



Catholic Fraternal

Jednota

THE UNION
USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 130

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

NUMBER 6013

Message from the National President

Dear Members,
I know many of your Branches and Districts are going to have your Fall and early Winter meetings in the coming weeks or months.

This is the time that many of you at your Branch and District meetings are selecting Delegates for our 2022 Convention.

I encourage you to attend these meetings held either in-person or virtually and offer to be a delegate.

The COVID 19 problem caused disruptions in many areas, including the international supply chain, rising prices for many necessities and in-person meetings, including meetings of the FCSU Board, Branches and Districts.

Whatever can be said about "Virtual" meetings, face to face meetings and get-togethers have a lot of value.

An informed membership is essential for a fraternal like the First Catholic Slovak Union to survive and thrive.

As you probably know, our Society has grown in assets in the past 14 ½ years from \$197,310,824 as of 12/31/2006 to \$497,280,026 as of 9/30/2021, an increase of \$299,969,202 million dollars or over 252%.

In those 14 ½ years surplus has grown from \$11,555,544 as of 12/31/2006 to \$43,201,889 million dollars as of 9/30/2021, or an increase of \$31,646,295 or over 373%.

There were a lot of right and sometimes



Andrew M. Rajec

difficult decisions that were made during this time.

While we are no longer one of the "lightweights" in the fraternal world, we also are not a "heavyweight" like the Knights of Columbus or Thrivent Financial, at least not yet.

Growth and change can be scary words to many people. In the business world there is a saying, "If you are not growing, you are dying".

Many fraternalists have made the tough decision to adapt to the changing environment. This could mean changes to our Bylaws, often a challenging issue.

However, I believe that our foundation should and will remain Catholic and Slovak, and I will do everything I can to ensure that these founding tenets will not be forgotten. I hope that you believe the same.

While I admit I am a sentimentalist, things do and will change, and we must adapt without losing our focus.

Perhaps some of you remember the 1960's song by the Everly Brothers "That's Old Fashioned".

You can hear it on Youtube. Being "Old

continued on page 3



... for more FCSU Fun!

- National Bowling Details, p 7
- Christmas Ugly Sweater Contest, p 11
- Christmas Tree Decorating Contest, p 11
- Christmas Coloring Contest For Kids, p 12
- Christmas Coloring Contest For the Young at Heart, p 13

Inside

Editorial/Commentary2
Branch Announcements 14, 20, 21
District Announcements 15
Articles in Slovak/English



The Officers & Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union extend their most sincere Thanksgiving Greetings & Best Wishes to all Members on November 25 in the US & to our Members in Canada who celebrated on October 11

Thank you for keeping our traditions alive.

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta Chaplain
Andrew M. Rajec..... President
Kevin J. Collins Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary
John V. Tokarsky Treasurer



FCSU NOVEMBER RATES

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.70%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.35%
6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	3.15%
Park 2 Annuity (not available in the state of NY)	2.25%
Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA - 1st year guarantee <small>(new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)</small>	1.75%
Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.50% <small>(5 yrs +)</small>

Find an Annuity That's Right for You

FCSU Financial® First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office
800-533-6682, www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



November Reflections

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

November opens with two solemn feasts—All Saints Day on November 1st and Holy Souls Day on the 2nd. In my prayer I consider these days as a time to honor all deceased faithful, especially family and friends with hopes for a reunion.

Near the end of the month, we close the liturgical year calendar. Now in 2021, this occurs on Sunday November 21st. On this day, we honor Christ the King as a final solemn feast. How appropriate to crown the year in this way.

O, Christ, great King

O, Christ, great King, our Lord of all
The world and heavens above,
You bear the Godly scepter's power
And reign with merciful love.

Chorus: Jesus, our King, now claim your domain,

Faithful with love we pledge to remain:
Jesus, our King, we will follow you,
Jesus, we will follow you.

You came to earth with love for us,
to shed your blood and save us.
You ransomed us, O, savior King,
You paid the price for our failures.

Help us to dwell within your heart
To share and spread your love
May your great reign inflame this world,
With power, strength from above.

O, Kriste, veľký Kralu

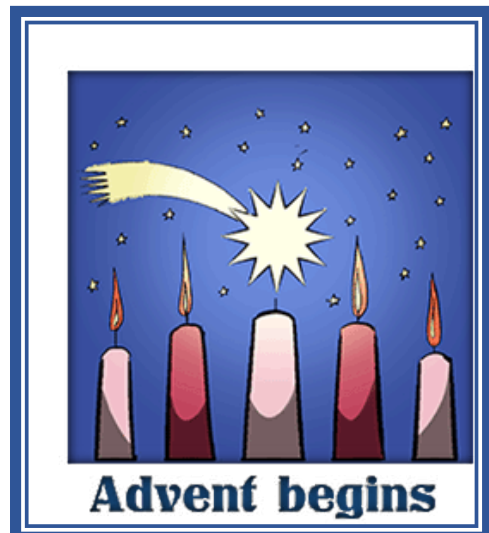
Ó, Kriste, veľký Kráľu náš,
čo svetom, nebom vládneš,
Ty božskej moci berlu máš
a láskou večne vládneš.

