



# Catholic Fraternal Jednota

THE UNION  
USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 130

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

NUMBER 6004

## Explore the 'Way of the Heart' this Lent



Feb 14, Valentine's Day, is shortly followed this year by Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Lent reflects the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying before his public ministry began. As we enter this solemn time, why not explore "The Way of Heart" as a way to come closer to Jesus?

"The Way of the Heart" is the formation program of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network —The Apostleship of Prayer. As described on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, it is a program which draws our heart to be nearer to the Heart of Jesus, to align our hearts with His heart's sentiments, desires and yearnings. It invites us to unite ourselves to the mission which Jesus received from the Father. Being friends of Jesus, deeply united to Him, perceiving His joys and sufferings for the world, the program leads us to commit ourselves with Him to take up the challenges that confront humanity and the mission of the Church. Every month the Pope articulates these challenges through his intentions, and his intentions help us to understand the mission of Christ in our day. "The Way of the Heart" helps us, then, to recognize the challenges of the world with the eyes of Jesus, to mobilize us each month, docile to the Holy Spirit, for prayer and service. It is thus that the program transforms us daily and deeper into praying-apostles and disciple-missionaries, for a mission of compassion for the world. To learn more about The Way of the Heart, go to [tinyurl.com/1m6aqa09](http://tinyurl.com/1m6aqa09).

## Lenten Message from National Chaplain

About a week ago, February 2 to be exact, the church celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The Gospel from Mass on that day mentions a woman named Anna, who spend her every waking moment at prayer in the Temple of Jerusalem.

Luke identifies her as "Anna, the daughter of Phanuel." It seems strange that Luke mentions Anna's father, while he is silent about the fathers of other women he mentions. Luke does not give us the name of the father of the two sisters Martha and Mary, nor of the father of Mary, spouse of Joseph and Mother of the Lord. But he mentions Phanuel.

Maybe the reason can be found in the etymology, or word origin, of Phanuel. In Hebrew, Phanuel literally means "one who turns to God."

If we are to pursue a holy way of life, if we are to discover the divine will and act upon it, if we are to obtain graces of mercy and forgiveness, there is only one way for it to happen. Each of us needs to take on the name Phanuel. We must turn to God.

The season of Lent brings this to our attention even more. With the prayer, fasting and acts of charity we do for six weeks beginning on Ash Wednesday, we express our sorrow for what we have done wrong and what we have failed to do. We resolve amend our lives. We remind ourselves there is only one way to live as a disciple of the Lord Jesus, and that is with a mind, a heart, and a will that is turned to God.



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain



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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**February 21, 2021 – First Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel –Mark 1: 12 - 15**

The tone for Lent was set on Ash Wednesday when we heard the call to pray, fast and give alms. The First Sunday of Lent continues this as it addresses temptation, prayer and fasting through one of the synoptic Gospels. This year we hear the Gospel of Mark and while his Gospel does not mention prayer and fasting it is generally understood from Matthew and



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

Luke that this is what Jesus was doing in the desert. Mark's account is also different in that he says, "the spirit drove Jesus out into the desert," while Matthew and Luke say Jesus was "led" to the desert by the Spirit. With Mark it seems that the point is being made that the Spirit who appeared in the form of the dove at Jesus' baptism now drives him to the desert where he will face temptation.

It is not a description of a reluctant Jesus who must be pushed to go about his mission, rather it dramatizes Jesus as one who is driven to confront Satan and evil so as to begin his ministry. While being "led by the Spirit" is a nicer and a more common phrase the description of Jesus being "driven" provides those of us who are at times reluctant to embrace change a model of how we at times need to be "driven" by the Spirit. We might express a desire to grow in holiness and even feel compelled to make radical changes in our life, but there tends to be reluctance to truly embrace the challenges and changes that growing in holiness involves. For us being "driven" by the Spirit is more about getting pushed beyond our comfort zones, than just beginning something new.

As we begin Lent let us not resist the Spirit as it drives us to deeper holiness. Let us take on prayer, fasting and almsgiving with a renewed vigor. Our Lenten prayer hopefully will lead us closer in our relationship with the Lord to a deeper realization that, like any good relationship, our relationship with the Lord calls for daily and honest conversation that will lead us to talk to God not only about what we need, but also bring the needs of others to him. Our Lenten fasting will lead us to reflect on how much we eat on a normal day. Do we consume more than we really need? May we become more aware of those who don't have the luxury of food that we most likely have, and act in concrete ways to alleviate the hunger that is around us. Our almsgiving will be more than just offering the extra to the needy, but will truly be sacrificial in our offering that involves truly doing without something we want.

As we move through Lent we need to be mindful of the Gospel of Ash Wednesday and carry within us the desire and the practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Doing all of these from our desire to repent of our sins and grow in holiness. It seems that often when people work at growing in their relationship with the Lord Satan steps into our lives to try to pull us away from God. We face temptation similar to Jesus in the desert. Temptations to think that we are already doing enough, or others are not worthy of our help, or it will make little difference. Do not give into these temptations, but rather allow the spirit to drive us through them so as to grow in holiness. May we grow in holiness throughout this Lent and continue to hold on to this gift long after the end of Lent.

**26 – 2nd Sunday of Lent – February 28, 2021**

A profoundly difficult scripture text confronts the Church this Sunday, one whose very imagery has caused some to find the Judeo-Christian tradition troubling and not worthy of belief. The reading is the so-called sacrifice of Isaac, the moment when Abraham was ordered by God to offer his own son—his only legitimate child—in sacrifice to the Lord.

This story is especially hard to reckon with coming on the heels of last week's heart-warming reading from Genesis, where God made a covenant of peace with Noah, placing a beautiful rainbow in the sky after the primordial flood as a sign and reminder of the Lord's fidelity. What we discover as we read the sacrifice of Isaac is that from the start God did not intend to require the death of Isaac; rather, God was testing Abraham. The Bible itself confirms this understanding when it begins the account with the words: "God put Abraham to the test" (Gen 22:1).

A further redeeming moment is found through this test of faith when the Lord reveals to Abraham: "because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore." The Lord even makes the reward of Abraham's testing go beyond the children of Abraham to all of humanity when he promises, "in your descendants all the nations of the earth will find blessing, because you obeyed my command" (Gen 22:16-17, 18). The upshot is that Abraham believed that God was worthy of trust although Abraham himself could not fathom how God would make good on his covenants and promises.

Saint Paul takes up the theme of faith as well today, writing in his Letter to the Romans: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?" (Rom 8:31-32). As a faithful Jew, Paul would have known the story of Abraham and Isaac from his youth, and he makes a clear parallel to it when he rhetorically asks how God could withhold anything from us, even when it seems that everything is stacked against us, if he did not withhold his very Son.

The fidelity of God seen in Abraham's test and witnessed in Paul's indomitable trust prepares us for the Gospel reading in which Jesus is transfigured before the eyes of his closest apostles, Peter, James, and John. The Lord's transfiguration and the accompanying vision of Elijah and Moses, representative of the prophets and the Law, allowed these apostles to briefly glimpse Jesus in his full heavenly glory, and thus to steel themselves for the coming adversity in which Jesus would be put to death and all earthly hopes in him would be shattered.

In spite of the disillusionment which followed Jesus death on the cross, and their own temporary abandonment of Jesus at his moment of greatest need, Peter, James, and John were lifted up by the surpassing fidelity of God in their moment of darkness and led to become among the greatest proclaimers of the risen Jesus. Inspired by the examples of Abraham, Paul, and the apostles, may we stand firm in our faith in the Lord when we find ourselves in the dark moments of life, so that we can rejoice together as the adopted children of Abraham, finding our blessing in him who is the source and goal of all faith.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 10	MONDAY, MAR. 1
WEDNESDAY, APR. 14	MONDAY, APR. 5
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12	MONDAY, MAY 3

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

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

## JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

## SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal Sums Up 2020, Continues in 2021

Thank you everyone who supported last year's Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. It is with great pleasure to announce that 199 donors gave \$38,360.58 last year. Here is a breakdown of donors and the amount given:

Parish Collections.	13 .....	17,508.58
Slovak Fraternal Organizations (including Home Office donations	63 .....	\$10,375.00
Clergy of Slovak heritage.	30 .....	\$ 2,685.00
Individual Donations.	93 .....	\$ 7,792.00

A direct mailing for the 2021 Appeal has been sent to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors. Your support is needed each year because money collected in the Appeal goes to help pay for the operating costs of the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome, the residence of priests from Slovakia selected by their bishops to undertake graduate studies.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2021 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 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.

43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

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

## Appointment of Auxiliary Bishop of the diocese of Nitra, Slovakia

The Holy Father has appointed as titular bishop of Amudarsa and auxiliary of Nitra, Slovakia, the Reverend Peter Beňo, until now dean of Trenčín, parish priest and rector of the diocesan Shrine of Saints Andrew Svorad and Benedict Skalka in Skalka nad Váhom.

Msgr. Peter Beňo was born on September 2, 1972 in Bánovce nad Bebravou.

He was ordained a priest on September 14, 1996 for the diocese of Nitra. Since priestly ordination he has held the following offices: parish vicar in Púchov (1996-1997); parish administrator in Nesluša (1997-2002); prefect of the Saint Gorazd Major Seminary in Nitra (2002-2008); lecturer in the Theological Institute in Nitra and in the Saints Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology of the Comenius University in Bratislava (2002-2008); and parish priest in Soblahov (2008-2014). Since 2014 he has served as parish priest in Skalka nad Váhom, and in 2016 he was appointed as rector of the diocesan Shrine of Saints Andrew Svorad and Benedict Skalka in the same municipality. Since 2018 he has also served as dean of Trenčín.

- From Vatican News on 1/29/21 at [press.vatican.va](http://press.vatican.va)

## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary - Holiday Hours



The Home Office will be closed:  
Monday, February 15, 2021,  
in observance of Presidents' Day,  
and Friday, April 2, 2021,  
in observance of Good Friday.



**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

**FCSU HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE)  
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO  
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021**

*The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:*

*Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 9:00 AM (telephonically)*

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 12, 2021.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 12, 2021.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

## Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: [info@fcsu.com](mailto:info@fcsu.com)

## Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

Over 100 million Americans are the descendants of 17 million immigrants who were processed through Ellis Island in New York harbor.

I have done not only a study of immigrant Sisters who were members of the SSCM's, but also of the many Sisters whose blood sisters joined the congregation. According to my count, twenty-eight pairs of sisters became Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Besides this statistic I have a few others of interest. There were four sets of three Sisters. Actually we had five but one of the three sisters died at age 17. Another really remarkable fact: four sisters from Wilkes-Barre, PA, joined our congregation and three sisters from NYC became SSCM's. Later, however, the two younger ones transferred to the Erie Benedictines. Another interesting fact, Sister Judith entered our congregation, but her sister became a Sister of Christian Charity whose name in religion is Sister Nivarda.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

### Sr. M. Esther and Sr. M. Dionysia



When examining the lives of individuals, it is enlightening to see the workings of the Lord in their hearts in powerful and mysterious ways. The mother of two sisters, Sisters Esther and Dionysia who became Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, died at the age of 28 after giving birth to four children. When she died her son Joseph was only two years old. Sister Esther tells us that she learned from either close relatives or friends that her mother had wished to become a Sister. What is even more striking

and noteworthy is the way both sisters were introduced, so to speak, to their future vocation.

When Mary was about nine years old she saw a Sister for the first time. One day as she boarded a streetcar she saw a Sister sitting near the entrance and was fascinated. (It was probably a Mercy Sister on the staff of a hospital in Lewistown which was about 30 miles away.)

Her sister Helen had a similar experience and was drawn to consider religious life. She says, "As I attended Mass one First Friday in a church close to my home I observed the Ursuline Sisters as they led the children to Holy Communion. It reinforced my desire to be of service to others in some way."

The year the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius were founded in Scranton, PA, one of their future members, Mary Yambor, was born on February 4, 1909, in Žedan, Abaуска Župa, Slovakia. The family first immigrated to Connecticut and then to Lisbon Falls, Maine, on the Androscoggin River where Dad worked in the logging mills. When Mary was six her mother died. After her death Mary went to Johnstown, PA, where she lived with a great uncle. For a few months she was taught by Franciscan Sisters who wore black habits with a white cord at the side. Unfortunately, when Mary went to stay with another great uncle's family, she had to attend a public school.

Two significant events guided Mary to the SSCM's. First of all, she read about the congregation in the AVE MARIA. She also learned that Sister Hilda from Maine had become a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Mary, therefore, a parishioner of St. Andrew Parish in Pejeboscot also decided to become a Cyrillite. She entered on the feast of St. Teresa of Avila, October 15, 1924. Her fondest memory of the day she became a novice in May 1925 was being clothed in a bridal gown. It is especially significant that her favorite saint, St. Teresa of Avila, used marriage imagery in her writings.

Sister Esther had high regard for Sister Hilda and regarded her as a model and inspiration. She described Sister as "intelligent and helpful, a musician, gifted as an instrumentalist and vocalist." Sister Esther sought to follow in Sister Hilda's footsteps and when asked what virtue she herself possessed declared without hesitation "helpful."

Sister Esther taught for many years in the intermediate grades, but her greatest love was teaching piano. For over 25 years she taught in the Villa Music Conservatory. According to Sister Pamela Smith, all the piano teachers found the annual auditions a particularly challenging time. Sister Esther, however, was able to deal with the stress by taking a quick walk to town or enjoying a treat of peanuts.

Those who visited the novitiate over the years for vocation retreats will always remember Sister Esther as "the one who had the kindest words, the warmest welcome, and the sweetest chuckle."

