



Catholic Fraternal Jednota

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NUMBER 6012

Message from the President - Fall 2021

I have always found the Fall season as a time for reflection. The warm sunny days of Summer are replaced by the cool nights, changing colors and falling leaves of Autumn.

The Slovak people in Milwaukee, where I was born, held their 105th annual pilgrimage to Holy Hill, WI on September 6, 2021. Where the annual Slovak pilgrimage once counted several thousands of pilgrims before WWII, and even several hundred in the 1950's, the pilgrims now number a few dozen. But this mirrors what's happening in our Catholic and Byzantine parishes today.

Holy Hill is a Basilica and Monastery of the Carmelite Fathers. The old church was replaced in 1930 by a large Gothic type church placed on 435 acres on the highest hill in Southeastern Wisconsin. There are 14 beautiful almost life-sized stone Stations of the Cross sculptured between 1914 to 1928. You can see the Milwaukee skyline 30 miles to the Southeast. Take a look at their website. I think you will be impressed. They have about 300,000 in person visitors per year. I proposed to my wife Idka at Holy Hill, so it also has a special place in my heart.

For me as a youngster, the Slovak Pilgrimage to Holy Hill marked the beginning of Fall and the start of the new school year. I'm sure that you and many of our Members of all ages also have their experiences and memories about Fall.

Fall is a time for reflection about the past, present and future.

I became a fan of old-time radio programs several years ago -- i.e. The Lone Ranger, Suspense, Dragnet etc. There are several thousand recorded broadcasts from the 1930's thru the early 1960's available on the internet.

I remember two episodes, I believe from Abbott and Costello, where they were challenging each other about friendships. Costello claiming,

he has at least 50 friends and Abbott saying he doubts that. So they spread the word that Costello is due to receive a \$50,000 inheritance. Costello was getting so many lunch and dinner invitations that he had them lined up for months in advance. Abbott then spread the word that it was an error and Costello wasn't getting anything.

The previously scheduled lunch & dinner invitations for Costello were cancelled by the various hosts almost immediately.

The moral is that most of us have only a few true friends. A true friend of mine that I knew since 5th grade at St. Stephen's Slovak Church passed away this past February after a long battle with cancer. TRUE friends are hard to find and should be treasured. I am sure we have all experienced false or "friendships of convenience".

While speaking of true friendships I continue to be disappointed and frankly amazed that more of our ex-Members, Members and their own families do not take advantage of our fraternal benefits including scholarships and annuity rates that are among the best in the fraternal and insurance world.

Other people take advantage of these benefits, why don't our own Members and their families and friends?

Through the excellent efforts of Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents, we have thus far contracted with over 425 independent agents who have produced over \$71 million dollars in annuity premium so far in 2021 alone, over 84% of our annuity sales in 2021.

While annuities don't produce the upside potential of the stock market, they also do not

experience the downside risk. For example, our 8-year annuity is currently paying 3.7%. Over the years our annuities have provided an excellent tax advantaged return to our Members.

We offer traditional and Roth IRAs as well as a Coverdell plan for younger people. Take a look for yourselves and tell your family and those you know. Do them and yourselves a favor.

There is a good reason independent agents and financial planners are selling our FCSU products to clients, who then become our Members. It's good financial advice for their clients.

The Society recently gave a gift of \$25,000 to the Catholic Relief Fund for victims of the devastating Earthquake in Haiti. We also give periodic donations to other causes both in the US and Slovakia.

I might have rambled some, but the subjects I talk about are meaningful to me and I hope to you.

We are "The First Catholic Slovak Union" and my intention is to make it stronger and reach out to more of our Members and potential Members for the greater good of all.

I remember the Jesuit motto imprinted in my mind as a Marquette High School and University student - AMDG- Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam- "For the Greater Glory of God".

We hope to follow that motto in our daily lives.

Talk to you soon. I am always looking forward to talk with our Members.

You can reach me at the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 ext. 119, or email me at president@fcsu.com.

God Bless you and your loved ones.



Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Andrew M. Rajec
National President



On page 4:

- \$500 Scholarship deadline 10/31
- Participate in Jednota Memorial
- Special insurance offer alert

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Reflection

October is well-known as the Rosary month. The feast on October seventh has been a lifetime special for me since I was received into the Rosary Society of my parish on my First Communion Day. In this way a deep devotion to Mary and her rosary was instilled into my life. This was supported and strengthened by the example of my mother. Even now it continues gratefully.

I believe that with Mary and her rosary, many in our Slovak nation kept their faith vibrant. This devotion is visible at the various Marian pilgrimage sites, such as Sastin and Stare Hory.

So as we pray with Mary, we know that as a mother, she will always lead us to her Son Jesus. Our prayer becomes hers for the healing, strength, and wisdom which we need. Thank you, Mary for the joy of your compassionate help and continuous care.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M., October 2021

Holy Mary, Queen of the Rosary

Holy Mary, Queen and Maiden
of the Rosary,
To your loving care we hasten,
hold us tenderly.
As Mother of the Rosary,
hear your children's fervent plea,
May your Son, with love and mercy,
bless us graciously.

Holy Rosary, heaven's blessing,
which God chose for us,
Gift received by holy Dom'n'ic
now is shared with us,
Most fragrant flow'rs, roses bright,
garland woven with delight,
Mary's life and intercession,
show us what is right.

These choice blossoms, like your caring,
draw us to your side,
Comfort us with gentle kindness,
call us to confide.
May your tender love embrace,
guard each child in every place.
Guide us home to Heaven's glory
by God's gen'rous grace.

Here on earth no other treasure
brings us peace that lasts;
Neither pearls nor gold nor silver,
Precious jewels surpass.
This our cherished Rosary,
leads us toward eternity,
Where with Jesus and His Mother
we'll live happily.

O Mária Ružencová

O Mária Ružencová,
naša patrónka!
My sa k tebe utiekama,
stá Panenka.
Tys' Matka dobrotivá,
patrónka ružencová;
Prímlúvaj sa vždycky za nás
u svojho Syna.

Ten tvoj svätý ruženeček,
ktorýs' nám dala,
Skrz svätého Dominika
nám ho poslala,
Je z krásnych rúž pletený,
v nebesiach zostavený,
Aby hriessnik bol sa zemi
nim potešený.

Tie ruže nad všetky kvety
sú spanilejšie
A v ruženci tom spojené
sú najvonnejšie;
Krásna vôňa je jeho
pre kresťana každého;
Ved' Mária nám ho dala
z trónu svojeho.

Na tom svete nechcem iné
mať potešenie,
Ani perly, striebo, zlato,
Drahé kamenie;
Moje drahocenniny
je ružence jediný
A s nim Ježiš, ten Baránok
Boží nevinný.

Translated by Sister Maria Theresa Hronec SS.C.M., October 2021

October, Dedicated to the Holy Rosary

Catholic Europe during the sixteenth century was in danger of being conquered by invading forces from the Ottoman Empire. Millions were killed in several battles and Islamic conversion was being forced upon survivors. The Turks conquered the Middle East and the islands of Cyprus and Crete in the Mediterranean Sea. Continental Europe was next.

As combined forces from mostly Spain and Italy were preparing for battle to repel these invaders, Pope Saint Pius V (1566-1572) sent out a plea for all people on the continent to pray the rosary for the defeat of the invading armies. Every man heading into battle had a rosary in his possession. Despite being vastly outnumbered, the defenders emerged victorious at the Battle of Lepanto off the coast of Greece on October 7, 1571.

The pope and many others attributed the victory to the unified efforts of Catholic Europe in praying the rosary. In gratitude for Mary's intercession and protection, Saint Pius V declared October 7 as a feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary.

While praying, say, the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, there's a tendency to see each of the five decades as a separate entity. We reflect on the event of the Annunciation while praying the first set of 10 Hail Mary's, then on the event of the Visitation while praying the second set of 10 Hail Mary's, the event of the Birth of Jesus for the third set, the Presentation in the Temple for the fourth set, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple for the fifth set.

Here is another way to use the Rosary as a means to prayer. Discover a theme that runs through the five decades of a particular set of mysteries. For example, Evangelization or Proclaiming the Good News is a topic found in all five of the Joyful Mysteries.

- Annunciation – Gabriel announces the Good News to Mary that she is chosen by God to bring forth into the world its Savior.
- Visitation – Mary announces this Good News to Elizabeth.
- Nativity – Angels announce the birth of the Savior to shepherds in the field.
- Presentation in the Temple – Simeon announces to Mary and Joseph and those in earshot that Jesus is "the salvation which [God] has prepared in the sight of every people."

- Finding in the Temple – Jesus announces he is in his Father's house.

We look today for good news announcing the eradication of COVID-19, the abolition of world hunger, the elimination of all political divisions, and so many other things. As much joy these and other similar announcements would bring, they are all secondary to the Good News revealed through praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. The Son of God became a human being to redeem the world from sin and death.

Father Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours



The Home Office will be closed
on Thursday, November 25, 2021,
and Friday, November 26, 2021, in
observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY 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, NOVEMBER 10	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

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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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 Liguori

Sister Liguori, Petronella Yablonicky, known as "Nelka" by family and friends, was born in Brestovany, Slovakia, on June 29, 1903, to Emerich and Ethel Yablonicky who brought her to the U. S. as an infant. The family settled in Plymouth, PA, and later moved to Swoyersville, PA. By the time she reached the second grade, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius had begun to staff St. Stephen's School. She and the other girls observed the novices at close range by peering through the choir window to see them in the back yard of the convent. At noon in imitation of the Sisters, they wrapped themselves in their scarves, and gathered the children in the schoolyard where they "kept school."

When Father Karnish heard Petronella was interested in religious life, he recommended she become acquainted with Helen Lorinc, the future Sister Imelda. In June 1920, Father took them both to Danville for a visit. When they returned a month later to witness the Reception/Profession ceremony, they brought along their new wardrobe and at the end of the day, entered the novitiate. The novice directress at the time was Mother Monica, I.H.M. whom Sister Liguori describes as a "true mother, one who made religious life a joy. The seeds of wholesome attitudes toward life and its many events which she planted are still bearing fruit."

For twenty-five years Sister Liguori taught primary grades and was known to have a flair for teaching art. She also had a special dedication to teaching religion which included preparing the youngsters for First Holy Communion. For Sister Liguori having two priests and two Cyrilites among her first graders was a particular blessing. It is no surprise that she was known for giving this advice to students: Spend time with Jesus in the tabernacle.

Sister Liguori was later missioned as a sacristan and homemaker. When she went to Maria Hall in her later years, she was assistant sacristan and served the chaplain his meals as well as any guests who visited there.

As sacristan, Sister lovingly laid out the altar linens, moved a heavy censer stand back and forth for each day's Holy Hour, cared for the vestments and sacred vessels, and painstakingly arranged flowers. She knelt by the manger scene at Christmas and arranged and watered the poinsettias and no doubt whispered the words, "Jesus, Mary and

Joseph, save souls."

Sister Imelda, Sister Liguori's friend from their early days as Sisters, spent every possible moment she could during Sister Liguori's last illness. Sister died on December 19, 1989, and her funeral was celebrated on December 21, the anniversary of her first profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Maria Hall chaplain, Father Edward Deller, the celebrant and homilist at the liturgy, likened Sister Liguori to the Wise Virgins "who kept the lamp of faith burning brightly, well supplied with the oil of charity and the grace of God."

In a special tribute reference is made to all the candles that she as sacristan lit on and around the altar. "She passed the light of Christ to students, Sisters and family and friends. Sister was a light of self-giving, suffering, patient waiting and glory...we know that the full circle in which Sister Liguori now rests is the Circle of Divine Love."

Saints Cyril & Methodius Appeal Continues in October

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 September 27, \$22,742.50 has been received from 207 donors. Along with the Home Office of the FCSU, the following Branches have made donations: Branch 1, Branch 3, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 40, 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 587, 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 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 before November 30, 2021. Gifts received after that date will be credited to the 2021 Appeal. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. 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 Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA and Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Editor - Jednota Newspaper/Magazine

After 12 years of service as Editor of the Jednota newspaper, Terri Ivanec has decided to retire in January 2022.

We thank her for her dedicated service and wish her the best in her retirement.

Because of her retirement, we are seeking applicants for the position of Editor, Jednota Newspaper/Magazine.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITION OF EDITOR:

- Edit the Jednota newspaper/magazine, currently – 12 issues a year.
 - Generate and develop articles on fraternal activities and other articles of religious, historical, economic and social interest with specific emphasis on FCSU activities for members of both sexes and all ages.
 - Prepare for publication communications from individual members if they are proper for publication.
 - Rewrite/proof articles when necessary and correct all grammatical errors found in articles and communications sent to Home Office for publication.
 - Answer correspondence received from readers and answer questions.
 - Be familiar with and able to use Microsoft Windows and be generally computer literate.
 - Knowledge of the fraternal system and history and traditions of the First Catholic Slovak Union is helpful but not necessary.
 - College degree or journalism experience is desirable
 - Ability to speak/read Slovak is desirable but not necessary
- Position will report to the President and will be located in the Home Office, however, with advances in off-site communications, this can be flexible.
 Salary – Open – Competitive Employee Benefit Package.
 Starting date – December 1, 2021
 Send resume to:

President Andrew M. Rajec
 6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300
 Independence, OH 44131

43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

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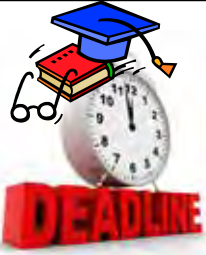
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Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to:

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



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 – Website: <http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 30, 2021

*Family members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

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Jednota Members: Have you Participated in our Memorial?

