



Catholic Fraternal Jednota

THE UNION
USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 130

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

NUMBER 6007

Message from the President

Recently, while doing some research for one of our members I was reading thru the publication called "Slovak Catholic Parishes and Institutions" in the United States and Canada.

This book was published in 1955 by us, The First Catholic Slovak Union, and printed in the original Jednota printery in Middletown. It contains 183 pages of text and pictures (all black and white).

The Foreword to this book was by Theodore Kojis, O.S.B. Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad's Abbey, Cleveland, OH.

It reads: "This year is the centenary of Father Furdek's birth. It is fitting that the first organization founded by him should publish this brief historical survey or directory of all the Slovak parishes and religious institutions. Their existence today, if not entirely, at least in great measure was made possible by his inspiration.

In the process of immigrating to these shores for the past one hundred years, the Slovak people were careful not to abandon the living Faith which they inherited while still in Slovakia. Loving their Faith, they made every necessary sacrifice to preserve it. Step by step, American Slovak parishes were established. Schools and religious institutions were opened from which a great number of priests and nuns went forth to labor in the Vineyard of the Lord. Quite naturally, these priests and nuns worked among their own people also, and this helped them preserve their heritage.

Today our parishes, our schools and religious institutions are living testimonials to the living Faith of the Slovak people. They also are a definite contribution of the Slovak immigrants to the spiritual treasure-house of American Catholicism. May they inspire our younger generation to emulate our forefathers in the practice of our Faith and to cherish our sacred heritage."

The book lists over 250 parishes and schools with the names of priests and number of parishioners and schools with the



Andrew M. Rajec

number of pupils, and in most cases excellent pictures of the buildings. In some cases, it also lists founding parishioners.

The book lists Philip A. Hrobak as Compiler-Editor. Hrobak states that Fr. Furdek and members of the FCSU played a leading role in the establishment of some 300 Catholic parishes and 150 parochial schools and several high schools, (all listed by diocese), along with a number of Abbeys, Monasteries and nun mother-houses.

Hrobak acknowledges the changing character of many of these institutions, while honoring the rich history created by Fr. Furdek and the hundreds of thousands of Slovak immigrants that left the "old" Slovakia to find a better life.

As time passes and memories fade, we either forget, or many members do not even know of the history of our Society and the men and women who were its founders and builders.

However, the great history of the First Catholic Slovak Union and American and Canadian Slovaks should be acknowledged, and thru our efforts will continue to be treasured.

The book was published in 1955 (over 55 years ago). Some would say the 1950s and early 1960s were the "golden age" of American Catholicism, when churches and schools were being built and the pews were filled. This was the time before "the pill", the sexual revolution, Vatican II, the Vietnam War, and the rapid

continued on page 3



May is not only a month to celebrate mothers, it also is the time to honor the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, with devotions such as praying the rosary. How was the Month of Mary founded? See page 3 of this issue.

**Yay - it's
may**

With FCSU Fun in Bloom!

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8 Year Flexible Deferred Annuity
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Insights and Viewpoints



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

63 – Pentecost – May 23, 2021 [Mass during the day]

Today we come to the conclusion of the joyful Easter season and are given an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us for the journey ahead as the Church year continues to unfold. The significance of the first Christian feast of Pentecost was not likely fully understood by those who shared in it, who were ecstatic over the gifts of the Spirit they received, yet struggled to connect them to the mystery of Jesus' resurrection.

Soon enough the Church would begin to sound the depths of the grace of the Holy Spirit and come to recognize that this was the same Spirit that Jesus himself had promised before his death and resurrection (e.g.: John 14:15-17). Belief in the Holy Spirit as the very Spirit of God—as “a person of the Holy Trinity” as Christians would say later—was thus part of the core of our faith from the earliest days of the Church in Jerusalem, even if Christians' insight into the Spirit and its role developed over time.

On that first Pentecost the presence of the Spirit “appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim” (Acts 2:3-4). This was a dramatic beginning for the Church and for her missionary commission. Although the circumstances may not be as dramatic, we are charged to carry out the same mission in our own day, responding to Jesus' command to “Go forth, and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt 28:19).

To this end, throughout the centuries every Christian who is baptized has received a portion of God's Holy Spirit. While the particular gifts vary—we do not often speak in tongues as we hear in Acts today—the descent of the Holy Spirit does gather us all into one body in Christ, just as it did the first Christians.

This point is brought home in the second reading, which (in one option) can be taken from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians. There we read of the “fruits of the Holy Spirit” which you may have had to memorize for a Baltimore Catechism or CCD lesson in your earlier days. Paul tells us: “the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:21-22). It is by means of these gifts of the Spirit that we are to contribute to the unity of the Church, the living Body of Christ.

A beautiful means of building up unity in the Church is given in today's Gospel reading, where Jesus appears to the disciples and says: “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (John 20:22-23). Forgiveness of sins is something greatly needed in our Church and in our world today. As we reflect on the Holy Spirit received by the earliest disciples on Pentecost and by us in our baptism, we should remember that the forgiveness Jesus commanded the disciples to extend to others was a reflection of the forgiveness he had shown them.

Relying on the fruits of the Holy Spirit and grateful for our place within the Body of Christ animated by the Spirit, may we take heart that we have been given the very same strength that the earliest disciples were given—to go forth and share the Good News



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

May 30, 2021 – Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity Gospel – Matthew 28: 16 – 20

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. The Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YouCat) describes the Trinity this way, “Christians do not worship three different Gods, but one single Being that is threefold and yet remains one. We know that God is triune from Jesus Christ: He, the Son speaks about his Father in heaven. He prays to him and sends us the Holy Spirit, who is the love of the Father and the Son. That is why we are baptized ‘in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’” Mt. 28:19 – 20. The mystery of the Holy Trinity cannot be explained, understood or solved. It is a mystery that is central to our faith that in the one God we encounter the three persons who are totally and completely one God and who relate to us as three persons, each in a distinct way.

Although we don't find the term, “Trinity” in the Scriptures, the Trinity is seen throughout the scriptures beginning with the Creation account in Genesis when God (The Father) Creates by Speaking his words (Jesus is the Word), and the spirit hovered over the vastness and God breathed into man (the Spirit). In the First letter from John we heard a description of the Trinity. John speaks of God's love and how we are blessed by the Father, Son and Spirit. Their love is the perfect love of the Trinity that is God's love and embraces us and blesses us in different ways. The power of God's love is the power to transform, strengthen and empower us to become more faithful followers of Christ, and witnesses in the love that we have for one another.

The Gospel takes place at the Ascension and gives us the final instruction of Jesus. He clearly outlines the mission of the followers to “make disciples of all nations,” by Baptizing them. He then gives the formula, familiar to all of us, of how to Baptize. I am a Catholic today because these disciples took this command seriously and traveled throughout the known world preaching and baptizing. The message of Christ was passed on from generation to generation. Shortly after I was born my parents had me Baptized to share in their Faith. I was born a citizen of the United States, and at Baptism became a citizen of Heaven. It would be interesting to trace our Christian genealogy all the way back to the one who was present at that final instruction of Jesus. Imagine all who are part of our genealogy over that two thousand year period. There would be people of various nations and states of life all joined together by our Baptism into God's family.

Through Baptism we are all united with God and one another. The mystery of the Triune God fills us with the Love of the Father, the Peace of Christ, and the unity of the Holy Spirit. We are united with God who draws us into His family; He is the loving Father, He is the Son our Brother who brings us Peace, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us. In celebrating the Feast of the Holy Trinity it is a day for us not to get bogged down with trying to wrap our minds around an unsolvable mystery, rather let us allow the mystery of God wrap himself around our hearts and souls and fill us with a deeper experience and appreciation of God. May the unity of God enter our lives to bring inner unity to anything within us that is in discord, as well as unity in the outward tensions we face. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is a to behold with awe and to celebrate with joy.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9	TUESDAY, JUNE 1
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14	TUESDAY, JULY 6
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11	MONDAY, AUGUST 2

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

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

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

Message from the President

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growth of the "information age". There have been many changes since, and they will most likely continue or even accelerate.

Starting with this May issue, a month which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are printing Part I of the book Preface that contains more history and commentary of the past and also of the times in which it was written (1955).

We can then view the past with our knowledge of the present.

One final note, on a not-unrelated subject of historical interest to our Faithful, we are running an updated article in this issue about the first woman in Slovakia to be beatified by the Catholic Church – the Blessed Zdenka – written for Jednota by her niece.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President



L-R Jozef Korcak, grandson Jack Korcak, Anna Korcak, Maria Jurasi, and grandson Janik Vasil with baskets.



L-R Father Roman Palecko blessing baskets inside the church



L-R Grandson Janik Vasil, grandson Jack Korcak and Jozef Korcak.



L-R Grandson Janik Vasil in church with small basket.



Easter Basket Blessing with St. Matthew's Society Branch 45

Members of St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 were blessing baskets at St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Clifton, NJ on April 3, 2021. Included, were even the youngest members from Korcak, Vasil, and Jurasi family along with their grandparents.

- Submitted by Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

Message from the National Chaplain: Honoring Mary

The month of May is traditionally reserved for honoring Mary. Many parishes have May Processions in her honor. Statues of Mary are often crowned with a wreath of flowers. Endless reflections on Mary and her being the role model of mothers are written and given in sermons and homilies.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

For our reflection this month I offer a different approach. May in the United States is the month during which men and women who took an oath to defend our nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic are honored. Two federal holidays are observed to give tribute to all who wear or have worn the uniform of either the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard. The third Saturday in May is Armed Forces Day and the last Monday of May is Memorial Day.

Servicemen and women are known for possessing certain attributes. These characteristics include bravery, fortitude, faithfulness, and loyalty. They love their country. They know the value of discipline.

It is noticeable that many of these attributes are similar to virtues and graces bestowed by the Holy Spirit. Not only is May the month during which our military personnel are given special remembrance, but is also the month that we usually celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost.

We honor and give glory to the Holy Spirit for consoling us, empowering us, and encouraging us. We pray to the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide us to be faithful to the truth of the gospel.

This May, while we never forget to honor Mary, also ask the Holy Spirit to pour our his seven-fold gifts, especially the gifts of wisdom, courage, and fortitude, upon our men and women in the service on active duty. O Holy Spirit, protect them from all harm and return them home safely to their loved ones.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

How May Became the Month of Mary

"God wills that all his gifts should come to us through Mary" (St. Bernard)

It was in Rome, towards the end of the eighteenth century, one fine evening in May. A child of the poor gathered his companions around him and led them to a statue of Mary, before which a lamp was burning, as is the custom in that holy city. There, these fresh young voices sang the Litany of our Lady. The next day, the little group, followed by other children, again gathered at the feet of the Mother of God. Next came their mothers, to join the little assembly. Soon, other groups were formed, and the devotion rapidly became popular. Holy souls, troubled by the disorderly conduct which always increased and became graver at the return of pleasant springtime, saw in these growing practices the hand of God, and they cooperated with the designs of Providence by approving and promoting this new devotion, as a public and solemn act of reparation. The Month of Mary was founded.

- from catholicnewsagency.com



The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Mothers this May, the month which is set aside every year to honor them.

Thank you for keeping the traditions alive!

- Rev. Thomas A. Nasta Chaplain
- Andrew M. Rajec President
- Andrew R. Harcar, Sr Vice-President
- Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary
- George Matta II Treasurer

VP Annual Report Correction

In the Annual Report of the Vice President published on p 4 of the April 14, 2021 issue of Jednota, under Marketing – Year 2020, the Number of Contracts Sold was inadvertently missing its second line. The corrected version is as follows:

Number of Contracts Sold	
Helen Chesar	10
Sabina Sabados	8
Barbara Patula	7
Vicki Lynn Schaub	7
Florence K. Matta	6

Region 4:	5 entries
Region 5:	8 entries
Region 6:	8 entries
Region 7:	2 entries
Region 8:	5 entries

Annual Report of National Fraternal Activities Director

Dear Reverend Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Officers, and Board of Directors:

I hope everyone and their family and friends are doing well during these world health issues we have been facing. Do to this major crisis, some of our planned events and contests maybe or have already been impacted. As we are addressing the upcoming events on a daily basis, I will do everything possible to keep all Board Members and the Home Office up to date on the status of events.

The list of events that are listed below are up to date as of this morning on Wed. March 17th, 2021. However, we will start with a quick recap of the final events that finished since the last board meeting in December 2020.

LOSERS' POOL 2020

Throughout our Society, 105 members entered the 2020 contest.

Here's a quick rundown of the most crucial weeks in this year's contest:

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

Congratulations to Finalists

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

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

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

Kids' Coloring Contest: Entries: 108

Region 1:	8 entries
Region 2:	10 entries
Region 3:	15 entries
Region 4:	20 entries
Region 5:	16 entries
Region 6:	16 entries
Region 7:	22 entries
Region 8:	1 entry

Overall Cup Winner (Name to be placed on The FCSU Traveling Cup): Bridget Fay (Region 3)

Young At Heart Coloring Contest: Entries: 64 11

Region 1:	4 entries
Region 2:	4 entries
Region 3:	5 entries
Region 4:	10 entries
Region 5:	10 entries
Region 6:	10 entries
Region 7:	8 entries
Region 8:	1 entry

Overall Cup Winner: Fred Kardohely (Region 4)

Ugly Sweater Contest: Entries: 48

Region 1:	5 entries
Region 2:	7 entries
Region 3:	1 entries
Region 4:	4 entries
Region 5:	6 entries
Region 6:	18 entries
Region 7:	5 entries
Region 8:	2 entries

Overall Cup Winner: Ronald Boone (Region 4)

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest: Entries: 37

Region 1:	4 entries
Region 2:	4 entries
Region 3:	1 entries

Overall Cup Winner: The MacMath Family (Region 1)

The Ugly Sweater Contest and Christmas Tree Decorating Contest have received great feedback. A lot of members are asking if they could view all the entries on the FCSU website. I have submitted all the photos that were emailed to me for the contest to the Home Office. I hope there is a way that we can post all these entries. We will most likely be running these contests again next holiday season. As far as the Young at Heart Contest, I had a request to open this up for all ages above the children's coloring contest age group. However at this time with all the other events going on at the same time, I do not feel comfortable taking on another event.

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

March Madness:

(Since our meeting is today on Saturday, this will also be the 2nd Day of Round 1 in the tournament).

Total entries: 186 eligible (193 mailed in entries)

Region 1:	17
Region 2:	31
Region 3:	7
Region 4:	43
Region 5:	24
Region 6:	47
Region 7:	15
Region 8:	2

Kentucky Derby Hat Contest: This will be our 3rd Annual Kentucky Derby Hat Contest. Date: Saturday May 1st, 2021.

FCSU Online Talent Contest: (New Event)

Date: Sunday April 18th, 2021

Time: 2:00pm (EST.)

Location: Online

Bowling Tournament: This event has been cancelled for 2021, but has been scheduled for May 13th and 14th, 2022.

Location: Cleveland, OH

Bowling Lane: Brookgate Lanes

Hotel: Crowne Plaza

More details to follow in the near future.

Regional Picnics: TBD

Golf Tournament: This will be a combined event with SCS/GCU

Date: Friday August 6th thru Sunday August 8th, 2021

Location: Treasure Lake Golf Resort, DuBois, PA

Hotels: Fairfield Inn & Suites; Hampton Inn

Details to follow in the upcoming week. Please look for more information online and in the April Jednota.

New Fall Event:

Who Has Pointers? (Name to be worked on.....)

Calling all HUNTERS: Please take a picture of your Moose or Deer in the field. Live or Dead. However must be holding a Jednota in the picture. The largest number of pointers will win. (This event is trying to draw more Region 8 members into events. However it is open to anyone). More details to follow.

And Finally "THE FCSU TRAVELING CUP" 2020 Regional Winner is

Once again thank you for all your help and support.

Kevin J. Collins
Fraternal Activities Director

Annual Report of Region 1 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It is my honor to be an officer on the Board of Directors representing the members of Region 1. I would like to thank the Executive Board and my fellow board members for the opportunity to work together for the benefit of our society, the First Catholic Slovak Union. I enthusiastically look forward to our continued collaboration in strengthening and revitalizing the Jednota.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the incredibly dedicated Jednota members in my region for their resilience, adaptability, support, and enthusiasm during these unprecedented times!

As Region 1 Director, I have performed all the duties required of me as stipulated in the

continued on page 21

Annual Report of Region 2 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It has once again been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 2.

In 2020, I performed all the duties required of me as stipulated by the bylaws. I attended the Annual and Semi-Annual Board of Directors meetings, as well as one of the monthly executive committee meetings at the invitation of the President. All of the board meetings were all held via teleconference. I attended both of Region 2's district meetings in 2020 which were both held via Zoom meetings. I also attended via Zoom part of Region 1's December Meeting/Christmas Party as Jednota Santa. At both District 2's meetings I provided the delegates a written update with information learned at the board meetings and other information as well.

Due to all the Covid restrictions and cancellations, I was unable to participate in the usual fraternal activities (Bowling and Golf) in 2020; however I and several members of my district were able to participate in the Young at Heart Coloring Contest, the Ugly Sweater Contest, and the Football Losers Pool. I'm very happy to report that all 3 top winners in the Football Losers Pool were in Region 2. Congratulations to all! It is my intention to participate, and hopefully attend, fraternal events again whenever permissible.

As always, I continue to keep my branches informed through my reports at the district meetings and will continue to do so in the future.

Fraternally,

Damian D. Nasta
Region 2 Director

Annual Report of Region 3 Director

What a challenging year 2020 has been! It has forced our region to change, adapt and grow to meet the obstacles created by the pandemic. Many planned events; picnic, film and choir were cancelled. Despite the challenges, I have continued to be an active regional director.

