



Catholic Fraternal Jednota

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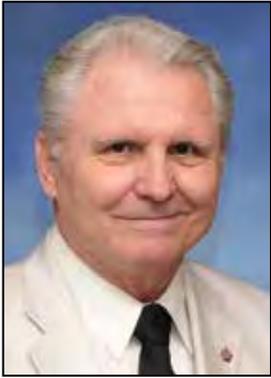
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 130

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

NUMBER 6005

President's Easter 2021 Message



Andrew M. Rajec

This Easter we are witnessing the gradual unfolding of one of the most tragic episodes that most of us have witnessed in our lifetimes, certainly since WWII.

It is the insidious COVID-19 pandemic. Since January 2020 it has claimed 500,000 lives in the US and 2 ½ million worldwide, targeting our older, more vulnerable citizens.

We can debate where it came from, how many actual lives were lost and our response.

By any measure it is a calamity, and it's not over. Vaccines have been developed in record time and more people are being vaccinated every day.

However, our daily lives were profoundly impacted – from office and school closings to mask wearing and social distancing.

This is how a silent, virtually invisible virus can disrupt humanity. It impacted our Home Office staff and we apologize for any inconvenience. I tested positive for COVID in May and two of our staff also tested positive in last few weeks. All have recovered.

Human life will almost certainly survive, but it does expose human frailty and remind us that we all will eventually leave this Earth and all its possessions.

Easter gives us the opportunity to again recognize that we are here on Earth temporarily. Services from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday remind us of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord, and the hope that we can also attain Eternal Life.

Best wishes to your family from my family and also from our family at the Home Office.

Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, radujme sa.

Christ is risen from the dead, let us rejoice and be glad.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President



What's sweeter than a basket of Easter Egg chocolates?

FCSU Eggs-cellent Fraternalism, of course!

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

37 and 38 – Palm Sunday – March 28, 2021

The special nature of Palm Sunday is marked in several ways, for instance, by the congregation's festive entrance into church, by the blessing of palms, and by the fact that we hear not one but two Gospel readings this Sunday. The first takes place before the mass begins, as the priest or deacon proclaims the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to "accomplish his Paschal mystery." This first Gospel reading often takes place accompanied by a procession into the church where the mass will be celebrated, and by the blessing and distribution of palms.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

There are two options for this first Gospel; the one most often heard is from the Gospel of Mark, which reads in part: "Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches ... crying out: 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!'" Here we are prepared for the coming hardship of Holy Week as the joyful acclamation of Jesus as the Messiah steels us to endure the Lord's passion together with him.

The second Gospel is the long narrative from Mark where that passion is revealed, and it is prefaced by passages from Isaiah, Psalm 22, and the Letter to the Philippians. Each of these readings reminds the hearers that even in the midst of dire suffering, God never abandons his people, just as he will not abandon his own son, Jesus, in the midst of his trial and crucifixion on Good Friday.

First, Isaiah testifies that he stood firm against his enemies, knowing that the Lord would vindicate him: "I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord God is my help." Next the Psalmist plaintively calls out for help: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" — and then insists that it will surely come, for God is ever-faithful: "I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you" (Isa 50:6-7; Ps 22:2, 23).

Saint Paul then reassures us that Jesus is the perfect example of divine humility and fidelity, and that this is confirmed through his exaltation by the Father through the resurrection: "Rather, he emptied himself ... he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him" (Phil 2:7, 8-9). Paul's mention of the cross brings us to the central moment presented in the scriptures today, when the death of Jesus on the cross is recounted.

This long reading from the Gospel, covering two full chapters of Mark's Gospel, is similar to the passage from John's Gospel which we will hear during the liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Both accounts are meant to underline the reality of the salvific death of Jesus, and to anticipate his glorious resurrection—the ultimate fulfillment of the forecasts of Isaiah and the Psalmist, and the source of Saint Paul's great confidence noted above.

As we listen to the words of the scriptures this Sunday, singing "Hosanna to the Son of David," and holding our palms, we may humbly acknowledge what Jesus endured for the sake of our redemption, so that we may enter into the full joy of his resurrection on Easter Sunday and beyond.

April 4, 2021 – The Resurrection of the Lord – Easter Day Gospel – John 20; 1-9

The celebration of Easter begins in darkness on Holy Saturday Night with the Vigil Mass. The darkness soon gives way to the small flicker of the Easter Fire and the procession with the freshly lit Paschal Candle. As the procession proceeds up the main aisle of the church the flame is passed to those present and by the time the candle is brought to the sanctuary for the singing of the Exultet the entire church is bathed in the light from all of the candles. It is always an impressive celebration in which the sight and sounds bring home the power of the Resurrection.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

There are different readings for the various Masses on Easter Sunday that together paint a picture of all that took place the day Jesus Rose from the Dead. The Gospel for Easter Sunday tells of Mary Magdalene finding the tomb empty and running to the apostles to tell them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb..." It is a Gospel that begins in the pre-dawn darkness with Mary Magdalene going to Jesus' tomb as a mourner. She finds the tomb is empty and runs to get Peter and John for fear that someone took the body. She returns to the tomb with Peter and John and they enter it. This time she as well as the others see the empty tomb as a source of hope. Their eyes and hearts are open to the reality that Jesus is Risen. It's important for us to realize that when the tomb was discovered to be empty the immediate response was not that of the Halleluiah Chorus. They were still mourning and the intensity of their sadness blurred the glory that was before them. When the glory of the Risen Lord finally tore through the sadness, they recognized the Risen Lord, and that was when the shouts of Alleluia came forth from them.

For them and for us this is just the beginning. Easter was not just one day, it was the beginning of a new era, and the same is true for us. Our Liturgical calendar provides us with an Easter Season of fifty days during which we celebrate the Resurrection. The Easter Season is a time to celebrate with great joy the victory of Jesus over sin and death and embrace the truth that his victory is our victory. It would benefit us if we were to avoid the tendency of looking at Easter as merely the end of Lent, rather may we see it as a new beginning in our journey of faith. Jesus' victory is one that never ends.

Easter provides us with a new beginning to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and his continued presence in our lives. The Risen Lord is always with us on our journey of faith. Our journeys usually have their high and low points, but Jesus is with us through them all. The grace of the Easter Season can remove sadness from our hearts, doubts from our minds and complacency from our souls. It is a grace that can replace these with joy, renewed faith and a new zeal. The blessings of this season are being poured out on us, all we need do is to open ourselves to receive them and stake claim on the power of the Risen Lord in our lives today. We are loved by God and embracing the Risen Lord is accepting this love. May we experience the love and joy of the Risen Lord and cry out in our hearts and with our voices, "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen."

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
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 12	MONDAY, MAY 3
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9	TUESDAY, JUNE 1

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Easter Message from National Chaplain

People can discover rather fascinating things by going on a casual Internet search. One website offers a collection of colorized photos from the 1850s originally taken in black and white. Another site has photos taken in the 1840s of men who served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. You can hear the voices of world leaders from the late 19th century such as former U.S. Presidents Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland, and Pope Leo XIII on a third website.

Imagine seeing a photo of someone who lived in the 1700s. Picture yourself listening to a recording of a person whose entire life was lived before the airplane was invented. What a feeling of wonder and awe!

We can only begin to imagine the euphoria and overwhelming joy of the original eyewitness to the Resurrection. They saw Jesus die on a cross after being savagely and brutally beaten, scorned, humiliated, and shamed. On the third day they saw Him alive. They heard Him speak.

Any feelings of awe and wonder that might come over us from seeing and hearing photos and recordings from over 125 years ago probably go away after a few minutes of looking and listening. For Mary Magdalen, Peter and the apostles, their overwhelming joy and exuberance of seeing and hearing the Risen Jesus never went away. It remained with them for the rest of their lives.

With all that is happening in our world the last year, let the perpetual joy of the first to see and hear Jesus risen from the dead become rooted and remain in your minds, your hearts, and your souls.

You and your loved ones will be remembered in my Masses on Easter. Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych! Radujme sa!



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

Easter Greeting from the National Vice President

On Easter morning, we will get our Sunday's best ready to attend Mass, where we will reflect on our Lord Jesus who died so we could live. He rose again so we would believe. His Resurrection is the renewal of life; what more beautiful time to remember our Lord Jesus, than as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us? Spring, after all, is the beginning of new life.

On behalf of my family, and myself, may the blessings of Jesus guide you, protect you and be with you this Easter season and always.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Easter Greeting from the Executive Secretary

May the light of the Risen Christ shine brightly into your lives this Easter, dissolving every sorrow and bringing you everlasting joy. As we approach this Holy Season, it is good to remember that death could not hold Him and that we are all called to rejoice in His Resurrection. On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families the many blessings of Easter.

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

Easter Greeting from the National Treasurer

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the holiest season in the church calendar. The Lenten Season represents a time in which we as Christians, spend time in fasting and prayer as we recall the Lords Forty Days in the desert.

As we approach Holy Week and spend time in reflection and prayer as we recall the suffering, crucifixion and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ, for the remission of our sins. May we realize that His sacrifice was to teach each of us that we are all responsible for the lives we live and how we show that in the actions of our daily lives? As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning let each of us reflect on how our Lord wants us to treat each other in these actions and words.

I wish that each of you always find peace and forgiveness in your heart during this Holy Season, and that each of you shine brightly and shed light to others in spreading this peace and forgiveness.

On behalf of my wife Cathy and the entire Matta family, we extend our prayers and thanksgiving, along with the Easter blessing to each of you and your families.

George F. Matta II
National Treasurer



George F. Matta II

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Helping Teens Deepen Their Faith This Lent

Katie Prejean McGrady grew up attending daily Mass with her sister and parents, and participating in her church's youth group. That involvement led her to embrace her faith more deeply as she got older. She became a high school teacher for five years, as well as an in-demand speaker, podcast host, and author. Now she is guiding young people toward a deeper relationship with God by helping them have a spiritually fruitful Lent instead of just enduring a season of reluctant obligation.

Katie and her husband Tommy co-wrote a short book of reflections called "Lent: One Day at a Time for Catholic Teens." During a "Christopher Closeup" interview, she told me, "Young people just see Lent as a checklist: no candy, no soda, maybe no Netflix, if they're super spiritual... But how can we get them to pray to the Lord, to actually think about...ways that they can more deeply invest in their personal, spiritual journey?"

The book's entries consist of a daily reflection, challenge, and prayer that would take no more than five minutes – and allow the reader to apply the Lenten insights learned directly to his or her life. They can be practiced alone, in a small group, or with parents. Katie hopes that the spiritual journey that teens begin during Lent continues afterward. She said, "My hope is that a young person says, 'I like reading the Bible now. I like actually talking to Jesus first thing in the morning.' There's a few challenges in there about helping out around the house, making everybody's bed, doing the dishes for your mom, or sitting down with your sibling and...playing a board game with them. Hopefully those things would continue."

Katie also holds a bigger view of evangelization, noting, "In the grand scheme of things, we set these lofty goals for churches and youth ministry and conferences. And I hope those continue because that's how I pay my bills. But I also want people to recognize that loving the people right in front of you...that oftentimes is the most important witness you'll ever give."

In fact, it was Katie's joy in practicing her faith as a child that led her grandmother to convert to Catholicism. Katie recalled that her grandmother, who suffered with dementia for several years, died this past June. Her grandfather gave Katie her grandmother's Bible, which was well-worn and filled with notes.

"As I start to look at them," Katie said, "I realized that they were notes about all of us: her grandkids, my grandfather, her children. She had dementia, so she had begun forgetting things. She realized it, so she started writing things down so that she could go back and read them. And I mean, beautiful things about all of us. How much she loved us and what she'd noticed about us, just the most affirming things...So this little note [read], 'I love my Catholic faith because of my two granddaughters, Katie and Laura.'"

Katie continued, "It was such a touching reminder that oftentimes when we evangelize, we have this perspective of: I have this information as the adult or the teacher or the catechist, and I'm going to give it to this young person, and they're going to be grateful that I gave it to them. [But] a lot of times it happens in a very organic, sometimes reverse kind of way, where it's kids who love Jesus, and their love of Jesus inspires somebody else to want to know a little bit more about Him."