If you haven't yet participated in the Jednota Memorial, consider purchasing a brick to honor those who served in any wars and also to honor and remember ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great. Dedicated in September 2015 by the First Catholic Slovak Union for our members and their families, the permanent site of 1 1/2 acres is located in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose.

All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" in the granite panels found throughout the Memorial will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted. If you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to <https://www.fcsu.com/about/jednota-memorial/> to download your order form or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

This is another of the latest panels to be completed. To view more complete panels, or if you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form. Or you can request an order form by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.



JEDNOTA MEMORIAL, MIDDLETOWN, PA. Dedicated, 2015

FCSU Holds 56th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at National Shrine

On Saturday September 16, 2021, the FCSU Board of Directors and their guests, along with the faithful in Branches 24, 45, 450, 746, and 856, celebrated Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. It was held in honor of the 56th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows (Jednota) Chapel, dedicated by our Society in 1965.

The main celebrant for the Mass in Slovak was the Reverend Štefan Chanas of St. John Nepomucene in New York City. Con-celebrating were the Reverend Martin Kertys, also of St. John Nepomucene, and the Reverend Thomas A Nasta, FCSU National Chaplain.

It continues to be my great honor and privilege to plan this beautiful and solemn annual event. On behalf of the officers of Branch 856 we would like to thank all who came from near and far for this celebration honoring Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia. Mark your calendars. We are already working on details for next year's celebration in September 2022.

Fraternally,

Katherine Nowatkoski,
Branch 856 President



FCSU members and guests came from far and near to attend Slovak Mass



Mass was held in celebration of the 56th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel



Branch 856's Bernard and Ketherine Nowatkoski brought up the gifts



FCSU Board of Director Members and guests arrive at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the 56th Anniversary of our Jednota Chapel



Main celebrant the Reverend Štefan Chanas, flanked by the Reverend Thomas A. Nasta (L) and the Reverend Martin Kertys (R)

Region 1 Branches 45 and 746 attend pilgrimage in DC

The annual pilgrimage to Washington, DC to commemorate the anniversary of the dedication of the FCSU Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows has been supported by Region 1 branches for many years. This year again, members from Branch 45 and 746 drove 4 hours each way from New Jersey and New York to attend the annual pilgrimage. For many visiting the Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, it is an opportunity to thank our Lady for her many intercessions.

In attendance from Branch 746 were Supreme Court member and District 4 Vice President Emilia Filak and husband Emil Filak and Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados. Representing Branch 45 were Julie Ann Gurega, District 16 Vice President Anna Korcak and husband Jozef Korcak, Supreme Court member and Branch 45 President Joseph Jurasi, Branch 45 Financial Secretary/Treasurer Maria Jurasi and Joseph Jurasi.

The Chapel is one of the most visited at the National Shrine that prominently features a life-size marble sculpture of the Pietà, depicting the sixth of the Seven Sorrows: Mary holding



Jesus as he is taken from the Cross. As FCSU members we should be proud that our society's name is prominently displayed in the Chapel along with the inscription in Slovak above the altar, "Our Mother of Sorrows, Virgin Mary, Patroness of the Slovak People, Pray for Us." For

those that have not attended, in person you can take the virtual tour: www.nationalshrine.org/blog/virtual-tour-our-lady-of-sorrows/

During Pope Francis' four-day official visit to Slovakia he visited the town of Šaštín which is known as a pilgrimage site where people come

to venerate the statue of the Our Lady of Sorrows. The origins of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows at Šaštín dates back to 1564. Pope Francis celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Sorrow on September 15th with an open-air Mass with some 90 bishops and more than 500 priests concelebrated at the Mass, attended by some 60,000 faithful. Pope Francis urged Slovaks to look out for the neediest among them. "Pope Francis held the Blessed Virgin to Slovaks as a model of faith that involves journeying, a faith inspired by simple and sincere devotion, a constant pilgrimage to seek the Lord. It's a journey that overcomes the temptation to a passive and ritual faith, and makes life a pilgrimage of love towards God and their brothers and sisters. He urged Slovakia's Catholics to persevere on this journey without stopping, adding, when the Church stops moving, she falls sick. When bishops stop moving, the Church falls sick and when priests stop walking, the people of God fall sick, he said." Source: Vatican News

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados,
Region 1 Director

Scenes from Akron J Club's First Annual Slovak Festival

On Saturday, August 21, 2021, the Slovak "J" Club, together with Branch 553, held its 1st Annual Slovak Festival on Club grounds in Akron, OH. The weather and fellowship were both fantastic, which proved to be especially nice for all the "dunkees" in the dunk tank!

In addition to the Dun-King & -Queen Tank, 1st Annual Slovak Festival Activities included: Corn Hole and Horseshoe Tournaments, and the ever-popular Left-Center-Right (LCR) game. A 50/50 drawing also was extremely successful. Throughout the day, traditional polka music filled the air, with the occasional current pop tune mixed in.

The All-You-Can-Eat Buffet consisted of the J Club's renowned homemade Slovak sausage; Junior's delicious handcrafted hamburgers, grilled hot dogs, macaroni and potato salads, Linda's world-famous baked beans; and fresh corn on the cob. The meal was topped off by a dessert of delicious cookies (always a kid favorite).

The Festival Team consisted of: Branch 553 President Debbie Speck, Branch Treasurer Terry Eller, and Branch Trustees Sandi Klucar and Carol Gifford. A big Thank You goes out to Slovak J Club Manager Junior, without whose help we could not have pulled off such a successful event. Many thanks as well to all the "Roadies & Cooks" who I had the privilege of working alongside: Jim Gazacko, Albie Collier, Tommy Williams, the Duffield Boys, and Buddy Mercer aka the Cornhole King.

This event brought together a host of bondafide and social members alike. A great time was had by all!

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Petrasek, District 10 President and proud member of Branch 553



Tommy "Next in the Tank" Williams and Mary "Dead Eye" Martin



Cornholers competing – game on!!



Sandi Klucar and Rick Shen dishing out the delicious food



Miles Buzzi's family poses for the camera



Jon Groza with daughter Sofia



(L – R) Dunkee Albie Collier, Ball Retriever Sofia Groza, and Jim Gazdacko – cheatin' on the target?



Enjoying a lively game of Left-Right-Center



(L – R) Lenny and his son Rob – aka the Gmerek "Boys"



Branch 553 President Debbie Speck talks with Branch Treasurer Terry Eller while Jon Groza awaits his fate in the tank



Chef Jim Gazdacko



Money Collector Terry Eller



Dunkee Debbie Speck takes a plunge for the Club.

Focus on Heritage

Branch 888 Attends Opening of Member Helene Cincebeaux's NSCML Exhibit

On September 18, 2021, The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NSCML) in Cedar Rapids, IA, had a ribbon cutting for the opening of "Crowning Glory- A Feast of Slovak and Moravian Headdresses." The exhibit by Branch 888 Member Helene Cincebeaux featured over 100 Slovak and Moravian headdresses from her extensive Baine-Cincebeaux Collection.

Many of the most elaborate headdresses are actually bridal caps. Some are embellished with mirrors as an added protection against evil – if a jealous villager shoots the "evil eye" at the bride, the evil will hit the mirror and go back to the sender. Other headdresses have intricate beadwork in a range of colors and shapes, while another style exhibits silk flowers and yards of embroidered ribbon.

The ribbon cutting was preceded by an educational and entertaining presentation by Helene and a parade of beautiful folk dress (kroje) from her collection. The exhibit is on display through February 27, 2022.

In addition, the "Treasures of Slovakia" exhibit, curated by the National Museum in Bratislava and containing over 120 rare and significant artworks and artifacts will be on display in the NSCML's Petrik Gallery through March 20, 2022.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is a Smithsonian Affiliate. For further information, visit www.ncsml.org.

- Submitted by David Rafaidus, Branch 888 President



Attending the ribbon cutting for the exhibit "Crowning Glory- A Feast of Slovak and Moravian Headdresses" (L – R): Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, President & CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library; Dr. Robert Petrik, First Florida Slovak Honorary Consul; Dr. Miram Potocky Rafaidus, Board Member; David Rafaidus, Branch 888 President; Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 888; Slovak diplomat Michelle Javorčíková and Slovak Ambassador Radovan Javorčík.



Some of the attendees dressed in folk dress (kroje) from the extensive Baine-Cincebeaux collection.

Some of the 100+ Slovak and Moravian headdresses exhibited by FCSU's Helene Cincebeaux

Congratulations & Best Wishes to Branch 410's Aaron Soltis

Aaron Soltis – brother of Ryan who is enrolled at Purdue University and Ethan who is enrolled at Rivier University – is the youngest son of Roger and Chrise Soltis residing in Massillon, OH.

He recently graduated summa cum laude from Massillon Jackson Senior High School and is currently attending Nazareth College in Rochester, NY.

Aaron has proudly earned Presidential, Music, MacDowell, Piano Endowed and First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) scholarships, and is enrolled in both the music composition and business administration curricula.

All of his friends and relatives wish him the very best in achieving his goals.

- Submitted by Grandfather Thomas E. Soltis, Branch 410



Focus on Fraternalism

Branch 162 Supports Local Children's Charity

Branch 162 demonstrated FCSU Fraternalism in Action– by supporting the purchase of winter coats, hats and gloves to be donated to the Children's Closet, a charity supported by the Ladies of Charity at St. Mary Nativity R.C. Church in Uniontown, PA.

The Children's Closet, which has a tentative opening in October 2021, accepts new and gently used clothing and toys to be given to local children (infants to age 5). Referrals are made available by appointment only.

- Submitted by James Marmol, Region 4 Director

(L – R) Susan Polencik, Chairperson of the Children's Closet; Joanne Marmol, Vice President of Branch 162; Roberta Skovera, President of Ladies of Charity and Sue Bookshar, Vice President of Ladies of Charity. Not pictured is Marta Nicol, Co-Chairperson of Children's Closet.



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



How Are You Helping?

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

News From Slovakia

Vláda schválila reformu zdravotníctva

Bratislava 29. septembra (TASR) – Vláda schválila reformu zdravotníctva. Nemocnice sa tak majú rozdeliť na viaceré úrovne. Prvé reálne zmeny v praxi sa začnú realizovať v roku 2024. Podľa Ministerstva Zdravotníctva ide o najväčšiu reformu za posledných 17 rokov. Priniesť by mala menej zbytočných úmrtí, viac zachránených životov, kvalitnejšie podmienky na prácu zdravotníkom a ich zastabilizovanie.

Po novom by mali nemocnice fungovať na piatich úrovniach – komunitná, regionálna, komplexná, koncová a národná. Vzniknúť tak má zoptimalizovaná sieť nemocníc. Ministerstvo zdravotníctva (MZ) zdôraznilo, že bude ešte niekoľko mesiacov pedantne vysvetľovať v teréne podstatu reformy a jej prospech pre obyvateľov Slovenska.

Nemocnice, ktoré budú v zozname, majú mať nárok na úhradu z verejného zdravotného poistenia. Ministerstvo pripomína, že prinesie menej zbytočných úmrtí, viac zachránených životov či kvalitnejšie podmienky na prácu zdravotníkom, čo prinesie potrebné zastabilizovanie zdravotníckeho personálu.

MZ zdôrazňuje, že sa žiadna nemocnica rušiť nebude. Lôžka, ktoré pred pandémiou zostávali nevyužitá, sa budú transformovať v horizonte niekoľkých rokov na základe veľmi presných analýz a dát na iný typ starostlivosti, ktorá dnes mnohým pacientom chýba, a preto sa ťažko vracajú do svojho normálneho života.

MZ sľubuje, že sa „nebude robiť všade všetko a v malom počte“. Lekári, sestry a ďalší zdravotníckí pracovníci budú podľa Ministerstva pracovať vďaka reforme s novými prístrojmi vo väčších tímoch, kde budú lepšie vedieť zvládať zdravotné komplikácie pacienta. Reforma by mala zvýšiť bezpečnosť a kvalitu zdravotnej starostlivosti.



Ilustračné foto.

Foto: TASR -

Jakub Kotian Ko

Illustration photo.

Photo: TASR -

Jacob Kotian

The government Has Approved Health Care Reform

Bratislava, September 29 (TASR) - The government approved health care reform. Hospitals are to be divided into several levels. The first real changes in practice will begin in 2024. According to the Ministry of Health, this is the largest reform in the last 17 years. It should bring fewer unnecessary deaths, more lives saved, better working conditions for health professionals and their stabilization.

After the new one, hospitals should operate at five levels - community, regional, comprehensive, terminal and national. This should create an optimized network of hospitals. The Ministry of Health (MZ) emphasized that it would be meticulously explaining in the field for a few more months the essence of the reform and its benefits for the people of Slovakia.

The hospitals that will be on the list should be entitled to reimbursement from public health insurance. The Ministry reminds that it will bring fewer unnecessary deaths, more saved lives or better working conditions for health professionals, which will bring the necessary stabilization of medical staff.

The Ministry of Health emphasizes that no hospital will be closed down. Beds that remained unused before the pandemic will be transformed in a few years' time, based on very precise analyses and data, to another type of care that many patients today lack and therefore find it difficult to return to their normal lives.

The Ministry of Health promises that "not everything will be done everywhere and in small numbers". According to the ministry, doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals will work with the new devices in larger teams, thanks to the reform, where they will be better able to manage the patient's health complications. The reform should increase the safety and quality of healthcare.