Sister Esther was also artistic and especially enjoyed painting and drawing. In her heartfelt thoughts of Sister Esther, Sister Jeanne Ambre reveals her admiration: "Sister Esther appreciated beauty. She often told me about some beautiful thing she had seen in a store downtown, saved up for, and walked to town to purchase. Many of these objects had special places in her music room and came out seasonally to add visual beauty to a room which already held beautiful musical compositions. The look of awe in her face, but especially in her eyes, when she held these things told me she could see beyond the wood, metal or plaster from which it was made into the heart and mind of the artist. I knew this is how she must see God, too, since God's handiwork is everywhere."

Continues Sister Jeanne: "Sister Esther has always been very supportive and affirming of me as an artist; she always told me what she saw in the images I drew and how much she enjoyed my work. Twice I was able to help her with an art project that she wanted to try. She made a design of roses, transferred it to a sheet of copper and then, working on the wrong side of the sheet, created a bas-relief sculpture which we filled with clay and mounted on a board. She gave these to friends of hers who had done her some kindness or showed her hospitality over the years. I was happy to be able to help and grateful to have seen Sister Esther create something even more beautiful than some of the things she had walked into

town to purchase.

What makes Sister more endearing to me than her love of beauty, says Sister Jeanne, is the way she treats other people. There is a deep-down gentleness and reverence for everything that is done for her, even when the person giving is not gentle or reverent. I am delighted to be her friend and proud to be a card-carrying member of her fan club."

Sister Esther was also an inspiration to a family member, her sister Helen, with whom she corresponded. Helen, also born in Slovakia, on June 8, 1912, entered the congregation on December 7, 1930, from Holy Trinity parish, Yonkers, NY, joining Sister Esther who had entered six years before. Helen became a novice, taking the name Sister Dionysia, on July 7, 1931, which at that time was the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Professed in August, 1933, she served the Church by preparing little ones for the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Before retiring to Maria Hall in 1992, she was a teacher's aide. In 1993 she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee.

Sister Dionysia lived as the Blessed Mother had, in quiet prayer and dedicated service. A special event enabled her to come to a better understanding of Mary's message when she had the opportunity to travel to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

Sister Dionysia was hospitalized on the Feast of All Saints and died on the feast of Christ the King, November 20, shortly before the community assembled for Mass at Maria Joseph Manor where she had been recuperating. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 23.

When Sister Esther reached 75 years as a religious, a milestone indeed, she commented, "I'm grateful to the Lord." She joyfully participated in the liturgy celebrated at the Motherhouse and the dinner held at the Meadows Community Center. At the time she was living at Emmanuel Center and made a typically gracious comment, "People are kind." On Christmas Day in 2002 Sister Esther died and was buried in the Sisters' cemetery after a Mass of Christian Burial on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

### Look to the Little Way This Lent

As Lent begins, I can't help but think of St. Therese of Lisieux's autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, where she wrote, "I prefer the monotony of obscure sacrifices to all ecstasies. To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul." This statement reveals the humility of one of the great saints of the 19th century and provides a window into her simple yet profound spirituality.

Born in 1873, Therese lost her mother at an early age, which brought about years of emotional distress that didn't subside until she was 13, when she had what she later described as a "complete conversion" to Christ. She later wrote of that time, "I felt, in a word, charity enter my heart, the need to forget myself to make others happy – Since this blessed night I was not defeated in any battle, but instead I went from victory to victory and began, so to speak, 'to run a giant's course.'"

This line about running a giant's course is a reference to Psalm 19:5, in which the sun's arch throughout the day is compared to a challenging course traversed by a great athlete. It's interesting that Therese should describe her journey in such glorious terms because we know from her writings that she practiced the most humble form of spirituality. But it was not worldly glory that Therese was speaking of. She had discovered the glory of God in her own life, and she began to see how this glory manifested itself in the most simple and beautiful ways.

In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared St. Therese a doctor of the Church, saying, "Her ardent spiritual journey shows such maturity, and the insights of faith expressed in her writings are so vast and profound that they deserve a place among the great spiritual masters." Therese's spirituality came to be defined by her "little way," a phrase she coined to explain her path to God.

It consisted of an approach to life in which she would remain small and rely entirely upon Christ. She wrote, "Thine Arms, then, O Jesus, are the lift which must raise me up even unto Heaven. To get there I need not grow. On the contrary, I must remain little, I must become still less." So we see how Therese found her greatest strength in humility. By letting go of herself, she experienced glory in bringing joy to others.

The fact that she could find greater joy in picking up "a pin for love" than in the greatest of spiritual ecstasies says everything we need to know about Therese's "little way." She offers up these efforts as a way to convert souls to God.

Therese's "little way" stands as a beacon for us all in these trying and often confusing times. It teaches that we are called to perform the basic duties God has put before us—and to bear in mind that our actions are not for ourselves but for the good of others. And we must offer up our labors for the conversion of souls so that all people we encounter might be inspired to love God and utilize their talents for the greater good.

The spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux provides a profound way to allow Christ into our lives. It is a path in which we place ourselves in service to others and allow Christ to do the job of lifting us all towards God and the promise of heavenly glory.

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



Branch 746 members in front of the Nativity of our Lord (L – R): Emil Filak, Emilia Filak, Fr. Mariusz Luksza, Mary Kapitan, Julie Rada, Bart Rada, and Stephen Rada.



Fr. Mariusz Luksza, pastor of Holy Family Church, a Slovak-American parish.



## Branch 746 Gathers to Celebrate the Epiphany!

Branch 746 decided to start the new year by gathering for mass our Slovak-American parish, Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The celebrant was Fr. Mariusz Luksza said the Mass in Slovak (as is done every Friday and Sunday). The 1st week of January included the feast of the Solemnity of Mary on January 1st, the Epiphany or Three Kings Day on January 6th, and the Orthodox Christmas Day which is celebrated on January 7th. This Christmas, due to generous donations of parishioners, a new (much larger) nativity made its debut at our church!

After the Mass a few members remained to re-connect and wish each other a healthy and happy New Year (Šťastný Nový rok) 2021! Members reminisced about the Slovak tradition of boys dressing up in long white shirts with crowns on their heads, going from house to house to perform the Epiphany play, a paraphrase of the New Testament story telling how the Magi came to visit the baby Jesus Christ. A procession would form and those in attendance would sing koledy (carols) while the priest would bless each home writing the last two figures of the date and the initials of the Magi (G.M.B which stands for Gaspar, Melcher, Balthazar) above the door.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



## Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship

### Deadline to apply: April 30<sup>th</sup>

- ✓ Are you a member of Branch 746?
- ✓ Are you currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school?
- ✓ Are you active in Branch 746?

**If you answered YES to the above, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship!**

For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to:  
<https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

## Branch 756 Victoria Malik Celebrated Milestone Birthday

Victoria Gregoricka Malik, born in Pobedim, Slovakia, celebrated her 100th birthday on December 23, 2020. Since immigrating to the United States in 1934, she has lived in Owosso, Michigan. Vicky and her husband Charles (now deceased) have three daughters, Judy (Jack) Crawford, Cathy (Jerry) Robinson, and Marti (Elek) Kovacs. All are Branch 756 members. Six grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and one great-great grandson (making 5 generations) complete the family.

- Submitted by Branch 756 President Gary Gregoricka



## Saints Cyril and Methodius Feast Day – February 14



Cyril and Methodius, painting by Jan Matejko, 1885

### Prayer for Feast Day

Father, you brought the light of the gospel to the Slavic nations through Saint Cyril and his brother Saint Methodius. Open our hearts to understand your teaching and help us to become one in faith and praise. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- SISTERS OF SS CYRIL & METHODIUS  
 Villa Sacred Heart  
 Danville, PA

On February 14, the universal Church honors two brothers, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, who are called the "Apostles of the Slavs" for their tireless work in spreading the Gospel throughout Eastern Europe in the ninth century.

Such was their influence in Church history, through their evangelization efforts, that the late Pope John Paul II named the two brothers the patron saints of Europe along with fifth century monastic leader St. Benedict.

Born into a prestigious senatorial family in Thessalonica, in 815 and 826 respectively, Sts. Cyril and Methodius renounced their wealth and status. They chose instead to become priests.

Both were living in a monastery on the Bosphorus – now known as the Istanbul strait which separates Europe and Asia – when the authorities from the Khazar Empire sent to Constantinople for a Christian missionary. Cyril was chosen and was accompanied by his brother. Both learned the Khazar language and converted many of the people.

Soon after the Khazar mission, there was a request from officials in Moravia – a region in the present-day Czech Republic – for missionaries who could preach and celebrate liturgical services in the local dialect. Although German missionaries had already labored among the people for some time, they had little success.

In order to fulfill this mission, Cyril and Methodius took the step of adapting the Greek alphabet into a script for the Slavonic language. The result was the "Cyrillic" alphabet, which was first used to translate the Bible and liturgical books. It also became the primary means of written communication for large portions of the world, including modern day Russia.

The two labored in Moravia for four years until 868, achieving greater success than the German missionaries. Their Byzantine origins and use of the vernacular language caused some German church officials to regard them with suspicion. However, after being summoned to Rome they met with Pope Adrian II who warmly approved of their methods.

Cyril and Methodius were commended by the pope for their missionary activity and ordained bishops. Yet Cyril would not return to Moravia, and died in Rome in 869.

In order to further Methodius' work in Moravia, Pope Adrian II appointed him archbishop of a new archdiocese in the territory, independent from the German church. Unfortunately this had the effect of angering his German critics, who had him deposed and imprisoned for a period of three years.

Pope Adrian's successor, John VIII, managed to have Methodius freed and had him reinstated as archbishop, after which he expanded his work to incorporate the region of modern day Poland. The new Pope continued to support Methodius' use of the Slavic languages in worship and his translations of the Bible, despite continuing controversy with some elements of the German church.

Eventually, with the assistance of several Greek priests, he translated the whole Bible into the language that is known today as Church Slavonic. He chose his successor from among the native Moravian Slavs whom he had evangelized, and died on April 6 in 885.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius' missionary work among the Slavs laid the essential foundation for the later Christianization of Ukraine and Russia in 988, when the Russian Prince Vladimir accepted Baptism.

- As posted on catholicnewsagency.com



**FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

If you're planning to open or fund an IRA, you have until the tax year's filing deadline for individual income tax returns. For 2020, that's April 15, 2021.

To help when considering what type of IRA is best for you – the following is from IRS which compares the features of the two basic types - traditional and Roth IRAs. Of course, before making any investment decision, always consult your tax advisor. For guidance on the FCSU annuity products that are IRAs, call the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 or contact your local FCSU branch.

**An IRS Comparison of Traditional & Roth IRAs**

Features	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA
<b>Who can contribute?</b>	You can contribute if you (or your spouse if filing jointly) have <u>taxable compensation</u> . Prior to January 1, 2020, you were unable to contribute if you were age 70½ or older.	You can contribute at any age if you (or your spouse if filing jointly) have <u>taxable compensation</u> and your modified adjusted gross income is below certain amounts (see <u>2020</u> and <u>2021</u> limits).
<b>Are my contributions deductible?</b>	You can deduct your contributions if you <u>qualify</u> .	Your contributions aren't deductible.
<b>How much can I contribute?</b>	The most you can contribute to <b>all</b> of your traditional and Roth IRAs is the smaller of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 2019, \$6,000, or \$7,000 if you're age 50 or older by the end of the year; or</li> <li>• your taxable compensation for the year.</li> <li>• For 2020, \$6,000, or \$7,000 if you're age 50 or older by the end of the year; or</li> <li>• your taxable compensation for the year.</li> <li>• For 2021, \$6,000, or \$7,000 if you're age 50 or older by the end of the year; or</li> <li>• your taxable compensation for the year.</li> </ul>	
<b>What is the deadline to make contributions?</b>	Your tax return filing deadline (not including extensions). For example, you can make 2020 IRA contributions until April 15, 2021.	
<b>When can I withdraw money?</b>	You can withdraw money anytime.	
<b>Do I have to take required minimum distributions?</b>	You must start taking <u>distributions</u> by April 1 following the year in which you turn age 72 (70 1/2 if you reach the age of 70 ½ before January 1, 2020) and by December 31 of later years.	Not required if you are the original owner.
<b>Are my withdrawals and distributions taxable?</b>	Any deductible contributions and earnings you withdraw or that are distributed from your traditional IRA are taxable. Also, if you are under age 59 ½ you may have to pay an additional 10% tax for early withdrawals unless you qualify for an <u>exception</u> .	None if it's a <u>qualified distribution</u> (or a withdrawal that is a qualified distribution). Otherwise, part of the distribution or withdrawal may be <u>taxable</u> . If you are under age 59 ½, you may also have to pay an additional 10% tax for early withdrawals unless you qualify for an <u>exception</u> .

- As posted on <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/traditional-and-roth-iras>

## Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!



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

Per current COVID-19 government guidelines and mandates, we remain closed to in-person visits with restricted hours for our Home Office employees that allow them to practice social distancing and other methods for ensuring their wellbeing.

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

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

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



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

### FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

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

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

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

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

# District 4 Virtually Visits Jerusalem and Bethlehem

Members of District 4 joined hundreds of Zoom participants on a virtual tour of the Old City of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The January 5th guided tour was led by expert guides who used photos, art, and videos to explain the history and significance of each site visited. "The virtual event was an impressive viewing of the sites of key religious importance in Jerusalem and Bethlehem" (Joanne Polt).

