



# Catholic Fraternal Jednota

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Volume 130

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021

NUMBER 6010

## 52nd Quadrennial Convention of The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada



July 30, 2022 -  
August 2, 2022

By direction of the Executive Committee and with the approval of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at:

### HOLIDAY INN CLEVELAND SOUTH

6001 ROCKSIDE RD, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131, 216-524-8050

All National Officers, Regional Directors, District Officers, Branch Officers, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union are notified herewith that the Convention dates are:  
Saturday, July 30, 2022 – Tuesday, August 2, 2022

All Officers and Members are directed to review Section 11.03 through Section 11.05 of our Bylaws to determine delegate eligibility and duties and Section 11.08 through 11.12 for the Convention business. (Please see [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) – About – Our History - Bylaws). The final delegate count shall be based on membership as of February 1, 2022 (see Section 11.04c). Election of delegates to our 52nd Quadrennial Convention must be completed by May 1, 2022; ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention (see Section 11.03c).

The National Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union are looking forward to a productive and fraternal 52nd Quadrennial Convention.

Andrew M. Rajec    Kenneth A. Arendt  
National President    National Secretary

## Inside

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Articles in Slovak/English

## The First Catholic Slovak Union Announces 2021 FCSU Scholarship Winners

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



continued on page 4

## 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](http://www.fcsu.com) [annuity@fcsu.com](mailto:annuity@fcsu.com)



# Insights and Viewpoints



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

## 622 – Assumption of the B.V.M. – August 15, 2021

Today, in the midst of the summer heat, we pause to refresh ourselves as we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorating the moment when Mary was assumed bodily into heaven.

Each year on this date a common question for Catholics to pose to their pastors is whether Mary was assumed into heaven

alive or after she had died. I have heard responses given in support of both possibilities, and given quite emphatically, but the fact remains that this is a point on which we are free to believe either possibility, since the Church does not provide a definitive teaching on the matter.

What we are held by faith to believe is that “the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.” This was the statement Pope Pius XII made when proclaiming the dogma of the Assumption of Mary in 1950 (*Munificentissimus Deus* 44). Over the centuries many commentators have weighed in on either side of the question of Mary’s death, and Pius XII himself did implicitly, but in using the words “having completed the course of her earthly life” he purposefully left ambiguity in his teaching and thus the faithful may believe that Mary underwent a natural death or that she was assumed living into heaven.

The Church chooses powerful scripture passages to focus our attention on key lessons of our Blessed Mother’s Assumption. First, we turn back to a relatively obscure place in the Old Testament, the First Book of Chronicles. There we hear how King David, having just conquered the Philistines and captured back the Ark of the Covenant, was bringing the Ark up to Jerusalem to enthrone it in a place of honor and worship the Lord in its presence.

Some Catholics may remember that in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also called the Litany of Loreto, we refer to Mary as the “Ark of the Covenant.” The original Ark was eventually placed in the Temple in Jerusalem and later lost at the time of the Babylonian exile. Mary is invoked as the new “Ark of the Covenant” because her womb held the long-awaited messiah and redeemer of Israel and of the whole world—the one who fulfilled all the promises of the Old Testament represented by the Ark, as well as the hopes of King David and all who followed in his footsteps.

For the next lesson stemming from the Assumption, we go to Saint Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. There we hear of our future sharing in the resurrection and are reassured that we too will share in the glory that Mary has first experienced, we through the resurrection and she through her glorious Assumption. Then we will know the joy Paul felt in saying: “O death, where is your victory? ... Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:55, 57).

Finally, to remind us of our responsibility to imitate Mary’s devotion to the Lord, seen perfectly in her acceptance of God’s invitation to be the Mother of the redeemer—“May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38)—we are invited in the Gospel reading to follow the example of Mary during her earthly life, that we might rejoice with her in eternal glory, for “blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it” (Luke 11:28). A blessed and joyful feast of the Assumption to all.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

## August 22, 2021 – Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time Gospel – John 6: 60 - 69

This weekend we listen to the end of the Bread of life Discourse in which Jesus seemed to have crossed a line for many of those who followed him. Not only was he speaking as a Messiah, but he was beginning to reveal himself as being the Son of God. This Discourse has something of a sad and unexpected ending. What began with the multiplication of the loaves and Jesus’ walking on water, the crowds following him and listening to his Sermon on the Bread of Life; ends with “that many of his disciple returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.” They found his teaching that “I am the Bread of Life” too difficult to believe. Jesus responded in an unexpected way. He didn’t call them back, instead he turned to the apostles and asked; “Do you also want to leave?”

Jesus called the Apostles and they initially answered the call and followed him. Jesus welcomed the crowds to hear his teaching and experience his miracles. In neither case was anyone coerced or forced to follow him. They were not being asked to join a cult that they would not be able to leave, they were invited to be followers and could freely leave any time. To be a follower of Jesus is something that each one of us must consciously decide upon. It begins with the invitation that is given in numerous ways and there is the initial decision like the apostles leaving their nets to follow and there are times afterwards. At times the followers might find themselves pausing and asking, “Do I still want to follow Him?” In our relationship with Jesus we make the decision to follow him or to leave him. This is the free will we were blessed with that allows us to love or reject the Lord, and it is a decision that we renew throughout our lives.

When Peter saw others around him walk away from Christ, and he heard the question asked by Jesus, “Do you want to leave?” he answered that question with a beautiful profession of Faith, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” The teachings of Jesus can be difficult, but Peter sees Jesus as the one who leads us to eternal life, and who is the Holy One of God. He is committed to stay with him.

To follow Jesus involves listening carefully and seriously to his teachings, and to reflect on them in a way that helps us to grow in our faith and to remain committed to be his follower. At times, his teachings may seem difficult, and his promises seem impossible, but with faith we come to understand even the most difficult teaching, and to believe that “with Christ all things are possible.” With Christ bread and wine become his Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, sins are forgiven in the sacrament of Confession, people are healed in the sacrament of the Anointing of the sick, the Holy Spirit fills us at Baptism and Confirmation, vocations are sanctified in the Sacraments of Marriage and Ordination. With all these how could anyone choose to stop following him?

We all know people who for various reasons have turned away from the Lord. It would be good to remember them this weekend and pray that they find their way back to him. Pray also for ourselves that we have the faith to continue to follow Jesus with our ears and eyes, hearts and souls attentive to his presence and grace in our lives. May we be able to echo the words of Peter; “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8	MONDAY, AUGUST 30
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

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

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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.**

## Message from the National Chaplain

The closures of churches across the nation and the world for a period of time last year due to the pandemic caused many bishops throughout the world to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays. As a substitute, several churches began to live-stream their Sunday Masses causing a number of people over time to become accustomed to watching Mass in the convenience of their homes on their smartphones, laptops, or televisions.

Now that we know more about the virus than we did a year ago, bishops are gradually removing the dispensation. For example, the bishops of Pennsylvania announced in July that the obligation to attend Mass for Catholics in the commonwealth returns Sunday, August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where I am located, recently announced an initiative called Nothing Compares to Being There. The program is intended to encourage Catholics who have been accustomed to watching Sunday Mass virtually to participate at Mass in person.

Nothing Compares to Being There is quite an appropriate name for this initiative. An analogy can be drawn from the experience one has from between watching a sporting event on television and actually being for the event.

I have been blessed to have attended some championship games during my lifetime. I had tickets to a World Series Game in 1983 to see the Philadelphia Phillies play the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Orioles and then 10 years later to see the Phillies play the Toronto Blue Jays. I got to go to Arizona to watch the Pittsburgh Steelers play the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl XXX. I was in the Meadowlands to see a 1994 World Cup Soccer game between Germany and Belgium. I was in the Philadelphia Spectrum for each game of the 1987 Stanley Cup finals between the hometown Flyers and the Edmonton Oilers. And I was in the Spectrum for what is still called today the most memorable college basketball game – the 1992 NCAA Eastern Regional Final between Duke and Kentucky.

Sure, I could have watched those games on television. However, the experience just would not have been the same. Being there for them makes all the difference.

When we walk into a church we enter the realm of the sacred. We enter that special place set aside for prayer, reflection, and worship. During Mass we join with the voices of others in prayer and song; we encounter our merciful God in a special way. At Mass we witness in person the transformation of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ; we receive the Bread of Life, Our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. You don't get that same experience watching a virtual transmission of Mass. Nothing compares to being there.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

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

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
3501 University Blvd E  
Hyattsville, MD 20783  
(301) 985-7300

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

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

*Friday, September 17, 2021 - 8:30 AM Mass with meeting to follow*

**The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, September 17, 2021.**

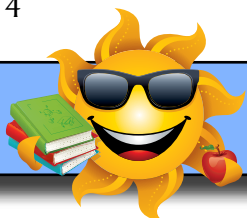
**All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to September 10, 2021.**

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# 2021 FCSU Scholarship Winners



## PHILIP HROBAK SCHOLARSHIP

Top Male

**DLUGOS, ZACHARY**  
Parents: Julia and Robert Dlugos; Branch: 199K; College: Amherst College; Major: Economics



## STEPHANIE HUSEK SCHOLARSHIP

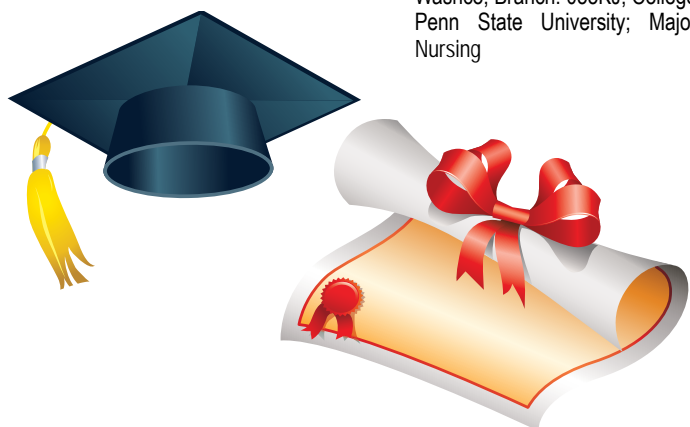
Top Female

**WASCOVICH, ANNA**  
Parents: Jeanine and Michael Wascovich; Branch: 024K; College: Franciscan University of Steubenville; Major: Bachelor of English (Pre-Law)

## SOLTIS & BOSAK FAMILY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP



**WASHCO, JILLIAN**  
Parents: Terri and Daniel Washco; Branch: 055KJ; College: Penn State University; Major: Nursing



**ARENDR, GRACE**  
Parents: Catherine and Kevin Arendt; Branch: 228K; College: Kent State University; Major: Aeronautics/Air Traffic Control



**BEDNAR, EMILY**  
Parents: Kimberly and John Bednar; Branch: 484K; College: Slippery Rock University; Major: Occupational Therapy



**BRUNORI, DANTE**  
Parents: Megan Balmer; Branch: 085K; College: Penn State Wilkes-Barre; Major: Electrical Engineering



**BULIC, CLAIRE**  
Parents: Nancy and Anthony Bulic; Branch: 001K; College: The Ohio State University; Major: Majoring in finance with a minor in entrepreneurship



**BUTLER, CONNOR**  
Parents: Deanna and Walt Butler; Branch: 004K; College: Kent State University; Major: Economics



**CICHOWSKI, JENNA**  
Parents: Janet and Joseph Cichowski; Branch: 019K; College: Springfield College; Major: Physician Assistant Program



**FAY, JAMES**  
Parents: Maria and John Fay; Branch: 382K; College: Rochester Institute of Technology; Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology



**FIGURA, CHRISTINA**  
Parents: Maria and Robert Figura; Branch: 045K; College: American University; Major: Political Science



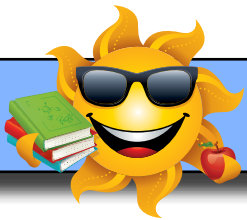
**GRIEBEL, KATELYN RAY**  
Parents: Erika and Stephen Griebel; Branch: 484K; College: Missouri University of Science and Technology; Major: Geological Engineering



**HALE, CONNOR**  
Parents: Kelly and Jeffrey Hale; Branch: 312K; College: Villanova University; Major: Business



**HEUERMAN, SOFIA**  
Parents: Susanna and Thomas Heuerman; Branch: 743K; College: Alma College; Major: Social Work



# 2021 FCSU Scholarship Winners



**HOLZMAN, COLIN**  
Parents: Brenda and Brooke Holzman; Branch: 382K; College: Mansfield University; Major: Business



**HOWARD, MATTHEW**  
Parent: Jennifer and Ronald Howard; Branch: 199K; College: Westminster College - Pennsylvania; Major: Biology/Pre-Dental/Dental



**JEZIK, MEGHAN**  
Parents: Nancy and Louis Jezik; Branch: 716KJ; College: University of Connecticut; Major: Political Science on a Pre-Law track with French minor



**JOSEPH, ABIGAIL**  
Parents: Melissa and Donald Joseph Jr.; Branch: 259KJ; College: Youngstown State University; Major: Exercise Science/Pre-Physical Therapy