- Attended and participated in all teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors
- Participated in teleconference meeting of the FCSU Scholarship Committee
- Participated in teleconference meeting for the Branch Revival Committee
- Joined in the AQS Mortgage Lending Webinar

Activities in our Region:

- Coordinated and hosted district meeting in my area
- Arranged Zoom district meeting with the help of IT branch member and District President
- Maintained lines of communication throughout the district and branches
- Reported on FCSU concerns, products and programs to update district officers and branch members at district meetings and branch meetings
- Assisted members with posting of information in Jednota paper
- Served as branch treasurer for Branch 05P
- Assisted branch members with all of their FCSU concerns, policies, death benefits and annuities

Fraternal Activities:

- Completed and renewed professional fraternal insurance license for Pennsylvania
- Investigated other local avenues of advertisement for FCSU products
- Participated in Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania (FSNEPA), attending meetings in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas
- Attended and delivered prayers at funerals for fraternal members
- Investigated activity for a regional fraternal event

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Zavada
Region 3 Director

Annual Report of Region 4 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew M. Rajec, Executive Officers and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors,

The Coronavirus has impacted all that we do from family gatherings to social activities such as dining out at a restaurant. This past year has been a challenging one and as regional director, it has squelched many programmed activities. I've attended all board meetings by teleconference. At the request of the president, I attended the executive board meeting by teleconference held on May 15, 2020.

I attended virtual meetings of the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District #9 this past year and the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District #12. I attended one district meeting in person at the George Onda District on August 8, 2020. Due to the virus this past year, many activities were canceled. Hopefully, the coming year will see a re-opening of facilities and an increase in fraternal activities.

I did not attend any national events as these activities were also canceled. Fraternalism was greatly missed by myself and I'm sure many of the people who participated in previous years.

Region IV did receive the FCSU cup from our Fraternal Activities Director, Kevin Collins, our region has not had many events where the cup could be displayed. A proud moment that did occur in our Region was the appointment of Bishop Larry Kulick to serve as the sixth bishop of the Greensburg Diocese.

I've encouraged and invited others to become more involved with fraternal activities during our zoom meetings. I look forward to serving in a higher capacity as the Covid vaccine starts to be distributed among our members and anxiously await the second half of this year with hopes that more and more social activities begin to happen.

I want to thank all fraternal members for their past hospitality where both my wife and I were graciously welcomed. I hope that I can inspire more members to participate in their branch, district and national activities this coming year. It truly was a pleasure to serve as your regional director this past year and I look forward to serving the new year with all of its challenges.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at my home at 724-437-0892, on my cell at 724-970-7642 or send an email to "jrmarmol@verizon.net".

Fraternally,

James R. Marmol
Region 4 Director

Annual Report of Region 6 Director

Dear Reverend Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Officers, and Fellow Board Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

For Region 6, as I am sure for all Regions throughout our Society, 2020 was a challenging year due to the onset of COVID-19. All fraternal activities were either cancelled or on hold in my Region. Before the state of Ohio largely shut down in March, I coordinated attendance for District 10's annual minor league hockey game in Cleveland scheduled for March 28; 115 members were signed up before the game and the season were cancelled. Later in the year, I coordinated Branch 24's participation in the first-ever Vilija takeout dinner, which supported both St. Andrew Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club. Many members of both of these organizations are members of the FCSU, including the monks of St. Andrew in Branch 24 and Branch 855's Henry Horvath who is president of the Slovak Radio Club.

Similarly, many branch and district meetings were impacted due to state restrictions in place as well as concerns for member safety. Many chose to continue meeting in person with COVID-19 protocols (social distancing, mask wearing). My own Branch 24 held meetings virtually, assisted greatly by my daughter Branch 24 Secretary Anna Gibson. Like many of our members I was not comfortable with the technology but with Anna's help I was able to successfully learn to participate and host meetings virtually. I then offered assistance to all active branches and districts my Region that wanted to try meeting virtually. Several did, in fact, successfully hold meetings via computer and/or telephone. Some met in a hybrid fashion, with members attending in person as well as virtually. I attended meetings in person in the beginning of the year.

After the state of Ohio issued stay at home recommendations, I did not feel comfortable attending meetings in person but I did keep in close touch with my districts and branches by telephone, text and email.

I fulfilled my duties according to FCSU bylaws by participating in all National Board Meetings and an Executive Committee Meeting by invitation of the National President. All of these were held telephonically.

I am proud to report that during an extremely challenging year the active districts and branches of Region 6 worked very hard to keep FCSU fraternalism alive and well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J. Ivanec
Region 6 Director

Breakdown of 2020 Region 6 Events Attended by Date:

Attended in person:

2/18, District 14 meeting, Youngstown, OH

2/22, Branch 855 meeting, Independence, OH

2/23 Branch 259 meeting, Struthers, OH.

Attended virtually:

3/20: Board Meeting, teleconference

6/20: Board Meeting, teleconference

9/13: Branch 553, hybrid meeting

9/13, District 10, hybrid meeting

9/19: Board Meeting teleconference

9/21: Branch 228, virtual meeting, hosted

10/3: Branch 24: virtual meeting

continued on page 6

Annual Report of Region 6 Director

continued from page 5

10/16: Executive Board Meeting, teleconference

10/19: Branch 228 virtual meeting, hosted

11/14: Branch 855 virtual meeting

11/15, Branch 553, hybrid meeting

11/15: District 10, hybrid meeting

11/16: Branch 228 virtual meeting, hosted

11/22: Branch 888, virtual meeting

12/5: Branch 24 virtual meeting

12/12: Board Meeting teleconference

12/13: Branch 888 virtual meeting

12/19: Branch 855 virtual meeting

12/21: Branch 228 virtual meeting, hosted

Annual Report of Region 7 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors.

The year 2020 has been a totally different year than anyone of us have ever experienced. The Covid-19 Pandemic has created many obstacles worldwide and the FCSU is no exception.

I have performed all the required duties in 2020 as listed in the FCSU bylaws. Many of the tasks normally completed were hampered by the pandemic over the past year.

It has been my honor and privilege to represent Region 7. I look forward to continuing to serve the FCSU as Regional Director in the future.

Respectfully,

Tim C. Graves
Region 7 Director

Annual Report of Region 8 Director

Mr President, Executive Committee, Father Nasta and Fellow Board Members:

As always, it has been a privilege and honor to represent the First Catholic Slovak Union as a Regional Director for Region 8 for the year 2020. I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.

The following details are a summary of the activities and events that I participated in and represented the FCSU Region 8.

Due to Covid 19, most Fraternal Activities were cancelled, other than those created by Kevin Collins.

Fraternal Activities

✓ I have attended the Annual and Semi Annual FCSU meetings in year 2020 via teleconference.

✓ In September I attended the Executive Committee meeting by invitation of the President.

✓ I have also attended the 2 Board of Director meetings in June and December 2020 via teleconference.

Local Activities – District 8

✓ I have attended the local annual meeting of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba District 19 and Branch #785, as well as their semi-annual meetings via Zoom calls. I still keep in touch with Alex Drobnik, Past President of Okres Prince Ratislav District 20 for any updates to the district and branches in the Province of Quebec.

✓ A Local golf Tournament was held in September 2020 with members attending

✓ I also attended funeral services of our deceased members in Mississauga Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,

Miloš Mitro
Region 8 Director

Blessed Zdenka - A Heroine for the Ages

Margaret Shelling Van Lierde



Bl. sestra Zdenka

The first woman in Slovakia ever to be beatified by the Catholic Church was Sr. Zdenka Schelingova, a member of the order of The Merciful Sisters of the Holy Cross. On September 14, 2003 in a suburb of Bratislava, Slovak Republic, Pope John Paul II presided over the moving beatification ceremony. I was present for this historic event because she is my aunt, the youngest sister of my father, John Shelling. The next to last of ten children born to Paul and Zuzanna (Panik) Scheling, she grew up in Kriva, a village at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains.

At the age of 15 she felt called to serve God, but in a way she never expected. After entering religious life and completing her training, she worked as a nurse. As the Communists swept through the country, then known as Czechoslovakia, priests and nuns were turned out of their seminaries and convents, imprisoned and tortured, or put to hard labor. However, nurses were in short supply, so Sr. Zdenka and her fellow Sisters were put to work in government hospitals.

In 1952, while caring for a priest who, as a prisoner, had been badly beaten by members of the totalitarian regime, Sr. Zdenka overheard he was to be taken the next day to be sentenced. Kneeling before the crucifix she prayed, "Dear God, for his life I offer my own. Help him to live and to reach safety". She drugged the guard, dressed the priest in civilian clothing and in the dark of night escorted him out of the hospital into the hands of those who would lead him to safety in Austria. For this, she paid a terrible price.

She was arrested, and after several months of brutal torture, was brought to trial, convicted of treason, and sentenced to 12 years in prison. Three years of continuing beatings and isolation brought her to near death. Officials did not want to risk her dying in prison since this would expose the extent of her ill treatment, so they released her. She died a short three months later on July 31, 1955 at the age of 38. About 40 years later, after the Communists left and religious freedom was restored, the people of Slovakia requested their Bishop to open her Cause for Beatification, one of the steps to full Sainthood. Eventually the Holy Father declared her a martyr and approved the request. She is now known as "Blessed". But that isn't the end of the story.

Far away, in Colorado, the husband of a friend of my cousin, Suzanne Pevny, had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was discharged from the hospital in the Fall of 2006 with no hope of recovery. Through constant petitions to Blessed Zdenka, begging for her intercession to God for healing on his behalf, he began to miraculously improve and eventually made a complete recovery, with no medical explanation. A Cause for Canonization was opened and is now before the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican, having successfully passed through the Diocesan investigative phase in Denver.

Each year, multitudes celebrate the anniversary of her death in her native village, and in Podunajske Biskupice where she entered the Motherhouse as a postulant, and where her major relic lies in the adjoining church. A Pilgrimage Center is being created there for the large numbers of visitors who are drawn to connect with God through Bl. Zdenka's courageous story. Many statues, paintings, monuments and memorial plaques have been created to attest to her heroism. Artists have written and produced numerous songs, films, books and plays about her life. And chapels, schools and care homes bearing her name can be found not only in Slovakia, but elsewhere in the world as well.

I am deeply humbled and remain in awe of the enormity of her sacrifice, the depth of her commitment to God, and her tremendous courage to offer her life for another. She serves as a shining example of how trust in God can give us strength to endure all types of brutality, the patience to never give in or give up, the ability to unconditionally forgive, and the confidence in God's love for us. At the end, she said, "Forgiveness is the greatest thing in life". What a legacy

For Those Who Wish to Donate:

Overnight accommodations and meals, along with spiritual services and space for conferences will be available along with other amenities at the Pilgrimage Center in Podunajske Biskupice to meet the needs of pilgrims. If you wish to donate to the project, please make your check payable to:

Kongregacia Milosrdnych Sestier Sv. Kriza and send it to: 4 Ruzova, Trnava, Slovak Republic, 91702.

Your gift will help provide a lasting memorial and is greatly appreciated!



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Stay up-to-date with the FCSU. Receive the current issue of Jednota right in your inbox – along with all the latest member info. It's free, easy and safe. We'll never share your email address! To sign up: <https://www.fcsu.com/contact/>

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.

With this next Sister in the series, Mother Emmanuel, we go way back to the beginnings of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and her inestimable service to the newly founded congregation in Danville, PA.

- Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

Her Story: Mother Emmanuel



It is said that all beginnings are hard, but we know also that God is there to guide and strengthen. He puts the right people in the right place and blesses the endeavors with the blessings of success if they seek to do His Will. Take for example Father Matthew Jankola, the founder of the SS.C.M.'s, Mother Mary, the first General Superior who was in office only a short time, and Mother Emmanuel who served the newly-founded congregation from August 1, 1916-August 4, 1922. She it was who goes down in history as the one who established the fledgling congregation in Danville, PA at their new Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart, in the former Castle Grove, once the Bennett estate. Without the guidance and benevolence of His Excellency Philip Richard McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg, and others, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius may never have succeeded.

Mother Emmanuel was born Mary Cecilia Pauly in Kahanovce, Austria-Hungary, on January 11, 1887. At a young age she came to the U. S. with her parents who settled near Wilkes-Barre, PA. In 1903 when Father Jankola considered founding a religious congregation to minister to the spiritual needs of Slovak immigrants, Mary was among the first to decide to dedicate her life to this mission. Little did she know then that she would be the one responsible for making difficult decisions and enduring unbelievable hardships in leading a congregation of very young women founded in 1909.

Mother Emmanuel's predecessor in office was Mother Mary who became General Superior in July 1915. Unfortunately, her health began to deteriorate and she was advised by Bishop Hoban to resign for the good of the congregation. She followed his advice and Mother Emmanuel, who had been elected her assistant, assumed office on March 25, 1916. She was not yet 30 years old and, of course, had no experience in leadership. With the help of God, she showed she was up to the task of guiding the new congregation to meet the demands of ministering to new immigrants to the USA.

Mother Emmanuel was in office about a month when Bishop Philip R. McDevitt became Bishop of Harrisburg. One can see in this appointment the hand of God guiding a new spiritual leader in determining the best course of action in any decision to be made. Over the years Bishop McDevitt proved to be a wise and benevolent advisor and spiritual guide to the young congregation.

In 1918, the influenza epidemic reached the Harrisburg area. One cannot help but be reminded of our present circumstances. We are in the throes of a pandemic and trying to maintain our equilibrium so that we and those for whom we are responsible will stay safe. On October 5 the Health Department of PA closed churches, schools and places of amusement. Bishops asked Sisters to volunteer to tend the sick. All were young and inexperienced, but they nursed patients, took care of children, prepared meals, kept vigil with the dying. A gentleman who was a bit belligerent listened to Sister and did what he was told. Neighbors helped the Sisters and gave them a meal. Even though some of these Sisters became ill, no one died. The epidemic did not touch the novitiate and the orphanage.

Mother Emmanuel was noted for her thrift and interest in agriculture. Ten acres of land in Middletown were put under cultivation as a truck farm and vegetable garden. Jednota farmhands did the heavier labor while the Sisters contributed what they could. The Jednota dairy provided milk at a small cost. Two senior novices worked in the orphanage and their salaries added to maintaining the small religious household.

They saved what they could to put toward purchasing the new Motherhouse. The novices did hard manual labor, weeding, hoeing, caring for the poultry, working in the orphanage laundry, taking care of the house and the grounds. The young Sisters even tried their hand at repairing plumbing, electric fixtures, etc.



Mother Emmanuel was noted for her interest in agriculture, and for helping the Jednota dairy provide milk at a low cost.

Mother Emmanuel also made wise choices in other areas of her duties as General Superior. Because of their youth and inexperience, no one could possibly assume the responsibility of novice formation. She, therefore, asked Mother Germaine, I.H.M. for assistance.

Mother Germaine responded by sending Mother Monica, I.H.M. in August 1918 to guide the formation of these young women who had answered the call to minister to immigrant children in parish schools. She remained until August 1923, a year after Mother Emmanuel's time in office.

Another challenge for Mother Emmanuel surfaced and required immediate and wise planning and negotiation. Because the orphanage was growing, the Sisters needed more space for their living quarters.

Mother had heard of property in Danville which had been put on the market in November 1918. The property known as Castle Grove had been abandoned for fourteen years. The mansion had been built in 1867 by John Grove, Sr. for his two sons, Michael and John, Jr. Woman of prayer that she was, Mother Emmanuel brought this intention before the Lord and invited the Sisters to do the same. She asked the novices to say 1,000 Hail Mary's for this intention. As always, God supplied the necessary assistance in this crucial endeavor. Bishop McDevitt assumed the role of patron and adviser aided by Father Julius Foin, originally from Danville and serving in Middletown, and Father Thomas F. X. Dougherty, pastor of St. Joseph parish in Danville. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, Mrs. Bennett agreed to the sale which was completed on June 7, 1919.

According to our history, the move to Danville was made by freight and by train. A note in Mother Emmanuel's file tells an endearing story. Written by Sister Juliana, I believe, one of the early Sisters who began religious life in Middletown, PA, it recounts an incident on the way to Danville by train. "Mother thought we would need a cat," she says. "A novice carried the cat on the trip to Danville. She was embarrassed when the cat meowed. When we arrived in Danville, a group of children came to us asking to carry our luggage. Sister carried the cat to Mother." This amusing story makes me think of the present, 2021, where there are still resident cats in the barn on the Villa property.

Naturally the property basically untended for 14 years, needed vast cleaning efforts, both inside and outside, but by August 28, enough of the building had been readied so that the first Reception and Profession ceremonies could be celebrated in the spacious sun parlor.

The Sisters were also encouraged to continue their studies. Courses were provided by the Immaculate Heart Sisters, the Mercy Sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Sisters were encouraged to help each other to improve their ministry of education. Because the primary purpose of the congregation was the education of youth, Mother Emmanuel and her council decided to open a school in the mansion. In September 1920, the dream was realized when the first students under high school age arrived. Among them were two who had come from as far away as Kansas City, Kansas. A simple beginning later evolved into what was known as St. Cyril Academy.

As always Bishop McDevitt encouraged the Sisters to hone their skills as educators. At one time he had served as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and knew well how to both affirm and challenge the Sisters in their educational pursuits.

At the end of her term as Superior General, Mother Emmanuel declined re-election. She spent time in the host department, baking, cutting and packaging hosts which were sent to chaplains in the army and the navy. Ahead of her time, she focused on land conservation and the beautification of the grounds. Mother had a great interest in trees and gardens and planted many young trees on the property which evoke her memory and dedication and continue to be a testimony to her interest and planning.

At one time Mother Emmanuel resided on what was called the Villa South Side. The novices lived on the opposite side of the building with Mother Angela as directress of novices. One of the postulants, Mary Anne Godlewski from Wilkes-Barre, was an active individual who was always looking for something to do to keep her occupied. One day Mother Angela sent her over to South Side to see Mother Emmanuel, hoping Mother would find some meaningful activity for Mary Anne. Mother Emmanuel decided that Mary Anne could water the huge cypress trees located in front of the building. They needed a great quantity of water each day without fail. Mother Emmanuel told me, "You will find the faucet on the side of the house and the watering can in the barn. She also told me I might need two cans because the cypresses required a lot of water." As Mary Anne, now Sister Christopher, tells the story, "I should have found a hose because it would have saved me a lot of time and energy." The best part of the story, though: "When I finished watering, Mother and I spent time together, sitting on the bench beneath the cypress trees, just talking. I enjoyed those little visits with her."