Sbor: Ježišu, Kráľu, prijmi svoj ľud,
vrelý ti lásky skladáme sľub:
za Tebou, Kráľu, ísť vždy chceme,
za Tebou vždy ísť chceme

Tys' na zem prišiel z lásky k nám
krv Svoju za nás vyliať,
bys' stal sa spásy Kráľom nám,
náš hriech si Sám chcel prijať

Ach, v Srdci Svojom daj nám žiť,
daj v lásku sa nám vnoriť,
by Tvojej vlády blysol svet,
daj sily, môcť sa boríť.

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



Sunday
November
28, 2021

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 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

Message from the National Chaplain

Ninety-year-old actor William Shatner, along with 3 others, went on a 10 minute ride in a rocket last month that took them a little over 66 miles above the earth. The travelers experienced about 3 minutes of weightlessness and got to see the curvature of the earth.

In the news conference that followed the flight, Mr. Shatner spoke on how the flight affected him personally. The mere thrill and excitement of it all caused him to say, "I hope I never recover from this. I hope I can maintain what I feel now. I don't want to lose it."

But he followed this up with this sobering comment. "To see the blue color [of the earth's atmosphere] whip by, and now you're staring into blackness, that's the thing. The covering of blue, this sheath, this blanket, this comforter of blue that we have around, we say, 'Oh, that's blue sky.' And then suddenly you shoot through it all, and you're looking into blackness, into black ugliness."

Mr. Shatner's observation is revealing. It tells us how much God cares for and loves us. The earth's atmosphere, the blue sky, is a very thin layer that separates us from the blackness of outer space. This "comforter of blue" is what provides us with the air we need to breathe, protects us from nearly 70% of solar radiation reaching the surface of the earth, and prevents the vast majority of meteoroids from striking what Pope Francis calls "our common home."

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1), he also created the earth's atmosphere. We can never cease expressing our gratitude for this manifestation of God's protective love for us and all humanity.

Happy Thanksgiving.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – FCSU Home Office Holiday Hours



Closed: Thursday, November 25 and
Friday 26, 2021, in observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday.



Closed: Thursday, December 23 and
Friday, December 24, 2021 in observance of
the Christmas holiday.



Closed: Friday, December 31, 2021
in observance of New Year

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal - Published Monthly

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1407 Hempstead Road, Lancaster, PA 17602

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

Message from the National President

Fashion" isn't always bad. Remember the old saying, "Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater". While we adapt to change, we can also keep what is valuable and what makes us special.

In closing, I urge you all participate in the upcoming Branch and District meetings and urge you to be a delegate to attend the 2022 FCSU Convention to Cleveland.

While Cleveland may not be an exotic location, we had great Conventions in Cleveland in the past and expect the same this time.

God Bless,
Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Message from the National Vice President

I would like to thank the FCSU Board of Directors for electing me to National Vice President at our recent Sept Board Meeting. I will hold this position through 2022.

In 2018, I was elected National Fraternal Activities Director at the 51st Quadrennial Convention. Now, per our bylaws, I will serve as your National Vice President until national elections are again held at our next convention in 2022.

I am both humbled and honored to be following in the huge footsteps left by the passing of our longtime National Vice President, the late Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Andy, as many of you know, was a great man and a great fraternalist.

As Andy did, I plan on focusing on fraternalism during my turn as VP. Of course, strong sales remain crucial to our financial stability and overseeing the sales function of our Society is listed as a key responsibility of the National Vice President in our bylaws (7.03d). I look forward to working with my fellow Executives on innovative ideas for sales programs, tactics, and tools to further engage and working with members and agents.

But, as I've already learned as Fraternal Activities Director, there's a huge desire among membership for more activity choices, a strong need for more fraternal opportunities to interact with one another, and better reasons to be actively involved in our Society. I've regularly been talking with many of you about expanding activities and events and sharing new ideas. I'm looking forward to continuing the conversation with everyone— in person as well as in emails and on the phone (my contact info is listed below) — to keep building on fraternalism as the cornerstone of the National Vice Presidency.

Thank you.



Kevin J. Collins

Kevin J. Collins
National Vice President
813-493-1515
Kevinfcsu@outlook.com



(L-R): IFA President John Zaborske, FCSU Branch 40 Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Graves, FCSU Region 7 Director Tim Graves, and IFA Vice President Dennis Stansbury

FCSU's Andrew R. Harcar Posthumously Honored by IFA

Organized in 1898, the Indiana Fraternal Alliance (IFA) is the oldest state fraternal alliance in the US. The IFA is comprised of 22 fraternal benefit societies licensed to do business in the state – including the First Catholic Slovak Union. The alliance was created to unite fraternal society members in the promotion of fraternalism.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., the late National Vice President of the First Catholic Slovak Union, was a longtime member of the IFA. He served as a past president of the organization, and was its director at the time of his passing this year.