Christians, Muslims, and Jews co-exist in the city of Jerusalem. Three domes are visible once you ascend into Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate: the grey dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Christian), the gold one of The Dome of the Rock (Muslim), and the white dome of the Hurva Synagogue (Jewish). Jerusalem is divided into four quarters: Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and Armenian. While the Muslim Quarter is the largest and most populated, the Armenian is the smallest and least populated. As we traveled through the four quarters, we visited many important holy sites. The Church of St. James is a twelfth century Armenian church, the most decorative of the churches in Jerusalem. It holds the body of Jesus's brother, James. The Hurva Synagogue has been destroyed and re-built multiple times. The Western Wall of the Temple Mount is also known as the Wailing Wall, what is left of the wall that was in existence during Jesus's life when he visited the Temple. "I especially enjoyed seeing the "Wailing Wall" or "Western Wall" where people from all over the world come to place notes into the crevices of the wall for blessings and prayers...Presidents have visited as well as the Pope" (Mary Ann Ranahan). Visitors to the Wall are segregated by gender, divided by a fence. Part of the Western Wall goes into the Muslim Quarter. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the location of Jesus's tomb. "One of the fascinating takeaways which was explained during the virtual tour is the fact that two Muslim families control the key and the door to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which houses several denominations of Christian religions (the main denominations sharing property over parts of the church are the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Armenian Apostolic, and to a lesser degree the Coptic Orthodox, Syriac Orthodox and Ethiopian Orthodox" (Sabina Sabados). The Dome of the Rock is the third holiest site in the world for Muslims. The gold of the dome was donated by the King of Jordan.

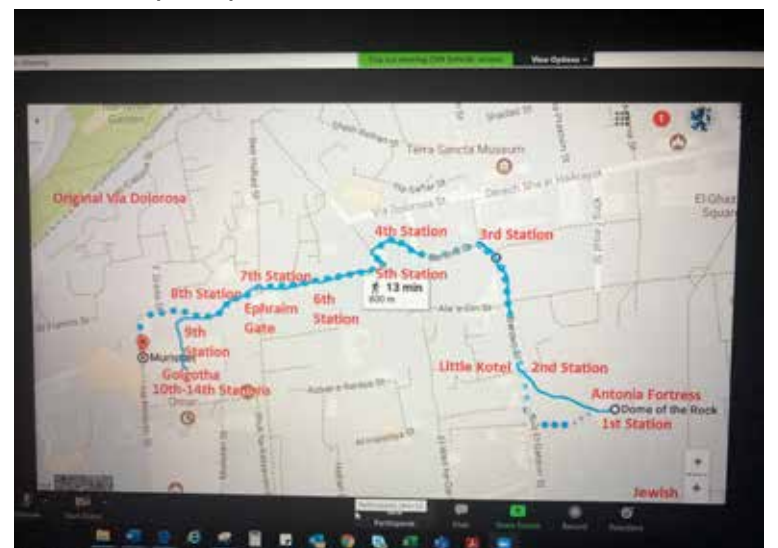
It is interesting to note that the site of the Dome of the Rock is believed by Jews to be the site of the creation of Adam. It is also believed by Muslims to be the site of Abraham sacrificing his son and the site from which Muhammed ascends to the heavens.

There is a route which pilgrims can travel along the Via Dolorosa which marks the Stations of the Cross. Two of the stations are actually in the Muslim Quarter! Our guide led us along much of the route, stopping at the site of Jesus's crucifixion (where there is a church). The last site we saw in Jerusalem was the Mount of Olives, the site of Jesus's arrest, now a Jewish cemetery.

Next, our group traveled about five miles south to the city of Bethlehem, in the region of Judea. Signs there are written in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic and English. The Church of the Nativity is located in Manger Square. There are three flags on the Manger Square because three religions share the site - Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Roman Catholic. Our guide took us into the Church of the Nativity. There is a cave underneath the church. Descending fourteen steps will take you to the place where Jesus was born. A star marks the site. "It was inspiring to see pilgrims bending down to touch the 14-point silver star on the marble floor of the Grotto of the Nativity" (Joanne Polt). "I enjoyed seeing where Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in a manger, that was actually located down in a cave!" (Mary Ann Ranahan). The tour ended with a view of the remnants of the summer palace of Herod, on the



District 4 members joined hundreds of Zoom participants on the virtual tour.



Expert guides used photos, art, and videos to explain the significance of Old City of Jerusalem and Bethlehem sites.

outskirts of Bethlehem.

"The guides were enthusiastic and knowledgeable. You could tell that they enjoyed giving the tour and weren't just giving a speech. It was interesting to see the same places that we've read about in the Bible for real, even if they looked differently from what we imagined that they would look like" (Steve Minarovich).

"I really enjoyed the virtual tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. To see all of the historical sites up close, even though it was virtual, was amazing. Because many are closed, we were able to really see the

area without the lines and throngs of people. Also, the presentation of the history of Jerusalem through the years made it even more interesting. It was fascinating to see how all of the different faiths share the city of Jerusalem. It reminds us of how we should all live each day, with renewed faith and great understanding of our neighbors. Very enjoyable" (Dana Banas).

We plan to sponsor additional virtual tours in the near future.

Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary

# News From Slovakia

## Bratislava by mohla usporiadať majstrovstvá v ľadovom hokeji

Bratislava 22. januára (TASR) - Bratislava by mohla hostiť zápasy jednej z dvoch skupín tohtoročného svetového šampionátu v hokeji, pretože Slovenská hokejová federácia (SZLH) potvrdila, že iniciovala rokovania s Medzinárodnou hokejovou federáciou (IIHF) o organizáciu turnaja s Lotyšskom v nadväznosti na rozhodnutie IIHF odobrať právo organizovať turnaj Bielorusku, ktoré malo byť spolu s Lotyšskom hosťiteľom šampionátu.

Zatiaľ čo Slovensko je potenciálnym kandidátom spolu s Dánskom, treťou možnosťou je, že celý turnaj vrátane skupinovej fázy sa bude hrať iba v Lotyšsku.

SZLH, vedená bývalou slovenskou hokejovou legendou Miroslavom Šatanom, nadviazala počiatočný kontakt. „Dohodli sme sa, že do piatku zhromaždíme potrebnú dokumentáciu a rozpočet. Zdôrazňujeme, že o ničom ešte nie je rozhodnuté. Rozhodnutie bude na Rade IIHF,“ uviedol Šatan pre hockeyslovakia.sk.

„Chceme hokejovému svetu ukázať, že dokážeme a chceme pomôcť v krízovej situácii. Urobíme všetko pre to, aby sme presvedčili Radu IIHF, že Slovensko je tým správnym miestom na usporiadanie šampionátu. Už sme o tom viedli niekoľko kôl rozhovorov so zástupcami vlády, ktorí vyjadrili svoju podporu,“ uviedol Šatan. IIHF by konečné rozhodnutie mohla prijať už budúci týždeň, pretože rada by mala zasadať 26. a 27. januára.

IIHF v pondelok stiahla z Minska právo organizovať turnaj s odvolaním sa na obavy o bezpečnosť národných tímov vzhľadom na súčasnú politickú a epidemickú situáciu v Bielorusku.

Začiatok turnaja je naplánovaný na 21. mája, finále je naplánované na 6. júna. Predchádzajúce majstrovstvá sveta v hokeji boli zrušené kvôli pandémie koronavírusov. IIHF vyhlásila, že nechce zrušiť dva po sebe nasledujúce turnaje.



(Fotka od TASR / AP)  
(Stock photo by TASR/AP)

## Bratislava Could Co-host Ice Hockey Championship

Bratislava, January 22 (TASR) – Bratislava could host matches of one of the two groups of this year's ice hockey world championship, as the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation (SZLH) confirmed it initiated talks with the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) on co-organizing the tournament with Latvia following the IIHF's decision to withdraw the right to host the tournament from Belarus, which was supposed to co-host the championship along with Latvia.

While Slovakia is a potential candidate along with Denmark, the third option is that the entire tournament, including the group stage, will be played out solely in Latvia.

SZLH, managed by former Slovak ice hockey legend Miroslav Šatan established initial contact. "We agreed that we would assemble the necessary documentation and budget by Friday. We stress that nothing has been decided yet. The decision will be up to the IIHF Council," Šatan told hockeyslovakia.sk.

"We want to show the hockey world that we can and want to help in a crisis situation. We'll do our utmost to convince the IIHF Council that Slovakia is the right place to host the championship. We've already held several rounds of talks on this with Government representatives, who expressed their support," said Šatan. The IIHF could make the final decision as early as next week, as the council is supposed to hold a session on January 26 and 27.

IIHF withdrew the rights to organize the tournament from Minsk on Monday, citing concerns over the safety of national teams given the current political and epidemic situation in Belarus.

The tournament is scheduled to start on May 21, with the final slated for June 6. The previous world hockey championship was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, and IIHF has stated that it doesn't want to cancel two consecutive tournaments.

## Slovensko má dost' vakcín COVID-19

Bratislava 20. januára (TASR) - Slovensko má dostatok vakcín COVID-19, vrátane vakcín produkovaných spoločnosťami Pfizer a BioNTech alebo Moderna, tvrdil na tlačovej konferencii predseda vlády Igor Matovič (OLaNO) s tým, že Slovensko zazmluvnilo vakcíny pre 85 percent dospeljej populácie.

Podľa Matoviča si Slovensko zazmluvnilo 2,4 milióna vakcín od Pfizer / BioNTech do 18. januára a v pondelok večer si zaobstaralo ďalších 3,4 milióna. Pokiaľ ide o vakcíny vyrábané spoločnosťou Moderna, Slovensko do pondelka zazmluvnilo takmer 963 000 injekcií a v ten istý deň nakúpilo ďalších 602 000 kusov.

Krajina tak bude mať k dispozícii viac ako 7,4 milióna injekcií COVID-19, čo je dost' na zaočkovanie 3,7 milióna ľudí.

Minister zdravotníctva Marek Krajci (OLaNO) medzitým poznamenal, že ho teší, že sa očkovací proces na Slovensku rozbieha. Oznamoval tiež, že ľudia na Slovensku dostanú dve nevyhnutné injekcie potrebné na úplné očkovanie proti tejto chorobe s odstupom štyroch týždňov. Tvrdí, že v prípade vakcín od oboch výrobcov je bezpečná lehota 28 dní.

V súvislosti s vakcínou vyrobenou spoločnosťou AstraZeneca, Krajci poznamenal, že očakáva, že bude čo najskôr schválená Európskou agentúrou pre lieky. Slovensko zazmluvnilo 360 000 dávok tejto vakcíny a predpokladá sa, že by mali byť do krajiny dodané vo februári.



Vakcína Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 (foto TASR)  
The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Photo by TASR)

## Slovakia Has Enough COVID-19 Vaccines

Bratislava, January 20 (TASR) – Slovakia has enough COVID-19 vaccines, including those produced by Pfizer and BioNTech or Moderna, Prime Minister Igor Matovic (OLaNO) claimed at a press conference, adding that Slovakia has contracted vaccines for 85 percent of the adult population.

According to Matovic, Slovakia had contracted 2.4 million vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech by January 18 and procured another 3.4 million on Monday evening. As for vaccines produced by Moderna, Slovakia had contracted almost 963,000 such jabs by Monday and purchased another 602,000 on the same day.

The country will thus have at its disposal more than 7.4 million COVID-19 jabs, which is enough to vaccinate 3.7 million people.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Marek Krajci (OLaNO) noted that it pleases him that the vaccination process in Slovakia is taking off. He also announced that people in Slovakia will receive the two necessary jabs to be fully vaccinated against the disease four weeks apart, claiming that a period of 28 days is safe when it comes to vaccines from both producers.

Speaking regarding the vaccine produced by company AstraZeneca, Krajci noted that he expects it to be approved by the European Medicines Agency as soon as possible. Slovakia has contracted 360,000 doses of this vaccine and it's expected that they should be supplied to the country in February.

## Ministerstvo zdravotníctva načrtlo 11 fáz očkovania proti COVID

Bratislava 20. januára (TASR) - Očkovanie proti koronavírusu sa bude na Slovensku uskutočňovať v jedenástich fázach, pričom podľa vyhlášky ministerstva zdravotníctva sa budú uprednostňovať slabšie a staršie osoby.

Medzi jednotlivými očkovaniami bude musieť uplynúť najmenej 28 dní. O očkovanie



# News From Slovakia

continued from page 8

bude potrebné požiadať prostredníctvom centrálného systému na webovej stránke korona.gov.sk.

Prvá fáza očkovania sa bude týkať zdravotníckych pracovníkov, študentov zdravotníckych a iných zdravotníckych špecializácií, ktorí sú v skutočnom kontakte s pacientmi COVID, personálu ošetrovateľského ústavu, sociálnych pracovníkov v teréne, nemocničného personálu, záchranárov, členov zdravotníckeho personálu slúži pacientom COVID a personálu testujúcemu koronavírusy.

Ak sa v daný deň neobjavia všetci, ktorí požiadali o očkovanie, zostávajúce injekcie by sa mohli podať ľuďom vo veku najmenej 65 rokov, ktorým sa poskytuje zdravotná starostlivosť v rovnakom zariadení, alebo chorému človeku, ktorému hrozí vážne riziko vážneho pádu, chorím na koronavírusy bez ohľadu na ich vek.

Druhá fáza bude otvorená pre ľudí vo veku 85 rokov a viac, tretia pre ľudí nad 75 rokov a štvrtá pre ľudí starších ako 65 rokov. Všetci títo žiadatelia sa budú musieť zaregistrovať online.

Piata fáza bude zahŕňať ľudí s vysokým rizikom vážnych zdravotných problémov spôsobených COVID-19 bez ohľadu na ich vek, napríklad tých, ktorí sa liečia na rakovinu, tých, ktorí mali najmenej dvakrát ťažký zápal pľúc, ľudí s extrémnou obezitou, ľudí s chronickým ochorením zlyhanie obličiek a srdca a osoby trpiace na AIDS a na závažné infekčné choroby.