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

Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

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

Among the fifty-one Sisters who have come to the U. S. to live fruitful lives and to minister to people is Sister Sebastian. She emigrated from a town near Bratislava to follow her call to religious life.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

Sister Sebastian

Peter and Rosalie (Kulifaj) Vandak were natives of Vistuk, Slovakia, near Bratislava who were blessed with seven children, three boys and four girls. Their sixth child was named Cecilia because she was born on November 22, 1901, the feast of St. Cecilia.



"Our parents were poor but pious and instructed us well. They taught us to pray, trust in the Lord and live the commandments faithfully," says Cecilia who became our Sister Sebastian, SS.C.M.

Cecilia also tells us a cousin, Sister Wilhelmina, a Holy Cross Sister, visited often. When Cecilia was five, Sister Wilhelmina told her she would be a Sister someday. Cecilia cannot remember ever wanting to be anything but a Sister. When she was about eight or ten, she read about the Vestal Virgins. "If they can sacrifice so much for the pagan gods, why can't I do it for the True

God?" she asked herself.

One day as Cecilia returned home after working on the farm, she met a dear old lady and greeted her with the customary "Pochválen bud Pán Ježiš Kristus" and then "Babka, ako sa máte?" Surprised, she responded with these words, "Také mladé dievča pýta sa starej babky ako sa mám!" (Praised be Jesus Christ. How are you, Grandma? Such a young girl is asking an old woman how she is!) Her face lighted up and she was very happy. It occurred

Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in March

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 43rd year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

As of February 27, \$8,852.00 has been received from 109 donors. The following Branches of the FCSU have made donations: Branch 35, Branch 45, Branch 112, Branch 166, Branch 181, Branch 254, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 484, Branch 746, and Branch 764. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

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.

43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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

to Cecilia then that when she became a Sister, she would have the opportunity to care for the elderly.

Following her call to religious life took Cecilia a few years and a few turns. At age 18 she asked her parents for permission to go to America to help them financially. After much prayer and fasting as well as anxiety and emotional and spiritual suffering, they permitted her to go to Cleveland, OH, to visit her sister Irma, asking only two things—that Cecilia reimburse them for the travel money and that she return home in three years.

"After working for the Notre Dame Sisters for two-and-a-half years, I asked for permission to join them, and my parents gave their permission. Providentially, at that time, I received a copy of the magazine AVE MARIA where there was a photo of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Realizing that I would be better able to communicate with Slovak Sisters, I changed my plans and applied to the congregation. In three weeks, on February 2, 1925, I entered the Cyrilites at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville from my parish, St. Ladislaus in Cleveland."

When Sister Sebastian was a novice, she fell into a hole when running. After this accident she could not walk for a long time and feared she would be sent home because of it. Sister bore the injury without complaint but had a limp for the rest of her life.

Sister's most cherished memories are her Reception and Profession Days and her first visit to her family in Slovakia after 46 years.

Sister Sebastian was missioned to seven different mission homes—Whiting and Gary in Indiana, Whitney, Lebanon, Middletown, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, and Chicago Heights, Illinois, where she spent 14 years. She believed wholeheartedly that happiness lies in serving God and the Sisters. She prepared hundreds and thousands of meals during half a century, meals that were always simple, hearty and nutritious. Sister's formula for happiness was: Be faithful to duties. If we obey, we are sure of doing God's will... We must be kind, and love first those with whom we live, because charity begins at home. If you can't like someone, you can love the person by praying for her... All love is from God—we can't even move our little finger without His grace and power. Sister Sebastian assures us that obedience, fidelity to prayer, and kindness are the foundations upon which community life and happiness in Christ can be achieved.

Besides her time in small mission homes, Sister spent eight years at the Motherhouse and eight at Maria Hall before retiring in 1985. In her quiet moments she enjoyed embroidering altar cloths because this occupation helped her to feel close to the Lord.

"All my life my faith in God has sustained me. When I grew older, I was able to reach out in compassion to other elderly Sisters. Of course, prayer was an integral part of my life, especially prayers to the Blessed Mother, the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph and the Poor Souls," Sister Sebastian declared.

Sister Paracleta can attest to her prayerful life saying, "I often found her with her Rosary in her hands when I stopped to visit. I also enjoyed her distinctive laughter when she was amused by something on a video that the Sisters watched in the Upper Room, a place where Sisters gathered for recreation or Bible discussions. During faith sharing she never failed to proclaim the simple truth that guided her life. "We must love each other because we are brothers and sisters in Christ."

"I know she was ready, nay delighted, at 94, to be called to her heavenly home to be united with her Spouse. Always devoted to our Blessed Mother, she died on a Saturday, a day dedicated to Mary and was buried on the Vigil of the Assumption of our Lady, August 14. ristian Burial on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28.

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.



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.

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

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.

2021 FCSU Contests to Enter Now!



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.

- 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.

- 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**



**"THE MOST EXCITING TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS"
SATURDAY MAY 1ST, 2021**

3RD ANNUAL FCSU KENTUCKY DERBY HAT PHOTO CONTEST

Ladies & Gentlemen, Children of All Ages: Help us celebrate the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby by submitting a picture of yourself in your Derby Hat and attire!!!

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

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Ladies - examples: | Men - examples: |
| • Babuška | • Klobuk |
| • Pillbox | • Fedora |
| • Fascinator | • Bowler |
| • Beret | • Cowboy |
| • Cocktail | • Panama |

Examples of attire: cocktail dresses for the ladies; seersucker suits for the men
ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- FEMALE: 3 CATEGORIES: 40 – older; 16 – 39; 15 – younger
- MALE: 3 CATEGORIES: 40 – older; 16 – 39; 15 – younger
- FAMILY: 1 CATEGORY

PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY:

- 1st Place - \$250
- 2nd Place - \$150
- 3rd Place - \$75

WINNERS - To be Announced In Jednota

RULES:

- 1) All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday May 7th, 2021.
- 2) Contestant in Photo AND ALL Contestants in Family Photo must be:
 - Members of FCSU
 - And in Good Standing to be eligible for prizes
- 3) ENTRIES WITHOUT a Branch Number filled in will be disqualified.
- 4) Contestant must be holding a current Jednota 2021 Newspaper in picture.
- 5) All pictures must be 8 x 10:
 - Any other sizes will not be accepted.
 - Pictures will not be returned. However,
 - They will be on display at the next convention.
- 6) Please write on back of the photo:
 - Name
 - [All family names must be written on back of Family Photo]
 - Branch Number
 - Entry Category
- 7) Mail to:

Kevin Collins
Fraternal Activities Director
628 Heather Brite Cr.
Apopka, Fl. 3271

ENTRY FORM: _____
 NAME: _____
 Branch Number: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email Address: _____

CATEGORY:

If entering Family Category; please fill in rest of information below:

NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____
 NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____
 NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____
 NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____

SAVE THE DATE

2021 FCSU National Golf Tournament

COMING UP

Location:
Treasure Lake
Gold & Silver
Course, DuBois
PA.

Date:
Friday August 6 –
Sunday August 8,
2021

*Look for details
in upcoming
Jednota*

Attention Branch 743 Members:

2021 Scholarship Program May Award You an Additional \$250



Branch 743 of Sterling Heights, MI, is pleased to announce that it is providing funds for its 2021 Branch 743 Scholarship Program, which offers an additional \$250 to the 2021 FCSU Scholarship for our eligible members.

Any member of Branch 743 who is awarded a 2021 FCSU Scholarship will be automatically eligible to receive, on a one-time basis, an additional \$250.00 from Branch 743. Branch winners will be notified by mail.

Eligibility requirements: you must be a member of Branch 743; have had a policy for at least 4 years; be current in premiums; be a high school senior; and attend an approved educational institution.

ATTENTION
College-bound FCSU Members

**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
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

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

Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, slovakcooking.com

Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



1 yolk, 2 cups flour, 2 sticks margarine, 100g ground walnuts, 100g powdered sugar, 1 packet of vanilla sugar

Mix all ingredients until you get a sticky dough with the consistency of play-dough. Grease and dust with flour crescent-shaped metal baking forms. Press the dough into the forms and bake for 8 minutes at 375F. Coat with powdered sugar or dip ends in chocolate.

Hearts (Srdiečka)



4 cups flour, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1.5tsp baking powder, 200g margarine, 2 eggs

Knead the dough until you get a smooth texture. Then roll out and cut out various shapes. Bake for for 12 minutes at 350F. Join two matching halves with jam (raspberry and red currant work great) and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rings (Venčeky)



250g flour, 250g margarine, 100g ground hazelnuts or almonds, bit of salt, half a spoon of cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of orange zest and juice, 1 egg, 5 spoons of white wine

Combine the ingredients to make the dough. Roll out and use dough circle cutters of two different sizes to cut out the ring. Bake for 15 minutes at 350F. Coat in powdered sugar combined with vanilla and cinnamon. Combine the cut out dough and repeat.

Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



2 cups powdered sugar, 2 cups ground walnuts, 1 yolk, shot of rum

Mix all ingredients together and roll into a ball. Coat in powdered sugar, chocolate, or coconut shavings. That's it, no baking required!

Walnuts (Oriešky)



Dough: 150g ground walnuts, 5 cups flour, 1.5 sticks butter, 1-2 eggs, 0.8 cups sugar, 2 tbsp cocoa

Cream 1: 4 eggs, 0.5 cups powdered sugar, 1 packet vanilla sugar. Cream 2: 1.5 sticks butter, 0.5 cups powdered sugar

Mix the dough ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured metal form for 8 minutes at 375F. Whisk ingredients for Cream 1 in a double boiler until it becomes like honey. Let cool down. Whip Cream 2 ingredients together and add to Cream 1. Use the cream to join two halves to make a delicious walnut.

Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



Chocolate: 150g chocolate, 3/4 stick of Crisco, 3 tsp cocoa
Filling: 100g of ground nuts, 150g powdered sugar, 1/2 stick of Crisco, 2 teaspoons of cocoa, 0.4 cups milk

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or on low heat. Stack paper cups on a tray and pour quarter inch of chocolate into each. Save half the chocolate for later. Let cool. Cook the ingredients for the filling on low heat. Spoon onto the chocolate. Top off with the remaining chocolate and a walnut for decoration.

Easter Treats!

Fánky

2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 yolks, 2 tbsp powdered sugar, half a stick unsalted butter, 4 tbsp cream, 2 tbsp white wine (or rum), 1/2 cup of milk

Mix the ingredients and place the dough in a fridge to cool. Then roll out to 1/6th inch. Cut into rectangles the size of your palm. Cut two slits near the short edges. Tread the ends through the slits to make bow ties. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Top with powdered sugar.

Šišky (Donuts)

2 cups flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar, 1/5 stick unsalted butter, dash of salt. Topping: jam filling and powdered sugar

Mix all ingredients to get a smooth dough. Let rise. Then roll out on a dusted board to one inch thick. Dust the rim of a drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles. Fry in oil. Top with jam and sugar.