On October 17, 2021, Andy was posthumously recognized by the IFA at a ceremony attended by Andy's daughter and son-in-law, Theresa and Tim Graves. Not only did the IFA name Andy their Fraternalist of the Year for 2021; but the alliance also is permanently changing the name of its prestigious award to honor him. The IFA Fraternalist of the Year Award, established in 2008, will hereafter be known as the Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Fraternalist of the Year Award.

- Information and photo courtesy of Tim Graves, Region 7 Director

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021

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

Friday, December 10, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, December 10, 2021.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to December 3, 2021.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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

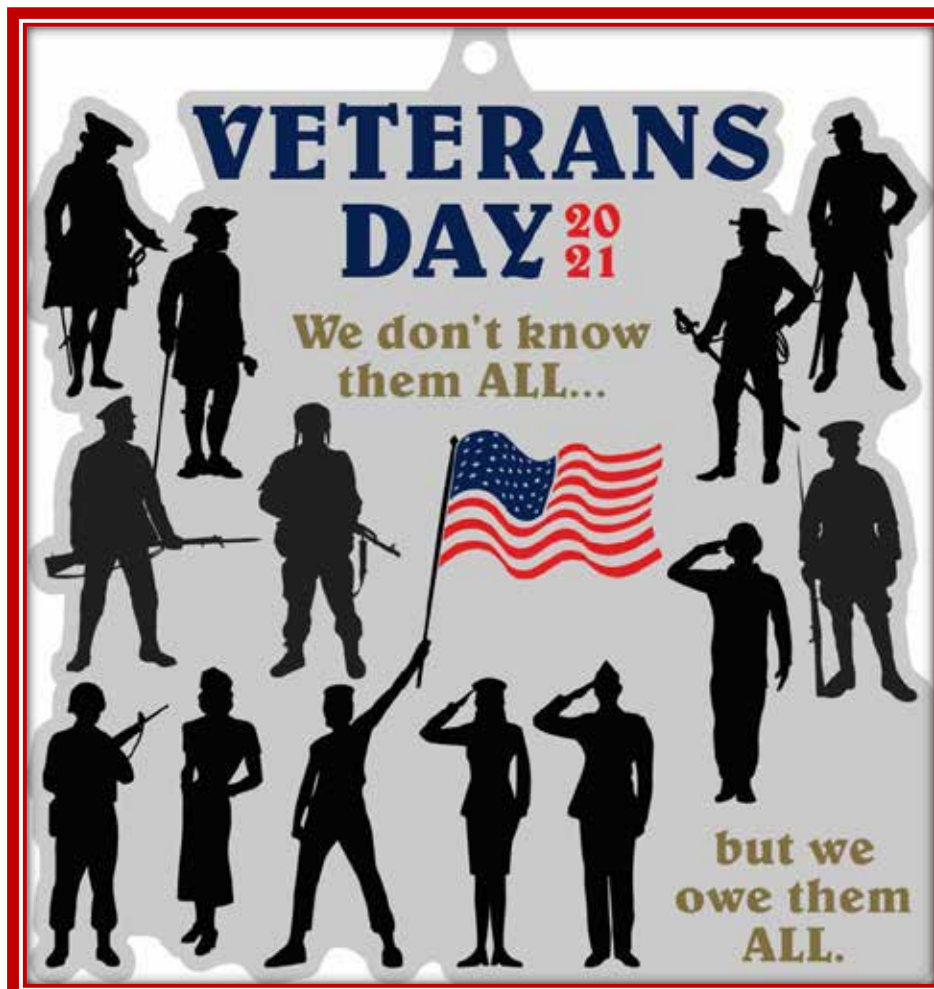
Veterans Day Is in November: A Great Time to Remember our Jednota Memorial

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

An Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the



cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

- From a post on the US Department of Veterans Affairs

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

Branch 785's Annual Golf Tournament in September

On September 12, 2021, Branch 785 held its 2021 Annual Golf tournament at Centennial Park Golf Club. The golf course located in Etobicoke Ontario, Canada. The weather was beautiful and it was nice to see families – parents and children, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives – as well as friends having great time on the course and afterwards.

We all enjoyed socializing inside the club while having boxed lunches of tasty chicken wings and beverages. The success of the event was helped by the fact that this year's restrictions were a bit looser than the previous. Let's hope that next year's annual golf tournament will be more successful yet, with even more in attendance.

Thank you John Tokarsky for organizing another wonderful tournament!

Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



Dear First Catholic Slovak Union,

I am truly honored to be the recipient of an FCSU scholarship this year. I am excited to share that soon I will be leaving for Baldwin Wallace (BW) University in Berea, OH. I plan to pursue a dual degree in Digital Marketing and Finance, and swim for BW. BW is a Division III university and doesn't provide scholarships for athletes, so this money will help reduce my loan amounts for my freshman year. This money will go toward my fall expenses including tuition and textbooks. I am so grateful to receive this scholarship and honored to continue to demonstrate sportsmanship, leadership, and be a positive role model to my new teammates at BW in the fall.