**KATEKOVICH, RACHEL**  
Parents: Joanne and John Katekovich; Branch: 587K; College: Waynesburg University; Major: Criminal Justice



**LALLY, MATTHEW**  
Parents: Lynn and Sean Lally; Branch: 001K; College: Xavier University; Major: Business/Sports Management



**LATAVISH, KATARINA**  
Parents: Victoria and Victor Latavish; Branch: 855K; College: Florida Southern College; Major: Fine Arts



**LAWSON, NICHOLAS**  
Parents: Dana and Jaime Lawson; Branch: 670K; College: Penn State University; Major: Electrical Engineering



**MERCURE, LIA**  
Parents: Patricia and John Mercure; Branch: 019K; College: Marist College; Major: Business and Communications



**MUHA, THOMAS**  
Parents: Mary Lynn and James Muha; Branch: 038K; College: University of Michigan; Major: Political Science



**MULLEN, ROBERT**  
Parents: Theresa and Michael Mullen; Branch: 853KJ; College: Texas A&M University; Major: Mathematics



**NESTOR, EILEEN**  
Parents: Mary Ellen and Michael Nestor; Branch: 419KJ; College: University of Tampa; Major: Entrepreneurship



**OROS, VICTORIA**  
Parents: Nadezda and Joseph Oros; Branch: 024K; College: Cuyahoga Community College; Major: Dental Hygiene Program



**O'SAVAGE, NATHAN**  
Parents: Dara and Jack O'Savage; Branch: 670K; College: Carlow Catholic University; Major: Business/Digital Media



**PACHMAYER, MELIA**  
Parents: Melissa and Brian Pachmayer; Branch: 228KJ; College: University of South Florida; Major: Biology/Pre-Med



**PAGE, RILEY**  
Parents: Deborah and Jason Page; Branch: 292K; College: Slippery Rock University; Major: Recreational and Occupational Therapy



**PEREMBA, KAITLYN**  
Parents: Kelly and Todd Peremba; Branch: 254K; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Pediatric Physicians Assistant/Pre-Physicians Assistant



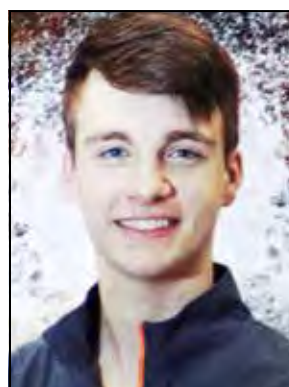
**PETRILAK, KYLE**  
Parents: Christine and John Petrilak; Branch: 746K; College: Kings Catholic College; Major: Athletic Training



**RUFFING, JORDAN**  
Parents: Rebecca and Jeff Ruffing; Branch: 670KJ; College: Penn State University; Major: Mechanical Engineering



**SCHWAB, ANNA**  
Parents: Tara and Michael Schwab; Branch: 735KJ; College: Gonzaga University; Major: Pre-Professional Health Science



**SKWIRUT, GAVIN**  
Parents: Michele Mayger-Skwirut and Brian Skwirut; Branch: 181K; College: Baldwin Wallace University; Major: Dual Major-Digital Marketing & Finance



**SMITH, RYLEE**  
Parents: Kerry and Jason Smith; Branch: 553K; College: Miami University of Ohio; Major: Business



**SOLTIS, AARON**  
Parents: Cherise and Roger Soltis; Branch: 410KJ; College: Nazareth College; Major: Music/Film Composition



**STILLITANO, JENNA**  
Parents: Marlene and Paul Stillitano; Branch: 199K; College: Seton Hill University; Major: Elementary Education (PreK-4) with Special Education (PreK-12)



## 2021 FCSU Scholarship Winners



**STRUNGA, KIERAN**  
Parents: Kelly and Kevin Strunga; Branch: 900K; College: John Abbott College; Major: Social Science



**VALE, ALLISON**  
Parents: Laura and Ernest Vale; Branch: 001KJ; College: West Virginia University; Major: Psychology



**WALKER, ALEX**  
Parents: Paula Malesky Walker and Rich Walker; Branch: 181K; College: Indiana University of PA; Major: Business



**WINDSHEIMER, JULIA**  
Parents: Veronica and Robert Windsheimer; Branch: 002K; College: Chatham University; Major: Interior Architecture



**ZAKOVIC, VICTORIA**  
Parents: Rose Ann and John Zakovic; Branch: 045K; College: Pennsylvania State University; Major: Division of Undergraduate Studies

# THANK YOU

## Dear Mr. Rajec, Mr. Arendt, and the FCSU Board of Directors:

First and foremost, I would like to thank both of you as well as the Board of Directors for selecting me as the recipient of your 2021 Scholarship Award. I feel very honored and grateful to be one of the students chosen to receive the scholarship. This money you have bestowed upon me will be a tremendous asset to me in college. Specifically, the award will go towards aiding me with my tuition and fees for my first semester at Penn State University. You truly do not know how deeply appreciated this award is by my family and myself.

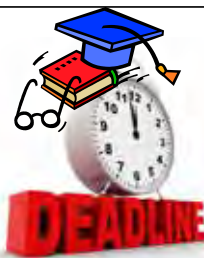
I dream to further my education and grow by getting a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at Penn State University. Your award is the start of my dream and a tremendous help to the start of my post-secondary education. My skills in my academics, paired with the outstanding work I've done in my digital electronics class, have driven me to seek out a career in the field of electrical engineering. Through a degree in electrical engineering I have the ability to grow into the field and become a robotics engineer. I've dreamed of becoming a robotics engineer ever since middle school, and throughout my high school experience, I've been working diligently to try and achieve my dream. For instance, I was one of only two students selected from my class to have a letter sent to a potential dream job. The company I chose was the National Robotics Center in Pittsburgh. The Director of Business Development at the National Robotics Center got back to me within a few weeks, answered all of my questions, and gave me some help to set me along my career path. The main reason as to why I want to enter into this field is that I enjoy working in it and I excel at it. In my life, I aspire mainly to help people, and it is through robotics that I see my best opportunity to do so. With the FCSU 2021 Scholarship Award, I'll be better equipped and closer to achieving my dream of becoming a robotics engineer. Without awards like yours, I wouldn't even be able to go to Penn State University without accumulating a massive amount of debt.

This award will certainly start my first semester off with a good start. I can wholeheartedly assure you that I shall not let you down or disappoint in any way. At Penn State University I will work just as hard as I always have. While there, I will also strive to maintain the same level of academic success and integrity as I have presented all throughout my academic career.

I know my Great Grandfather, Nicholas G. Mayernik, former FCSU Region 4 Director, would have been very proud of me for receiving this scholarship.

Dear Board of Directors, from the bottom of my heart, thank you once again for this award. Respectfully,

Nicholas Lawson



**DON'T MISS OUT!**

**THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC  
2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCT 30**

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO **TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS** TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA. Applicants, even those who are chosen for a scholarship, may apply yearly.

### Jednota Benevolent Foundation Award Criteria:

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who is **currently enrolled in college or another post secondary educational institution** is eligible for a Scholarship.
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
  - Scholarship
  - Leadership
  - Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
  - An official high school or college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT or SAT scores; (if applicable)
  - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant;
  - Examples of applicant's community involvement;
  - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant;
  - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability;
  - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives;
  - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing.

### For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: [fcsu@fcsu.com](mailto:fcsu@fcsu.com) – Website: <http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 30, 2021**

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# Narodeniny – Birthday Celebrations in Slovakia



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

Wishing someone a happy birthday is a common custom in the United States and children's birthdays receive special attention. But how are birthdays celebrated in Slovakia? How do Slovaks wish each other Happy Birthday?

First, I should note that in Slovakia, name day wishes are more common than birthday wishes. The reason is simple: it is easier to match someone's name to name day, whereas only one's closest family and friends know one's birth date. On a saint's feast day, friends would wish a happy name day by declaring "Všetko najlepšie k meninám!" [Pronounced: [Vshet-ko-nigh-lep-sheh g meh-ni-nee-naam]. Traditionally, the Church promoted this type of celebration as a way to remember patron saints, and traditionally, most Christians in Slovakia have been named after saints.

Thus when I was doing research in Bratislava in 1982, many people wished me a happy name day, but no one knew my birthday except the secret police! It seemed that birthdays were celebrated more among close family and best friends.

Since the fall of communism, birthday wishes have become more common. Here are the most typical ways in which Slovaks wish each other happy birthday.

Všetko najlepšie k narodeninám! – Happy Birthday [Vshet-ko nigh-lep-sheh ge nah-row-deh-ni-nee-naam] (literally, all the best on your birthday).

Blahoželanie! – Congratulations! [Bla-ho-zheh-lah-nye]

Veľa šťastia! – Good luck! [Ve-lya shtya-styia]

Všetko najlepšie! – All the best! [Vshet-ko nigh-lep-sheh]

Šťastlivé narodeniny - Happy Birthday! [shtyast-lee-veh nah-row-deh-nee-nee].

When I raised my children to learn Slovak, we always said Šťastlivé narodeniny, which is also a correct way of saying "Happy Birthday," and is a more direct translation.

If you have a Slovak friend or relative, you should use one of these choices in making wishes. The person will usually reply with a thank you - "Ďakujem!" [Dyah-ku-yem] or "Ďakujem veľmi pekne!" (Thank you very much) [Dyah-ku-yem vel-me pek-neh].

Gifts are sometimes exchanged, but typically only in families or among very close friends. Gifts of money are common, and older generations enjoy local foods. All like a torta (a decorated fancy cake – [tor-tah]). For Americans or Canadians, a good gift would be some type of souvenir from their home country that is not so readily available in Slovakia. For instance, I enjoy giving a Slovak-American friendship pin, an American flag, a unique T-shirt (tričko [trech-ko]), an American baseball cap, or a can of almonds from California.

**How a birthday is celebrated in Slovakia (Ako sa oslavujú narodeniny na Slovensku)**

In Slovakia, a birthday is a more private occasion than in American culture. But since the fall of communism, birthday wishes have become somewhat more common, and companies have attempted to commercialize such occasions to increase sales by offering party packages at hotels, chateaus, restaurants, etc. But for many Slovaks, it remains more a family affair.

A birthday cake (narodeninová torta) is usually served as a treat for family members and for guests if it is a larger party.

A male with a birthday party is called the "oslávenec" [oh-slaaw-veh-nets], or "jubilant" [you-be-lawnt]. If the person having the birthday is a girl, she is the "oslávenkyňa" or "jubilantka".

One writer stated that if you are invited to a Slovak pub on your birthday, the person with the birthday has to pick up the tab! This gives your friends a reason to celebrate your birthday!

One must beware when giving flowers on birthdays or any occasions for the numbers have meanings. A single flower represents love. When giving flowers, one should present an odd number of flowers, for an even number of flowers is reserved for funerals.

"When receiving a present, the birthday/ boy girl and the guest with a gift stand and face each other. The guest holds the present in their left hand and with their right they shake your hand while looking directly into your eyes, and with a smile says: Všetko najlepšie k narodeninám. Prajem Vám/ti veľa zdravia, šťastia a spokojnosti (Happy birthday. I wish you a lot of health, happiness, and peace)." Then the present is given and the two hug or kiss one another on each cheek. Beware of dropping anything, for it can be a sign of bad luck. Slovaks can be superstitious (Birthdays in Slovakia).

In Slovakia, one may also express birthday wishes over the airwaves and internet. Similar to Slovak radio programs in the USA and Canada, Slovak radio channels like Rádio Regina also feature a program which offers dedications to those celebrating a birthday: Hrajeme jubilantom (We play for the birthday celebrant). Those wishing to have a birthday wish and a song may text their wishes and a broadcaster will read the dedication and play a requested song. See and listen for an example here: <https://www.rtv.sk/radio/archiv/1547>.

One may also send special birthday wishes online, where a series of poems are available, such as at this website: <https://www.zones.sk/studentske-prace/basne/10758-hrame-nasim-jubilantom-vinse/>.

**Popular Birthday Songs**

Currently the most popular birthday song across Slovakia is Veľa šťastia zdravia (Happy Birthday). Its tune is similar to that of the "Happy Birthday" song which derives from old English folk traditions. The Slovak version is also short and to the point.

Veľa šťastia zdravia,  
veľa šťastia zdravia,

veľa šťastia drahý (meno –name),  
veľa šťastia zdravia.

Loosely it translates as:

Lots of happiness and good health,  
Lots of happiness and good health,  
Lots of happiness dear (name),  
Lots of happiness and good health.

Here is a version sung by Ana Gajová, and the song itself in the last part of this YouTube video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gedOHLQR2\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gedOHLQR2_w)

Rusyn Birthdays

My colleague, Slavomír Vojtilla, also pointed out some Rusyn birthday customs. In Rusyn culture, the old Slavonic song Mnohaja lit (Many years) celebrates birthdays, and can be loosely translated as "I wish you all the best." One may listen to a rendition of Mnohaja lit on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dATEq308GJE>

In Rusyn villages, one may also request birthday wishes at a Mass in the Byzantine rite church. The priest will sing this beautiful song as a chant, using the old Slavonic church hymn referred to as the "Polychronion," which is a form of "liturgical musical ovation." It is a congratulatory chant used not only for birthdays and anniversaries, but also at graduations, baptisms and marriages, to honor special visitors or events, and even to pray for the ill. Typically, the congregation stands when Mnohaja lit is sung in honor of the person or event.

