Matica slovenská. This, of course, brings with it certain publishing opportunities that I like to use. Cooperation that spans over multiple years creates a solid pillar of the already mentioned culture and is a determinant of sympathy for a person, for a good cause ... Yes, I live in Komárno. However, I do not think that the local followers' group is only about the theater group. (although their efforts must be acknowledged). It is mainly about the spread of culture, about the aforementioned demolition of prejudices and dikes, about getting to know others, about recognizing the status quo ... Creating and working in "my" area in an ethnically mixed territory is multidimensional ... As Ondrej Štefanko expressed in his famous poem Our History, [being] zealous in body and soul [is true for] for the cause of Slovaks living not only in Romania but also all over the world: we still found ourselves imprison on the horizon. / We exist as dust on the roads ... Even - or especially - that's why it's important (I guess every day) to make healthy compromises, never to be seduced by false micro illusions and to go your own way. Everyone will find their Hemingway Island for themselves (and, of course, for other stakeholders). I firmly hope that I did, and that often a magical flight will last me until the end of my professional life ... and maybe even longer ...

Thank you for the interview.

Zuzana Pavelcová

Published in SNN, 2020, vol. 35, no. 39, p. 4

Check Out Festival Live Streams on Facebook and YouTube



My First Visit to Slovakia, 1978 (part 3)

continued from page 19

slight hill, we passed the new church of St. Michael the Archangel, which was rebuilt after World War II, since the Nazis had burned down the original church that my mother attended. On the way, we passed a horse and buggy, and it seemed so refreshing to see some of the old ways of life preserved in the 1970s.

Then we came to my mother's house, no. 30. There were just numbers in the village and no street signs. I was busy taking pictures, and was curious about the back yard too, with its large garden. The people who lived there were distant relatives of my mother, and we talked with them a while, but they were not overly friendly and did not invite us inside. The current residents had expanded the house in the back and modernized it a bit, as it was a long house, and people typically used the back of the houses for storage. I later found out that that this family had taken my baba's house and never really paid for it, so there was a little resentment.

Then we went on to meet my mother's godmother as well as my mother's very best friends, Mária Kurillová. There we met a whole clan of Kurillas, including my mother's godmother, who had passed away since then. Again we hugged, exchanged greetings, and the liquor glasses poured heartily. All were curious about my mother and her family, and we were told that my mother should also pay them a visit, which she would in 1981 when Mária's son married. After too many drinks, loads of food and pastries, and many more hugs, we set back on our way to Anna Čarnocha's house.

On the way back, she managed to get the church caretaker to open the church for us, and it was filled with some paintings and a cross from the original church. I could imagine my mother attending Mass and viewing those paintings of St. Michael, and the whole experience was quite inspiring. After visiting the church, we took a few photos of all us before Anna Čarnoka's home, imbibed a few more drinks, and then made our way to the train station to head back to Spišské Vlachy.

It was surely a very special day to remember, one that I will treasure all my life. Although I had surely drunk too much liquor and had a very full belly, I was elated to have finally walked in the village where my mother had spent her childhood. Here in Richnava were my family roots.



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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA JUNE 20, 2020 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Regional Director Sabina Sabados to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;

Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President – present via telephone;

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;

George F. Matta II, National Treasurer – present via telephone;

Joseph Senko, Temporary Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;

Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;

Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 – present via telephone;

Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;

Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 – present via telephone;

James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;

Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone;

Thomas Ivanec, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone;

Timothy Graves, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone;

Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;

Gary J. Matta, General Counsel - present via telephone;

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS:

The President stated that he temporarily appointed Joseph Senko as Chairman of Auditors due to the passing of Leonard Zilko with accordance to Bylaw 6.05 (b)(3): If a vacancy should arise in any office that will substantially affect the operation and business of the F.C.S.U., then such vacancy shall be filled on a temporary basis by the President until such time as filled by the Board of Directors at their next meeting.

The President stated that a notice for a replacement of the Chairman of Auditors will be placed in the next issue of the Jednota.

READING OF THE CALL:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MARCH 20, 2020:

A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by Timothy Graves to accept the minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting held March 20, 2020, as presented. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

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

Due to current economic conditions, Mr. White recommends that the FCSU review its Investment Policy. The President stated that the Executive Committee will review Mr. White's proposal and make a recommendation to the Board at its September meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2020. After the Executive Secretary's report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2020 first quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper. He also stated we are in the process of completing the second quarter financial report and, once completed, it will be sent to all Directors.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update and answered the Board's questions.

Due to current economic conditions, the Treasurer recommends that the Executive Committee review the recommendations from Larry White regarding our allocation percentage.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

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

Investments

The Executive Secretary stated all investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company, and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

Scholarship Committee

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

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Board of Directors. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 349 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents. The Home Office continues an extensive Facebook ad recruiting campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in. The Home Office is currently targeting agents in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

The Executive Secretary stated that we continue to place ads on Facebook and send out email campaigns to recruit agents. The Home Office continues to work with our outside marketing firm to develop new agent recruitment material.

The Vice President stated that due to the coronavirus pandemic, seminars will not be scheduled until 2021.

RATING AGENCY:

The President stated that the meeting with Kroll Bond Rating Agency has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Director of Fraternal Activities Kevin Collins stated that due to the coronavirus pandemic all fraternal activities have been put on hold or cancelled for 2020.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated he is looking at holding an online trivia contest or other online activities. He will update the Board as more information becomes available.