Šiesta fáza sa bude týkať ľudí s dlhodobou remisiou rakoviny, obéznych ľudí a osôb trpiacich stredne závažnými duševnými chorobami a stredne závažnými poruchami imunity.

V siedmej fáze budú učitelia vo veku najmenej 55 rokov dostávať injekcie, kým ich v priebehu ôsmej fázy nebude môcť prijímať iný človek v rovnakej vekovej skupine. Deviatá fáza je vyhradená pre učiteľov, desiatu pre ľudí vo veku minimálne 45 rokov a jedenásta pre osoby staršie ako 18 rokov.



(Fotka od TASR)  
(Stock photo by TASR)

## Slovak Health Ministry Outlines 11 Phases for COVID Vaccination

Bratislava, January 20 (TASR) – Vaccination against coronavirus will be performed in eleven phases in Slovakia, with priority being given to the frail and elderly, according to a Health Ministry decree.

At least 28 days will have to pass between individual shots. It will be necessary to apply for vaccination via a central system on the korona.gov.sk website.

The first phase of vaccination will concern health-care professionals, students of medical and other health-care specializations who are in actual contact with COVID patients, care-home staff, social workers in the field, hospital staff, paramedics, members of the cloth serving COVID patients and coronavirus-testing staff.

If not all those who've applied appear for vaccination on a given date, the remaining jabs could be given to people aged at least 65 who are being provided with health care in the same facility or to a sick person in particular risk of falling seriously ill due to coronavirus, regardless of their age.

The second phase will be open to people aged 85 and over, the third to those over 75 and the fourth to people older than 65. All these applicants will need to register online.

The fifth phase will include people in high risk of serious health problems due to COVID-19, regardless of their age, such as those receiving treatment for cancer, those who've had severe pneumonia at least twice, extremely obese people, those with chronic kidney and heart failure, and those suffering from AIDS and from serious infectious diseases.

The sixth phase will concern people in long-term cancer remission, obese people, and those suffering from medium-level mental illnesses and medium-level immunity disorders.

In the seventh phase, teachers aged at least 55 will be given jabs, before other people in the same age group are allowed to receive them during the eighth phase. The ninth phase is reserved for teachers, the tenth for people aged at least 45 and the eleventh for people older than 18.

## BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBER SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE

For the Fall 2021 school year, St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 of United, PA, will be offering scholarships to eligible youth members planning to attend college or career/technical school. These will be one-time scholarships selected by an independent panel that will evaluate each applicant. The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on the number of eligible applicants.

Scholarships of \$500.00 will be available on a one-time basis to be used for a college or trade school.



### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SOCIETY- BRANCH 181 YOUTH MEMBERS

You may be eligible to qualify for a scholarship if you meet the following requirements:

- You are a member in good standing of The First Catholic Slovak Union, St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181.
- You have been a member of Branch 181 for four years prior to applying with a minimum \$5,000 insurance policy.
- You are high school senior preparing to graduate in 2021 and have applied for the 2021/22 fall term at a qualifying educational institution.

**THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE SOLELY FUNDED BY YOUR LOCAL BRANCH 181 AND ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION NATIONAL OFFICE.**

To obtain an application and more information, please contact Vicki Hricik phone 724-547-0803 or email [vickihricik@gmail.com](mailto:vickihricik@gmail.com).

**\*Applications must be postmarked by April 9, 2021 to be eligible.**

## LEARN SLOVAK THIS SUMMER

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR SUMMER 2021!

The University of Pittsburgh's Summer Language Institute provides an intensive language learning experience: two semesters' worth of beginning, intermediate, or advanced Slovak in just six weeks.

Students of Slovak at SLI engage in a robust program of cultural enrichment centering around food, music, art, history, and film.

Attend in person or online

Scholarships available

Program dates: June 7-July 16, 2021

Priority application deadline: March 1st

[WWW.SLI.PITT.EDU](http://WWW.SLI.PITT.EDU)



SLI 2020

# Scenes from Successful District 19/Branch 785 Virtual Meeting

On January 10, 2021, Canada's District 19, and Branch 785 of Mississauga, Ontario, held a combined Annual General meeting by ZOOM. The decision to hold a virtual meeting was due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. There was good attendance, as the screen shots show, especially taking into account many were connecting into the meeting from households of more than two members.

Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



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

# YOUNGSTOWN/SPIŠSKÁ NOVÁ VES SISTER CITIES TOUR 2021



Are you tired of staying in lockdown due to the Covid Virus? Then it's time to schedule your Covid Vaccine and pack your bags for a vacation getaway to beautiful Slovakia. Mark your calendar, the dates are July 15-29, 2021. Be a King, Queen, Prince or Princess for 4 days. We will spend the first two days and the last two days of the tour in castles that have been renovated into hotels. Never before have we done this. See castles, churches,

attend kolibas, raft ride on the Dunajec river, shop in Poland, enjoy lunch in Hungary, enjoy many folk groups, see where Janosik, the Slovak Robinhood, was born, visit Litmanová, Červený Kameň, The Marianska Hora and many other places too numerous to mention. Get out your comfortable walking shoes and get ready to walk all over Slovakia. We have a 49 passenger comfortable air conditioned bus with a rest room on board. For a sneak preview of the castles go online and visit Art Castle, Pezinok, Slovakia and the Grand Víglaš Castle, Víglaš, Slovakia. Slots are limited so make your reservations now. For additional information call Jim Bench at 724-858-5843 or Kay Bench at 724-771-7900, or email Jim at jmbench@yahoo.com, or email Kay at skbench@gmail.com Tour arrangements are made by Paul Hudak at Adventure Travel International Inc., P.O. Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107-0024. Phone 216 228-7171, 800 542-2478, Fax 216-228-7174 e-mail Paul at paul@advintravel.com. First come, first served; make your reservations now.

## Branch 670 Announces 2021 Scholarship Program



Branch 670 of Donora, PA, is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2021 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 31, 2021.

- Submitted by Joseph Matinko, President and Financial Secretary

## 2021 JEDNOTA Publication Schedule

Issue Date

Deadline to Receive Information

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

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14		15				16				
17						18				19				
20					21		22			23		24		
			25			26		27			28			
29	30	31				32		33						
34					35			36		37		38	39	40
41					42				43			44		
45			46	47		48					49			
			50		51		52			53				
54	55	56				57		58						
59				60			61		62			63	64	65
66			67		68			69		70				
71					72					73				
74					75						76			

**Across**

- 1 Boutique, e.g.
- 5 Painter Chagall
- 9 Head-turner
- 13 Rock bottom
- 15 Heed
- 16 Camp Swampy dog
- 17 Kind of layer
- 18 Jack of *Dragnet*
- 19 Cat call
- 20 Howitzer nickname, Big \_\_\_
- 22 Couples
- 24 Stretch, with "out"
- 25 Swiss river
- 27 Fishing boat
- 29 Thiamine deficiency disease
- 33 Actress Scala
- 34 Carbon compound
- 35 Whups
- 37 Hauls behind
- 41 Literary collection
- 42 Poly- follower
- 44 Victory sign
- 45 Belief
- 48 River to Donegal Bay
- 49 Poet Van Duyn
- 50 Sign before Virgo
- 52 Funny bit
- 54 Military school
- 58 Banned spray
- 59 Bar topic
- 60 It's a gas
- 62 Zoomed
- 66 Wood sorrels
- 68 Poi party
- 70 Compact stuff
- 71 Old casino game
- 72 Kett of the comics
- 73 Wall hanging

**Down**

- 74 Low digits
- 75 Red-bearded god
- 76 Done for
- 47 Adolescent
- 49 Looking glasses
- 51 Breakfast order
- 53 1944 Gene Tierney classic mystery
- 54 Overhead
- 55 Chocolate source
- 56 Savvy
- 57 See 47 Down
- 61 Alliance acronym
- 63 Know-it-all
- 64 First governor of Alaska
- 65 Work station
- 67 Plea at sea
- 69 Old Mideast inits.
- 1 High-hatter
- 2 Smog
- 3 Fragrance
- 4 Long-necked river duck
- 5 Do some yard work
- 6 Retired
- 7 Contradict
- 8 Bionic man, maybe
- 9 Little dog, for short
- 10 Pittsburgh product
- 11 Feed, as a fire
- 12 Minaret
- 14 Post-op time
- 21 Ridgeline
- 23 Expressed
- 26 Clear the boards
- 28 Kind of cabinet
- 29 Exhausted
- 30 Fem. suffix
- 31 Horse color
- 32 Preface, briefly
- 36 Medicinal plant
- 38 The Bard's river
- 39 Kind of pool
- 40 Brand
- 43 Staggers
- 46 Antiquity, once

See Solution on Page 23



## March Madness Starts Again at the FCSU

March Madness – one of the biggest, most exciting and most fun events in all of sports – has once again come to the FCSU!

### General March Madness Rules

The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament is a single-elimination tournament comprised of 68 teams that compete in seven rounds for the national championship. The final round is known as the Final Four, when only four teams are left.

The NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Committee selects, seeds and brackets the field for the NCAA Tournament. Then on Selection Sunday, a Selection Committee reveals the full NCAA tournament bracket, including all teams and all seeds.

In 2021, Selection Sunday is March 14th. The official bracket game of the NCAA will open immediately after the committee announces the field on Selection Sunday.

### FCSU March Madness Rules

This year the contest will take place on line.

1. Each entrant in the FCSU March Madness Contest must be at least 16 years old and have an active policy and be a member in good standing with the FCSU.
2. 1 Entry per person ONLY.
3. Each Player must HAVE AND USE THEIR OWN EMAIL ADDRESS.
4. Each Player MUST FILLOUT AN ENTRY FORM.
5. After the office reviews your entry and you are ruled in good standing, an email will be sent to you to enter the pool. (The Email will be sent to the email address you provide. Print Clearly).  
(One Email Address may only be used once for the contest).
6. Please CHECK YOUR EMAIL OFTEN. ALSO CHECK YOUR JUNK EMAIL.
7. Once you receive the email, follow the instructions to sign up on the game site.
8. Once you sign up on the game site, your account will automatically become FROZEN until start of competition. Your account will REOPEN on Sunday March 14th, 2021.
9. You must have your account set up by 5:00PM Thursday March 11th, 2021.
10. All pool rules will be listed on the Official Contest Site.

**Entry Form: (All Information Must Be Filled IN)**  
(MISSING INFORMATION WILL CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION TO CONTEST).  
PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ :  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (EMAIL CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE. No exceptions).

11. Mail to:  
 Kevin Collins, FCSU Fraternal Activities Director  
 628 Heather Brite Cr.  
 Apopka, Fl. 32712  
 (More than 1 entry form maybe mailed in an envelope).

MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Tuesday March 2nd, 2021  
 and arrive in Office by 5:00pm Wednesday March 10th, 2021  
 PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.

FCSU March Madness Prizes	
1ST PLACE:	\$1000.00
2ND PLACE:	\$750.00
3RD PLACE:	\$500.00
4TH PLACE:	\$250.00
5TH PLACE:	\$50.00



## THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

From the desk of the Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt

**Ninety (90) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.**

- 85 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of \$1000.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

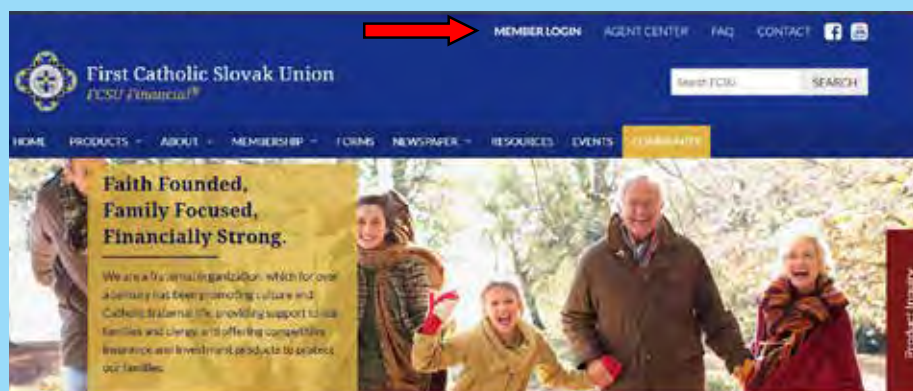
**In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.**

For rules, requirements and applications go to

[www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2021**



## NEW FEATURE on the FCSU WEBSITE

Would you like to check on your FCSU life insurance or annuity policy information at any time? At a click of the button you can access your policy online at your convenience.

Visit our homepage [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), go to MEMBER LOGIN and CREATE your new account.

Next time you log in into your account, you will need to use the username and password you created to review your:

- life insurance policies
- annuity policies
- beneficiaries
- summary
- your transactions for last 12 months

**MORE features coming in the future ... STAY TUNED**



## Join FCSU's First-ever Online Talent Show

**Where: Online**

**Date: Sunday April 18th, 2021**

**Time: 2:00pm (EST)**

**Requirements:** All participants must be FCSU members and have or have access to a computer with a Zoom app. Registration in advance is REQUIRED.

**Format:** No age or talent categories. You can go solo or present your talent as part of a group. Each act will have up to 3 minutes to perform. Have fun. Be creative!

### How to register with an act:

You register by emailing Fraternal Activities Director Kevin Collins at [Kevinfcsu@outlook.com](mailto:Kevinfcsu@outlook.com).

- Please put in subject line: FCSU talent show act.
- Include the following information in the body of the email:
  - o Name of all participants in the act,
  - o Region/Branch Affiliation of all participants in the act,
  - o Name of your act, and
  - o A brief description of your act.
- You will then receive your registration via this same email address, as well as any follow up instructions on accessing the contest via Zoom.