Sincerely,

Gavin Skwirut, Branch 181

Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in November

Thank you to all Branches, Districts, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who donated to the 43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The final totals will not be known for a few weeks, but as of October 30, 2021, this year's appeal has raised \$25,675.49 from 214 donors. Money raised goes to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations.

A solicitation for the 44th Annual Appeal is being prepared and will be mailed sometime in January. This mailing is sent to members, clergy with Slovak ancestry, Branches and Districts of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies, and previous donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support.

Any member of the First Catholic Slovak Union who wishes to donate to the 2021 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. The 43rd Annual Appeal runs from December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021. Gifts received after November 30, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, 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, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$_____

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

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

Some FCSU Fall Elections



District 2 Elected Officers

Newly elected officers of the Rev. John Spitzkovsky District 2 which was held on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict in Oak Forest, IL.
 - Submitted by Ann Buczek, Branch 581 President



District 3 Elected Officers

The officers of the George Onda District (3) were reelected on October 9, 2021. They are (L – R): Darlene Patty, Vice President; Stephen Gonta, Treasurer; William Patty, President; and Linda Gonta, Secretary. They were sworn in by National Chairman of Auditors, Greg Maurer. (Photo: Courtesy of Vickie Hricik)
 - Submitted by Linda Gonta, Secretary, George Onda District



District 16 October Meeting

On Sunday October 24 2021, the Msgr Stefan Krasula District 16 held its annual meeting in the St. John Nepomucene Church rectory. Future activities were discussed and the present board of officers were re-elected.
 - Submitted by Joan Mary Skrkon, District 16 Recording Secretary



[L– R]: Richard Mizikar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary; Darlene Patty, President; and Ed Mizikar, Vice President.

Branch 181 Elects Officers

At the October 9, 2021 meeting of The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 181 of United, PA, election of officers took place. Members in attendance voted to retain the same officers for 2021-2022.
 - Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary

Immigrant Sisters of SS Cyril & Methodius

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

Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SSCM

Sister M. Lidwina



Mary Palek, our Sister Lidwina, was a smiling, friendly, enthusiastic person, always ready to lend a listening ear or to share a word of encouragement, or even a funny joke.

Mary was born in Humena, Slovakia, and at 9 months immigrated to the U. S. with her family and settled in Shenandoah, PA, where she belonged to St. Stephen's parish. She joined the SSCM's from Shenandoah, but she had originally applied to and was accepted by the Missionary Servants of the Sacred Heart in Reading, PA. Having learned to play the organ at an early age, she enjoyed being the organist at St. Stephen's. Before she left her post for the last time, she carefully prepared the organist who would succeed her.

Her father's niece, Sister Philomena Yakubov, SSCM, serving as local superior in Mount Carmel, asked the pastor to sell FIALKY in the parish. Mary accompanied her. We have no record of how many copies of the Fialky, an Academy publication, were sold, but we do know that Sister Philomena had cultivated another violet that bloomed among the SSCM's for many years to come.

Because Sister Lidwina's dad was very fond of his niece, Sister Philomena, who was rec-

ognized as a kind, thoughtful, outgoing person, he recommended that his daughter follow in her footsteps. "If you want to be a Sister, go to the same community that Sister Philomena is in." At the age of 23, Mary did enter the Cyrilites. To prepare herself for her life's work Sister earned a B. A. from Marywood and studied at Villanova University and Scranton University. She specialized in music studies at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia and St. John's, Collegeville, MN.

As has already been noted, seeing a job through to the end was one of her outstanding characteristics. Besides being a gifted organist, she also played the piano, the violin and the accordion, and she enjoyed teaching others these instruments. For example, when she was missioned to Philadelphia, she served as parish sacristan and gave music lessons. In the early 1940's, she gave lessons at the Villa. Her happiness in religious life resulted from being very close to God and music. For all of her 50 active years, Sister gave piano lessons.