During the Ninth General Chapter plans were made to observe the congregation's Golden Jubilee from September 11, 1958-September 11, 1959. Naturally a special feature was to be the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Mother Emmanuel, one of the "Three Mary's, and the only survivor of the original three. The celebration, however, was not to be. On Saturday evening, December 27, 1958, Mother felt ill and retired early. As a precaution the Sisters called the doctor. Mother, however, exclaimed in her matter-of-fact way, "Call the priest; I am going to die." The chaplain, Father Joseph V. Smarsh came to hear her confession and give her the Anointing of the Sick. When the doctor came, he was not alarmed and promised to return in the morning. Father Smarsh had remained, however, and decided to return to give Mother the Eucharist which she received with her customary love and devotion. As she was making her thanksgiving, she lapsed into unconsciousness. On Sunday morning, December 28, Mother Emmanuel died. It was the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

At the Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass celebrated on December 31, two Bishops, three monsignori and some thirty priests were present as well as many laypeople and Sisters also because it was Christmas vacation. At the end of the liturgy, Bishop Leech declared, "The greatest legacy she has left her Sisters is the example of her holy life."

2021 Fraternal Event for FCSU Members to Join Now !



Important Information from the FCSU Fraternal Activities Director

The longer days and warmer weather brings us closer to the golf season and to our FCSU/SOKOL/GCU International Golf Tournament which will be held August 6th-8th at Treasure Lake Golf Resort, DuBois, PA.

We are looking forward to hosting a wonderful weekend of fraternalism and sportsmanship. The participants and guests for the International Golf Tournament will stay at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn or at Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Over the years, this event has become much more than a golf outing; it has evolved into a true fraternal family event. Many of our FCSU members now attend the tournament accompanied with their respective families, which has added to the richness of the event and true fraternal camaraderie.

Reserve Your Room(s) & Place on the Friday Practice Round

We are hoping to have a large turnout of golfers and guests this year, especially after the cancellation of the 2020 Golf Tournament due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Each golfer must make his or her own hotel arrangements by contacting the Fairfield Inn and Suites at 814-371-2260 or Hampton Inn at 814-735-1000. There is a block of rooms under FCSU/SOKOL/GCU. A Credit Card will be needed for incidentals.

Golf reservations for the practice round on Friday should be made with the Gold Course, 814-913-1482 or the Silver Course, 814-913-1480.

The Friday Hospitality will be at the Lakeview Lodge at Treasure Lake and the golf banquet buffet will be held at the Luigi's Villa in DuBois, PA.

Attending Mass

Our National Chaplain Father Nasta may be holding Mass at one of the hotels. This is TBD, based on hotel policy and status of Covid regulations in place at the time of event. Holy Mass obligation can also be fulfilled at a choice of many local churches. The address of the churches and Mass times will be available at the hotel when you check-in. A brief program will follow the banquet dinner. More information will follow in the near future.

Application and fee deadline for the tournament is July 9th (postmarked).

Please return your application (entry form) along with your \$15 entry fee and \$15 tournament expense as soon as possible to my home address: 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL, 32712. Please also check off your package of choice and include all associated fees.

If you have any questions pertaining to the event, please call me at 813-493-1515 or via email @ kevinfcsu@outlook.com

This will be a great fraternal event, and we hope to see all of you at Treasure Lake Resort this August. During the golf tournament all of the players and guests will follow the CDC guidelines in place at the time of the event for the state of Pennsylvania, Clearfield County and Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Kevin J. Collins

National FCSU Fraternal Activities Director

Details of Packages Available at the 2021 International Golf Tournament

1. Full Golf & Banquet Package: \$295.00 double or \$415.00 single occupancy

The full golf package is available for members and includes the tournament entry fee and prize money, three full rounds of golf with cart, two nights lodging, including breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. The golf package also includes the Friday night hospitality and a buffet (banquet) dinner at Luigi's Villa in DuBois, PA. (All taxes and gratuities are included). For additional banquet tickets please see below.

2. Golf-only Package: \$160

For FCSU members who may not require the lodging and meal package, this golf-only package includes entry fee and tournament expense fees. For banquet tickets please see below.

3. Non-golf Weekend Package: \$140 double or \$265 single occupancy

The non-golf weekend package rate is available for FCSU Members and guests and includes lodging and breakfast when you make your reservations at the Fairfield Inn or Hampton Inn. For banquet tickets please see below.

4. Banquet-only Member Tickets: \$25 per ticket

There is a charge of \$25.00 per person for those FCSU members who have purchased the full golf package but would like to purchase additional tickets for other FCSU members who are not golfing but would like to attend the banquet. This \$25 is also the price per person for FCSU members who have not purchased the full golf package (for example, those members who have chosen the golf-only package or the non-golf weekend package) but would like to attend the banquet.

5. Banquet-only tickets for Non-golfing, Non-Members: \$50 per ticket

Please note that for non-member guests banquet tickets may be purchased for \$50 per person.

2021 International Golf Tournament Rules & Regulations

August 6th – 8th 2021

Treasure Lake Golf Resort – DuBois, Pennsylvania

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Every contestant must be a member of the FCSU/Slovak Catholic Sokol/GCU in good standing for at least one (1) year or three (3) months with Single Premium Life Insurance.
2. (A) The golf tournament will consist of six (6) flights as listed below before applying 75% to handicap:

"A" Flight	0 to 12 Handicap	"D" Flight	Callaway System
"B" Flight	13 to 20 Handicap	"S" Flight	Senior, 62 years and over
"C" Flight	21 and over	"W" Flight	Women, Callaway System
- (B) Maximum Handicap per round: Men – 40 Women - 50
- (C) Only the Slovak Catholic Sokol /GCU/FCSU Handicap will be accepted for all flights.
3. The tournament shall be held with prevailing U.S.G.A. rules.
4. Callaway Flights: Golfers who do not have a handicap (handicaps are determined after two years or four rounds) of Tournament play. The Callaway Modified System will be used with two blind holes each round to calculate the daily handicap.
5. (A) All handicaps are subject to review and possible re-rating by "Handicap Committee". In the case of ties, lowest handicap will be declared flight winner.
- (B) Women golfers will compete in a separate flight with a Modified Callaway System.
6. All play will be 36 holes: 18 to be played on Saturday August 7th and 18 on Sunday, August 8th.
7. Entry Fee is \$15.00 and Tournament Expense is \$15.00. A Golf Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at Luigi's Villa 800 W. Weber Avenue, DuBois, PA 15801
8. Prizes: There will be a Champion in each flight and the prize money will be awarded according to the number of entries received for each flight.
9. Foursomes will be paired at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Participants wishing for special twosomes & foursomes, please indicate your golf partners on the golf tournament application.
10. Penalty for being tardy at the starting tee will be according to U.S.G.A. rules with loss of position.
11. Entries will close with a Postmark Date of July 9th, 2021. All tournament fees must accompany Golf Entry Form on page 10.
12. Make checks payable to: FCSU
13. Mailing address:

Kevin Collins
628 Heather Brite Cr.
Apopka, FL, 32712



Show Your Fraternalism! Sponsor a Hole at the 2021 International Golf Tournament

Promotional Opportunities on 24" X 18" Sign
Cost \$50.00

Sponsoring a hole with your own large, visible sign at the 2021 International Golf Tournament is a great, fraternal way to promote your District, Branch, business, or family to over 120 golfers the weekend of August 6th through the 8th, 2021. The Golf Tournament will be held at Treasure Lake Resort, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

Send the information that you want printed on your sign via email or regular mail.

Please send the information with a check for \$50.00 made payable to: FCSU

Deadline: July 9, 2021 (check must arrive by this date).

Email: kevinfcsu@outlook.com

Mailing Address: Kevin Collins

628 Heather Brite Cr.

Apopka, FL, 32712

2021 Fraternal Event for FCSU Members to Join Now !

continued from page 8

2021 International Golf Tournament Entry Form

August 6th-8th 2021

Treasure Lake Golf Resort – DuBois, PA

Golf Practice Reservations: Gold Course - (814) 913-1482 & Silver Course (814) 913-1480

U.S.G.A. 36 Holes Men-5 Flights - Women-1 Flight

ENTRY DEADLINE: JULY 9th 2021

Every golfer must fill out a form and all fees must accompany this entry form.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Certificate#/Branch _____

Golfer Signature

I hereby certify that the name on this application is a bona-fide member of this Branch in good standing.

Branch President or Secretary

Tournament Start Times: 8:00 AM Saturday & 8:00 AM Sunday

Preferred Doubles Partner:

_____ Full Golf Package	<u>Double Occupancy</u>	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>	<u>Hampton Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 295.00	\$295.00

_____ Full Golf Package	<u>Single Occupancy</u>	<u>Fairfield Inn</u>	<u>Hampton Inn</u>
	Package Fee:	\$ 385.00	\$385.00
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 415.00	\$415.00

_____ Golf Only Package	Package Fee:	\$130.00	
	Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:	\$ 30.00	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 160.00	

_____ Banquet Only (Members)	<u>Banquet Fee:</u>	\$ 25.00	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 25.00	

_____ Banquet Only (Non-Members)	<u>Banquet Fee:</u>	\$ 50.00	
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 50.00	

_____ Non-Golf Package	Double Occupancy	\$140.00	\$140.00
_____ Non-Golf Package	Single Occupancy	\$265.00	\$265.00

All hotel reservations to be made directly through the **Fairfield Inn & Suites, DuBois, PA, 814-371-2260** or Hampton Inn, DuBois, PA 814-375-1000 ASAP. Please inform hotel that you are with the SOKOL/GCU/FCSU Group. There is a block of rooms held on the tournament credit card. A credit card will be needed for incidentals.

Mail to Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL, 32712



From the Office of the National President

As I promised in my message on the front of this issue, here is the first part of the Preface written by Right Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Dubosh, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood, OH, for the book entitled "SLOVAK CATHOLIC PARISHES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA".

This Preface comments on the history, both past and present, of the Slovaks and the Catholic Church, as he saw it in 1955.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Part I of the Preface from "SLOVAK CATHOLIC PARISHES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA"

With this Directory of the Slovak Catholic parishes and institutions, the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada, the largest Slovak fraternal in the world, commemorates the centennial of its founder, the Reverend Stephen Furdek. Father Furdek was a great American, a good Slovak, an exemplary priest of the Catholic Church, and a successful leader of his people. It was largely through his efforts that Catholic Action was propagated among the Slovaks in America. If it were not for Father Furdek and his followers, many Slovaks probably would not have participated in the work of the Church to the extent they did. What the Slovaks of America and Canada did under their good pastors and bishops to extend the kingdom of Christ on earth is, for the main part, briefly recorded in this book.

Father Furdek, born of humble, devout parents in Trstena Slovakia, then part of Hungary, on September 2, 1855, came to America several months before he was ordained to the priesthood on July 1, 1882, by Bishop Richard Gilmour of Cleveland, Ohio. Just about that time the Slovaks were literally pouring into America from old Austria-Hungary. Furdek did not wait long to unite his fellow countrymen in a common cause under the leadership of the Catholic Church, which had been the source of great comfort to the Slovaks for over a thousand years of misery and want, oppression and suppression. When representatives of eight independent Slovak Catholic benevolent societies from various cities answered the call of Father Furdek and met in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 4, 1890, he convinced them that they could do great things for God and the Slovak Nation if they joined together to form a Slovak Catholic organization on a national level. That is how the First Catholic Slovak Union was born. Today, this organization of Slovak Catholic men and women number about 98,000 members and has assets of \$22,000,000 million dollars and it is the only Slovak organization in the United States and Canada which has maintained its own orphan home since 1914.

Father Furdek and his followers, the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, played a leading role in the establishment of some 300 Catholic parishes, 150 parochial schools and several high schools; also St. Andrew Svorad's Abbey of Slovak Benedictines, Cleveland, Ohio; the Slovak Franciscan Fathers of Clifton, N.J., Pittsburgh, PA, and Valparaiso Ind.; the Order of Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Danville, PA.; the Slovak Dominican Sister, Oxford, Mich.; the Slovak Vincentian Sisters, Perrysville, Pa., and Bedford, Ohio; the Slovak Franciscan Sisters of Bellevue, Pa., Lacon, Ill., and Bethlehem Pa.; also the Slovak Benedictine Sisters, Tinley Park, Ill. The members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the other Slovak Catholic fraternal have given thousands of sons and daughters to the Church. The contribution made by the Slovak Catholics of America and Canada are great, indeed, though rarely mentioned and rightly evaluated even in Catholic circles.

The Slovak Nation numbers three million members in Slovakia proper, the land occupied by the Slovaks and their forefathers during the past 1500 years. Approximately the same number emigrated from Slovakia to other lands during the past two centuries because of political and economic oppression; at least one-third of the Slovak emigrants settled in the United States of America. Today, Americans of Slovak descent number over a million and a half souls, while Canadians of Slovak descent number about 60,000.

Unrecognized, ignored and practically forgotten, the Slovaks nevertheless are not a young or a new Nation, and are very much alive. They are, in fact, the oldest Nation on the central Danube and were the first Nation in central Europe to found an independent state. The forefathers of the Slovaks established the Great Moravian Empire in the ninth century and already in 830 A.D. worshipped in the church of St. Emmeram, which they had built at Nitra, the first Christian church on the territory of the western Slavonic nations.

The holy Scriptures were translated into the language of the ancient Slovaks already in the ninth century by Sts. Cyril and Methodius by means of the alphabet invented by St. Cyril. This most ancient literary medium of the Slovaks, commonly called Old Slavonic today, was approved by the Church as a language of liturgy. Shortly after the advent of the saintly brothers to the land of the Slovaks, ancient Slovak, or old Slavonic, replaced Latin as the language of Church liturgy. Ancient Slovak, then occupied the same position in the Church as Greek and Latin.

The Catholic Faith, due to the merits of western and eastern missionaries, especially the work of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, became so deeply rooted in the Slovak Nation that no pagan or schismatic reaction could eradicate or substantially alter it in the Nation as a whole over the centuries. Slovak Catholicism became so firmly entrenched that already in the ninth century Slovakia acted as the mediator of the Christian Faith and Christian culture in the neighboring countries to the east and continued to function as such even in the ensuing centuries. Even today 82 percent of the population of Slovakia is Catholic.

Look for a continuation of the Preface in the next Jednota

You also can access the 2021 International Golf Tournament Entry Form and all Tournament information by going to:
<https://www.fcsu.com/events/>

News From Slovakia

Vláda schválila predĺženie výnimočného stavu o ďalších 30 dní

Bratislava 27. apríla (TASR) - Výnimočný stav sa predĺži o ďalších 30 dní, rozhodla vláda na svojom online zasadnutí, ktoré sa konalo neskoro v pondelok (26. 4.) večer.

Podľa uznesenia vlády sa nočný zákaz vychádzania začne 29. apríla o 21:00.

Vládna pandemická komisia odporučila v pondelok popoludní predĺžiť výnimočný stav. Komisia dodala, že považuje za vhodné pozastaviť pravidelné testovanie COVID-19 na školách a nahradiť ho „intervenčným“ testovaním, ktoré by sprevádzalo testovanie v okresoch, ktoré sú podľa automatu COVID-19 považované za „čierne“. [Žiadny okres nebol označený ako čierny už dva týždne. - vyd. Poznámka]

Výnimočný stav sa mal skončiť 28. apríla a aj potom, čo vláda nariadila ďalšie predĺženie, musí ho ešte do 20 dní po nadobudnutí účinnosti schváliť parlament.

Vláda vyhlásila mimoriadny stav 30. septembra 2020 - k 1. októbru na 45 dní. Vláda ho následne niekoľkokrát predĺžila, naposledy k 20. marcu o 40 dní.



Ilustračný obrázok (foto TASR)

Illustration picture (photo by TASR)

Government Approves Extension of State of Emergency by Another 30 Days

Bratislava, April 27 (TASR) – The state of emergency will be extended by another 30 days, the Government decided at its online session held late on Monday (April 26) evening.

According to the Government resolution, the night-time curfew will start an hour later at 9PM as of April 29.

The Government's Pandemic Commission recommended extending the state of emergency on Monday afternoon. The commission added that it considers it appropriate to suspend regular testing for COVID-19 at schools and to replace it with 'intervention' testing that would accompany testing in districts that are considered 'black' according to the COVID-19 automaton. [No district has been designated black for two weeks now. – ed. note]

The state of emergency was supposed to end on April 28, and even after the Government okayed another extension, it still has to be approved by Parliament no more than 20 days after coming into effect.

The Government declared the state of emergency on September 30, 2020 – for 45 days as of October 1. Subsequently, the Government has extended it several times, most recently by 40 days as of March 20.

Najväčší počet ľudí, 650 000, sa zúčastnilo v prvý deň sčítania ľudu

Bratislava 6. apríla (TASR) - Najviac ľudí - 651 152 - sa zúčastnilo online fázy národného sčítania ľudu hneď v prvý deň, 15. februára, predstavitelia Slovenského štatistického úradu v utorok povedali na tlačovej konferencii venovanej predstaveniu úvodného nálezu zo sčítania ľudu.

Medzitým sa v piatok 26. marca zúčastnilo najmenej osôb sčítania obyvateľov- 42 418. V posledný deň sa sčítania zúčastnilo 108 356 osôb.

Na prvej (online) etape národného sčítania sa zúčastnilo celkovo 4 844 007 ľudí, čo bolo 86 percent slovenskej populácie.

Predseda štatistického úradu Alexander Ballek ocenil výsledky celkovo prvého online sčítania ľudu na Slovensku. „Výsledky prekonal očakávaní,“ uviedol a poukázal na skutočnosť, že odhadovaná účasť bola na 70 percent. Vyzdvihol prácu miestnych samospráv, médií a všetkých, ktorí sčítanie riadia.