You will find all these recipes along with step-by-step photo instructions at SlovakCooking.com

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

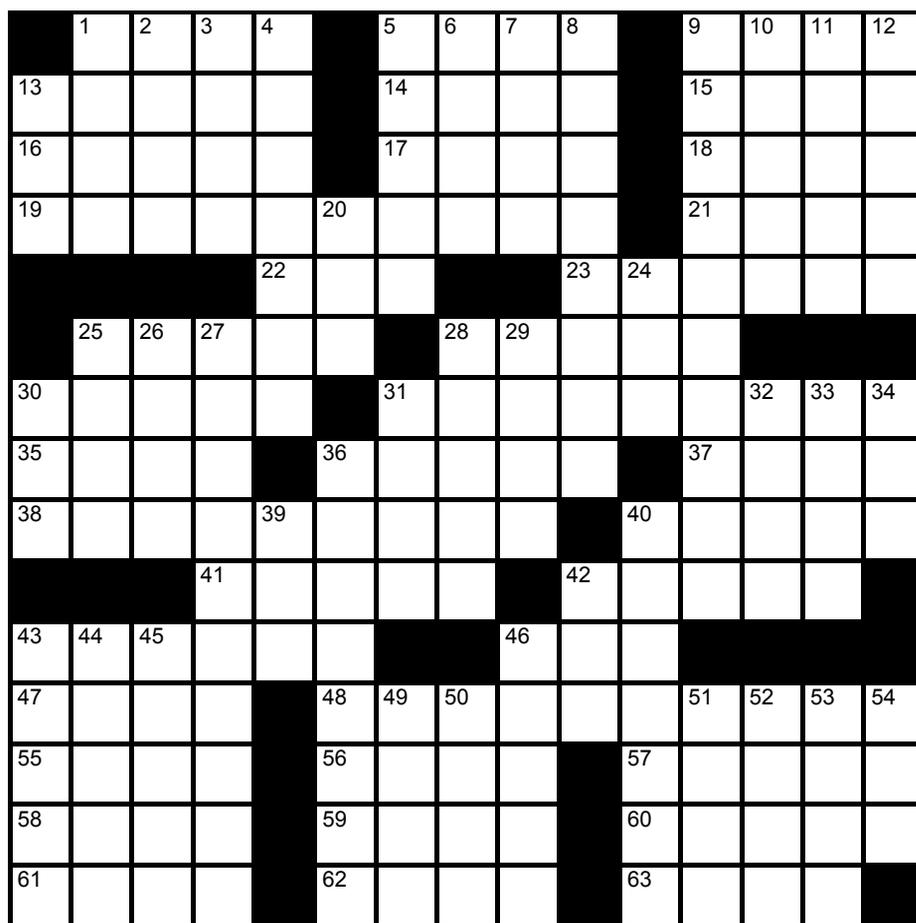
YOUNGSTOWN/SPIŠSKÁ NOVÁ VES SISTER CITIES TOUR 2021



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 Jánošík, 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.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Archaeological find
- 5 Lay an egg
- 9 *Casablanca* role
- 13 Four-bagger
- 14 Crowd noise
- 15 Yemeni city
- 16 One of the Muses
- 17 Golden rule word
- 18 Riot spray
- 19 Most underweight
- 21 LaBeouf of *Disturbia*
- 22 Used a bench
- 23 Telephone bane
- 25 Hotel amenities
- 28 Winter warmer
- 30 Copier need
- 31 Like a money transport car
- 35 Family member
- 36 Game bird
- 37 New Zealand bird
- 38 Pork sausage
- 40 Informal jargon
- 41 Bathsheba's husband
- 42 Decorative pitchers
- 43 Tail bone
- 46 Deli loaf
- 47 *Paradise Lost*, e.g.
- 48 Honest and sincere
- 55 Son of Leah
- 56 Foe for El Cordobés
- 57 Tot's wheels
- 58 Ireland
- 59 Dr. Pavlov
- 60 Antique auto
- 61 *Batman's* Christian
- 62 Horn or York, e.g.
- 63 Study

Down

- 1 Force unit, briefly
- 2 Poet Khayyám
- 3 Prefix with physical
- 4 Window shopper
- 5 Apples and oranges, e.g.
- 6 Kind of wolf
- 7 Feedback feed
- 8 Etiquette
- 9 Dilapidated
- 10 Hells Canyon locale
- 11 ___ B. DeMille
- 12 Work dough
- 13 "For ___ a jolly ..."
- 20 ___ Pensacola (mil. center)
- 24 ___'easter
- 25 Turn bad
- 26 Tolstoy heroine
- 27 Pasta choice
- 28 Collide
- 29 Forget about
- 30 Computer key
- 31 Subtle glow
- 32 Make-up artist?
- 33 Barley beards
- 34 Excavate

- 36 Idealistic and unrealistic
- 39 Humorous
- 40 Feel the heat
- 42 CBS symbol
- 43 V.I.P.
- 44 Wagner work
- 45 Kind of engineer
- 46 Geneva's river
- 49 Scotia starter
- 50 Golf hazard
- 51 Gaelic language
- 52 MasterCard rival
- 53 Scratched (out)
- 54 Superman foe ___ Luthor

2021 JEDNOTA Publication Schedule

Issue Date

Deadline to Receive Information

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

See Solution on Page 23

News From Slovakia

Slovensko sa pripája k rozšírenému projektu NATO v oblasti leteckej munície

Bratislava 19. februára (TASR) - Slovensko sa pripojilo k iniciatíve NATO na rozšírenie mnohonárodnej spolupráce pri špecifikácii, obstarávaní a skladovaní presne riadeného vzdušného streliva tak, aby pokrývalo všetky druhy vzdušného streliva, informovala TASR hovorkyňa ministerstva obrany Martina Koval Kakasčíková.

Slovenský minister obrany Jaroslav Nad (OLaNO) to spolu so svojimi náprotivkami z ďalších dotknutých krajín NATO potvrdil podpísaním dodatku k memorandu o porozumení projektu Precízne vedená munícia vzduch-zem.

Vďaka tejto prílohe budú krajiny NATO schopné vykonávať spoločné obstarávanie v spolupráci s Agentúrou pre podporu a obstarávanie NATO (NSPA) a spolupracovať pri skladovaní všetkých druhov vzdušnej munície. Jedná sa o významné rozšírenie spolupráce v tejto oblasti, ktoré bude prínosom tak z ekonomického hľadiska, z hľadiska úspory finančných prostriedkov prostredníctvom potenciálnych spoločných nákupov, ako aj z hľadiska ďalšieho prehĺbovania interoperability medzi spojencami, "zdôraznil Nad.

Minister poznamenal, že Slovensko by si v budúcnosti mohlo prostredníctvom tohto projektu zaobstarat' napríklad strelivo pre svoje stíhačky F-16.

Projekt zahŕňajúci spoluprácu medzi krajinami NATO v oblasti precíznej munície typu vzduch-zem precízne iniciovalo Dánsko v roku 2014. Slovensko sa k nemu pripojilo v roku 2019 a v súčasnosti je doň zapojených celkovo 14 krajín.



Sídlo ministerstva obrany (foto TASR)

Defense Ministry's residence (photo by TASR)

Slovakia Joins Expanded NATO Project on Air Munitions

Bratislava, February 19 (TASR) – Slovakia has joined NATO's initiative to expand multi-national cooperation in the specification, procurement and warehousing of precision guided airborne munitions to cover all kinds of airborne ammunition, TASR has learnt from Defense Ministry spokesperson Martina Koval Kakasčíková.

Slovak Defense Minister Jaroslav Nad (OLaNO), along with his counterparts from the other NATO countries concerned, confirmed this by signing an appendix to the memorandum of understanding to the Air to Ground Precision Guided Munitions project.

"Thanks to this appendix, NATO countries will be able to carry out joint procurement in cooperation with the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) and cooperate in warehousing all kinds of airborne ammunition. This is a significant expansion of cooperation in this area, which will be beneficial both from the economic viewpoint, in terms of saving funds via potential joint purchases, and in terms of further deepening interoperability among the allies," highlighted Nad.

The minister noted that Slovakia might procure, for example, munitions for its F-16 fighter jets via this project in the future.

The project involving cooperation between NATO countries in the area of Air to Ground Precision Guided Munitions was initiated by Denmark in 2014. Slovakia joined it in 2019, and a total of 14 countries are now engaged in it.

EK: Slovensko do konca roku 2021 obnoví predpandemický rast HDP

Brusel 11. februára (TASR) - Zavedenie očkovania proti COVID-19 a postupné zmierňovanie obmedzení súvisiacich s pandémiou by malo umožniť, aby sa ekonomický rast Slovenska v druhej polovici tohto roka rýchlo zotavil a podľa ročného rastu HDP sa podľa neho zvýšil na 4 percentá, podľa zimnej ekonomickej predpovede 2021, ktorú vo štvrtok zverejnila Európska komisia (EK).

Predpovedá sa, že slovenská ekonomika dosiahne svoju predpandemickú úroveň produkcie do konca roku 2021 a v roku 2022 porastie asi o 5,4 percenta. Slovensko by tak spolu s Maltou malo v roku 2022 zaznamenať najvyšší rast HDP v EÚ.

Po silnom oživení zaznamenanom v treťom štvrtroku 2020 sa očakáva, že druhá vlna pandémie koronavírusov potlačí ekonomickú aktivitu na Slovensku koncom roka 2020, čo povedie k 5,9-percentnému poklesu HDP v porovnaní s rokom 2019, uvádza EK v jeho

predpovedi.

Podľa EK zhoršujúci sa krátkodobý výhľad ovplyvňuje hlavne domáce výdavky. Napriek pokračujúcim fiškálnym opatreniam tlmiacim pokles súkromných príjmov a zamestnanosti zatváranie podnikov a cestovné obmedzenia znižujú súkromnú spotrebu, najmä v sektore služieb. Okrem toho dlhodobá neistota udržuje vysoké preventívne úspory v domácnostiach a odrádza od investičných výdavkov. Avšak za predpokladu, že dôjde k zrušeniu väčšiny opatrení na obmedzenie, sa v druhej polovici roku 2021 očakáva výrazný oživenie domáceho dopytu.

Na rozdiel od služieb sa ukazuje, že priemysel je odolnejší a do veľkej miery je chránený pred obmedzeniami súvisiacimi s domácou pandémiou. To je dobrým znamením pre slovenský priemyselný exportný sektor, ktorý by mal profitovať aj zo zlepšeného zahraničného dopytu. Vďaka veľkému podielu dovezených medziproduktov by si silný vývoz mal udržať rýchlejšiu rast dovozu aj napriek pôvodne slabším domácim výdavkom.

Celkovo sa predpokladá, že čistý vývoz v predpovedanom období 2021-22 pozitívne prispieje k rastu HDP.

EK očakáva, že inflácia sa začiatkom roku 2021 dramaticky spomalí v dôsledku poklesu regulovaných cien energie. Zhoršujúci sa krátkodobý výhľad bude pôsobiť ako ďalšia deflačná sila prostredníctvom slabšieho domáceho dopytu, čo bude mať za následok ročnú mieru inflácie 0,5% v roku 2021.

Predpokladá sa však, že dynamickejšie oživenie v druhej polovici roku 2021 vyvolá rastúce cenové tlaky, najmä v domácom sektore služieb, čo povedie k postupnému zvyšovaniu miery inflácie, kým sa tento údaj v roku 2022 stabilizuje na úrovni približne 1,6 percenta.

EK poukázala na skutočnosť, že budúce výdavky spojené s nástrojom na obnovu a odolnosť nie sú zahrnuté v tejto prognóze a že predstavujú inflačné riziko.



Illustration picture (photo by TASR)

Ilustračný obrázok (foto TASR)

EC: Slovakia to Regain Pre-pandemic GDP Growth by End of 2021

Brussels, February 11 (TASR) – The rollout of vaccination against COVID-19 and the gradual easing of pandemic-related restrictions should enable Slovakia's economic growth to rebound quickly in the second half of this year, bringing annual GDP growth to 4 percent, according to the winter 2021 economic forecast published by the European Commission (EC) on Thursday.

The Slovak economy is forecast to reach its pre-pandemic output level by the end of 2021 and to grow by around 5.4 percent in 2022. Slovakia should thus record the highest GDP growth in the EU in 2022 along with Malta.

After the strong rebound seen in the third quarter of 2020, the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic is expected to have suppressed economic activity in Slovakia towards the end of 2020, resulting in a 5.9-percent contraction of GDP compared to 2019, states the EC in its forecast.

According to the EC, the deteriorating short-term outlook is mainly affecting domestic spending. Despite continued fiscal measures cushioning the fall in private incomes and employment, the closure of businesses and travel restrictions are depressing private consumption, particularly in the service sector. In addition, prolonged uncertainty is keeping precautionary savings of households high and discouraging investment spending. However, assuming that most of the containment measures will be lifted, a strong rebound in domestic demand is expected as of the second half of 2021.

In contrast to services, industry is proving to be more resilient, being largely shielded from domestic pandemic-related restrictions. This bodes well for Slovakia's industry-heavy export sector, which should also benefit from improved foreign demand. Due to a large share of imported intermediate inputs, strong exports should also sustain more rapid import growth despite initially weaker domestic spending.

On balance, net exports are forecast to contribute positively to GDP growth over the forecast period of 2021-22.

The EC expects inflation to slow dramatically at the beginning of 2021 due to a drop in regulated energy prices. The deteriorating short-term outlook will act as an additional deflationary force via weaker domestic demand, resulting in an annual inflation rate of 0.5 percent in 2021.