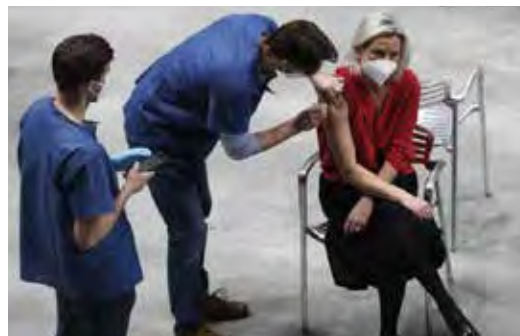
Prieskum: Ľudia sú očkovaní väčšinou kvôli ochrane zdravia svojich blízkych

Bratislava 24. septembra (TASR) - Ľudia sa nechávajú očkovať proti novému koronavírusu predovšetkým na ochranu zdravia svojich blízkych a okolia (50 percent), vyplýva z prieskumu agentúry AKO pre Iniciatívu dobrých vzťahov.

Celkovo 46,3 percenta respondentov bolo zaočkovaných kvôli ochrane vlastného zdravia. Tretím najčastejším dôvodom bolo tvrdenie, že respondenti vakcínu nepotrebujú, ale nechcú byť opatreniami obmedzovaní (17,4 percenta).

Viac ako 15 percent opýtaných ľudí bolo očkovaných, pretože chceli prispieť k celospoločenskému riešeniu pandémie. Viac ako deväť percent sa opieralo o odporúčania orgánov, ako sú lekári a vedci.

Prieskum sa uskutočnil v dňoch 6. až 13. septembra na vzorke 1 000 respondentov.



Fotka od TASR/AP

Stock photo by TASR/AP

Survey: People Get Vaccinated Mostly to Protect Health of Their Loved Ones

Bratislava, September 24 (TASR) – People get vaccinated against novel coronavirus mainly to protect the health of their loved ones and their surroundings (50 percent), according to a survey conducted by AKO agency for the Good Relations Initiative.

A total of 46.3 percent of respondents were vaccinated to protect their own health. The third most common reason was the claim that respondents did not need the vaccine but did not want to be restricted by the measures (17.4 percent).

More than 15 percent of the people polled were vaccinated because they wanted to contribute to a society-wide solution to the pandemic. Over nine percent relied on the recommendations from authorities such as doctors and scientists.

The survey was carried out between September 6-13 on a sample of 1,000 respondents.

Európska komisia schvaľuje mapu regionálnej pomoci Slovenska do roku 2027

Brusel 16. septembra (spravodajca TASR)-V súlade s pravidlami EÚ o štátnej pomoci Európska komisia vo štvrtok schválila mapu Slovenska na poskytovanie regionálnej pomoci v období od 2. januára 2022 do 31. decembra 2027.

Mapa regionálnej pomoci Slovenska je jednou z prvých máp, ktoré EK schválila ako súčasť revidovaných smerníc o regionálnej pomoci. Komisia schválila rovnakú mapu aj pre Maďarsko vo štvrtok.

Revidované smernice o regionálnej pomoci boli prijaté EK 19. apríla 2021 a nadobudnú účinnosť 1. januára 2022. Umožnia členským štátom pomôcť najviac znevýhodneným európskym regiónom dobehnúť rozvinutejšie regióny z hľadiska hospodárskej prosperity, príjmov a nezamestnanosti. Toto sú hlavné ciele EÚ v oblasti súdržnosti.

Smernice poskytnú členským štátom lepšie príležitosti na podporu regiónov, ktoré čelia transformácii alebo štrukturálnym výzvam, ako je vyľudňovanie, a budú plne pomáhať projektom zelenej a digitálnej transformácie.

Mapa regionálnej pomoci Slovenska určuje regióny, ktoré sú oprávnené na regionálnu investičnú pomoc. Stanovuje tiež maximálnu výšku štátnej pomoci, ktorú je možné poskytnúť jednému príjemcovi, vyjadrenú ako percento oprávnených investičných nákladov.

V súlade s revidovanými smernicami o regionálnej pomoci žije v regiónoch oprávnených na regionálnu investičnú pomoc 87,97 percenta slovenskej populácie. Tieto regióny patria medzi najviac znevýhodnené regióny v EÚ, pričom HDP na obyvateľa je nižší ako 75 percent priemeru EÚ.



ilustračný obrázok (foto TASR)

illustration picture (photo by TASR)

European Commission Approves Slovakia's Regional Aid Map until 2027

Regional Aid Map until 2027

Brussels, September 16 (TASR-correspondent) – In line with EU rules on state aid, the European Commission on Thursday approved Slovakia's map for granting regional aid between January 2, 2022 and December 31, 2027.

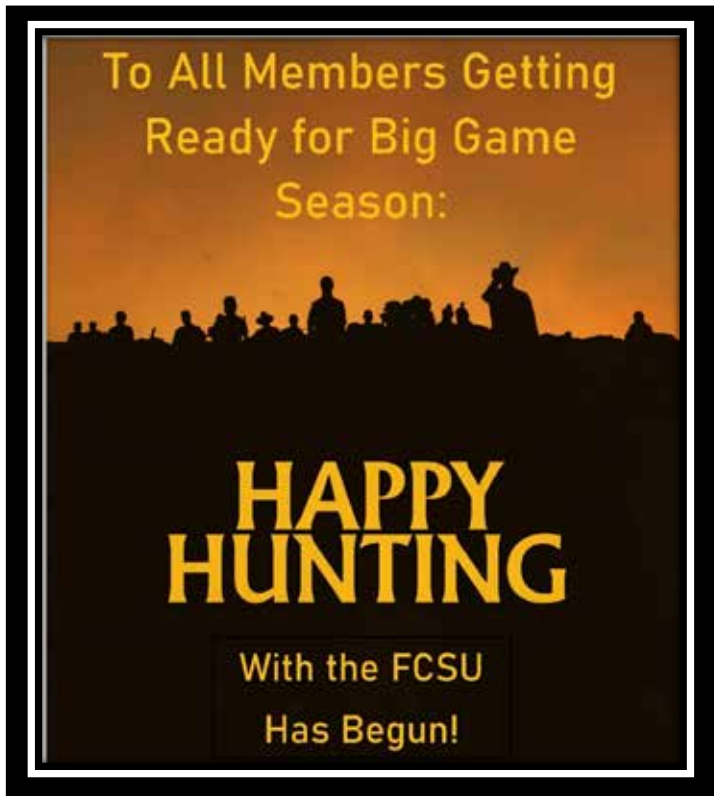
Slovakia's regional aid map is one of the first maps to be approved by the EC as part of revised directives on regional aid. The Commission approved the same map for Hungary on Thursday as well.

The revised regional aid directives were adopted by the EC on April 19, 2021 and will take effect as of January 1, 2022. They enable member states to help the most disadvantaged European regions to catch up with more developed ones in terms of economic prosperity, incomes and unemployment. These are the EU's main goals in the field of coherence.

The directives will provide member states with better opportunities to support regions facing transformation or structural challenges, such as depopulation, and they'll fully assist green and digital transformation projects.

Slovakia's regional aid map stipulates the regions eligible for regional investment aid. It also sets the maximum amount of state aid that can be granted to a single beneficiary, expressed as a percentage of the eligible investment costs.

In line with the revised regional aid directives, regions eligible for regional investment aid are home to 87.97 percent of the Slovak population. These regions are among the most disadvantaged regions in the EU, with GDP per capita below 75 percent of the EU average.



*** 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 →

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
- 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
- Click **MEMBER LOGIN**
- Enter your username/password
- Verify your phone number/TEXT
- View your policies

For assistance call us at

1-800-533-6682

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 by **January 5, 2022, 5PM EST.**

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!

The Impact of My Mother's Homeland: My Mother's Family (part 2)

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

In part one, I covered my paternal family origins up until US entry into World War II, and this article will deal with my maternal ancestors. As mentioned earlier, all of my ancestors hailed from the Spiš area of eastern Slovakia. My mother was born Anna Susová in Richnava on January 4, 1920.

Her family came from two nearby villages, Kluknava and Hrišovce. Her father, Štefan (Steven), was born on May 4, 1895 in Kluknava (Klukno, Hungary), the son of a farmer, Michal Szusa (b.1854) and Elizabeth Richnavszká (b.1857). They had married on October 1877 and raised five children. The first named Štefan died in 1883 before reaching his first birthday, so my maternal dzedo (grandfather) was the second Štefan in his family.

The village of Kluknava has a long history dating back to 1304 and most of its inhabitants worked in agriculture and the coal mining industry. To this day, the area has a reputation for quality dairy products. In the years 1787-1809, a metallurgical plant to process iron-ore was built next in nearby Štefanská Huta. Like neighboring Richnava, the villages are located in the valley of the Hornád River and many of the traditional houses exist in the village to this day. The village came under the demesne of the former Richnava Castle and later the Csáky family ruled the area and built a baroque manor there in the early 18th century. The community suffered tremendously during the 1830 cholera epidemic, which my dzedo's grandfather, Adam Susza (b. 1816) and grandmother, Sophia Macká Kurilla, lived through in their youth. To the village's advantage, the main east-west railroad line that connected Silesia and Košice was built in 1872 and ran just south of the town, but jobs were still hard to come by.

According to port entry records, my great grandfather Michal traveled to the USA at age 31 in 1885 and later returned after saving money for several years, for his later fourth child, John, was born in Leisenring, near Connellsville, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania on May 12, 1892. He worked in the mines there. His wife obviously followed in his footsteps, and he stayed no longer than 10 years in America, my grandfather was born in Slovakia. Traveling there, saving some money, and returning home to buy some land was a common occurrence among Slovak immigrants. Historians have termed such migrants as "birds of passage," who went to America to earn a nest egg and the returned to their native country in order to buy some land and live a better life. The problem was that agricultural prices were continually falling before World War I due to mechanization and increased production.

My maternal grandfather (dzedo in Spiš dialect), Štefan Ján Susa, was born in 1895, after the family returned to Slovakia, the last child born to the family. I know little about his youth in Kluknava except that he was the son of a farmer. During World War I, dzedo would serve in the Austro-Hungarian Army, and according to my Aunt Helen, he was wounded in the leg during his service, an injury which plagued him his entire life. Shortly after returning



Baba's mother, baby Anna, Baba & Dzede Susa

from the war, he married my grandmother (baba) on January 27, 1919, in the beautiful 16th century Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria in Kluknava. One may assume that since it happened so quickly after the war, the marriage was arranged, similar to other marriages at the time, and they set up a household in nearby Richnava.

My baba, Helena came from Hrišovce, a very small pastoral village surrounded by forested hills and pastures, just upstream from Richnava. The daughter of Johannes (Ján or John) and Agneša Barbuš (né Biroš), she was born at address #38 on June 14, 1898, so she was an 18 year-old girl at the time of her marriage. My mother related that her grandfather Ján was the smartest man in the village, so they made him the teacher. My distant cousin, Jozef Biroš (whose grandmother was my baba's godmother), confirmed that my great grandfather held an important status in the village, for he was also the starosta, or mayor of the village. Although listed as a bricklayer (murár) in official records, such a position in a small town also required other occupations to survive. According to my mother, a "jealous village gypsy" poisoned my great grandfather's drink when he was at the local bar (krčma). It seems likely that some unstated conflicts had occurred, since he was a leader in the community.

My mother was the first child born in 1920 to my grandparents. They also had a son the next year, but he died as an infant.

My Aunt Mary was born on July 4, 1923, and another child named Helena was born about 1925, but my Aunt Helen Firment told me that the child died because baba weaned the child when she he had infected breasts.

After serving in the war, dzedo Susa had obtained employment at the Krompachy Ironworks (Krompašská železiareň). In the early 20th century, the foundry employed about 3,500 employees and ranked among the largest ironworks in the Kingdom of Hungary. The Ironworks would close following a bloody outbreak on February 21, 1921, known as the Krompachy Uprising (Krompašská vzbura). The riot erupted when the company police began beating women and union organizers who were presenting a petition to management to protest the reduction in flour rations for employees. When their men armed with clubs came to assist them, the gendarmes fired upon unarmed workers. As a result, four were killed, 15 injured, and 57 were jailed. Martial law was declared and a number of workers across Slovakia declared a general strike in support of the Krompachy workers. After an investigation, the management incurred no penalties, but the factory shut down in 1923. My dzedo lost his job. He barely scraped by to make a living on the meager scattered plots of land he owned, which were most likely inherited from his father who had previously worked in America. In three years, he would decide

to make the trek to America where others in his family had settled.

At age 31, dzedo emigrated in 1926. Traveling on the ship Berengaria, he arrived at Ellis Island on December 14. The records listed him as a farmer and he was not traveling with anyone from nearby villages, but all the other passengers on his entry page were also Slovaks from Czechoslovakia, so they surely kept him company on the voyage. From family oral history, I know that he had a job in the mines lined up for him in Graceton, a small town in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. His sister-in-law Anna lived there. Her husband, Valent Varesčák, assisted him in having a place to live and getting work. He only remained there a year, and then moved to Youngstown, Ohio, where other brothers of the Susa family had found work in the steel mills. My Aunt Helen also said he worked in Detroit for a while, and dzedo said he also worked in Toledo, but the Great Depression led to job losses and he moved back to Youngstown. Dzede never sent money to bring his family over to America, and there always was resentment in the family for this reason. My mother called him an irresponsible "good time Charlie" who abandoned his family overseas.

