



# Jednota

Catholic Fraternal

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek  
Our Founder

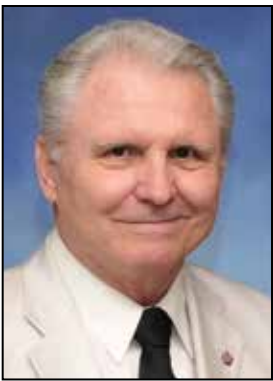
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## Message from the President



Andrew M. Rajec

The recent passing of our National Officers Andrew R. Harcar Sr. and George F. Matta II was reported in my Message from the President article on Page one of the June 9, 2021 Jednota. The obituaries were also on the FCSU website.

In addition, we are reprinting the obituaries on Page one in this issue to give proper recognition to these fine men and for their service to the Society.

May they rest in peace in Eternity with Our Lord.

In the bustle of today's world, we often do not appreciate the strong impact of the loss of a family member in someone else's family.

Zbohom Andy and George. You will be missed.

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

## FCSU National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Passed Into Eternal Life on May 23, 2021

Andrew R. Harcar Sr, 81, of Streator passed away Sunday, May 23, 2021 at Heritage Health, Streator IL surrounded by his family.

Born December 17, 1939 in Streator he was the son of Thomas and Anna (Lesak) Harcar. He married Maria M. Kiss on July 21, 1962 at Immaculate Conception Church, Streator. She preceded him in death on November 1, 2017.

He is survived by his daughters, Veronica Manzella of Normal, IL, and Theresa (Tim) Graves of Streator; a son, Andrew Harcar Jr.; grandchildren, Matthew Manzella, Jennifer Manzella and Emma Graves; sisters, Frances (Oral) Higdon of Streator and Mary Ann Woodward of Bloomington, IL; and a brother, James Harcar of Streator.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by: sisters, Ann Beckmon and Agnes Hornick; brothers, Thomas Jr., Joseph, Michael and William Harcar; a son in law, Richard Manzella; and a sister in law, Rose Harcar.

Born and raised in Streator, Andy attended St. Stephen's Grade School. He attended three years of Seminary before graduating from Streator High School. He was a lifelong member of the former St. Stephen's Parish, now called St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Parish, where he served as an usher. Andy was a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and its Color Corp. and he was a past Faithful Navigator.

He was a United States Army Veteran.

Andy served as the National Vice-President of Membership and Marketing for the First Catholic Slovak Union for over 20 years. He

was a past Branch Officer for 38 years, a former FCSU District Officer for 14 years, and a former Regional Director for Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and all points west. He was a member of Matica slovenska, the Slovak Catholic Federation, and the Slovak Heritage and Cultural Society. He was also a Licensed Insurance Producer for the State of Illinois for over 20 years. In addition, Andy was a Past President of the Indiana Fraternal Alliance.

Andy was a retired General Contractor in business for 36 years as well as a Construction Consultant, and was a carpentry instructor at Illinois Valley Community College for 21 years. He co-owned the Rock Bluffs Tree Farm for 42 years. He also was member of Streator, Illinois Board of Appeals, AMVETS, the American Legion, and the American Tree Farm Association.

Andy was a former President Eastern Illinois University Parents Club Board of Directors and a former Girls' Softball Coach and Boys' Midget League Coach.

Andy was extremely proud of his Slovak Heritage and he truly treasured his FCSU family who meant the world to him. Andy will be dearly missed by his children and grandchildren whom he loved very



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

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## FCSU National Treasurer George F. Matta, II Passed Into Eternal Life on May 10, 2021

George F. Matta, II, age 64, of White Oak, PA, and formerly of Duquesne, PA, died peacefully on May 10, 2021. He was born on October 2, 1956 to parents George Matta, deceased, and Florence (Kelmeckis) Matta, and is survived by his wife Catherine (Love), who met in high school and were married for 39 devoted years; his son, Bradley and wife Gretchen (Dimeling) Matta, and daughter Brittany and her husband Darin Kowalski. George was blessed to be known as "Pappy" to his four grandchildren; Kash, Hagen, Bannon, and Kinley - all of whom he adored and provided him with motivation during his battle with brain cancer; and his dog Oliver. George also leaves behind his brother, Gary Matta, and brother-in-law, George Dillinger, and his wife Cindy (Pazehoski) Dillinger; and nieces and nephews: Logan (Dillinger) and Keith Haselhoff, Tyler and Liz (Heiles) Dillinger, Langley (Matta) and Tyler Shope, Austin Matta and Jaquan Davidson.

George lived a full life; dedicated to supporting his family, helping his friends, and committed to always trying to better the "Mon Valley" - the community he was so proud to have lived in throughout his entire life. His journey in life began in the City of Duquesne, from being

born here, one of his proudest political accomplishments, was to be elected as Mayor of Duquesne from (1993-1999). Indeed, being called "Mayor" was a badge of honor as he was a graduate of Duquesne High School (1974)

and was elected as City Controller (1989-1993). George obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Penn State University (1978), and Masters in Business Industrial Relations from St. Francis College (1983).

George leaves this world after making countless relationships from starting his professional career as Manager of Benefits and Compensation for PPG Industries (1980-1985), owning retail flower shops (Ann's and Matta's) in the Mon Valley (1984-1999), being elected as the Clerk of Courts in Allegheny County (2000-2008), Economic Development Liaison from Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh Super Computer (2008-2009), serving as Director of Business Development and Community Relations from the inception of the River's Casino (2009-2012), then Managing Director of Institutional Services for Columbus Macro.

His civic and community involvement was immeasurable and illustrated by his deep concern and commitment for serving the public in numerous capacities geared toward the economic improvement and development of the region: Pittsburgh Economic and Industrial Development Corporation Committee; Member of the Mon-Fayette/Mon-Valley Expressway for Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission; Member of the Board for the Regional Industrial Development Corporation for the Duquesne-McKeesport Millsite; Member of Allegheny County Retirement System; Member of the Steel Valley



George F. Matta II

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**107 – 16th Sunday of O.T. – July 18, 2021**

Shepherds and their flocks are the subject of today's scripture readings at mass, with the recurring theme of shepherds who have failed their flocks featuring prominently. Since Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd in John's Gospel, and since shepherd imagery often accompanies the writings of the Psalms and the prophets, it seems natural to use this term to describe God in his relations toward his people Israel and toward the Christian Church.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

We begin with the prophet Jeremiah, who exercised his ministry in the sixth century before Christ at a time when Jerusalem and Judah were besieged by the Babylonians. Against false prophets and would-be leaders who promised the people peace and prosperity, Jeremiah uttered the hard words: "Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture." He followed his words of warning with a promise from the Lord: "I will raise up shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear" (Jer 23:1, 4).

Many in Israel responded to Jeremiah's preaching and turned back to the Lord as their one and only true shepherd, yet many others failed to do so. This pattern of infidelity to the Lord and limited contrition would continue for generations in Israel, as it does in our own culture and day. Even for those who consciously find strength and joy in their relationship with God, moments come when hardships arise which can shake one's faith. At times like this one might think of the Psalm we pray together at mass today, acknowledging the Lord as our shepherd and saying in trust: "though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage." (Ps 23:4).

In ancient times as in modern ones we are subject to the cycle of our good intentions to be faithful disciples of the Lord being frustrated by our selfish tendencies which ultimately lead us into that "dark valley" of sin. Over the course of history God never tires of reconciling us to himself once more after we have drifted away, yet in the fullness of time God went beyond his covenant commitment to his people and did something which would break this cycle once and for all, even if its consequences still accompany us. In the person of Jesus Christ God would take on humanity with all its joys and sorrows—even suffering and death—in order to definitely redeem us from these things.

Before his encounter with death and his resurrection which followed, Jesus showed himself to be the perfect shepherd, or the "Good Shepherd" who is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Today's Gospel reminds us of how often we need the grace and guidance of such a devoted shepherd, when we hear: "When [Jesus] disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things" (Mark 6:34).

Confident in the goodness of our Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep, let us follow his invitation to: "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). Then, refreshed in his peace and his strength, we may acknowledge the depth of our need for the Good Shepherd, taking account of the "dark valleys" into which we stumble, and then follow faithfully after him into the verdant pastures and restful waters to which he leads us—and the redemption which lies beyond.

**July 25, 2021 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Gospel – John 6: 1 – 15**

The Gospel this weekend is from the beginning of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John in which Jesus speaks of himself as being "The Bread of Life." The section we hear today tells of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish. This took place after a long day of preaching and performing wonders. We are told that a large crowd was following Jesus because of the signs he was performing. This was a spontaneous response of the people who experienced the presence of Jesus and began to follow him to learn more about him. These were people who were hungering for the Good News and when they experienced Jesus they began to wonder if he was not only the bearer of Good News but more than that, prophet or even Messiah; both the messenger and the message. Jesus noticed the crowd was hungry and all they had were five loaves of bread and a couple of fish, and as Simon commented, "what good are these for so many?" What seemed totally inadequate through the eyes of the Apostles was more than enough for Jesus. He took the loaves and fish, gave thanks and distributed them, and there was more than enough. They ended up with twelve baskets of fragments from the five loaves. Jesus' desire was to satisfy their hunger, both the spiritual and physical. Jesus cares about our total being, both our mortal lives here and our immortal lives in the afterworld.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

The first lesson for us is that with God all things are possible. When we allow our minds to limit the infinite goodness and almighty works of God we do an injustice to both God and ourselves. It would be far better if we kept our minds open and allow the magnificent works of God to be seen in us and around us. When we think we do not have enough to make a difference, think again. Take what little we have, offer it up to the Lord and ask him to Bless it. The Lord draws out of us gifts and talents we never thought we had. A multiplication of our gifts and talents can take place. The Apostles and Disciples did this and went from being fishermen and tradesmen to evangelists and missionaries who traveled the known world.

The second lesson is that just as Jesus satisfied the human hunger of the crowd, he is one who we can call upon to satisfy the hungers in life. Most importantly he satisfies our spiritual hunger, for he is the Bread of Life. In the Beatitudes Jesus taught us, "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." (Matthew 5:6) We can come to the Lord with all the hungers we experience and he will satisfy us, we can come to the Lord with all we have, even when it seems inadequate and insufficient for our needs, and he will take this offering, bless it, and we will find that not only does he satisfy us, he gives us much more than enough.

The Gospel for this weekend ends with the multiplication of the loaves and fish, but the chapter of John continues. The next day the crowd searches out Jesus and he questions their motives asking if they came for another free meal. Jesus does not end with that; he continues to teach them that just as he satisfied their human hunger, he will satisfy their spiritual hunger. He leads them from the reality of their human hunger to the realization that they also have a spiritual hunger that must be satisfied. Jesus is the Bread of Life who satisfies the hungry heart.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8	MONDAY, AUGUST 30
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

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## Message from the President

The First Catholic Slovak Union suffered the passing of two long-time Officers in the month of May 2021, Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President and George F. Matta II, Treasurer.

Both of these Officers by virtue of Bylaw Sec. 10.01 were members of the Executive Committee along with the President as Chair and the Executive Secretary. The Executive Committee is charged with investing the Society's assets and has to approve the purchases and dispositions. Assets of the Society now exceed \$450 million dollars and are growing at a significant pace. Members of the Executive Committee meet, at least telephonically, with the FCSU Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management, several times a week, often on quick notice.

Bylaws Sec. 10.03 requires a quorum of four to conduct business of the Executive Committee. Since the passing of both members was an emergency that would substantially affect the operation of the FCSU business, per Sec. 6.05 b. the President filled these positions on a temporary basis with the consent of the Board of Directors at their meeting June 19, 2021. Their biographies were sent to the Board Members prior to the meeting.

Appointed were - James Marmol Treasurer. Jim has been a Regional Director for many years, has a diverse education and professional background and was named president of Jednota Properties Inc. after the passing of Regis Brekosky. Jim was instrumental in the sale of the Jednota properties in November, 2019.

Andrew P. Rajec – Vice President. Andy has a Master of Business from Notre Dame University and while serving as Director of Agents has built the independent sales force from a few dozen to over 425 agents. In 2020 75% of annuity premium, (\$33 million dollars) was from agents. In 2021, January thru June 30, 2021 over \$46 million or 85% was from independent agents. He is a licensed agent in seven states and has FIC designations.

These appointments will be thru the September 2021 Board meeting which will be held in Maryland, in conjunction with the Jednota Pilgrimage at the Washington Shrine of Our Lady. At that time the Board will select a candidate from those who respond to this announcement to complete the terms until the 2022 Convention.

**Please see the following announcement seeking qualified candidates.**

The First Catholic Slovak Union is seeking qualified candidates to apply for the following positions which they will hold from September 18, 2021 until the next Convention in 2022 when all positions will be up for election.

The applicant must have been a member in good standing of the FCSU for a minimum of five (5) years, a practicing Catholic, a citizen of the US or Canada; cannot sell life insurance or annuities for any other insurer; and cannot be a national officer in any other fraternal or life insurance company, or if selected must resign from that office.

**Treasurer Sec. 7.05 – Duties**

The Treasurer shall:

- a) Prepare and present to the Executive Committee a monthly report compiled in condensed form.
- b) Along with the Executive committee, appoint one or more qualified custodians who shall be responsible for the safe keeping of all bonds and investments of the FCSU and who shall furnish a detailed monthly and yearly report to the Treasurer.
- c) Submit a written report at the Convention and at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors in such form as shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

**Vice-President Sec. 7.03 Duties**

The Vice-President shall:

- a) In the event of a vacancy due to death, illness or disability in the office of the President, succeed to the office of the President.
- b) Submit a written report to the Convention and to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors pertaining to his/her office.
- c) Be a member of the Executive Committee.
- d) Oversee the sales functions of the Society.

Both these positions are members of the Executive Committee.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter stating interest and qualifications to:

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President  
First Catholic Slovak Union  
6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300  
Independence, OH 44131

**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 27, 2021.**



## His Excellency, the Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg, PA, is Now Protector for the FCSU



It has been a past practice to have a Bishop named as the "Protector" for the FCSU. The last named was Bishop Adamec. With the recent appointment of Bishop Larry Kulick, I felt it was appropriate to request Bishop Kulick to assume that role. He graciously accepted. He is a long-time Jednota member and a native son of the Greensburg Diocese.

The post is honorary and contains no specific duties except as he is available. He will be invited to our 2022 Convention. As the old saying goes, "God protects the Jednota".

I know Bishop Kulick will ask God to continue that protection.