### How to register as a viewer only:

Want to watch the show but not participate with an act? No problem, but you also must register in advance in order to do so by emailing Fraternal Activities Director Kevin Collins at [Kevinfcsu@outlook.com](mailto:Kevinfcsu@outlook.com).

- Please put in subject line: FCSU talent show viewer.
- Please include your Region/Branch Affiliation in the body of your email.
- You will then receive your registration via this same email address, as well as any follow up instructions on accessing the contest via Zoom.

**Deadline to participate:** Everyone must register by Friday, April 9, 2021.

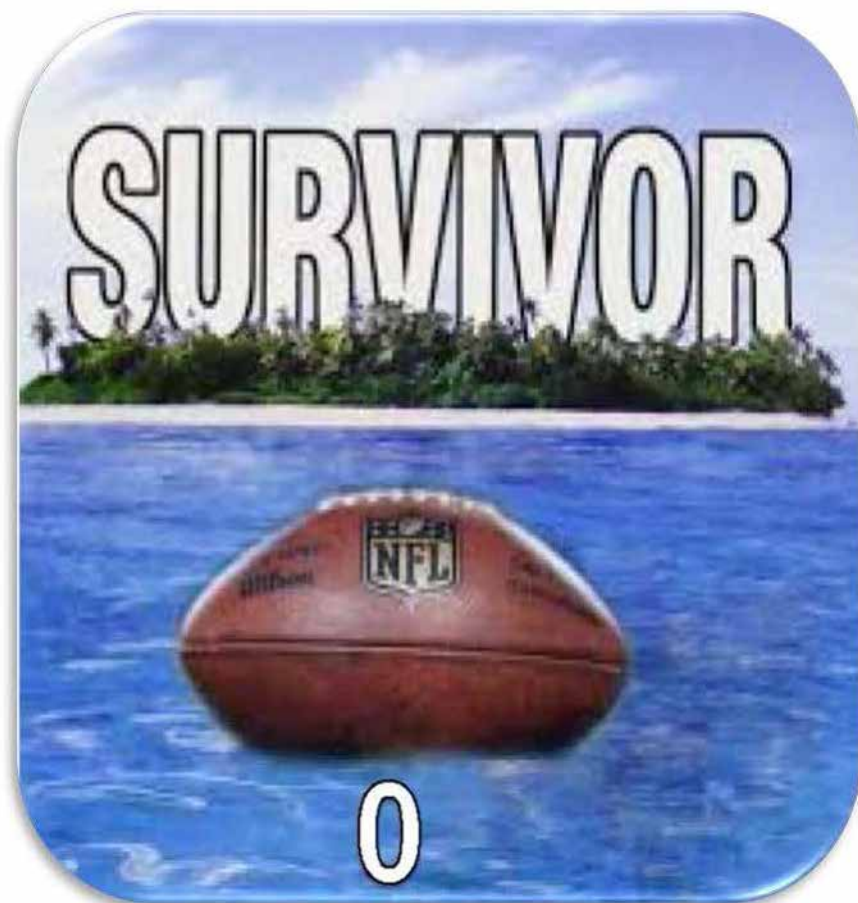
### Prize Amounts

**1st Place: \$250**

**2nd Place: \$125**

**3rd Place: \$75**

## FCSU NFL LOSERS POOL 2020 RESULTS



### Recap of Key Weeks

Throughout our Society, 105 members entered the 2020 contest. Here's a quick rundown of the most crucial weeks in this year's contest:

- Week 1: just like in 2019, this proved to be a difficult week for many members; 33 players were eliminated after the first week.
- Week 6: we were down to 10 members still left in the contest.
- Week 12: we were down to the final 3 players.
- Week 17: we were down to the final 2 players.
- Week 20: both players were eliminated when they both chose Tampa Bay Bucs to loose.

### Congratulations to Finalists

Congratulations to Region 2 for sweeping the top 3 places, with:

- Anna Mae Nasta and Karen Sterling - tied for 1st place
- Robert Buckley – in 3rd Place

Both Anna Mae and Karen will have their name placed on The FCSU Traveling Cup.

### Special Sterling Shout-out

It should be noted that Karen's husband Hank won the Loser's Pool in 2019. Looks like this family knows their football! This means the Sterlings will be the first in the short history of the FCSU Cup to keep it "in the family" by winning twice.

### Appreciation for All Players

Last but not least, my sincere thanks to all the FCSU Members who played our 2020 Losers Pool. Although, unfortunately, none survived to the final round, I hope you had fun playing. Here's to next year!

**Kevin J. Collins**  
National Fraternal Activities Director

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch #1 will hold its next meeting on April 18, 2021, at 1:00PM at the Saint Cyril and Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH, 44107. Those interested in attending, please call 216-338-8179 by April 4, 2021, to confirm that you will be attending so that the proper accommodations can be made according to the social distancing guidelines. All members are encouraged and invited to attend.

**Marie A. Golias, Secretary**

### BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Saturday, March 13, 2021, at 12:30PM at Agolinos Restaurant, 22 Luzerne Avenue, West Pittston, PA. Social distancing will be followed. Mask required. Lite fare will be available. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend the branch meeting should contact Marion Rubino, President, by March 10 at 570-693-0399.

**Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19 will offer a Mass in celebration of the feast day of our patron saint St. Joseph for the living members of our branch on March 14 at 8:30 a.m. in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. The first meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 10:00AM. Officers' reports will be given and plans for activities during the year 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 reconnecting with our members.

**Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary**

### BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23, St Joseph Society, will have its first meeting of 2021. The meeting will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2021, at 1:30 PM. The place of the meeting will be at VOMA, 307 Chestnut St. in Cambria City. All Branch Members are welcome. If you are not sure if you are a Branch 23 Member please call Theresa Cassat (814) 254 2532.

Because of the situation of the Covid we must still keep our distance of 6 feet from each other and still wear our masks. A light lunch will be served of pizza and subs and will be wrapped individually. At the meeting we will discuss future plans to continue our fraternal activities and keeping active; the Slavic Festival is still on the agenda for Sept 17-18, at Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA) in Cambria City. We will consider and discuss having our annual Jednota booth set up for this event. It really is a nice time if you can make it. They have Slovak Music, Ethnic Food and a lot of Information about Our Heritage. Please try to attend our meeting. If you have any questions you can call Theresa Cassat (814) 254 2532.

**Theresa Cassat, Secretary**

### BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

In keeping with continuing restrictions due COVID-19 and per directives from the FCSU

Board of Directors discouraging in-person meetings to protect our members, Branch 24 will once again hold a virtual meeting on Saturday, February, 13, 2021. The meeting will begin at 11:00AM. At this meeting, a financial report for 2020 will be given. Members can access the meeting by phone, smartphone, or computer. Please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797 by Friday, February 12, 2021, for instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

**Bob Kopco, President**

### BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its semi-annual meeting virtually on Sunday, April 11, 2021, at 1:00 PM. On the agenda will be a discussion about planned activities and events. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

### ČLENSKÁ SCHŔDZA SPOLKU SV. MATÚŠA Č. 45 1KSJ V NEW YORK CITY

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční polročná schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 v nedeľu 11. Apríla 2021 o 13:00 hodine. Na programe bude diskusia o plánovaných aktivitách spolku. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

**Mária Jurási - pokladníčka**

### BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

As an incentive to grow Branch 89, members who refer new branch members or add a new contract of their own are now eligible to receive a Branch award. Specifically, Branch 89 members who successfully refer new members can receive an award of up to \$100. Members that add a new contract of their own can receive an award of up to \$50. To be eligible for an award, new policies must be issued during the calendar year in which Branch 89 otherwise qualifies for an FCSU stipend under bylaw section 4.05. Award amounts will depend on the amount of the FCSU stipend for the year and the number of members qualifying for an award. Awards cannot be combined or multiplied and members are limited to one award per calendar year.

Contact Financial Secretary Nancy Carol Novak at 262-305-4041 or email "novakncp@charter.net" for more information or to request an award application.

**Paul Novak, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 102 – TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 102 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

**Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary**

### BRANCH 121 – SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 121 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all

District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

**Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary**

### BRANCH 132 – BOONTON, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 132 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

**Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary**

### BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, February 28, 2021, at 9:00AM, with a virtual/Zoom meeting. We will advise those who want to attend with access by phone or computer with details.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming branch activities and donations will be discussed. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before February 22nd if you wish to be connected to the meeting.

We pray for an end to COVID-19 and for your safety.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

### BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

A combined meeting with the St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 and the George Onda District - District 3 members is planned for Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 6PM after Mass in the St. Florian's Social Hall in United, PA. Refreshments will be ordered. Due to attendance limits, members planning to be present must RSVP by March 20. Face masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed. 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 Pennsylvania and COVID-19 guideline changes, will be printed in the Jednota and posted at www.fcsu.com as soon as possible.

**- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 has planned the following dates for our branch meetings in 2021: March 4th, April 1st, May 6th, Aug 5th, Sept 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th, and Dec 2nd. In the event any meeting could potentially be cancelled, please call Vicki Schaub @724-763-9229 ahead of time to verify or send your email address to vschaub123@gmail.com. Due to COVID-19 a few meetings were cancelled and a couple other dates were included in 2020. It is not always possible to advertise in the JEDNOTA due to deadline dates. Nomination of Officers is in November and Election of Officers in December. We en-

courage all members to participate. You do have a voice.

It has been a trying time in 2020 for all of us. I'm sure many are anxious not just for the end of the virus and everything returning to some kind of normal but for Spring bringing warmer weather and sunshine. Keep a positive attitude, take care and God bless!

Fraternally,

**Vicki Schaub Fin. Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 7 PM on the virtual platform FreeConferenceCall.com, the same service method as used for our 2020 meetings. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 PM, and will be held VIRTUALLY until further notice. Contact Lisa at 440-773-1442 for specific instructions to attend virtually.

The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 20, 2021. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

This past December's election results for Br. 228 officers were as follows: President - Luis Palos, Vice-President - Ryan Trifiletti, Financial Secretary - Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor - Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary - Thomas Zuffa. Their terms expire December 31, 2021.

For representatives to the American Slovak Club Board of Directors, Luis Palos and Lisa Trifiletti-Palos were each elected to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2023. Ryan Trifiletti was elected to serve the remainder of deceased Leonard Zilko's term which expires December 31, 2022. Rest in peace Len. We miss you.

Please continue to pray to our Lord God for a cure to all the problems of our world. And remember to give thanks to God for all His blessings.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 28, 2021, at 2:00PM at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, OH. We will conduct an audit and discuss the activities for 2021. The members are invited and encouraged to attend. We would like to extend to all our wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

**Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary**

### BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 290 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to

**continued on page 17**

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 3 – THE GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District plans to hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2021. We will meet in the Social Hall of St. Florian Church in United, PA. The meeting will begin following the 5 PM Mass. We will be following the CDC guidelines as required. If you plan on attending, you are asked to RSVP to Vice President Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 by March 20, 2021.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

### DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR RURA DISTRICT

Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021, at 3:00PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

- Mary Kapitan, District Secretary

### DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

At the ZOOM District meeting held on Sunday, January 17, 2021, the following officers were elected President Robert Kristofik and Treasurer Joseph Rimarcik.

There were no candidates for the following positions: Vice-President; Secretary; Auditor (2) and Chaplin.

If you are interested in becoming a District Officer please contact President Robert Kristofik at: rjk810@aol.com The District meets twice a year.

Fraternally,

Joseph Rimarcik, Treasurer

### DISTRICT 6 - THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District extends its condolences to the family and friends of Edith Valo of Hopewell, PA who passed away on December 28, 2020 at 86. Edith and her husband Albert are members of Branch 587.

The Pittsburgh District also extends its condolences to the family and friends of Ann Pavlan who served for many years as our district sergeant-at-arms. Ann passed away on November 28, 2020. She was 94. Ann was originally from Braddock, PA but she was living in Fort Myers, FL at the time of her passing. Her husband Edward, who passed away in 2001, was a former president of Branch 35.

Plans for 2021 activities are on hold due to the on-going Covid-19 situation. If and when we are permitted to hold a Spring business meeting, we will post a notice in the Jednota and send emails where we have contact info. Forward any suggestions to the district officers.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. This is the time to be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com). Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at [fcsu.com/resources](http://fcsu.com/resources).

We hope all of you are safe and well for the new year.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary  
manasta@verizon.net

### DISTRICT 8 – REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8 will hold its semi-annual meeting virtually via Zoom on Sunday March 21, 2021 at 1pm. To attend please contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 between 1pm and 4pm only. You will be given instructions on how to attend. For more information, please call Jo Austin at 315-391-0526. The second meeting for the year will be October 17, 2021.

Joanne Engle Austin, Secretary

### DISTRICT 12 - THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

The Msgr Andrew Hlinka District will hold the first meeting in 2021 on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at 1PM. The meeting will be via Zoom. Instructions for attending the meeting will be emailed/mailed to all attendees of the Dec 2020 meeting. Any district member can call District Secretary Monica Rodacy Boone at 412-341-1577 for attendance instructions after February 21, 2021. Happy and Healthy 2021 to All.

Monica Rodacy Boone, District Secretary

### DISTRICT 14 – THE REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Reverend Joseph L. Kostik District - District 14, Youngstown, Ohio will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514. General topics and fund raising for 2021 will be discussed.

Appropriate social distancing masks and protocols will be followed as long as the Covid-19 issue remains. Dates and locations may change for the same reason.