However, the more dynamic rebound in the second half of 2021 is forecast to set off rising price pressures, mainly in the domestic service sector, leading to gradually increasing inflation rates, before the figure stabilizes at around 1.6 percent in 2022.

The EC pointed to the fact that future spending related to the Recovery and Resilience Facility isn't included in this forecast and that it constitutes an inflationary risk.

FCSU 2020 CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

Ugly Sweater Contest Winners

Ages 40 - Better

FROM FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR KEVIN COLLINS

Our 2020 Christmas Contests were a great success! Thanks to all of our members for participating. I hope the contests helped brighten an unusual Christmas season. So many great entries made it hard for judges to choose. But here are the "best of the best" - including those who made it on to the FCSU Traveling Cup this year.

As your appointed Chief Elf, I say....

Congrats Winners!



1st Place - Ronald Boone
Pittsburgh, PA, Branch 853



2nd Place - Robert "Bob" Findish
Brunswick, OH, Branch 228



3rd Place - Joe Oros
Strongsville, OH, Branch 24

Ages 16 – 39



1st Place -Alicia Ann Uhrin
Mount Pleasant, PA, Branch 181



2nd Place -Charles Boone
Pittsburgh, PA, Branch 853



3rd Place - Morgan Murphy
Pittsburgh, PA, Branch 831



Ages 15 – Younger



1st Place -Charleigh Gross
Levittown, PA, Branch 857



2nd Place - Noah Hummel
Plains, PA, Branch 173



3rd Place - Jonah Sterling
West Orange, NJ, Branch 112

FCSU 2020 CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

REGION 1

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Colin Ranahan
Harrington PK, NJ



Second Place
Jack Ranahan
Bayville, NJ



Third Place
Madison
Shenloogian
Morris Plains, NJ

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Kaitlyn
Shenloogian
Morris Plains, NJ



Second Place
Shea Griffis
Land O' Lakes, FL

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Nicholas Desopo
Passaic, NJ



Second Place
Ashton Lewis
Perth Amboy, NJ

REGION 2

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Jonah Sterling
West Orange, NJ



Second Place
Oliver Herman
Bel Air, MD



Third Place
Lily Desiere
San Diego, CA

Age Group 7-9



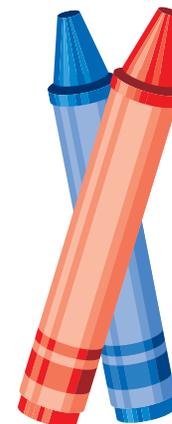
First Place
Olive Keller
Pacifica, CA



Second Place
Stella Herman
Bel Air, MD



Third Place
Joshua Desiere
San Diego, CA



REGION 3

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Adelaide Carone
Norfolk, MA



Second Place
Oliver Pechmann
South Salt Lake
City, UT



Third Place
Nora Hammes
Cortland, NY

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Giada Carone
Norfolk, MA



Second Place
Zach Keiser
Cary, NC



Third Place
Paige Keiser
Cary, NC



REGION 4

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Bridget Fay,
Nicholson, PA



Second Place
Cabrina Holzman
Old Forge, PA



Third Place
Aidan Carone
Norfolk, MA

Age Group 4 - 6



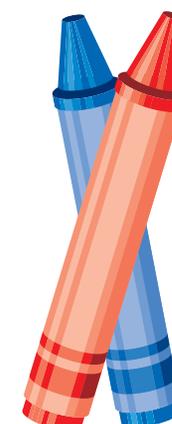
First Place
Levi Suranski
Mount Pleasant,
PA



Second Place
Adelyn Robbins
Virginia Beach, VA



Third Place
Cash Gordon
Greensburg, PA



FCSU 2020 CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

REGION 4

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Anthony Matinko
Charleroi, PA



Second Place
Brielle Bizich
Irwin, PA



Third Place
Sarah Rush
Oakdale, PA

..... Age Group 10 - 12



First Place
Leolin Divonzo
Elizabethtown, PA



Second Place
Sophia Pietropaolo
Pittsburgh, PA



Third Place
Blake Gordon
Greensburg, PA

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Daniel Zemelman
Woodbridge, VA



Second Place
Beckett Perry
Bethel Park, PA



Third Place
Braden Skoloda
Latrobe, PA

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Lauralei Kroniser
Corapolis, PA



Second Place
Cara Zemelman
Woodbridge, VA



Third Place
Zachary Skoloda
Latrobe, PA

REGION 6

Age Group 10-12

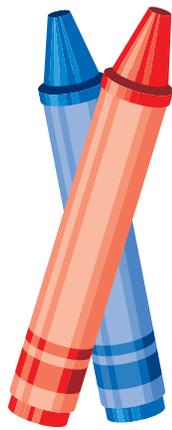
..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Morgan Skoloda
Latrobe, PA



Second Place
Natalie Walsh
Monongahela, PA



First Place
Ava Scally
Brunswick, OH



Second Place
Owan Argoso
Lakewood, OH



Third Place
Scarlet Victory
Akron, OH

..... Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Josie Brady
Sagamore Hills, OH



Second Place
Georgia Victory
Akron, OH



Third Place
Ethan Argoso
Lakewood, OH



First Place
Artem Fedoriouk
Seven Hills, OH



Second Place
Nathan Brunovsky
Independence, OH



FCSU 2020 CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

REGION 7

Age Group 7 - 9

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Rylin Bobo
Hanover Park, IL



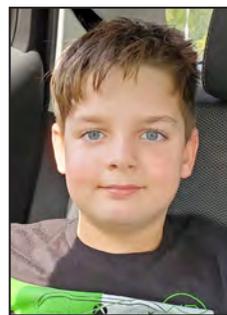
Second Place
Emmett Whittington
Morton, IL



Third Place
Ethan Breen
Mokena, IL



First Place
Victoria Vadkerti
Orange, CA



Second Place
Kellan Hacker
Jacksonville, FL



Two Way Tie
Third Place
Carolyn Riedmuller
Oaklawn, IL



Third Place
Alexander Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Ryan Riedmuller
Oaklawn, IL



Second Place
Juliana Oost
Neenah, WI



Third Place
Elizabeth Vadkerti
Orange, CA



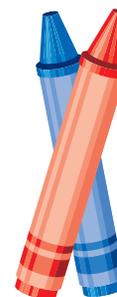
Three Way Tie
Third Place
Nicholas Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL



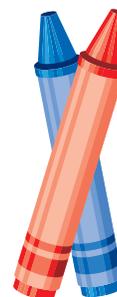
Third Place
Peter Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL

REGION 8

Age Group 4-6



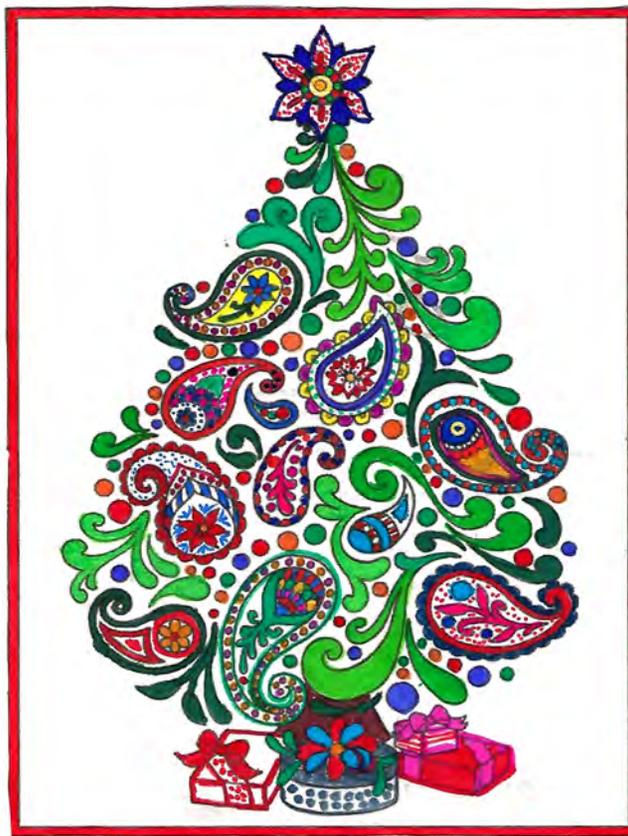
First Place
Grace Oakes
Mississauga, ON



Young at Heart Christmas Coloring Contest Winners



1st Place:
Fred Kardohely
Clearfield, PA, Region 4



2nd Place:
Josephine Valcho,
Port Charlotte, FL, Region 5



3rd Place:
Shirley Kandra
Aurora, OH, Region 6

FCSU 2020 CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest Winners



1st Place:
MacMath Tree, a Family Affair

Thomas MacMath, Danielle MacMath, Derek MacMath, Michele MacMath, and Anthony Lee, all Branch 290 members in Bridgewater, NJ, exhibited the FCSU tenets of family and fraternalism when creating their outstanding entry. Everyone dressed up for the occasion in their Christmas best – including the family pet who joined in the fun!



2nd Place:
Father and Son, a Good Team

Branch 24 Treasurer Joe Oros teamed up in Strongsville, OH, with son Matthew, also of Branch 24; put on their Santa hats; and got to work creating their majestic entry. Family mascot Omar (eyeing the requisite copy of Jednota) even allowed the guys to don him with a pair of reindeer antlers to complete the Christmas motif!



3rd Place:
Miss Elf, a Magical Scene

Miss Elf – aka Sabina Sabados Branch 746 President in Linden, NJ – placed the finishing touch of a "2020 Covid Christmas ornament" on the tree while mice played holiday tunes on the piano. Santa stood by holding Jednota and Chewy looked on from the branches. All in all, a magical entry!



**2020 CHRISTMAS CONTEST NAMES
TO BE PLACED ON THE FCSU
TRAVELING CUP**

For

“Best Overall” by category:



**Ugly Sweater
Contest**

**Ronald
Boone,
Branch 853**

**Kids
Coloring
Contest**

**Bridget
Fay,
Region 3**

**Young at Heart
Coloring
Contest**

**Fred
Kardoheley,
Region 4**

**Tree
Decorating
Contest**

**The MacMath
Family,
Branch 290**

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 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels Branch will hold their semi-annual meeting at the Eat n Park on Ohio River Blvd at 7pm on April 6. In this difficult time during the pandemic we hope that our members are staying safe. Please RSVP to Joanne 412-715-5577

Joanne Lako, Recording 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

Attention all Branch 24 members: the branch is starting a New Member Referral Program. Branch 24 is offering \$25 for each new member you refer who purchases an insurance policy or annuity through a licensed agent or the Home Office. A new member is someone who does not already own an FCSU product. To learn how to participate in this program, please call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

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. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši - 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 - WHIPPANY, BOONTON, NEW JERSEY

Branch 132 K will have a meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 11 AM. All members are urged to attend. If you are unable to attend-- please call Sue at 973-386-1936.

This past year, we have enlisted 9 new young members and some members are planning on taking advantage of our great rates through the Jednota "s IRA at 3.85, 3.45, and 3.35 annually.

Please, remember to sign up for our District Meeting on Sunday, March 14 at 3PM (see notice below).

Sue Salko, President

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 166 – BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

St Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166k, will hold its semi-annual meeting April 18, 2021 at 2:00PM by telephone conference. All members are encouraged to attend. Your input is greatly appreciated! Please contact President Morgan Dendler (607) 206-7243 or CatholicFCSU@gmail.com for any questions you may have concerning the telephone conference and how to connect to it.

Respectfully,

Judie Dendler, 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: 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 encourage 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 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 connect to the meeting. The agenda will include planning of 2021 events.

Mary Kapitan, District 4 Secretary

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The April Meeting will be on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 2:00 PM instead of Sunday, April 25, 2021. The meeting will be by telephone conference call. Please call John Jurcenko (708) 995 7378 on Thursday April 22 or Friday April 23 to obtain the sign-in code and phone number to call for the conference meeting.
John Jurcenko, President

Have a safe and blessed Lent.
Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

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 Barbara Brekosky of West Mifflin, PA, who passed away on February 3, 2021, at 85. Barbara was the widow of Region 5 Director Emeritus Regis Brekosky, who died in 2015.

The Pittsburgh District also mourns the loss of two other regulars at district meetings. Edith Valo of Hopewell, PA, passed away on December 28, 2020, at 86. Her husband Albert is a member of Branch 587. Ann Pavlan 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. Her brother, Fr Joseph Grosko, former district chaplain, died in January, 2020.