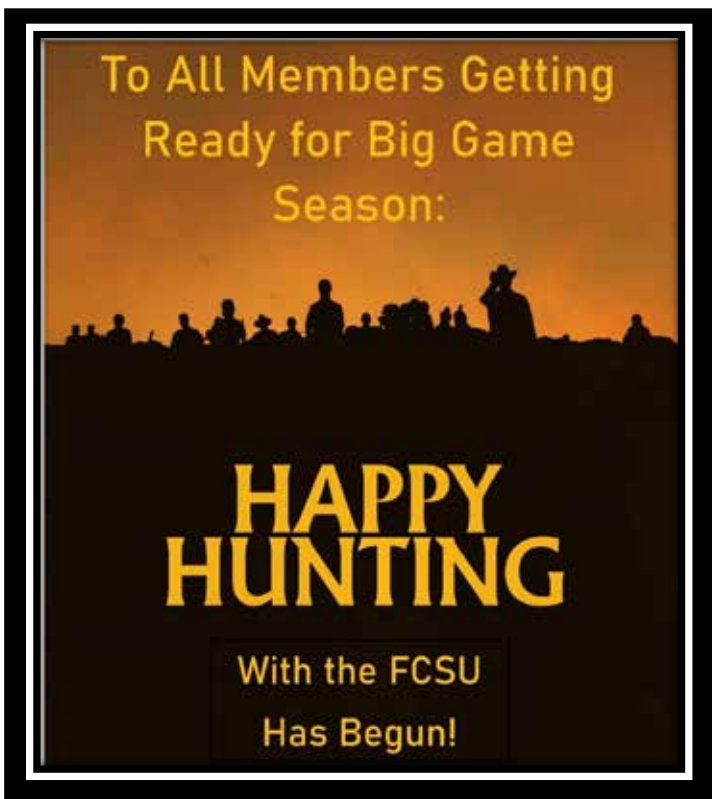
Sister Lidwina was able to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in Shenandoah on August 13, 1978. The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at St. Stephen's Church by the Reverend Charles Sperlak, the Reverend Raymond Orloski and the Reverend Jerome Urbanski.

Sister Lidwina taught in eight different parish elementary schools, grades 2 to 7. Her last four years of teaching third and fourth grades in Lebanon, PA, were the end of her 53 years of active ministry as well as the withdrawal of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from the parish school.

In 1981, Sister Lidwina took up residence at the Motherhouse where for four years she was engaged in general duties, especially in the dietary department. Her great joy was baking cookies. The Sisters referred to her as "the Cookie Monster" which brought a smile to her lips.

In 1986 Sister Lidwina was assigned to Maria Hall where she lent a hand wherever needed. All her days as a religious were a splendid example of a deeply spiritual life. It is not

continued on page 17



*** 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

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:
 - Number of Pointers on the animal
 - Location of Interaction with animal
 - Type of hunting instrument used: Examples: Bow and Arrow, Rifle, etc.
 - 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.



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

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

JOIN US TODAY!

News From Slovakia

Slovensko je pripravené na zimnú sezónu, má dostatočné zásoby plynu

Bratislava 25. októbra (TASR) – Zátťažový test nariadený ministerstvom hospodárstva ukázal, že Slovensko má dostatočné zásoby plynu na túto zimnú sezónu, informovali TASR z tlačového odboru ministerstva.

„Zátťažový test, do ktorého sa zapojili všetci dodávatelia, dopadol dobre. Na zimu sme pripravení, zásoby sú dostatočné,“ zdôraznil podpredseda vlády a minister hospodárstva Richard Sulík (SaS).

V zátťažovom teste boli hodnotené dodávky plynu za obdobie od 1. novembra do 31. marca. Test bude počas vykurovacej sezóny aktualizovaný s ohľadom na vývoj počasia. Ak je zima teplotne priemerná, tak plynu je na Slovensku dosť a krajina má rezervu už teraz, tvrdí ministerstvo. Slovensko by v prípade priemernej zimy spotrebovalo 3,2 miliardy metrov kubických plynu.

Ak by bola nadpriemerná zima, spotreba plynu na Slovensku počas vykurovacej sezóny sa odhaduje na 3,5 miliardy metrov kubických.



illustration picture (photo by TASR)

ilustračná snímka (foto TASR)

Slovakia Ready for Winter Season, Has Sufficient Gas Supplies

Bratislava, October 25 (TASR) – A stress test ordered by the Economy Ministry showed that Slovakia has sufficient gas supplies for this winter season, TASR has learnt from the ministry's press department.

“The stress test, joined by all suppliers, turned out well. We are ready for the winter, supplies are sufficient,” stressed Vice-premier and Economy Minister Richard Sulík (Freedom and Solidarity/SaS).

Gas supplies for the period between November 1 and March 31 were assessed in the stress test. The test will be updated during the heating season with regard to the weather developments. If the winter is average in terms of temperature, then there is enough gas in Slovakia and the country has a reserve already now, claims the ministry. Slovakia would consume 3.2 billion cubic meters of gas if there was an average winter.

If there was a colder-than-average winter, Slovakia's gas consumption during the heating season is estimated at 3.5 billion cubic meters.

Reforma národných parkov odložená do apríla budúceho roka

Bratislava 25. októbra (TASR) – K prevodu štátnych pozemkov v prvých dvoch národných parkoch za účelom dokončenia reorganizácie zón na ich území dôjde až 1. apríla 2022, informoval o tom v pondelok Minister životného prostredia Ján Budaj (OLaNO) a Minister pôdohospodárstva SR Samuel Vlčan (nominant OLaNO) pred podpisom memoranda o vzájomných vzťahoch.

Reforma národných parkov sa mala pôvodne začať v januári budúceho roka.