Vedúca sekcie sociálnej štatistiky a demografie Štatistického úradu a garantka odborného sčítania Ľudmila Ivančíková uviedla, že priemerná denná účasť na sčítaní bola 95 000. "Klesla pod 50 000 iba na jeden deň," dodala. Ivančíková si myslí, že za výsledkami boli realisticky nastavený koncept a náčrty integrovaného sčítania ľudu, ako aj vysoká úroveň pomoci v rodinách, v ktorých starší členovia nemajú prístup na internet.

Na sčítaní sa zúčastnilo viac žien ako mužov, pričom pomer bol 52:48. Obyvatelia miest a obcí boli aktívnejší ako vidiecke obyvateľstvo (55:48).

Najaktívnejší pri sčítaní boli obyvatelia Žilinského kraja, na ktorom sa z nich zúčastnilo 92 percent. Medzi okresmi bol lídrom okres Námestovo (Žilinský kraj) s 95-percentnou účasťou. Z miest nad 50 000 obyvateľov bola najvyššia volebná účasť v Banskej Bystrici (90 percent). Čadca (Žilinský kraj) vykázala najvyšší obrat medzi mestami s počtom obyvateľov nad 20 000 (90 percent) a Dolný Kubín (Žilinský kraj) medzi mestami s počtom obyvateľov nad 10 000 (92 percent).

Online časť sčítania ľudu sa začala 15. februára. Ľudia sa do nej mali zapojiť do 31. marca prostredníctvom webovej stránky alebo mobilnej aplikácie. Sčítanie ľudu bude pokračovať v asistovanej fáze pre digitálne vylúčených ľudí do 31. októbra 2021. Prvé úplné zistenia by mali byť známe do konca tohto roka.



Predseda štatistického úradu Alexander Ballek a vedúca sekcie sociálnej štatistiky a demografie Štatistického úradu Ľudmila Ivančíková (foto TASR)

Statistics Office chairman Alexander Ballek and the head of the Statistics Office's Social Statistics and Demography Section Ľudmila Ivančíková (photo by TASR)

Largest Number of People, 650,000, Took Part on First Day of Census

Bratislava, April 6 (TASR) – The largest number of people – 651,152 – took part in the online stage of the national census on its very first day, February 15, Slovak Statistics Office representatives told a news conference on Tuesday dedicated to presenting the initial findings of the census.

Meanwhile, the lowest number of people – 42,418 – took part in the census on Friday, March 26. On its last day the census was completed by 108,356 people.

A total of 4,844,007 people took part in the first (online) stage of the national census, which was 86 percent of the Slovak population.

Statistics Office chairman Alexander Ballek praised the results of the first-ever online census to take place in Slovakia. "The results exceeded expectations," he said, pointing to the fact that the estimated turnout was 70 percent. He highlighted the work done by local governments, media and all those who manage the census.

Ľudmila Ivančíková, the head of the Statistics Office's Social Statistics and Demography Section and professional census guarantor, said that the average daily turnout in the census was 95,000. "It dropped below 50,000 for one day only," she added. Ivančíková thinks that a realistically set concept and outlines for an integrated census were behind the results, as well as a high level of help within families in which older members don't have internet access.

More women than men took part in the census, with the ratio standing at 52:48. Residents of towns and cities were more active than the rural population (55:48).

Residents of Žilina region were the most active in the census with 92 percent of them taking part in it. The district of Námestovo (Žilina region) with a 95-percent turnout was the leader among districts. Concerning towns with a population above 50,000, the highest turnout was seen in Banská Bystrica (90 percent). Čadca (Žilina region) reported the highest turnover among towns with a population above 20,000 (90 percent) and Dolný Kubín (Žilina region) among towns with a population above 10,000 (92 percent).

The online part of the national census started on February 15. People had until March 31 to take part in it via a website or a mobile app. The census will continue with an assisted phase for digitally excluded people until October 31, 2021. The first full findings should be known by the end of this year.

Jednota v Los Angeles vyznamenáva Dr. Mariu Cyprichovu z príležitosti jej narodenín.

Vzácná členka Slovenskej komunity v Los Angeles, CA, Dr. Mária Cyprich sa v apríli tohto roku dožila okrúhleho jubilea 80-tich narodenín.

Pri tejto príležitosti prevzala z rúk FCSU Distrikt 15 Prezidenta Pavla Skubeňa pozdravný list ktorý spoločne podpísali Milan Konkol a John Dorušinec za Slovak American Center, Jednota St. Joseph Branch 844, Los Angeles, a National Slovak Society. Oslávkyňa bola vždy hrdá na svoju Slovenskú príslušnosť, čo obohacovalo našu komunitu v diaspóre o zdravé národné povedomie.

S pránim dobrého zdravia a veľa ďalších životných úspechov sme si zaspomínali na jej obetavú prácu a funkčné obdobie v Slovenských spolkoch v Los Angeles, ktoré rozkvitávali množstvom hodnotných zážitkov.

- Predložené Pavlom Skubeňom, Prezidentom 15-tého Distriktu



Distrikt Prezident Paul Skubeň odovzdáva list doktorke Márii Cyprichovej

District President Paul Skubeň presents letter to Dr. Maria Cyprich

Jednota in Los Angeles Honors Dr. Maria Cyprich on Her Birthday

A unique member of the Slovak community in Los Angeles, CA, Dr. Maria Cyprich celebrated her 80th birthday in April this year.

On this occasion, FCSU District President Paul Skubeň presented a letter of greeting signed jointly by Milan Konkol and John Dorušinec and on behalf of the Slovak American Center, the Los Angeles branch of the FCSU (Jednota) St. Joseph Branch 844, and the National Slovak Society. The celebrant has always been proud of her Slovak affiliations, which have enriched our community in the diaspora with a healthy national awareness.

With a wish for good health and many other successes in life, we remember her dedicated work and tenure in the Slovak associations in Los Angeles, which have flourished with such valuable experiences and memories.

- Submitted by Paul Skubeň, District 15 President

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.

Robin Bird Upon the Bough

© 2007, George Kossik,
Branch 584



Robin bird up on the bough,
Mid the snow-white cherry tree;
Feathered friend I know not how
All this loveliness could be?
And the sweetness of your song
Is there more delight to hear?
All the winter I have longed
For your favorite hymn upon my ear.
Now you're hopping here and there,
Till the evening shadows spread;
But the sun that shines so fair
Is no longer overhead.

Robin Redbreast go to bed.

2021 JEDNOTA Publication Schedule

Issue Date

Deadline to
Receive Information

June 9

June 1
(Memorial Day, May 31)

July 14

July 6
(Observed Independence Day, July 5)

August 11

August 2

Sept 8

August 30

October 13

October 4

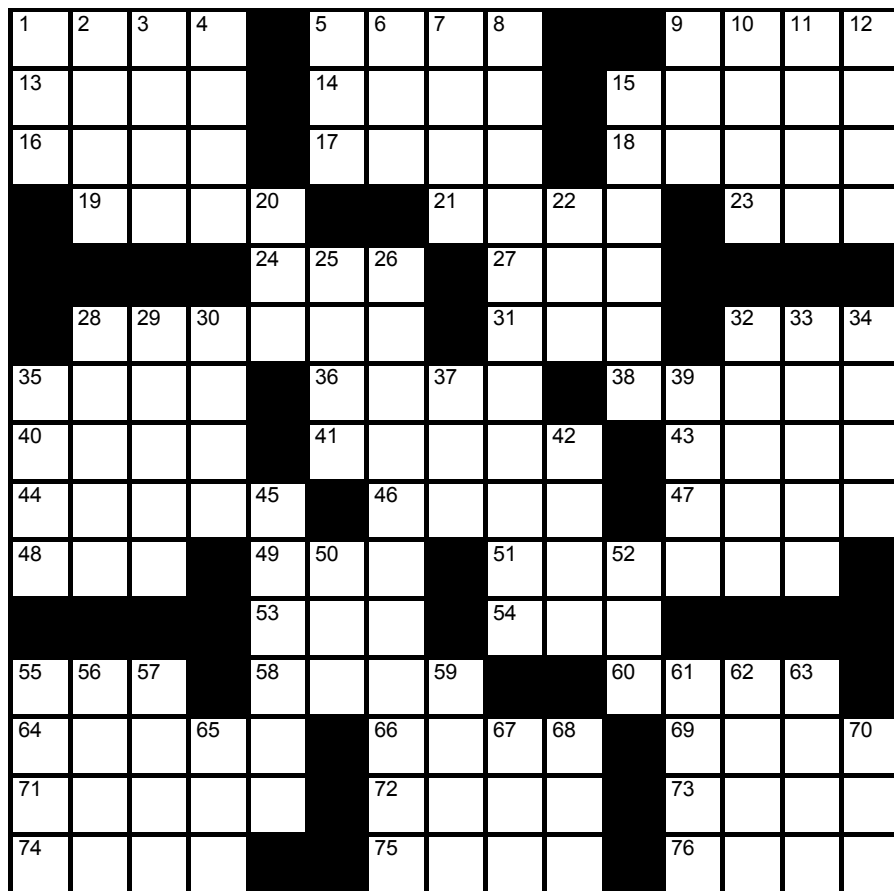
November 10

November 1

December 8

November 29

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 "Woe is me!"
- 5 Stately trees
- 9 Flu source
- 13 Supermarket section
- 14 Navy commando
- 15 Cake topper
- 16 Carbon compound
- 17 Pseudonym of H. H. Munro
- 18 Poet's "below"
- 19 Peddle
- 21 Chooses
- 23 Bygone bird
- 24 Kind of welder
- 27 Country club figure
- 28 Thick spicy stew
- 31 Aquarium denizen
- 32 Engine part
- 35 Abysmal test score
- 36 Debt instrument
- 38 Dodge
- 40 Jessica of *Sin City*
- 41 Bone china name
- 43 Hubbubs
- 44 Nero's instrument
- 46 Hibernia
- 47 Twins, e.g. (Abbr.)
- 48 Cambodian coin
- 49 Round Table title
- 51 Allergic reaction
- 53 Bake sale org.
- 54 Scoundrel
- 55 Card game for two
- 58 Goes bad
- 60 Jai ____
- 64 Stood up
- 66 Gossip tidbit
- 69 Chances
- 71 Not quite right

Down

- 1 Citrus drink
- 2 Lorgnette part
- 3 Cream additive
- 4 Window ledge
- 5 Double curve
- 6 Grassland
- 7 Ocean menace
- 8 Spinal vertebrae rupture
- 10 Thailand, once
- 11 Division word
- 12 Turkish official
- 15 Boot part
- 20 Fall behind
- 22 Three (Ital.)
- 25 Holds up
- 26 Helpful
- 28 Contradict
- 29 Type of renewal
- 30 Stable color
- 32 Spain's Gulf of ____
- 33 Hacienda brick
- 34 Military meal
- 35 Nukes
- 37 ____'easter
- 39 Bud holder
- 42 Sicilian resort
- 45 Fish hawk
- 50 "What was ____ do?"
- 52 Writer LeShan
- 55 Dry riverbed
- 56 Desiccated
- 57 Lasso
- 59 Aerobic bit
- 61 Records
- 62 Comic Sandler
- 63 Loafing
- 65 Hot springs
- 67 Conceit
- 68 More, in Madrid
- 70 Toothed tool

See Solution on Page 23



FCSU'S FABULOUS FINAL FIVE FOR 2021

Place	Points		Name	Region	Branch
1st	143		Patrick Sullivan	5	35
2nd	130		Robert Korhely Jr	6	682
3rd	128	5 away in tie breaker	Meribeth Peters	5	924
4th	128	18 away in tie breaker	James Kantarik	7	926
5th	127		Cathy Dubber	6	1

More Madness than Ever

Thanks to everyone who entered the Madness once again with the FCSU this year. I hope you had as much fun playing as I did watching the numbers grow. One hundred and eighty-six members signed up to predict finalists in this single-elimination tournament of the NCAA that has become one of the most famous annual sporting events in the United States.

Also Noteworthy

Patrick Sullivan, as the 1st Place winner, will have his name placed on the FCSU Traveling Challenge Cup. It's also worth noting that –when the player info was viewed by FCSU Region – a March Madness 2021 became even more interesting – as in a very close contest:

Region 4 had 30 players in the event and scored a total of 2256 points. Finished 1st place....once again... for this event.

Region 6 had 30 players in the event and scored a total of 2211 points. Finished 2nd place.

Region 2 had 28 players in the event and scored a total of 2012 points. Finished 3rd but it's worth noting that just 2 more players from this region could have made them viable contenders for 2nd.

Please join me in congratulating all of our 2021 winners, and let's get ready for more Madness together in 2022!

Kevin Collins
National Fraternal Activities Director



- 1st Place: Matthew Oros, Region 6, Branch 24**
- 2nd Place: Sofia Fedoriouk, Region 6, Branch 24**
- 3rd Place: Juliana Oost, Region 7, Branch 313**

I am incredibly pleased to offer hearty congratulations to our winners and all of our members who participated in the first-ever FCSU Online Talent Show. Held virtually on Zoom on April 17th, 2021, approximately 25 of us from throughout our Society heard some amazing talent perform. You guys were awesome!

About the Winners

Matthew Oros won top honors with his stellar piano performance of Chopin's Fantasie Impromptu, which blew the judges and all of us away. As the 1st Place winner, Matthew's name will be added to the FCSU Traveling Challenge Cup. Sofia Fedoriouk took 2nd Place with a beautiful rendition of Monti Czardas on the violin, accompanied by her father Alexander Fedoriouk on cimbalom. Juliana Oost was awarded 3rd Place for a lively Glad You Came on the piano.

To view the winning performances and all entries on the FCSU website, go to:
<https://www.fcsu.com/events/>

Thanks to Everyone

A special shout out to the FCSU national officers for joining in on the fun: Regional Directors Sabina Sabados, Damian Nasta and Tom Ivanec, as well as Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer, Supreme Court Secretary Joanne Engle Austin, and Pension Board Trustee Karen Engle Sterling. I know there were many branch officers who logged on to the event as well, and Jednota Editor Terri Ivanec also enjoyed the show. Thanks to you all!

Here's to Next Year

I hope all our 2021 FCSU Talent Show contestants continue to shoot for the stars – and along many more of our members – and enter the next talent contest in 2022!

Fraternally,

Kevin Collins
National Fraternal Activities Director

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AGE 15 \$5,000 - \$803.15	AGE 15 \$5,000 - \$720.20

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There's so much to do with the FCSU: benefits of membership

When you sign up for an FCSU insurance or annuity product, you become our member. Among the many great benefits of FCSU membership: the opportunity to participate in fun events, enter contests, apply for scholarships, and so much more. Just what you can do with the FCSU? Visit fcsu.com/community – and

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- Create your username & password
- Click Create User



VERIFY

- Verify your phone number and click TEXT
- Enter the 4 digit code and click OK
- Congratulations! You've created your account!

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- Click **MEMBER LOGIN**
- Enter your username/password
- Verify your phone number/TEXT
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1-800-533-6682



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, May 17, 2021

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

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021

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

Saturday, June 19, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. (telephonically).

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, June 19, 2021.


All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to June 11, 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
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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. Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$500 the branch also will share this gift with every Branch 743 student who qualifies for a Jednota 2021 scholarship. 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.

Save the Date for 2022 National Bowling Tournament



The 2021 National Bowling Tournament has been canceled due to COVID concerns and for the safety of our members. Look for details in Jednota about the National Bowling Tournament scheduled for May 13 - 14, 2022 - and save the dates!

From the Desk of the FCSU Executive Secretary



The Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be closed on Monday, May 31st, in observance of Memorial Day 2021

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold their next meeting on August 1, 2021, at 19705 Center Ridge Road Rocky River, OH 44116 at 1:00PM. If you are interested in attending, please call 216-338-8179 by July 18, 2021. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The semi-annual meeting of St. Stephen's Society, Branch 006KJ is scheduled for July 18, 2021, at 1PM at 1406 N. Baker St., Streator, IL. Those who plan to attend should contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 or Branch President Robert Elias, Sr., at 815-672-1764, and they will help you with information. The meeting's agenda will be: discuss new policies, activities, and plan for a social gathering for all members in the coming year. Any suggestions can be submitted to: pchismar51@yahoo.com. We will abide by all state COVID laws.

Please call if you plan on attending the meeting or have any insurance questions. Thank you.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN PENNSYLVANIA

We here at Branch 23, the St. Joseph Society, are moving on... we are going to have another Bingo. Our last bingo in the fall was fun, and members requested another one. So on Sunday, May 16th 2021, at VOMA we will hold one of our fraternal activities, a "Spring-Bing." There will be light refreshments and cash giveaways. All branch 23 members are welcome. The Cambria County guidelines will be adhered to concerning the protection of Covid.

Also a reminder that Jednota will have our yearly booth at the Slavic Fest at the Johnstown Area Heritage Association in Cambria City Discovery Center on Sept 17 and 18, 2021. We welcome you to join us for 2 days of:

- Authentic Slavic music
- Slavic folk dance performances
- Homemade Slavic food, as well as Slavic beer
- Educational speakers and cooking demonstrations
- Ethnic vendors

If you have any questions please call Theresa Cassat at 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 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michaels, Branch 35, will hold their semi-annual meeting, virtually, on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 1:00PM. The agenda will include officers' reports and branch business. Branch members who would like to attend the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185 for information on how to access the meeting.

Fraternally,

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold a branch meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7:00PM. The agenda will include discussion on 2021 potential fraternal social activities. Out of an abundance of caution and with concern for all of our members, this Branch 38 meeting will be held virtually. Any member interested in attending this meeting should contact Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LLHASSELHOFF@gmail.com, to set up the virtual meeting invitation and details. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend. Thank you for your understanding and patience as together we continue to navigate these unusual times.