**Andrew M. Rajec  
National President**

## Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

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much. He was a wonderful and caring man who had a smile for everyone he met. Memorials may be directed to St. Michael the Archangel Church, Streator, or the charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.solontelford.com](http://www.solontelford.com)

## National Treasurer George F. Matta, II

continued from page 1

Authority Citizens Advisory Board; Board Member for the Duquesne-West Mifflin Chamber of Commerce; Member of Duquesne Redevelopment Authority; Member of Duquesne Planning Commission; Board Member of White Oak Zoning Commission; Chairman of Duquesne Sanitation Authority; Charter Member of the Mon-Valley 911 Dispatch System; and Duquesne Business Advisory System.

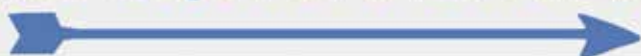
George's concern for the safety and well-being of others encouraged him to be involved as a member of Lifespan Board of Directors; Board Member of Animal Friends of Pittsburgh; Board Member Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank; Board Member of Womansplace of Western Pennsylvania; Director for the McKeesport Area Rescue System; Member of Duquesne-West Mifflin Knights of Columbus. George also served as the Chairman of Duquesne Democratic Committee; Chairman of the White Oak Democratic Committee, Committeeman to the Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee, and Member of the (IACREOT) International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers.

George was proud of his Slovak heritage and was honored to follow in his father's footsteps, serving as the National Treasurer for the First Catholic Slovak Union (JEDNOTA). Most distinctly, one of George's most passionate charitable endeavors was starting the Jodie Matta-Dillinger Cancer Foundation, which serves to help families of cancer patients within the Mon Valley, in honor of his late sister Jodie (Matta) Dillinger, who he is now reunited with in heaven.

George has positively touched so many in trying to help and better the lives of others, and his memory will forever be celebrated. George and his family requested that any memorial contributions be made to the "JMD Foundation", <https://www.jmdf.net/>, at 1527 California Avenue, White Oak, PA 15131.

Condolences may be made at [www.jeffersonmemorial.biz](http://www.jeffersonmemorial.biz). To plant a tree in memory of George F. Matta, II please visit the Jefferson Memorial Tribute Store.

**IMPORTANT DATES**



**For FCSU 52nd Quadrennial Convention,  
see page 13**

## SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal Continues In July

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 June 29, \$18,699.50 has been received from 175 donors. This time last year, 146 donors contributed \$18,023.50. Along with the Home Office of the FCSU, the following Branches have made donations: Branch 1, Branch 3, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 89, Branch 112, Branch 153, Branch 166, Branch 173, Branch 181, Branch 213, Branch 254, Branch 276, 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 wishing to contribute to the 2021 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President  
Slovak Catholic Federation  
Our Lady of Grace Church  
225 Bellevue Avenue  
Pennel, PA 19047-4052

## Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!



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

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

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

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

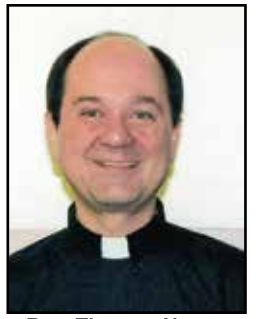
## Message from the National Chaplain

Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles is President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). On June 21, 2021, he announced that the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine will begin to draft a document on the meaning of the Holy Eucharist in the life of the Church.

Many are speculating that the primary reason for the document is to chastise Catholics who take a public stand on issues contrary to the Gospel of Life, but according to a summary of Questions and Answers provided by the USCCB, "[t]he document being drafted is not meant to be disciplinary in nature, nor is it targeted at any one individual or class of persons. It will include a section on the Church's teaching on the responsibility of every Catholic, including bishops, to live in accordance with the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist we celebrate."

It would not be surprising if the primary motivation for this action by our nation's bishops is a 2019 Pew Research study which revealed two disturbing things. First, 50% of Catholics in the United States do not know that the Catholic Church teaches the Eucharist is the actual Body and Blood of Christ. Second, two of three U.S. Catholics do not believe this teaching. Pause and think about that. Two of three people in the United States who claim to be Catholic do not believe the Sacred Host and Precious Blood are really and truly Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.

According to the Question and Answer summary, the document will not outline a national policy on withholding Communion from specific individuals. Also, the Vatican did not tell the bishops not to proceed with drafting the document. Given the fact that a significant number of Catholics are misled in their understanding of the Holy Eucharist, the bishops of our country concluded at their most recent meeting in June that now is the time for the traditional teaching of the Church on the Most Holy Eucharist to be affirmed and clarified.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

### Live the Golden Rule

"Be kind, be kind, be kind, and you will soon be saints," said the medieval mystic Jan van Ruysbroeck. This bit of wisdom was most certainly inspired by the Golden Rule, which states, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." As Van Ruysbroeck's quote exemplifies, following the Golden Rule is a perfect way to draw closer to God. Yet the world throws so many complexities in our way to obscure our vision of this clear path to holiness.

Many cultures and religions have teachings similar to the Golden Rule. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, it was an idea expressed in Leviticus 19:18, when God instructed Moses, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Christ later reiterated this idea in His Sermon on the Mount, saying, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

The Christophers' recent News Note Live the Golden Rule details practical ways to stay on the path to holiness by following Christ's command to treat others in the way we would like to be treated. In this News Note, a quote from Father John Catoir, former Director of The Christophers, puts things in perspective. He states, "Maybe you can't be a delegate at international peace talks. But you can be a peacemaker in your own family – and pray and work for peaceful communication between people of different racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds."

One particular story tells of a woman named Elizabeth Cody Newenhuyse, who wrote a piece for Today's Christian Woman about her struggle to overcome a judgmental attitude towards others. "The other day," Newenhuyse writes, "a rather shabbily dressed young woman walked by our house while I was working in the yard. I literally thought to myself, 'Be kind.' I smiled and said hello, and she gave me a beautiful smile in return. It just lit up her face. It was a small but significant encounter, because it represented a victory over my old negative pattern of judging people by external appearances."

Processing what she learned from that encounter, Newenhuyse concluded, "When you're tempted to think or act critically, stop and consciously substitute a positive response. Pay a compliment. It may seem artificial at first, but after a while, it will become a habit, and a God-honoring habit at that."

What a beautiful way to honor God, by showing kindness to someone who might otherwise be treated as an outcast. This is the courage we are called to, and though it's a courage that can manifest itself in small gestures and interactions, it's no small matter at all. It takes courage to befriend those on the margins of society in a culture that can be as judgmental as ours. We risk being branded by the problems of those we associate with, which is why we're so reticent to cross that imaginary line that's been drawn between us and them.

But we are called to cross that line to the degree we are able. When we do, we are practicing the Golden Rule in the most challenging way possible. For which of us cannot say, "There but for the grace of God go I," in regard to another person's struggles? And if we can picture ourselves in their shoes, we can know how we would want to be treated – with kindness, kindness, and more kindness.



### Scenes from District 9's Annual Meeting

The May 23rd 2021 Annual Meeting of the Frank T. Holly District, District 9, was held at 1:00PM at Caporella's Italian Ristorante in Uniontown, PA. In addition to an enjoyable afternoon of good food and fraternalism, election of officers for the district took place.

### Alexis Thomas Earns Doctorate Degree



On May 7, 2021, Alexis Thomas graduated from the University of Toledo with a doctorate in Occupation Therapy. She is the daughter of Denise and Tom Thomas and the granddaughter of Norma Ruttkay, and is a member of Branch 450 along with her brothers Justin and Trent.

Congratulations, Alexis!  
 - Submitted by Norma Ruttkay, Branch 450 Member

### 2021 Youth Volunteer Award Open for Qualified NJ- NY Members



One of the most important fraternal programs offered by the New Jersey – New York Fraternal Alliance is its Youth Volunteer Award Program. Each year the NJNY FA chooses deserving students from a member society such as the FCSU, based on their volunteer

achievements with their society as well as the community at large. Award winners each receive a \$500 check. An individual can only receive the award once. The deadline for submitting applications is September 1, 2021 postmark. All completed applications and supporting information are to be mailed to:

Robert A. Galdon, Jr.  
 NJNY FA Youth Volunteer Award Committee  
 PO Box 37  
 Hibernia, NJ 07842

To obtain an application, go to <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/> or contact Robert Galdon for more info at:  
 Email: [germaniabob@gmail.com](mailto:germaniabob@gmail.com) Phone: 201-247-6750

## Focus on Fraternalism

### Branch 181 Sponsors Youth Baseball and Adult Softball Teams

Branch 181 demonstrated FCSU Fraternalism in Action again – by providing sponsorship to a local Little League team and an adult softball team for the 2021 season.

The Mount Pleasant Area Little League team, known as the Grizzlies, sported team T-shirts with “FCSU Branch 181” printed on the back. Congratulations to the Grizzlies for an outstanding season! They played in the championship game and earned second place. The league appreciated the continued support especially since the season was cancelled due to the pandemic last year.



The MPALL Grizzlies



The Steeltown Softball program received sponsorship which helps to lower costs for many players to participate in traveling tournaments in the Pittsburgh area and regionally. The program has had a positive impact on the lives of the players, their families and the community. A travel banner with information about Branch 181 is displayed at each game.



Steeltown Softball Team



Banner with sponsors listed

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Recording Secretary



### How Are You Helping?

What are you doing? Email Jednota at [fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com) and share what your branch, district or family is doing to help others.

# 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.

The next Sister in the series, Sister Pieta, came from the Spiš region of Slovakia to the United States with her family at the age of four. She followed the seed of religious vocation planted at her First Communion in a Pennsylvania parish to enter the congregation of SS Cyril & Methodius in 1926 where she taught children to blend their Catholic faith with the spirit of the Slovak nation.

- **Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM, with Sister Carol Ann Terlicher, SSCM**

## Sister Pieta



Mary Irene Venit, a member of the first graduating class (1926) of Slovak Girls' Academy (later called St. Cyril Academy), was born in Katvin (Spiš), Slovakia, on September 24, 1908. After coming to the U. S. at age 4, she and her family, parents Lawrence and mother Mary (Spernoga) Venit, lived in Mocanaqua, PA and belonged to Ascension parish where Father Sobota was pastor. It was he who welcomed the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from Naticoke to prepare children for the reception of First Communion. As Mary relates, "The seed of a religious vocation was planted in me at the time. Later my mother and Sister Regina made arrangements to enroll me with the five students who were already at the Villa attending school in the south wing of the Bennett mansion."

Significant is the fact that the last Academy yearbook AURORA has references to Sister Pieta and her graduating class of 1926. A photo with the caption "First students to enroll at Slovak Girls Academy" shows the fifteen students, among them Mary Venit, who had the distinction of

beginning their studies at the Academy. The entry for the year 1922, "Early Beginnings," tells us that "the south wing of the former Bennett mansion was given over to the academy, housing two classrooms, a library, dormitory, recreation, sewing and dining rooms. An out-building became a laboratory." September 11 was the opening of the first school year and the uniform was "a dress of blue serge, with pleats at both sides, and a white collar."

To put things in context, putting a brief description of the spirit of the Class of '26 is also necessary. The motto reveals what the young women considered significant: For God, for Nation, for Catholic Education. Their patroness was our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, and the class virtues, purity and simplicity. Their dedication to Our Lady is evident in the colors they chose, white and blue. The violet was their class flower and one need only think of Villa Sacred Heart in the spring when the lawns are covered with tiny lavender flowers that rejoice the heart.

During the early years of our Academy the FIALKY appeared twice a year and had articles in both Slovak and English. In the December 1924 edition Mary had a Slovak article entitled "Svatá Agnesa," "St. Agnes," who is the patroness of Catholic girls, "our model of virtue." The English article, "Our Slovak Sisters and Their Work," provides a fine description of the congregation at the very beginning of its existence. In the article Mary sets the scene for what will transpire in the future when the congregation is established to meet the needs of the immigrants. "When our fathers and grandfathers came to this country, they faced many hardships and difficulties." They met the usual problems, for example, not knowing the language and unfamiliarity with American ways and customs. These immigrants, however, took the necessary steps to insure a better life for themselves and their families. First of all, they worked hard for a living and then they built churches. Luckily, they had "zealous, untiring priests to lead them and soon they and their families were happy in their adopted country." Since Mary and her family were also immigrants, she is speaking from personal experience.

Mary continues by telling us that since the Sisters were born in America, the children they taught learned how to blend their Catholic faith with the spirit of the Slovak nation. The congregation's founding date was September 11, 1909, and it was blessed to have not only the zealous founder, Father Matthew Jankola, but the Bishop of Scranton, Right Reverend Michael J. Hoban and the Bishop of Harrisburg, Right Reverend Philip McDevitt, to guide them. The Mother Superior of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, Mother Mary Cyril, (Her name is significant.) saw to it the young congregation was properly trained.

The last paragraph of Mary's article summarizes the blessings the Lord had showered down upon the new congregation: "There are now 115 professed Sisters, 29 novices, 16 postulants. The Community has under its care their first Slovak Academy and High School for girls, the orphanage of the First Catholic Slovak Union and 17 parochial schools in the Dioceses of Harrisburg, Scranton, Pittsburgh, Hartford, New York, Buffalo and Fort Wayne with altogether over 5,000 children." Looking at Mary Venit's life during the time she spent on the grounds of Villa Sacred Heart gives us a view of what life was like here during the early years of our congregation

In the June 1925 issue of the FIALKY Mary gives advice on living joyfully. According to her, the school provides opportunities to acquire virtues. "We love to study because we know a good Catholic education is a priceless treasure. We love to pray because we know that nothing brings happiness more than union with God." She also gives advice on bearing



**Sister Pieta (3rd from left, seated) was among the Class of '26 whose motto was: For God, For Nation, for Catholic Education**

the sorrows of life. "Let us train ourselves by goodness and cheerfulness to accept them with joy out of the loving hand of God." Mary also reminded us "that eternal bliss awaits us."

In the December 1925 FIALKY Mary wrote a Slovak article entitled "Jako sa máme učiť katechismus," "How We Must Study the Catechism." "We must learn the catechism," says Mary, "first for God to whom we are indebted, so that we can learn about Him and his teachings, so that we can serve Him and love Him and so we can save our souls. Our aim to learn catechism is not for good marks or praise. We must study it to live by it and reverence it. We must study our catechism so we can lead a virtuous, happy and worthwhile life and receive the joys of everlasting life." She quotes Mark 8:36, "What gain, then, is it for a man to win the whole world and ruin his life?"

In the December 1925 issue also Mary wrote an article entitled "The Senior Class" in which she extols the admirable qualities of the young women in the Academy's first class. "Ever since the birth of our dear Academy the seniors possessed the reputation of an enthusiastic and promising class. Our standard has always been high—our hand willing to co-operate with anything that is for God and for the good of our neighbor."