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. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

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 9- THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

Due to concerns for member safety during the continuing pandemic and lack of widely distributed COVID-19 vaccines, the Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, has rescheduled its meeting previously to be held on Sunday, March 7, 2021, to Sunday, May 23, 2021.

The May 23rd Annual Meeting will be held at the same place and time: 1:00 PM at Caporella's Italian Ristorante at 90 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. All CDC guidelines will be followed, requiring attendees to wear masks and practice appropriate social distancing. All members are urged to attend.

Election of officers will be on the agenda. Regional Director Marmol will be informing the members of Jednota upcoming events. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. For reservations, contact President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District would like to wish everyone a "Happy and Blessed Easter."

James Marmol, President

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

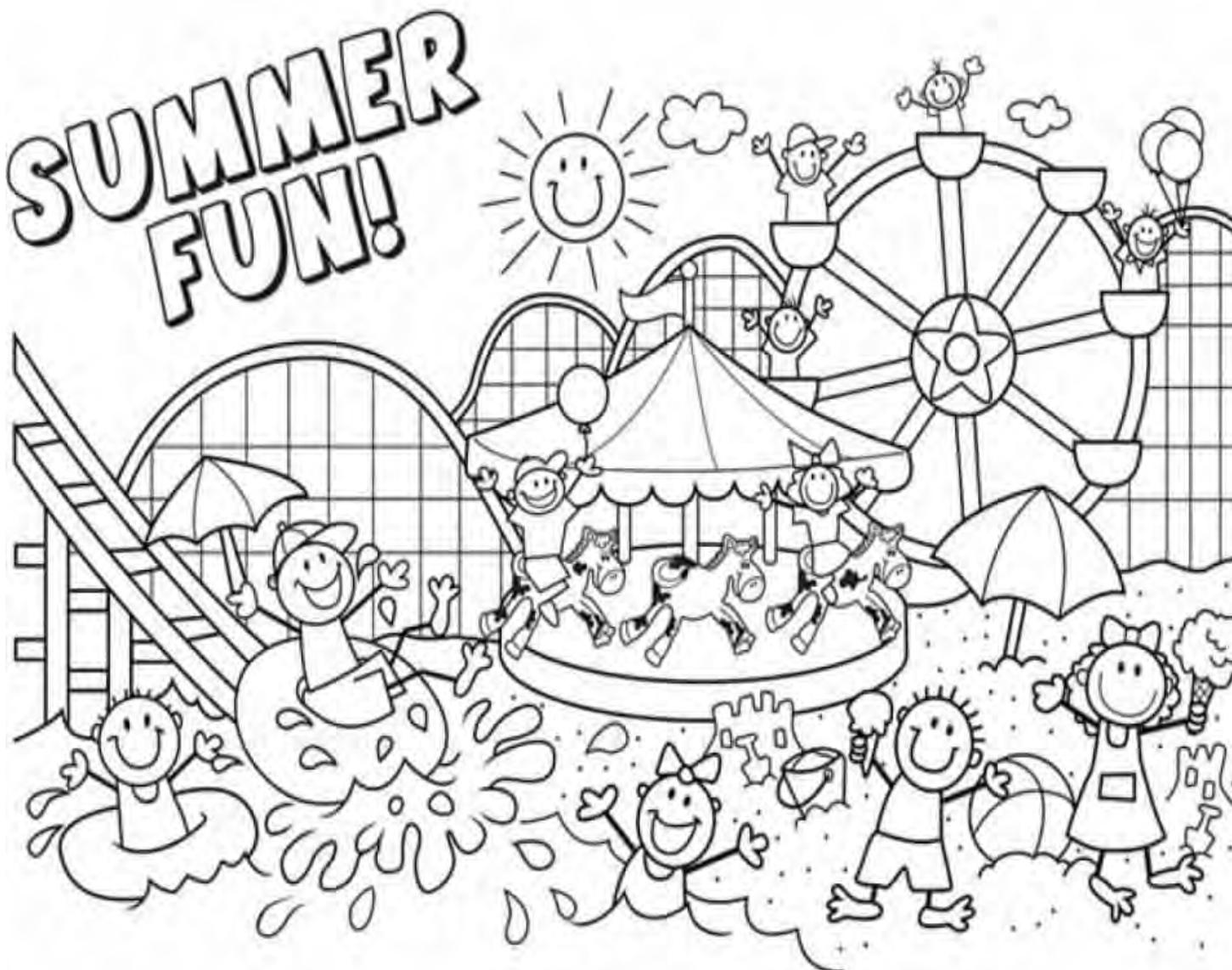
Following are the currently scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2021:

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



Extended Deadline for Branch 853 Coloring Contest

Attention Branch 853 Members: There's still time to have some fun with the Branch 853 "Searching for Summer" coloring contest. The deadline has been extended until April 1, 2021.

Please send your entry, along with your name and address to: Branch 853 Coloring Contest, 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

Eligibility rules:

Must be a FCSU Branch 853 member as of April 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 April 1, 2021. Entries will not 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.

<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>
001K	Arthur C Pordash	153K	James J Knizner	293K	Stephen B Tkach	731K	John George Reigrut
002K	Robert J Graham Jr	153K	John A Zigmund	320K	Rev Edward S Litavec	743K	Steven Joseph Timko
005P	Mary E Gresock	162K	David T Budinsky Sr	333K	Mary Bucha	756K	Albert V Papanek
019K	George Kenneth Lukach	166K	Anne B Moran	382K	Irene Fiore	764K	Gail Patrick
023K	Francis Malinovsky	166K	Anne C Reynolds	382K	Paul J Kishel Jr	780K	Yvonne Gulvas
024K	Joseph W Stefanov	173K	Rita L Cheremsak	430K	Barbara Fischer	796K	Michael S C Deaton
024K	Dorothy Yurick	173K	Regina Agnes Umberger	450K	Margaret M Valencik	831K	Helen M Fajbik
035K	Ann Pavlan	181K	Ronald M Geary	465K	Adele B Biller	831K	Rose Marie Kuniak
038K	Marjorie Ann Amati	181K	George Grega	484K	Guy M Savasta	855K	George John Drapcho
038K	Judith A Jaskulski	199K	Joseph T Dlugos	493K	Phyllis Verhulst	855K	Luanne T Sabbagh
040K	Jean Behler	199K	Joyce M Januck	553K	Joanne H Rutkowski	856K	Paul Fenchak
040K	Barbara K Creamean	228K	Thomas S Bednar	553K	Norge J Santin	856K	Francis Hozdic
045K	Michael J Kovalcin	228K	Milan Wascovich	584K	Vilma Zelenak	857K	Charles M Falkevitz
075K	David J Lechniak	228K	Helen A Wozarik	587K	Edith Louise Valo	915K	Mark Levin
085K	James D Cicchillo	260K	Edward Raymond Hudak	682K	Jonathan N Williams	924K	Rev Andrew R Gallia
085K	Regina Harcharik	260K	Edward Sebest	682K	Mary L Williams		
096K	Catherine Penksa	292K	Robert S Zabrucky	716K	Joseph F Havas		
102K	Joseph Charles Ayrer	293K	Anthony J Jaso	731K	Virginia L Deluca		

*Processed through the month of February

OBITUARIES

**REGINA A. UMBERGER
BRANCH 173 –
WILKES BARRE,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Regina Agnes Umberger, 86, died peacefully December 28, 2020, at her residence in Riva, MD. She was born December 11, 1934, in Exeter, PA., to the late Eugene Romanosky and Mary (Vacula) Romanosky.

Regina graduated from Exeter High School, Class of 1951, and then attended a nursing program at Pittston, PA Hospital. In 1953, Regina married Dr. Francis Kopack, and together they had three children, David Kopack, Laura (Kopack) O'Liddy, and Alan Kopack. In 1974, Regina married Robert Umberger and enjoyed many happy years together until his death in 2019. Regina enjoyed spending time with her extended family, reading, and traveling to South Carolina and Florida in the winter months. She was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Edgewater, MD.

In addition to her parents, Regina was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Robert Umberger; her former husband, Dr. Francis Kopack of Annapolis; and a brother, Mark Masley of Pittsburgh, PA.

She is survived by her children, David Kopack, Laura Kopack O'Liddy, and Alan Kopack; her step-children, Susan Richards and Kent Umberger; four siblings, Edward Romanosky, John Masley, Paul Masley, and Mary Ellen Erwin; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

- Submitted by Laura O'Liddy

**EDITH (VOLPE) VALO
BRANCH 587 –
ALQUIPPA,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Edith (Volpe) Valo, 86, of Hopewell, PA, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on December 28, 2020, at home sur-

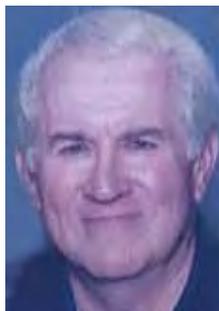
rounded by her family. She was born August 18, 1934, in Aliquippa and was the daughter of the late Angelo and Loretta Volpe.

Edith was preceded in death by two brothers, Ralph and Robert Volpe, a sister and brother-in-law, Theresa and Chris Trotta.

She was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Hopewell Township. She also was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 587, where she served as Vice President for many years.

Edith is survived by her beloved husband of 59 years, Albert Valo, A son, Albert (Lisa) Valo. Two daughters, MaryAnn (Jim) Gillooly and Joanne (John) Katekovich. A special granddaughter, who Edith adored, Rachel Katekovich. Two sisters-in-law, Louise Volpe and Grace Volpe. Edith is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and two dear friends, Joanna Mazzocca and Elaine Jurasko.

**THOMAS D. MORELLA
BRANCH 682 –
YOUNGSTOWN,
OHIO**



Thomas D. Morella, 82, passed away Thursday afternoon, Jan. 21, 2021.

Tom was born May 15, 1938, in Youngstown, the son of Thomas and Rose Audino Morella.

He was a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Youngstown College with a bachelor's degree in education and Kent State University with a master's degree in education.

Tom was a teacher at Poland Seminary High School and had been a dean at Poland Middle School. He was the women's basketball head coach at Poland Seminary High School. He was also the women's assistant coach at Warren JFK High School and had also been the assistant coach for men's basketball and football at Poland Seminary High School.

Tom was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Church in New Middletown, OH, the First

Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol. He enjoyed bowling, golfing, softball and ran the First Catholic Slovak Union International bowling and golf tournaments for many years.

Tom will be remembered lovingly by his wife, Marilyn Matasek Morella, whom he married on Aug. 8, 1966; two sons, Thomas Morella and Anthony (Trina) Morella; grandson, Zachary; sister, Darlene Zordich; sisters-in-law, Pat Morella and Helen Matasek; brother-in-law, Joe (Diane) Matasek; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, Tom was preceded in death by a daughter, Mary Morella; brothers, Sam and Joe Morella; sister-in-law, Dorothy Morella; and brother-in-law, Ron (Patricia) Matasek.

- Submitted by Drew Hirt,
Branch 682 President

**JOSEPH FRANCIS HAVAS
BRANCH 716 –
NEW YORK,
NEW YORK**



Joseph Francis Havas, 91, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 23 at L.I. Jewish Hospital, Queens, NY.

Joseph was a Korean war veteran and a linotype operator by trade. His smile, corny jokes and generous heart will be missed by all who knew him. Joseph was born in Manhattan, NY, son of the late Michael and Elizabeth Havas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, John, who was killed in WWII, George and Michael, his sister Mary Lazar and his niece Susan McCay. Left to cherish his memory are his daughter Carolyn (Harvey) Katowitz; grandsons Joseph and Michael and granddaughter Kristen; great-grandsons Dakota and Jakob Hyde and Lucas Beaver; nephews John Havas (Sharyn) Michael Havas (Maggi), Jeffrey Havas (JoAnn), Donnie Lazar (Sandy), Robert Lazar; Nieces Barbara-Jean Porter (Ron), Christina Lazar and

Judith Bonfiglio (Michael); several grandnieces and nephews; and, last but not least, a special person in his life, his companion and guardian angel, Agnes Strand.

**MARY KUBENIK
BRANCH 716 –
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**



Mary Kubenik, 86, of Rock Tavern, NY, passed away on December 10, 2020.