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

**Logan Haselhoff, President
Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, May 16, 2021 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be officers' reports and other upcoming events. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

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 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at 11:30AM. The meeting will be a Conference Call. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko (708) 995 7378 on Friday, June 18, 2021, to obtain the phone number and access code for the Conference Meeting. We look forward to having the Fall meeting in person.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its virtual branch meeting via Zoom on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 9:00AM. Officers' reports will be given and upcoming branch activities will be discussed. The Donations Committee will make its recommendations and there will be a vote. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office.

Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before June 8, 2021 for details on how to be connected to the meeting.

We hope for a quick return to normalcy and good weather, and pray for God's blessing on all.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania Area, will hold its semi-annual meeting on May 16, 2021, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:30PM. Due to PA State COVID-19 requirements, face masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as well as insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-4032067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The Branch 181 family picnic traditionally held in June has been cancelled for 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Our members' health and safety is our greatest concern. We are hopeful to resume the picnic in 2022.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold a meeting on Sunday afternoon, May 16, 2021 at 1:00 PM at Sharkey's Cafe, Route 30, Latrobe, PA, 15650. Please plan to attend to discuss important agenda items including recognition of high school and college graduates during 2020 and 2021 pandemic; summer activities, future events and branch participation at the 2021 National Golf Outing. Lunch will be provided by the branch. All Branch members are encouraged to attend.

Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 has planned the following dates for our branch meetings in 2021: 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 213 – NORTH VERSAILLES, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2021. It will be held at 1:00PM at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. If you're still concerned about COVID, you may access the meeting virtually via phone. Contact information: weaz1958@aol.com.

The agenda will include current branch business, and discussion of upcoming branch and district events and activities. All COVID-19 regulations and protocols will continue to be followed.

Respectfully,

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

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 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 has scheduled Sunday, May 16 for the Spring meeting. The meeting will be held at 1PM at Eat & Park Restaurant on Route 30, North Versailles, PA, near Walmart and the Great Valley Shopping Center. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. We will also discuss district events and possible charitable donations. Please bring your face mask.

We may hold only one other meeting this year for the election of officers for 2022, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 14. This will depend on restrictions necessitated by the Covid virus situation. Additional information will be posted in the Jednota.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a virtual meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021, starting at 7:00PM for all members. The agenda will include membership discussion and branch activities.

Please call or text Steve Minarovich at (908) 507-0505 by June 4 to get the details to attend by either phone or computer.

Steve Minarovich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 372 will hold its next meeting on May 31, 2021 immediately following the 10:00AM Memorial Day Mass and military services at the St. Joseph Cemetery, Beaverdale, PA.

Mary Kuzilla, President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Due to the on-going pandemic and in keeping with the recommendations from the Home Office, Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K, will conduct a Spring Virtual Meeting on Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 2:00 P.M.

The agenda will include the following items:

- reports of the executive officers

continued on page 17

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 of Rona Stein Matta, wife of National Counsel Gary Matta, who passed away on March 23.

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

Plans for 2021 district activities are on hold due to the on-going Covid-19 situation. We hope to hold a meeting June or July. We will post a notice in the Jednota and send emails where we have contact info. Forward any suggestions to the district officers.

- WPSCA: Announces that their monthly programs will resume soon.

- Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 15, 2021.

- Tour to Slovakia: September 11-26, 2021. See Slovakia, Poland, Vienna, Prague, Contact Joe Senko jtsenko@aol.com for more information.

- NSS Heritage Museum September Fest: Saturday, September 25, 2021. Slovak café, arts & crafts, demonstrations, & the Slovak cuvav.

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.

Fraternally,

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

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 10 - THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10 will be holding the first District Meeting of the year on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 3PM at The Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron OH 44311. This will be a hybrid meeting – you may attend in person or virtually via the computer or by phone. Contact Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 for instructions on how to connect to the meeting virtually. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District 11 will be held on Sunday May 16, 2021 @ 2PM. The meeting will be held at the CU Club in Ford City. The address is 910 6th Ave., Ford City, PA, 16226. We encourage all members to please attend, the social hall is large and allows for social distancing, masks will be required. No advanced notice of attendance is required. On the agenda will be planning for the yearly events as COVID restrictions will allow. We pray all is well with you and your family during this pandemic. May God be with you.

May the love of the risen Christ be forever in your hearts. Easter Blessings to all!

Fraternally submitted,

Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

The Msgr Andrew Hlinka District will hold a Zoom Game night on Sunday, May 16 at 7-8pm. If you are a district member and haven't attended a district meeting for a while, now is the time to call in and have fun. Instructions for attending the meeting will be emailed/mailed to all attendees of the March 2021 meeting.

Any member of branch 320, 670 and 853 can call District Secretary Monica Rodacy Boone at 412-341-1577, or email her at Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com for attendance instructions. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Monica Rodacy Boone, District Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - CALENDAR YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE

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

1. Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. (Semi-Annual Meeting); Fireplace
2. Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace.
3. Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2021); Fireplace.
4. 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



František Vnuk, online April 9 2021 receiving the

Historian František Vnuk Awarded the Andrej Hlinka Prize

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

On the occasion of his 95th birthday, the city of Ružomberok has awarded František Vnuk the Andrej Hlinka Prize for 2021 (Cena Andreja Hlinku za rok 2021). The award recognized the significant contributions of the Slovak historian to the history of Christianity and Slovakia.

Because Vnuk could not attend the ceremony in person due to Covid-19, he attended virtually through the internet; Rev. Ján Košiar accepted the award in his place. The mayor of Ružomberok, Igor Čombor, vice-president of the Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters, presented the award.

In particular, Vnuk received the award because he has written a thoroughly researched biography of Monsignor Andrej Hlinka, the early 20th century priest and national leader who fought against Magyarization in Hungary and for Slovak autonomy in interwar Czechoslovakia. Ružomberok Mayor Igor Čombor told Vnuk that "Hlinka is a man whose merits for the Slovak nation are immortal and irreplaceable." The book was entitled *Andrej Hlinka: tribún slovenského národa* [Andrej Hlinka: tribune of the Slovak nation], (Bratislava: Luč, 1998).

František Vnuk was born in 1926 in Červený Hrádok near Zlaté Moravce in southwestern Slovakia. After graduating from high school, in 1946 he studied mining at the University of Mining Sciences in Ostrava. After the communist coup, Vnuk decided in 1949 to emigrate for political reasons and headed to Austria and a year later moved to Adelaide, Australia. After learning English and completing further studies in Australia, Vnuk became an assistant and then a lecturer at the Institute of Technology. He pursued further studies in history and political science at the University of Adelaide, and went on to pursue historical research. Beginning in 1970, he worked closely with the Canadian-based Slovak World Congress. Following the fall of communism, after 1989 he returned to Slovakia and taught at the Roman Catholic Theological Faculty of the Comenius University in Bratislava.

Vnuk's studies focused on Cyril and Methodius, modern Slovak history and Slovak church history. Previously, Pope John Paul II awarded him the Order of St. Gregory in recognition of his significant contributions to church history.

Vnuk has authored many publications, most in Slovak. Some of the most significant are: *Dedičstvo otcov* (The Heritage of Fathers), *Dokumenty o postavení katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku v rokoch 1945–1948* (Documents on the Status of the Catholic Church in Slovakia in the Years 1945–1948), *Vládni zmocnení na biskupských úradoch v rokoch 1949–1951* (Government Agents in Episcopal Offices in 1949–1951), *Popustené putá: Katolícka cirkev na Slovensku v období liberalizácie a nástupu normalizácie: 1967-1971* [Shackles Released: The Catholic Church in Slovakia in the period of liberalization and the beginning of normalization: 1967–1971], *Matica slovenská*, Martin, 2001.

His studies have attacked the Slovak National Uprising and he has adopted a more positive towards the wartime Slovak State and opposed the resurrection of the Czechoslovak state after World War II. For this reason, the Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities objected to his receiving the award, claiming his works condone the persecution of Jews during the Holocaust.

Regardless of one's interpretation of his views, Vnuk has spent a lifetime of dedicated work on Slovak history and has written the best biography to date on Andrej Hlinka. He ranks among the most notable historians of modern Slovak history.

Sources

E-mails from Ivan Reguli, April 9-11, 2-21.

"Historik František Vnuk má 95 rokov. Zaslúžil sa o slovenský národ. Gratulujeme!" 9. apríla 2021, <https://www.hlavnespravy.sk/historik-frantisek-vnuk-ma-95-rokov-zasluzil-sa-o-slovensky-narod-gratulujeme/2496178> (Accessed April 10, 2021).

"Ružomerská cena pre historika, do rúk kontroverzného kňaza, rozdelila Slovensko," April 16, 2021, <https://rkmagazin.sk/ruzomerska-cena-pre-historika-do-ruk-kontroverzneho-knaza-rozdelila-slovensko/> (Accessed April 23, 2021).

prispievatelia Wikipédie, "František Vnuk," Wikipédia, Slobodná encyklopédia, https://sk.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Franti%C5%A1ek_Vnuk&oldid=6813989 (prístup apríl 16, 2021).

"Vnuk will not receive prize on Velvet anniversary," *Slovak Spectator*, Nov. 14, 2013, <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/20048871/vnuk-will-not-receive-prize-on-velvet-anniversary.html> (Accessed April 17, 2021).



The Andrej Hlinka Award

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Veronica M Dever	075K	Bernard Mihalik	276K	Alice J Hajduk	553K	Steve G Datko
001K	Florence C Petrus	075K	Pauline S Smith	294K	Mary Ann Christina	553K	Judith K Novachek
002K	Bernetta M Long	152K	George C Hasay	313K	Stephen J Kosteba Jr	553K	Anna M Petrosek
003K	Paul Peter Pribula	166K	Sophie M Gosney	320K	John B Martin Jr	615K	Helen T Kwiatkowski
004K	Joyce F Gibel	173K	Stephen J J Kavulich	320K	Victoria A Moore	670K	Marlene Ann Lombardi
006K	George A Lesak	181K	Mary Ann Duda	367K	Pauline J Lorence	731K	Leonard S Sefcik
007K	Sandra K Cervenak	181K	Barbara Zidak	367K	Madeline Sirko	746K	Rosemary Craig
019K	Joseph Scalzi	199K	Margaret Taylor	382K	Edward J Golden	746K	William F Hannon
023K	Beverly J Rusnak	199K	Alfred E Ulishney	450K	Audrey C Kus	785K	Olga Slodichak
024K	Donna M Noble	200K	Michael S Herbst	450K	John Spirka	796K	Michael Bucha
024K	Richard C Vadovski Sr	228K	Julia Pachuta	456K	James A Moslak	796K	Stephen M Holencik
035K	Michael A Nowakowski	260K	Thomas Julius Petko	497K	John R Feyko Sr	796K	Anna Kantner
038K	Rona S Matta	266K	James J Koval	510K	Winifred Carol Kopesky	831K	Donald Kutchko

*Processed through the month of April

OBITUARIES

DIANE INTERRANTE BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



It's with profound sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected death of Diana L. (neé Cantafio) Interrante, 51. She was welcomed into eternal life on March 20, 2020. Diana was the loving wife to Joseph R. Interrante, dear sister to Elizabeth J. Cantafio (Allison), Tito M. Cantafio (Cheryl), step-aunt to Elizabeth and Eric Deland, daughter-in-law to Joseph F. Interrante, Jr. and the late Nancy T. Interrante, sister-in-law to Richard (Kim), David (Ana), Steven (Tara) and many cousins.

A lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, she was born in Bryn Mawr, PA, on October 25, 1968 to the late Tito and Elizabeth Jane Cantafio (neé Sabol). She was the granddaughter of the late Elizabeth A. and Michael G. Sabol, former District President of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Diane also was the grandniece of the late John (Jack) A. Sabol, former President of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Upon graduating from Norristown Area High School in 1986, Diana went on to receive her RN from Lankenau School of Nursing in 1991. Dedicated to her vocation, she was a clinical nurse at the former Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown, and spent the last 26 years as a valuable team member at Aetna.

Diana loved to laugh and to make others laugh. She loved holidays, particularly Christmas, which she decorated for marvelously and often hosted. She was an excellent cook and an inspired baker. She loved cooking for family and friends, hosting barbecues, watching General Hospital, observing birds and wildlife, swimming, and spending time on the beach with her husband.

Diana loved all animals, especially rabbits, and was a loving mother to her precious English Springer Spaniels, Scoobie Doo and Shaggie, and cat Mouse Mouse. She was a dear friend to many and will be deeply missed by all who loved her.

- Submitted by Joseph R. Interrante

FRANCIS E. ZORICHAK BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



Francis E. "Fran" Zorichak, 54, of Uniontown, PA, went home to be with his Lord on January 7, 2021, with his loving family by his side at home after a brief illness. Francis was born September 6, 1966 in Uniontown, son of Arlene D. Wardzella Zorichak and the late Francis X. Zorichak.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his loving in-laws, Alvie and Shirley "Pooch" Riggin; paternal grandparents, Andrew and Susan Zorichak; maternal grandparents, John and Anna Wardzella; and many other aunts, uncles and cousins.

Left to cherish his loving memory, in addition to his mom Arlene, is his loving wife and best friend of 31.5 years, Barbara Riggin Zorichak; sisters, Judy Zorichak and Maryann (Chris) Crawford; special niece and nephew, Abigail and Colin Crawford, who affectionately called him "Uncle Franny"; special aunt Maryann Hunchuck; many other relatives and friends; and his cat Bubba J.

Fran enjoyed fishing, turkey hunting and deer hunting. He was a lifetime member of Hutchinson Sportsmen's Club and an avid Steeler fan. He was affectionately known among family and friends by his nicknames, "Chase" and "Butch", and will be deeply missed.

- Submitted by Judy Zorichak

MADELINE SIRKO BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA



Madeline Marie Sirko (née Mikus), age 95, passed away on January 16, 2021 at the David Simpson Hospice House in Cleveland, OH. Born December 15, 1925 in Meadowlands, PA, she was the daughter of Frank Mikus and Magdalene Mikus Shutty

and the step-daughter of Joseph Shutty. She moved to Cleveland in her late teens and worked at the Cleveland Hardware Company during World War II, where she met her husband Paul Sirko. Madeline took great pride in raising their three children after being widowed at the early age of 34. Madeline retired from Bailey Controls in Wickliffe after 22 years. Her greatest joy was being actively involved in her grandchildren's lives. She loved cooking birthday and Christmas family dinners. Madeline was a parishioner at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Willowick, OH for 50 years.

Preceded in death by her husband Paul H., and her sister Frances Kubea. Survivors include her children Elaine J. (Steve) Mraz, Greg P. (Bonnie), Paul C. (Peggy); grandchildren Michelle (Matt) Barry, Julie Gish, Gregory (Caroline), Kelley, Matthew Sirko, Maryann Mraz; great-grandchildren Zachary (Brittany), Mackenzie, Madisyn Barry, Jack Sirko; great-great-grandson, Axton Barry. She is also survived by her brother Robert (Veronica) Shutty, sister Florence (Dan) Doudna and leaves behind her lifelong dear friend Marge Koynock.

- Submitted by Elaine Mraz

WILLIAM G. LISKO BRANCH 404 – STUTTGART, AR- KANSAS



William George Lisko of North Little Rock, AR, was born February 13, 1929, in Slovak, AR, the son of the late George and Louise Lisko. He was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Marche, AR, and was a farmer in Prairie County until 1988. Later he went to work for the Diocese of Little Rock, retiring at the age of 75.

He was known for his ready smile and open heart. In his free time, Willie cherished his family time and dancing with his bride. Family always came first for Willie, and being a dedicated farmer no doubt enjoyed the reputation of having the prettiest tractor drivers in the county.

Mr. Lisko left this world at The Lakes Nursing Home in Maumelle on December

17, 2020 at the age of 91.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one infant daughter, Mary, one brother, Johnny Lisko and one grandson, Ian Patrick Dillon.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Jeannette Hess Lisko; sons, Larry (Marie) Lisko of Little Rock, Chris Lisko of North Little Rock, and Tim (Liz) Lisko of Fairfax, VA; daughters, Pam Lisko of Ashdown, AR, Charlene (David) Chwalinski of North Little Rock, Monica (David) Luneau of Conway, AR, Regina (David) Ward Petal, MS, and Della (John) Dillon of Maumelle, AR; 26 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren; three brothers: Paul Lisko, Joe Lisko, and Tommy Lisko; and four sisters: Katherine Plafcan, Marie Hargis, Helen Henry, and Betty Masingale; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

- Submitted by Jeanette Lisko

HELEN KUSHNER BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA



Helen Kushner (nee Barnisin), 93 of Avon Lake, OH, lived a long life and peacefully passed away after a brief illness on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. She was born October 8, 1927, in 42 Mine, Windber, PA to Michael and Anna (nee Karnaj) Barnisin.

Helen was employed as an administrative assistant for G.E. and retired after 20 plus years. She was a Pittsburgh Steelers fan, a member of the bereavement committee at St. Joseph Church, the Altar and Rosary Society and was Town Center's water aerobics Leading Lady.

She is survived by her loving children Marsha (Jim) Thompson and Jean (John) Adamcek; cherished grandchildren Aaron (Tina), Rachael (Grant), David (Karla), Sarah (David) and Kelly; 6 great-grandchildren; dear brother Michael Barnisin of Reading, PA.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 55 years, George; sister Mary Sloss and her parents.

- Submitted by Jean Adameck

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

- report of the auditors
- the Annual Report to the Home Office
- future community service activities and projects
- information from the home office.

All members planning to participate in the virtual meeting must contact Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570.344.3854 by Friday, May 28, to receive information regarding the conference call procedures.

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401, invites all branch members to attend the 2021 Semi-Annual Meeting which will be held Sunday, June 13th, 2021 at 1PM. Due to Covid-19, this meeting will take place on Zoom. To protect our members' internet safety, members should send an email to kmfroncek@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom code. Members are always encouraged to attend as your input is vital and welcome.

Members are encouraged to attend two Masses being offered for living and deceased members of Branch 401. The first Mass will be on Monday, May 24th at 7:30AM at St. James in Apollo and the second Mass will be held on Sunday, June 20th, at 11AM at Our Lady Queen of Peace in East Vandergrift.