Back in Slovakia, baba had to make ends meet with the little she possessed, but at least they owned a stucco house. It was a long house on the south end of the village, with living quarters in the front and as is typical of many Slovak homes, a section for storage and the animals in the rear. The house had dirt floors and all had to sleep on beds stuffed with straw that were not so comfortable, but more bearable for the children. Baba kept chickens, geese, and a few cows in addition to cultivating a large garden and fruit trees. Like other Slovaks, she canned fruits and vegetables and baked so the family would have enough to eat. Once a month the family might enjoy some meat, but they always had eggs and milk, and soup was a staple at most meals. They were very poor and only her faith in God and her hard work sustained her. During these 10 years, she had to find a way to survive and support her two daughters.

My mother and her sister Mary experienced a tough life as children. They never possessed the material things so many of us take for granted. They had no toys; life was all about working to survive. My mother only tasted an orange once in her childhood, for Christmas. And her sister Mary dropped the only ice cream cone she ever tasted (they had to share one cone!), which baba purchased on a Marian pilgrimage to Levoča. The family had a special devotion to the Virgin Mary, for the miraculous spring water near her shrine had helped cure my Aunt Mary's eye illness. My godmother told me that Aunt Mary had suffered boils from the top of her head to her feet, and in her eyes too.

Theirs was a life of hard work and poverty. But my baba did have faith in God, a strong work ethic, and a warm, loving heart. She attended early morning Mass every day, which would be at St. Michael the Archangel in Richnava. The Germans mined and blew up the church and burned down much of the village in January 1945,

continued on page 21



The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey
invite you to our 2021

VILIYA - SLOVAK
CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER
Sunday, December 5th
12:00 PM (Noon) Mass
Dinner Following
Held at the Abbey Church and
Benedictine High School Cafeteria

Tickets to this event are ADVANCE SALES ONLY
TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

TICKETS \$25.00 PER PERSON - ADVANCE SALES ONLY

Please send a check or money order
along with a self addressed envelope made out to:

Saint Andrew Abbey - Viliya
10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH 44104

Your tickets will be mailed out to you.

**TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021**

For more information please call: 216. 721. 5300 ext. 100
(Monday through Friday 8 am until 3:00 pm)

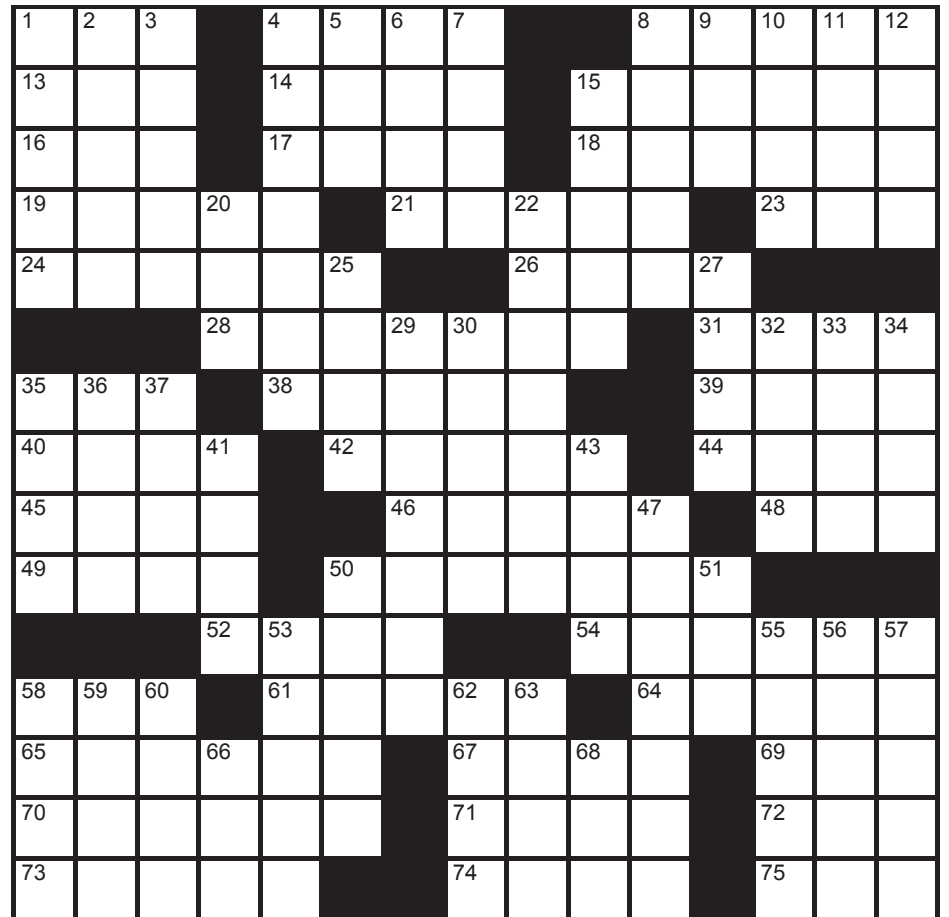
Entertainment:

Lucina Dancers

Slovak Raffle

Religious Articles * Exhibits * Slovak Items of Interest

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 School grp.
- 4 Reverse, e.g.
- 8 Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- 13 Fix, in a way
- 14 Regatta
- 15 Two-seater bicycle
- 16 Capt.'s guess
- 17 Sicilian erupter
- 18 Deep blue
- 19 Scarf bandage
- 21 Mike holder
- 23 Unit of thermal resistance
- 24 Elder
- 26 Talk like Daffy
- 28 Sgt. ___ of the Yukon
- 31 Exhort
- 35 Henpeck
- 38 Legendary creatures of the Himalayas
- 39 Told a whopper
- 40 Go up against
- 42 Obstruct
- 44 Twinge
- 45 Cuzco's country
- 46 Edible fruit
- 48 Filmmaker Spike
- 49 Bit of slander
- 50 Repulsive
- 52 Wassailer's song
- 54 Not abundant
- 58 Kind of chamber
- 61 High point
- 64 Decorate
- 65 Sound system
- 67 Once, long ago
- 69 Court do-over
- 70 Like some Bedouins

- 71 Reid of "American Pie"
- 72 Canal site
- 73 Ruhr Valley city
- 74 Public relations effort
- 75 Blue hue

- 41 Go sour
- 43 Mavens
- 47 Mexican peninsula
- 50 Marsh wader
- 51 In a funk
- 53 New Jersey county
- 55 Cameos, e.g.
- 56 Floorboard sound
- 57 Vestibule
- 58 Catalina, e.g.
- 59 Elevator inventor
- 60 Bills
- 62 Tennis units
- 63 Sting operation
- 66 Manhattan ingredient
- 68 ___ Lanka

Down

- 1 Newspapers
- 2 Sir or madam
- 3 On the other hand
- 4 Pope from 1831 to 1846
- 5 Consume
- 6 Teen affliction
- 7 Paper purchase
- 8 Flowing tresses
- 9 Armageddon
- 10 Mine entrance
- 11 Danish toy company
- 12 Urban haze
- 15 Link
- 20 Small bite
- 22 Resolution
- 25 Kind of organ
- 27 Juice ingredient, at times
- 29 Not mobile
- 30 Clocked
- 32 Omani money
- 33 Heredity unit
- 34 Nose out
- 35 Siestas
- 36 Eve's son
- 37 Mentor

Slovak Catholic Federation Elects Officers



The 60th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation was held on September 27, 2021, via zoom. The following were elected for the next four-year term:

- National President: Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
- National First Vice President: Rev. Thomas Nasta
- National Second Vice President: Maria Gollas
- National Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Michael Brunovsky
- National Secretary/Treasurer: Dolores Evanko
- Members at Large:
- Daniel Tanzone
- Sue Ann Seich
- Steve Hudak
- Loretta Ekoniak
- Michael Ekoniak

- Submitted by Rev Andrew S. Hvozdovic, SCF National President

Publication Schedule for 2021

Issue Date	Deadline
November 10	November 1
December 8	November 29

See Solution on Page 23

43rd NJ Slovak Heritage Festival

The 43rd New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival was held on Sunday, September 26, 2021 in East Brunswick, NJ, at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds.

A 10:30AM Holy Mass was celebrated in Slovak by the Reverend Štefan Chanas, of St. John Nepomucene in New York City, to open the festivities, followed with a full program throughout the day.

The program commenced with a brief introduction by Marek Soltis, Chair and lead organizer of the 43rd Slovak Festival, followed by a few words by Jane Konzelmann (Branch 45) Vice Chair of the Slovak Festival. Our National President Andrew M. Rajec was introduced from the stage and he greeted attendees. The newly appointed Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Mr. Milan Vrbovský also welcomed all who came from near and far to the Slovak Festival.

At 2:00PM, Limboráčik – the children’s folklore ensemble from New York – performed on the main stage to an enthusiastic crowd. Entertainment included performances by the Slovak folk band Pajtáši with guest artists Hanka G and Jozef Bil. Vlado Kolenic, leader of the popular Taktici band from the 1970s, energized the crowd. He continues to perform at his restaurant Bettola in New York City; and those who haven’t had the pleasure of dining and dancing there were rocking out to Taktici’s cover of the most famous songs of the era at the Festival!

Numerous vendors offered Slovak items along with an assortment of delicious Slovak food and baked goods for sale. At the First Catholic Slovak Union table, festival attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the Society’s mission, services, and products.

At the First Catholic Slovak Union table, festival attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the Society’s mission, services, and products. National President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka were on hand to share information about the Society and greet members including Home Office Staffer and Branch 24 Member Miriam Visnovsky. Helping all day with the booth were Region 1 Director and Branch 746 President Sabina Sabados, District 4 Vice President and Supreme Court Member Emilia Filak, and her husband Branch 746’s Emil Filak. Stopping by to give a lending hand were National Chaplain, the Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Branch 857 President Edward Nasta, Branch 746 Secretary Mary Kapitan and her husband Gary (Branch 746).

Thank you to the many Jednota members that came to visit the FCSU booth and that attended the Slovak Heritage Festival! See you again in September 2022!

The final tally of total guests exceeded 2,000 with Slovak-Americans from NJ, NY, PA, CT, Ohio and even Chicago attending this year’s Slovak Festival – a very successful event, indeed.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



Mr. and Mrs. Korcak, two longtime Slovak Festival Committee and Branch 45 members, are pictured with main celebrant Fr. Stefan Chanas (L – R): Jozef Korcak, Andrew Hovan, Anna Korcak, Fr Stefan Chanas, Vasil Rusiňak, and Rev. Michal Misina.



Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Mr. Milan Vrbovský and his beautiful family stopped by the FCSU table to meet President Rajec and the team!



(L – R) Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados and Hanka G, a singing sensation on the NYC jazz scene who performed with her Quartet, treating Festival attendees to her trademark fusion of Slovak folk music, jazz and gospel.



National President Rajec interviewed for Slovak radio, RTVS.



ge Festival in September



The Slovak Heritage Festival Committee met with National President Rajec before the start of the rich program. (L- R): Jane Konzelmann Vice Chair Slovak Heritage Festival, Marek Soltis, Chair, Slovak Heritage Festival, Gabriel Kovac, Slovak Heritage Festival Committee Treasurer, President Andrew Rajec, and Mrs. Idka Rajec



Our hardworking members from Branches 24, 857 and 746 paused for a moment for an FCSU group photo (L - R) Row 1: Miriam Visnovsky, Emilia Filak, Kristina Draculin, Sabina Sabados, Madga Bredova Row 2: Jan Draculin, Gary Kapitan, Mary Kapitan, Edward Nasta, Fr. Thomas Nasta, Emil Filak and Jan Stevanka



Members of Limboráčik, the children's folklore ensemble from New York



Band leader Vlado Kolenic stays on the stage to pose with some of his many fans.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The next branch meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on November 7, 2021, at 1:00PM. This will be our annual Christmas party and also the election of officers and the election of delegates for the 2022 convention. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by October 20, 2021.

Seating is limited so there is a need to comply with the deadline. All members are invited to attend

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 7 PM at Eat N Park on Route 65, Ohio River Blvd. The election of officers for the new year will take place.

If you are planning to attend the meeting, call 412-715-5577 to make a reservation.

Joanne Roithner, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3, Sts Cyril & Methodius Society, will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2021, in Minneapolis, MN. The meeting will be held at 11:30AM in Father Dargay Memorial Hall, Church of Sts. Cyril & Methodius. The agenda includes: reports of officers, merge or dissolve Branch 3, or elect new officers.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephens Society, Branch 06, will hold its ANNUAL meeting on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at 11:30AM, at Gaetanos Vault Restaurant, 202 E. Main St, Streator, IL. At the meeting we will hold an ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2022. Any member in good standing may run for an office. Please call Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 before December 11, 2021 if you plan on attending the meeting or for any questions you may have on policies.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at 9:00AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St. Ramey, PA, 16671. Election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak President

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 10:00 AM. A Mass will be offered for our deceased members at 8:30 AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

At this meeting, the recipients of the John A. Zahor Scholarship are invited to join us via Zoom. The college freshmen who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Jenna Cichowski, Lia Mercure, Maxwell Novak, Lauren Serdy, Elizabeth Zahor, and Joseph Zahor.

This scholarship was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Zahor served as president of the St. Joseph Society and his commitment to the education of its young members.

In addition, the recipients of the Andrew J. Imbro Grant are invited to join us via Zoom. The following college juniors who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Samantha Piroh, Emily Nelson and Matthew Serdy.

This grant was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Imbro served as financial secretary of the St. Joseph Society and his commitment to the financial support of its young members.

Since we are unable to award the checks in person, they will be mailed to the eligible recipients.