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

### DISTRICT 14 - CALENDAR YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE

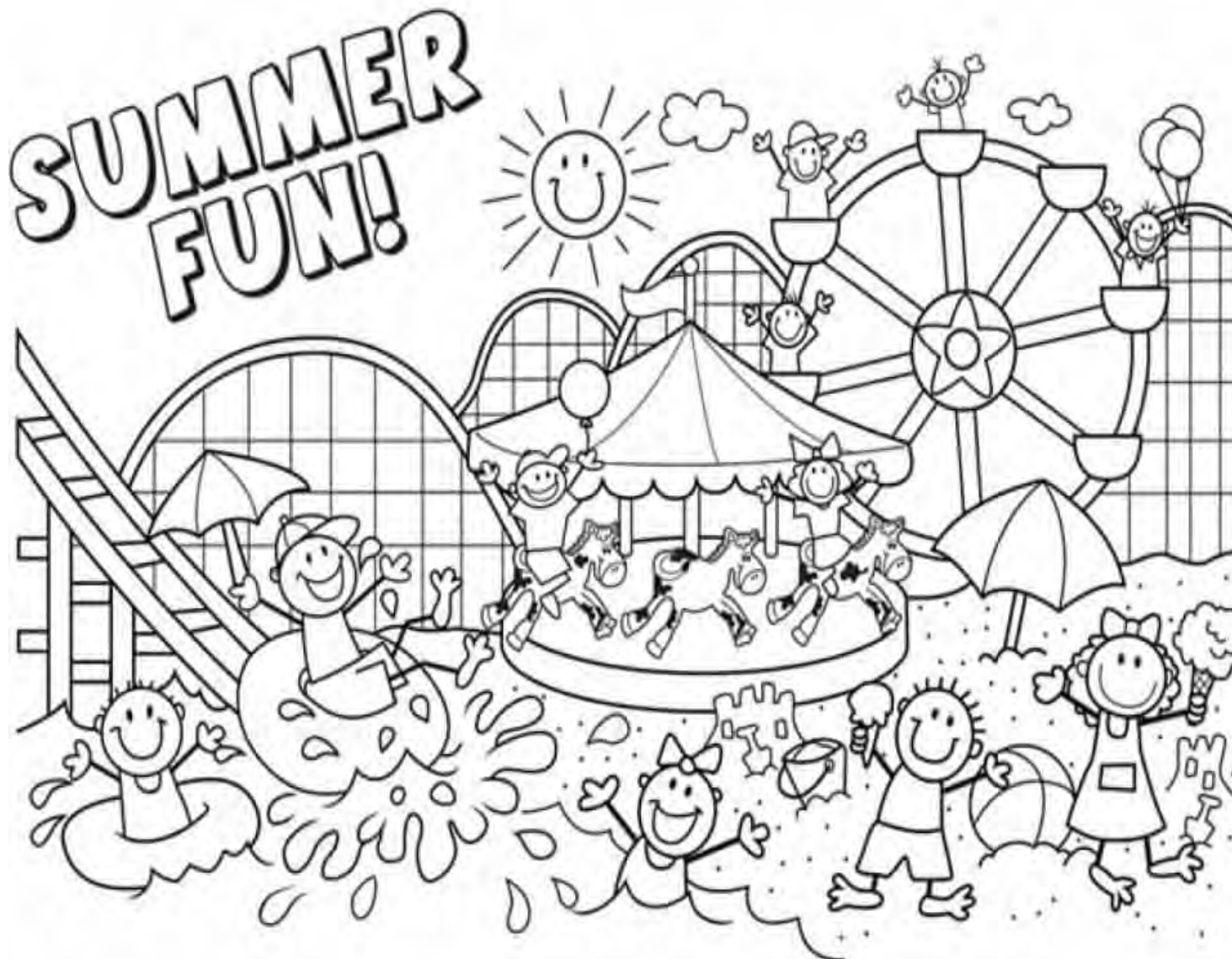
Following are the currently scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2021:

1. Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
2. Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. (Semi-Annual Meeting); Fireplace
3. Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
4. Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2021); Fireplace.
5. Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

Appropriate social distancing masks and protocols will be followed as long as the Covid-19 issue remains. Dates and locations may change for the same reason. An additional meeting might be scheduled in July or August.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. Alternate location will be The Falcon Grille; 39 N. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, OH 44515.

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President



## All-new Branch 853 Coloring Contest

Attention Branch 853 – Let's finish out the winter in grandiose style by "Searching for Summer" and have some fun with a Branch 853 Summer Fun Coloring Contest.

Eligibility to participate: Must be a FCSU Branch 853 member as of March 1, 2021 to enter and win a prize. Changing the size of the picture from the one in the JEDNOTA will disqualify the entry. You must submit an entry form and colored picture to be judged. Entries must be mailed and postmarked by March 16, 2021. Entries will not be returned. Winning entries will be decided upon by an independent judge and the decision will be final. One entry per policy.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President

# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
002K	George J Jakabcsin	153K	Louis J Reitmeier Jr	367K	Charles W Zurro	633K	Marion C Sekelsky
005P	Nancy Callahan	153K	Mark J Rodman	401K	Kenneth F Hubert	636K	Richard Vidra
005P	John Pavidus	153K	Stephen Supa	450K	Elaine Woff	731K	Grace Marie Kavulic
007K	Kathryn M Kokosko	157K	William T Micek	484K	William J Hendrick Sr	746K	Mary Kertis
024K	Joseph W Andrasak	162K	Michael Zumerling Jr	484K	George R Janosko	796K	George W Koneski
024K	Donald Wascovich	166K	Suzanne M Morris	484K	Margaret Usko	831K	Theresa Dobradenka
040K	Joy M Sargent	173K	Thomas E Mullen	493K	Shawn Hendershot	831K	Rev John A Palko
102K	Jean R Barulic	198P	Joseph S Wolfe	493K	Helen J Surjan	855K	Susan K Crissey
112K	Nadia Lynn Flaim	200K	Richard L Hand	543K	Karl H Andziewicz	916K	Kurt B Kleinhans
112K	Bernard Leonard	200K	Leslie Ann Paat	553K	George Stephen Janis	926K	John P Gwidt
112K	Regina D Straka	254K	Regis S Blahut	595K	Edward Benjamin Kollar	926K	Harriet M Huber
149K	John Joseph Andrejck	320K	Carolyn F Fela	618K	Edward R Bruchas		*Processed through the month of January

## OBITUARIES

### ANN J. PAVLAN BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

Ann J. Pavlan, 94, of Fort Myers, FL, formerly of Pittsburgh, PA (suburb West Mifflin) peacefully went to be with her GOD her Creator on November 28, 2020. She was born in Braddock, PA, on January 6, 1926.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward "Pavy" Pavlan along with five siblings and her infant great grandson, Luke Michael. Ann is survived by her daughters: Anita (Michael) Misko of Raleigh, NC and Andrea (David) Harley of Fort Myers, FL; grandchildren: Melissa (Taylor) Blanton Raleigh, NC and Abigail (Todd) Behrend Chicago, IL and two sisters: Betty Rittenburger and Julie Zugar.

- Submitted by David Harley



### CAROLYN F. FELA BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

Carolyn F. Fela, 78, of Houston, went to be with her Lord, while in her home, Wednesday, November 25, 2020. Carolyn was born November 1, 1942, in Houston, PA, a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Martin.

She spent most of her life in Houston. She was a devout member of St. Patrick's Church and was an active member of The Ladies of Charity and the Christian Mothers, as well as the Chartiers-Houston Senior Citizens group. She worked most of her life at the Meadows Racetrack as a waitress. She enjoyed playing cards and bowling in her spare time, and was a member of the Wednesday Afternoon Bowling League at West Pike Bowl in Canonsburg, PA. She was a graduating member of the senior class of 1960 of Chartiers-Houston High School. She was the youngest of nine children.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Ronald Fela; as well as her son, Ron Fela. Also surviving are two sisters, Theresa (Andrew) Timan of McMurray and Elizabeth (Frank) Sebastian of Houston; and one sister-in-law, Anita (Robert) Martin of Imperial.



On her husband's side, she is also survived by three brothers-in-law, Alan, Richard and Dennis Fela; and one sister-in-law, Pam Germony; as well as several nieces and nephews. Deceased are five brothers, Andrew, John, Joseph, Robert and Edward Martin; one sister, Marjorie Medofer.

- Submitted by Ronald Fela

### MARGARET "MARGE" MARY NACHMAN GRIFFEY BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Our beloved Sister, Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, and Friend, Marge Griffey, age 94, went to Heaven on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. She was a life-long resident of Springfield Township until five years ago when she became a member of The Villa at the Lake family and most recently Jefferson Healthcare Center in Jefferson, OH. She was born in East Springfield, PA on January 31, 1926, the daughter of John and Anna (Vajda) Nachman. Marge graduated from West Springfield High School in 1944 and from Villa Maria College in 1948. Notably, she played "hoops" for Villa and was selected their May Queen. Upon graduation, she married her high school sweetheart, Gordon (known to many as "Cap") Griffey on June 26, 1948. They were married for 72 years. Her career began with teaching commercial studies at West Springfield High School. Marge served Springfield Township as Secretary for fifteen years and also as tax collector. She also worked alongside Cap at Griffey's General Store for many years.

She was a devout Catholic and served the Lord in many ways. As a member of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Girard, PA, she served for years on the funeral luncheon committee. Marge was a founding member of the former Springfield Service Circle and also a member of the Progressive Mothers' Circle in Conneaut, OH. During her service on the Springfield Township School Board, she was the only female member. With four daughters, Marge naturally volunteered as a Girl Scout Troop Leader. In service to the Springfield Fireman's Carnival, she cashiered in the food stand and baked her signature black raspberry pies. For years, she baked and served cookies with her Service Circle friends to support the St. Jude's Bike-a-thon each April. Marge's warm smile and caring heart also benefitted Pleasant Ridge residents with her volunteering in their commissary.

Tending roses in her garden brought her much joy; the fruits of her labor provided beautiful gifts for lucky recipients. Marge actively enjoyed participating in bowling and painting ceramics. As a golf enthusiast, she golfed with Cap in a husband/wife league as well as individual leagues. Her long-standing tradition of two to three days of baking 20+ different kinds of Christmas cookies provided tasty treats for neighbors, friends, family, and store customers.

Survivors include the four Griffey girls: Kathy Griffey (Rich Medwick) of Fishkill, NY, Karen (Ron) Rudler, Karol (Scott) Taylor both of Erie, PA and Kay (Craig) MacKelvey of Fairview, PA; grandchildren, Joseph and Derek Rudler, Rory (Amanda) and Erin Taylor, Connor and Caitlyn MacKelvey; Sister, Anna Hamady of IN and Sister-in-laws, Pat Nachman of FL and Donna Jayne Battersby of Erie, PA; and many nieces and nephews.

Marge was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Cap (just eleven days prior), two brothers, John and Nicholas Nachman, and a sister, Irene Bartko.

The family would like to thank all the wonderful, kind, and caring staff at The Villa at the Lake.

In addition, recognition is given to the Jefferson Healthcare Center's caregivers.

- Submitted by Karol Griffey Taylor

### MARION CLARA DAVIDEK SEKELSKY BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

Marion Clara Davidek Sekelsky, of Flint, MI, passed away on November 20, 2020, at the age of 91. Marion was born on January 25, 1929, to Joseph Davidek and Mary Fogas Davidek. A proud graduate of Beecher High School, Class of 1947, Marion and her sisters enjoyed a beautiful childhood



on Stewart Avenue in Flint. On November 22, 1952, Marion married Edward Sekelsky at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Four children were born to this marriage, Michael (Jeanne) Sekelsky, Mary Jo Sekelsky, EdD, Cathryn (David) Melkus, and Mark Sekelsky, OD. Marion was blessed to have nine grandchildren, Andrew (Gretchen) Sekelsky, Matthew (Liz) Sekelsky, Marci (Chuck) Mort, Elli Sekelsky, Peter Melkus, Andrea (Jeff) Mertz, Mark (Jenna) Sekelsky, Eduardo Sekelsky, Mario Sekelsky, and ten great-grandchildren, Abby Drew Sekelsky, Lucas Sekelsky, Sutton Sekelsky, Brady Mort, Peyton Mort, Mia Melkus, Myla Melkus, Lillian Mertz, Mark Sekelsky, Miles Sekelsky. Marion is survived by her husband of 68 years, Edward; children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Donald Klump; and many special cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. She was predeceased by her parents, Mary and Joseph Davidek; parents-in-law Mary and Joseph Sekelsky; sisters, Helen (Cecil) Szepanski and Cathryn Klump; son-in-law David Melkus; sisters-in-law Cathrine Sekelsky, Margaret Sakash, Helen Stevens, Katherine Gensel, Mary Louise Sekelsky, and Elizabeth Sekelsky; brothers-in-law, Paul Sekelsky, Joseph Sekelsky, Mike Sekelsky, John Sekelsky, William Sekelsky, and Peter Sekelsky.

A lover of travel, culture and art, Marion enjoyed many trips across the United States and around the globe. She was a decades-long volunteer at the International Institute of Flint, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding by providing comprehensive services to immigrants. Marion appreciated music and sang in church choirs from the time she was a very young girl until well into her 80s. A painter and published writer, Marion's works will be enjoyed by family and friends forever. [Editor's note: please see Woman and Cloth on p 22 of this issue]

- Submitted by Mary Jo Sekelsky, Ed.D.



### Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at: 1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

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



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary

## BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

For the safety of our members during this continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Branch 320 is planning its next meeting of Sunday, March 7, 2021, at 11:00AM as a virtual meeting. Please call Branch 320 Secretary Frances Tarquinio at 724-929-9788 for details as to how to participate.

Fraternally,

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

## BRANCH 324 – CARTERET, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 324 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary

## BRANCH 381 – PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 381 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary

## BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 1:30 at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Call for reservations by Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 724-425-2576.

All members are invited to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

## BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 24, 2021.

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.) The April 24th meeting will be held in the large hall, which will allow for social distancing. Also please be sure to bring your mask. We will be discussing programs/events for this year. Please try to attend, all safety guidelines will be followed.