Fraternally,

Kathy Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 1:30PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Call for reservations by Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 724-425-2576. All members are invited to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society Branch 484KJ will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 2:00PM at the Eat N' Park Restaurant, 2301 Rt. So., Indiana, PA. Discussion will include the impact of COVID-19 on our area, and how our branch may continue to help; our new Slovak Bishop Larry Kulick; scholarships; FCSU-sponsored activities; and more. We should also be discussing our most recent district meeting.

All coronavirus mitigation practices still in effect at the time will be strictly followed.

Fraternally,

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493K – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

There has been a merger between Branch 493K Chicago, IL and Branch 313K Orland Park, IL.

All members of Branch 493K will now hold membership in Branch 313K. This merger has taken place as of March 26, 2021.

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

JENNIFER LYNN CARLTON
C/O MARGE DICKINSON
15719 LIBERTY CT
ORLAND PARK, IL 60462-3525
(708) 475-8042

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 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 will hold the first meeting of the year on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2PM at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. This will be a hybrid meeting – you may attend in person at the club or virtually via your computer or phone. To obtain the instructions for the virtual meeting contact Linda Hanko by May 14th at 330-706-0151 (home), 330-690-9611 (cell), or lhanko@neo.rr.com.

Upcoming events:

May 19 Wednesday: Pork Roast Dinner – served from 4:30 -6:30PM

May 30 Sunday: Breakfast served from 9:00AM – Noon

For Wednesday meals call the club at 330-786-9972 after 3pm to make your reservations due to COVID restrictions that limit our seating.

Hope to see you at upcoming events and the branch meeting.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will meet on Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 1PM at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave. in Hobart, IN 46342. Agenda will include donations to organizations and any new business. Please RSVP Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held via Zoom/virtual on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM. The agenda will be communicated via e-mail one week prior to the meeting. Please contact Sylvia at sjvehec@aol.com if you want details about the virtual meeting and/or agenda.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all Branch 670 members. If you haven't participated in a branch event for a while, now is your time to do so. Mark your calendar, May 16, 2021 from 7-8PM, for the first Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District zoom Game Night. Additional information on how to attend is provided under the District 12 on page 15 of this issue. Submitted by

Cheryl Hyatt, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 5:00PM. The meeting will be held at Cafe422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, OH. Plans for summer activities will be discussed. Please follow Ohio guidelines pertaining to Covid 19.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Holy Mass has been offered for Branch 746 members living and deceased at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The Masses will be in Slovak. If you are able, please join in person on the following dates:

- Friday, July 30 at 7pm
- Friday, September 3 at 7pm
- Friday, October 1, 2021 at 7pm
- Friday, October 22, 2021 at 7pm (In commemoration of the 99th anniversary of Branch 746)
- Friday, November 5, 2021

Also, please note: Branch 746 is planning a summer picnic in August! Stay tuned for more details in the next issue!

- Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all Branch 853 members: If you haven't participated in a branch event for a while, now is your time to do. Join us on May 16, 2021 from 7-8PM, for the first Msgr Andrew Hlinka District Zoom Game Night. Information will be emailed/mailed to you if you attended any branch event in 2020 or 2021. Any branch member can request information on attending by contacting branch president Monica Rodacy Boone at 412-341-1577 or FCSUBranch853@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Branch 853 members are invited to a night of baseball at the Washington Wild Things Park in Washington PA on June 8, at 7:05pm. Tickets are limited and are free for Branch 853 members. They are on a first come first serve basis. A meal at the ball park will also be included in the evenings' events. Transportation to and from the ball game is the responsibility of the branch member. Please contact Monica Rodacy Boone at 412-341-1577 or FCSUBranch853@gmail.com by May 17 to make your reservation for the game.

On July 15, 2021, the branch will attend Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA. Each branch member is responsible for their own transportation to and from the park. The branch will purchase entry tickets and lunch for each branch member attending. A schedule of Slovak Day events will be distributed prior to the event. Each member will be able to enjoy the park on their own, with the branch members meeting for lunch. Any branch member interested in attend-

ing, leave your name and phone number at 412-341-1577 or FCSUBranch853@gmail.com by June 20.

Finally, congratulations to all entrants of the Branch 853 "Searching for Summer" Contest. The contest was a success far beyond our expectations. As stated in the instructions of the contest, only Branch 853 members are eligible to enter (for a prize). Branch 853 hopes all members enjoyed a change of pace during these unprecedented times of the Covid pandemic. Thank you all for participating.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

In keeping with the recommendations from the home office of the FCSU, we have scheduled our next meeting as a virtual one on Zoom, unless restrictions change. It is set for October 23, 2021 at 1:00PM. We encourage our members to join in. These Zoom meetings are convenient in that you can attend from your own home. For information on how to join the meeting call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638. There will be a discussion of the district meeting, financial report, and election of officers for 2022. Also, our anniversary Mass in honor of our Slovak Chapel is still on the schedule for September 12, 2021. More details will follow later. Any questions call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President

Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in May

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 April 30, \$16,984.50 has been received from 158 donors. Along with the Home Office of the FCSU, the following Branches have made donations: Branch 3, Branch 35, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 112, Branch 166, Branch 173, Branch 181, Branch 213, Branch 254, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, 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. Hvozdivic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

42nd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal	
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____	
State _____	Zip _____
Amount \$ _____	
<i>Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:</i>	
Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President Slovak Catholic Federation Sacred Heart Church 120 Jefferson Street Swedesburg, PA 19405	

Za Boha a národ“ - mimoriadny život a dielo Štefana Boleslava Romana

„Naša jednotná spolupráca a obeta pre záujmy národa budú vždy pozitívnym a tvorivým vyjadrením našich záväzkov k národu, z ktorého sme prišli.“

S. B. Roman, Bulletin SKS, 1971, č. 4 - 5, s. 3

Štefan Boleslav Roman, rodák z malej dediny na východnom Slovensku, Veľkého Ruskova (dnes Nový Ruskov), zatiaľ nedosiahol v slovenskej spoločnosti uznanie, ktoré si taká dôležitá autorita pri postupnom formovaní slovenskej štátnosti zaslúži.

Štefan Boleslav Roman sa narodil 17. apríla 1921 v chudobnej roľníckej rodine s rodičmi Jurajom a Helenou. Ako šesťnásťročný (v roku 1937) emigroval s bratom Jurajom do Kanady. Najskôr pracoval na farme v Port Perry, slúžil v kanadskej armáde, neskôr pracoval ako robotník v spoločnosti General Motors v Oshawe. Mnohí sa na jeho životnú cestu pozerajú cez prizmu silného nacionalizmu a gréckokatolíckej viery, ktoré ho predurčovali k tomu, aby dosiahol úspech s neúnavnou vôľou a silným vnútorným presvedčením. Jeho vieru formovali slovenské národné organizácie a skupina gréckokatolíkov v Oshawe v kombinácii s nacionalistickými tendenciami hlboko zakorenenými v jeho rodnom Slovensku. Vnímal svoje nové prostredie v Kanade ako príležitosť, ktorá mu umožňovala slobodne konať v prospech svojej vlasti. Ďalej udržiaval členstvo v zabehnutých slovenských združeniach v zámorí, ktorým (ako dvadsaťštyriročný) adresoval listom Medzinárodnej rade ministrov zahraničných vecí vo funkcii predsedu výboru Kanadskej slovenskej ligy.

Po zakúpení pozemku, na ktorom sa našli ložiská uránu, založil spoločnosť Denison Mines Ltd., kde pôsobil ako výkonný riaditeľ. Uránové bane boli najväčšie na svete a poskytovali obrovský finančný kapitál. Neskôr svoje podnikanie rozšíril na ďalšie odvetvia vrátane ropy a zemného plynu a vybudoval stabilné priemyselné a finančné konzorcium. Bol to typ človeka, ktorý dokázal správne identifikovať investičné príležitosti s odvahou, podnikaním, rozvahou a šiestym zmyslom, ktorý ho správne viedol počas celej jeho kariéry. V roku 1978 bol menovaný jedným z desiatich najúspešnejších kanadských podnikateľov. Roman bol hrdý na svoj slovenský pôvod (a dokonca ho v rozhovore s Chruščovom označili za Slováka) a zámorské ani európske médiá o ňom nikdy nehovorili inak ako o kanadskom priemyselníkovi slovenského pôvodu.

Roman sa obklopil významnými exilovými predstaviteľmi slovenskej literatúry, kultúry a vedy; a finančne podporil vedecké konferencie, udelil štipendiá a ceny mladým slovenským talentom, ako aj financoval preklad knih zo slovenskej histórie do svetových jazykov a zaslal ich do rôznych knižníc. Spolu s E. Löbelom predstavil svoje vlastné ekonomické teórie v knihe „Zdieľaná zodpovednosť“.

Od roku 1964 - 65 sa ako laický zástupca zúčastňoval na zasadaniach Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu. Svoje hlboké kresťanské presvedčenie a vzťah k vlasti prejavil financovaním monumentálnej katedrály Premenenia Pána v kanadskom Unionville, ktorá bola postavená ako desaťnásobné zväčšenie jeho rodného ruskovského kostola. V roku 1984 katedrálu vysvätil pápež Ján Pavol II.

Obchodné vzťahy mu otvorili cestu do politických a cirkevných kruhov a posilnili jeho vplyv. Počas účasti na zahraničných fórach neváhal požadovať slobodu a rovnosť slovenského národa s ostatnými národmi v Európe. Roman svoje odhodlanie v tejto otázke potvrdil Svetovým kongresom Slovákov (SKS), v ktorom pôsobil ako jeho prezident. Po konzultácii so slovenskými krajskými a exilovými organizáciami viedol Roman v júni 1970 stretnutie zakladajúceho zhromaždenia SKS vo Washingtone DC. Jeho oficiálny tlačový orgán, Bulletin SKS, bol vydávaný v rokoch 1971-1996 s cieľom zachovať medzinárodnú úroveň informovaného fóra a hľadajúce ich intervencie a podporu v slovenskej veci. Jedným z najvýznamnejších úspechov SKS bolo 29-stranové memorandum o porušovaní ľudských práv Slovákov adresované prezidentovi USA.

Pri pohľade na SKS z pohľadu (vtedajšej) politickej organizácie Česko-Slovenska a procesu prebiehajúcej normalizácie boli Romanove aktivity pozorne sledované (vtedajším) Politburem. V tom čase mala ČSSR veľvyslanectvá Československej republiky vo Washingtone DC v USA a kanadskej Ottawe a generálny konzulát v kanadskom Montreale, ktorý hodnotil činnosť Kongresu ako reaktívnu s protislovenským a protikomunistickým zameraním. O aktivitách SKS na Slovensku sa vedelo málo a jej úspechom sa tam nedostalo takmer nijakej pozornosti médií.

V zahraničí uznávaný, doma takmer neznámy, Štefan Boleslav Roman náhle zomrel 23. marca 1988 v Kanade, rok pred očakávaným pádom komunistického režimu. Jeho život a dielo boli odvtedy ocenené mnohými vyznamenaniami in memoriam. Posmrtné mu bola udelená Národná cena Slovenskej republiky v rokoch 1990 a 1995 a vtedajší prezident Michal Kováč mu udelil Rad Bieleho dvojkríža.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Štefana Boleslava Romana si Matica slovenská pripomína v tomto životopisnom historickom dokumente významného krajanu, ktorý celý život bojoval za práva Slovákov a slobodnú, samostatnú Slovenskú republiku.

"For God and the Nation" - the extraordinary life and work of Štefan Boleslav Roman

"Our united cooperation and sacrifice for the interests of the nation will always be a positive and creative expression of our obligations to the nation we came from."

WITH. B. Roman, Bulletin SKS, 1971, no. 4 - 5, p. 3



Štefan B. Roman s ministerským predsedom Kanady Pierre E. Trudeau (sprava prvý). Zdroj. SLA SNK

(L - R) Štefan B. Roman with Prime Minister of Canada Pierre E. Trudeau. Source. SLA SNK

Štefan Boleslav Roman, a native of a small village in eastern Slovakia, Veľký Ruskov (now Nový Ruskov), has not yet achieved recognition in Slovak society that such an important authority in the gradual formation of Slovak statehood deserves.

Štefan Boleslav Roman was born on April 17, 1921, into a poor peasant family with his parents Juraj and Helena. At the age of sixteen (in 1937) he emigrated to Canada with his brother Juraj. He first worked on a farm in Port Perry, served in the Canadian Army, and later worked as a laborer at General Motors in Oshawa. Many view his life path through the prism of strong nationalism and the Greek Catholic faith, which predestined him to achieve success with a relentless will and strong inner conviction. His faith was shaped by Slovak national organizations and a group of Greek Catholics in Oshawa, combined with nationalistic tendencies deeply rooted in his native Slovakia. He saw his new environment in Canada as an opportunity that allowed him to act freely for the benefit of his homeland. He also maintained membership in well-established Slovak associations overseas, which (at the age of twenty-four) he addressed in a letter to the International Council of Foreign Ministers in his position as Chairman of the Canadian Slovak League Committee.

After purchasing land on which uranium deposits were found, he founded Denison Mines Ltd., where he served as CEO. The uranium mines were the largest in the world, affording huge financial capital. Later, he expanded his business to other trades including oil and gas, and built a stable industrial and financial consortium. He was the type of person who could correctly identify investment opportunities with courage, entrepreneurship, balance and a sixth sense that guided him correctly throughout his career. In 1978, he was named one of Canada's ten most successful entrepreneurs. Roman was proud of his Slovak origin (and was even identified as Slovak in an interview with Khrushchev) and the overseas and European media never spoke of him other than as a Canadian industrialist of Slovak origin.

Roman surrounded himself with important exile representatives of Slovak literature, culture and science; and he financially supported scientific conferences, and awarded scholarships and prizes to young Slovak talents as well as financed the translation of books from Slovak history into world languages and sent these to various libraries. He presented his own economic theories together with E. Löbel in the book "Shared Responsibility."

From 1964 - 65 he participated as a lay representative in Vatican II Council meetings. He manifested his deep Christian convictions and relationship with his homeland by funding the monumental Transfiguration Cathedral in Unionville, Canada, which was built as a tenfold magnification of his native Ruskov church. In 1984, the cathedral was consecrated by Pope John Paul II.

Business relations opened the way for him into political and ecclesiastical circles, strengthening his influence. While participating in foreign forums, he didn't hesitate to demand freedom and equality for the Slovak nation with other nations in Europe. Roman confirmed his commitment to this issue with the World Congress of Slovaks (SKS), serving as its President. After consulting with Slovak expatriate and exile organizations Roman led a meeting of the founding assembly of the SKS in Washington, DC in June of 1970. Its official press body, the SKS Bulletin, was published from 1971-1996, with the goal of keeping international forums informed and seeking their intervention and support in the Slovak cause. One of the most significant successes of the SKS was a 29-page memorandum on violations of human rights of Slovaks addressed to the President of the United States.

Looking at the SKS from the perspective of the (then) political organization of Czechoslovakia and the process of ongoing normalization, Roman's activities were closely monitored by the (then) Politburo. At that time, the Czechoslovak Republic had Czechoslovak embassies in Washington DC, USA, and Ottawa, Canada, and a consulate general in Montreal, Canada, which assessed the activities of the Congress as reactive with an anti-Czechoslovak and anti-communist focus. Little was known about SKS activities in Slovakia and its successes received almost no media attention there.

Recognized abroad, almost unknown at home, Štefan Boleslav Roman died suddenly on March 23, 1988, in Canada, a year before the expected fall of the communist regime. His life and work have since been awarded many honors in memoriam. He was posthumously awarded the National Prize of the Slovak Republic in 1990 and in 1995, and the then president Michal Kováč awarded him the Council of the White Double Cross.

Zuzana Pavelcová

Štefan Boleslav Roman is remembered by Matica slovenská in this biographical historical documentary of the prominent patriot who fought all his life for the rights of Slovaks and a free, independent Slovak Republic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gKyjMAulwg>

Focus on History

Slovakia in 1939-1945

Part 1 State and Regime

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

March 14th is not commemorated in Slovakia because of a deliberate obfuscation of the meaning of state and regime. It originates from an argument proposed by those who object to commemorating the declaration of independence in 1939 that goes something like this: To do so is to honour a regime that made Slovakia an ally of the Third Reich and complicit in the horrors that the latter unleashed on Europe and the world in 1939-1945. This is nothing to be proud of, they say, and it is best forgotten. Simply put: State and regime were one and the same. Is this approach justified and, more importantly, is it intellectually defensible?

A number of reasons are given for opposing a commemoration: In addition to Slovakia's participation on Germany's side in the war against Poland and the Soviet Union, the regime was not democratic and involved the country in one of modern history's greatest crimes: the Holocaust. Even though all the states at war partook in this tragedy, whether by omission or commission, each is judged on its involvement. Slovakia, out of an estimated population of 88,951 Jews at the end of 1940, deported from March to October 1942 a total of 57,628 to Germany and occupied Poland where most perished in concentration camps and approximately 13,500 more died during the 1944 uprising. Finally, in the context of the world conflict, Slovakia was on the losing side and the victorious Allies decided that the first Slovak Republic (SR) would no longer exist at the end of hostilities. What is there to commemorate, they ask?

The Greek historian Thucydides, acknowledged as the father of the political science sub-field of International Relations, writes in his History of the Peloponnesian War, quoting the

Athenians during the Melian dialogue: "the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must." Slovakia's declaration of independence in 1939 is best understood in such a context. It came about from the convergence of two independent developments that affected Slovakia and her people directly: The evolution of Slovak-Czech relations since 1918 and the rise of Germany in the 1930s. In the two decades of the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938), the government recognized Slovakia as an entity but refused to grant her the autonomy that was agreed upon by Czechs and Slovaks in the 1918 Pittsburgh Agreement. Prague also pursued the creation of a single Czechoslovak nation by imposing on the Slovak people its ideology of "Czechoslovakism," an ideology that denied the existence of a distinct Slovak nation. By the 1930s, however, it was clear that this policy was failing and that Slovak-Czech relations needed a different resolution. The fight for Slovakia's autonomy and self-determination was led by the Slovak People's Party (SPP) - renamed Hlinka Slovak People's Party (HSPP) in 1935 to honour its founder - whose leaders became aware that time for finding a workable solution to Slovak-Czech relations had run out when the international situation changed drastically in the late 1930s.