What appears on Mary's yearbook page gives us an idea of her admirable qualities. Her favorite virtue was piety, not surprising for one who later became Sister Pieta, and her favorite study was Church Latin. A wise choice for one who would become a religious back in the 1920's. Her characteristics also show that she would do well as a Sister: diligence, promptness and reticence. Mary was treasurer of the Little Flower Literary Circle and her ambition was to increase the treasury of the Literary Circle. Mary's favorite quotation was also an indication of the importance of prayer, "Prayer moves the hand that moves the earth," is her favorite quotation, another indication of what the future held in store.

The graduates were required to write two short articles that reflect what each considered significant, one in English and one in Slovak. Mary's English article is entitled "Good Example."

The closing sentence shows how important Catholic education was: "Let us ever be faithful to the teachings of our sweet Alma Mater. 'So let your light shine that all who see thee will glorify God.'" Mary's Catholic education served her well in the future when she became the teacher of hundreds of young people.

The Slovak essay penned by a future religious is entitled simply "Smrt'." Death. What a subject for a young woman heading off into life! It is, however, a worthwhile meditation in one sentence: "Jestli sme bojovali ako verní učenici Krista, smrt' nás neprekvapí. Vtedy bude naša priateľkyňa lebo nás spojí s našim drahým Spasiteľom..." "If we have lived as true disciples of Christ, death will not surprise us. It will be our friend because it unites us to our dear Savior."

In the December 1926 issue of the FIALKY, a Slovak article entitled "Alumnae" described each graduate of the first class, among them Mary Venit: "Do you remember how she liked giving an instruction on catechism? She even wrote an article about the topic and received a gold medal for her knowledge of the subject. Now in a short time she is going to teach the subject as a Sister. What name will you take, Mary?" The paragraph ends with the significant words, "Mary entered the novitiate on the Feast of All Saints."

The first graduation was held in the solarium on June 14, 1926, with Bishop Philip McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg, officiating. Also present were forty priests and four Bishops from Slovakia, Joseph Čarsky, Košice; Marian Blaha, Banská Bystrica; John Vojtaššák, Spiš; and Paul Jantausch, Trnava. Of the Academy's first graduating class, nine of its ten members entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, among them Mary Venit who became Sister Pieta.

After spending six years at Sacred Heart Villa, where she received a strong religious and academic education, Mary entered the congregation on November 1, 1926. She took the religious name "Pieta" because from her parents she had learned a deep love of Our Lady of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia. We learn later that according to the Sisters with whom she entered, she had a quiet sense of humor and a spirit of fun. She had said, "The most memorable events in my religious life were the day of my entrance, my Profession Day, May 23, 1929, and the day I was privileged to witness an ordination in our Motherhouse chapel."

Sister Pieta taught intermediate through upper grades and spent many years, slightly more than 39 years in the Diocese of Scranton and shorter periods of time in Connecticut, Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania. From 1963-1980, she taught religious education classes

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## Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius Summer Festival Resumes in 2022



The 2021 Summer Festival of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius will be postponed until July 9, 2022. Since the reopening of Pennsylvania is only just beginning, this decision to cancel the Festival was made based on the safety of our volunteers, and all who would attend the Festival. We will miss all of you and look forward to seeing you on July 9, 2022.

- Submitted by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius



(L – R) Maria Zakovic, Jozef and Anna Korcak, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Anton Kucharovic, Joseph and Maria Jurasi.



(L – R) Veronika, Martina, Jirina Voboril (Restaurant Manager), Maria and Joseph Jurasi.

## St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 – Board Members Lunch in NYC Koliba

Board Members of St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 held a lunch and a special meeting at the beautiful Koliba Restaurant in Astoria, NY, on June 13, 2021 at 2:00PM. The agenda of the meeting included a discussion about future activities for 2021. Not to forget to mention: the terrific traditional Slovak food and beverages were served by a great staff!

- Submitted by Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

## Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

continued from page 6

in six parishes: Holy Family, Scranton; Holy Ghost, Olyphant; Sacred Heart, Torrington; St. John the Baptist, Throop; Holy Trinity, Simpson and Holy Trinity, Swoyerville. In looking back on her 50 years as a religious, Sister Pieta said with the Psalmist, "What can I render to the Lord for all He has rendered to Me?" Her years of dedicated, conscientious teaching prove that Christ had been her strength.

In 1983, after spending two and a half years at Maria Hall, Sister Pieta returned to the Lord. Always in frail health, Sister spent herself in the service of the Lord. She lived her personal motto from Scripture, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." She died on September 29, the Feast of the Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, on the threshold of October, the month of the Holy Rosary. On October 1, the feast of the Little Flower, her funeral was celebrated by the Maria Hall chaplain, Msgr. Alphonse Marcincavage and concelebrants, Father Zan and Father Eckert, CSSP.

As we look back to those days of dear Sister Pieta, profound gratitude to the Lord wells up in our hearts and on our lips, words imploring Him to again bless our congregation with new members zealous for engaging in the four E's: Education, Ecumenism, Eldercare and Evangelization.

## Branch 450's Caroline Visnovsky Awarded in Respect Life Contest



Caroline Visnovsky participated and received an honorable mention award in the "Respect Life" Art, Essay & Poetry Contest organized by the Live Works Ohio Organization. (Over 1500 essay entries). This competition allows students in grades 4-12 to express their commitment to LIFE through art, essay and poetry, using a Biblical theme. The competition attracts thousands of students from Northeast Ohio each year. The Award Ceremony took place on Sunday, May 23rd, 2021, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church in Parma OH. Caroline, her two brothers Elias and Marco, along with her parents the Right Reverend Marek and Mrs. Miriam Visnovsky, are all members of the FCSU.

- Submitted by Miriam Visnovsky

*"So faith, hope, and love remain...but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13*

By Caroline Visnovsky

There is a lot of thinking and reflection to take place when hearing the quote, "So faith, hope, and love remain...but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13) After taking some time to reflect on this quote, I realized why the greatest of the three is love. In order for there to be faith and hope, there has to be love; love will bring faith and hope.

One of the most devastating things that happens today is abortion. Abortion became legal in the United States in January 1973. Ever since that year, there have been over 60 million abortions just in the United States. Abortion is one of the main leading causes of death in the world. However, there is a purpose for a preborn child to live; God created them for a reason.

There are many reasons for committing an abortion. One of the most common reasons coming from women is, "It's my body, my choice!" Although this reason is quite true, it does not apply for abortion. Anyone can do anything they want to their own body, but a preborn child is not the mother's body. The child has its own body, organs, bones, muscles, and blood. Another reason for committing an abortion is the mother being coerced to have it either from her spouse, friend, or family member. Then, many people think that a preborn child does not have life in the womb or is just a piece of tissue. They think that the child will have life once it is born. Preborn children have life from the moment of conception. About 3-6 weeks after conception, a preborn child already has a heartbeat. People need to know what abortion really is. They need to know that when they agree with abortion, they are agreeing with taking away the life of an innocent child, which is essentially killing it.

Committing an abortion does not show love. Those who choose to or coerce others to commit an abortion are most likely people who have never experienced love themselves. If someone has not experienced love, they will not know how to express love. God did not create use to decide whether a preborn child should live or die. He created use to love others just as He loves us, including preborn children. Once others feel that they are loved, they will know how to love others too. Hopefully, they will be able to show love towards preborn children as well.

Many, if not all expectant mothers are nervous; they do not know what their future will hold. They are sacrificing a lot during pregnancy and after. However, as Christians, we should assist an expectant mother in the best possible way we can. We can help her physically by carrying something for her or by getting anything she needs from the store. Then, we can help her emotionally by asking her how she is feeling. We can tell her, "You're going to do great. I'm here for you." Finally, we can help her spiritually by sharing our faith with her. We can say a quick prayer for her and the preborn child so that they will be safe and healthy. It is crucial for us to show love towards others because by showing love, we can affect that person in a significant way. We could possibly prevent an abortion.

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



The Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2021, in observance of Labor Day.

# News From Slovakia

## Prototyp „AirCar“ završil let Nitra - Bratislava za 25 minút

Bratislava 28. júna (TASR) - Prototyp lietajúceho automobilu slovenskej výroby s názvom AirCar absolvoval svoj prvý úspešný let z letiska v Nitre na bratislavské letisko vo vzdialenosti približne 80 kilometrov, konštruktér a vedúci projektu Stefan Klein ohlásil.

"AirCar fungoval úplne skvele," poznamenal Klein a vysvetlil, že let trval približne 25 minút priemernou rýchlosťou 170 kilometrov za hodinu, čo je približne jedna tretina času, ktorý trvá obyčajnému automobilu dostať sa z jedného mesta do druhého.

AirCar však nie je primárne určený na použitie na Slovensku alebo v husto osídlenej strednej Európe, kde je rozvinutá cestná infraštruktúra.

Klein sa tiež podieľal na vývoji prvého slovenského lietajúceho automobilu - Aeromobil. Podľa neho sa dve lietajúce autá líšia vzhľadom aj spôsobom transformácie z lietajúceho vozidla na auto. AirCar môže tento proces dokončiť za zhruba dva a pol minúty.

Nie je jasné, kedy bude možné objednať si modely AirCar, pretože prvý prototyp musí najskôr absolvovať povinných 50 hodín letových skúšok. Klein potom plánuje navrhnuť druhý prototyp so zmeneným dizajnom a výkonnejším pohonom. Druhý prototyp by mal byť pripravený na certifikáciu Agentúrou Európskej únie pre bezpečnosť letectva (EASA).



Prvý prototyp AirCar krátko po pristátí na bratislavskom letisku (foto TASR)

The first AirCar prototype shortly after landing at Bratislava airport (photo by TASR)

## 'AirCar' Prototype Completes Nitra-Bratislava Flight in 25 mins

Bratislava, June 28 (TASR) – The prototype of a Slovak-made flying car called the AirCar has completed its first successful flight from the airport in Nitra to the one in Bratislava, a distance of approximately 80 kilometers, car designer and project lead Stefan Klein reported.

"The machine ran absolutely great," noted Klein, explaining that the flight took roughly 25 minutes at an average speed of 170 kilometers per hour, which is approximately one third of the time it takes an ordinary car to get from one city to the other by road.

The AirCar, however, isn't primarily meant for use in Slovakia or the densely populated central Europe, where there is developed road infrastructure.

Klein was also involved in developing the first Slovak flying car – the Aerobile. According to him, the two flying cars differ both in appearance and in the way in which they transform themselves from a flying vehicle to a car. The AirCar can complete this process in roughly two-and-a-half minutes.

It remains unclear when it will be possible to order AirCar models, as the first prototype must first complete the mandatory 50 hours of flight tests. Klein then intends to design a second prototype with an altered design and more powerful drive. The second prototype should be ready for certification by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

## Rast slovenskej ekonomiky v tomto roku o 4,5 percenta, zotavenie pokračuje

Bratislava 22. júna (TASR) - Slovenská ekonomika sa naďalej zotavuje a tento rok porastie o 4,5 percenta, uviedol na tlačovej konferencii guvernér Slovenskej centrálnej banky (NBS) Peter Kažimír a viceguvernér NBS Ludovít Odor na ktorej predstavili prognózu hospodárskeho a menového vývoja na leto 2021.

Centrálňa banka odhaduje, že hrubý domáci produkt (HDP) v roku 2022 medziročne vzrastie o 5,9 percenta a v roku 2023 o 3,8 percenta. Podľa predikcii NBS by sa malo Slovensko vrátiť na predkrízovú trajektóriu v roku 2023.

NBS poukázala na to, že riziká, ktoré môžu tlmieť ekonomický rast, sú nedostatočná úroveň zaočkovanosti populácie, tretia vlna novej pandémie koronavírusov na jeseň a nedostatok zložiek, najmä v priemysle.

„Existuje ďalší fenomén, ktorý sa vrátil po niekoľkých rokoch, a to je inflácia alebo rast

cien. Ceny tovarov a služieb začali prudko stúpať, ale podľa nášho názoru nie je dôvod na paniku," uviedol Kažimír s tým, že tento rast cien sa o pár mesiacov spomalí.

Guvernér ďalej uviedol, že situácia na trhu práce je o niečo horšia ako v minulom roku, čo je spôsobené najmä prepúšťaním vo verejnom sektore. NBS odhaduje, že nominálne platy sa tento rok zvýšia zhruba o 5 percent a skutočné platy zhruba o 3 percentá.

Odor poznamenal, že prvý štvrťrok tohto roku dopadol nad očakávanie dobre, a očakávania a ukazovatele sú veľmi optimistické.

Podľa NBS bola zaočkovanosť dôležitým kritériom na stanovenie predikcie. Klasický scenár predpokladá 60-percentnú zaočkovanosť populácie a pesimistickú 45-percentnú. „NBS sa pripája k ďalším orgánom v krajine a bije na poplach. Vyzývame ľudí, aby boli čo najskôr a v maximálnej možnej miere zaočkovaní proti COVID-19," uviedol guvernér a poukázal na to, že výzva je založená nielen na zásade zachovania ľudských životov, ale aj na zásade zachovania šance na vyššiu životnú úroveň, hospodársky rast a zdravý trh práce.



Zľava viceguvernér Slovenskej centrálnej banky (NBS) Ludovít Odor a guvernér NBS Peter Kažimír na tlačovej konferencii 22. júna 2021 (foto TASR)

From left, Slovak central bank (NBS) vice-governor Ludovít Odor and NBS governor Peter Kažimír at a press conference on June 22, 2021 (photo by TASR)

## Slovak Economy to Grow by 4.5 percent This Year, Recovery Continues

Bratislava, June 22 (TASR) – The Slovak economy continues to recover and will grow by 4.5 percent this year, Slovak central bank (NBS) governor Peter Kazimir and NBS vice-governor Ludovít Odor stated at a press conference at which they presented a forecast of economic and monetary developments for the summer of 2021.

The central bank estimates that gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 5.9 percent year-on-year in 2022 and by 3.8 percent in 2023. According to NBS predictions, Slovakia should return to its pre-crisis trajectory in 2023.

NBS pointed out that the risks that may dampen economic growth are insufficient levels of vaccination among the population, a third wave of the novel coronavirus pandemic in the autumn and a lack of components, mainly in industry.

"There's another phenomenon that has returned after a number of years, and that is inflation or rising prices. Prices of goods and services have started to go up sharply, but in our opinion there is no reason to panic," said Kazimir, adding that this rise in prices will slow down in a few months.

The governor went on to say that the situation on the labor market is slightly worse than last year, which is mainly due to redundancies in the public sector. NBS estimates that nominal salaries will increase by around 5 percent this year and real salaries by about 3 percent.

Odor noted that the first quarter of this year turned out better than expected, and expectations and indicators are very optimistic.

According to NBS, the vaccination rate was an important criterion for making the prediction. The classic scenario assumes a 60-percent vaccination rate among the population and a pessimistic one a 45-percent rate. "NBS is joining other authorities in the country and sounding the alarm. We call on people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible and as much as possible," said the governor, pointing out that the call is based not only on the principle of preserving human lives, but also on the principle of maintaining the chances of a higher standard of living, economic growth and a sound labor market.

## Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES, is the following:  
14.01 General Rules

a) Branch and district meetings must be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. **Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.**





(L – R) Branch 855 Member Ann Sutilla, Region 6 Director and Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Thomas Ivanec, and Branch 855 President Barbara Sutilla, greeted and handed out tickets to participating FCSU members at the Annual Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic.



## Successful Slovak Picnic in June

On the warm sunny afternoon of June 19, 2021, the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club once again hosted its annual Slovak Picnic at the American Slovak Sokol Camp in Broadview Heights, OH. Delicious Slovak food including klobasa, halusky, and halupky was prepared by members of the Radio Club, many of whom also are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU), and of which Henry Horvath (Branch 855) is president. In addition, three local-area FCSU Branches offered their members who attended the picnic food & beverage tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 11). Seventy-one members of Branches 24, 450, and 855 participated in the event and enjoyed a day of fun and fraternalism. Thanks to all our members who came to the picnic, and to the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club for working so hard to put together a wonderful event that brought us together after such a long time apart and helped to keep our great Slovak traditions alive.

- Submitted by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director

## Bubble Tours Offered In Place of 2021 Slovakia Heritage Tour

For the second September in a row, the Slovakia Heritage Tour will not be able to run due to continued travel complications with COVID in Europe. The small-group, relaxed-pace tour which connects Slovak-American descendants with their families and villages in Slovakia plans to be back in September 2022 with special additions to celebrate the reconnection with our ancestral home.

“We waited until late May to make the decision, hoping to get a green light for travel but Europe has not eased up its restrictions enough to make it possible to plan a group tour for September,” explained Judith Northup-Bennett, the tour organizer. “I think travel will be opening up by the Fall and people will be able to make individual decisions to travel. It just didn’t work right now for bringing a group of people together.”

For people who want to consider traveling to Slovakia this Fall, Northup-Bennett recommends they contact Peter Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours ([www.bestslovakiatours.com](http://www.bestslovakiatours.com)) to organize a “bubble tour,” a private, small group tour of not more than 6 related (friends and family) travelers. Best Slovakia will not offer the scheduled or special interest group tours on their web site that bring together different groups of travelers, but the web site will give you ideas for planning your own personalized ancestry tours.

Blazicek is closely watching the opening up of safe travel in Slovakia and other parts of the European Union, and is optimistic about travel in the Fall. Covid cases in Slovakia are down, as in the United States, and the vaccination rates are rising. As of the beginning of June, Blazicek said that 35% of Slovakia’s population had at least one dose of the vaccine and an aggressive vaccination campaign was underway. Restaurants and public places are open as well as hotels with some restrictions on occupancy limitations.

Blazicek said all tours will follow rigorous safety protocols, providing hand sanitizer and masks. They will use spacious mini-vans for all size tours. He also points out that one advantage of traveling to Europe this Fall is you will be able to enjoy and experience the culture of Slovakia without a lot of tourists.

Best Slovakia also provides a virtual tour service for people not able to travel this year. For a pre-arranged fee, Best Slovakia will provide a video overview of your ancestral village highlighting special features of the area. They can also arrange and interpret for virtual visits with family.

For more information on planning your own individualized travel to Slovakia to experience the history and culture of your ancestors this year or in 2022, contact Judith Northup-Bennett, [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com), 978-544-5144. We can also arrange for ancestral research to locate your family’s villages and reconnect with relatives.

- Submitted by Judith Northup-Bennett, Branch 918



(L – R) Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Recording Secretary, Darlene Patty, Branch 181 President, Gavin Skwirut, Paula Walker (Alex Walker’s Mother), and Casey Elder

## Branch 181 Scholarships Awarded for 2021

The St. John the Baptist Society - Branch 181 of United, PA, is pleased to announce one-time scholarship awards of \$750 to three very deserving 2021 high school graduates. Recipient awards were based on academic achievement, community service, leadership and financial need. Congratulations and success in their academic endeavors are wished to each scholarship recipient!

Casey Elder is a graduate of Greater Latrobe Senior High School. She will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, FL and plans to study engineering. Casey is interested in working at a big tech company such as Apple, Google or NASA. Gavin Skwirut is a graduate of Greater Latrobe High School. He will attend Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH. He plans to study a dual major in digital marketing and finance. Gavin will also participate on the university swim team. He hopes to pursue work in the business sector. Alex Walker is a graduate of Greater Latrobe High School. He may attend Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, PA with plans to transfer to a 4-year university to study business. Alex hopes to continue playing hockey in college. After earning his bachelor’s degree, he plans to pursue an MBA.

Darlene Patty, Branch 181 President, and Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Recording Secretary, met scholarship awardees, Casey Elder and Gavin Skwirut, at Dino’s Sports Lounge in Latrobe PA. Alex Walker was unable to be present since he was in Texas playing hockey, but his mother, Paula Walker, represented him.

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Recording Secretary



Scholarship Recipient Alex Walker

# The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI)

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

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) is a Minnesota-based non-profit organization which promotes genealogical and cultural research for lands of the former Czechoslovakia—the Czech, Slovak, Moravian, Bohemian, Carpatho-Rusyn, Roma (Gypsies), German-Bohemian, and German-Carpathian peoples.

There are many advantages to becoming a member. In addition to numerous articles and sources on its website, CGSI will try to answer any questions you might have or lead you to sources that assist your search for the history of your family and your ethnic heritage.

It publishes a quarterly journal, *Naše rodina* (Our Family), which is available to CGSI members. They receive the latest edition by mail when it is published, and in addition, they have access to a digital copy of every issue since 1989. Many notable authors contribute to each issue and offer a minefield of information.

The CGSI also sponsors conferences every two years. It offers attendees an opportunity to attend informative lectures, ask questions, and meet specialists in the field of history, genealogy, and culture of the region of former Czechoslovakia. The last conference took place in Lincoln, Nebraska, and the site varies every two years.

The next 2021 CGSI Genealogical & Cultural Conference will be held virtually online from October 11-16, 2021 with the theme of "Celebrating Connections". It was originally scheduled for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a state where many Slovak and Czech settled since late 19th century. But due to the difficulties involved with arranging a conference when the Covid-19 virus situation remains uncertain, it led to scheduling its first virtual conference. Members do receive discounted rates.

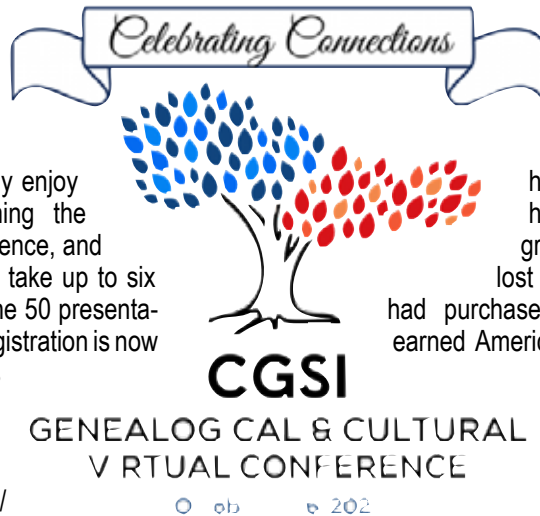
The 2021 conference is organized at three levels of participation to provide ac-

cess to speakers' expertise and the opportunity to connect electronically with other participants. One may enjoy special programming the week of the conference, and have the option to take up to six months to watch the 50 presentations. Early bird registration is now open and offers a discount until July 1, 2021: <https://playbacknow.regfox.com/cgsi2021>

The CGSI also offers webinars several times throughout the year. The most recent CGSI Quarterly Program, held on May 22, 2021, examined the topic "Reflections on the 75th Anniversary of the 1946 Czechoslovak Elections and Its Consequences." The webinar featured talks by scholars from Global Slovakia as well as the personal experiences of several emigrés of Czech, Slovak, and Rusyn nationality who left Czechoslovakia and have since revisited their former homeland.

Drs. Zuzana Palovic and Gabriela Bereghazyová of Global Slovakia opened the webinar with a presentation which shed light on life in the country during World War II and afterwards, and showed how the communists seized power by controlling the police, nationalizing businesses, attacking churches, and forcing collectivization. Dr. Charles Ota Heller followed up with a personal account of how the war and the subsequent communist coup spelled tragedy for his extended family, leading to his emigration to America. Several other immigrants also explained the trials that their Slovak and Rusyn families experienced during these trying historic times.

Professor Martin Javor of Prešov Univer-



sity elaborated on the process of forced collectivization and showed how many of

his relatives, who had previously migrated to the USA, lost the lands they had purchased with their hard-earned American earnings. Javor is establishing a museum of Slovak emigration called "Kasigarda" in the eastern Slovak Zemplín village of Ťahyňa. One may visit his

website which has an English translation at: <http://www.kasigarda.sk/en/kasigarda-2/>.

In case one misses a webinar, members also have access to many recorded presentations at the CGSI digital library website: <https://cgsi.org/resources/digital-library>

Conclusion

Whatever one's interests in genealogy, CGSI has much to offer for everyone from the beginner to a seasoned researcher. And one gets not only learn about ways to discover more one's own family and learn fascinating information, but also to make many new friendships, some of which can last a lifetime.

Besides the personal joy of finding out more about who we are, there are added benefits to attending a CGSI conference that are hard to put a price tag on. For now, and even after we pass away in this life,

what better gift can leave our progeny and extended family than a history of where we came from. Genealogy is about discovering ourselves and who we are, and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International offers a marvelous way to help start and/or continue that quest.

For further information, see the new CGSI Genealogical Society website, which is accessible by computer or other mobile devices. The organization is well worth joining and a bargain for the many benefits. See <http://www.cgsi.org/>.

Those interested in reading a good book about Slovak immigration to America may purchase a copy through CGSI. The translated book is entitled *The History of Slovaks in America* by Konštantín Čulen. Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. and Steven G. Potach both edited the book, and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International published it in 2007. One may write the CGSI if interested in purchasing it, or by visiting the website on books available: [https://cgsi.org/shop?combine=Slovak&field\\_book\\_topic\\_target\\_id%5B%5D=35](https://cgsi.org/shop?combine=Slovak&field_book_topic_target_id%5B%5D=35).

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International  
P.O. Box 16225  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-0225  
Call (651) 964-2322 to record a question or to record a message.  
E-mails:  
General questions: [info@cgsi.org](mailto:info@cgsi.org)  
Research: [research@cgsi.org](mailto:research@cgsi.org)  
Membership: [membership@cgsi.org](mailto:membership@cgsi.org)  
Publications: [publications@cgsi.org](mailto:publications@cgsi.org)

## Attention District 10 Members:

### Food, Fun – & Minor League Baseball – At Mercy Health Care Stadium in Avon, OH on Saturday, July 31, 2021



On Saturday, July 31, 2021, join other FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat, picnic-style dining followed by great seats for minor league ball as the Lake Erie Crushers take on the Florence Y'Alls.

All branches in District 10 & their guests are invited to come. Tickets are \$29 for 11 and older; \$24 for children 4 – 10.

Discounted tickets for District 10 members may be available through branches that choose to participate in further discounts. Non-members are welcome at regular ticket prices.

#### The all-you-can-eat choices, enjoyed picnic style, include:

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- Pulled Chicken
- Mac & Cheese
- Potato Salad
- Cookies
- Iced Tea/Lemonade/Water

#### Reserve Your Seats Today

Reservations must be made by **Monday, July 19, 2021**. Picnic seating is limited and subject to availability on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To reserve your tickets and for more information, please contact your local branch officer\* or Ohio Regional Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

\* Branch contact info can be found at: <https://www.fcsu.com/branches/>

#### Highlights

- **Date:** Saturday, July 31, 2021
- **Place:** Mercy Health Care Stadium, Avon, OH
- **Includes:**
  - All-you-can-eat dining starting at 5:05PM will be enjoyed in the Corona Picnic Plaza on the third-base side.
  - Home box seat for Lake Erie Crushers v Florence Y'Alls starting at 6:05PM
  - Ticket discounts may be available through participating branches

## June in Branch 716



On June 13, 2021, Branch 716 helped to celebrate parishioner birthday after Slovak Mass in St. John Nepomucene Church, NYC, at the nearby St. Catherine Park. Branch 716 President Jan Škrkon prepared refreshments for our members and parishioners. Everyone had a great time.



Then on June 27th after Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene church, Branch 716 members and parishioners once again gathered in St. Catherine's Park in honor of the June name days for John and Peter which follow the feast days of Saint John (the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on June 24th) and St. Peter (the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29th). Branch 716 President Jan Škrkon prepared traditional Slovak goulash for the occasion. Joan skrkon recording secretary

[1 photo goes with this in jpeg Branch 716 – 2]

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

# Donations for Church Built by Fr. Furdek Needed



The Reverend Štefan Furdek was born in Trstená, Orava County, in (what is now) Slovakia on September 2, 1855. He was brought to the Cleveland, OH, area as a seminarian by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, and was ordained in 1882 to minister to the area's growing immigrant population from Central and Eastern Europe.

In September 1890, 12 Slovak immigrants met at the invitation of Fr. Furdek to found the First Catholic Slovak Union. The very next year, in 1891, Fr. Furdek oversaw the breaking of ground for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on East 53rd Street in Cleveland. The work was completed in 1902, with Fr. Furdek serving as its first pastor. Our Lady of Lourdes remains an active parish today for a multicultural community on the city's eastside.