Keep on praying for the health and safety of all our members,

Fraternally,

George Carny, President

## BRANCH 514 – PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 514 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary

## BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 has the following activities planned for our members:

Feb 17: Ash Wednesday – Seafood Chowder over Pasta \$12.00 – Served 4:30-6:30 pm

Feb 19: First Lenten Fish Fry – served 4:30-7:00 pm (every Friday thru Good Friday)

Feb 28: Sunday Breakfast – Served 9:00 am – Noon

Mar 3: Wednesday – Spaghetti – Served 4:30 – 7 pm

Mar 17: Wednesday – Onion Smothered Chicken – Served 4:30 – 6:30 pm

ALL MEALS ARE RESERVATION ONLY DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCEING. CALL CLUB 330-786-9972 AFTER 3 PM TO PLACE YOUR RESERVATIONS. MASK REQUIRED.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 652 – TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Attention Branch 652 Members: the Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey will hold its next semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM virtually. We encourage all District 4 branch members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or dialing-in (easy option). Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary

## BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 670 of the Msgr Andrew Hlinka District will hold the first meeting in 2021 on Sunday March 7 at 12:00PM. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Instructions for attending the meeting will be emailed to all attendees of the Dec 2020 meeting. Any branch member can call Branch Treasurer, Cheryl Hyatt (724-622-1982) for attendance instructions after Feb 21, 2021. We wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2021.

Joseph Matinko, President

## BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

St. Stephen's Society Branch 716 will hold its outdoor semi-annual meeting March 14, 2021, 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 10:15 Slovak Mass. Future activities and finances will be discussed.

All members are urged to attend

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Jednota Branch 721 will have their Spring meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2021, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the Remenar home located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. All safety precautions will be taken. Each member is encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate Mass honoring our branch Patron Saint. The Mass will be on March 18, 2021, at 12:10PM at the Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 West Rayen Ave, Youngstown, OH. Please join us to commemorate our Patron Saint. Ohio's policy on COVID-19 restrictions will be strictly enforced.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021, at 2:00 PM, virtually. We encourage all Branch 746 members to participate from the comfort of their homes using the Zoom platform or calling using their home phone. Kindly RSVP to Sabina at 908-486-2921 by March 10th or via email. For security purposes, once you RSVP you will be provided the necessary information on how to connect. We also encourage members who have been inactive to take this opportunity to reconnect with our branch. For those able, you can participate by video or via telephone (dialing-in is an easy option). The agenda will include discussion of potential 2021 events.

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship deadline is April 30th. If you are currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school and active in Branch 746 or want to become active, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>.

[Editor's Note: please see page 5 for Branch 746 Scholarship notice]

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

## BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on February 25, 2021, at 10:00AM at Wendy's Elm Road Restaurant, 2033 Walmart Drive NE, Warren, OH, 44483. Please observe COVID-19 precautions. On the agenda: discussion of possible activities for 2021 and presentation of 2021 elected officers: President Rosemary Heald, Vice President Mae Stark, Financial Secretary/Treasurer George Yuricek, Recording Secretary Bill Hrusovsky, and Auditor John Yuricek. For more information, contact: Bill Hrusovsky by phone at 330-372-1948 or via email at [hirusovskyy@embarqmail.com](mailto:hirusovskyy@embarqmail.com).

Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 796 will hold their semi-annual meeting February 28, 2021. The meeting will convene at 1:00PM at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the basement. The location is 4456 Main St., Egypt, Whitehall.

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. We would enjoy seeing some new faces at our meeting.

May God bless us all and keep us safe.

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold the first meeting of the year on Monday March 15, 2021, at noon. Call 412-341-1577 or email [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance for this lunchtime meeting. Directions on how to attend will be provided at that time. On the agenda will be spring and summer activities. Branch 853 looks forward to reconnecting, hopefully in person, with branch members.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

## BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855, Holy Name of Jesus Society, will hold its first meeting of the year on February 20, 2021, starting at 10AM. For the continued safety of our members and in keeping with the recommendations from the FCSU Board of Directors, this will be a virtual meeting. We encourage all members to attend. To get information on joining the meeting by computer or phone, please email [fcsu855@gmail.com](mailto:fcsu855@gmail.com) or call/text 440-864-4744 before February 20, 2021.

May God Bless all of our members with a happy and healthy New Year!

Barbara Sutilla, President

## BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856, Our Mother of Sorrows Society, will hold its first meeting of the year on March 27, 2021, at 1:00PM. In keeping with the recommendations from the home office of the FCSU, we will be doing the meeting on Zoom again. We encourage our members to join in. For information on how to join the meeting call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638. At this meeting we would like suggestions on activities that we could do safely. Our anniversary Mass in honor of our Slovak Chapel is still on the schedule for September 12, 2021. More details will follow later. We have also set the date for our next meeting. It will be again on Zoom and is set for October 23, 2021 at 1:00PM, unless restrictions change. There will be a discussion of the district meeting, financial report, and election of officers for 2022. These Zoom meetings are convenient in that you can attend from your own home. Any questions call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President





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

### Address Change Form

### Annuity Forms

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

### Annuity Applications

### Park 2 Applications

### Coverdell Education Savings

### Account Applications

### Insurance Forms

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

### Insurance Applications

### FCSU Forms

### Beneficiary/Ownership Change Form

### Branch Forms

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

### Cash Withdrawal of your Insurance Policy

- Member Service Request Form

### Death Claim Forms

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

### District Forms

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

### Loan Request of your Insurance Policy

- Member Service Request Form

### Lost Policy Request Form

- Member Service Request



James Tissot - Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness (Jésus tenté dans le désert) - Brooklyn Museum

## A Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love. God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer.

Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

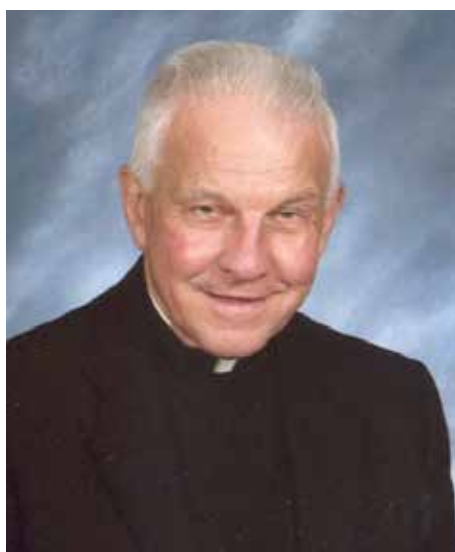
Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Amen.

- As posted on Catholic Online

## In Memoriam

### Reverend Edward S. Litavec Passed Into Eternal Life – November 20, 2020



Rev. Edward S. Litavec, age 86, of Pittsburgh, PA, died November 20, 2020, at Mt. Assisi Place. Born July 24, 1934, in Roscoe, PA, he was the son of the late Joseph Sr. and Mary (Bury) Litavec. Fr. Litavec was a graduate of St. Vincent College and St. Vincent Seminary. He was ordained a priest for the Pittsburgh Diocese on March 25, 1960. Pastor to many, he was truly the Shepherd of the flock. The "Mon Valley" will remember the messages of his homilies and his powerful voice singing praises to the Lord. Fr. Litavec is survived by a brother, Thomas Litavec; sisters, Agnes Braunegg, Anne Krupa, Helen Litavec, Dorothy Reeves, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by brothers, Joseph, Paul, John Litavec; sisters, Mary Krocchek and Susan Braunegg.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on November 25, 2020, at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Charleroi, PA, with Bishop Zubik of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh as celebrant.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, Father Litavec's funeral was well attended, filling the majority of the large church with clergy, family and former parishioners – a true testament to how much he will be cherished and missed. My own health concerns kept me from attending but I had the great honor of being a member of his family as well as his Jednota family where he served as Chaplain of our branch and our district for many years.

- Submitted by Cousin Frances Letavec Tarquinio, Branch 320 Financial Secretary, Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District 12 Secretary Emeritus

# My First Visit to Slovakia, 1978 (part 6)

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.**

**The University of Maryland Global Campus**

**Monday, August 7, 1978**

On the night of August 6, we departed Spišská Nova Ves on a 10:20 pm express train (rýchlik) to Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. Cousin Ján Filip had arranged a reservation for a sleeping compartment for us, and we were tired from a busy Sunday visiting the High Tatras and relatives.

This was our first experience on a train in sleeping quarters, even though we had slept in regular seats before, especially during our trips in Scandinavia, where we had to traverse long distances to get to the fiords of Norway. We expected to sleep well, but it was not to be. The compartment did not have anything approaching mattresses, but just regular seats that folded down into a bed. The surface was very hard and made of vinyl, and did not have much cushion. The train ride was rather bumpy, and every time we might nearly fall asleep, a bump would cause a jolt and wake us up. In addition, my wife was ill from all the rich foods that we had been stuffed with, and she was sick to her stomach and nauseous. In sum, we got a little rest, but no real sleep, and were sitting up by 7 am. In addition, the toilet rooms were not very clean and smelled nasty. So even brushing our teeth with our bottled water was unpleasant in the rest room.

After a long train ride, we arrived in Prague around 8:30 am on August 7. Upon arrival, we checked train departure information, for we had to leave Czechoslovakia by August 8; our visa lasted 8 days, and we dare not overstay our time limit in a communist country. Of course, everything was now written in Czech. The train station was called the vlakové nádraží instead of the vlaková or železničná stanica as in Slovakia. Czechs called railways dráhy. In Slovak, drahý means dear or expensive, so we knew we were in for surprises in the language differences. Luckily some international symbols helped, and we were able to find the toilets, which were cleaner than those on the train, and the baggage storage area to drop off our big backpacks. We had always carried smaller backpacks with basic necessities when we visited a city. But we needed some new ones, as ours were worn out from extensive use.

As in Bratislava, we headed to Čedok, the Czechoslovak Travel Bureau, for information about camping and a map of the city. This was the main office, but we really did not get any help there. The lady sent us to another tourist agency, which also did not provide any assistance. There the clerk there sent us to yet another agency. Finally, we met a Dutch girl on the street and she offered us some help, showed us where a camp was located, and recommended that we buy a map for 24 crowns. This was a good example of how it was difficult and time-consuming just to get basic information. It explains why many tourists not traveling with a travel agency did not visit communist countries.

Not until after 11 am did we start walking toward the center of Prague's Old Town (Staré Město). Golden Prague, so-named for its many sparkling towers, was a grand city with a rich history. The largest city and capital of Czechoslovakia in 1978, it was also a former capital of the Czech Bohemian kingdom and even the Holy Roman Empire. After the Magyars initiated Magyarization to denationalize Slovaks and other nationalities, some Slovaks such as Milan Rastislav Štefánik chose to study here in order to shun the Hungarian educational curriculum. The city also became the cultural capital of Czechoslovakia after World War I and spawned a host of great writers such as Franz Kafka and Karl Čapek, whose writing coined the term "robot." Here in Prague the leaders of the new state made many central decisions about Slovakia in its transition from Hungarian rule.

We were told to see the Old Town Square and Astronomical Clock, which would play at noon. Emerging from behind buildings, we first saw the medieval Gothic Old Town Hall dated from the 14th century and was the tallest building in the city at the time it was built. We walked by the huge Jan Hus Memorial, the Czech reformer whom the Catholic Church

had condemned at the Council of Constance in 1415. Built in 1915, the Memorial included other Czech "martyrs" whom the Austrian Habsburgs executed at that spot after the Battle of White Mountain in 1620. Though the statues were green and in need of a good cleaning, its surroundings seemed a hangout for young people, and luckily, we had a nice sunny day to enjoy the city. As we waited for clock to sound off, we bought some ice cream (zmrzlina) for 1.4 crowns, noticeably more expensive than in Slovakia. To the east, we could see the dark-colored Church of Our Lady before Týn with its 80 meter high twin towers (262 feet).

Luckily, in the midst of all this inspiring architecture, we found a camping supplies store and bought a



**Astronomical clock in Old Town Center**



**Golden Prague, so-named for its many sparkling towers**



**Prague Castle, one of the largest castle complexes in the world and home of the President of the Republic**

small backpack for 89 crowns. Then we rested for a short time and had a light lunch of sandwiches which the Filipis had packed for our trip. The Old Tower Clock at the City Hall above us chimed and the characters moved to the delight of the crowd below. The clock dates from 1410 and is the third-oldest astronomical clock in the world that still works. The clock consists of three main parts: 1) an astronomical dial, which depicts the position of the sun and moon with stars in the background; 2) the statues of several Catholic saints on both sides of the clock; 3) "The Walk of the Apostles" features each hour a moving display of the Apostles. Other figures included a skeleton which reminds one of our mortality; it struck the time, and a calendar dial of circular medallions showed the months of the year. Legend has it that the clock must be kept in good working order or bad luck will descend on the city.

After enjoying the clock chimes, we decided to head toward Hradčany, the castle district and the seat of the government, which was situated on a hill on the other side of the Vltava River. The shortest route took us across the Mánes Bridge (Mánesův most - built in 1869 to replace the Rudolf footbridge) across the river in Prague to the Lesser Quarter (Malá Strana). The bridge was named to honor the Czech painter Josef Mánes. In the distance, we could see the most famous bridge in Prague, the Charles Bridge (Karlův most), the oldest bridge of the city which dates from 1357 during the reign of Emperor Charles IV.

The Malá Strana is an historic neighborhood lying on the hill beneath Hradčany. It was home to many ethnic German nobles during the Middle Ages. Baroque architecture predominates in the Malá Strana, and there were many small shops, of course, since the communists had nationalized all private businesses. We just admired the buildings and headed straight to Hradčany, the Castle Hill.