Germany, defeated in the Great War, rearmed, and led by an authoritarian ideological regime, was determined to reassert herself in European politics and to impose a new political order. HSPP leaders worried that Prague might not be able to defend Slovakia if the security of Czechoslovakia was endangered. When the Western powers stood by as Germany annexed Austria in March 1938 and gave her Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland in Munich in September 1938, the Third Reich was aware that it was in a position to control the entire region. It proceeded to do so in a series of moves, targeting each country in succession. What was left of Czecho-Slovakia after Munich was first on the list. In addition, Poland, and especially Hungary, had territorial designs on Slovakia. What were the options to avoid partition and ensure Slovakia's survival? Berlin considered backing Slovak statehood if the new state became an ally. Thucydides would have understood the reasons that led the Slovak Assembly to vote for this option on 14 March 1939, even without knowing what else the Third Reich had in mind for Central Europe: As it turned out, the Czech Lands became the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia on 15 March, Poland was attacked on 1 September, the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, and Hungary understood from very early on that it was in her interest to be an ally of Germany, especially during the war, which had begun with the invasion of Poland. Slovakia was able to avoid fighting on its territory until the final stages of the conflict.

The independence vote in the Slovak Assembly on 14 March 1939 meant the emergence of Slovakia's first modern state. Making a state means creating the institutions and procedures that allow political parties to govern. Its viability is determined by the functioning of its institutions and the ability of its leaders to ensure the wellbeing of the population and enable social, economic, and political development to take place. The programme that outlines the latter and the ideology that underscores it are what define the regime that governs the state. In other words, there is a clear difference between state and regime. From 1939 to 1945, Slovakia had a functioning state run by a regime that pursued policies defined by its ideology and the domestic and external constraints placed on it.

After the war, these years were thrown into an Orwellian memory hole in Slovakia and summarily researched in the West. No distinction was made between state and regime. There is still much work to do to get a balanced picture of the six years of the first SR, of its regime, and of its leaders. The best we can do at this time, in a summary fashion, is to quote from an assessment found in the report submitted to the Kremlin on the eve of the 1944 uprising by Gustáv Husák, one of the leaders of the Communist Party of Slovakia, that would bring about the end of Slovak statehood: "In general one can say that on the basis of the experience of six years, Slovakia is able to exist as an independent unit economically and financially, can hold out on its own, has even today the necessary forces (including technical

ones) and conditions of production for international competition. . . It is a fact that this state is independent and has as much independence as a small state can have especially in time of war." Aware of the difference between state and regime, Husák concluded: "If this state had another content and were led by another regime, not to say anything about a change of ally, there would be nothing to say against it from a Slovak point of view."

As the first SR had only one regime during its short existence, this very fact allowed those opposed to it to confound state and regime. But these two concepts are fundamentally different and a judgement on the regime is not automatically a judgement on the state. Whatever happens in a state is defined by the activities of the regime and, as Canadian Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated in a debate in the House of Commons in 1874, "such is the state of human nature and of all that is human: good and evil are constantly intermingled; the most glorious cause is not free from impurity and the vilest may have its noble side." For all the domestic policies that the HSPP enacted because of its alliance with Germany and for which its leaders paid the price in the post-war period, not only did the institutions of Slovak statehood not fail, but the regime was able to ensure that Slovakia avoided armed conflict for most of the war and that a large majority of her population experienced significant economic, social, and cultural development. Should this not be considered, and should not the regime be judged in the context of the war that raged in Europe?

State and regime are not the same and a distortion like the one found in the Slovak case is unusual; it came about to justify the decision to end Slovak statehood and reincorporate Slovakia into Czechoslovakia. Since this state broke-up on 31 December 1992, there is no longer a reason to confuse state and the regime in the case of first SR. The period 1939-1945 is an integral part of the Slovak story in Europe, a crucial moment in history when Slovakia had a state, which no argument can justify condemning to oblivion, especially as the first SR was not a failed state. A new discussion that emphasizes the difference between state and regime is needed to lead to a proper assessment of its role in the collective memory of the Slovak nation. Then might the Slovak people be in a position to answer the question of whether it is appropriate to commemorate 14 March 1939, especially in the context of 1 January 1993, the day when Slovakia, for the second time in her history, formed a state.

[look for Part 2 of this article in the next issue of Jednota]

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Deacon Recalls His Grandmother's Gumption

You can be sure that Deacon Don Grossnickle of Chicago will be thinking about his late grandmother Maja this Mother's Day. While he was growing up, he loved visiting her and listening to stories about her childhood in Sweden. But as Deacon Don researched his grandmother's life in recent years in order to write a book about her, he discovered several family secrets that shed new light on the struggles she endured in the U.S. during the Great Depression. He shares those secrets in the book "My Maja," and we discussed it on "Christopher Closeup."

Growing up in her home country resulted in Maja developing resilience and "gritty Swedish gumption," as Deacon Don describes her most prominent traits. That resilience became necessary for her survival here in the states after her husband died at age 35, leaving her a widow with three children. Maja had been trained as a night nurse in Sweden, but had focused on raising her children once she became a mother. After her husband's death, which occurred during the Great Depression, Maja was forced to return to work to survive.

Deacon Don explained, "Maja went to work 12-hour shifts taking care of wealthy people... She also converted the upper floors of her house into a boarding house, so she had three tenants upstairs... There were many long hours of being a nurse, leaving at maybe 4:00 in the afternoon and getting home at 8:00 the next day. And then getting the kids ready for school, taking care of the tenants, the stress and strain were terrible."

Though Maja relied on her faith in God to sustain her, there were also times when she would exasperatedly pray, "What are you asking of me, Lord?"

"Maja suffered greatly," said Deacon Don about several revelations he only discovered during his research into her life. "She became depressed. The stress and strain [led to] a nervous breakdown. Her children were taken away from her... Maja never spoke about those incidents to me. My relationship was such that her focus was on what the Lord was asking her to do all the time. She didn't look back necessarily on how tough it was, how she spent some time in this Chicago insane asylum, and she did the treatments necessary to get out, so she could rejoin her children. As far as I'm concerned, that's about as gritty a gumption as any person would ever imagine."

As a result of learning about his grandmother's struggles - and with knowledge of the stigma that still surrounds mental illness - Deacon Don notes that his compassion has been deepened: "Every person that I see who is struggling with depression or with suicide tendencies, I can see the face of Maja in each of them, and know that with the Lord's help, they can be strong."

In closing, Deacon Don had these hopes for people who read his book: "My Maja" tells the story of a forgotten immigrant Swede widow. There are a lot of forgotten people in the world, and now that the book is global and the reviews are coming in, she's no longer forgotten. The men of the world were well documented during the Great Depression. Well, forgotten women also need to be mentioned - heroes like Maja, who had valor, and yet, were broken and healed. Her story needs to be told, so I'm receiving great feedback from people that they're becoming inspired. We all have family secrets, but we move beyond them with God's help."

Virtual Book Launch of Super Slovaks!



Available at www.ezopo.sk

Reconnect to Slovakia with our bilingual book package Super Slovaks!

Jednota members attended a virtual book launch of Super Slovaks / Super Slováci on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. The book was presented by Dr. Zuzana Palovic and Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova co-authors of the 270-page vividly illustrated bilingual book that tells the story of Slovakia through 50 Slovak personalities that shaped the country. The event was organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center and moderated by Regional Director Sabina Sabados. The 40+ webinar participants received a taste of the book and learned facts such as which Slovak built the first skyscraper in Asia or which Slovak was the last to walk on the moon. The bilingual book is an excellent educational tool for children and adults alike! To learn more about the book and support the Super Slovaks campaign, go to: <https://ezopo.sk/projekt/super-slovaci/>.

The recorded webinar is available to watch at: www.slovakamericanc.org. Thank you to Jednota members from various branches who participated! A special thanks to Branch 746, 89, and 45 members for your support!
- Submitted by Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados

Editor's note: Look for a review of the book Super Slovaks by Dr. Michael Kopanic in the next issue of Jednota



District 4 visits the Vatican!

On Sunday, April 25, 2021, Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey members visited the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, and Saint Peter's Basilica! Members of Branch 290 and 746 explored the vast collections of the Vatican Museums, visited the world-famous Sistine Chapel, and walked through the halls of Saint Peter's Basilica with a licensed guide of the Vatican in a 1.5 hour virtual tour learning unique insights and fun facts during the informative webinar. For example, Mi-

chelangelo's Pietà, a masterpiece in carved Carrara marble, installed in Old St. Peter's Basilica in 1499, had never been taken from the Vatican until Pope John XXIII granted permission for it to be brought to the World's Fair in New York City in 1964. It was shipped from Europe inside a metal waterproof container to the World's Fair in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Did you know, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was painted as a blue sky with stars prior to Michelangelo's

work? You too can view the Vatican Museums virtually by visiting: www.museivaticani.va

For those members attending the webinar who had visited the Vatican, it was a wonderful way to reminisce while those that have not been to Rome, were inspired to visit.

-Submitted by Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados

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bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union including but not limited to attending all Board of Directors meetings virtually (due to the pandemic) as well as meetings requested by the President.

In addition, I volunteered and actively participated in the Scholarship Committee, Branch Rejuvenation Committee, and participated in brainstorming meetings with the Fraternal Activities Director. I relentlessly worked to promote the society, our products, and benefits by encouraging and successfully recruiting new members to join Jednota.

I attended district meeting in my region - Rev. Matthew Jankola District 1, Msgr. John E. Rura District 4, and Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16. I attended all Branch 746 and District 4 meetings and events. I contributed to the Jednota newspaper by providing articles and photos on almost a monthly basis. I maintained contact with other branches in my region and kept abreast of their activities including suggesting virtual meetings, providing tips on potential virtual activities that are easy to organize, and encouraging them to ensure they met their contract sales quotas. Upon invitation, I also attended virtual meetings held by Branch 45. I conducted outreach to less active branches by encouraging them to participate in District meetings and the Region 1 Christmas party. I was happy to work with Branch 132 and have them reconnect with District 4 by participating in the most recent March meeting.

From the onset of the pandemic I encouraged virtual meetings and events, suggesting various platforms, and sharing my experiences with the Board of Directors. I was proud to initiate and organize the first virtual District 4 meeting in early June followed by a Branch 746 meeting via Zoom in late June when we realized that meeting in person would not be an option in our region. Our members embraced the new format and even members in their 80s and 90s participated.

As I reflect on this past year, I am still in disbelief. Life has change so significantly, at least for me. Thinking back to this time last year, I was busy finalizing my "lengthy" Regional Director's report and reeling from a slew of successful activities and events as I recapped 2019. Who would have thought what the next few days, weeks, and months would hold?! For me, 2020 was just beginning and there were endless possibilities, plans, and ambitions. But starting March 16, 2020 my life changed completely when my office was shut down and were asked to begin working from home full time. A year later and I am still working from home full time (and enjoying it!). The pandemic touched our lives in ways we never imagined. As churches, schools, and businesses closed, there was a sense of loss of "the life we once lived." Suddenly we couldn't gather with loved ones and friends, we were confined to our homes, and we eagerly awaited the day when restrictions would be lifted. Lysol and Purell dominated our lives and daily tasks like going to the grocery store became an ordeal consisting of mitigating various risks as though we were navigating a treacherous hiking trail. It was also a time of opportunity -- to take break, to reassess, and to revisit how we spend our valuable time and resources.

Many aspects of our lives came to screeching halt, but this also opened the door to new opportunities. For me personally, I have had more time to do what I love -- I began to cook again perfecting Slovak recipes, I had more time to read, I learned video editing, and like many others, I began to watch a little too much television. My obsession however was not Netflix but a Turkish drama (to be exact a Turkish soap opera translated into Slovak). I also started coursework toward a professional certificate on Enterprise Risk Management and I began organizing a slew of webinars for the Slovak community, many of which were offered to the Jednota community through the FCSU website.

The pandemic was an excellent challenge for us all. It gave us a new lens through which we could examine how we do things on a personal level and also as a fraternal organization. My branch, 746, quickly mobilized to come up with new and innovative ways to engage with our members. Personally I thought there was no reason to "shut down" our close-knit Jednota community and began working on keeping us connected together despite being apart. We faced a new frontier with an open mind and a willingness to explore new options and try new things. It was evident that we needed to embrace technology which would help us better connect to one another and sustain our fraternalism during these difficult times; but it also has forced us to approach our meetings and events from a different angle.

When looking back on 2020, I am proud of all that we have achieved as a region. First and foremost, let me extend a note of appreciation to the districts and branches officers and all the members who, despite maybe initially being resistant to change, embraced it! A special thank you to the Executive Board and the Home Office staff for their active support as well.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight some large scale events which took place this year:

The 27th Annual Slovak Ball: The 27th Slovak Ball, held on February 22, 2020, at The Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ, celebrated not only Slovak culture and community, but also the singular style of the 1980s, with a record 433 guests! Entertainment featured iconic music from the decade, while menu items and decor recalled the colorful and flamboyant style of the times. The 1980s were on display in the lobby, which featured an original Pac Man arcade and boom boxes playing Slovak 1980s musical hits. The ballroom showcased bright colors and lights reminiscent of an '80s dance party. It was a wonderful evening of unique entertainment, stylish decor, fabulous food and drink, and excellent company (even a proposal)! To cap off the evening, attendees were surprised by a performance by the leader of the former Slovak rock band TAKTICI - Vlado Kolenič who performed TAKTICI's biggest hits such as "Vam v Bielom Plasti," "Langose," and "10dg Tresky." The black-tie event brought together a vast Slovak American community including representation from the diplomatic community by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States, H.E. Ivan Korčok (now serving as the Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic) and his wife Sonia; Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Michal Mlynár, his wife, Andrea, and daughter Kristina (Branch 746); Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ladislava Begeç; Consul General of the Czech Republic in

New York, Miroslav Rameš; Deputy Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Matej Saloň; and Slovakia's Advisor to the Executive Director of the World Bank, Angela Solikova.

The famous Slovak Ball Raffle did not disappoint, featuring prizes such as: a weekend in the Hamptons, an original hand-made icon by Fr. Marek Visnovsky (Branch 24) of Our Lady of Sorrows, special limited edition Goral Vodka Master basket from the Gurega family (Branch 45), an original painting "Sunrise at Orava Castle" by young artist Dominic Keim from Ohio, along with Broadway tickets to "Girl from North Country" and backstage VIP tour donated by Luba Mason (Branch 716) member, who is starring in the show!

Pastors and parishioners from Slovak parishes in Linden, Clifton, Trenton, and New York City were also in attendance including: Fr. Richard Baker (Branch 45) and Fr. Martin Kertys from St. John Nepomucene; Fr. Mariuz Luksza from Holy Family Slovak-American Church in Linden, New Jersey; Fr. Francis Conka (Branch 746) from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Tappan; and Fr. Peter Bujdos (Branch 746) serving the Slovak community of St. Michael in Trenton. It was an honor to have President Andrew Rajec and Mrs. Idka Rajec, Andrew Rajec, Director of Sales, Daniel Rajec (Branch 86), and Miriam Visnovsky (Branch 24) from the main office attend. Region 1 members from Branches 45, 716, and 746 attended in full force. As President of the Slovak-American Cultural Center and Chairwoman of the Ball, I am humbled that every year Jednota members have showed their overwhelming support for The Slovak Ball. A short video of the event is available on YouTube: https://youtu.be/A_rA-JQAA1WY.

Zem Spieva / "The Land Sings": Many Jednota members from the NJ/NYC, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland were featured on sensational television show, Zem Spieva (translated, The Land Sings). The popular Slovak TV series is a competition featuring contestants, both individuals and groups, from various regions of Slovakia presenting folklore songs, dances, interpretations, etc. The winners of Season 1, Martin Repáň, and Season 2, Folklore Ensemble Urin, toured the United States and Canada in October 2019. A special thank you to Fr. Baker (Branch 45) who allowed use of St. John Nepomucene to host the roadshow. The roadshow premiered on Slovak TV on February 22, 2020 featuring an excellent historical account of Slovaks immigrating to the US and clips of the US/Canada tour. I'm sure you will recognize some Jednota members in the audience at the NYC, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland shows! To view the full episode go to: <https://www.rtv.sk/televizia/archiv/14986/214056>

International Women's Day: On the occasion of International Women's Day (March 8), the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York traditionally presents awards to women of different nationalities living in USA for their outstanding professional achievements and contribution to community empowerment. This year, due to precautions relating to the spread coronavirus, the ceremony was cancelled and the awards were presented individually by each Consulate General. I was honored to be nominated by The Consulate General of Slovakia in New York for this prestigious award for my professional achievements, active participation within the Slovak community, and community empowerment. Consul General Ladislava Begeç presented me with this award on March 12, 2020 at the premises of the Consulate General of Slovakia in New York. I highlight this achievement in my annual report because I share it with my community -- all of you. Though I was individually named, I could not have received this recognition without having the support and platform to do what I do. Each of our contributions and active participation in our society is what makes Jednota live, and this engagement will allow FCSU to thrive for future generations. Without active members, there is no Jednota, and it is us, the Jednota family, that keep this society alive. Our name says it all -- in Slovak Jednota is "unity".

Picnics: Unfortunately, the national picnic anticipated to be held in our region was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Out of an abundance of caution it was also decided that this year we would not host the Region 1 summer picnic. Along the same lines, the 43rd Slovak Festival was also cancelled due to state-wide restriction. Region 1 branches look forward to participating in this annual event in 2021, which brings together thousands of Slovaks from the NJ, NY, CT, and PA areas.