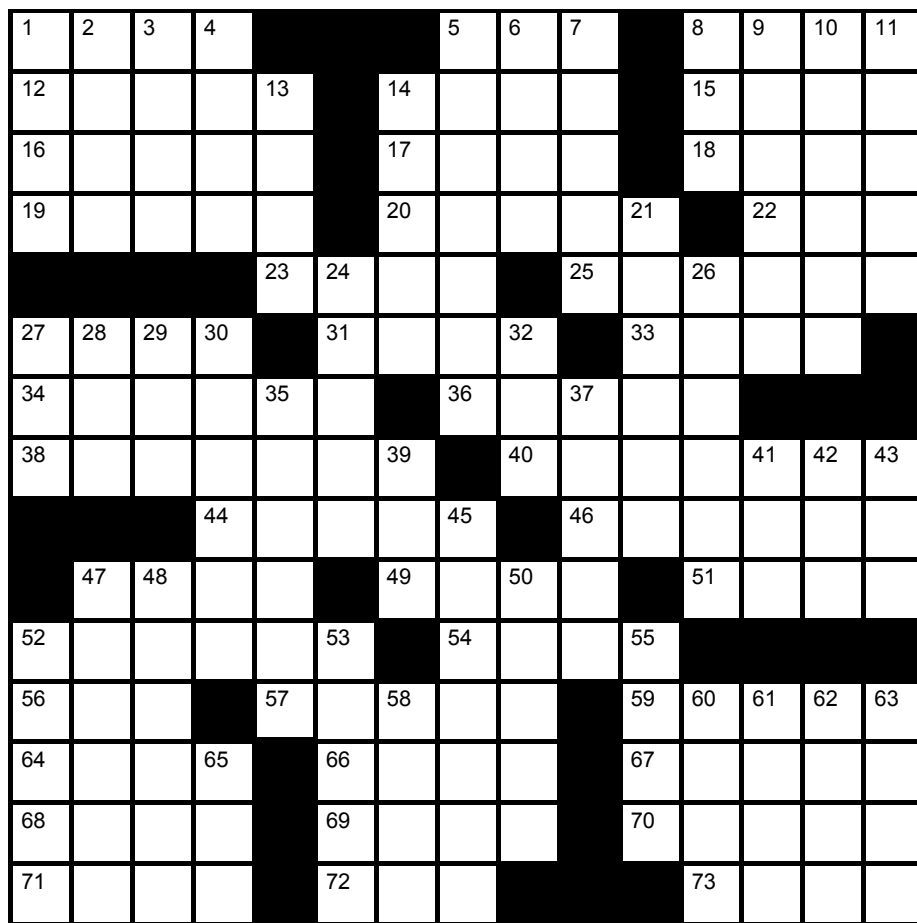
Its roof is now in dire need of replacement. Pastor Fr. Joseph Callahan estimates the cost at \$165,000.

Donations toward a new roof are needed, and can be sent directly to:

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish  
3395 E. 53rd  
Cleveland, Ohio 44127  
Attention: Fr. Joseph Callahan

- Submitted by Thomas J. Ivanec, Region 6 Director

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



## Get FCSU In Your Inbox!



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/>

### Across

- 1 Actor LaBeouf
- 5 Treat in a shell
- 8 Pavarotti solo
- 12 Line dance
- 14 Inlet
- 15 \_\_\_-pointe (ballet)
- 16 Like some buckets
- 17 Pizzeria fixture
- 18 Obliterates
- 19 Rendezvous
- 20 Car dealer's offering
- 22 Erie Canal mule
- 23 Hero type
- 25 Concert finale
- 27 One-spots
- 31 Perry's creator
- 33 Fender blemish
- 34 Coarse jute fabric
- 36 Smithy's tool
- 38 Greek letter
- 40 Many and different
- 44 Passé
- 46 Moon of Neptune
- 47 Palmist, e.g.
- 49 Hide well
- 51 Cravings
- 52 Amulets
- 54 Nonexistent
- 56 Chicken order
- 57 Melodies
- 59 Atmospheres
- 64 Paella pot
- 66 Red vegetable
- 67 Like krypton
- 68 Allege as fact
- 69 Son of Aphrodite
- 70 Chain of hills
- 71 Etta of the comics
- 72 Director Howard

### Down

- 73 Tugboat sound
- 43 Asner and Begley
- 45 Castle area
- 47 Put on hold
- 48 Young raptor
- 50 Corrodes
- 52 Flowing outer garment
- 53 Judicious
- 55 Hideout
- 58 Handel opera
- 60 Condo division
- 61 Make over
- 62 Jason's ship
- 63 "Let it stand"
- 65 Frick collection
- 1 Highlander
- 2 Icy coating
- 3 Jet black
- 4 Many moons
- 5 Short story?
- 6 Eye layer
- 7 Uptight
- 8 Carpenter's tool
- 9 Sanity
- 10 Bestow
- 11 Seating request
- 13 Pro's foe
- 14 Amber or umber
- 21 Salad green
- 24 Train stop
- 26 Stew vegetable
- 27 Playwright
- Burrows
- 28 Recipe measurement
- 29 Hosp. areas
- 30 Pitcher's pitch
- 32 Armageddon
- 35 Scares
- 37 Floor covering
- 39 Snout
- 41 Sandpiper
- 42 Sermon subject



### Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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

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

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

## 2021 JEDNOTA Publication Schedule

### Issue Date

### Deadline to

### Receive Information

August 11

August 2

Sept 8

August 30

October 13

October 4

November 10

November 1

December 8

November 29

See Solution on Page 23

## 2021 International Golf Tournament General Schedule of Events



**On:**  
August 6th – 8th, 2021

**At:**  
Treasure Lake Golf Resort  
13 Treasure Lake  
Dubois, PA. 15801  
814-371-0711

### Friday August 6 - Practice Round

Time: Each golfer is required to call one of the courses to schedule their tee time:  
Gold Course: (814) 913-1482  
Silver Course: (814) 913-1480

### Friday August 6- Evening Hospitality

Time: begins at 6:30PM  
Location: Silver Course Pavilion  
Appetizers & Beverages  
Cash Bar

### Saturday August 7 – First Round

**Breakfast:** At your hotel

**Golf Check In:** 7:15AM (both courses)

\* **Please note:** confirmation of which course you will be playing will be scheduled before the start of the tournament. Check the FCSU website for updates.

**Snacks:** available for purchase at the turn

**Evening Banquet:** 4:30PM catered dinner at the Silver Course Pavilion

**Awards:** prize-hole awards for Saturday play will be given out at the banquet. If winner is not present, the award will be given on Sunday after the tournament.

### Sunday August 8 – Second Round

**Breakfast:** At your hotel

**Mass:** at a local church of your choice; information on options in the area available at the front desk of your hotel

**Golf Check In:** 7:15AM (both courses)

**Snacks:** available for purchase at the turn

**Awards:** prize-hole awards for Sunday play will be given out after the tournament. Prize money will be mailed to all winners after the tournament.

Keep checking the FCSU Website ([www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)) for updates before the event. Looking forward to see you all there!

Kevin J. Collins  
Fraternal Activities Director

## 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!

## Want to be FCSU

# Pen Pals



## Someone in Slovakia?

## Attention all Young Members & Families with Young Members:

We are looking into creating another fun fraternal activity at the FCSU – aimed at our youth, ages 5 - 17. It involves starting an FCSU Pen Pal Program between our young Jednotars and interested kids in Slovakia. This could be a great way to establish lifelong friendships, increase language skills, and share insights about each country's unique traditions.

Initially, we would seek to set up regular communication between pen pals via email or regular mail – perhaps as early as Christmas 2021. But the program, if successful, could expand to some kind of Secret Santa exchange in the future. Such an endeavor involving gifts would have to be carefully managed, but may be a worthwhile addition to a vibrant pen pal program.

If you or your child might be interested in participating in an FCSU Pen Pal program, please email me at [kevinfcsu@outlook.com](mailto:kevinfcsu@outlook.com) by: September 5th, 2021. Please put in the Subject Line: FCSU Pen Pal Program. In the body of the email, please indicate the age, gender, and branch affiliation of the young member interested in being a pen pal. Also include your name (if different than the pen pal) and the best way to contact you with more information, whether that is email, phone, or text.

Please note—sending this email does **not** translate into a commitment on your part. At this stage, we are only trying to gauge interest from our membership.

Fraternally,

Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director

## September Mass Planned at Jednota Chapel

Attention Jednota Members: we are happy to announce that there will be a Mass celebrating the 56th Anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on Saturday September 18, 2021, at 1:30PM in the Crypt Church. Please see Branch 856 announcement on page 19 for details.

Katherine Nowatkoski,  
President Branch 856



# FCSU 52nd Quadrennial Convention

Holiday Inn, Independence, OH

July 30th—August 2, 2022



Save the date



# NEW RATES



Effective August 1, 2021

**3.70%**

8 Year Flex deferred Annuity or IRA

**3.35%**

6 Year Flex deferred Annuity or IRA

**3.15%**

6 Year Fixed deferred Annuity or IRA

**2.25%**

Park 2 Annuity

FCSU Financial<sup>®</sup> First Catholic Slovak Union  
 Contact your branch officer or the Home Office  
 6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131  
 800.533.6682 www.fcsu.com annuity@fcsu.com



# SINGLE PREMIUM INSURANCE SPECIAL

## EXAMPLES

### MALE

NEWBORN  
\$5,000 - \$454.35

AGE 5  
\$5,000 - \$548.30

AGE 10  
\$5,000 - \$663.90

AGE 15  
\$5,000 - \$803.15

### FEMALE

NEWBORN  
\$5,000 - \$406.65

AGE 5  
\$5,000 - \$490.75

AGE 10  
\$5,000 - \$594.45

AGE 15  
\$5,000 - \$720.20

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren (0 -18) and receive a

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### Features:

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 Contact your branch officer or the Home Office  
 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131, 800.533.6682



# 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 Goliias, Secretary**

## BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

After a year without SS Cyril and Methodius' Parish Festival, we are excited to announce that we have decided to celebrate the vibrant spirit of our parish community by having a one-day Family Fun Festival. Instead of having our usual two-day event, St. Cyril's Family Fun Festival will take place on Saturday, August 21, 2021, from noon until 4PM. Please consider making a cash or one-time donation to show your support for St. Cyril. Please let us know how you can help! We need volunteers and cash donations toward a pig, beer, DJ music, kids' games, food and drinks. If you have the ability to offer support, please call 612-379-9736. The goal of this event is to bring all SS Cyril and Methodius families together in a family-fun atmosphere this summer. This will be an afternoon of fun, food and laughter. All Jednota Branch 3 members are welcome.

**Jim Genosky, Secretary/Treasurer**  
763-789-9196

## BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at 12:30PM at Angelo's Restaurant and Pizza, Midway Shopping Center, 1000 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA. As of this time, a mask is required for entrance. Pizza luncheon will be provided.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities and the election of officers. Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Members who want to attend the branch meeting should contact Marion Rubino, President, by August 15, 2021, at 570-693-0399.

**Mary Jo Rubino, Recording 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 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its regular meeting on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 10:00AM at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Rd, Trumbull, CT. At this meeting, we will plan our scholarship meeting for November 14, 2021.

We cordially invite our members to attend our meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with their fellow branch members. Please contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com if you plan on attending the meeting.

**Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary**

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

On Saturday, July 31, 2021, please join other FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat dining followed by great seats for minor league ball. See p 10 for details. Guests are welcome at the full group price per ticket. Branch 24 Members: you can attend for free! All attendees must register in advance for this event. Contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 no later than July 19, 2021, for more information & to reserve your tickets.

**Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director**

## 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 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 25th, 2021, at Chipper's Grill 1733 N. Bloomington St. Streator, IL, at 2:00PM. All members are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please RSVP by calling (815) 672-6142 (leave a message) by July 23rd.

**Theresa Graves,  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Dear Members: Please join us for our branch meeting for fall 2021. Our Fall Breakfast Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 15, 2021, starting at 10:30AM. The location of the meeting is The Capitol Café, 14375 W. Capitol Dr, Brookfield, WI, 53222. Issues on the agenda: donations and activities.

Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own breakfast. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Reservations are required by 8/12/2021. Please call Mike Novak, Branch 89 President, at 414.445.5382 to reserve your seat. All checks are payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

Fraternal regards,

**Mike Novak, President**

## 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 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA, will hold a branch meeting and family day at Knoebel's Grove in Elysburg on Friday August 13, 2021, at noon. All coronavirus mitigation practices still in effect at this time will be strictly enforced. Please contact Karen Sterling by August 1, 2021, for more information at: karenenglesterling@hotmail.com

**Karen Sterling, Secretary**

## BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 will have its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 11:30AM.

The meeting will be at Cucina Biagio in the Blue Room at 7319 West Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL. If you plan on attending, please call Dorothy at 708 995 7378 before October 17th to reserve your place. It will be good to see everyone again.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 9:00AM, at the Shoney's Restaurant, 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA. 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 September 1st if you and your guest wish to attend the meeting.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## 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!

Fraternaly,

**Vicki Schaub Fin. Secretary/Treasurer**

## 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 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold an interim meeting on Saturday, July 24, at noon at Pane-ra's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

**Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, August 8, 2021, at 4:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. Any precautions for COVID-19 that may still be in practice at the time of the meeting will be taken.

A second branch meeting for the election of officers will be held on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 4:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. Any precautions for COVID-19 that may still be in practice at the time of the meeting will be taken.

To make your reservations for the meetings, please call John Nalevanko at 1-724-396-6256.

**John Nalevanko, President**

## 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 430K – SIMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 430K Simpson, PA and Branch 382K Scranton, PA. All members of Branch 430K will now hold membership in Branch 382K. This merger has taken place as of June 14, 2021. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

JOHN J SLOVENKAI SR  
308 SOUTH 9TH AVE  
SCRANTON, PA 18504  
(570) 347-3579

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

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events at St. John the Baptist Branch 553 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

continued on page 19

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 1 - REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct its annual meeting on September 12, 2021 at 11:30AM, at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Rd, Trumbull, CT. At this meeting, we will discuss plans for the coming year and hold the election of officers for the district. Please contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com if you plan on attending the meeting. We look forward to seeing our dedicated members.

**Deborah M. Nelson, District Secretary**

### DISTRICT 2 - REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting in person on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. Refreshments, Social and Fraternalism at 1:30 PM. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Dinner reservations are required. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko (708) 995 7378 by Saturday, September 25th to reserve a place. It will be great to see everyone again!

**John Jurcenko, President**

### 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 plans two meetings for 2021 to be held at the Holy Trinity Church Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Street Extension, West Mifflin PA 15122. The meetings will be held on Sunday, August 1 and Sunday, November 21. The meetings will start at 1PM. Officers for 2022 will be elected at the November meeting. Please RSVP by email to the district secretary.

The Pittsburgh District extends its condolences to the family of National Treasurer George Matta II, who passed away on May 10. His sister-in-law, Rona Stein Matta, wife of National Counsel Gary Matta, 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.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: Announces that their monthly programs will resume soon. Check their Facebook page for updates.

- 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 uvac.

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 8 – REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8 will hold its semi-annual meeting in Mahanoy City, PA on Sunday October 17, 2021. Mass is 10:30AM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish (600 W. Mahanoy St., Mahanoy City, PA 17948). Dinner and meeting are at Noon at A&C Catering Hall (505 W. Mahanoy St. Mahanoy City, PA 17948). Cost is \$18.00 payable to Karen Sterling. Please send the number of attendees and check to: Karen Sterling, 384 Beacon Circle, Boalsburg, PA 16827. Any questions please call Karen at 570-640-1796 between 1 and 4PM. Reservations required by October 1st.

**Joanne Engle Austin, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, will hold a meeting on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at Shoney's Restaurant at 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM.

A brunch buffet will be offered. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Tuesday, July 20, 2021, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are invited to attend.