The priest or deacon recites these words in the Slavonic language:

Mnohaja lita, blahaja lita, mnohaja blahaja lita. Vo zdravije, vo spasenie, mnohaja blahaja lita.

Grant, O Lord, to Your servant(s), peace, health and long-life for many and blessed years.

The congregation responds "God grant them many years, God grant them many years, God grant them many blessed years. In health and salvation, in health and salvation. God grant them many blessed years."

Here is a version of Mnohaja lita which was featured on the TV station JOJ in 2020: <https://youtu.be/MdlN66tsyOI> (Cirkevno-slovanský hymnus).

**Another Birthday Song – Živijó**

My relative in Spiš, Mária Gondžáková, taught me the birthday songs Živijó! and Sto lat! Živijó! roughly translates into "Live a long life," and its origins were unclear when I first heard it.

Apparently, Živijó is a South Slav song of Croatian origin and is used to congratulate someone celebrating a birthday. It is often sung before a toast to the person. It reached Slovaks and Czechs from interactions of Czechoslovak Legionnaires with Serbs and Croats after the First World War. Since then, it has spread to the general population. Even though my mother lived in interwar Slovakia, I never heard her singing it.

Slavomír Vojtilla, a fellow radio announcer on "Notes of Slovakia," wrote me that Živijó is popular mainly among the older generations. This might reflect influence from the communist era, when Stalin had former Czechoslovak Legionnaires hunted down and imprisoned or even murdered, because of the Legion's anti-Bolshevik sentiments and shootouts with them during the Russian Revolution.

While one could translate Živijó as "live a long life," the British might simply say "cheers!" Here are the lyrics:

Živijó, živijó, živijó, živijó.

Mnoga ljeta, mnoga ljeta, mnoga ljeta, živijó,

mnoga ljeta, mnoga ljeta, mnoga ljeta, živijó!

Živijó, živijó, živijó.

Mnoga ljeta, zdravi byli, mnogaljeta, živijó.

Mnogaljeta zdravi žili, mnogaljeta,

živijó, živijó, živijó, živijó.

Cheers, cheers, cheers, cheers.

Many years, many years, many years, cheers,

Many years, many years, many years, cheers.

Cheers, cheers, cheers, cheers.

Many years, many years, many years, cheers.

Many years, many years, cheers.

Cheers, cheers, cheers, cheers.

Renditions of "Živijó" are found on several YouTube sites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yatDVGE1yXU> (Živijó sung first, followed by Sto lat)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6dADQ2shvA>

**Sto lat**

I found singing Sto lat! is common in the Spiš region, which is adjacent to nearby Poland. Sto lat (One Hundred Years) is a traditional Polish song that is sung to express good wishes, good health and long life to a person. It is also a common way of wishing someone a happy birthday in Polish. Sto lat is used in many birthdays and on international day of language.

The song's origins are unclear and have no known author. The song is sung both at informal gatherings (such as birthdays or name days) or at formal events in Poland, such as weddings. Frequently in Poland, the song "Niech im gwiazdka pomyślności" (Grant them a prosperous star) will also be sung afterwards, excluding kids' parties, since the song refers to alcohol consumption. The song is even used at state events and performed by an orchestra or a military band and became an integral part of Polish immigrant culture long after assimilation. But I never remember hearing it in Slovakia or among Slovak immigrants in the USA. But some Polish-American still sing Sto lat.

Even today, Sto lat is quite popular in eastern Slovakia and resembles the English songs "Happy Birthday to You" or "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow". My grandson used to like it when he was little. Here are the lyrics.

Sto lat, sto lat

Niech żyje, żyje nam.

Sto lat, sto lat,

continued on page 21

# Crowning Glory: A Feast of Slovak & Moravian Headdresses

**Helene Cincebeaux,  
Branch 888**

"Crowning Glory: A Feast of Slovak & Moravian Headdresses" from 100 villages will be on display for six months at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, IA.

The headdresses were collected over 50 years and are part of the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection. The exhibit will be our *Crowning Glory!* It is dedicated to my mother Helen Zemek Baine. We had so much fun visiting over 3,000 villages, sitting in kitchens and learning about the customs and traditions.

When we asked about what women in the village wore to their wedding – the men would say "that garbage, burn it!" Many treasured heirlooms were burned when someone died as it was a custom – their things were piled in the courtyard and ignited - a form of purification.

But as we went from village to village, the women gathered round us and smiled and went home to bring a wedding photo or a headdress and before we knew it we were surrounded by women in kerchiefs/caps or cepec - showing us how their wedding headdresses and caps were made and worn, trying them on and modeling them for us. It always turned into a riotous happening and then we would be invited to visit from home to home. We feasted on heavenly bread blessed and cut from huge loaves and not just buttered but with actual triangles of butter sitting upright - unforgettable! It was the perfect opportunity to ask about traditions and their wedding day, some weddings lasted three and four days.

Young girls learned to sew at a young age taught by their mothers, aunts, godmothers and grandmothers. They began to set aside things for their "vybava" or dowry. Everything from folk dress for their wedding to ritual cloths (lace trimmed and embroidered ones) were made to hang from the beams when a woman had a baby to segregate her behind the curtain for six weeks. Her godmother was the only one who could touch her and brought her special soup made from rooster for strength and special noodles in special ceramic containers (this was brilliant as it protected the mother and new born babe from infection. With large families of 10 or more living in small log homes this was a necessity.)

Just before her wedding the bride would parade thru the village; often she sat atop her truhla or decorated dowry chest while a horse and cart pulled her and her bridesmaids through the village to show off her wealth. Many weddings lasted several days. Once a girl married she went to the groom's home to live and was subservient to her mother-in-law and welcomed at her new home with a kerchief!

The author (standing, far right), her mother (seated) with their family in heirloom pieces from their own private collection.



The author (standing, far right), her mother (seated) with their family in heirloom pieces from their own private collection.

When my son was getting married the village women asked me if my daughter-in-law minded (obeyed) me - how to explain that she ran her own design company in San Francisco? – truly, a cultural divide!

Many village women never cut their hair and had long, long braids they tied up under their cepec or wound around metal or wooden forms they called grgula or rohy (horns). This made for some spectacular headgear! Women kept their heads covered not only when outside but also at home.

Some treasures in the Baine-Cincebeaux Collection were rescued from children playing with them in the street, literally, or were snatched away from being burned in a funeral pyre. Some treasures were viewed in precarious attic lofts, or in damp dower chests in the barn or the pantry after the chickens were shooed off the lid. Others were given with love as the *babička's* eyes shone and said "It's going to America!" I know all the Slovaks who made and wore these treasures will be smiling down from heaven on the glory they created! And I know my mother will be too! The gorgeous creations – beaded, embroidered, woven, felted, lace-trimmed, etc. – are incredibly varied from village to village and express the love of beauty in the hearts of women who wanted to sparkle and shine on their wedding day and after! A glorious tribute to the creativity and ingenuity of Slovak villagers with beauty in their souls!

I am planning to publish a book to record all the gorgeous headdresses in the exhibit and in our collection. There is so much tradition involved in head covering in Slovakia. Young girls wore ribbons in their hair and later wreaths of flowers.

But when your wedding was planned, your godmother sold a field or a cow to pay to have your elaborate wedding headdress made. It might be a confection of embroidery or lace or woven or embellished with gold or silver thread, or sparkling beads or mirrors to ward off evil spirits, for if they saw their reflection they would flee.

## "Crowning Glory: A Feast of Slovak & Moravian Headdresses"

*August 28, 2021 -  
February 27, 2022*

National Czech & Slovak Museum,  
Smith Gallery

Slovak folk dress (*kroje*) is stunning, each segment more beautiful than the last. This exhibit will focus on the crowning glory: the headdress. Nearly 100 Slovak headdresses will be on display. Hours of labor and generations of meaning, mystique, and creativity are infused in each unique piece of art.

- As posted on ncsml.org



## "Treasures of Slovakia: 1,000 Years of Slovak History & Culture"

*September 18, 2021 -  
March 20, 2022*

National Czech & Slovak Museum,  
Petrik Gallery

Experience the rich history and culture of Slovakia going back more than a thousand years. Rare and significant artifacts will be on loan from the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava; many which have never left the country before. This newly-curated exhibition will share Slovakia's treasures in four parts: history, art, folk life, and nature, with each topic developed and supplemented by Slovak National Museum resources.

- As posted on ncsml.org



Hair was considered magic and so at your wedding the bridal wreath was removed by your godmother to the tune of a traditional song and your hair was wound up and then covered the rest of your life! Many recall their grandmothers or great grandmothers wearing a kerchief called a *babuška* and that

morphed into the name for grandmother, *babička!*

The collection has been seen in exhibits in some 20 states and featured in the book "Dowry" after being on display for a year at the prestigious Mingei Museum of Interna-

continued on page 9



Crown from Važec in the Liptovský Mikuláš District of northern Slovakia's Žilina Region, at the foot of Kriváň in the High Tatras Mountains.



# Crowning Glory: A Feast of Slovak & Moravian Headdresses

continued from page 8

tional Folk Art in San Diego CA. The treasures that simple village people created live long beyond them and inspire awe at the variety, ingenuity, elegance and charm.

### About the Exhibit

A special day for "Crowning Glory" is Saturday, Sept 18, 2021, to coincide with another exhibit that will at the Museum that will have its grand opening that day, "Treasures of Slovakia: 1,000 Years of Slovak History & Culture." Helene will do a gallery tour in the morning, and show a film on how the makers of the headdresses used materials from nature and at hand to create beauty. She also will share images of a variety of the many headdresses created not only for women, but also for children, babies and men. Then ... enjoy a gorgeous and live parade of kroj! Hope you can join us for this once in a lifetime event - it will be memorable! More info contact Helene at [helenezx@aol.com](mailto:helenezx@aol.com), 585 342-9383, or check out the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library information at [ncsml.org/exhibits/#future-exhibits/](http://ncsml.org/exhibits/#future-exhibits/)



Front and back views of a headpiece from Vikartovce in the Poprad District of northern Slovakia's Prešov Region.



An example of a typical insert that could be included in a groom's wedding hat.



Beaded hat from Ábelová in the Lučenec District in the Banská Bystrica Region of central Slovakia.



Beaded cap from Poniky in the Banská Bystrica District of central Slovakia.



Cepiec or cap from Prenčov in the Banská Štiavnica District of the Banská Bystrica Region.



Headdress from Lendak in the Kežmarok District of northern Slovakia's Prešov Region, an area traditionally inhabited by Gorals or "highlanders."



Beaded hat from Bzovik in the Krupina District of the Banská Bystrica Region.



Head piece from Torysky in the Levoča District in the Prešov Region of central-eastern Slovakia.



Headdress from Veľký Lom in the Veľký Krtíš District of the Banská Bystrica Region of southern Slovakia.

# News From Slovakia

## Strelec Rehak Stefeceková získava zlato na olympijských hrách, vytvára olympijské a svetové rekordy

Tokio 29. júla (TASR) - Slovenská strelkyňa Zuzana Rehak Stefeceková získala zlatú medailu na podujatí ženských pascí na letných olympijských hrách 2020 v Tokiu a stala sa prvou členkou slovenského tímu súťažiaceho v Japonsku, ktorá získala medailu.

Zlatá medaila je vrcholom doterajšej kariéry Rehak Stefeckovej a je to tretia medaila, ktorú získala na olympijských hrách, pretože predtým získala striebro v Pekingu v roku 2008 a v Londýne v roku 2012.

Rehak Stefeckova, súťažiaca v šesťčlennom finále, zasiahla 43 z 50 terčov a vytvorila nový olympijský rekord. Strelkyňa navyše počas kvalifikácie do finále vytvorila nový svetový rekord.

Striebornú medailu medzitým získala americká strelkyňa Kayle Browningová a bronz získala Alessandra Perilliová zo San Marína, ktorá pre svoju krajinu získala vôbec prvú medailu na olympijských hrách.



**Slovenská strelkyňa Zuzana Rehak Stefeceková sa teší zo zlatej medaily, ktorú získala na podujatí ženských pascí na letných olympijských hrách 2020 v Tokiu (foto TA)**

Slovak shooter Zuzana Rehak Stefeckova enjoying the gold medal she won in the women's trap event at the 2020 summer Olympic Games in Tokyo (photo by TASR)

## Shooter Rehak Stefeckova Wins Gold at Olympics, Sets Olympic and World Records

Tokyo, July 29 (TASR) – Slovak shooter Zuzana Rehak Stefeckova has won the gold medal in the women's trap event at the 2020 summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, becoming the first member of the Slovak team competing in Japan to win a medal.

The gold medal is the high point of Rehak Stefeckova's career so far, and it's the third medal she's won at an Olympic Games, as she previously won silver in Beijing in 2008 and in London in 2012.