55th Anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel: Unfortunately, we were not able to gather in Washington, DC as has been the tradition for more than thirty years, organized by Branch 856 under the leadership of Katherine Nowatkoski, to commemorate the special 55th anniversary of the dedication of the Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. I was happy to lend a helping hand as the traditional in-person mass morphed into a virtual event with some of the organization including promoting the event to the Region 1 branches. On Sunday, September 13, 2020 the live streamed mass was broadcast from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Tappan, New York. The main celebrants were two Jednota members, Fr. George Torok and Fr. Francis Conka. You can review my video editing skills by watching the recorded mass: <https://youtu.be/yYkw7azS6ic>

LUX New York: Jednota members benefited greatly from the services provided by LUX New York through the live stream of Slovak (10:15am) and English (12:00pm) masses from St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City where Fr. Richard Baker (Branch 45) is the Pastor. In our region parishes were closed for in person masses as of March 2020. LUX New York played an integral role during these difficult times streaming Slovak and English masses to countless Catholics. Branch 45, 716, and 746 members continue to support the mission and work of LUX New York.

To learn more about LUX New York and listen to live or archived masses and programs, visit: <http://www.luxnewyork.net>. I also encourage you to view the mini documentary entitled "Our Church in Manhattan" which beautifully articulates the history and community of Slovaks in New York City: <https://www.facebook.com/989998317792501/videos/922127928554991>.

Region 1 Christmas Party: As our traditional Branch Christmas in person get-togethers were not an option in 2020 due to indoor dining restrictions, I initiated and organized a virtual Region 1 Christmas party. The almost two-hour virtual event included a performance of Gesù Bambino, "The Infant Jesus" by Andrew Pulver, who was accompanied on the piano by his mother Tanya Pulver. Branch 45, 290, and 746 members participated in the

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virtual party games which I organized including a "12 Days of Christmas Scavenger hunt," a "guess the gift" game with surprise guest Buddy the Elf, a sing along, and a Christmas trivia game. Prizes for the winners were sponsored by District 4. The virtual Christmas party even included a Jednota Santa who led the group in singing "Jingle Bells." Special thanks to Kevin Collins (FCSU Fraternal Activities Director), Damian Nasta (Region 2 Director), and the home office staff for sharing the invitation with all Region 1 Jednota members.

I would like to congratulate all of the branches in my region on their consistent efforts in supporting one another and their local parish communities, organizing fraternal activities as possible, engaging in community service activities and giving back to others. Reading the updates below fills my heart with joy because we are doing what we can to fulfill Fr. Furdek's mission and vision. Let us be proud of the community that our ancestors established as we continue to foster and nourish with charity, mercy, joy, friendship, and love.

With thanks to the officers that submitted their activity reports, below, verbatim, are highlights from Region 1 Districts and Branches:

District 1: Rev. Matthew Jankola and Branch 19:

This year, the members of District One/Branch 19 had the unexpected challenge of having to go from conducting in-person meetings to virtual meetings via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic. We responded to the situation with dedication and professionalism as we continued to fulfill our administrative, financial, social and charitable duties and responsibilities to our members, our fraternal society and our community.

District 1 held their annual meeting via Zoom on September 13, 2020. At this meeting, we welcomed our Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados. The election of officers was held and the new executive board includes: Michael Kuruc (President), Kurt Solek (Vice-President), Laura Minese (Treasurer), Deborah Nelson (Recording Secretary) and Jacqueline Zack (Financial Advisor).

Our annual Branch 19 Meeting was held via Zoom on November 8, 2020. At this meeting, eligible freshman and junior college students were recognized as recipients of the John A. Zahor Scholarships and Andrew J. Imbro Grants. Two John A. Zahor scholarships were awarded to Matthew Proulx (Northeastern University) and Grace Sherriff (Elon University). Six Andrew J. Imbro Grants were awarded to Michael DeDonato (Roger Williams University), Andrew John Madar (Full Sail University), Kayla Rose Mercure (Florida State University), Tyler Nolan (Fairfield University), Emily Rose Proulx (Cornell University) and Hannah Jayne Sherriff (University of Vermont). Michael DeDonato and his mother, Sharon DeDonato, joined our Zoom meeting for the virtual presentation of his scholarship. Also in attendance via Zoom were Katherine Bendin and our newest Branch 19 member, two-month old Julia Anne Bendin. At this meeting, the election of Branch 19 officers was held: All agreed to stay on for another year: Michael Kuruc (President), Kurt Solek (Vice President), Jacqueline Zack (Financial Secretary), Deborah Nelson (Recording Secretary) and Laura Minese (Treasurer).

On a sad note, we lost one of our most steadfast, loyal members this year - my father, Henry J. Zack. Henry served as Recording Secretary for Branch 19 for over 50 years until he was no longer able to fulfill his duties and I assumed the position. In addition to his responsibilities of recording the minutes of every meeting, he had the "official" duty of making a motion to adjourn every meeting. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

- Summary provided by Deborah Nelson

District 4: Msgr. John E. Rura

Okres/District 4 had a very busy and exciting year with pandemic appropriate activities. Some of our plans had to be adjusted but, in the end, we were able to conduct two meetings and organized and/or participated in six different events.

On June 14, 2020, District 4 Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey held the first virtual meeting. Initially the District planned the annual meeting in March which also included a luncheon but as the weeks passed with the lockdown not lifted, District officers realized that we needed to look at other ways of meeting besides in person. We all missed each other and wanted to know how the branches in our district were coping during the pandemic. We needed to get back to business! Our Regional Director, Sabina Sabados, organized our 1st virtual meeting over Zoom which became a very popular way to meet. Branch 290 and 746 members attended the meeting which actually started on time 1:01pm (planned for 1:00pm) which is a rarity for our group! Although there were no refreshments, hugs or kisses we did get to see one another and conduct our Jednota business. The Regional Director provided an update on what was happening with the society and encouraged us to plan virtual activities.

Initially District members planned on attending the 55th anniversary of our Lady of Sorrows mass in Washington, DC in person but when it was cancelled, members participated in the event watching the mass via virtual live-stream. Members were pleased that the tradition continued, and they could watch from the comfort of their homes. Instead of our planned Oktoberfest event, District 4 organized an October apple picking outing at Hillview Farms in Gillette, New Jersey. The District also organized two masses: one on November 13th at Holy Family Church in Linden and another one on November 14th and St. Joseph's Church in Raritan. The masses were offered for District 4 members living and deceased. On December 13th District 4 sponsored the prizes for the Region 1 Virtual Christmas party. As we celebrated the Christmas season, District 4 organized something unique -- a virtual guided Tour of the Holy Land! During the 2 ½ hour event, experienced tour guides showed the audience (through photographs, videos, and google maps) each of its four quarters of the Holy City as well as the nearby city of Bethlehem. The event was well organized and very

informative. Having visited the Holy Land in December 2017, it was so wonderful to get to re-live my experience by virtually visiting the Western Wall of Solomon's Temple, the Dome of the Rock, the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall Temple, and the Church of the Nativity. This event was highly successful and the District plans to attend other virtual events like this.

- Summary provided by Emilia Filak, District 4 Vice President

Branch 132:

Branch 132 had a great year with our Spring walk at our local park and our busy summer where a few of our members all packed up for a day at the shore. The branch held a garage sale in late August and signed up 7 new young members in 2020 with the profit from the garage sale. The planned skiing trip was called off due to weather conditions. Branch 132 members also participated in the District 4 meeting. A great year considering Covid-19.

- Summary provided by Sue Salko, Branch 132 Financial Secretary

Branch 290:

Branch 290 held two branch meetings during 2020 and had members attend both District meetings. In addition, members also attended the Regional Christmas party via Zoom. The Branch donated \$200 to the SS Cyril and Methodius Appeal and \$200 to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. Although sponsored by the District, our church, St Joseph's in Raritan held a mass for past and present FCSU members in November.

- Summary provided by Steve Minarovich, Branch 290 Recording Secretary

Branch 746:

Sunday, January 26, 2020 Jednota Branch 746 members attended the Choral Art Society of New Jersey's Concert entitled, "Americana": A Concert of American Musical Treasures in New Providence, New Jersey. A 746 Branch member, Lois Schmidt, performed in the chorus. It was an enjoyable afternoon featuring a wide selection of musical renditions of songs by Bob Dylan, Aaron Copland and other American compositions. Following the concert, refreshments were served, while having the opportunity to interact with chorus members.

With the start of the pandemic and the inability to get together, Branch 746 organized a virtual event for its active members to enjoy from the comfort of their homes. Usually our branch would organize a trip to a movie theatre to see a Catholic film, but instead ordered DVDs or books to 23 families of the newly released movie called "Love and Mercy", the life story of Sister Faustina and the importance of Divine Mercy. Members viewed the movie, read the books, and shared their thoughts and insights about the movie which was published in the Jednota newspaper.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, meetings were no longer able to take place in person. Initially District 4 planned an annual meeting in March. However, a March meeting was not feasible and to reschedule a meeting was not feasible as well. By late April, District 4 planned to meet virtually via Zoom or by using their home phones. On June 14, 2020 District 4 held its very first successful virtual meeting. Branch 290 and Branch 746 joined the District 4 meeting. Our Jednota members were able to be together, yet apart!

On June 28, 2020 Branch 746 held its very successful virtual meeting via Zoom. Members either used their video/Zoom option or dialed in using their home phones. During the 746 Zoom meeting, members modeled their newly obtained Jednota face masks with the First Catholic Slovak Union logo and a clever saying, "We've got you covered." (A "play" on words!) Successful virtual meetings continued for Branch 746 on September 20, 2020 and December 13, 2020.

On a beautiful, warm October afternoon, a few members of Branch 746 attended the District 4 apple picking event at Hillview Farms in Gillette, New Jersey! Members purchased baskets full of apples to bring home to enjoy either by eating an apple a day or baking delicious apple pies or apple crisp. Fun was had by all not only picking different varieties of apples, but walking around the farm seeing chickens roaming freely as well as peacocks. A stop at the general store provided a good selection of fresh produce, fresh eggs, honey and other quality goods.

On Saturday, November 7, 2020 Branch 746 organized a night at the local Cranford Drive-In theatre to see the newly released film, Radium Girls. We enjoyed bringing back a little "nostalgia" of the good old days watching a movie at the Drive-In. We found that an updated version of the Drive-In theatre nowadays however, is having the sound come through your car radio and no longer hanging a "pesky" speaker on your car window! (For those of a certain age who might remember those speakers!) Radium Girls was a drama depicting 3 factory workers, sisters in fact, that contracted radium poisoning painting watch dials with luminous paint in an East Orange, New Jersey factory. This was an educational, yet inspiring film.

Also in November, a few Branch 746 members gathered for two masses for the intentions of all members of District 4 living and deceased at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Raritan, New Jersey. On Friday, November 27, 2020 the day after Thanksgiving, Jednota Branch 746 members gathered for a Slovak Mass at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey giving thanks for all the blessings bestowed upon them by God with much gratitude.

On Sunday, December 13, 2020 Region 1 members gathered for a Christmas Party via Zoom video or dialed in by phone. Branch 45, 290 and 746 members all joined in on the fun. Members dressed in their favorite Christmas sweaters and attire. Participants shared Christmas traditions, favorite Christmas dinner dishes and folklore. Online attendees were serenaded by soloist, Andrew Pulver, accompanied on the piano by his mother, Tanya Pulver. Their musical selection was "The Infant Jesus" by Pietro A. Yon. There were Christmas carols that were sung, games played with prizes courtesy of Msgr. Rura District 4 of New Jersey. The Christmas Party wouldn't be complete without an appearance of the jolly ole Santa himself coming in from the North Pole singing "Jingle Bells". The virtual get together was organized by Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados.

Holy Family Church is always beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. This year

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was no exception. Members of Branch 746 and students of Lipka Academy sang Slovak Christmas carols and recited traditional Slovak greetings (Vianočné prania a vinše) during the Christmas Day liturgy which was fully in Slovak. After the mass, Jednota members also presented Marianna Fecova, Lipka Academy Director and our Branch 746 member, a donation check for the school. Lipka Academy, founded more than 15 years ago, is a Slovak language school which is based at Holy Family Parish for children from pre-K (as little as age 3) through high school. The school also holds an annual Christmas program which was cancelled this year. Our members look forward to co-sponsoring the event next year.

It was a very busy year of activities despite the pandemic for Branch 746. We are grateful to all of the members who participated and remained active despite the circumstances.

- Summary provided by Mary Ann Ramadhan, Branch 746 Treasurer

District 16: Msgr. Stephen Krasula

In 2020 our district held two meetings, the first one on March 1st, in person, with optimistic plans for the year. We were planning to attend the Jednota Regional Picnic in August in Frogbridge Park in Millstone, NJ, in September we wanted to participate in the pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the dedication of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel. We were also planning other district activities - dinner cruise around Manhattan, trip to Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA and visit the United Nations International Bazaar. Then on March 15th the pandemic lockdown started, the COVID 19 was devastating NY and the rest of the country and all our plans were cancelled or changed. We were able to participate virtually in the Mass on Sunday, September 13, 2020 celebrated in Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church in Tappan, N.Y. commemorating the 55th Anniversary of dedication of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel in Washington, DC.

Our second district meeting was held virtually in November. Our activities were reduced to financial support of Slovak organizations – Slovak Catholic Sokol, Slovak Catholic League, Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and St. John Nepomucene Church. The district also had Masses celebrated for Fr. Stefan Chanas and members of the district.

- Summary provided by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, District President

Branch 41:

Congratulations on the merger of Branch 41 with Branch 45. A special thank you to Daniel F. Tanzone and his leadership playing a pivotal role in the merger of the branches. We strongly encourage former Branch 41 members to remain active in Jednota activities and events organized by their new branch.

Branch 45:

Branch 45 started the year with membership meeting on January 19th held in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church in NYC. The Branch organized a soccer and ping pong tournament in the St. John's gym on February 29th. The ping-pong tournament included new categories of women and children who also competed. It was a very successful event attended by members of Branch 45 and guests. Members of Branch 45 attended the Slovak Ball organized by SACC on February 22nd at The Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ. On March 1st members of Branch 45 participated in District 16 meeting held at the rectory of St John Nepomucene Church. Shortly after that meeting there was a general shutdown declared due to the pandemic and all our planned activities had to be cancelled. On August 1st members of Branch 45 helped with food and refreshments after the funeral of John A. Holy, who passed away on July 24th at the age of 98. Our next meeting was held virtually using the FreeConferenceCall Service on September 20th. Our members also participated virtually in the Mass on Sunday, September 13, 2020 celebrated in Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church in Tappan, N.Y. commemorating the 55th Anniversary of dedication of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel in Washington, DC. In September we also welcomed members of Branch 41 which merged with our Branch 45. On November 8th we participated in the District 16 meeting that was held virtually. Our annual meeting was held virtually on December 6th.

- Summary provided by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Branch 45 Vice President

Branch 716:

This year Branch 716 was active in organizing several activities and events. Branch 716 provided food service for Branch 45 soccer and ping-pong tournament held in St. John Nepomucene Church. In addition, members provided food service for longtime parishioner Marta Catalano funeral service. Branch 716 members and others returned from cemetery and had lunch provided by Branch President Jan Skrkon. In February members celebrated Treasurer Maria Bozekova birthday in St. John Nepomucene Church. Due to Covid-19, the Branch adjusted quickly to the social distancing measures and precautions mandated by the state of New York and celebrated the 40th wedding anniversary of Branch President Jan Skrkon and Branch Secretary Joan Skrkon at St. Catherine's Park near St. John Nepomucene Church. In addition, members attended the funeral mass of long-time member and Jednota newspaper contributor, John Holy.

Once the weather was warmer additional gatherings and celebrations took place outside such as "name day - Maria" with Treasurer Maria Bozekova, and in September the birthday of parishioner Radislav Demcak for which Branch President Jan Skrkon provided lunch for all parishioners attending mass. On November 27th, Branch 716 held its annual meeting and then Andrew Sulak's birthday was celebrated. All enjoyed lunch and birthday cake, food was provided by President Jan Skrkon. In December the branch celebrated St. Mikulas day at St. Catherine's park despite the cooler weather. The Branch did the best we could do during this current pandemic in order to continue activities and support the parish. Otherwise, Branch 716 donated to Slovak Catholic League and Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius in 2020.

- Summary provided by Joan Mary Skrkon, Branch 716 Recording and Financial Secretary

* * *

None of us accepted the events of 2020, but we all adjusted and made the best of the situation. As noted above, branches and districts creatively implemented ideas to keep members engaged and active throughout the pandemic. We should all be proud of the efforts made to keep our society moving forward!

In 2020, we also mourned the loss of dear Jednota friends and family members. May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President, Secretary, and Home Office staff for their assistance throughout the year. A special thank you to our fantastic Jednota editor, Terri Ivanec who works to put together the monthly newspaper with a smile on her face (I can sense it virtually) and with endless patience and positivity. Last but certainly not least, I want to again thank the amazing members of Region 1 for all of their enthusiasm and support in 2020! Not only did you adapt to a new way of meeting and doing Jednota business, you also participated in the first ever virtual Region 1 Christmas party, and a many activities organized by our Fraternal Activities Director including the Kentucky Derby hat contest, the coloring contest, the Ugly Sweater and Christmas tree contest and all of the sports related competitions as well.

I am proud of the collaboration and work we've done thus far, and I am excited about the activities in 2021 which we have already started to plan together!

I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Directors to rejuvenate our branches, ignite our youth's interest in our organization, and continue to build a resilient society that will withstand the challenges of the 21st century. The pandemic has given all of us the precious gift of time and a chance to take a step back – reassess, re-prioritize, and refocus our energies on what is most important to us. For me, Jednota continues to have a resounding presence in my life. I want to continue to work towards strengthening our Jednota community – based on the values and ideals of our founder, but with a vision of sustaining our society for generations to come. I often refer to us as the "Jednota family" and this is what we should continue to foster and build at the local branch level, district level, regional level, and national level.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabina Sabados
Region 1 Director

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4. Remember that we can only discuss a contract or certificate with the owner or with permission from the owner.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

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