**Barbara Holly, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 10 – THE STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

We invite everyone to please join other FCSU members in District 10 on Saturday, July 31, 2021, for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat dining followed by great seats for minor league ball with Lake Erie Crushers. See p 10 for details. Guests are welcome at the full group price per ticket. Contact your branch officer for possible special member pricing. All attendees must register in advance for this event. Contact Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 no later than July 19, 2021, for more information & to reserve your tickets.

Mark your calendar, Sunday, November 14, 2021 – District meeting to be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 3 pm.

**Linda Hanko, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The annual meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District 11 will be held on Sunday October 10, 2021 @ 2PM. The meeting will be held at the W. Rick's Taproom & Grill. The address is 269 Meridian Rd. Butler, PA, 16001. We encourage all members to please attend; any COVID restrictions in place at that time will be followed. No advanced notice of attendance is required. On the agenda will be planning for the yearly events as COVID restrictions will allow, and election of officers for the 2022 year. Members are encouraged to attend the American Slovak Day at Kennywood Park on July 15, 2021. This is always a fun day filled with good Slovak food, Slovak entertainment, Mass and fraternal socialization, not to mention the rides at the park! For tickets and info please call Mary Lou- 412-462-1957 or Sue- 412-421-1204. Hope to see you at the meeting and at Kennywood.

Fraternally submitted,

**Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary**

### DISTRICT 12 – THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

Hlinka District members are asked to 'Save the Date' - Sunday August 8, 2021 at 1:00pm for the district picnic. Information will be emailed/mailed to all attendees of the March 2021 meeting. Any member of Branch 320, 670 and 853 can email District Secretary Monica Rodacy Boone at Hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com with questions on the picnic.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, Secretary**

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

District 14, the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, will hold an additional semi-annual meeting on Tuesday July 20, 2021 at 6:00PM at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514.

We will continue our discussion of activities for 2021; potential activities for 2022; and how to get our District members to be more active. Your input will be greatly appreciated. Suggestions and ideas are most welcome.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact me after July 5, at 330.549.3788, or cell 330.559.5921, as I will be on an extended trip travelling to several locations in South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado prior to that.

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

### DISTRICT 14 - CALENDAR YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

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**



## I scream... you scream... we all scream for ice cream!!

All members of Branch 855 are invited to join in our End of Summer Ice Cream Social with a virtual twist!

- From August 15 – August 22 snap a picture of yourself enjoying a scrumptious ice cream treat
- Send your picture along with your name and age to fcsu855@gmail.com or by text to 440-409-9405
- Submissions must be made the week of August 15 - 22
- Everyone from Branch 855 who joins in the fun receives a \$5.00 gift card AND their picture in the Jednota!!

**- Submitted by Stephanie Sutila, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director**

## Attention Members of District 1, 4, and 16

All of you, as Region 1 members, are invited to attend our summer picnic which will be held on Sunday, August 8th at 1:00PM at Al Kalla Park located at 2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. We especially welcome our littlest members who can enjoy the wonderful playground. Please RSVP to Mrs. Anna Balas at 908-925-7430 by August 1st. In case of rain, the picnic will take place indoors (please bring your mask) at Holy Family Church (lower level). Members are free! Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$15.

**- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director**



# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>
001K	Veronica M Dever	173K	John M Kolesar	484K	Patricia Jackens	746K	Margaret E Patrick
001K	Cedric Z Gurski	181K	Louise H Hoadwonic	484K	Joan Bernadine Overberger	746K	Bartolomej Rada
001P	Veronica Nenstiel	181K	Rose Marie Kmetz	484K	Joan M Palmer	756K	Joseph Kunik
019K	Joseph J Ondek Jr	181K	Catherine M Lawrence	497K	Michael Duke	780K	Frank L Baranic
023K	Rev Andrew C Stanko	199K	Regina Haas	510K	Irene Anna Sekeras	785K	Theodore Golla
024K	Virginia Mae Casini	200K	Philip A Jablunovsky	553K	George Thomas Smith	796K	Thomas Kush
024K	Rev Clement Zeleznik OSB	200K	Albert Walleck	553K	Thomas F Walsh	831K	Kenneth R Samay
035K	Edmund Basista	238K	Edward R Yarosh	571K	Vincent T Arena	844K	Mary Ann Ruggiero
035K	Tessina Lyn Krivy	254K	Joan Ambrose	581K	Russell L Melton Jr	855K	Emil Michael Kern
038K	George F Matta II	260K	Joseph C Tomko	682K	Joan Nesnidol	856K	Raymond M Tartal
038K	Barbara Taylor	293K	Joseph F Tomasko	706K	Daniel S Chilla Sr	857K	Thomas A Krall
040K	Andrew R Harcar Sr	313K	Albert Jacob	716K	Helen Pavlik	857K	Edward Psota
045K	Susan Torres	313K	Anna G Roy	731K	Robert Edward Demechko	900K	Joseph G Wargo
055K	John Hnatin	315K	Barbara Ann Dudas	731K	Richard F Sepesy	916K	Michael O'Grady
055K	John Kovac	367K	Helen Marie Tworzydlo	731K	Helen F Sinchak	926K	Barbara J Kaat
055K	Michael A Scarpignato Sr	382K	Louise Jean Hudak	743K	Leonard Hausner	926K	Marlene A Lundgren
055K	Frank Wetty III	450K	John A Chervenak	746K	John Brozana Jr		
112K	Daniel Mincewicz	450K	John E Sabanos	746K	Michael M Capik		
153K	William F Jedlink III	456K	Gail Harvey	746K	George Danchisko		
166K	Nancy Lou Kuzma- Kinter	484K	John F Brusko	746K	John F Lasko		

\*Processed through the month of June

## OBITUARIES

**STEVE GUS KOTRAS, JR.**  
**BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS**



Steve Gus Kotras, Jr., 93 of Collinsville, IL, passed away December 1, 2020, at the Elmwood Nursing and Rehab, Maryville, IL.

Steve was born in E. St. Louis, IL, on May 20, 1927 to the late Steven and Magdeline (nee Roznik) Kotras. On December 27, 1947 he married Gloria McGowan Kotras, who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by siblings, Magdeline and Carl in infancy, Emily (Ray) Norris, Ann (Lindsey) Harrington and Josephine (Edmund) Wondolowski.

Steve is survived by children, Stephen (Debbie) Kotras of Fairview Heights, IL, Brenda Ratay of Phoenix, AZ, and Richard (Donna) Kotras of Collinsville, IL.; grandchildren Shannon (Jeff) Webster of Freeburg, IL., Adrienne (Jonathan) Leonardelli of Cary, NC, Elizabeth (Spencer) Harries of Las Vegas, NV, Nathanael (Lauren) Kotras of Nashville, TN, Joshua (Helena) Kotras, of Nashville, TN, Stephen (Jennifer) Perkins of Jacksonville, FL, and Sean Ratay, Abbey (Paul) Williams and Kevin (Chrissy) Ratay of Arizona. Great grandchildren Nate, Preston and Emmy.

He was an Army veteran of WWII and served in the European Theatre. He retired from Hunter Packing Co. in E St Louis as a millwright.

- Submitted by Richard Kotras

**GISELLE CERNANSKY**  
**BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK**



Giselle Eva Emma Cernansky, 96, of Dolgeville, NY, and formerly of New York City, NY, passed away peacefully

at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Utica, NY.

She was born on September 1, 1924 in Levice, Czechoslovakia and was the daughter of the late, Julius and Elizabeth (Kerny) Markly. Giselle graduated from high school in Czechoslovakia. She then furthered her education at a business college in her country as well.

On August 4, 1945, Giselle was united in marriage to Wendell Cernansky at the Church of the Translation of Virgin Mary in Nove Mesto, Bratislava. The couple shared a blessed union of 57 years where they raised their two children in a loving home. Mr. Cernansky passed away on October 30, 2002.

As communism encroached the lives of Mr. & Mrs. Cernansky, they decided to move to the United States in 1946. The couple both attended and graduated from Columbia University. Giselle graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry in 1964 while working and taking care of her family. She then went on to further her career as a supervisor in the cardio-pulmonary department at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. Giselle also spent her career as a research scientist in her profession. After 23 years of service to the hospital, she retired on September 1, 1987.

Giselle spent the majority of her life living in New York City and moved to the Dolgeville area within the last year. She was a devout Catholic and a parishioner of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Dolgeville. She was devoted to her family and was ever praying for them. Giselle will be dearly missed by her family.

She is survived by her beloved children, Julius Cernansky and his wife, Patricia of Hewlett, Long Island, NY, and Helen (Cernansky) Johnson and her husband, Charles of Oppenheim, NY; loving grandchildren, Paul Johnson and his wife, Nicole of Arnold, MD, Bernard Johnson of Palisades Park, NJ, and Christopher Cernansky of Hewlett, Long Island, NY; and a cherished great-granddaughter, Stella Johnson.

Giselle was predeceased by her beloved sister, Magda Paskova.

- Submitted by Helen Johnson

**BERNARD M MIHALIK**  
**BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA**



Bernard M. Mihalik, 92, of Harrisburg, PA, passed peacefully with his daughter by his side, March 8, 2021, at St. Ann's Retirement Community.

Mr. Mihalik was born in Shamokin, PA, and was the son of the late Michael and Agnes Mihalik. He retired from AMP after 26 years as a tool maker. He was a founding member of Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, and the Funeral Mass Ministry. He also delivered Meals on Wheels. He was a life member of West End Fire Company, Shamokin, Knights of Columbus and VFW of Shellsville. He was a veteran of US Army.

Mr. Mihalik was predeceased by his wife, Helen J. Mihalik; his daughter, Ann Marie Orris; and his brothers, Michael Mihalik, John Mihalik, Gilbert Mihalik and Thomas Mihalik.

Mr. Mihalik is survived by his daughter, Debra M. Mihalik of Hummelstown, PA; his son in law, Randall Orris of Middletown, PA; his sister, Betty; as well as many friends, nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Debra Mihalik

**PAULINE SMITH**  
**BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA**



Pauline Salic Smith of Middletown PA, entered into eternal life on February 7th 2021, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on July 13, 1934 in Williamstown, PA and was the daughter of the late Titanna (Polshin) Salic and Dymetro Salic. She retired from Penn State Capital Cam-

pus, Harrisburg. She graduated from Williamstown High School in 1952. Pauline was a member of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Middletown. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 50 years, Donald Lee Smith Sr. and her sisters Mary Rowe, Catherine Dolan, Margaret Maurer, Ann Finley, Theresa Hammes and brothers, Daniel and Harry C (Pete) Salic. She is survived by her children; Donald Lee Smith Jr. and his wife Carol, Michael Peter Smith and his wife Karen, Kimberly Ann Orfanelli and her husband James and Kristina Marie Myers and her husband Jon; two grand dogs, Maxie and Lexie; grandchildren, Donald L. Smith III, Garrett R. Smith, Jonathan K. Myers, Jerrod K. Myers and Michael P. Smith Jr. as well as many nieces and nephews. Pauline dearly loved her children and grandchildren. Pauline spent many hours attending her children's and grandchildren's sporting events and activities. Pauline touched many lives in different ways and was a blessing to all who knew her. She was involved in many volunteer programs. She was the Treasurer of the Seven Sorrows Athletic Association for 36 years and the Vice President of the Main Street Gym Rescue Project for 36 years. She coached MABA girls softball for 10 years, was the MABA secretary for 10 years, Lower Susquehanna Softball League for 8 years, Meals on Wheels for 7 years, Committee Woman Republican Party for 5 years, Seven Sorrows Athletic Association cheerleading coach for 4 years, and Middletown Recreation Board Basketball Coach for 3 years.

**ALFRED E. ULISHNEY**  
**BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA**



Alfred E. Ulishney, 88, of Unity Township, died February 4, 2021, at Excelsa Health Westmo-



## OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

reland Hospital, of Greensburg, PA. He was born February 5, 1932, in Marguerite, PA, a son of the late Paul J. and Harriet G. (Hoon) Ulishney. Alfred was a graduate of Latrobe High School and served with the Navy during the Korean War. Prior to retirement, he worked at PPG Industries, of South Greensburg, PA. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Youngstown, PA, as well as Kingston Vets & Sportsmen's Club and he loved to golf. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Jo Ulishney; and his brother, Terrence Ulishney. He is survived by his wife, Nola J. Ulishney; three sons, Robert and wife, Lisa, of Unity Township, PA; Daniel and wife, Amanda, of Williamsburg, VA; and Joseph Ulishney and wife, Michelle, of Harrisburg, PA; a stepson, Kenneth Ankeny and wife, Dana, of Unity Township; five grandchildren, Jacob (wife Kim), Jenna, Matthew, David and Kimberly; a step-grandson, Gavin; three sisters, Rose Marie McKelvey, Bernadette Eltringham and husband, Kurt, all of Unity Township, and Mary Lou Gorton and husband, Sam, of Mammoth; and several nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Robert Ulishney

### HELEN MARIE STOFKO TWORZYDLO BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

Helen Marie Stofko Tworzydlo, 85, of Richeyville, PA, passed away peacefully, at home, Saturday, March 6, 2021, after a brief illness.

She was born January 6, 1936, in Rices Landing, PA, a daughter of the late Andrew J. Stofko and Helen Matyk Stofko Slanina. She was a 1953 graduate of Jefferson High School and a 1956 graduate of the Washington Hospital School of Nursing. On June 30, 1956, she married Joseph J. Tworzydlo, who died October 5, 1995.

Helen Marie was a member of St. Katharine Drexel Parish, formerly St. Agnes, since her marriage. In addition, she was a non-firefighting member of the Richeyville Volunteer Fire Department. As a member of both, she tirelessly worked their fish fries and fundraisers. She also volunteered at the Beth Center Food Pantry of Washington County Food Bank. For many years she was an elected poll worker for Centerville Borough Ward 4 elections.

Surviving are three children, Carol Slagle (Dallas) with whom she made her home, Joseph A. Tworzydlo (Muriel) of Fredericktown, PA; and Andrew J. Tworzydlo (Patricia) of Brownsville, PA; six grandchildren, Amanda Rogers (Kevin) of Cleveland, OH, Sarah Conway (Aaron) of Pickerington, OH, Dallas B. Slagle (Kristina) of Columbus, OH, Joseph R. Tworzydlo (Alyssa) of Richeyville, Julia Smith (Joshua) of Richeyville and Andrew J. Tworzydlo (Cassie) of Brownsville; four great-grandchildren, Riley Benninghoff, Madelyn and Brady Conway and Leo B. Slagle; three sisters-in-law, Ellen Tworzydlo, Jean Zurro and Dorothy Tworzydlo; many nieces and nephews. She was the last of her immediate family.

Deceased, in addition to her parents and

husband, are her siblings, Irma Buchak, Elizabeth Benedetti, Eleanor Celesky, Robert and Andrew Stofko.