Competing in a six-member final, Rehak Stefeckova hit 43 of the 50 targets and set a new Olympic record. Moreover, the shooter set a new world record during qualification for the final.

Meanwhile, the silver medal was won by US shooter Kayle Browning and the bronze went to San Marino's Alessandra Perilli, who won the first-ever medal for her country at the Olympics.

## Pápež František navštívi v septembri Slovensko

Vatikán 4. júla (TASR) - Pápež František oficiálne potvrdil, že v septembri sa chystá navštíviť Slovensko aj Maďarsko, informovala v ten istý deň spravodajská stanica Svätého stolca Vatican News.

Podľa slovenského ministerstva zahraničných vecí navštívi pápež Slovensko 12. - 15. septembra.

„Pre Slovensko je veľkou cťou, že Svätý Otec príde do krajiny na trojdňovú apoštolskú návštevu, ktorá bude oficiálna aj pastoračná. Je to dôležitý okamih pre vzťahy Slovenska so Svätou stolicou, ako aj pre veriacich a pre všetkých ľudí oddaných kresťanským a humanistickým zásadám,“ uviedol šéf slovenskej diplomacie Ivan Korcok.

Bude to už štvrtýkrát, čo pápež uskutoční apoštolskú návštevu Slovenska, pretože v rokoch 1990, 1995 a 2003 túto krajinu navštívil bývalý pápež Ján Pavol II.



**Pápež František (foto TASR / AP)**

Pope Francis (photo by TASR/AP)

## Pope Francis to Visit Slovakia in September

Vatican, July 4 (TASR) – Pope Francis officially confirmed that he's set to visit both Slovakia and Hungary in September, the Holy See's news outlet Vatican News reported on the same day.

According to the Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry, the pope will visit Slovakia on September 12-15.

"It is a great honor for Slovakia that the Holy Father will come to the country for a three-day apostolic visit, which will be both official and pastoral. It's an important moment for Slovakia's relations with the Holy See, as well as for the faithful and for all people committed to Christian and humanist principles," stated chief of Slovak diplomacy Ivan Korcok.

This will be the fourth time the pope pays an apostolic visit to Slovakia, as former pope John Paul II visited the country in 1990, 1995 and 2003.

## Gratulujeme Jessica!

26. júla 2021 Jessica Klimkait z Whitby Ontario Canada, členka pobočky 785, získala na olympijských hrách v Tokiu 2020 bronzovú medailu za Kanadu v kategórii judo do 57 kg. V zápase o bronz porazila Slovincu Kaju Kajzerovú.

Usilovne pracovala na dosiahnutí olympijského cieľa. Začiatkom tejto jari získala Jessica zlatú medailu na majstrovstvách sveta v jude v maďarskej Budapešti v utorok 8. júna 2021. Vo finále žien do 57 kg porazila Japonku Momo Tamaokiovú.

Jej dedko Ed Gres je tiež členom pobočky.



Gratulujeme Jessica!

- Predložene Annou Mitro, sekretárkou pobočky 785

**Členka Jednoty Jessica Klimkaitová získava bronzovú medailu na olympijských hrách v Tokiu 2020**

Jednota Member Jessica Klimkait Captures Bronze Medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

## Congratulations Jessica!

On July 26, 2021, Jessica Klimkait of Whitby Ontario Canada, a Member of Branch 785, captured a Bronze Medal For Canada in the Judo under 57kg category, at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. She defeated Kaja Kajzer of Slovenia in the bronze medal match.

She has worked diligently towards an Olympic goal. Earlier this past spring, Jessica captured the Gold Medal at the World Judo Championships in Budapest, Hungary on Tuesday June 8, 2021. She beat Japan's Momo Tamaoki in the women's under 57kg final.

Her Grandfather Ed Gres is a member of the branch as well.

Yeah Jessica! Go Jessica Go!

- Submitted by Anne Mitro, District 19 Secretary

## Pripojte sa k Modlitebnému Maratónu Pred Návštevou Pápeža na Slovensku v Septembri



Pápežské misijné diela na Slovensku pozývajú veriacich, aby sa zúčastnili modlitebného maratónu k modlitbe za pápeža a Slovensko, ktorý sa uskutoční od 7. do 15. septembra 2021.

Podrobnosti nájdete vo Vatikánskych správach na adrese:

<https://tinyurl.com/m94wwhtc>

- Predložila sestra M. Paracleta Amrich, SSCM

Join Prayer Marathon Ahead of Papal Visit to Slovakia this September

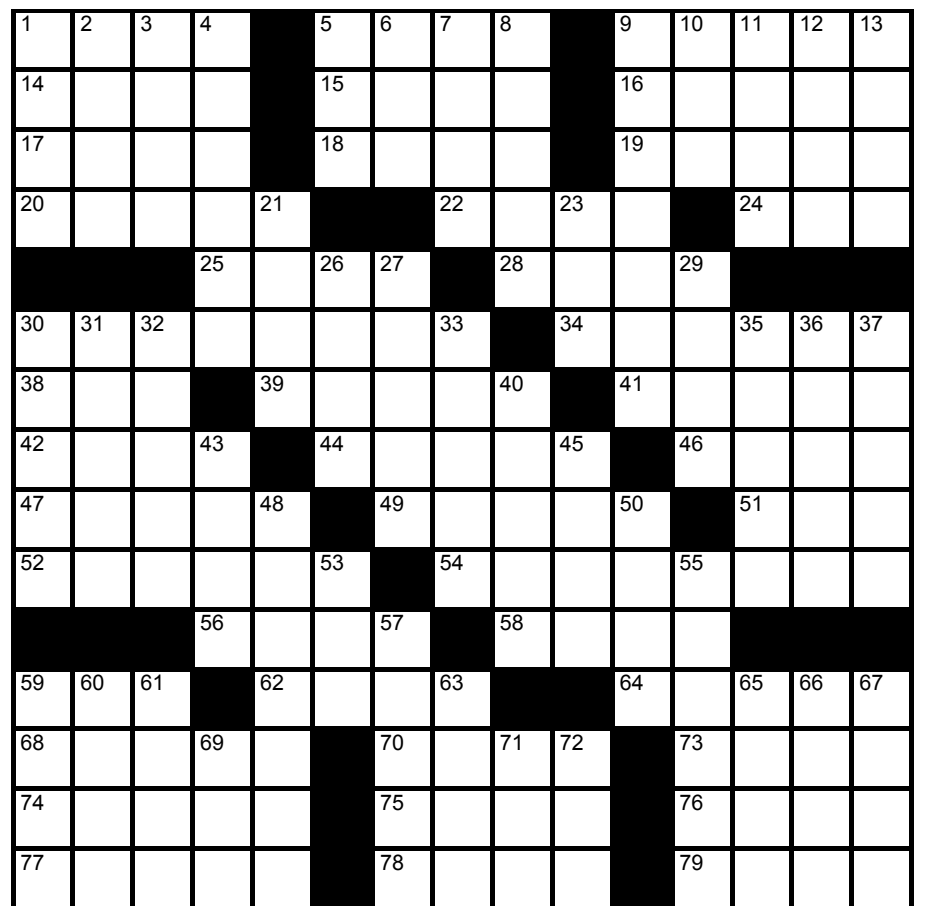
The Pontifical Missionary Works of Slovakia is inviting the faithful to join in a prayer marathon to pray for the Pope and Slovakia which will take place from September 7-15, 2021.

For details go to Vatican News at:

<https://tinyurl.com/m94wwhtc>

- Submitted by Sr. M. Paracleta Amrich, SSCM

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Kind of moss
- 5 Oodles
- 9 Minimal
- 14 Sitar music
- 15 Blue-pencil
- 16 Host
- 17 \_\_\_ and anon
- 18 Salacious look
- 19 Some wedding guests
- 20 Royal pains
- 22 Try for a part
- 24 Consume
- 25 Church nook
- 28 Virtuoso
- 30 Orchestra member
- 34 Bad blood
- 38 "For \_\_\_ a jolly ..."
- 39 Religious scroll
- 41 Reeked
- 42 The good life
- 44 Full of excitement
- 46 Questionable
- 47 Frighten
- 49 Trial's partner
- 51 Restaurant calculation
- 52 Glistens
- 54 California park
- 56 Multitude
- 58 "Scream" star Campbell
- 59 \_\_\_ rule
- 62 Nectar flavor
- 64 Flippant
- 68 Vernacular
- 70 Toothpaste holder
- 73 One and only
- 74 Gallic goodbye

**Down**

- 75 Gusto
- 76 French silk center
- 77 Kind of button
- 78 Split apart
- 79 Swerves at sea
- 1 Kind of school
- 2 Overhang
- 3 Mellows
- 4 Kind of sauce
- 5 Hair raiser?
- 6 Jonson work
- 7 Coffin
- 8 Spread around
- 11 Teen affliction
- 12 "La Scala di \_\_\_" (Rossini opera)
- 13 Exam
- 21 Roasting rod
- 23 Triumphant cry
- 26 Winter forecast
- 27 Like "The X-Files"
- 29 Tubular pasta
- 30 Kind of board
- 31 Percolate
- 32 Very, in music
- 33 Dawdle
- 35 Civilian clothes
- 36 Ill-suited
- 37 Internet communication software
- 40 Graceful bird
- 43 Coastal raptors
- 45 Medicine amount
- 48 Burbot
- 50 Ministers, briefly
- 53 Witness
- 55 Slight
- 57 No-cal drink
- 59 Winged
- 60 Pro or con
- 61 Spanish liqueur
- 63 Govern
- 65 Kind of bean
- 66 School zone sign
- 67 Cravings
- 69 "Wow!"
- 71 Embargo
- 72 Dissolve

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

## St. Andrew Abbey Benefit

to support the mission and work of our monks

**SATURDAY • OCTOBER 2**  
**MASS AT 4 P.M.**  
**DINNER AT 6 P.M.**  
**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
**9183 BROADVIEW ROAD**  
**BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO 44147**

Bring the entire family for an evening of food, fun, and prayer while benefitting the monks of St. Andrew Abbey!

For sponsorship inquiries, ticket information, or questions, please contact Ashley Arko at (216) 721-5300 x280 or arko@cbhs.edu

## Online Slovak Classes Begin in September



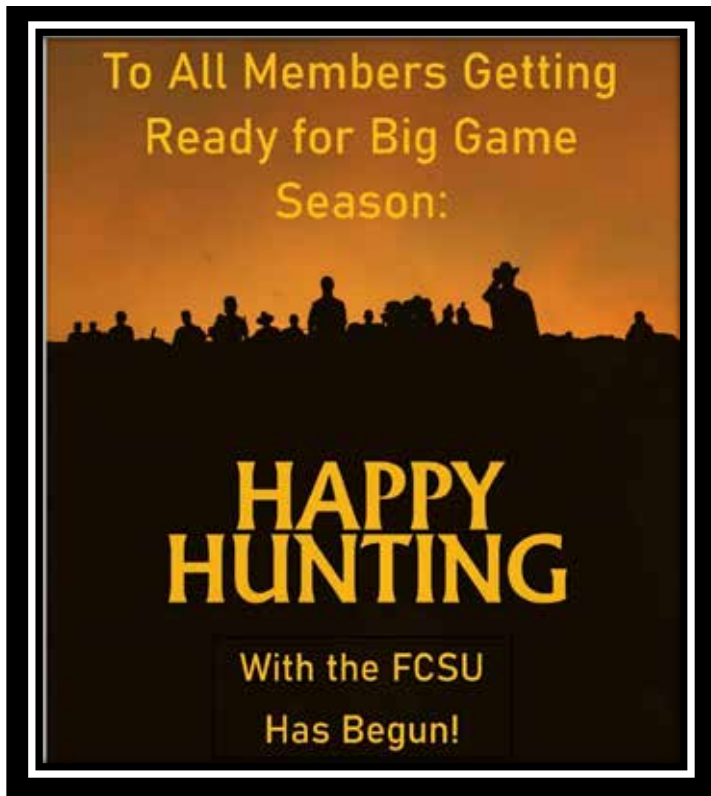
Beginning Slovak 1, a live online language course sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI) will be offered Thursday evenings from September 9 to November 18, 2021, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm EST. In this 10-week, 20-hour course, participants will learn basic Slovak vocabulary and phrases and be introduced to Slovak grammar. The course is designed to be interesting and informative and although its focus is learning the Slovak language, it includes some aspects of Slovakia's rich culture and traditions.

A 100-page PDF Course Book and audio files are provided. The instructor is Dennis Ragan, who has been teaching basic Slovak language courses and 'real' halušky culinary classes for 19 years. The cost is \$200 (\$180 for members of CGSI). For a copy of the course syllabus, please contact Dennis at dragan322@gmail.com.