Mary was born in Zilina, Slovakia on March 13, 1934 to Stefan and Anna (Labaj) Bosan. Mary was pre-deceased by her beloved husband Michael Kubenik. Together Mary and Mike raised their 4 children in the Castle Hill section of the Bronx where she dedicated her life to her family, including helping her husband run the family business, Standard Wire Works. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister and aunt who will be dearly missed by her family. She was a parishioner of St. John Nepomucene of NYC, Holy Family in the Bronx and Assumption Church in Maybrook, NY. Mary loved music, bowling, reading, bird watching, swimming, gardening, bee-keeping, foraging for mushrooms, cooking and especially baking. Everyone knew her for her cookies.

Mary is survived by her children Ann Marie D'Agostino, Michael Kubenik and his wife Kelly, Helen and her husband Philip Livoti and Jane Kubenik. As well as her grandchildren Paul; Mark; Danielle and husband Bekim; Kristen, Karen and husband Austin; Melanie and husband Robert; Tiffany; Michael; Devon; and Irene. Her great grandchildren Vincent, Margot and Ryan. She is also survived by her sister, Helen Kubinec; in-laws Henry and Anna Kubenik; Maria Gabor; and Vera Kubenik as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins whom she dearly loved. She will be terribly missed.

- Submitted by Jane Kubenik

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

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 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Joseph's Branch 367 will hold its next meeting on Friday, April 16, 2021. The meeting will be held at 1 PM at the Mountain View Cafe, 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA 15478

Old and new business will be discussed. All members are welcome to attend, please call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik, President if planning on attending. Have a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Fraternally,

Kathryn Baranek, 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 419 – KINGSTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 17, 2021, starting at noon. The meeting will be held at Norm's Restaurant & Pizza in the Greater Wilkes-Barre, PA area. We will be reviewing past branch activities and meetings and plan for future, open-air activities. Also on the agenda: a discussion of the election of officers.

Francis Wassil, President

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.

March 17 Wednesday Monthly
Dinner Onion Smothered Chicken \$12.00
Served 4:30-7:00 pm

March 28 Sunday
Breakfast Served 9:00 am-noon

March 5th –April 2nd Friday
Lenten Fish Fry Served 4:00 – 6:45 pm

(TO RESERVE BAKED COD CALL THE CLUB AT THE NUMBER LISTED BELOW BY THURSDAY EACH WEEK)

April 7th Wednesday
Spaghetti Dinner Served 4:30-7:00 pm

ALL DINNERS REQUIRE RESERVATIONS – CALL 330-786-9972 AFTER 3 PM DAILY TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

The Board of Directors wish all members a Blessed Easter Season

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 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 cel-

brate 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 18 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 hrusovskyy@embarqmail.com.

Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 810K – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

There has been a merger between Branch 810K Montreal, Quebec, and Branch 785K Mississauga, Ontario.

All members of Branch 810K will now hold membership in Branch 785K. This merger has taken place as of February 25, 2021.

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

ANNE MITRO

1094 HEDGE DR

MISSISSAUGA, ON CANADA L4Y 1G2

(905) 279-8154

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 812K – TILLEY, ALBERTA

There has been a merger between Branch 812K, Tilley, Alberta, and Branch 785K Mississauga, Ontario.

All members of Branch 812K will now hold membership in Branch 785K. This merger has taken place as of February 25, 2021.

If you should need any service on your policy,

or new or additional insurance, please contact:

ANNE MITRO

1094 HEDGE DR

MISSISSAUGA, ON CANADA L4Y 1G2

(905) 279-8154

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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive 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 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 842K – WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

There has been a merger between Branch 842K Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Branch 785K Mississauga, Ontario. All members of Branch 842K will now hold membership in Branch 785K. This merger has taken place as of February 25, 2021.

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

ANNE MITRO

1094 HEDGE DR

MISSISSAUGA, ON CANADA L4Y 1G2

(905) 279-8154

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 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



In Memoriam

Theresa and Mary Chupka Passed Into Eternal Life in January

A great loss to District 17 and Branch 173 has been felt by all members. During January of 2021, Theresa and Mary Chupka, sisters passed away. Both women were members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) since birth and actively participated in many Slovak and FCSU fraternal activities. They attended numerous local meetings, district picnics and were delegates to the conventions.

Theresa served as District Secretary and Mary as District Chaplain for many years. They will be truly missed and remembered by all the lives that they have touched.

Rest in peace, good and faithful servants.

- Submitted by Martha Zavada, Region 2 Director

Mary Magdalen Chupka



Mary Magdalen Chupka, of Hanover Township, PA, passed away on January 11, 2021, at her home.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, she was the daughter of the late Andrew J. and Sophie C. (Demsy) Chupka. She was a graduate of Sacred Heart Slovak Elementary School and also of E.L. Meyers High School, both of Wilkes-Barre. She attended Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre. She was employed by Morris A. Siegel Grocers, Wilkes-Barre, and the Social Security Administration, Wilkes-Barre, until her retirement in 1983.

She was an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union as well as St. Andre Bessette Parish, the former Sacred Heart Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre.

She was preceded in death by her sisters; Catherine T. Broderick, Helen P. Durkes, Margaret C. Chupka, brother; Joseph A.

Chupka.

Surviving her: loving sister Theresa Chupka, five nieces, one nephew, 10 great-nieces and nephews, one great-great-nephew and several cousins.

Theresa Chupka



Theresa Chupka, of Hanover Township, Pa, passed away on January 26, 2021, at her home.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, she was the daughter of the late Andrew J. and Sophie C. (Demsy) Chupka. She was a graduate of Sacred Heart Slovak Elementary School & also of E.L. Meyers High School, both of Wilkes-Barre. She was employed by the Social Security Administration, Wilkes-Barre, until her retirement.

She was an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union as well as St. Andre Bessette Parish, the former Sacred Heart Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre.

She was preceded in death by her sisters; Catherine T. Broderick, Helen P. Durkes, Margaret C. Chupka & Mary M. Chupka, brother; Joseph A. Chupka.

Surviving are five nieces, one nephew, 10 great-nieces & great-nephews, one great-great-nephew & several cousins.

**Attention Branch 200 Members, Friends & Family:
Pre-order today for pickup at CU Club before Easter!**



BAKE SALE - C U CLUB

(call 724-763-8191 to order) order deadline March 19th
(call 724-763-3430 on day of sale)

PICK UP DAY SATURDAY, March 27th

9 am till 11 am

PREORDER ONLY | order by MAR. 19TH

UPSTAIRS (banquet hall)

If unable to get upstairs, we will be glad to deliver downstairs

NUT ROLLS	\$ 10.00 EACH
POPPYSEED ROLLS	\$10.00
APRICOT ROLLS	\$ 10.00
PUMPKIN ROLLS	\$ 9.00



\$ 2.00 each



CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Preorder only!

CU CLUB

(call 724-763-9674 for ORDERING)
(call 724-822-0718 for ORDERING)
(call 724-763-3430 on day of sale for pickup)

SATURDAY, April 3rd

Pickup 11 am till 2 pm

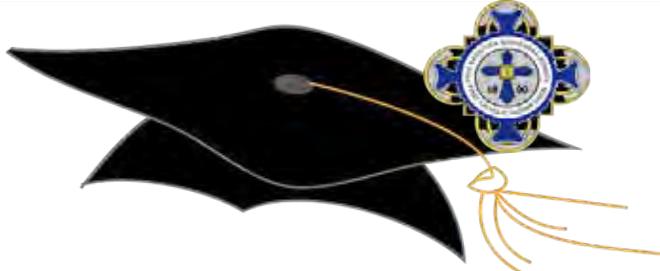
UPSTAIRS (banquet hall)

If unable to get upstairs, we will glad to deliver downstairs

Slovak Catholic Federation
60th National Convention
September 26-28, 2021
Danville, PA

As the National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F., here by call for the 60th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation. All members and current National Officers are to note the following dates and location for the Convention. The Convention dates will be; Sunday, September 26 to Tuesday, September 28, 2021 in Danville, PA. The National Secretary, Dolores Evanko will be your contact person for delegate registration and detail information for the Convention. The Convention will officially open with Mass to be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021 at Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, PA. The Celebrant will be the Right Rev. Gary, Hoover, OSB, Abbot of Saint Andrews Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. Abbot Gary also serves as the Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The homily for the Mass will be given by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Working Sessions for the Convention will be on Monday, September 27 and Tuesday, September 28 till all business is completed.

- Submitted by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F.,
National President, Slovak Catholic Federation



Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship

Deadline to apply: April 30th

- ✓ 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/>

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

“Štefan Mikuš - He Sacrificed His life in Defense of the Father of the Nation”

by **Jozef Mikuš**
(edited and translated by
Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.)

At the request of my colleague from Bratislava, Ivan Regula, a writer and publisher, I have translated the following story about Štefan Mikuš, written by his great nephew, Jozef Mikuš (not the same person as Professor Jozef Mikuš, the former Slovak historian and diplomat).

The article commemorates a man's heroic deed on Easter Monday in 1921. This year of 2021 marks the 100th year anniversary of the event. A ceremony is planned to rededicate a monument to him which the communists destroyed after World War II.

The Event

On March 28, 1921, Štefan Mikuš and over 5,000 other farmers went to Trnava to attend the Congress of the Christian Farmers' Association. Notable Church and political dignitaries presided at the gathering, including the Bishop of Nitra, Karol Kmetko (who celebrated the Mass), Dr. J. Buday, Ferdinand Ďurčanský, Senator Klimko, MP member Šmalík from Moravia, and Dr. D. Plechlo, the chairman of the Christian Association of Agriculture in Trnava. One of the keynote speakers was Monsignor Andrej Hlinka, a leading force behind the Slovak struggle for nationality rights in Austria-Hungary. After the war, he spearheaded the movement for Slovakia's autonomy and the observance of the Pittsburgh Agreement of 1918.

Following an opening Mass, the assembly gathered in the courtyard of the Abertinum to listen to convene the assembly. The historic Abertinum building was originally part of a Jesuit seminary for theological candidates, which was founded in 1635 by the Jesuit priest, Peter Pázmány. He had served as the Archbishop of Esztergom, the Primate of Hungary, and a significant leader of the Catholic Counter-Reformation in Hungary. Pázmány promoted the use of the Slovak language over the Czech language. As a result, Trnava became a center of Slovak education and literature, since most of its teachers and half of its students were Slovaks. Until recently, the Abertinum served mainly as a primary school, and part of the building was divided into a private art school and a dance conservatory. The building was recently returned to Trnava University, but is sorely in need of extensive repairs, which the EU will contribute to partially funding.

In the Abertinum courtyard, a left-wing mob viciously attacked Monsignor Andrej Hlinka, the renowned Slovak priest and national leader. Štefan Mikuš selflessly threw himself in front of the rioters to protect his beloved friend, one of Slovakia's most famous national leaders in the early 20th century. The uninvited mob was yelling “Musíme Hlinku zabiť!” (We must kill Hlinka!). Mikuš shouted back, “Man, what are you doing, you're going to kill him! We won't let you have Hlinka!” (Človeče, čo robíte, veď ho zabijete! My si Hlinku nedáme!) An enraged attacker then hit Mikuš on the head with a club (Mikuš, 2014; Sidor, p. 457).

Several other farmers from Dolná Krupa and Špačince were also severely injured. Štefan's son and an acquaintance managed to escape the violent mob and rush him to safety. After treating his bleeding wounds,



Štefan Mikuš



Jozef Mikuš,



Replica of the Štefan Mikuš statue

they took him home by train to Leopoldov, and then to Ratkovce in a rented wagon.

Despite his serious injuries, Štefan Mikuš was more concerned about Hlinka than his own well-being. He asked, “Did anything happen to Hlinka?” Unfortunately, Štefan came down with pneumonia and died after three days. Before dying, a priest heard his confession and administered last rites. He passed away on April 4, 1921 (Štefan Mikuš, Hlavné správy).

Biography

Štefan Mikuš was born on August 9, 1859 in Ratkovce, a village in the Hlohovec District of the Trnava Region of western Slovakia. He attended primary school in the Slovak language, which was still taught before the wave of Magyarization of schools started. Upon graduation, he worked at home on a farm and also served as his village's leader (richtár).