Hradčany is one of the largest castle complexes in the world and home of the President of the Republic. Guards protected the castle at its gates, and unfortunately we found out we could not visit the building or the grounds. Adjacent to the castle stood the magnificent St. Vitus Cathedral, a medieval gem dating from the mid-14th century. St. Wenceslaus (Václav) had built the original rotunda church on that spot. The Cathedral has always served as a symbol of the Bohemian kingdom and Czech statehood and the church houses its crown jewels. To our dismay, again we found this major site also closed to visitors! So all we could do was admire its majestic tower and spires and take awe at the Mosaic of the Last Judgment at the Golden Gate portal. From Hradčany, we found several scenic lookouts to view the city. The side streets near the castle complex were rather charming. It is little wonder that even during the communist era, many filmmakers came here to shoot footage. Since Prague was spared bombing and extensive damage in World War II, to this day it still provides a romantic setting with an authentic medieval flavor.

Heading down the Castle Hill into the Malá Strana, we stopped to visit the awesome St. Nicholas Church (Kostel svatého Mikuláše). St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children,

**continued on page 20**

## My First Visit to Slovakia, 1978 (part 6)

continued from page 19

seamen, and way followers. The church's 70 meter green dome (230 feet) dominated the skyline, flanked by a belfry tower, which the communists formerly used to keep an eye on the American embassy. Designed by a Dientzenhofer father-son team, the light brown church exemplifies the decorative later baroque style. Constructed in the early 18th century, it is the finest example of the baroque in Prague. Fortunately, this church was open for us to admire.

The baroque interior is a feast for the eyes. Intricate frescoes, paintings, and classical sculptures adorn the church and Mozart even played on its massive 4,000 pipe organ. A fresco celebrating the Holy Trinity by Franz Palko adorns the huge dome. Having already traversed Europe for over two months, it was certainly one of the most impressive churches we visited.

We then continued our walk down the hill and crossed the Vltava River over the historic Charles Bridge. The bridge was lined with the statues of saints and a large crucifix. Luckily, the communists had not removed these Christian artworks and replaced them with statues of Lenin, Marx, and other Red heroes. The statues were somewhat blackened and needed a good cleaning, but they still were quite impressive. On the other side of the river, we looked back one more time to a stunning view of Hradčany, and then proceeded through the towered gate in the direction of the Old Town.

We were also in search of items to purchase because we had to spend all our Czechoslovak money; the communists made it illegal to take the currency out of the country. We wound up buying a duplicate backpack I had already gotten, since we could not find a better one, and I purchased two small pipes, tobacco, and some candy. We had to carry everything on our backs, so we had to travel light. Then we headed to the New Town (Nové Město), which was founded in more recent times, the mid-14th century! The highlight was Wenceslaus Square (Václavské náměstí), the main square named after Saint Wenceslas, the patron saint of Bohemia. A statue of the saint on horseback looked over the Square, and he was flanked at the base by other prominent Czech patron saints: Saint Ludmila, Saint Agnes of Bohemia, Saint Prokop, and Saint Adalbert.

The Square has always been a main gathering place for celebrations, demonstrations and other public and historical gatherings. At its end, the huge neoclassical building of the Czech National Museum dominates



Powder Gate, one of the original city gates, separates Old Town from New Town



Rebecca Kopanic in Wenceslas Square, named for the patron Saint of Bohemia



Historic St. Charles Bridge lined with statues of Saints and a large crucifix

the Square in front of the Saint Wenceslas statue. Many shops line the streets and trolleys ran continually up and down. We did a lot of window shopping and admired the

mainly 19th century buildings. I enjoyed a good Czech beer for one crown (10 cents!).

As evening approached, we had to head back to the train station, pick up our large

backpacks, and find our camp so we could set up our tent before dark. We bought our tickets to depart Prague in advance and paid 136 crowns for a train to Nuremburg, Germany. We then took a tram to the camp, only to find it was packed full. So we had to set up our tent in an adjacent field on a hill, which is not so comfortable for sleeping. We retired around 10 pm, and then the rain started. It poured cats and dogs all night long!

Tuesday, Monday, August 8, 1978

We awoke at 6:45 am because our tent was moving. It had rained so hard through the night that our tent was sliding down the hill. We quickly packed up our soaked tent and headed to the train station. We were soaked as well. At the train station, we changed and hung out our clothes and tent to dry as much as possible. I went to a stand at the station to spend the currency I had left over, and then we hurried to catch our train departing for Germany at 11:06 am.

The trip took nearly all day long. We endured an extensive customs check on both sides of the border, and no one treated us nicely. To our surprise, the conductor in Germany said our ticket was not valid to Nuremburg. Our Eurail Pass had run out, so we had to pay another 40 German marks for the trip, about 20 dollars at the time. To us that was a lot of money, and we would wind up having to hitchhike from Nuremburg to northern France to be certain that we had enough money for our journey in the British Isles and Ireland, and to purchase a return ticket to New York City.

Upon arrival in Nuremburg at 6 pm, we immediately obtained information on how to get to a camp. We had to take the subway, for it was far away, and once at our stop, we had a long walk of well over a mile to the camp across a huge city park with our full, heavy backpacks. Finally, we arrived, set up camp, ate, and took some much-needed showers. As soon as we retired to sleep, it started to rain again! What a day!

Our adventures would continue, but for me, visiting Czechoslovakia was the highlight of our more than three month trip to Europe. It was our first experience with communism and it was an eye opener. Never did I appreciate the freedom we had in the West as during that trip. But the best part of the experience was seeing the land of our ancestors, visiting our relatives, and seeing the village where my mother was born and raised. It gave us a deep appreciation for how fortunate we were that our ancestors came to America.

## Ohio Fraternal Alliance 2021 Scholarships



The Ohio Fraternal Alliance annually awards a college scholarship to a graduating high school senior up to \$500.  
2021 Scholarship Applicant Must:

1. Be an Ohio resident and a current youth policy member of a fraternal society, or included in a family member policy that does not have youth policies belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Alliance.
2. Be a 2021 high school graduate.
3. Submit a minimum 150-word essay entitled: How I'm personally involved in my Fraternal Society & its Future.
4. Submit a list of the following activities: Church related activities, local community and volunteer activities, school activities/clubs.
5. Submit a letter of recommendation from a local Fraternal Society officer.
6. Send a completed application dated and submitted by April 2, 2021.

To obtain an application and mailing address, go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

# Branch 785's 2020 Golf Tournament

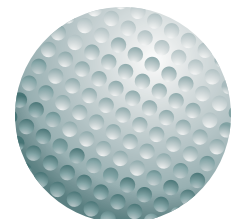
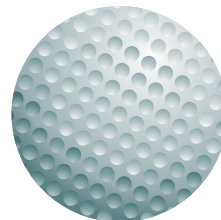
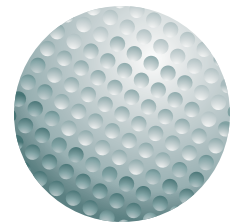
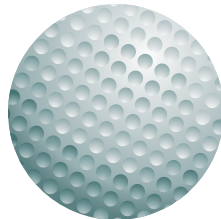
At our Semi-Annual Branch 785 meeting on September 1, 2020, it was recommended and approved to hold our Annual Golf tournament on September 27th, at Centennial Park Golf Centre in Southern Ontario, Canada. Afterward the tournament, golfers were treated to snack box of chicken wings and choice of beverage.

The winners by divisions were as follows:

- Greg Grys - Men's low gross
- Bill Goodyear - Men's low net
- Jennifer Lindsay - Women's low net
- Robert Tokarsky - Guest's division low net
- Steve Pella - Men's closest to hole
- Marianne Leitch - Women's longest putt

All in all, the branch's 2020 Golf Tournament proved to be an enjoyable fraternal event even though, with restrictions being imposed by golf course, there were fewer golfers than in previous years.

- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



## Slovak-American Cultural Center 2021 Webinar Series

- **Exploring the Greatest Heights and Depths with Vanessa O'Brien**  
Mountaineer, Explorer and Guinness Book of World Records holder  
*Thursday, February 25th at 7pm EST*
- **The 8th Continent: Creative Solutions for Saving our Oceans**  
featuring architect Lenka Petraková and *Plastic Ocean Project*  
*Tuesday, March 16th at 6pm EST*
- **Easter Traditions in Slovakia with Dr. Zuzana Palovic & Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova**  
*Tuesday, March 30th at 6pm EST*
- **SACC Scholarship\* Q&A session**  
*Tuesday, April 6th at 6pm EST*
- **Super Slovaks / Super Slováci**  
**Authors: Dr. Zuzana Palovic & Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova**  
*Tuesday, April 27th at 6pm EST*
- **Children's Book Launch: Ja Som Milan**  
**Authors: Róbert Čemerička & Stanislava Čemeríčková**  
*May 2021*
- **Mental Health**  
*June 2021*  
Look for details on individual webinars and how to participate in Jednota and at <https://www.fcsu.com/community/culture/>

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# Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is [fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com). Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682. Her extension is 123.

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: [fcsu@fcsu.com](mailto:fcsu@fcsu.com)

# Nanovo prepracovaný časopis Matice slovenskej: Národné Spektrum

Časopis Slovensko teraz vychádza ako odborný časopis Slovensko: Národné Spektrum. Obnovený časopis sa vyvíjal predovšetkým po obsahovej stránke. Je zameraný na záujemcov o dejiny Slovenska, slovenskú literatúru, etnografiu a spoločenské vedy. Ponúka výnimočné štúdiá, populárne články a materiály zamerané na matematické a národné témy v atraktívnom novom formáte. Šéfredaktor, mladý historik Peter Sokolovič, komentuje obnovené Slovensko: "Najstaršou vedeckou a kultúrnou inštitúciou sa transformáciou dlhoročného periodika Slovensko snaží vytvoriť moderný odborný časopis a prilákať nových čitateľov a zároveň zostať verní svojmu tradičnému publiku."

Cieľom redakčnej rady je vydávať dvakrát ročne 80-stranový časopis doplnený bohatou fotodokumentáciou a atraktívnou grafikou. Matica slovenská už vydala prvé dve čísla časopisu, ktoré sa stretli s veľkým úspechom vrátane ocenení.

Slovensko: Národné spektrum určite nestratilo svoju príťažlivosť. Veríme, že priláka nových aj bežných čitateľov, ktorí majú radi jej moderný obsah. Predplatiť si môžete zo Slovenska aj zo zahraničia prostredníctvom objednávkového formulára, e-mailu, pošty alebo nahlásenia telefonicky. Viac informácií nájdete na [www.matica.sk](http://www.matica.sk).

Zuzana Pavelcová



Časopis Slovakia bol revidovaný ako odborný časopis s podtitulom National Spectrum

Slovensko Magazine has been redesigned as a professional journal with the subtitle National Spectrum

# Matica Slovenska's Magazine Slovensko Newly Redesigned with National Spectrum

The magazine Slovensko is now being published as the professional journal Slovensko: National Spectrum. The refreshed magazine has evolved primarily in terms of content. It is aimed at those interested in the history of Slovakia, Slovak literature, ethnography, and social sciences. It offers exceptional studies, popular articles, and materials focused on mathematical and national topics laid out in an attractive new format. Editor-in-chief, the young historian Peter Sokolovič, comments on the renewed Slovensko: It is through the transformation of the long-running periodical Slovensko that the oldest scientific and cultural institution seeks to create a modern professional journal and at the same time attract new readers while remaining faithful to its traditional audience."

The goal of the editorial board is to publish an 80-page magazine twice a year, supplemented by rich photo documentation and attractive graphics. Matica slovenská has already published the first two issues of the magazine, which have met with much success including awards.

Slovensko: The National Spectrum has certainly not lost its appeal. We believe that it will attract new as well as regular readers who like its modern content. You can subscribe from Slovakia and abroad via the order form, by e-mail, post or report by phone. For more information go to [www.matica.sk](http://www.matica.sk).

Zuzana Pavelcová

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## Woman and Cloth

Marion Davidek Sekelsky, 1999

Woman and cloth skeined together and woven closely; like the lash and brow is to the eye.

They cover the earth with it, are born on it. Cloth is fumbled and pushed aside, the infant suckles the breast.

The bride is netted and laced, the family is clothed, and the procession begins.

Houses are adorned with it, beds thickly covered, we towel and wipe dry.

Aprons circle the waist, rising dough is covered loosely.

Little girls are ribboned. Little boys are shoe stringed.

Life ends. Softly cleansed, kind hands dress us. A tear falls, caught by a handkerchief.



# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 12:00 PM and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta 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)  
Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain  
(by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer submitted a written report at the Board of Directors Meeting held prior to the Executive Committee Meeting on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. 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 November 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 November:

Disbursements for the month of November 2020:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 803,026.49
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 75,616.68
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

**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.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

**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 January.

**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 President stated that the annuity sales are well above projected sales for 2020.

The Executive Secretary stated that the premium quote system is on our website at fcsu.

com and has been updated with the new insurance rates. You can enter information about a person and a quote will be generated for all the insurance products available for that individual. The updated insurance applications are also available on our website.

The Executive Secretary stated that we are still recruiting agents thru a 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.

The Vice President stated that he hopes to hold a membership meet in 2021, subject to coronavirus developments.

**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 and the first quarter of 2021 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 and if they have any questions to contact the Home Office.

The Executive Secretary stated that we have received a good response to Branches/Districts holding virtual meetings and they are taking the proper precautions when meetings are held.

**KROLL BOND AGENCY:**

The President stated that he does not have an update on a Kroll rating at this time but hopes to have one before the end of the year.

**CONVENTION:**

The Executive Secretary stated that they are unable to visit sites for the upcoming convention in 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic. He hopes to have a recommendation on a site location by the March Board of Directors 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 George F. Matta II to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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

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