Do 1. apríla budúceho roka by mali štátne pozemky v Národnom parku Slovenský raj a Pieniny prejsť pod štátnu ochranu prírody (SOP). V ostatných národných parkoch by sa presuny mali týkať len území s najprísnejším štvrtým a piatym stupňom ochrany. Medzitým sa začne reorganizácia zón v rámci zostávajúcich siedmich národných parkov. „Verím, že reorganizácia zón bude ukončená do konca budúceho roka, kedy by mal byť tento proces ukončený a čo sa týka majetku štátu v národných parkoch, malo by to prejsť na SOP, resp. Ministerstvo životného prostredia“ povedal Budaj.

Minister je presvedčený, že memorandum pomôže aj k schváleniu reformy národných parkov. „Domnievam sa, že všetky výhrady, ktoré mal predseda parlamentu Boris Kollár (Sme rodina), sme prebrali a [odpovede na ne] sú zapracované aj v memorande,“ uviedol Budaj.

Obe ministerstvá sa v memorande dohodli aj na polkilometrovom pásme medzi bezzásahovými územiami a hospodárskymi lesmi. „Som rád, že sme sa na tom zhodli. Do 30. júna 2022 by nám malo ministerstvo životného prostredia predložiť návrh na reorganizáciu zón ostatných národných parkov. Musíme dosiahnuť celospoločenskú dohodu o tom, akú výmeru územia chceme a môžeme si dovoliť pre národné parky. Verím, že sa férovo dohodneme,“ povedal Vlčan.

O návrhu reformy, ako aj o novele zákona o národných parkoch by sa malo hlasovať na aktuálnej schôdzi parlamentu.



Sprava minister životného prostredia Ján Budaj a minister pôdohospodárstva Samuel Vlčan na tlačovej konferencii pred podpisom memoranda o vzájomných vzťahoch v Bratislave 25. októbra 2021 (foto TASR) From right, Environment Minister Jan Budaj and Agriculture Minister Samuel Vlčan at a press conference prior to the signing of a memorandum on mutual relations in Bratislava on October 25, 2021 (photo by TASR)

National Parks Reform Postponed until April of Next Year

Bratislava, October 25 (TASR) – The transfer of state land in the first two national parks to see a reorganisation of the zones within their territory completed will not take place until April 1, 2022, Environment Minister Jan Budaj (OLaNO) and Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Samuel Vlčan (an OLaNO nominee) reported on Monday prior to the signing of a memorandum on mutual relations.

The reform of national parks was originally supposed to begin in January of next year.

By April 1 next year, state land in the Slovak Paradise and Pieniny National Parks should be transferred to State Nature Protection (SOP). In other national parks, the transfers should only cover areas with the strictest fourth and fifth levels of protection. Meanwhile, the reorganization of zones within the remaining seven national parks will begin. “I believe that the reorganization of the zones will be finished by the end of next year, when this process should be completed, and as far as state property in national parks is concerned, it should be transferred to SOP, or the Environment Ministry,” said Budaj.

The minister is convinced that the memorandum will also help to ensure that the reform of national parks will be approved. “I believe that we've covered all the objections that Parliamentary Chair Boris Kollar (We Are Family) had and [responses to them] are also incorporated in the memorandum,” stated Budaj.

The two ministries also agreed in the memorandum on a half-kilometre zone between non-intervention areas and commercial forests. “I'm pleased that we've agreed on this. By June 30, 2022, the Environment Ministry should submit to us a proposal for reorganizing the zones of other national parks. We must reach society-wide agreement on what area of territory we want and can afford to national parks. I believe that we'll reach a fair agreement,” said Vlčan.

The reform proposal as well as an amendment to the law on national parks should be voted on at the current parliamentary session.

Vlhová začína novú sezónu tretím miestom v obrovskom slalome v Söldene

Soelden 23. októbra (TASR) – Slovenská alpská lyžiarka Petra Vlhová, ktorá je úradujúcou majsterkou Svetového pohára v lyžovaní žien, začala v sobotu sezónu 2021/22 tretím miestom v obrovskom slalome v rakúskom meste Sölden.

Pretekky vyhrala Američanka Mikaela Shiffrin, ktorá skončila s náskokom 0,14 s pred Švajčiarkou Larou Gut-Behrami a 1,30 s pred Vlhovou.

Slovenská lyžiarka si tak pripísala v kariére 45. pódiové umiestnenie vo Svetovom pohári.



Petra Vlhová oslavuje tretie miesto v obrovskom slalome v Söldene 23. októbra 2021. (foto TASR) Petra Vlhova celebrating her third-place finish in a giant slalom in Soelden on October 23, 2021. (photo by TASR)

Vlhova Starts New Season with Third-place Finish in Giant Slalom in Soelden

Soelden, October 23 (TASR) – Slovak Alpine skier Petra Vlhova, who's the reigning women's skiing World Cup champion, on Saturday started the 2021/22 season with third place in a giant slalom event in the Austrian town of Soelden.

The race was won by American Mikaela Shiffrin, who finished 0.14 seconds ahead of Switzerland's Lara Gut-Behrami and 1.30 seconds ahead of Vlhova.