Štefan came from a strong Roman Catholic family. In 1883, he married Anna (née Vávrová from Špačince). They had five children together - two sons and three daughters. All went on to live productive lives. Rudolf's eldest son was ordained a Jesuit priest and rose to be the Provincial of his order in Slovakia. Rudolf held that position until the

communists suppressed the order on the Night of the Barbarians on April 13, 1950, when they liquidated all religious orders in Czechoslovakia. His other children also did well. Štefan Jr. started a teaching career and later was chief inspector at an ironworks. The eldest daughter, Valeria, and the youngest Philomena, both became teachers. The middle daughter, Mária, chose to be a housewife. The grandchildren did not forget their dedo and dedicated a commemorative plaque to him on June 21, 2014 at the cemetery in Ratkovce.

Interestingly, the author of the original article in Slovak, Jozef Mikuš, the great nephew of Štefan Mikuš, was also the first newborn citizen of the first independent Slovak state. He was born on March 14, 1939, around three o'clock in the afternoon, at the time the Slovak Parliament ratified Slovakia's independence. His life paralleled the fate of Slovakia.

Because of his background, he was denied higher education, so he trained to be a lumberjack. Fortunately, he initially found employment teaching at a forestry school, but then lost his job when the communists found out he was a practicing Catholic. In search of better medical care for his ill daughter, he emigrated to Austria in 1971. To scrape by, he worked at various jobs to survive: a handyman in a garden restaurant

at the Ferris wheel in Vienna; preparing furniture for carpenters to finish; a salesman for a Jewish merchant. After the fall of communism, he returned to Slovakia in 1991 and utilized some of the entrepreneurial skills he learned to improve and expand a family wine business. Today, the Mikuš family is one of the largest wine producers in Slovakia, annually producing a million liters of vino.

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The following article was originally published in Slovak as “Obetoval svoj život pri obrane Otca národa.” The English language version has been translated and edited by Michael Kopanic, Jr., in Kultúra, 4/2021, 24. February 2021, p. 11.

PRI OBRANE ŽIVOTA BLÍŽNEHO OBETOVAL VLASTNÝ ŽIVOT

Blíži sa sté výročie tragickej udalosti, ktorá sa odohrala pri príležitosti ustanovujúceho snemu Kresťanského roľníckeho združenia v 20-tych rokoch 20. storočia, presne 28. marca 1921 na nádvorí vtedajšej meštianskej školy Abertinum v Trnave. Akcie sa zúčastnil medzi inými aj Otec slovenského národa Mons. Andrej Hlinka. Do snemovania sa votrela nepozvaná, bojovo naladená skupinka trnavských sociálnych demokratov. Tí v priebehu jednanja snemu vyvolali roztržku a po slovných útokoch a výkrikoch aj fyzicky, drevenými polenami zaútočili na rečnícku tribúnu s jediným

cieľom zabrániť za akúkoľvek cenu vystúpeniu Andreja Hlinku.

V momente, keď bolo jasné, čo sa chystá urobiť spomínaná skupinka, do cesty sa im pohotovo postavil aj jeden z prítomných účastníkov snemu a zároveň osobný priateľ Andreja Hlinku, roľník Štefan Mikuš, aby ho vlastným telom ochránil a zabránil tak fyzickému násiliu. Pri tejto obrane utrpel úraz - fraktúru lebky a o niekoľko dní 3. apríla 1921 na následky ťažkého poranenia skonal.

Správania roľníka Štefana Mikuša nemožno hodnotiť inak ako slovami hr-

continued from page 20

PRI OBRANE ŽIVOTA BLÍŽNEHO OBETOVAL VLASTNÝ ŽIVOT

continued from page 19

dinský čin. Na obranu zdravia a života blízkeho neváhal nastaviť vlastné telo. Vo Svätom písme čítame, že nikto nie je hoden väčšej lásky ako ten, kto položí život za svojho blízkeho. Tento jeho udatný počin ocenilo po viac ako 20-tich rokoch tejto tragickej udalosti v čase 1. Slovenskej republiky mesto Trnava odhalením sochy „Sedliak Štefan Mikuš“ na znak úcty k jeho obeti na území svojho mesta.

Žiaľ, tento pamätník inštalovaný v roku 1944 ako spomienka na hrdinský čin Štefana Mikuša na Univerzitnom námestí v Trnave nevyšiel krátko po skončení 2. svetovej vojny pozornosťou iným socialistom a „bojovníkom“, príslušníkom prokomunistického Zväzu slovenských partizánov, ktorý tento pamätník v októbri 1945 svojvoľne strhli a zničili.

Skoro 80 rokov muselo uplynúť, aby sa na základe dobových záznamov roľníkovi Štefanovi Mikušovi pri výročí storočnice jeho hrdinského činu opätovne odhalila už len replika pôvodného pamätníka. Pochopiteľne presne na deň stého výročia tejto tragickej udalosti a výlučne len v réžii jeho blízkeho príbuzného, Jozefa Mikuša st. Veľká škoda, že sa v Trnave pre tohto hrdinu opätovne nenašlo miesto. Sklamanie je o to väčšie, že mesto tento nezištný hrdinský čin už raz ocenilo. Dnešní čelní predstavitelia nie sú pravdepodobne schopní dôslednej apolitickej reflexie, ktorá by im pomohla naprávať chyby a omyly svojich predchodcov. Replika tohto dobového pamätníka bude preto dočasne odhalená na súkromnom pozemku pred rodinnou firmou pána Jozefa Mikuša „JM vinárstvo“ v Doľanoch v okrese Pezinok.

Vzhľadom na momentálnu nejasnú pandemickú situáciu nie je vylúčené, že sa plánované slávnostné odhalenie repliky sochy nakoniec nebude môcť uskutočniť v pôvodne plánovanom termíne 28. marca 2021. Aktuálne informácie k tejto udalosti budú všetkým záujemcom včas oznámené.

Jozef Mikuš st.

The Translated Article

The centenary of a tragic event is approaching. It occurred on the occasion of the founding congress of the Christian Farmers Association (Kresťanské roľnícke združenie) during the 1920s at University Square in Trnava. The event took place on March 28, 1921 in the courtyard (dvor) of the Albertinum.

Among those taking part in the event, was the father of the Slovak nation, Monsignor Andrej Hlinka. An uninvited militant group of Social Democrats from Trnava entered the building. During the congress, they caused a scuffle by shouting verbal attacks and disrupting the meeting. Armed with wooden clubs (and bricks), they also physically attacked the speaker's rostrum with the sole aim of preventing Andrej Hlinka's presentation.

When it became clear what the group was going to do, one of the participants in the assembly, a farmer named Štefan

Mikuš, quickly stood in their way to protect him and prevent them from physically harming Hlinka, who was also his close personal friend. While defending him, he suffered a skull fracture. (Several other defenders of Hlinka were also injured in the attack.) A few days later, on April 3, 1921, Mikuš died from the severe injuries that he had sustained.

One cannot look at the behavior of the farmer Štefan Mikuš as anything but a heroic act. He did not hesitate to place his own body in a position to defend the life and well-being of his neighbor. We read in the Holy Scriptures that no one has greater love than one who lays down his life for his neighbor.

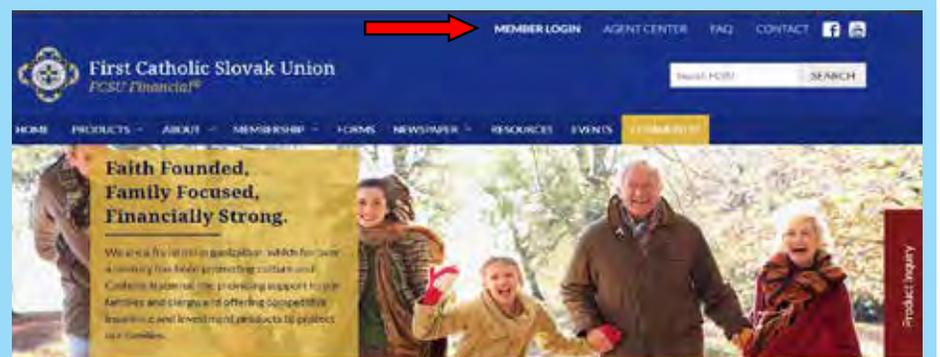
Over twenty years after this tragic event, during in the time of the First Slovak Republic, the city of Trnava recognized this brave deed. In 1944, the city unveiled a statue of "Sedliak Štefan Mikuš" ("Štefan Mikuš the Peasant," by the sculptor Ján Hučko) on University Square in Trnava, a sign of respect for his sacrifice. (The city also renamed one of its streets Štefan Mikuš Street (Ulica Štefana Mikuša - Kopanic).

Unfortunately, this monument did not escape the attention of other socialists and "militants." Shortly after World War II, members of the pro-communist Union of Slovak Partisans (Zväzu slovenských partizánov) took the matter into their own hands. In October 1945, they arbitrarily tore it down and destroyed the monument. (The communists also changed the name of the street that had honored him to Moskovská ulica – Moscow Street. – Kopanic).

After nearly 80 years, and based the records from the time, a replica of the original monument to farmer Štefan Mikuš would be scheduled for unveiling, on the centenary of his heroic deed. Understandably, Štefan Mikuš, wished to commemorate the anniversary of this tragic event and the initiative of his close relative, Jozef Mikuš.

It is a great pity that Trnava has again not found a place for this hero. My disappointment is all the greater because the city of Trnava had at one time recognized this selfless heroic action. Today's leaders of Trnava are probably not capable of consistent apolitical reflection, which would help them correct the mistakes and errors of their predecessors. Therefore, a replica of this monument will be temporarily installed and unveiled on private property in front of the family-owned company "JM vinárstvo Doľany" (The JM winery Doľany) of Jozef Mikuš in the village of Doľany, which is situated in the northern part of the Pezinok district.

Given the current unclear situation with the pandemic, it is possible that the planned ceremonial unveiling of the replica of the statue will not be possible as originally scheduled on March 28, 2021. Updated information on this event will be communicated to all interested parties in a timely manner.



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, 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***

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

The Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be closed



Friday, April 2, 2021, in observance of Good Friday



Monday, May 31, 2021, in observance of Memorial Day



Slovakia to Grant Citizenship by Descent up to 3rd Generation: 800,000 Americans Could Qualify

From the article by Parviz Malakouti-Fitzgerald in Los Angeles, and Samuel Durovcik in Brno, as posted on Investment Migration Insider: Slovakia's cabinet recently approved their proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act (no. 40/1993). The bill includes an offer of citizenship by descent up to the third generation (great-grandchildren) of former Czechoslovak and Slovak citizens. To read the full article go to: <https://tinyurl.com/tr6ct6h3>



Book Corner



Advance Praise:

"This is a loving portrait of Slovak families whose hopes are first raised by the Prague Spring and then dashed by the Soviet invasion in summer 1968. Viliam Klimáček, superbly translated by Peter Petro, captures the anger and humiliation, the bravery and betrayal – not to mention the distinctive styles and aromas – of late-60s Czechoslovakia. It is also a tale of exile, about painful decisions to stay or leave, and the awkward adjustments that greeted new arrivals to Canada, the United States and Israel. Above all, it is a deeply personal story: for once, the politicians are not named and we are no poorer for their absence."

—James Thomson, Columnist, *The Slovak Spectator*

"*The Hot Summer of 1968* focuses on the day-to-day struggles of Slovaks whose lives were changed irrevocably by the bitter legacies of Cold War politics."—Charles Sabatos, author of *Frontier Orientalism and the Turkish Image in Central European Literature*, professor of comparative literature at Yeditepe University

With a humanism and a talent for creating a novel based on real testimonies, Slovakia's foremost writer and playwright, Viliam Klimáček has written *THE HOT SUMMER OF 1968*, a remarkable story of 10 people whose lives were irrevocably affected by both Prague Spring and the Soviet invasion in August 1968 (Mandil Vilar Press; Trade Paperback Original; June 1, 2021). The book has been translated into English by the talented Peter Petro.

In the spring of 1968, the Czechoslovakian Communist Party introduced "socialism with a human face," known as "Prague Spring." Suddenly the citizens of Czechoslovakia enjoyed the freedom of the Press, an end to arbitrary wiretaps, and the right to travel without prior authorizations and visas. Their borders opened to the West, consumer goods appeared in the stores, and the winds of freedom blew over the country. That summer, Alexander and Anna boarded their Skoda Felicia, a brand-new convertible, to join their daughter Petra in Bratislava, where she had just completed her brilliant medical studies.