## 2021 JEDNOTA Publication Schedule

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
<b>Sept 8</b>	<b>August 30</b>
<b>October 13</b>	<b>October 4</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>November 1</b>
<b>December 8</b>	<b>November 29</b>

See Solution on Page 22



**\* FIRST PRIZE – \$300 \* SECOND PRIZE – \$150 \* THIRD PRIZE - \$100**  
**FCSU Happy Hunting Contest 2021**

The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) is launching an all-new contest for the hunters among us. The hunting season for moose and deer in North America generally starts September 1st. Seasons vary in length and start time depending on the game you are hunting, the hunting instrument used, and where you live. Please be sure to check with your local authorities. As you gear up to participate in your area of the country, be sure to enter the FCSU Happy Hunting Contest for your chance to bag more than your favorite game.

We call upon St. Hubert, the patron Saint of Hunters, to protect everyone entering the event. Happy hunting!

Kevin Collins, FCSU Fraternal Activities Director

PS: be sure to check out & follow all details as listed on this page →

**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 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

Contest Categories

The FCSU will be awarding cash prizes for the top three catches, based on the number of points on the rack, in one of two categories: Moose or Deer

Contest Timeframe

The FCSU Happy Hunting Contest runs from September 1 – December 31, 2021.

Contest Rules

1. You must be a member of the FCSU in good standing to participate.
2. Only one entry is allowed per FCSU member per category (deer or moose).
3. You must take a digital picture of your deer or moose outdoors, and before the animal is dressed. The preferred format for your digital photo is jpeg; pdfs can be accepted.
4. You **MUST** include a recent copy of the Jednota Newspaper in the picture with your catch.
5. In the body of the email, include ALL of the following information:
  - ✓ Your information: name, address, branch number, and best phone number to contact you if there are questions
  - ✓ Category Entering: Moose or Deer
  - ✓ Number of Pointers on your animal
  - ✓ Date of Interaction with the animal
  - ✓ Location of Interaction
  - ✓ Type of Hunting Instrument used: Bow and Arrow, Rifle, etc.
6. Optional: If you donate any of the meat to a homeless shelter or needy or neighbors etc., also note this with your entry.
7. Please see the box below for a checklist of the information needed to constitute a qualified entry. Contest winners will be posted on the FCSU website and published in Jednota.

Contest Deadline

Deadline to enter is January 5, 2022. Email kevinfcsu@outlook.com with your digital photo and entry information (see below). Email must be time dated by 5PM (EST) of the deadline day.

Info that MUST be submitted in your emailed entry along with your digital Big Game photo:

- \* **In the subject line:** put FCSU Happy Hunting Contest 2021
- \* **In the body of the email:** list the full names of all the members in your photo next to your animal. You **MUST** include your branch number and the branch number of all the people in the attached photo (if different from yours). You also **MUST** include the following information about your catch:
  - o Number of Pointers on the animal
  - o Location of Interaction with animal
  - o Type of hunting instrument used: Examples: Bow and Arrow, Rifle, etc.
  - o Optional: If you donate any of the meat to a homeless shelter or needy neighbors etc.
- \* Please also include your main mailing address where you would like your prize mailed, including City, State, Zip. Please also include a number where you can be reached if questions.
- \* **In the attached photo** (jpeg format preferred): A recent copy of the Jednota newspaper **MUST** be visible in the picture. All hunters in the photo, including yourself, **MUST** be members of the FCSU.
- \* Email to [kevinfcsu@outlook.com](mailto:kevinfcsu@outlook.com) by **January 5, 2022, 5PM EST.**



**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

# 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!



## PLAY THE LOSER'S POOL

### 2021 with the FCSU

**PRIZES:**

1st Place - \$750

2nd Place - \$500

3rd Place - \$250

**RULES:**

- 1) Each player picks one NFL Team they think will lose that week.
- 2) All picks are "Straight Up" and are not using any point spread.
- 3) If your pick (team) loses that week, you advance to the following week.
- 4) If your pick (team) wins, you are eliminated from the pool.
- 5) Pre-plan projections: You can only pick a team once to lose thruout season & playoffs.
- 6) Games that end in ties will count as your team winning and you will be eliminated.
- 7) If you miss the deadline to enter your team for that week, you will be eliminated.
- 8) Deadline for submitting your team TBD each week based on start of first NFL game.
- 9) **Log in with email, username & password on your submitted entry; all others blocked.**
- 10) **Email addresses can only be used once. No exceptions.**
- 11) Check email and spam or junk folders starting after Monday, Aug 30, 2021.
- 12) **You must be registered on game site by 5:00PM (EST), Tues, Sept 7, 2021.**  
After you sign up on game site, your account automatically deactivates to verify.
- 13) All accounts will be unlocked at 9PM Wed, Sept 8, 2021.

EMAIL ENTRY ONLY accepted for 2021

2020 Loser Pool participants are automatically entered for 2021. Invitations go out week of August 30, 2021. If you are a NEW participant to the event this year, please provide following in body of your email:


**Name:** you must be at least 16 years old to participate  
**Branch:** you must be an FCSU member in good standing & include your Branch # to participate  
**Address:** City, State, Zip  
**Phone Number:**  
**Email:** this will be the email you use to sign into the event

*As this email is your official entry, please don't include any other information including my name, title, or a personal note .*

Send email to: [fcsuloserspool@gmail.com](mailto:fcsuloserspool@gmail.com)  
**Note: this email entry must arrive by 5:00PM (EST) Sun, Sept 5, 2021**

## FCSU MEMBER PORTAL ACCESS

Right at your fingertips!



**As an FCSU member you are now able to log in to your account anytime!**

**CREATE**


- Go to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)
- Click MEMBER LOGIN
- Click **Create Account**
- Enter the required information
- Create your username & password
- Click Create User

**VERIFY**


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

**LOG IN**

- Next time you want to check your account, just go to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)
- Click **MEMBER LOGIN**
- Enter your username/password
- Verify your phone number/TEXT
- View your policies



**For assistance call us at**  
**1-800-533-6682**





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

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

**JOIN US TODAY!**

## 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.

## 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.



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 St. Stephen's Society, Branch 06, will provide TICKETS to the play "The Cat and The Canary," at Engle Lane Theatre, Streator, IL, on October, 16, 2021. Attend a fraternal gathering with other members for this comedy chiller play. Members of Branch 06 must call Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 by October 1, 2021, if you plan on attending. Information will be given at the time of your call.

**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

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 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Attention Branch 24 Members: come to the Sept 11 Slovak Heritage Society Pig Roast at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Hts, OH – and EAT FOR FREE. Non-member guests are welcome at the regular prices of \$25 for an adult food ticket and \$5 for a kid's meal. See page 15 for more event details. Contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 to reserve your tickets or learn more.

**Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director**

## 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 – MAHANAOY 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

Branch 112 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at A&C catering hall. The hall is located at 505 West Mahanoy St, Mahanoy City, PA; and the meeting will begin at 2:30PM.

The agenda will include election of officers, election of delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Independence Ohio, ideas for new membership and a discussion of charitable donations.

All coronavirus mitigation practices still in effect at this time will be strictly enforced.

Please contact Karen Sterling by October 10, 2021 if you plan to attend the meeting by phone at 570-640-1796 or via email 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 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 173 will hold its meeting on September 12, 2021, at Norms Restaurant, Wilkes-Barre, PA, starting at 12:30 PM. Please contact Dorothy Ungvarsky for details at 570-4032067.

Fraternally,

**John Ungvarsky, Secretary**

## BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

A combined meeting with Branch 181 - St. John the Baptist Society and District 3 - George Onda District members is planned for Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 6:00PM in the St. Florian's Social Hall in United, PA. The agenda will include upcoming activities and Election of Officers. Refreshments will be served. Guidelines for COVID-19 will be followed at the time of the meeting if necessary.

**Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Fraternally,

**Vicki Schaub Fin. Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 PM, and will be held VIRTUALLY until further notice. Contact Lisa at 440-773-1442 for specific instructions to attend virtually.

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

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

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

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

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 has scheduled Sunday, November 14, 2021, for the Fall meeting. The meeting will be held at 1PM at Eat & Park Restaurant on Route 30 in North Versailles PA, near Walmart and the Great Valley Shopping Center. We will hear officers' reports. We will also discuss district events and possible charitable donations. Officers for 2022 will be elected.

Fraternally,

**Margaret Nasta, President**

## BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313 warmly welcomes the merger of Branch 493!! Members of the "former" Branch 493, are now officially members of Branch 313 and may participate in Branch 313 meetings! Branch 313 will hold its first annual meeting of 2021, on the date of September 14th at 11:30AM. The meeting will take place at Fox's Pizza, located at 9655 W 143rd Street, Orland Park, Illinois 60462...and will be followed by a complimentary fraternal luncheon. All former members of branch 493 are welcome to attend. To RSVP please contact 313 President, Marge at (708)226-8157, before September 7th.

\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

Due to the Pandemic, and as a safety precaution, we kindly ask that all attending to please wear a face mask for the meeting portion. Hand sanitizer will also be available to use. We also ask that if you do not feel well, please stay home and take care...we look forward to seeing you next time!

**Jennifer Carlton, Financial Secretary and Treasurer**

## BRANCH 353K – BELLAIRE, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 353K Bellaire, OH and Branch 553K Akron, OH. All members of Branch 353K will now hold membership in Branch 553K. This merger has taken place as of July 21, 2021. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

**LINDA M HANKO**

1473 RIES ST

BARBERTON, OH 44203-7625

(330) 706-0151

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**

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 will meet on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at Holy Trinity Church Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Street Extension, West Mifflin, PA. The meeting starts at 1PM. Officers for 2022 will be elected. We will also discuss the upcoming convention and other business matters. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 254. Please RSVP to Joe Senko (jisenko@aol.com) or to the district secretary. We need an accurate count for planning.

The 52nd Jednota Convention is planned for July 30 to August 2 at the Holiday Inn in Independence, OH. Please be sure to follow all bylaws as you elect convention delegates.

Other announcements of local interest.

- WPSCA: Check their Facebook page for updates.

- NSS Heritage Museum September-Fest: Saturday, September 25. Slovak cafe, arts & crafts, demonstrations, and the Slovak cuvac.

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 policies are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.FCSU.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links can be found at FCSU.com/resources.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, Secretary

## 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 Thursday, November 11, 2021, at Shoney's Restaurant at 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA, at 6:00PM. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Tuesday, November 9, 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

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.

Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

## 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



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 Sutilla, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director

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., Presiden

## DISTRICT 15 - THE PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District 15 will conduct its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 11:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA, 92831. On the agenda will be: preparation for 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH, Holiday Inn, on July 30-August 2, 2022, Activities focused on membership drive, and preparation for All Saints and Souls Mass. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and hold concurrent semi-annual meetings. Lunch will follow at the restaurant.

Also please reserve the date December 11, 2021 for the annual meeting at the same location for the election of officers for next year.

Paul Skuben, President

## DISTRICT 16 - THE MSGR KRASULA DISTRICT

The annual meeting of the District 16 Msgr Krasula will be held on Sunday, October 24, 2021, in the Church hall of St. John Nepomucene Church, NYC, immediately following the 10:15 AM Slovak Mass. Agenda will include election of new officers, financial matters, and discussion of future activities. All members from District 16 are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served or members will be invited to a restaurant immediately after meeting.

Joan Skrkon, Recording Secretary

# COME PIG OUT!



**SATURDAY, SEPT. 11**  
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

**~OPEN TO THE PUBLIC~**

SPONSORED BY THE SLOVAK HERITAGE SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

---

**~DOORS OPEN AT 3 PM~**  
**~FOOD SERVED FROM 4PM TO 8PM~**

**WHERE: SOKOL FARM**  
**2069 ROYALWOOD RD.**  
**BROADVIEW HTS, OH 44147**



**COST: \$25 (includes meat, sides, dessert, and water)**  
**\$5 Kids meal (hot dog, chips, & juice box)**  
**Cash bar**

**ACTIVITIES ~PRIZES~MUSIC**      **Cash or credit accepted.**

---

**For advanced tickets call:**                      **Limited tickets available at the door.**

<b>Tom Ivanec</b>	<b>Joe Oros</b>	<b>Mike Anderko</b>	<b>Susie Halley</b>
<b>440-668-7797</b>	<b>440-334-8626</b>	<b>216-396-2831</b>	<b>440-263-1573</b>

**Contact us on Facebook at "Cleveland Slovak Social"**

## Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance 2021 Scholarship Program



The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2021 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society such as the First Catholic Slovak Union or by contacting the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Secretary-Treasurer at Theresa@lpsc.org or 888-834-6614.

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a 2021 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2021 as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "What does fraternal mean to you? What would you do to increase the relevance of fraternalism to you and your peers?"

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 1, 2021.