### LOUISE JEAN HUDAK BRANCH 382 –

Louise Jean Hudak 91 of Stroudsburg, PA, passed away May 9, 2021, in the Pleasant Valley Manor Snyderstown, PA. Born in Blakely, PA, she was the daughter of John and Ethel (Kovatch) Konkol.

In her early years Louise worked as a sales clerk at the former Wyckoff's and later Routzen's Department store in Stroudsburg until their closing. She then became manager in the ladies department at the Sear's department store in the Stroud Mall until her retirement.

Louise was a lifelong resident of the Stroudsburg area and was a very active member of St. Luke's Catholic Church of Stroudsburg where she was a member of the ladies guild for many years. Louise was also very active with the Junior Women's Club of Stroudsburg and she was a poll worker at elections for Stroud Township for many years.

She is survived by 2 sons: Edward A. Hudak of Bartonsville, PA and Thomas G. Hudak and his wife Pam of East Stroudsburg, Pa. and a granddaughter Ariel E. Hudak of Orlando, FL, her sister – in –law Delores Martinelli of Olaphant, Pa. Louise was preceded in death by her 2 brothers: Donald and John Konkol.

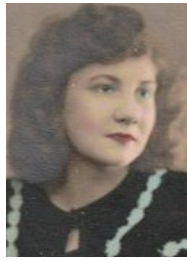
Also preceding her in death was her husband Edward J. Hudak to whom she was a loving wife for 68 years. Edward passed away at 92, on December 19, 2019, in the Pleasant Valley Manor Nursing Home surrounded by his loving family. Born in Dickson City, PA, he was the son of Andrew and Mary Ann (Reda) Hudak. Ed first worked at the former Ronson Lighter Corp. in Delaware Water Gap for many years until its closing and then he worked for the Weiler Brush Company in Cresco, Pa. as their Engineer Manager for 17 years retiring in 1993.

A longtime resident of Stroudsburg, Ed served as the Stroud Township auditor for many years and was a member of the Stroud Twp. parks and recreation committee. He was a very active member of St. Luke's Catholic Church of Stroudsburg, where he served as a lecture, was on the finance committee and the festival committee. Ed was an Army Air Corp. veteran of WWII. He was very active with the Knights of Columbus where he held many offices.

- Submitted by Thomas Hudak

### JOHN E SABANOS BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

John Edward Sabanos, born December 13, 1928, passed away on March 23, 2021 at the age of 92. Beloved husband of 69 years to Veronica (Fuller). Cherished father to Karen Beck (Ron). Loving grandfather to Christopher (Danielle) and Emily (Corey). Dear brother of Anne Parker (deceased), Mary Augustine, George, and Steve. Uncle to many. John proudly served his country in



the United States Air Force. He retired from the Ford Motor Company as a pattern maker, who also taught and mentored incoming auto workers. John had a strong passion for music (musician/singer in his own band) and was an avid gardener. Above all though, John's greatest love was his family.

- Submitted by Karen Beck

### CRE MICHAEL DUROCHER BRANCH 595 – MUSKOGON, MICHIGAN

Cre Michael DuRocher, age 56, passed away March 21, 2021 at Mercy Hospital. He was born December 31, 1964 in Oakland, CA. Cre graduated from Mona Shores High School. He attended Cornish Institute of Art in Seattle, WA. In all walks of life, Cre favored the backroads through his love of exploring and creating. He was a free spirit. He had a sharp wit and a Good Heart. He was a prolific and Great Artist. He loved playing his guitar, piano, drums and playing pranks whom he learned from Joe Zag. Cre will live on in our hearts. The family would like to thank all the staff at Davita on Apple Ave. and the doctors and staff and Chaplain Heather Dean at Mercy Hospital 5th Floor. All of you were so kind and caring to Cre and his mother. Survivors include his mother, Martha D. Sklenar of Roosevelt Park; his son, Oren DuRocher of Brooklyn, NY; his niece, Maya (Nathan) Royce and their daughter, Oaklyn Jean Royce; his uncle, Edward (Carol) Sklenar of Arnold, MO; Oren's mother, Jessica Baldwin of Berkley, CA; and several cousins in Michigan, Colorado, Ohio and Missouri; Judith

Winchester of Texas; and his many friends in New York. Cre was preceded in death by his grandparents, Michael and Catherine Sklenar; his sister, Debora Kay DuRocher; Joe Zagaroli; his uncles, William (Dorothy) Sklenar and Robert Sklenar; his aunt, Betzy Sklenar; and his cousin, Kenneth Sklenar.

- Submitted by Martha D. Sklenar

### MARY BUDIS BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Maria Budis, 79, of Edison, NJ, entered into eternal rest on Monday, March 22, 2021. Maria was born in Pavlovce, Slovakia to Joseph and Mary Maly. She lived in Linden, prior to moving to Edison over 40 years ago. Maria was a very active member of the Holy Rosary Society at Holy Family Church in Linden and was an avid parishioner at the church. She also co-organized the baking fundraiser at the church for several years. Maria Budis was an active member of Jednota Branch 746 where she participated in many events and activities including District 4, the Msgr. John E. Rura District.

Maria was predeceased by her beloved husband John Budis on November 5, 2019. She is survived by her devoted son Martin Budis; her sister Jana Schiedeler and her husband Joseph; her brother Tony Maly and many nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados,  
Branch 746 President



## IN MEMORIAM

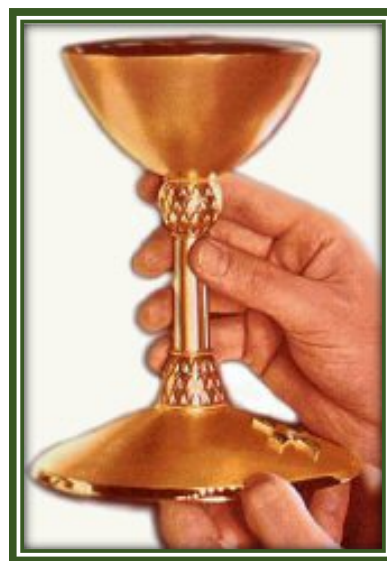
### Branch 85 Officer Richard Skovira and his wife Rosemarie Interred



Richard and Rosemarie Skovira of Parkville, MD, both formerly of Jessup, PA were interred on April 28, 2021 at Arlington National Cemetery. Richard, a longtime officer of Branch 85, passed away on September 24, 2019, and his wife of 62 years passed on July 12, 2011. Their interment was delayed due to COVID-19.

- Submitted by Jeanne Skovira Pulket

## July Dedicated to Precious Blood



The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it.

- posted on catholicculture.org



Výstava\_Cesta\_slovenskou\_Amerikou\_vernisáž  
The Journey through Slovak America Exhibition



Washington – so slovenskými spolkami. Zdroj: príř. č. 2476, sg. 1919/790.  
Washington - with Slovak associations. Source: nat. no. 2476, sg. 1919/790.



Delegácia MS pred odchodom do Ameriky: Konštantín Čulen, Dr. Jozef Cincík, Karol Plicka a Jozef Cíger Hronský. Zdroj: Archív MS, č. fotografie M12/2.

Matica slovenska (MS) delegation before leaving for America: Konstantin Čulen, Dr. Jozef Cincík, Karol Plicka and Jozef Cíger Hronský. Source: MS Archive, no. photo M12 / 2.

Balenie kníh pre Ameriku, 1935.  
Zdroj: Archív MS, č. fotografie M12/4.

Packing books for America, 1935.  
Source: MS Archive, no. photo M12 / 4



Willkes Barre – budova, v ktorej sa premietal matičný film, príř. č. 2392, sg. 18/706.  
Willkes Barre - the building in which the motherland film was screened, nat. no. 2392, sg. 18/706.



Milwaukee – radnica mesta, na ktorej svieti uvítací nápis pre delegáciu Maticy slovenskej. Archív MS, č. fotografie M12/58.  
Milwaukee - town hall, where a welcome sign for the Matica slovenská delegation shines. MS Archive, no. photo M12 / 58.

## Matičná výstava v Bratislave pripomenie 85 rokov vzťahov s americkými Slovákami

Pred 85 rokmi sa vrátila delegácia Maticy slovenskej z polročnej kultúrnej misie po slovenských krajských centrách v USA a Kanade. Dom Maticy slovenskej v Bratislave v spolupráci s Krajským múzeom Maticy slovenskej venuje tejto významnej udalosti slovenských a krajských dejín panelovú výstavu na Hviezdoslavovom námestí v Bratislave už v júli.

Nad výstavou s názvom Cesta slovenskou Amerikou prevzal záštitu predseda Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Milan Ján Pilip. Výstavné panely budú pre záujemcov bezplatne prístupné na Hviezdoslavovom námestí od 19. do 31. júla 2021. Vernisáž výstavy s kultúrnym programom sa uskutoční 22. júla o 15.00 hod. Verejnosť sa môže tešiť na náladu 30. rokov 20. storočia. Program osvieži krátky moderovaný rozhovor o Ceste slovenskou Amerikou s riaditeľkou Krajského múzea MS Zuzana Pavelcová, ukážka matičných kníh o amerických Slovákoch, ale aj swingové piesne v podaní speváčky Lucie Švihlovej a gitaristu Roberta Schranza. Na vernisáži budú vystavené aj zaujímavé modely dobových automobilov z 30. rokov zo Slovenského technického múzea – Múzea dopravy v Bratislave.

Veronika Grznárová, hovorkyňa Maticy slovenskej

## Matica slovenská exhibition in Bratislava commemorates 85 years of relations with American Slovaks

Eighty-five years ago, the Matica slovenská delegation returned from a six-month cultural mission to Slovak expatriate centers in the USA and Canada. The Matica slovenská house in Bratislava, Slovakia in cooperation with Matica slovenská Museum of Slovakia, is dedicating a panel exhibition on Bratislava's Hviezdoslav Square to commemorate this important event in Slovak and compatriot history.

The exhibition entitled Journey through Slovak America was sponsored by Milan Ján Pilip, Chairman of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad. Panel exhibition will be open July 19-31, 2021 and admission is free of charge. It will open with a cultural program on July 22 at 3PM. Attendees can look forward to experiencing the mood of the 1930s, along with a short moderated interview about the Journey through Slovak America with the director of the Regional Museum Zuzana Pavelcová, a sample of books about American Slovaks, as well as performances by singer Lucie Švihlová and guitarist Robert Schranz. Interesting models of period cars from the 1930s from the Slovak Technical Museum - Museum of Transport in Bratislava will also be exhibited at the opening.

Veronika Grznárová, spokeswoman for Matica slovenská

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### continued from page 14

July 21: Wednesday Monthly Dinner – Served 4:30-6:30 pm

July 24: Kielbasa Open - \$75 per golfer/\$300 per 4 some – call Club for details

July 31: Minor league Lake Erie Crushers baseball in Avon, OH with all-you-can-eat picnic. Details on p1510 Call Club for special member pricing & to order your tickets by July 19.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL MEALS. CALL CLUB 330-786-9972 AFTER 3 PM

**Linda M Hanco, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 587 has scheduled its semi-annual meeting for August 22, 2021, and its annual meeting for December 5, 2021. Both meetings will be held from 2:00 – 4:00PM at the home of the branch president at 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. On the agenda for the August semi-annual meeting: an update on membership and planning new activities. The December annual meeting will be held for the election of officers. For more information, please contact Joanne Fibbi at 412-953-4721 or jfibbi@gmail.com.

**Joanne Fibbi, 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 sivehec@aol.com if you want details about the virtual meeting and/or agenda.

**Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 670 members: Save the Date: August 8, 2021. Members are invited to a Hlinka District picnic starting at 1:00PM. Information will be automatically sent to any branch member who attended the March 2021 district meeting. If you are interested in attending the district picnic, leave your name and phone number with the District Secretary at 412-341-1577 or email HlinkaDistrictSecretary@gmail.com.

**Monica Rodacy Boone,  
District 12 Secretary**

### BRANCH 686K - THIRD LAKE, ILLINOIS

There has been a merger between Branch 686K Third Lake, IL and Branch 153K Chicago, IL. All members of Branch 686K will now hold membership in Branch 153K.

This merger has taken place as of June 09, 2021.

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

**DOROTHY M JURCENKO**  
16759 SUMMERCREST AVE  
ORLAND PARK, IL 60467  
(708) 995-7378

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 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Due to covid-19 restrictions, St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will now celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, July 18, 2021, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day.

A branch meeting will take place at 1:15PM in the Slovak Heritage Room. On the agenda will be: Presidents Report; Financial Report; 2021 FCSU Scholarship; Annual Membership Meeting; 100th Anniversary and other business pertaining to the FCSU and Branch 743. It is possible that Covid-19 requirements may change and an alternate site within the Church may be required. A notice will be posted at the Heritage Room, if needed.

The St. Cyril & Methodius Parish Slovak Festival is scheduled for August 13 – 15, 2021, check the parish bulletin for further details.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620.

No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/Financial 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

**- Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director**

### BRANCH 756 - OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will be holding a virtual meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 1:00PM. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions this meeting will be virtual. Any member planning to attend this virtual meeting is asked to contact Tyler Gregoricka at tyler.m.gregoricka@gmail.com.

**Gary Gregoricka, President**

### BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 853 members also please Save the Date: August 8, 2021. Members are invited to a Hlinka District picnic starting at 1:00PM. More information will be provided in the July edition of Jednota. Any branch member interested in attending, leave your name and phone number at 412-341-1577 or FCSUBranch853@gmail.com and the information when available, will be provided to you.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

### BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855, Holy Name of Jesus Society, will hold a virtual meeting on Saturday July 31, 2021, at 11:00AM. Members can join by telephone or online. We will discuss setting a date for our election of officers in a November or December meeting. Please contact Barbara Sutila, Branch President, BY TEXT at 440-864-4744 or BY EMAIL at fcsu855@gmail.com before July 29th to receive your instructions on how to connect into the meeting.

Please note the following fraternal activities you can participate in as a member of Branch 855:

- July 31st Lake Erie Crushers minor league baseball game (see page 10 for details) Discount tickets available for members of Branch 855 by contacting BY TEXT at 440-864-4744 or BY EMAIL at fcsu855@gmail.com before July 19th

- August 15 – August 22nd End of Summer Ice Cream Social with a twist (see page 15

for details)

The Slovak Radio Club president and Branch 855 member, Henry Horvath, would like to thank all of the members of our branch who came out to the Radio Club picnic in June.

With safety foremost on our minds, let's hope the remainder of the year we can enjoy more time together with our families and friends.

**Stephanie Sutila, Fraternal Activities Director**

### BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856-K is happy to announce that there will be a Mass celebrating the 56 Anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday September 18, 2021 at 1:30PM in the Crypt Church. The reason for the change is the Shrine is preparing for many celebrations for the 100th year of the founding and beginning of building of the shrine. At this time there is a limited number of people that can be in attendance and social distancing and masks are required.