Also at this meeting, the election of officers will take place and the distribution of our annual donations will be discussed.

We cordially invite interested members to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our young members.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 is providing special members-only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner planned to

be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH. [Editor's note: please see flyer on p 11 of this issue for details]

Branch 24 members may purchase a Vilija dinner at the special discounted price of \$5. This discounted ticket is for Branch 24 members only. It is non-transferable and also may not be used for carry-out orders. The regular cost per dinner is \$25 and may be purchased at this price for non-members. Reservations are required by calling Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 1-440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline to order your meals from Branch 24 (for members and non-members) is Monday, November 15, 2021.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

In keeping with continuing restrictions due to COVID-19 and for the safety and protection of our members, Branch 24 will hold a virtual meeting on Saturday, November 20, 2021. The meeting will begin at 11:00AM. At this meeting, Election of Officers will be held. Members can access the meeting by phone, smartphone, or computer.

Please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797 by Friday, November 19, 2021, for instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Attention all Branch 24 members: the branch is starting a New Member Referral Program. Branch 24 is offering \$25 for each new member you refer who purchases an insurance policy or annuity through a licensed agent or the Home Office.

A new member is someone who does not already own an FCSU product. To learn how to participate in this program, please call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michaels, Branch 35, will hold their annual meeting, virtually, on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. The agenda will include reports, branch business and election of officers. Branch members who would like to attend the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185 for information on how to access the meeting.

Fraternally,

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 5, 2021, virtually at 1:00PM. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year.

Fraternally,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

ROČNA SCHŔDZA SV. MATUŠA ČÍSLO 45 1KSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 1KSJ bude v nedeľu 5. decembra 2021 o 13:00 hodine, ktorá bude virtuálna. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie, potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie.

Ďakujem s pozdravom,

Mária Juráši, pokladnička

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting Sunday, November 14, 2021, at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00PM. On the agenda will be Officers' reports, upcoming events, election of officers, and election of delegates for the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

As an incentive to grow Branch 89, members who refer new branch members or add a new contract of their own are now eligible to receive a Branch award. Specifically, Branch 89 members who successfully refer new members can receive an award of up to \$100. Members that add a new contract of their own can receive an award of up to \$50. To be eligible for an award, new policies must be issued during the calendar year in which Branch 89 otherwise qualifies for an FCSU

stipend under bylaw section 4.05. Award amounts will depend on the amount of the FCSU stipend for the year and the number of members qualifying for an award. Awards cannot be combined or multiplied and members are limited to one award per calendar year.

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

Paul Novak, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Our previously scheduled in-person meeting of October 17 will be a Zoom meeting beginning at 2:30 PM. The agenda will include election of officers, election of delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Independence OH, ideas for new membership and a discussion of charitable donations. If you plan on attending the Zoom meeting please contact Karen at kareneng-lesterling@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, December 12, 2021, at 12:00PM at Bogey's Restaurant, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA.

Officers' reports will be given and upcoming branch activities will be discussed. The Donations Committee will make its recommendations, donations for Christmas will be discussed and there will be a vote. Election of officers will occur and Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before December 6th if you and your guest wish to attend the meeting.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

The second annual business meeting for the election of officers of the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166K will be held October 24, 2021 at 1:30 PM to be followed by a dinner. It is important to RSVP to Morgan Dendler (607) 206-7243 or email CatholicFC-SU@gmail.com by Monday October 18, 2021 for location and details so we have an accurate count of attendees. Members' dinner are at no charge. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Safety precautions will be observed.

Judie Dendler, Secretary

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in the Northeast Pennsylvania Area, will hold its annual meeting on December 12, 2021, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:30PM.

All PA State COVID-19 Requirements in place at the time of the meeting, such as face masks and social distancing guidelines, will be followed.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. In addition branch officers will be elected for the new year.

Also branch delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, to be held on July 30, 2022, to August 2, 2022 at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, OH, will be elected. If you wish to attend this convention as a delegate please attend the Annual Meeting December 12, 2021.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members interested in attending the Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 5, 2021 should contact President Darlene Patly at 724-493-8712 or Recording Secretary Vicki Hricik at 724-547-0803 before November 23, 2021. It will be held at the Christ,

Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, PA. CDC guidelines will be followed. A brief branch meeting will be held after dinner.

Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 has planned the following dates for our branch meetings in 2021: Nov 4th, and Dec 2nd. Nomination of Officers is in November and Election of Officers in December. 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.

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub Fin. Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 213 – NORTH VERSAILLES, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Michael the Archangel, Branch 213 will hold its second semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2021. It will be held at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA at 1:00PM. You may also access the meeting via phone contact. Contact information: weaz1958@aol.com.

The agenda will include: Officer's reports, Branch business, the upcoming convention, an overview of the year's activities and charitable contributions, and the Election of Officers for 2022. We will also discuss plans and activities for the upcoming year.

We will still be taking all precautions regarding COVID, and all regulations and protocols will be followed.

Respectfully,

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold an election of delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at our meeting to be held on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 7 PM at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Please Note: This will be a hybrid meeting. The Convention will be held in Independence, OH, from Saturday July 30 through Tuesday August 2, 2022 at the Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, OH, 44131. We currently expect to be permitted to seat seven (7) delegates at the Convention to represent our Branch and will also elect alternates to serve if a delegate is unable to attend the Convention. We hope to have all delegates and alternates decided upon at this meeting so the certification process can begin immediately after the meeting. Our Branch 228 officer election will also take place at this meeting and snacks will be served.

Once again, I challenge our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a truly special experience that is interesting, fun and gives a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the operational direction taken by the FCSU for the next four (4) years. Please contact Tom Zuffa at 440-320-6523 or Lisa Trifiletti-Palos at 440-773-1442 if you are interested in becoming a convention delegate candidate and, of course, come to this very important meeting.

As a reminder, 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 scheduled. The Branch will hold its annual election of officers, by-law review and election of two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors at each December meeting. All meetings begin at 7 PM and are currently held in a virtual format with the exception of the December 20, 2021 meeting at the American Slovak Club. Please follow the CDC COVID 19 guidelines in effect at the time of this meeting.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their Annual Meeting at Belleria, 1010 Youngstown- Poland Rd., Struthers, OH, on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 1:00 PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2022; and also the delegates for the coming Convention (July 30th to August 2, 2022) shall be selected, followed by a luncheon. Reservations can be made by calling 330-755-8316. We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

continued on page 20

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3 – THE GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT

The George Onda District, District 3, has tentatively scheduled our Annual "Stedry Vecer" for Sunday, December 5, 2021. We will gather at the Christ, Our Shepherd Center off route 30 in Greensburg, PA. Mass will begin at 4:00PM in the Chapel. We will be honored to have His Excellency, Bishop Larry J. Kulick (our chaplain) as Celebrant. Following Mass, dinner will be served in the dining room. Door prizes will be awarded and the renowned Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. We will be following the CDC guidelines. Tickets may be reserved by calling Vice President, Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 prior to November 23, 2021. No reservations will be accepted after that date.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

At the ZOOM District meeting held on Sunday, January 17, 2021, the following officers were elected President Robert Kristofik and Treasurer Joseph Rimarcik. There were no candidates for the following positions: Vice-President; Secretary; Auditor (2) and Chaplin. If you are interested in becoming a District Officer please contact President Robert Kristofik at: rjk810@aol.com The District meets twice a year.

Fraternally,

Joseph Rimarcik, Treasurer

DISTRICT 6 - THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District will meet on Sunday, November 21 at the Holy Trinity Church Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Street Extension, West Mifflin PA 15122. The meeting will start at 1PM. Officers for 2022 will be elected at the November meeting. We will also discuss the upcoming convention and other business matters. The district delegate for the 2022 convention will be elected at this meeting. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 254. Please RSVP by email to Joe Senko [jtsenko@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, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio. Please be sure to follow all by-laws as you elect convention delegates.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: Meetings for October and November have been canceled due to the lack of meeting facilities. Watch for an update on future meetings.

- Fall Slovak language classes: Postponed due to lack of meeting facilities. Watch for updates.

- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt: November 7 – Virtual event

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 7 – THE REV JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

District 7 will hold a meeting on October 24, 2021, from 2:00PM – 4:00PM at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, 185 Church Hill Road, Wilmore, PA. On the agenda: election of district officers and a discussion of delegates to the 2022 FCSU Convention. All members are encouraged to attend.

Peter Gerko, President

DISTRICT 8 – REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8 has canceled its in-person meeting originally scheduled to be held in Mahanoy City, PA on Sunday October 17, 2021 and will hold a Zoom meeting instead. The Zoom meeting will be on the same date: Sunday October 17, 2021 at 1pm. Please email Jo Austin at jeaustin89@gmail.com for Zoom invite details.

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 REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

District 10 will be holding the last meeting of 2021 on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 3PM. This will be an in-person and virtual meeting. We will be electing officers for the 2022 year. If you are interested in serving - please send a letter of your intention to serve and the position you are interested in serving on the board. Send letter to Linda Hanko, 1473 Ries St, Barberton, OH 44203. Letters must be received by November 1, 2021. If you are planning to attend the meeting in person, please contact Linda Hanko @ lhanko@neo.rr.com or 330-706-0151. If you plan on attending the meeting virtually – please contact Tom Ivanec at tivanec@aol.com or 440-668-7797 for details on accessing the meeting.

Looking forward to having you in attendance at the meeting.

Linda Hanko, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – THE MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District will hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday November 21, 2021 at 1PM. Additional information of the meeting and the location of the meeting will be provided in upcoming issues of The Jednota. A Zoom link will be sent to all Hlinka District members who attended the March 2021 meeting. Any District member interested in the Zoom link can contact District Secretary Monica

RodacyBoone at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com after November 1.

Some topics on the agenda will be discussions of the 52 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU in Independence OH on July 30, 2022 to August 2, 2022; the election of the district delegate; and the annual election of district officers.

All Hlinka District members are asked to mark their calendar to attend the November meeting.

Monica Rodacy Boone, Secretary
hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L Kostik District, District 14 will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:00PM for the Election and Installation of Officers for 2021 and for the election of the District Delegate and Alternate to the Convention); Fireplace, 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd.

District 14, Region 6, Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at Rachel's Restaurant; 54 Westchester Dr., Austintown, OH. The cost is \$25 or \$15 for Children 6 and under. RESERVATIONS are required and must be paid by December 4, 2021. Contact and mail payments to Sue Carney, 6810 Blue Ridge Dr., Poland, OH 4454. Telephone 330.770.6810. Make checks payable to Rev. Joseph Kostik District; include your Branch number and the number of persons (adults and children under 6 with each of their ages). An enjoyable evening will be had by all members and guests of our OKRES. A few announcements will be made.

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President and Recording Secretary

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 after the meeting.

Joan Skrkon, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – LACKAWANNA & LUZERNE COUNTIES, PA; BROOME COUNTY, NY

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Branch delegates will gather for the 11:30AM Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 William Street, Pittston, PA. Following the Mass, a catered luncheon will be served in the Church Hall. The business meeting will convene afterward. The agenda will include election of officers, a discussion of donations, and an update from the Home Office.

A "Basket Raffle" will be held. Branches are asked to donate a basket (\$25 value) for the event.

All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting. In keeping with CDC and local recommendations, masks will be required indoors.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President



Attention All Branch 855 Members: Let's get creative!!!

All members of Branch 855 are invited to share their pumpkin carving skills.

- From October 15 – October 30 snap a picture of yourself with your carved pumpkin creation

- Send your picture along with your name to fcsu855@gmail.com or by text to 440-409-9405

- Submissions must be made by October 30th

- Everyone from Branch 855 who joins in the fun receives a \$15.00 gift card AND their picture in the Jednota!!

- Submitted by Stephanie Sutila, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director



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>



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Valeria M Krause	166K	Diane M Mclenna	543K	Ignatius Solava Jr	746K	Peter Psota
001K	Timothy K Zoloty	173K	Mary M Chupka	553K	Joan Jurkowski	746K	Mary C Taraska
001P	Barbara Ann Geisick	181K	Robert G Borde	553K	Anne M Lenartowicz	746K	Mary Zawada
002K	William G Jablonsky	181K	Peter L Dreistadt Jr	553K	Joseph Simkanin	756K	Anita L Brown
019K	William R Buda	199K	Regina Haas	553K	Ruth M Uhalley	796K	Barbara Czankner
023K	John A Palus	228K	Thomas Reed Jordan	571K	Evelyn R Kysel	796K	Gloria A Killo
024K	Delores Hana	276K	Helen Gray	615K	John Louis Paytas	796K	Anna B Kleinschuster
024K	Joyce Ann Strauss-Campbell	293K	John G Angelovic	652K	Ferdinand A Kontura	855K	Mary Ann Langham
040K	Frances E Higdon	299K	Mary C Cingel	652K	Andrew Mamrak	856K	Rev Andrew W Krafcik
045K	Mary M Ferenci	312K	Irene T Rudy	670K	Michele Rose Loughlin	900K	Irene Hlastala
055K	Ethel M Halle	312K	Mary M Urchek	670K	Janice Marie Reed	900K	Rose T Koneval
085K	Joshua M Freeman	313K	John F Bolek	682K	Donna J Marciano	901K	Lois E Brust
102K	Eugene F Bumbera	382K	Lorraine B Munley	682K	Agnes T Savisky	914K	Diane D Phillips
157K	Marie A Lakatosh	417K	Catherine E Unick	682K	Barbara A Sikora	915K	Debra Denson
157K	Frank Straka	429K	Mary L Piroch	731K	George B Ferenchak	919K	Lela Flowers
162K	Margaret I Brna	484K	Alberta M Kastelic	731K	George J Stasko		
162K	Thomas M Sickle	543K	Frank Kmet	743K	Sylvia M Bleeda		

* Processed in the month of Sept. 2021

OBITUARIES

Irene Engle Collins, Mother of FCSU National Vice President Kevin Collins & Sister of FCSU Supreme Court Chairman Stephen Engle Passed into Eternal Life September 22, 2021

With profound sadness we announce the passing of Irene Engle Collins, our loving and devoted mother. On September 22, Irene left for "God's House" while seated in her favorite chair with Kevin and Susan by her side. Although Irene fought hard to recover from her stroke, the obstacles proved too difficult for her to overcome.