The Slovak skier thus notched her 45th World Cup podium appearance in her career.

Cookbook of Rusyn & Slavic Foods Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 19th printing, having sold over 17,500 copies, is available for sale. This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as

the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$28.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call 724-438-6027 (M-F 9AM-3PM – leave message), for more information. You may contact us at: carpathian-cookery@gmail.com.



The Embassy Series with support of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic presents the New York Virtuosi in a delightful program of

Music for the Holidays,
on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 7 PM,
at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic.



Filip Pogády, Violin
Caroline Drexler, Violin
Peter Királ, Viola
Marta Bagratuni, Cello

Thomas Circle Singers, James Kreger, Director

TICKETS: 150\$ - CONCERT & RECEPTION - www.embassyseries.org
PROGRAM: Classical, Christmas and Hanukkah Music in celebration of our increased optimism for peace, health and coming together again.

CDC protocols observed.

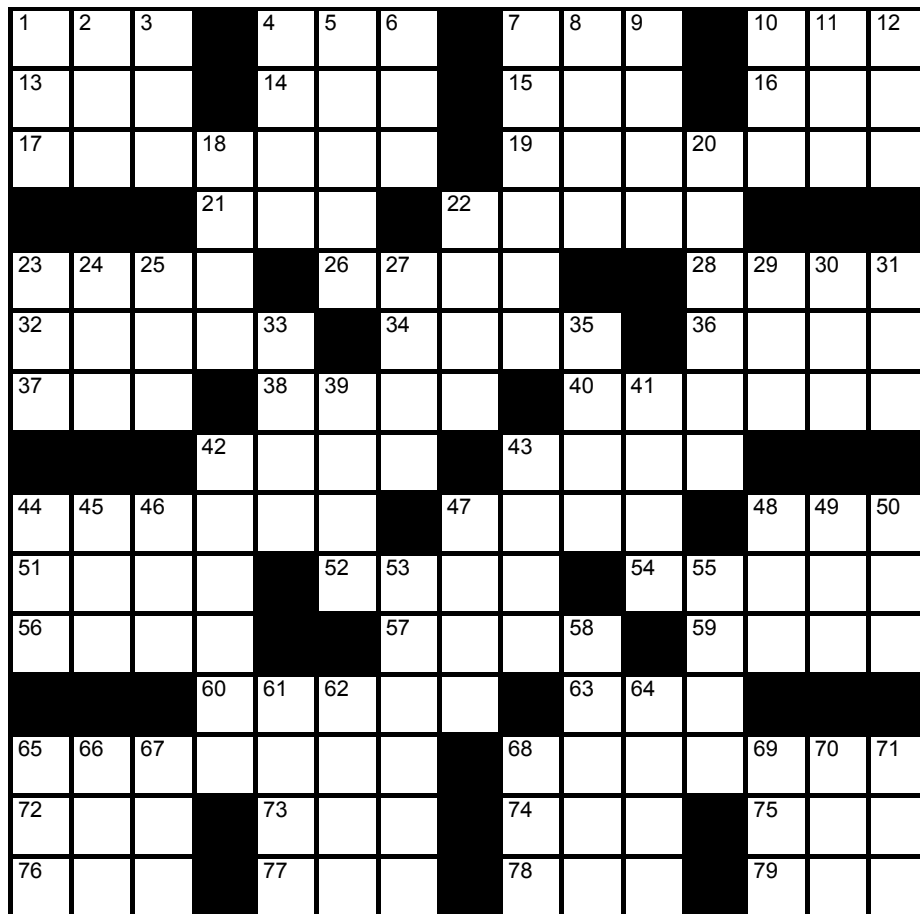
Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 3523 International Ct., Washington, DC 20008

Get FCSU In Your Inbox!



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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Had a bite
- 4 Cooking meas.
- 7 Pandowdy, e.g.
- 10 Kind of poodle
- 13 Collector's goal
- 14 Televisé
- 15 Variety
- 16 Old-time welcome
- 17 Carriage type
- 19 Mountain range
- 21 Salad ingredient
- 22 Secret supply
- 23 Before boy or buoy
- 26 Lingering effect
- 28 Roster abbr.
- 32 Klutzy
- 34 "___ Lang Syne"
- 36 Marquis de ___
- 37 Tennis item
- 38 Unwind
- 40 Boxing increments
- 42 Istanbul native
- 43 Keep ___ on (watch)
- 44 San Diego team
- 47 Hefty volume
- 48 The facts of life?
- 51 Medley
- 52 Some H.S. math
- 54 Traffic sign
- 56 Stead
- 57 Gouda alternative
- 59 Remove from a manuscript
- 60 Blunder
- 63 Piercing tool
- 65 Bantoid language
- 68 Sweet liqueur
- 72 Wildcatter's find
- 73 Cacophony
- 74 Ore suffix
- 75 Harem room