At least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

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

# 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	Cynthia R Niznik	086K	Elizabeth A Bohatch	260K	Leda Urban	581K	Michael J Sunny
005P	Mary E Noll	086K	Agnes L Kozar	312K	Mary Tandarich	721K	Frances M Lundie
005P	Frank X Schneck	089K	Mildred A Dudek	315K	Diane Collins	731K	Agatha M Marshall
006K	Dorothy A Mohr	112K	Joseph Petrocic	367K	Francis A Dutkewycz III	743K	Joan Agnes Gallo
006K	Phyllis J Simpko	152K	Elizabeth Jabore	367K	Michael V Hoza	743K	Bernard Martin Kolesar
023K	Anna M Burgo	152K	Rita Olshefski	367K	Thomas Sanetrik	796K	Dixie L Volanski
023K	Elsie Kapcsos	162K	Mariann Elizabeth Kodric	382K	Dolores Babij	796K	Stephen Wandler
024K	John Bernard Derdul	162K	Matthew Marmol	393K	Cathy Ann Kelly	855K	Russell Edward Duke
024K	Dorothy Grochowski	166K	Teresa Ann Visocky	401K	Mary C Hydock	855K	Stanley Preneta
024K	Gloria J Kozar	173K	Theresa R Chupka	410K	Elizabeth G Holly	855K	Mark Sabados
024K	Rev Dominic Michael Mondzelewski	181K	Evelyn Ann Harhai	410K	Frank T Holly III	857K	Dorothy C Ciongoli
035K	Albert Renchko	181K	James Michael Koutsky	410K	Joseph Edward Kovach Jr	857K	Patricia J Grupe
038K	Joseph P Nestico	181K	Andrew F Kowatch	419K	Anne Christine Altavilla	857K	Shirley A Kallok
038K	Diane M Virostek	199K	Regina Bridge	450K	Paul Kotchman	888K	Agnes C Pavoll
038K	Doris Wergin	200K	Maxine Marie Liperote	450K	Norbert Kurnath	916K	Judy D McDunnin
040K	Margaret Weber	224K	Zita Vavruska	553K	Johanna G Kacsanek	917K	Omer T Hackman
045K	Marion Bracken	228K	Mary Jane Pallay	571K	Gertrude A Simonof	919K	Lester Gilbert
085K	Rose Mathias	260K	John S Rovder Jr	580K	Arlene Dorothy Trichtinger		

\*Processed through the month of July

## OBITUARIES

**ROBERT G. BORDE  
BRANCH 181 –  
UNITED,  
PENNSYLVANIA**



Robert G. Borde, 26, died peacefully June 28, 2021 at home in St. Augustine, FL. Rob was a special person who loved everyone and brought happiness wherever he went. He was vibrant, magnetic, funny and respectful. You might be a stranger when you met, but would feel loved when you parted. A friend who knew him well said, "Robbie had to go through so much in his short life, 15 or so surgeries and the loss of his best friend Brandon." He will now lie beside Brandon eternally. Rob was an old soul in a young man's body. He will be deeply missed by his friends and forever loved by his family. Rob attended Bartram Trail High School where he played varsity football. After graduating, he went on to the University of Central Florida where he graduated with a degree in Hospitality/Entertainment Management. He is survived by his parents, Arthur and Mary Borde, of St. Augustine, FL, his (sometimes) supportive brother Arthur Borde of San Diego, CA, his grandmother Geraldine Hricik of Greensburg, PA, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins spread out across the globe. Rob was the grandson of the late First Catholic Slovak Union President Emeritus, Thomas M. Hricik. Memorial donations can be made to "OperationSmile.org" in Rob's name.

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik

**ZITA A. VAVRUSKA  
BRANCH 224 –  
PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS**

Zita A. Vavruska passed in eternal life February 4, 2021. She was born Zita Ann Rerucha in David City, NB, in 1922. She was the loving mother of Thomas J. Surlak and Donna Gortowski, and a beloved mother-in-law to Linda Surlak and Harry Gortowski. She was a member of St. John Neumann Catholic Church and enjoyed being a part of

their outreach effort, knitting caps for preemies and helmet liners for our soldiers in Afghanistan. Zita will be remembered as a feisty, positive, self-sufficient, loving woman. Zita was preceded in death by her parents, John and Elizabeth Rerucha; her husbands, John Surlak and Frank Vavruska; and a son, Michael, who died at birth. She also was preceded by her two adopted brothers, Louis Rerucha and Frank Kohoutek (who had lost their parents to the Spanish Flu pandemic). She is survived by her sister, Regina George; her children, Thomas and Donna; grandchildren, Michael Gortowski and Sarah Blanchard, and great-granddaughter, Olesia Blanchard. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and the folks at Hunt Club Village senior apartments.

- Submitted by Thomas Surlak

**ANNE C. GASPER ALTAVILLA  
BRANCH 419 –  
MOUNTAIN TOP, PENNSYLVANIA**

Anne C. Gasper Altavilla, 83, a resident of Plains Twp., passed peacefully into eternal life on December 12, 2020, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, due to complications of Alzheimer's disease, while in the care of Mountain Top Health Care Center and Hospice of the Sacred Heart.

Born July 24, 1937, in Wilkes-Barre, PA, to the late Stephen and Anna Molitoris Gasper, she was the youngest of four children. Educated in the city schools, she graduated from the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Parochial School, North Wilkes-Barre, and then graduated from the James M. Coughlin High School. In her youth, she worked at the former Prestige Shoe Company, Wilkes-Barre, where she met her late husband. Later in life, she worked in various capacities within the local food service and hospitality industries, making many wonderful friends along the way.

Devoted to her Catholic faith, Anne held membership in the Parish of St. Andre Bessette, having been a life member of the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Catholic Church prior to its closure and subsequent merger. At Sacred Heart, she was previously

involved with the parish Christian Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association.

Proud of her Slovak heritage, Anne's fraternal memberships included the First Catholic Slovak Union; the Slovak Catholic Sokol; the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union; and the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Anne is remembered for her gentle, loving ways; being a devoted and hard-working wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Her presence will be greatly missed by all those she touched in this life. When she was able, Anne enjoyed cooking and baking, especially striving to maintain Slovak traditions at the holidays.

Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Donald D. Altavilla, on October 9, 2002. At the time of his passing, the couple shared 43 years of married life. Also preceding her were sisters, Marie Gryczko and Theresa Firda; as well as her brother, John Gasper.

Left to honor her memory and example are her children, Philip A. Altavilla; and Chris A. Altavilla, R.N. and spouse, Dani; two grandchildren, Leigha Serafin and husband, Jonathan; and Danielle Drevenak; nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends, including caregiver, Sarah Mountain.

**RUSSELL EDWARD  
DUKE  
BRANCH 855 –  
PARMA, OHIO**



Russell Edward Duke, age 66, of Twinsburg, OH, entered into eternal peace on April 23, 2021. Loving husband to Candace (nee Parsons) of 42 years; beloved father of Jamie Duke (Benjamin Heiser) and Danielle (William) Sturgeon; dear brother to Linda Duke and Gregory (Eleanor) Duke; cherished grandfather to Aidan and Mason Heiser and Liam Sturgeon; brother-in law to Deborah (Kenneth) Underwood; uncle to Tricia Baker (deceased), Matthew (Jill) Underwood, Stephanie Bru-

orton (deceased) (Josiah), Nathan (Jamie) Duke and Nicole Duke; great-uncle to Ryan, Tyler, Kyle and Justin Baker, Ella Bruorton, and Maverick Duke; cousin and friend to many. Russell was born October 29, 1954 in Cleveland, OH, to the late Edward and Stella Duke. He graduated from R.B. Chamberlin High School in Twinsburg where he played baseball and basketball. He attended John Carroll University for Math & Economics and also played baseball. Russ worked as a subcontractor installing flooring and retired in 2010. He enjoyed playing baseball, softball, bowling and golf where he made many lifelong friends. He finally bowled a 300 game in 2015 and got a "Hole in 1" in 2019. Russ enjoyed hunting on his family's farm in Pennsylvania with his uncles and cousins. Russ was a member of Ss. Cosmas & Damian Catholic Church and the Fraternal Order of Eagles (Aerie 2122).

**MARK SABADOS  
BRANCH 855 –  
PARMA, OHIO**



Mark 'Scooby' Sabados, 61, of Brunswick, OH, passed away May 17, 2021, peacefully at his home. He was born April 19, 1960 in Medina, OH, to John and Margaret (nee Elson) Sabados.

Mark graduated from Medina JVS and was a longtime member of the Eagles #3505. Mark enjoyed volunteering for projects with the Eagles. He was an avid Indians fan and never missed a chance to cheer his team. He enjoyed traveling, golfing and gardening. Mark took pleasure in fellowship and beer conversations. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

He leaves behind his loving parents, John and Margaret Sabados; his siblings, John (Terry Sandoval) Sabados, Michelle (Paul) Spencer and Julie (Tim Jeffers) Sabados and his nieces and nephews, Joseph, Shelby, Paulie and Nicholas.

- Submitted by John E. Sabados  
continued on page 17



# OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

**PAUL FENCHAK  
BRANCH 856 –  
WASHINGTON, DC**

On September 21, 2020, Paul Fenchak passed into Eternal Life. He was the beloved husband of the late Ellen Marie Fenchak (nee Bohachick); dear father of Judith Alexandra, Carol Sacco (Tony), Janice Fenchak, Marcia Wiedefeld (Paul), Linda Custodio (Tino) and Paul G. Fenchak (Nadine); dear grandfather of Hank, Lucie and Alice Wiedefeld and P.J. and Gabe Fenchak; devoted brother of Sue Warholic.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856 President

**FRANCIS M. HOZDIC  
BRANCH 856 –  
WASHINGTON, DC**

With heavy hearts the family of Francis M. Hozdic, age 76, shared the news of his passing on April 26, 2020, in the comfort of his home. Beloved



husband of 35 years to Joanne M. (nee Pavla) Hozdic; devoted father of Michael (Donna), Patricia (Daniel) Jarvis, Stephen (Myra), Joseph (Tiffany), and Elena (Michael) Curran; loving grandfather of Matthew, Katelynn, Andrew, Ellie, Samuel, Landon, and Giovanna; dear brother of Mary Ellen (late Frank) Federovitch and predeceased by Charles Hozdic II and Richard Hozdic; also survived by his many cherished nieces and nephews. Francis devoted his life to his wife and family, and served God with a genuine

and generous heart. He had many talents and graciously shared his time with others. His children and grandchildren were his joy, and he took pride in spending time with them, whether coaching their sports teams, hunting and fishing at the family cabin, or passing along his endless handyman skills. He will be remembered for his good-humored spirit, his entertaining stories, his unflinching work ethic and his generous smile.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856 President

**RAYMOND R. TARTAL  
BRANCH 856 –  
WASHINGTON, DC**

On December 17, 2020, Raymond M. Tartal, Sr., 89, of Parkville, MD, passed away peacefully at home. Shortly thereafter on December 20, 2020, his devoted wife of 65 years, Shirley D. (Sally) Tartal, (nee Thomas), 89, also passed away peacefully at home. They were the proud parents of Raymond, Jr. (Deborah), Thomas (Theresa), John (Cindy) and Joseph (Jessica); cherished grandparents of Raymond III, Jacob, Aaron, Iain, Lucy, Isaac, Joshua, Abigail, Danielle, and Benjamin; loving great grandparents of 8; and many loving family and friends. Raymond was a Baltimore City Police Officer for 36 years at the Northern District and Sally worked in the office at the Hamden Movie Theater before becoming a dedicated wife and mother. They enjoyed traveling, bingo at Columbus Gardens and being with family and friends.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856 President

## Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in August

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 August 1, \$21,132.50 has been received from 184 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, Branch 764, and Branch 853. 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. Hvozdovic, 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



## Branch 716 Helps Welcome Back Father Stefan Chanas

On July 25, 2021, Branch 716 helped to welcome Father Stefan Chanas back to St. John Nepomucene in New York City. Ordained in his native Slovak Republic, Father Stefan Chanas has served as parochial vicar of St. Charles parish on Staten Island, NY, since 2016. He was parochial vicar at St. John Nepomucene from 2012-2016 and 2003-2012, and temporary administrator in 2012. Father Chanas was named administrator of the parish over this summer while Pastor Father Richard Baker is away.

Branch 716 President Jan Škrkon prepared the luncheon served, and Father Martin Kertys led the toast to welcome him back.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

### Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers A Healthcare Chaplain on Healing Hope

If you or a loved one has ever faced any medical issues that landed you in the hospital, you'll know what a trying time that can be. But one of the people who can bring spiritual comfort in that situation is a healthcare chaplain. Marianne Sailus has served as an interfaith health care chaplain for more than two decades, and she joined me recently on "Christopher Closeup" to discuss her work and her book "Paschal Ponderings."

Marianne came to her career after enduring epilepsy for 26 years, then experiencing what she considers to be a miraculous cure by God on the operating table in 1994. She never had a seizure from that day on and chose to devote her life to helping other sick people. One of the first patients Marianne visited as a chaplain was a Christian. Since that was Marianne's personal faith – she is a Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic with Roman Catholic roots – she felt comfortable with how it went and a little prideful as a result. The next day, she visited with a Hindu patient and admitted, "I choked." Marianne's response was, "Okay Lord, You're teaching me a lesson: humility is very important." The experience led her to start praying the Litany of Humility.

Since those early days, Marianne has been a comfort and guide to many, so she's learned what approach is best to take. Sometimes, there are no words that will help, so she practices a ministry of presence, of "being that person who's showing Christ's love to the person by the touching of a hand, the humming of a hymn... Other times, you need to share some words of encouragement, some words of faith."