Irene was born in Mahanoy City, PA, on December 9, 1928. She was preceded in death by her parents, Stephen and Helen (Miskar) Engle, her loving husband of 58 years, John J. Collins, her son, John Jr., and two sisters, Kathleen Reiber and Mary Ann Oldham.

Prior to her marriage, she worked as a legal secretary. Irene and John moved to Brookhaven, PA, where she went to work for Scott Paper Company in Chester, PA, as an Administrative Assistant. She retired from Scott Paper in 1983 after her husband was transferred to Florida by Westinghouse. Irene then worked for Dr. Ron Fulmore at the Fulmore Chiropractic Clinic in Altamonte Springs for fifteen years.

Irene enjoyed life in Apopka, FL where she became an active member of St. Francis of Assisi Church and the Council of Catholic Women. She was a member of Branch 112. She loved her faith, family, friends and traveling the world.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan (Matthew) Ahearn; son, Kevin; sister, Karen (Henry) Sterling; and brother, Stephen (Janice) Engle.

Irene's warm smile, sense of humor, compassion for others and zest for life will be greatly missed by all who loved her.



VALERIA KRAUSE BRANCH 1 - LAKEWOOD, OHIO

Valeria M. Krause, 99, of Kittanning, PA, formerly of Elyria, OH, passed away June 10, 2021, at ACMH Hospital.

She was born on March 25, 1922, in Cleveland, OH, the daughter of Michael and Julia (Smelko) Yerga.

Valeria was a member of the St. Mary Church in Elyria. She was a long-time volunteer at Elyria Memorial Hospital, where they named an annual volunteer award in her honor. She loved to travel, garden and spend time with her family. Valeria enjoyed teaching her family how to prepare



traditional European family meals and she cherished their Christmas traditions.

Her memory will be cherished by her daughter, Sharon (Richard) Vesely of Kittanning; her son, Jeffrey (Diane) Krause of Columbus, OH; grandchildren: Michael (Kate) Vesely of Chesapeake, VA; Mark (Priya) Vesely of Baltimore, MD; Ryan (Emily) Vesely of Redwood City, CA; and Kinsey Krause of Columbus; great-grandchildren: Mary Elizabeth Vesely, Kirsten Katherine Vesely, Kyrie Vesely, Thomas Vesely, Meghan Vesely, Rohan Vesely and Sahil Vesely; and one great-great-grandson, Sterling Valentine Vesely. Valeria is also survived by two sisters, Julia Bilow, of Hudson, NH, and Edith Fox, of Maple Heights, OH.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her loving husband of 61 years, Edwin V. Krause, who passed away in 2003;

her brother, Michael Yerga; and sisters: Virginia Malota, Anna Wolfe and Georgene Campbell.

- Submitted by Sharon Vesely

FRANCES E. HIGDON BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

Frances "Fran-nie" E. Higdon of Streator, IL, was a passionate baker and very caring wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend. Frances left this world on August 15, 2021 at O.S.F. St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa at age 86.

Born May 8, 1935 in Streator, she was the daughter of Thomas Harcar and Anna (Lesak) Harcar. It was in Streator that she met, fell in love and married Kentucky charmer Oral T. Higdon on September 20, 1955.

She is survived by her husband Oral T. Higdon of Streator; daughters, Aggie (Pat) Hatzer of Streator; Veronica Higdon of Ottawa, IL; Mary (Kirk) Drapp of Naperville, IL; and Laurie (Dave) Pearson of Bloomington, IL; a son, Paul Higdon of Streator; grandchildren, Michelle (Ry) Whittington, Meghan (Chris) Krzan, Abby, Emmy and Jackson Pearson; Riley and Ali Drapp; great grandchildren, Emmett, Atticus and Oliver Whittington; Cole and Callie Krzan; a sister, Mary Ann Woodward of Bloomington; a brother, James Harcar of Streator; and several nieces and nephews also survive.

She was preceded in death by her parents Thomas Harcar and Anna (Lesak) Harcar; a son, Oral Higdon Jr.; a grandson, Tanner Shepard; sisters, Ann Beckom and Agnes Hornick; brothers, Thomas Jr., Joseph, Michael, William and Andrew Harcar; and sister in laws: Rose Harcar, Maria Harcar and Ann Harcar.

Born and raised in Streator, she attended St. Stephen's School and graduated from



Streator High School in the class of 1953. Before starting her family, she worked for Thatcher's Glass Company and Owens Illinois Glass. Later she held the role of book-keeper for Harcar Brothers Construction for many years.

Above all, Frances loved God. She was a member of the former St. Stephen's Church and supported the Altar and Rosary Society of the church where she served as President and worked tirelessly supporting the church through bake sale fundraisers, rummage sales and hosting the annual Priest luncheon. Most recently she belonged to St. Michael the Archangel Church. It wasn't uncommon to see Frances wearing an apron covered in flour with a baking pin in her hand rolling out her beloved rožky. Baking was a passion rooted in her Slovak heritage and will forever be her legacy.

- Submitted by Aggie Hatzer

FRANCIS WASSIL BRANCH 419 - MOUNTAINTOP, PENNSYLVANIA

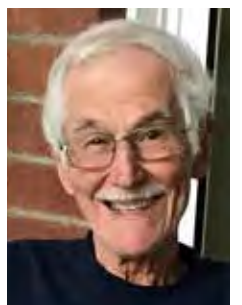
Frank "Francis" Wassil, 87, of Edwardsville, PA, passed away peacefully September 13, 2021.

Frank was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, on March 8, 1934. He was the son of the late John and Mary Funkett Wassil.

He was a graduate of Coughlin High School, Class of 1952. After high school, he entered the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1955. Prior to his retirement in 1997, he was employed in the printing trade.

Frank was married to Joan Ford in 1957. They had a loving marriage of 40 years and raised two daughters, Carol and Joan Marie. They enjoyed their two grandsons, David and Steven, with many special camping trips.

Frank lived in Wilkes-Barre most of his life. He was an active and devout life



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OBITUARIES

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member of Sacred Heart Slovak Church of Wilkes-Barre, where he was a eucharistic minister until its closing in 2011. Upon moving to Mountain Top in 2004, he resided there happily with his companion of 15 years, Lorraine Hozempa. He joined St. Jude's Church while living in Mountain Top and served on the hospitality committee. Frank was on the board of directors of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Club of Printing House Craftsmen and was the president of Branch 419 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Frank was always active, upbeat and enthusiastic. He enjoyed camping, winters in Florida, fishing, traveling across the country and sporting events.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Joan Ford Wassil; daughter, Joan Marie Wassil; sisters, Irene Latsko; Marie Davis; and Theresa Hatalski.

Surviving are his daughter, Carol and husband, Gary; grandson, David Koval and wife, Lori, Mountain Top; grandson Steven Koval, Kingston, PA; brother, John Wassil; nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law, Gail Downes and husband; Dorothy Ford; and brother-in-law, Ray Ford and his wife; and son-in-law, Rick Koval and wife, Wendy.

- Submitted by Carol Phillips

**ALBERT G. HROMULAK
BRANCH 484 –
CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA**

Albert G. Hromulak passed away July 22, 2021, in Johnstown, PA, surrounded by his family. Born November 9, 1941, in Barnesboro, PA, the son of Albert John "Juke" and Elizabeth (Hozdik) Hromulak. Preceded in death by a brother Edward Hromulak (Gladys, deceased), and a sister Alberta Kastelic (Bill, deceased). Albert is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Helen Louise "Wish" (Christoff) Hromulak; son, Albert Gregory Hromulak Jr., and wife Christina Pompeo; and sisters, Theresa Cammarata (Carmen, deceased), Bernadette DeMay (Amadeo "Deedy", deceased), Florence Sheredy (John, deceased), and Sr. Elaine (Elizabeth) Hromulak, O.S.F.

Albert was a proud alumnus of the Pennsylvania State University in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science followed by a Master's degree in Counseling Education in 1966. He worked at the Hiram G. Andrews Center in Johnstown for 34 years until his retirement in 2001. Albert was a sports enthusiast. He was a lifelong Penn State Football season ticket holder and Nittany Lion Club Member. He was also an avid golfer first starting at Cambrian Hills Golf Course in Hastings where he earned the Most Improved Golfer Award. Once he moved to Johnstown, he played at the North Fork Golf & Tennis Club where he and his son Albert would play many matches to see who would have to wash the dinner dishes. From 1992 until 1999, he accompanied his son to almost every Junior and Collegiate Golf event in which he played around the United States. After retirement, he played his golf at Berkley Hills Golf Course. He

was also a lifelong fan of all Pittsburgh professional sports teams. He attended baseball games at Forbes Field with his dad "Juke" and years later, Super Bowl 43 in Tampa Bay with his son. Albert was a member of the Slovak Club in Barnesboro and Jednota (First Catholic Slovak Union). Every Sunday, he would get out his radio and listen to Polkas from noon - 3 pm.

- Submitted by Helen Hromulak

**MARY R. SABOL
BRANCH 580 –
WEST MIFFLIN,
PENNSYLVANIA**

Mary R. (Spirnak) Sabol, 94, of West Mifflin, PA, died peacefully on June 22, 2021, in Dumfries, VA, at the home of her daughter, Marian. Born August 30, 1926, in Duquesne, PA, she was the daughter of the late John and Elizabeth (Balogac) Spirnak. Mary was a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin. For many years Mary was involved in Parish activities working in the kitchen with everything from fish fries, and funeral repast to baking ceregi. She was the beloved wife of the late John J. Sabol, and is survived by two daughters, Marian (Michael) Gross of Virginia and Audrey (Frank) Steiner of West Mifflin, a brother, Raymond (Marie) Spirnak of Munhall, PA, and a sister, Eleanor (Late Thomas "Tim") Marcinko of Whitaker, PA; four grandchildren, Eugene Sabol, Rachael (Bill) Fike, Caitlin Steiner (Matthew Kanczes), Bethany Steiner, and four great grandchildren, Aiden and Ashton Fike, and Laura and Caroline Kanczes; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by a son, Eugene Sabol and a grandson, Jonathan Steiner.

- Submitted by Marian Gross and Audrey Steiner

**JOHN T. DRAGANOSKY, JR.
BRANCH 628 –
MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA**

John T. Draganosky Jr. of Munhall, PA, at the age 77, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on June 23, 2021. John was born in Pittsburgh, PA; the son of the late John T. and Anne (Borsh) Draganosky Sr. Beloved husband of Patricia (Kazimer); Cherished father of Patricia (Tig) Brown, Gretta (Ed) Lutz, John (Melissa) Draganosky, Bridget (Darin) Marcinko and Rachel (Brian Cunningham) Draganosky; Special grandfather to Isabella, Sasha, Zachary, Matthew, Emma, A.J., Alexis, Kamryn, Kayla and Cassius. John was a U.S. Coast Guard Veteran, serving in the Vietnam War, and a retired steelworker for LTV Steel. He liked to bowl, golf, watch the Steelers and Penguins games, but he especially liked to spend time with his family.

- Submitted by Patricia Draganosky



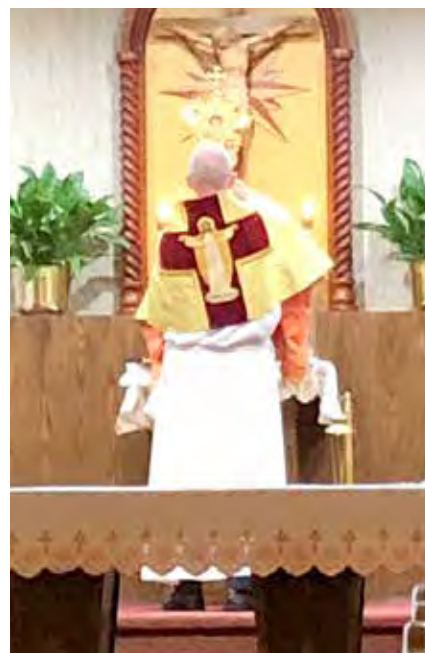
Branch 746 1st Friday Devotions

Members of Branch 746 gathered on September 3, 2021 and October 1, 2021 for Holy Mass on the 1st Friday of the month at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ, with a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"According to Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque who received a series of visions, Christ directed St. Margaret Mary to foster devotion to His Sacred Heart. One of these devotions was to make the first Friday of each month a special day of observance. Specifically, the devotion involved receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive first Fridays with the intention of making reparation to "the Heart that has loved men so and is loved so little in return." Jesus told St. Margaret Mary of His great love for souls and His desire to shower His mercy on those who were devoted to Him. He revealed several promises for those who lovingly practiced the First Friday devotion. Among the promises were: final perseverance in the Catholic faith, reception of the sacraments before death, and death in the state of grace, as well as the consolation of Christ's love at the time of death."