(Those requirements are as of this date May 28, 2021). I was told by representative from shrine that by September restriction could be lifted. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

**Katherine Nowatkoski, 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.

**Katherine Nowatkoski, President**

## Attention all Jednotars in the St. Louis Area: Fun Sept Festivity

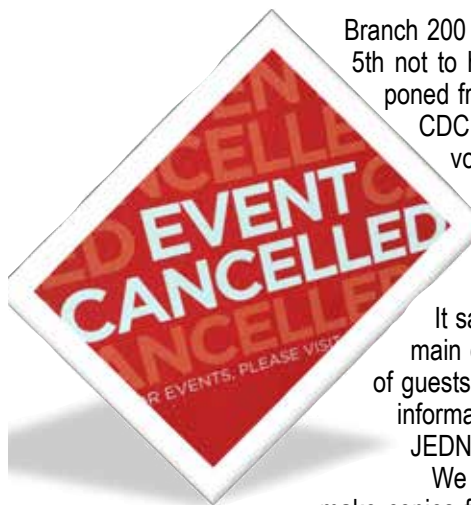


We invite all who have been members of Branch 109 to celebrate the Pre-Christmas Season by participating in our Annual, fun-filled and entertaining Membership Luncheon scheduled for Sunday, September 26th, 2021 at 12:00 Noon. We will again be holding these gala festivities at ST. MARY MAGDALEN SCHOOL HALL IN SOUTH CITY ST. LOUIS - 63109.

Please call Ann at (314-353-1062) to make your reservations by August 30th, 2021 for this exciting, upcoming event. We look forward to seeing in September!

**Joseph Miklovic, CPA**

## Branch 200 Announces Cancellation of 125th+ 1 Anniversary



Branch 200 made the difficult decision at its meeting May 5th not to hold the 125th +1 anniversary that was postponed from last October. Since it is unclear what the CDC guidelines will be at the time of the event, we voted to wait until 2025 and hold a 130th anniversary celebration, Good Lord willing.

All donations will be returned and letters will be sent to our guest speakers, the caterer, and anyone else who requires notification. It saddened us deeply to cancel, but safety is our main concern as well uncertainty about the number of guests who would be able to attend. Any additional information or details will be published in an upcoming JEDNOTA.

We will continue to accept any memorabilia and make copies for anything wanted returned. We will plan on having entertainment and snacks in the Social Club this October.

Members should feel free to contact me anytime @724-763-9229 and leave a message. I will return your call as soon as possible. You may message me @vschaub123@gmail.com. Take care, God bless, and stay safe.

**- Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Branch 200 Secretary/Treasurer**

## Fill out your Forms Online! Save your Time!



Now you can fill out the FCSU forms online at <https://www.fcsu.com/forms>

Fill them out, print, sign and mail them to the Home Office.

Take advantage of our Faster, More Readable and Time Saving Feature.

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 3:30 PM and asked Rev. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer. The Executive Committee Meeting is being held directly following the Annual Board of Directors Meeting.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (via teleconference)  
George F. Matta II, Treasurer (via teleconference)  
Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain (by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES:**

The President presented the minutes of the February 19, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary and Treasurer submitted a written report at the Board of Directors Meeting held prior to the Executive Committee Meeting on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Cluttbuck Fund. The Executive Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of February for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of February:

Disbursements for the month of February 2021:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 283,374.68
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 51,312.37
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting held earlier. Fol-

lowing the report, they answered the Board's questions. The reports will be printed in the Jednota newspaper.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

Our current Investment Policy and Guidelines were reviewed by the Executive Committee for approval.

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

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**Annuity Rates:

The President led a review of the current annuity rates. It was decided that the Executive Committee meet next week with Larry White to further review the current rates.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave a production report on our recommenders and agents to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting held earlier. Following the report, he answered the Board's questions. The report will be printed in the Jednota newspaper.

**HOME OFFICE UPDATE:**

The President and the Executive Secretary gave an update on the Home Office operations to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting held earlier. The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office is open with a limited rotating staff and limited hours to maintain day to day operations. The Home Office will remain on limited hours with no walk-in business until further notice.

**KROLL BOND AGENCY:**

The President stated that the report from Kroll Bond Agency was presented to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting held earlier.

**CONVENTION:**

The Executive Secretary stated that he has received responses for available hotels to accommodate us for the 2022 Convention. He reported his findings to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting held earlier.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

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

Rev. Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and led the prayer.

Due to personal reasons, two of the officers are excused from the meeting so there is no quorum.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (excused)  
George F. Matta II, Treasurer (excused)  
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

continued on page 21

# Minutes of the April Executive Committee Meeting

continued from page 20

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES:

The President stated the minutes of the March 20, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting in May.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

### Investment Updates

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

### Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary presented an update on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and answered questions.

### Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of March for review and answered questions.

### Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of March:

Disbursements for the month of March 2021:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	385,130.80
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	38,588.88
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report, a review of remaining disbursements and answered all questions.

## AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

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

## ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

### Annuity Rates:

The President led a review of the current annuity rates. The rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in May.

## REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

## ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, the President adjourned the meeting.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (TELECONFERENCE)

## OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 2:30 PM and led the prayer.

Due to the absence of two members of the Executive Committee, there is no official quorum.

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

## ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (excused)  
James Marmol, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH/APRIL MEETING MINUTES:

The President stated the minutes of the March 20 and April 16, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting in June for approval.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

### Investment Updates

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

### Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary presented an update on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and answered questions.

### Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of April for review and answered questions.

### Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of April:

Disbursements for the month of April 2021:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	236,333.75
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	49,017.57
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report, a review of remaining disbursements and answered all questions.

## AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

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

## ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

### Annuity Rates:

The President led a review of the current annuity rates. The rates will remain the same and will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in June.

## REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

## ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, the President adjourned the meeting.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA MARCH 20, 2021 (VIRTUAL/TELECONFERENCE)

**OPEN MEETING:**

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

Following the recommended guidelines set by the CDC and the State of Ohio, the Board of Directors Meeting is being held as a virtual meeting due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

**ROLL CALL:**

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:  
Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;  
Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President – present via telephone;  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;  
George F. Matta II, National Treasurer – present via telephone;  
Gregory Maurer, Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;  
Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;  
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 – present via telephone;  
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;  
Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 – present via telephone;  
James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;  
Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone;  
Thomas Ivanec, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone;  
Timothy Graves, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone;  
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;  
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel - present via telephone.

**READING OF THE CALL:**

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

**PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2020:**

A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by Michael Lako to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held December 12, 2020, as presented. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES:**

The President appointed the following committees:

DONATION COMMITTEE  
George Matta II  
Gary Matta

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE  
Reverend Thomas Nasta  
James Marmol

**PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:**

The President read his welcome to the Board of Directors.

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

President Rajec turned the meeting over to Vice President Harcar, who recognized President Rajec. President Rajec read his 2020 Annual Report. The President's Annual Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

**OUTSIDE AUDITORS REPORT:**

Stephen Niedenberger, CPA, of the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, joined the meeting via teleconference. Mr. Niedenberger presented his annual report to the Board. He indicated the scope of his work and noted no irregularities. He found all FCSU financial reports in excellent order. Mr. Niedenberger answered all the Board's questions to its satisfaction.

Mr. Niedenberger also presented the annual report of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., for the Board's review.

**REPORT OF STATE AUDIT:**

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the State of Ohio's Audit Report from the Ohio Department of Insurance. The audit is conducted every three years and covered the period of 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2019. The State Auditors found everything in excellent order and complimented the Society on being well organized.

**ACTUARIAL REPORT:**

Edward DePersis and Nick DePersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Inc., joined the virtual meeting. Mr. DePersis presented his Management's Discussion and Analysis Report and presented the actuarial report for 2020 from Edward Cowman of Miller & Newburg. Mr. Cowman was available to join the meeting and answer questions, if necessary. Mr. Edward DePersis stated that since each Board member received a copy of both reports, he will not read the entire report, but will just give the highlights. He gave a very extensive positive report for 2020. The FCSU continues to be a well-run profitable fraternal with outstanding financials as noted in our excellent RBC (Risk Based Capital)

rating of 1133.

Edward DePersis gave a full financial report regarding the Pension Plan and stated that the FCSU is in full compliance with all federal regulations.

Our Actuary, Edward Cowman, recommended that a dividend be paid in 2021 using the same format as used in 2020. A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by James Marmol to pay the dividend. Motion carried.

**AQS REPORT:**

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

Mr. White also presented the updated Investment Policy which now includes Other Than-Temporary-Impairment (OTTI) Treatment clause in the policy. "In order to identify, evaluate and determine the proper carrying value of potentially other-than-temporarily impaired assets held by the Society, the Society will follow the authoritative guidance for assessing and evaluating whether to record a loss due to impairment." With this clause in place, the Society will receive a monthly report on any potential bonds that are temporarily impaired.

Mr. White led a review of the Enterprise Risk Management Program and answered the Board's questions. He recommends this is a program that FCSU should implement in the near future.

Mr. White provided an explanation of the new investment opportunities that FCSU will be entering into and answered the Board's questions.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2020:**

Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth Arendt presented the financial summary report for the year ending 2020 and answered the Board's questions.

The Executive Secretary also presented a comparison report between what was budgeted for 2020 and the actual expenditures.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund.

Following the reports, the President and the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions. The 2020 Executive Secretary's Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer George Matta II presented the Treasurer's Report for 2020 summarizing all the financial reports. The Treasurer's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

**CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:**

Chairman of Auditors Gregory Maurer presented the 2020 Auditors' Annual Report. Mr. Maurer stated that due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic the Auditors were unable to conduct onsite audits in 2020. Mr. Maurer conducted several conference calls with the Home Office and reviewed the State of Ohio's Auditors report. Mr. Maurer plans to schedule audits for 2021.

**SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:**

The President turned the meeting over to Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., President of Jednota, Inc. The President updated the Board on the status of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc.

The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature to the parent FCSU Board.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

The President recognized the Vice President, who presented his annual report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions. The report covered membership and marketing, seminars, agent recruitment, and information for the proposers to assist them in obtaining their state licenses. The Vice President stated we have over 425 active independent agents and we are continuing to recruit agents. Recruitment has been very successful.

Membership and Marketing

The Vice President distributed a written report to the Board of Directors. The report contained a listing of the top proposers of insurance and annuity sales, a detailed report of sales production by districts, and a five-year comparison report broken down by districts.

The Executive Secretary stated that Andrew Rajec Jr is working with our marketing team on campaigns to recruit agents in the 27 states we are licensed in.

continued on page 23

# Meeting of the March Board of Directors

continued from page 22

The President and the Executive Secretary stated that seminars have not yet been scheduled due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions that are in place.

The Vice President's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:**

The Regional Directors and our National Chaplain presented their annual reports and answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept the Regional Directors' and the National Chaplain's reports as presented. Motion carried.

All reports will be printed in the Jednota newspaper.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Executive Committee

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

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society's Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

Pension Committee

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the current FCSU Pension Plan which was passed out to the Board of Directors for review. He stated that we are in full compliance with all federal regulations and answered the Board's questions.

Scholarship Committee

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

**DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

Director of Fraternal Activities Kevin Collins presented a summary of the 2020 activities to the Board of Directors. Mr. Collins stated that due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic many of the events for 2020 were cancelled but many online activities were held.

The Director of Fraternal Activities announced that the Bowling Tournament, Golf Tournament, March Madness, and the Regional Picnics were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Kentucky Derby Hat Contest was held later in the year.

He also held the following online contests: FCSU NFL's Losers Pool, adult and child coloring contests, Christmas Tree decorating contest and ugly sweater contest. He is planning to host an online talent show in April and has many surprise activities planned for 2021.

The Director of Fraternal Activities is hoping that the Bowling and Golf Tournament along with the National Picnics can be held in 2021.

The Board congratulated the Director of Fraternal Activities, Kevin Collins on an outstanding job of introducing and promoting fraternal activities.

The Director of Fraternal Activities Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:**

General Counsel Gary Matta gave his brief 2020 report and answered the Board's questions.

**ACTUARIAL FIRM:**

The President requested a motion to re-appoint Edward Cowman of Miller & Newberg as our Actuary. A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Motion carried.

**DISTRICT BYLAWS:**

The Executive Secretary presented the updated District Bylaws. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept the updated District Bylaws. Motion carried.

**SCHOLARSHIPS: NEW PROGRAM FOR 2021-2022**

The President asked Fr. Gerard Gonda O.S.B., Chairman of the Scholarship Judging Committee, to join the meeting by teleconference. They presented the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee which included:

Catholic Elementary School (5-8 grades)	30 scholarships \$500 each	\$15,000
Catholic High School Freshmen thru Junior	30 scholarships \$1,000 each	\$30,000
Graduating Seniors	58 scholarships \$1,500 each	\$87,000
CAN APPLY FOR ANY YEAR OF COLLEGE	2 (top male and top female) - \$2,000 each	\$4,000
Graduate School (after college)	2 scholarships \$1,500 each	\$3,000
Vocational/Trade School	3 scholarships \$1,000 each	\$3,000
	<b>125 SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>\$142,000</b>

**RULES:**

1. Must be member for 4 years to apply
2. No membership requirements for parents

3. Policy requirements: Min. of \$5,000 life insurance (NOT JEP) or \$500 annuity or \$500 Coverdell IRA

This would be effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

College awardees would also receive a \$3,000 Whole Life Policy as they do now. The Benevolent Program would remain "as is" since it has separate funds and rules. Applicants can receive both scholarships.

The updated Scholarship information will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by James Marmol to accept the new scholarship recommendations. Motion carried.

**BRANCH REVIVAL COMMITTEE:**

The President reviewed the recommendations of the Branch Revival Committee. He plans to hold virtual meetings in 2021 with the Branch Revival Committee to further discuss the recommendations and will present them to the Board when finalized.

**DONATION COMMITTEE:**

The Donations Committee made its report to the Board of Directors. All requests were reviewed and acted upon.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:**

The Resolutions Committee made its report to the Board of Directors. All requests were reviewed and acted upon.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Thomas Ivanec to accept the recommendations of the Donation and Resolution Committee. Motion carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Protector of FCSU

The President stated that Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., Bishop of Greensburg has accepted his invitation to become the new Protector of the FCSU.

Future Board Meetings

The President stated that he is hopeful to hold in person meetings in 2021 if the restrictions of the Coronavirus pandemic are lifted. He encouraged Board members to get the Covid vaccine.

**ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept all the reports presented. Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:**

A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by George F. Matta II to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Sabina Sabados to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

S	H	I	A			N	U	T		A	R	I	A		
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