Tereza, the daughter of a railway worker who survived the concentration camps and a Pravda editor who had long taken in Hungarian refugees, stayed in a kibbutz in Israel to reconnect with her Jewish culture. Józef, a pastor defrocked for refusing to denounce parishioners to the Party, delivered his first uncensored sermons on the radio.

But these reforms were not well received by the Soviet Union, and in late August of 1968, the USSR sent half a million Warsaw Pact troops and tanks to occupy Czechoslovakia and put an end to this brief experiment. Every citizen had to make a choice: leave or stay? Thousands of Slovaks fearing retribution fled their homeland—some escaped to Vienna—only an hour away by train, others fled farther afield to England, Israel, South America, Canada and the United States.

Celebrating the identity of a people, its folklore, its beauty, and its vitality, Klimacek vividly retells in *THE HOT SUMMER OF 1968* the stories of ten real people (whose names have been changed) enmeshed in this difficult moment in history and reveals the impact of these rapidly moving events on his characters and the lives of their families. They all made the decision to leave their homeland and depart on the perilous journey seeking refuge and freedom in new countries. Some saw their families torn apart; others lost all their possessions or were dispossessed. And, like all immigrants, they had to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. What were their challenges? How successful or happy were they? Would they ever be able to return or reconnect with their families in their homeland? They all now became part of a growing Slovak diaspora in the modern world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Viliam Klimáček graduated from Bratislava University's Faculty of Medicine. Co-founding the alternative theatre GUnaGU in 1985, he has been its actor, director, and playwright. In the mid-1990s he gave up medical practice, devoting himself entirely to the theatre and writing. His most successful books include the novels *Nad'a má čas* (*Nad'a is Not in a Hurry*, 2002), *Námestie kozmonautov* (2007) and especially *Bratislava 68 : Été brûlant* (*Horúce leto 68/The Hot Summer of 68*, 2011).

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR: Peter Petro, the translator, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies at the University of British Columbia, born in Slovakia, earned his B.A. (1970) and a M.A. (1972) in Russian literature at the University of British Columbia and his Ph.D. in comparative literature (1978) at the University of Alberta. He is the author of several books including a translation of the prize-winning novel by Milan Simecka, *The Year of the Frog*.

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Distribution: Consortium Book Sales and Distribution: 800.283.3572 or sales.orders@cbsd.com



Maria Bozekova blows out the candles on her birthday cake.

Branch 716 members celebrating the happy occasion with other parishioners.



Happy Birthday Branch 716 Treasurer Maria Bozekova

Sunday February 28, 2021, after Slovak Mass at St. John's Nepomucene, NYC, Branch 716 and other parishioners went to St Catherine's park near the church. We celebrated the birthday of Branch Treasurer Maria Bozekova. Refreshments brought by Maria were served. Branch 716 sang happy birthday to her and shared in the birthday cake.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



Slovak-American Cultural Center 2021 Webinar Series

- **The 8th Continent: Creative Solutions for Saving our Oceans** featuring architect Lenka Petráková 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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S-ACC, P.O. Box 5395, New York,
www.SlovakAmericanCC.org

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

One Slovak Family: Expanding Slovak Citizenship

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

Slovak and Canadian Americans trace our roots to our ancestors' homeland of Slovakia and some of us prize our Slovak background. We value our traditions and culture, love our unique Slovak foods, and wish to retain our ties with Slovakia. We feel Slovak as part of our being. But when we travel to Slovakia, or do business there, we are officially considered to be "foreigners."

Global Slovakia wants to change that status. It has launched a movement entitled "One Slovak Family" for those who wish to recover their rights of citizenship, and/or facilitate the process of obtaining dual citizenship based on Slovak ancestry. But the broader aim is to reconnect with our Slovak roots and tap the talent which has left their family's original homeland.

Since the late 19th century, one-third of Slovaks have emigrated abroad, and that trend has continued since the Velvet Revolution of 1989. Emigration from Slovakia has ranked among the highest of any peoples worldwide, second only to the Irish. Many "hyphenated" Slovaks are scattered throughout the world - in the USA, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and many other countries around the globe (2 million in just the USA have Slovak roots!).

Some of Slovakia's best and most talented people have settled abroad, and continue to do so because of higher wages and the perception of less opportunity in Slovakia. Over the course of history, many factors have contributed to the straining of ties with our original homeland: poverty, wars, onerous military drafts, Magyarization, Czechization, anti-immigration laws, totalitarian governments, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and time itself.

Most other countries (for instance, Czech Republic, Poland, Ireland, Italy, etc.) make it relatively easy for the descendants of emigrants to return to their family's homeland, and to obtain citizenship. Unfortunately, Slovakia does not rank among them and it "makes it needlessly hard for her sons and daughters to come home."

Slovakia needs to grow as a country and now faces a declining birth rate; the Slovak population could decline by as much as 30% given current trends. Thus Slovakia must gain more citizens in order to even maintain its population at today's count. By extending Slovak citizenship to Slovak descendants, it would help unite our nation. When we grow in population size, we also grow in influence and gain more political and economic sway around the world.

In summary, "One Slovak Family" aims to reconnect Slovaks abroad with their homeland and reunite the Slovak family. As a starting point, it is lobbying so that the Slovak government will rewrite legislation on the conditions for becoming a Slovak citizen. It also aims to harness the full power and influence of the larger Slovak community in the world and facilitate its connections with the homeland. Success in this endeavor might achieve the following goals:

Slovakia will gain representatives around the world.

Emigrants will champion the interests of their homeland abroad.

They will publicize and raise awareness of the country's opportunities in powerful places, circles, and through networks.

They will make it easier for Slovak delegations, leaderships and businesses to engage and bridge build with native communities abroad.

Slovak citizenship would also provide holders with all the rights and benefits of EU membership, including the right to attend universities in the EU, facilitate business dealings, etc.

"Slovakia can only benefit from uniting its population: we are ONE SLOVAK FAMILY." Join the effort and visit the website: Join us to learn more: www.oneslovakfamily.com

The Team

Here is a list of the leading personalities on the "One Slovak Family" Team.

Dr. Zuzana Palovic, the founder of the non-governmental organization, Global Slovakia and author.

Parviz Malakouti-Fitzgerald, an American-born immigration attorney of Slovak/European and Iranian heritage.

Samuel Ďurovčík, a native of Bratislava, is a student at Masaryk University's Faculty of Law in Brno, Czech Republic, specializing in Administrative and Citizenship Law.

Professor Martin Javor is a Slovak historian and associate professor of history at the University of Prešov. He is also the director of the Museum of Emigration to North America – Kasigarda, located in Eastern Slovakia.

Professor Michael Kopanic is an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Maryland Global Campus, formerly UMUC. A specialist on Slovak history, he has spent his academic career learning, teaching, and writing about history, culture, and the Slovak language.



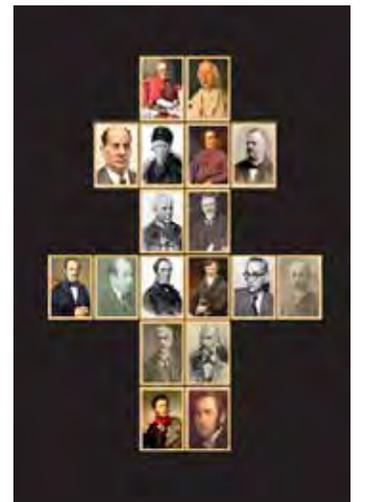
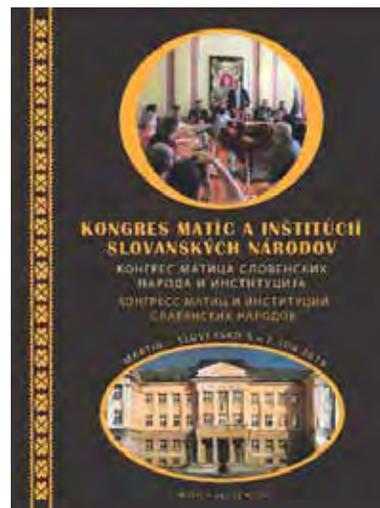
Slovak Passports

Kongres Matíc slovanských národov a inštitúcií - Reprezentačná publikácia slovanských kultúrnych a vedeckých horizontov

Nová publikácia s názvom Kongres Matíc slovanských národov a inštitúcií vzdáva hold rovnomennému podujatiu, ktoré usporiadala Matica slovenská pri príležitosti 100. výročia oživotvorenia Matice slovenskej a podpísania Memoranda národa slovenského v Martine od 4. do 7. júna 2019. Publikácia je jedinečnou pamätnicou a pod jej zostavenie sa podpísali Marián Gešper - predseda Matice slovenskej a Zuzana Pavelcová - riaditeľka Regionálneho múzea Matice.

Obsiahla kniha s takmer štyrmi stovkami strán združuje príspevky a prejavy popredných predstaviteľov slovanských matíc a inštitúcií a je preložená do troch jazykov: slovenčiny, srbčiny a ruštiny. Obsahuje tiež bohatý fotografický materiál doplnený adresárom aktuálnych kontaktov hostí a fotokópií prezenčných dokumentov. Veľká obrázková galéria osobností slovanského sveta vzdáva hold ich príslušným slovanským krajinám. Ďalšie informácie a objednávku publikácie nájdete na stránke: www.vydavatel.sk.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Congress of Matrix of Slavic Nations and Institutions Publication Honors Slavic cultural and scientific horizons

A new publication entitled The Congress of the Matrix of Slavic Nations and Institutions, pays tribute to the event of the same name which was organized by Matica slovenská on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the revival of the Matica slovenská and the signing of the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation, in Martin, Slovakia, from June 4-7, 2019. The publication is a unique memorial that has been compiled and signed by Marian Gesper - chairman of Matica slovenskej and Zuzana Pavelcová - director of Matica's Regional Museum.

The comprehensive book of almost four hundred pages brings together contributions and speeches by leading figures of Slavic matrices and institutions, and is translated into three languages: Slovak, Serbian and Russian. It also contains rich photographic material supplemented by a directory of current guest contacts and photocopies of attendance documents. A large picture gallery of personalities of the Slavic world pays tribute to their respective Slavic countries. For more information and to order the publication, go to: www.vydavatel.sk.

Zuzana Pavelcová

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. 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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

(TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

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

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (via teleconference)
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer (via teleconference)
 Gregory Maurer, Chairman of Auditors (by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The President presented the minutes of the December 12, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. 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 December 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 December:

Disbursements for the month of December 2020:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 311,423.49
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 34,525.39
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

Larry White led a review of our current Investment Policy and Guidelines. He reviewed the Other Than-Temporary-Impairment (OTTI) Treatment clause in the policy. "In order to identify, evaluate and determine the proper carrying value of potentially other-than-temporarily impaired assets held by the Society, the Society will follow the authoritative guidance for assessing and evaluating whether to record a loss due to impairment." With this clause in place, the Society will receive a monthly report on any potential bonds that are temporarily impaired. This addition (OTTI) will be presented to the Board at the March 2021 meeting.

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.

MAI REVIEW:

Richard Buoneor and Seth Shalov, representing MAI Investments, gave an extensive review of our investments with MAI and presented new investment opportunities. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

CLUTTERBUCK FUND:

Robert Clutterbuck Jr., representing the Clutterbuck Fund, gave an extensive review of our investments with Clutterbuck and presented new investment opportunities. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

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 February.

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 were well above projected sales for 2020.

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 late 2021, subject to coronavirus developments.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

The President stated that the Scholarship Committee will meet before the February Executive Committee meeting to review the suggested changes to expand our scholarship program. The recommended changes will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual March Meeting.

KROLL BOND AGENCY:

The President stated that he received a draft of the report from Kroll Bond Agency. It is currently being reviewed and updated. The report will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual March Meeting.

CONVENTION:

The Executive Secretary stated that he is contacting hotels that are available and able to accommodate us for the 2022 Convention. He will report his findings to the Board of Directors at the Annual March Meeting.

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 first half 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.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 7

	T	O	M	B		F	L	O	P		R	I	C	K	
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