Source: <https://www.simplycatholic.com/how-to-observe-first-fridays-and-first-saturdays/>

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



An Autumn Prayer



I see Your trees of autumn, Lord;
Your lovely leaves of gold;
And how You hung the crimson ones
So wondrous to behold.

And when the sun upon them shines
On cloudless days serene,
My joyous heart can barely hold
The loveliness that's seen.

I'll gaze each day until they fall,
And in their glory see:
The beautiful Eternal One
In autumn's majesty.

By George Kossik, Branch 584
© 2011

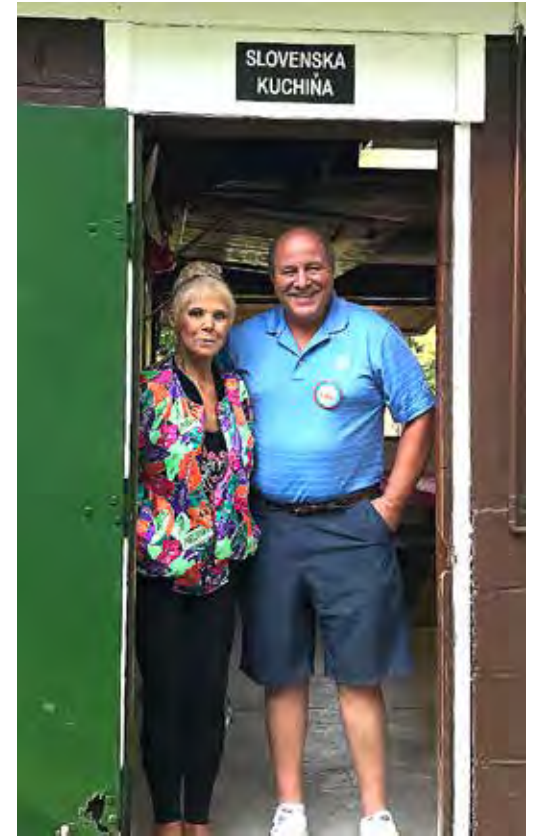
Scenes from the September Slovak Heritage Pig Roast

On a beautiful afternoon of September 11, 2021, the Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland held its annual Pig Roast at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Hts, OH. In addition to delicious roasted pork, adults enjoyed a meal of traditional Slovak sides such as živánska prepared by Mike Anderko and halusky courtesy of Milka Anderko, as well as side choices of corn on the cob, macaroni and potato salad. For children 10 and younger, there were hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and juice boxes. And every meal included a plate of homemade desserts baked by Branch 24 Treasurer and Slovak Heritage Society First Vice President Joe Oros. FCSU Branches 24 and 855 offered complimentary meal tickets to a total of 34 members who attended the pig roast (a value of \$25 for adults and \$5 for children). Thanks to all our FCSU members who came to the picnic, and to all of the members of the Slovak Heritage Society who worked so hard to put together this wonderful event that honors our great Slovak culinary traditions.

- Submitted by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director and Slovak Heritage Society President



The "guest of honor" dressed and prepared by Slovak Heritage Society's hardworking Slovak Heritage Society Auditor Tim Scally and Slovak Heritage Society Second Vice President Mike Anderko



Branch 553's Grace Bacot and Greg Petrasek



Branch 450's Milan Kobulsky



(L- R) Amy Hudak poses with Branch 24's Mary Lesko



(L - R) Branch 24 Members Henry Strekal and John Moynihan help plate and serve the desserts



(L - R) Branch 450 Member Mike Anderko; Branch 855 Auditor and Slovak Heritage Society Treasurer Henry Horvath; Branch 450 Member Pete Anderko; and Branch 450 Financial Secretary/ Treasurer Mike Carny



(Helping to serve L - R): Terri Ivanec, Branch 24 Member and Jednota Editor; and Karin Scally, Branch 855 Vice President and Slovak Heritage Society Corresponding Secretary.

Pillars of the Slovak-American community in Greater Cleveland: (L - R) George Carny, George Balak, Mike Dziak, Frank Anderko, Frank Meray, and Paul Brunovsky



Helping to serve (L - R): Maria Cvicela, Branch 24; Jana Chuba, Branch 1; and Adriana Scally, Branch 450 Vice President



Scenes from the September Slovak Heritage Pig Roast



Seated (L - R) Vlad Cvicela, Branch 24; Greg Petrasek, District 10 President; FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec. Standing: Tom Ivanec, FCSU Region 6 Director



(L - R): Branch 450 President George Carny with Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec



Branch 24's Lily Halley gives Branch 450's Luke Scally a lift



Branch 24's Fran Strekal gets a welcome break from helping out at the krčma thanks to daughter Cora, also of Branch 24



Three FCSU members who came to help celebrate their shared Slovak heritage: (L - R) Adriana Scally, Karin Scally, and Jana Chuba



Joe Oros (standing) helps the crowd celebrate the birthday of Paul Brunovksy (seated) of Branch 450.

(L - R) Branch 24 Auditor Joe Moynihan, Branch 24 Vice President John Moynihan, and Branch 24 Auditor Sue Moynihan



Branch 450's Ava Scally makes her own fun wherever she goes



Madeline Halley, Branch 24, enjoys a refreshing evening juice break



(L - R) Justin Strekal, Branch 24, takes a moment away from the registration table; Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents

(L - R) FCSU Supreme Court Member Grace Bacot with Branch 855 Members Joe Kluchko and George Balak



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 12:30PM at Salvatore's Italian Grill Restaurant in Austintown, OH. On the agenda: general branch business. A luncheon will follow directly after the meeting.

Then on Sunday, December 5, 2021, the branch will hold its annual meeting. This meeting also will start at 12:30PM at Salvatore's Italian Grill Restaurant in Austintown, OH. On the agenda: election of branch officers for 2022 and election of branch delegates to the 52nd FCSU Quadrennial Convention in 2022. Our branch's Christmas celebration will follow directly after the meeting with a luncheon.

Carlie Peshek, Vice President

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. We will also elect Branch delegates to the upcoming 2022 national convention.

Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 312 – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its semi-meeting on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr, Latrobe, PA, 15650. The meeting will begin at 1:00PM. For more information, you can contact Branch Secretary Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

Michaelene Smolleck,
Secretary Treasurer

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313 will hold its second annual meeting of 2021, on the date of Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 11:30 AM. This meeting will include the Election of Officers. The meeting will take place at Fox's Pizza, located at 9655 W 143rd Street, Orland Park, IL 60462... and will be followed by a complimentary fraternal luncheon. Former members of branch 493 are welcome to attend...you have merged with Branch 313! To RSVP please contact 313 President, Marge at (708)226-8157, before November 19th (to reserve your place!).

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 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, will host a virtual meeting on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 11:00AM at the residence of Frances Tarquinio. There will be an election of branch officers and a discussion of our 52nd Quadrennial Convention to be held in Independence, Ohio, July 30 – August 2, 2022. Other pertinent matters to the branch will be discussed at this meeting. For more information, Frances may be reached at (724) 929 – 9788.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Joseph Lodge 367 will hold the next regular meeting on Friday, October 15, 2021. The meeting will be held at 1PM at the Mountain View Cafe 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA, 15478. All members are welcome to attend. Please call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary 724-569-1006 or President Audrey Balazik, 724-438-3887 if planning on attending.

Then on Sunday, December 5, 2021, the branch will hold its annual Christmas meeting at the Flamingo's Hollywood Steak House, 660 N. Gallatin Ave. Ext, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 1PM. Election of officers for the branch and delegates for the National Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio on July 30th through August 2, 2022 will be also be nominated. Christmas donations and ideas for next year will be discussed. All members are welcome to attend. If planning on attending the annual Christmas meeting, please call Kathryn

Baranek, Secretary 724-569-1006.

Fraternally,

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Officers and members will gather at 12:30PM in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and representatives to the District 17 meeting. Members also will discuss future branch activities and the Annual Report for 2021. Information from the Home Office will be disseminated. Attendees will discuss the 2022 Quadrennial Convention set for July-August in Independence, OH. Election of officers for 2021-22 will be held. Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend. In keeping with CDC and local recommendations, masks will be required indoors.

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2021 Semi -Annual Meeting which will be held at Anna's Cucina Rustica, 118 Carolina Ave, Vandergrift, PA on Saturday, November 13th, 2021, at 4:30 pm. This meeting will accept nominations for 2022 officers. Members are always encouraged to attend as your input is vital and welcome.

Fraternally,

Kathy Froncek, Secretary

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 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 11:00AM. The meeting will be held at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH, 44129.

On the agenda will be officers' reports, a financial report, discussion of branch activities for members for 2022, and other business pertaining to the branch. Hockey Night in Cleveland is back! (Scheduled for Saturday, April, 09, 2022. more info coming.) The election of branch officers will take place at this meeting.

The meeting will be held in the big Hall; please bring your mask. We urge all members to attend. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Stay healthy and God Bless you all!

George Carny, President

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2021, 2:00PM, at the Eat'n Park Restaurant, 2301 Rt. 286 So., Indiana, PA. Agenda will include: election of officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, scholarship recipients, discussion of delegates to next year's 52nd Quadrennial Convention, COVID-19 pandemic issues in our area, and general branch and business issues.

All pandemic mitigation practices still in effect at this time will be enforced for the health and safety of all.

Fraternally,

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 wishes to thank all the volunteers that assist with dinners and other special events the organization sponsors. We could not function as well as we do without you.

Mark your calendars:

Wednesday Spaghetti night - 11/3; 12/1 Served 4:30 - 7:00PM 3rd

Wednesday Dinners 10/20; /17; 12/15 Served 4:30 - 6:30PM

Saturday 10/16 - Casino Night - watch for further details.

Sunday 11/14 - Last Lodge Meeting for 2021.

Election of officers for 2022. Meeting will be held at the club at 2PM. Anyone wishing to serve on the board of directors must submit a letter stating their intentions of running for a specific job. Letters are due by 11/1/21 - please address them to Nominating Committee, Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 Sunday 12/5 Annual Vilija Celebration - watch for further details Interested in Bowling on a league? Thursday Mornings at 11AM our 55 and over Mixed League is looking for regular bowlers and subs. Call Linda Hanko @330-706-0151 or email lhanko@neo.rr.com. League play starts 9/9.

Every other Saturday Night Mixed League looking for bowlers and subs. League starts 9/11. Call the club at 330-786-9972 after 3 pm for further details. Spaghetti Dinners no longer require a reservation. 3rd Wednesday Dinners call 330-786-9972 after 3PM to place reservation.

Linda Hanko, Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will meet on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 1PM at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave., Hobart, IN. The agenda will be the election of officers. RSVP to Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595's next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, November 7, 2021, with an agenda of general branch business. The final meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at which time branch officers will be elected. All meetings start at 1:00PM in Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI. Members are welcome. All appropriate COVID-19 protocols still in place at the time of the meetings will be observed. At this time, we are not planning any of the holiday events we have traditionally held at the Hall. We hope to resume our normal schedule of events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Mindy Redmon, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 4:00 PM at the Penn-Hebron Garden Club at 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hill, PA 15235. We will review the past year's activities and hold an election of officers for 2022.

This will be an in person meeting. Please contact Sylvia Vehec if you desire to attend at sjevehec@aol.com.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Save the Date: Branch 670 will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 21, 2021, beginning at 11:30AM. Additional information regarding the meeting and the location will be provided in upcoming issues of the JEDNOTA.

Upon request a Zoom link can be provided to any member not attending in person. Items on the agenda will be discussions regarding the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, the election of branch delegates, and the annual election of branch officers. Branch members are urged to attend.

Maureen Massafra, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The next meeting for Branch 682 members will take place at the District 14 Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6PM at Rachel's Restaurant & Catering, 54 Westchester Dr. in Austintown, OH 44515. As we have the highest level of attendance at this function we will be holding election of branch officers for the 2022 fiscal year.

Andrew Hirt, President

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 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Jednota Branch 721 will have their winter meeting on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the Remenar home located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be done. All members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate Mass for deceased members of our branch on November 11, 2021. The Liturgy will be held at 12:10PM at The Cathedral of Saint Columba, 915 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, OH. Our annual meeting for the election of officers for year 2022 will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be at Café 422, South Ave, Boardman, OH.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at 1:30 PM. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2021 financial report, approval of the 2022 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of 2022 Branch Officers and Convention Delegates will also take place.

Please note that due to Covid 19 there will be NO buffet lunch; instead a box lunch will be provided.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall at 1:30 PM. Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

I can also provide you a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date and gender.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President, Recording and
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Branch 746 will hold a meeting on Friday, October 22, 2021 at 5:00 PM in the basement meeting room of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The meeting agenda will include discussion of plans for the Christmas party and activities for 2022, including the upcoming Convention. For those who cannot attend in person, you will have the opportunity to participate via Zoom (or dial in number). Light refreshments will be provided. Following the meeting, there will be Holy Mass at 7:00 PM on the occasion of the 99th Anniversary of Branch 746. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by October 18th if you plan on attending.

In addition, Branch 746 members are reminded of the following events and meetings:

Friday, November 5 at 7:00 PM and Friday, December 3 at 7:00PM - First Friday Adoration and Mass at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Mass is offered for the intention of all Branch 746 members living and deceased.