One of the focuses in Marianne's book is the resurrection of Jesus. She says, "It's important to remind patients that they may be stuck in the Garden of Gethsemane, they may be stuck even on Calvary – or a family member may be that Mary or John beneath the cross at Calvary – but not to give up hope because in Christ there is resurrection and new life. And care and cure are two different things. Oftentimes people want cure, but sometimes God's purpose for them is care and to make sure that they are comfortable of body, mind, and soul... When I'm with hospice patients... the patient knows the end is coming, the family knows the end is coming. But that they have people there... who are giving support in even what seems to be a hopeless situation is very helpful."

Marianne's work is meant to wake people up in their spiritual lives. And one of the ways she advises others to do that is by calling on the Holy Spirit. She told me, "I believe the Holy Spirit should be a constant partner in our lives through calling down upon Him. In the Roman tradition, the main prayer to the Holy Spirit [is], 'Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love,' et cetera. In the Eastern Church, we have, 'Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stains and save souls, O Gracious One.' So to call on the Holy Spirit with that prayer from either tradition, once a day, I think is a very helpful thing – and to ask Him to guide every action, every word, every deed of every day of our lives."

# 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.

Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

## Sister Vivian



Rozalia Hritzak who became our Sister Vivian, was born in Petejovce, Slovakia, on January 19, 1910. Though given the name Rozalia at Baptism, she used the name Rose Ann here in the U. S. The daughter of Michael and Mary (Stadnicki) Hritzak, she and her family settled in Swoyerville and belonged to Holy Trinity parish.

Rose's vocation was nurtured by the Sisters of Mercy. She was a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Wilkes-Barre, PA, where the Sisters provided her with good example and inspired her with a deep and lasting love for and devotion to the Blessed Mother. As she grew older, though, she began to reconsider because the joys of the world were inviting. Eventually, however, she chose religious life because "those strong Feet followed, followed after with hurrying chase and unperturbed pace." When her longtime friend Mary Derzak

(who later became Sister Regis) announced her intention to enter the SSCM's, Rose decided the time had come for her also.

When Rose and Mary visited Danville, however, Rose was not overly impressed. A year later, in the providence of God, she and Mary found themselves at Villa Sacred Heart to stay. It was December 8, 1930. At first Rose's parents voiced their objection to her choice, but later they were happy and proud to have a daughter who was a religious Sister. She, too, admitted her greatest joy was finally saying, "Yes. Knowing that I am doing the work of the Master and that I am where He wants me gives me fulfillment and security. Though there are challenges, I am never alone. I have God's help and I can rest in His care."

And meet challenges she did. After her profession on August 21, 1933, she taught Grades 1-9 in Connecticut, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina where she served as superior and principal. Sister served twenty-five years in Charleston, SC, at two schools, St. Patrick and Blessed Sacrament. At that time Blessed Sacrament was the largest elementary school staffed by the SSCM's. Sister served at St. Patrick's from 1948 to 1954. Sister Linda Marie, General Superior at the time, related in the tribute at Sister's funeral that her tenure in South Carolina had occurred during trying times. "It was our first years of adjusting to the South and occurred during the civil rights movement and the desegregation of Catholic schools."

Mr. Harry H. Anderson, the Elementary Coordinator in the Department of Education, Diocese of Charleston, sent a letter to both the General Superior and Sister Vivian who was principal at the time commending the teachers and the program featuring patriotic and religious themes presented by the seventh graders. According to Mr. Anderson, "The singing, acting and speaking were first rate." Of course, this is only one example of the many endeavors marking the successes of Sister Vivian's tenure in the South.

Later, at Andean High School, Merrillville, IN, Sister spent thirteen years as teacher, tutor, and assistant librarian. She could have retired, of course, but chose to remain and dedicated herself to being a first-rate tutor.

Sister Vivian's credo encompassed three significant beliefs: hard work, the power of

faith, and discipline. She demonstrated by her own example that learning was a lifelong endeavor. One summer Sister went to Charleston by bus to attend culinary classes at Johnson and Wales University.

Not only did she receive her B. S. in Education from Marywood University and an M.A. in Education and Administration from Fordham, but she was also the recipient of two NDEA grants and did Advanced Study in Educational Media at Columbia College in South Carolina, and was part of the Reading Institute at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

When Sister died at age 96, the Blessed Sacrament bulletin carried a full-page spread dedicated to Sister by the pastor, Father Joseph F. Hanley. It carried her photo and the words from Matthew 25:34, "Come, blessed of my Father, receive the Kingdom prepared for you."

At her funeral which was celebrated on April 10, 2006, a reflection she had once written was shared with those in attendance. "Death is not so awesome if we live our lives loving and serving Him." This short sentence captures the essence of Sister Vivian's life and ministry as a dedicated religious in the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

## SCHM Seeks New Board Members – Invites Applications for President and Treasurer



The Board of Directors of the Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum [SCHM] is extending an open invitation to all members of the Slovak community to join the Board of Directors to support the SCHM in its ongoing mission on behalf of Slovaks across Canada.

The mission of the SCHM is to make Canadians aware of the Slovak heritage in Canada through the exhibition of heritage artifacts, educational materials and programs across Canada; and to work actively in partnership

with existing museums and organizations, including cultural institutions in the Slovak Republic, to maximize the advancement of our objectives.

We are welcoming persons who are interested in the work of the SCHM in the positions of President and Treasurer.

The President, as Chief Executive Officer [CEO] of the organization, is responsible to preside at all meetings of the Corporation and Board of Directors; manage the affairs of the Board of Directors and the organization; and see that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried out into effect.

The President is supported in the work of preserving and cataloguing artifacts that are valuable in keeping Slovak culture in the important work of the museum by individuals interested in this aspect of maintaining the museum's often irreplaceable and treasured artifacts. The President is also supported by individuals interested in preparing and setting up displays of Slovak culture in a variety of settings to increase public awareness of the beauty of our traditions.

The Treasurer, as the custodian of the funds and securities of the museum, is responsible to keep full and accurate accounts of all assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the museum; deposit all monies, securities and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the museum; disperse the funds as may be directed by proper authority; present to the President and Directors at board meetings and, as required, an accounting of all transactions and statement of the museum's financial position; and, perform other such duties as may be directed by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer may be supported by individuals interested in liaising with both Canadian and overseas organizations in Slovakia, such as OSLA, that financially support the work of the SCHM.

Interested parties should email [slovakmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:slovakmuseum@gmail.com). You also can request a Governance Package which contains more information about SCHM at this email address. The Board of Directors looks forward to receiving responses from those interested in promoting the cultural heritage of our forefathers and Slovak families.

- Submitted by Alena Melas, SCHM

## 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

## 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

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

## BRANCH 362K – ST CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 362K St Clairsville, OH and Branch 553K Akron, OH. All members of Branch 362K will now hold membership in Branch 553K. This merger has taken place as of July 19, 2021. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

LINDA M HANKO  
1473 RIES ST  
BARBERTON, OH 44203-7625  
(330) 706-0151

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 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold its second branch meeting for the election of officers 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 Society Branch 410 will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 1:30PM. The meeting will be held at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

At this meeting election of officers for the year 2022 will be held. For reservations call 724-425-2576 by November 26.

On the agenda will be information regarding the FCSU 52nd Quadrennial Convention which will be held in the Holiday Inn at Independence, OHIO from July 30 to August 2, 2022.

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 497K – CAMBRIDGE, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 497K Cambridge, OH and Branch 553K Akron, OH. All members of Branch 497K will now hold membership in Branch 553K. This merger has taken place as of July 20, 2021. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

LINDA M HANKO  
1473 RIES ST  
BARBERTON, OH 44203-7625  
(330) 706-0151

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

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**

## BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 welcomes members from Branches 353, 362, and 487 which have been merged into our branch. We invite you to visit our club at 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311. The club is open Monday-Saturday at 3:00 pm and Sundays for special occasions.

Mark your calendars:

Wednesday Spaghetti Nights – 9/1; 10/6; 11/3; 12/1. Served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm

3rd Wednesday Dinners – 8/18; 9/15; 10/20; 11/17; 12/15. Served from 4:30-7:00 pm

Special Events:

8/21, Saturday: Slovak Fest 2 pm-? – 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Corn Hole Tournaments, Horseshoes, other games, Dunking Machine, 50-50 Drawing, & Giveaways. Sausage Sandwiches, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Macaroni Salad and Baked Beans – \$10.00 All You Can Eat

10/16 Saturday: Casino Night – watch for further details

11/14 Sunday: Lodge Meeting 2pm at the club – Election of officers

12/5 Sunday: Annual Vilija Celebration – watch for further details

Interested in Bowling on a league? Thursday mornings at 11:00 am 55 & over Mixed League looking for bowlers and subs. Call Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or email lhanko@neo.rr.com. League starts 9/9.

Every-other Saturday Night Mixed League – Starts 9/11 call club at 330-786-9972 after 3:00 pm for more information.

Spaghetti Dinners no longer require reservations.

3rd Wednesday Month Dinners – Reservations required – please call 330-786-9972 after 3:00 pm.

Hope to see you at the club.

**Linda M Hanko, 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 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 SUMMERCREEST 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 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Martyr Society Branch 716 will hold its annual meeting on November 14, 2021, after the Slovak Mass in St. John Nepomucene Church hall in New York City. The agenda

will include election of officers for 2022, financial report and discussion on upcoming activities for the Branch. All members are invited to attend, refreshments will be served after the meeting.

**Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 will meet on September 12, 2021, at 5:00PM. The meeting will be held at Café 422, South Ave, Boardman, OH. The purpose of this meeting is to elect delegates to the FCSU National Convention in 2022. Aside from choosing delegates, proposed activities will be discussed. Also, the annual meeting for the election of officers will be on November 14, 2021.

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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, 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 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 844K, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday September 18, 2021, at 11:00AM at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831.

The agenda will focus on membership drive, preparation for All Saints and Souls Mass, and preparation for 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH, Holiday Inn, on July 30-August

2, 2022, Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Attention Branch 855 Members: come to the Sept 11 Slovak Heritage Society Pig Roast at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Hts, OH – and EAT FOR FREE. Non-member guests are welcome at the regular prices of \$25 for an adult food ticket and \$5 for a kid's meal. See page 15 for more event details.

Please contact Branch President Barbara Sutilla BY TEXT at 440-864-4744 or BY EMAIL at fcsu855@gmail.com to reserve your tickets by August 31st.

**Stephanie Sutilla,  
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**



**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>

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

**Visit [www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion)**



Pozrite, ako pekne tancujú  
See how nicely they dance



Vonku na námestí vystupovali ľudia pri ľudovej hudbe  
People enjoying folk music performed outside on the square



Hon. Dekan Th. Mgr. Stanislav Lugowski, farár od Sv. Štefan Kráľ ďakuje účinkujúcim za prínos k službám.

Hon. Dean Th. Mgr. Stanislav Lugowski, pastor of St. Štefan Kráľ, thanks the performers for their contribution to the services.



Ako hovorí pieseň: Tancuj, tancuj, vykrúcaj, vykrúcaj  
As the song says: Dance, dance, twirl, twirl



Členovia folklórného súboru zúčastňujúci sa na slávení omše  
Members of the folklore ensemble participating in the celebration of the Mass



Marian Chlpek - „Slovenský Pavarotti“ - spev v kostole  
Marian Chlpek – the “Slovak Pavarotti” – singing in the church

## Predseda FCSU okresu 15 zasiela pozdravy zo Slovenska

V júni 2019 som bol súčasťou delegácie slovenskej komunity z Los Angeles v Kalifornii na Slovensko. Naša návšteva vzdala hold generálnemu konzulovi Slovenskej republiky Františkovi Hudákovi, ktorý je už na dôchodku za aktívnu účasť na kultúrnom živote slovenskej komunity v Los Angeles počas jeho pôsobenia vo funkcii generálneho konzula Slovenskej republiky v Los Angeles.

Moja žena, Dr. Alice Skuben, a ja sme veľmi chceli naplánovať osobný výlet, pretože sme každý rok okrem posledného cestovali veľa po celej Európe a na Slovensku. Cestu sme odložili v roku 2020 z dôvodu obmedzení platných v USA aj EÚ kvôli COVIDU. Potom, tento rok, s obmedzeniami uvoľňujúcimi a dôsledne dodržiavajúcimi všetky nariadenia EÚ, USA a slovenskej vlády, sme sa vydali a prišli do Bratislavy 8. júna 2021, v utorok popoludní. Zvládli sme to bez problémov, aj keď sme si neboli istí, či všetko pôjde ako po masle. Situácia môže byť veľmi nestála a vládne cestovné predpisy sa môžu rýchlo meniť.

Počasia bolo krásne a slnečné cez celý náš pobyt na Slovensku. Vystúpili sme z autobusu pod Katedrálou svätého Martina a okamžite sme boli očarení. Mnoho ľudí zaplnilo túto časť Hviezdoslavovho námestia až po Slovenské národné divadlo; sedeli uvoľnení na terasách pred kaviarňami; a proste si všeobecne užívali život. Bolo vidieť slobodu v ich rozpoložení, čo nás chytilo za srdce a cítili sme sa ako doma.