The Director of Fraternal Activities stated that if the NFL will play this season, then he will host the NFL Loser's Pool. Rules and information regarding the contest will be published in the Jednota and posted on the FCSU website.

BRANCH MEETINGS:

The President stated that the Board is discouraging all district and branch officers from holding in-person meetings. Instead, for the safety of our members during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Board strongly recommends holding virtual meetings by telephone conference or by using the latest technology such as Zoom, Google Meet or Startmeeting.com. A virtual meeting will be considered as a regular meeting toward district/branch fraternal obligations. Some of our districts and branches are already doing this.

The Executive Secretary stated that the options to hold a virtual or hybrid meeting will be sent out to branches and put on our website. 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/> the 30-day rule applies from the date the meeting announcement is posted on the FCSU website.

ILLUSTRATION:

The Executive Secretary stated that our illustration software has now been updated with our current 2017 CSO rates and is available for download on the agent portal.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORTS:

The Executive Secretary presented the following reports.

State Audit

The Executive Secretary stated that the State of Ohio is currently conducting its 3-year state audit remotely. All requested information will be uploaded to the state portal and the audit should last approximately 3 months.

Information Security Program (Cybersecurity)

The Executive Secretary outlined the objectives that the FCSU is following in its Information Security Program

1. Protect the security and confidentiality of Nonpublic Information and Information systems for all members of First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. Herein called FCSU or Union.
2. Protect against threats and hazards to the security and integrity of Nonpublic Information for FCSU members.
3. Protect against unauthorized access to Nonpublic Information of FCSU members.
4. Define and evaluate a schedule for retention and destruction of unneeded Nonpublic Information.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

(TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

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

The Executive Committee Meeting is being held as a teleconference due to the current coronavirus pandemic. 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)
 Damian Nasta, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)
 (via teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the July 17, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., 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 July 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 July:

Disbursements for the month of July 2020:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 319,061.83
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 25,941.79
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.

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 we are still recruiting agents thru a Facebook marketing campaign and an email campaign. The Home Office marketing team is still working with Visia, our outside marketing firm to develop new marketing material.

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 September.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update to the Executive Committee. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

MISCELLANEOUS:**Home Office Update**

The President and the Executive Secretary gave an update on the Home Office operations. The Executive Secretary stated that 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.

Building Water Leak Update

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the repairs being done on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Home Office Building due to a water leak. He stated that the repairs are being done in a timely fashion and the cleanup is almost completed.

Branch/District Meetings

The President and the Executive Secretary stated that the Board of Directors strongly recommends that all Branch and District meetings for the rest of 2020 be held virtually. The Executive Secretary stated

that a letter has been sent out to all Branches, Districts and Board Members to outline options for virtual meetings.

Fraternal Activities

The President stated that all fraternal activity gatherings scheduled for 2020 have been cancelled. The Kentucky Derby Hat Contest, NFL Losers Pool and a trivia contest will still be held in the Fall. Fraternal Activities Director Kevin Collins is looking to hold more online contests.

Kroll Bond Agency

The President stated that a virtual meeting has been scheduled in September with Kroll Bond to review all the material we have submitted to them in order for them to issue a rating.

Chairman of Auditors

The President stated that he is accepting applications for the Chairman of Auditors position. An ad was placed in the Jednota and all applications are due by August 31, 2020. An election for the Chairman of Auditors will take place at the September Board of Directors Meeting. Applicant resumes will be forwarded to the Board prior to the September meeting.

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 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

continued from page 22

5. Ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of Nonpublic Information residing on FCSU networks and computers and the transmission of data outside of our networks whenever appropriate.

The Executive Secretary stated that all Home Office Personnel have been trained to protect confidential and financial information. This program is reviewed annual to meet state regulatory requirements.

Suitability Report to Senior Management

The Executive Secretary stated that First Catholic Slovak Union has established a supervisory system to ensure that all life Insurance and Annuity sales are suitable and in the best interest of our members. The system includes but is not limited to the following:

- Completion of Suitability Evaluation Forms meeting the requirement for the State of issue for all Annuity and Life Insurance Certificates sold.
- Review of the Suitability Form by the Chief Suitability Officer or his/her designee prior to any Life or Annuity Certificate being issued.
- Distribution to all Agents and Recommenders of specific details of all features of our approved Life Insurance and Annuity plans.
- All Licensed Agents and Producers are reviewed prior to appointment to ensure that they have met the education and training requirements for each State in which they will be writing new business.
- Appointed Agents and Producers are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they follow and meet their respective State's continuing education requirements.

Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure

The Executive Secretary presented the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure. The Executive Secretary stated that the First Catholic Slovak Union is operating under the adopted bylaws approved at the last convention held in August 2018.

The Executive Secretary stated that as a Fraternal Benefit Society, the FCSU operates under the Fraternal Benefit Society Code and in conformance with the provisions of the IRS regulations.

The Executive Secretary stated that the FCSU is in complete compliance with all state regulations and the NAIC filings that are required each year.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:

Joseph Senko gave an update on Jednota, Inc., and the closing of Jednota Properties, Inc. The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature to the parent FCSU Board.

ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:

A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by Timothy Graves to accept all the additional reports presented. Motion carried.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

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