The branch will hold its last meeting of the year on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 1:00 PM at Luciano's Restaurant, 1579 Main Street, Rahway, NJ. The agenda will include election of officers, discussion and planning of next year's activities, as well as discussion of the upcoming summer convention. A Christmas luncheon will follow the meeting (\$40.00 for non-members). Please call or text Mary Ann Ranahan @732-589-1608 by November 24th if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Attention all Branch 764 members: on Saturday, October 30, 2021, the branch is assisting in/sponsoring a stuffed cabbage take-out dinner from the SS. Cyril & Methodius location of Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Warren, OH. Dinner is two stuffed cabbage, haluski, green beans, and roll and butter. Cost is \$12 and orders can be phoned in to 330-393-0781 prior to Oc-

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The Impact of My Mother's Homeland: My Mother's Family (part 2)

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and due to Communist interference, a new church was not erected after 1969, built by the villagers themselves in their spare time.

My mother vividly described to me her typical morning in Europe as the eldest child. Up at 5 am, she had to walk a 12 km (7.5 miles) round trip every day to the larger town of Krompachy to sell milk and eggs in order to obtain the few crowns (koruny), which they desperately needed to make ends meet. She would lift her dress as she waded across the Hornád River, and faithfully do her duty, just as she did all her life. Then she had to hurry back to Richnava to attend school, and every day the students would start the class with a prayer and a tribute to Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic. She did manage to finish eight grades of schooling as required, but not without troubles. When she came home, she had to take the cows to pasture. Baba pulled her out of school a number of times to help with work at home, and the truant officer came after her. For repeatedly not sending my mother to school, baba would have to serve time in jail every spring because she could not pay a fine for violating the law.

Baba was also very strict with her daughters and punishments for infractions were swift and painful. For example, once my mother accidentally poked out the eyes of a newborn gosling as the eggs were hatching. Baba became so angry that out of fear of a lashing, my mother hid in the woods for several days before showing her face again (Aunt Helen Firment).

There was little time for play or celebration. At Christmas time (Vianoce), the family would have ham and koláče (nut or poppy seed rolls). They would select a small tree from the woods they owned and decorate it with candles and apples. During the fašiangy days (Shrovetide) before Lent, baba would bake čeregy and sprinkle these fried doughnuts with sugar, a tradition my mother would later carry on in America. Even the Lenten fast (pôst) must have been easier to bear, since they had so little. Marriages offered one of the few chances to celebrate, and I have a photo of my mother and her sister at a wedding dressed in traditional village folk costume (kroj), which baba sewed in the winter time. Baba also made her own periny (feather quilts) and podušky (pillows) from goose feathers, and she took some of these as well as their cherished folk costume to America with them later. I still use one of those pillows to this day, which I treasure every night.

Most forms of social gatherings occurred at the church or during religious events. Two big occasions which my mother talked about were the pilgrimage (pút) to the shrine of St. Mary Magdaleine, located in the fields between Richnava and Krompachy, and another to the St. Ann shrine north of Kluknava. Virtually the entire village attended these weekend events, including pilgrims from nearby villages. The pilgrimages continue to this day and I went to the St. Ann pilgrimage several times during my visits to Slovakia.

Throughout the throes of the Depression, baba saved money and planned to emigrate when she could. How could she save enough for a journey with no real job? Since her husband was not sending funds home for the family, the answer must lie with relatives. Baba had three sisters – Mária, Elizabeth, and Anna – all of whom had previously immi-

grated to the United States. They must have sent her the little money they could muster when they could afford it so she could emigrate.

My godmother, Ann Varesčak of Indiana, Pa., stated that my mother never really wanted to come to America because she had a boyfriend in Slovakia. Her best friend, Mária Kurilla, also was very close to her, and Anna Čarnocha as well, although my mother told me that Anna was a bit of a parádnic (fancy lady). My mother wrote to both of them the rest of her life and visited them when my mother and father attended Mária's son's wedding in 1981. She and Mária would watch over the cows together, and there they could share their thoughts and aspirations. My mother also would sing while working, and on occasions, mostly religious songs to the Virgin Mary, and she had a beautiful voice.

Baba finally saved enough money to come to America by 1936. The family traveled to Prague in August, obtained passports, and then took a train to Bremen, Germany, where they boarded the ship Columbus. The ship manifest page showed mainly Slovaks on the page her family was entered on, indicating that they traveled with other Slovaks, including some born in America. They could offer sound advice and conversation on the journey. The family would arrive at Ellis Island on September 2, 1936. It must have been a wondrous scene for them to see the skyscrapers of New York City and the State of Liberty welcoming them as they approached the shores of a new land.

The family would settle on Bella Vista Avenue in the Steelton area on the lower West Side of Youngstown, Ohio, where many other Slovaks lived. So at least dzedo had saved some money to put a down payment on a house. My Aunt Helen was born in 1939, the last child in the family. They attended Holy Name of Jesus Slovak Church, which Slovak-Americans had built in 1916. They never learned to drive and walked everywhere. Baba attended Mass every morning at 6 am for as long as she could walk. She and other Slovak women in the rosary society sat together on the left side of the church and regularly prayed the rosary together before Mass.

Dzedo worked as a scarfer at the US Steel Brier Hill works; a scarfer shapes steel by grinding and removing imperfections from steel surfaces with torches (Youngstown Vindicator obituary). He regularly smoked Camel unfiltered cigarettes and always received whiskey as a present at Christmas. While stern, gruff, and demanding of his family, he also worked hard around his yard, kept bees for honey, and he knew how to grow and graft fruit trees. He made his own delicious fruit brandy. He always had a cat to catch rodents and a dog in a cage which they fed table scraps to; there never was regular dog food. Dzedo preferred German shepherds which were quite mean.

To help make ends meet, the children had to work, both around the house and in the community as domestic servants. The daughters usually found jobs helping Jewish households. Any money they earned had to be turned over to their father. One time, dzedo found one hundred dollars that my mother had hid behind a picture in order to save money for a new dress. He became angry and gave her a whooping she never forgot. The children of immigrants had no right to their earnings until they turned 21 or married. So my mother considered it a Godsend when

she met my father in late 1941 and they married in about 6 months. Even though she could only enjoy a short time with my father before he shipped overseas to fight in World War II, she could then start to save a nest egg in anticipation of starting their own family once my father returned. She would constantly pray for his safe return.

(to be continued in part three)

Selected Sources

"New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925-1957," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KX96-M9L:2 March 2021>), Stefan Susa, 1926; citing Immigration, New York, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication T715 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

"New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925-1957," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24KQ-NHL:2 March 2021>), Helena Susa, 1936; citing Immigration, New York, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication T715 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

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Dejiny Richnavy, Marián Soják, Ivan Chalupský, František Žifčák, Peter Cenký, Richnava: Obec Richnava, 2010: 254, 320-334.

Newly Installed Leadership Team in Danville, PA



On August 14, 2021, the Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, was installed at a liturgy celebrated by Father Alfred Sceski. Father is the pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church, Hershey, PA. The newly installed team headed by Sister Barbara Sable has as her Assistant Sister Michael Ann Orlik, the former General Superior. Also elected to leadership: Sister Carol Ann Terlicher, Sister Susan Pontz and Sister Pamela Smith.

- Submitted by Sister Bernadette Ondus, SSCM

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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tober 28th. Pick up time is 3 to 6PM, that Saturday afternoon.

Then on December 8, 2021, beginning at 10:00AM, Branch 764 will hold a meeting at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Road, NE, Warren, OH, 44483. On the agenda: election of officers for the coming year and election of delegates to the FCSU Convention in 2022.

For more information, email hruosovskiyw@embarg-mail.com.

William Hrusovsky, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 796 will hold their annual meeting on November 14, 2021. Meeting will convene at 1:00PM at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the basement. Location is 4456 Main St., Egypt, PA. For everyone's safety and in keeping with COVID-19 recommendations, we will be following the current CDC guidelines at the time of the meeting. At this meeting we will NOT be serving any food or beverages, as we normally would do for our meetings. We would enjoy seeing some new faces at our meetings.

Branch 796 wishes everyone a safe Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas Season.

We will continue to pray for an Improved and Happy New Year. May God bless us all and keep us safe.

Stay strong, stay safe, and stay POSITIVE!
God Bless,

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at noon at Speers Street Grill in Speers, PA. All members attending will be treated to lunch. Nonbranch members' cost will be \$25. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at 412-341-1577 with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and nonbranch members will be attending. If for any reason, Pennsylvania has reinstated Covid restrictions, the meeting will be held though Zoom.

Along with celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we will

hold a meeting after the lunch. Branch officers for 2022 will be elected, along with the election of delegates for the 2022 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU. The Convention will be held in Independence, OH, from Saturday July 30, through Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South located on Rockside Rd.

All branch members are urged to attend.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President
FCSUBranch853@gmail.com

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855K Holy Name of Jesus Society* will hold its last meeting of the year on November 17, 2021, at 6:00PM at Creekside Restaurant, 8803 Brecksville Rd, Brecksville, OH, 44141. We will hold our election of officers at this meeting. Topics of discussion will include the upcoming 2022 Convention along with branch activities for 2022 and charitable donations. We will follow the guidelines set by the state of Ohio and the restaurant regarding any pandemic restrictions.

Reservations required – please email fcsu855@gmail.com or call/text Karen Habian at 216-409-9812 by November 5, 2021.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Stephanie Sutilla, Fraternal Activities Director
*Branch 855K will have a pumpkin carving contest in October. See page 15 for details.

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

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA JUNE 19, 2021 (VIRTUAL/TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING:

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

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

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;
Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;
Gregory Maurer, Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;
Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 – present via telephone;
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;
Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 – present via telephone;
James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;
Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone;
Thomas Ivanec, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone;
Timothy Graves, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel - present via telephone.

READING OF THE CALL:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Martha Zavada-Wojcik to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary, as he presents each item on the agenda with appropriate comments or recommendations. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MARCH 20, 2021:

A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept the minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting held March 20, 2021, as presented. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

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

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

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

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

Mr. White stated that he will work with General Counsel Gary Matta to review investment contracts.

ANNUITY RATES:

The President led a review of the current annuity interest rates. A recommendation was made by the President through the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors to change the annuity rates to the following:

- 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 motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Martha Zavada-Wojcik to accept the recommendations. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2021. After the Executive Secretary's report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2021 first quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, everything is in order, he answered any Board questions.

Investment Updates

The President and Executive Secretary led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, they answered any Board's questions.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:Executive Committee

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

Investments

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

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS:

The President stated that due to the passing of Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President and George F. Matta II, Treasurer that he is temporarily filling the vacancies according to Bylaw 6.05 (b)(3).

If a vacancy should arise in any office that will substantially affect the operation and business of the F.C.S.U., then such vacancy shall be filled on a temporary basis by the President until such time as filled by the Board of Directors at their next meeting. The President appointed Andrew P. Rajec as acting Vice President and James Marmol as acting Treasurer. The President stated that a formal notice of the vacancies will be published in the Jednota and request eligible applicants send their resume's to him, to be forwarded to the Board. Replacements to hold office until the 2022 Convention will be voted on by the Board of Directors at the September Board of Directors Meeting.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS:

Chairman of Auditors Gregory Maurer stated that due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic no internal audits have been conducted for 2021. Once the CDC restrictions are lifted he hopes to conduct an internal audit in the near future.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISCELLANEOUS:

The President presented a report on the Slovak Foundation at the University of Pittsburgh. He stated that he has contacted the other Slovak fraternal involved in forming the foundation. They plan to meet in the future for discussion. The President will update the Board after the meeting.

The President stated that Father Gerald J. Sabo, head of the Slovak library at John Carroll University has passed away. The President stated that he will work with Milan Kobulsky, head of the Slovak Institute, to have the items transferred from John Carroll University to the Slovak Institute.

The President gave an update on the Stephen Matula Trust. He stated that he is in contact with the Executor of the Estate and working on establishing a scholarship fund in Mr. Matula's name. More information will be provided when available.

BRANCH REVIVAL COMMITTEE:

Regional Director Thomas Ivanec, appointed by the President of the Branch Revival Committee, stated that he will hold a virtual meeting with members of the Committee and afterwards present any recommendations it may have to the President.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The President stated that he is working on developing a new insurance program for implementation before the end of the year to before rates increase, with Ed Depersis. More information about this product will be presented at the September Board of Directors Meeting.

CONVENTION:

The Executive Secretary presented the proposal of available convention sites to host our 52nd Quadrennial Convention in 2022. The Executive Secretary stated that locations are very restricted due to the June – August time frame and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. After discussion a recommendation was made by the Executive Secretary to hold the convention at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio. The President asked for the Board's approval to hold the convention at the Holiday Inn and the Board unanimously agreed.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Director of Fraternal Activities Kevin Collins updated the Board on upcoming fraternal activities. Mr. Collins stated that the International Golf Tournament will be held August 6 – 8, 2021 at Treasure Lake Golf Resort in DuBois, PA with the Greek Catholic Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Other upcoming activities include the FCSU NFL's Losers Pool, a hunting/fishing contest which prompted some discussion and a possible Pen Pal program with children in Slovakia.

Mr. Collins also stated he is working on activities for the 52nd Quadrennial Convention.

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The President stated that the September Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the 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 at 1:30 pm to celebrate the 56th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine honoring Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia. Information regarding this event is published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website.

DONATION COMMITTEE:

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Timothy Graves to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION of the "JEDNOTA"

Name of editor: Teresa Ivanec

Owner: First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada

Publisher: First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada

Known bondholder, mortgages, or other security holders holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None

13. Publication Title Jednota		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/08/2021	
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	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
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c. Total Paid Distribution [Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)]		21.8	21.263
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	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
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i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.54%	99.16%
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I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/13/21 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Ker Arendt

09/24/2021

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

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- Premium never increases
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Call 800.533.6682 or visit www.fcsu.com



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