Potom sme pokračovali do Trenčianskych Teplíc, ktoré sú známym kúpeľným mestom. Aj tu všetko ožilo a ľudí bavilo, že sa mohli voľne pohybovať v meste, vonku v prírode alebo využívať liečebné kúpele podľa svojho uváženia.

V tomto čase sa konalo 6. medzinárodné folklórne stretnutie troch generácií. Na kúpeľnom námestí vystúpili účinkujúci, od detí v školskom veku až po seniorov. Publikum zabával Fjarista Imrich Oravec z Košíc spolu s folklórnymi tanečnými súborami Hájiček, Generácia Machnáč, Mladosť, Dolina, Špačinčanka.

V nedeľu sa začalo Folklórne stretnutie spojené s omšou v katolíckom kostole svätého Štefana Kráľa. Počas bohoslužby účinkovali členovia folklórného súboru, ktorí sprevádzali spev obyvateľov mesta a kúpeľných hostí. Aj Terézia Kružliaková mala Sólo Ave Mária. Všetkých obohatila homília farára kostola Hon. Dekan Th. Mgr. Stanislav Lugowski, ktorý zdieľal múdre Božie slovo v čistej spisovnej slovenčine.

Medzi patrónmi 6. medzinárodného folklórného stretnutia troch generácií boli miestni úradníci z radov vlády, umeleckej obce a podnikateľského sektoru, ktorých zastupovali: primátor mesta Trenčianske Teplice Mgr. Zuzana Frajková Ďurmeková, Mgr. Art. Juraj Kubánka a odborná záruka Ing. Alojz Špaček a Ing. Naďa Čermáková. Sponzorstvo bolo s láskavým dovolením Ing. Milan Oravec, CSc.

Na tejto ceste sme zažili také krásne zážitky, o ktoré sme sa chceli podeliť spolu s pozdravmi z tohto miesta.

- Predkladá Ing. Paul Skuben, prezident okresu princa Pribinu

## FCSU District 15 President Sends Greetings from Slovakia

In June of 2019 I was a part of a delegation of the Slovak community from Los Angeles, CA, to Slovakia. Our visit paid tribute to retired Consul General of the Slovak Republic František Hudak for his active participation in the cultural life of the Slovak community in Los Angeles during his term as Consul General of the Slovak Republic in Los Angeles.

My wife, Dr. Alice Skuben, and I very much wanted to plan a personal trip, as we have traveled extensively throughout Europe and in Slovakia every year except the last. We postponed a trip in 2020, due to COVID restrictions in place both in the USA and the EU. Then, this year, with restrictions relaxing and closely following all regulations of the EU, the USA and the Slovak government, we set out and came to Bratislava on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 8, 2021. We managed without any problems, even though we were not sure if everything would go smoothly. The situation could be very volatile and government travel regulations could change quickly.

Upon arrival, we found the weather to be beautiful and sunny. We stepped out of the bus at the Cathedral of St. Martin and we were immediately enchanted. Many people filled the area of Hviezdoslav Square to the Slovak National Theater; sat on the terraces in front of the cafes; and just generally enjoyed life. We really felt the freedom in the air. It filled our hearts, and we felt at home.

We then went on to Trenčianske Teplice, which is a famous spa resort town. Here, too, everything came to life and people enjoyed that they could move freely in the city, outside in nature, or use the healing spa at their discretion.

The 6th International Folklore Meeting of Three Generations was taking place at this time. Performers, from school-aged children to seniors, performed on the spa square. Fjarista Imrich Oravec from Košice, entertained the audience along with the folklore dance ensembles of Hájiček, Generácia Machnáč, Mladosť, Dolina, Špačinčanka and others.

On Sunday, the Folklore Meeting started in conjunction with Mass at St. Štefan Kráľ Catholic Church. Town residents and spa guests were treated to music during the service by folklore ensemble members, solo Ave Maria by Terézia Kružliaková and all were enriched by the homily of the church's pastor, the Hon. Dean Th. Mgr. Stanislav Lugowski, who shared the wise Word of God in pure standard Slovak.

Patrons of the 6th International Folklore Meeting of Three Generations included the local officials from the government, the artistic community and the business sector, represented respectively by: the mayor of Trenčianske Teplice, Mgr. Zuzana Frajková Ďurmeková, Mgr. Art. Juraj Kubánka and the professional guarantee Ing. Alojz Špaček and Ing. Naďa Čermáková. Sponsorship was courtesy of Ing. Milan Oravec, CSc.

We had such beautiful experiences on this trip that we wanted to share them, along with greetings from this place.

- Submitted by Ing. Paul Skuben, President Prince Pribina District

# Branch 181's Karen Hunka Featured in Diocese of Greensburg, PA Magazine

## Article: *Mission dedication lands United parishioner in West Africa*

By Mary Pickels

Contributing Writer, June 17, 2021,  
Mission of Faith,  
The Catholic Accent.  
Reprinted with permission

UNITED — Karen Hunka's call to missionary work began early in her life, leading her on a path to Ghana, West Africa.

"I can't remember when I first desired to be a missionary. It seems that the desire was always there," said Hunka, 62.

An accountant by trade, Hunka now uses those skills as a Lay Mission-Helper assigned to the Diocese of Damongo, a long way from her home parish of St. Florian in United. While raising her children, sons Joshua, Jacob and Trevor, and her late daughter, Anna, Hunka volunteered with their school's Parent Teacher Organization, served as a youth soccer league commissioner and chaperoned school trips.

"More than 20 years ago I started telling my friends that I wanted my last job in life to be digging ditches and building huts in Africa. Most laughed, but those who knew me best believed that I would make it happen, and I did," she said. "Actually, the Holy Spirit, coming to me after my mother's (for whom she was a caregiver) passing and telling me it was time to be that missionary that I had for so long desired to be, made it happen," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY KAREN HUNKA  
Karen Hunka spends time with children in Ghana.

Lay Mission-Helpers began more than 65 years ago, when Msgr. Anthony Brouwers, from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, traveled to Africa. He found those already evangelizing in need of additional help and launched an effort to send lay Catholics to use their skills internationally and set an example by living a Christ-like life.

Hunka travels five miles in a pickup truck to her job in the finance office, where she records transactions with a pen and paper.

She lives inside the St. Anne's Girls' Senior High School compound and typically attends 6 a.m. Mass with the girls twice a week.

Her living quarters are sparse. She has learned how to corner, catch, kill and dispose of scorpions, and does her laundry by hand.

"In all honesty, however, my living accommodations are wonderful given the living quarters of the girls at the school," she said.

Hunka's mission was interrupted last year by the COVID-19 pandemic; having sold her home and most of her belongings, she returned to the U.S. and stayed for a time with her oldest son.

As much as she loved spending time with family, as months went by she longed to return to Ghana.

Now back at her mission site, she relies on technology to keep in touch with loved ones.

"Being a missionary is nothing like it was 30 years ago. I'm not sure I would be able to handle being away without a cell phone or internet or any connection whatsoever," she said.

"I try as much as possible to partake in livestreaming, especially anything put out there by my home parish, and most definitely anything I watch streamed by the Greensburg Diocese." She said a special joy was watching the installation and ordination of Bishop Larry J. Kulick online.

"Karen has basically given up her home and family for a while in order to share her faith in Jesus Christ," said Father Anthony J. Carbone, Diocesan Mission Director.

The Lay Mission-Helpers match a person's talents with a need in the church. Hunka is able to use her accounting abilities to serve, he said.

"She found herself at a crossroads in her life and wanted to serve the church in a specific way," he added.

With her three-year commitment ending this December, she is pondering a request from the bishop in Damongo to extend her stay. She also is mulling mission work in the U.S.

"Plan Z is to retire and collect Social Security, but I'm pretty sure that will not happen. Honestly, I am putting my future in God's hands. The Holy Spirit will guide me," she said.

*Tales of Hunka's time in Ghana, and ways to support those efforts, can be found on her blog, khunkainghana.blogspot.com.*

## Narodeniny – Birthday Celebrations in Slovakia

continued from page 7

Niech żyje, żyje nam,  
Jeszcze raz, jeszcze raz,  
Niech żyje, żyje nam,  
Niech żyje nam!

English translation:  
100 years, 100 years,  
May you live!  
100 years, 100 years,  
May you live!  
One more time, one more time,  
May you live!  
May you live!

You may listen to the tune at the following Youtube sites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Txpt9WTCyWs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yatDVGE1yXU> (Živijó sung first, followed by Sto lat)

In Polish, people may shout the phrase Niech żyje nam, and then, A kto? (But who?). And then those present would hail the intended recipient of these wishes. The song has a few variations and there is also an optional second verse. But I have never heard this in Slovakia or the USA.

Niech im gwiazdka pomyślności  
Nigdy nie zagaśnie!  
Nigdy nie zagaśnie!  
A kto z nami nie zaśpiewa,  
Niech pod stołem zaśnie!  
Niech pod stołem zaśnie!

Roughly translated:  
May their star of prosperity  
Never extinguish!  
Never extinguish!  
And whoever won't sing with us  
May they sleep under the table!  
May they sleep under the table!

The phrase "Sto lat!" may also often used to wish someone longevity or good fortune, or as a toast, without the song. It may also be used when someone is sneezing – similarly to "God bless you". But in Slovakia, I have more often heard "Bože daj zdravie" (God grant you health, or God bless you!).

These should help provide our readers with a little better understanding of how Slovaks celebrate birthdays. I invite our readers to share their experiences with me, especially on my Facebook site: Learning the Slovak Language and Culture - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/281030579692957>

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# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

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

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 1:00 PM and led the prayer.

The Executive Committee Meeting is being held following the Board of Directors Meeting.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
 Andrew P. Rajec, Acting Vice President (via teleconference)  
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
 James R. Marmol, Acting Treasurer (via teleconference)  
 Martha Zavada, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING MINUTES:**

The President presented the minutes of the March 20, April 16, and May 14, 2021 Executive Committee Meetings. A motion was made by James R. Marmol and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of May 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 May:

Disbursements for the month of May 2021:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	311,280.33
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	41,324.90
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report via teleconference 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.

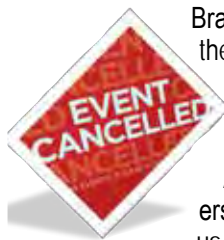
The President led a review of Mr. White's presentation.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**

Annuity Rates:

The President led a discussion regarding changing the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates would change effective August 1, 2021.

## 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

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA 3.70% APY  
 Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA 3.35% APY with the "Cash Interest" Option 3.10% APY  
 New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA 3.15% APY  
 New "Park 2 Annuity" 2.25% APY  
 New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st year guarantee 1.75% APY

A notice for the rate change will be published in the newspaper, on the website and in our monthly newsletter.

**HOME OFFICE UPDATE:**

The President and the Executive Secretary gave an update on the Home Office operations. The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office is still following the recommendations of the CDC. The office is open with limited hours to maintain day to day operations. Any guests are asked to call before visiting.

**QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

The President stated that the September Board of Directors Meeting will be held at College Park Marriott in Hyattsville, Maryland so that the Board may attend Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on Saturday, September 18, 2021 to celebrate the 56th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine honoring Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia.

**CONVENTION:**

The Executive Secretary stated that at the Board of Directors Meeting held earlier, the Board decided to hold the 52nd Quadrennial Convention at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio. The Home Office staff will work with the hotel to make all the preparations for the Convention. More details to follow.

**BRANCH/DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

The Executive Secretary encourages all branches to refer to Bylaw 11.03 and 11.04 in preparation for the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. If they have any questions, they should contact the Home Office.

**BRANCH REVIVAL COMMITTEE:**

The President stated that the Branch Revival Committee led by Thomas Ivanec will hold a teleconference prior to the September Board of Directors Meeting.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by James R. Marmol to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Andrew M. Rajec  
 President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kenneth A. Arendt  
 Executive Secretary

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

P	E	A	T		G	O	B	S		L	E	A	S	T
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R	E	S	E	T		R	E	N	D		Y	A	W	S

# Scenes from another Successful Kielbasa Open

On Saturday, July 24, 2021, the J Club of Akron, OH – in conjunction with FCSU Branch 553 and the support of the FCSU Home Office – held its 52nd annual Kielbasa Open. A few stray showers did not stop a capacity turnout of 88 golfers at the beautiful Mayfair Country Club in Uniontown, OH. Shotgun Tee time was at 8 am. The J Club's world famous homemade kielbasa and other "refreshments" were served at the turn and later at the Club! A good time was had by all. Thanks go out to Branch 553 President Debbie Speck, Branch 553 Secretary [redacted] da Hanko, and the whole crew of dedicated volunteers [redacted] the pleasure of working alongside to make the 52nd Annual a big success.

A special thank you to the First Catholic Slovak Union for its sponsorship of the Kielbasa Open, particularly noting FCSU National President Andrew Rajec and FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt for their continued support of events such as this in our Slovak-American community. Apologies, gentlemen, that the rain ruined the photo op for the Thank You signs we had up all over the course – but they were there!

- Submitted by Greg Petrasek, District 10 President



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