Down

- 2 Caffeine source
- 3 Catchall abbr.
- 4 Zingy taste
- 5 Attack
- 6 Jimmy
- 7 Side arm
- 8 Hip bones
- 9 Scratches (out)
- 10 La Brea goo
- 11 Egg cells
- 12 "You betcha!"
- 18 Food for sea urchins
- 20 Kind of monkey
- 22 Closed
- 23 Coal container
- 24 Chemical ending
- 25 Permit
- 27 Wine holder
- 29 Paddle
- 30 Append
- 31 ___ Cayes, Haiti
- 33 Test choice
- 35 Apothecary's weight
- 39 While lead-in
- 41 Comply with
- 42 Gutter
- 43 Forum wear
- 44 Campaign pro
- 45 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
- 46 Game piece
- 47 Ocean motion
- 76 Arles article
- 77 Riviera season
- 78 Dance step
- 79 Apply gently
- 48 Worker in a garden
- 49 "___ be back!"
- 50 Laudatory lines
- 53 Improve, like writing
- 55 Groundless
- 58 Gozo Island is part of it
- 61 Glorified gofer
- 62 Dart
- 64 Afflictions
- 65 Former French coin
- 66 Carry the day
- 67 Brewpub offering
- 68 Small intake
- 69 Pantheon member
- 70 Gilbert & Sullivan princess
- 71 Catch in the act

Publication Schedule for 2021

Issue Date
December 8

Deadline
November 29

See Solution on Page 23

The Impact of My Mother's Homeland: My Mother's Family (part 3)

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

Part 2 ended with my parents marriage in 1942, and World War II would separate them until the conflict ceased.

It was typical for many second generation Slovaks to marry other Slovaks, or at least other Slavs or Hungarians who were of the same faith. Since my paternal family also came from Spiš County, my father spoke a dialect similar to my mother and he could easily communicate with his new in-laws. Having a man in the family would be an asset to his immigrant in-laws who had three girls.

But my father's family opposed the marriage and wanted him to wait until he returned from the war to marry, for they would not receive my father's army pay or an insurance payment if he was killed in action. This attitude typified the attitude of many immigrants, who viewed even their children as contributors to the family income. Instead of going to my father's parents, his pay went to my mother, who wisely saved as much as she could. Like many other women in the war, she took a factory job as a welder of airplane parts at General Fireproofing, in Youngstown, Ohio, where my father had been employed.

After basic training, my father shipped out with the 39th Combat Engineers to Northern Africa and fought in a desert war with General Patton's army against the forces of German General Rommel. His army job involved transporting British soldiers in a truck, since he had experience driving a garbage truck before the war. He also participated in the invasion of Sicily and Italy proper at the invasion of Anzio in 1944. After getting bogged down, his unit would advance to Rome, and then end the war in Udine in northeastern Italy. His unit mainly built bridges to facilitate the movement of Allied troops. The war further ensconced second generation Slovaks in American culture, and also exposed the second generation of immigrant family young men to the wider world, for many had never ventured far beyond their local neighborhoods, unless they were in the Civil Conservation Corps or the military service.

While at war, my father retained a deep love for my mother and wrote to her every day. (Service men could write home at no cost, though letters were censored for security reasons.) In order to read my father's letters, my mother attended night school to understand better the English language.

My father's love for her continued to gel while he fought overseas. He used to sing songs about her and one of his favorite Slovak songs about her that he sang overseas was "Naša Anička". He also created his own lyrics to the tune of a song of a German exile who had fled Hitler's Germany, Marlene Dietrich; her renowned "Lili Marleen" was popular among American troops. In place of the German lyrics, he substituted words about how he was fighting over in Italy, and ending with the chorus line, "I love you Annie dear, I love you Annie dear." One may hear the original German here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7heX-ZPI2hik>

Luckily, my father survived the war, but did suffer a back injury when his truck was



A photo from 1940 of Nellie Kopanic, Dad, Dzede Kopanic, Helen & Bill Evans



A photo from 1941 of Mom, Baba & Dzede Susa, Mary Sobinovsky

hit by German shelling. When my father returned to the USA in October 1945, he regained his former job at General Fireproofing and my mother worked cleaning house for people. They lived with my father's Slovak parents at first, but that did not work out well because of the inevitable clash of two women in the same kitchen. Thus they decided to live on their own, but they still did not have enough money to buy their own home, and there were housing shortages after the war. For a while they stayed at the home of a Jewish family closer to where he worked, where my mother served as a domestic servant and my father was a part-time chauffeur. They eventually bought a trailer, and then in 1948, a house in Liberty Township just north of Youngstown. Like many Slovak-Americans who were skillful and handy, my father learned carpentry by watching others. He then started his own business on the side, building garages, which many people needed after the war. He also built a new house on Bella Vista Avenue for his in-laws. And he later built a big double garage with a huge attic for us at our own home. A short time later, he put in a cement driveway.

My parents had four children, three boys and a girl, and I was the third. At home, we spoke English, even though my mother had an accent when I was younger, and always had trouble pronouncing the article "the." We heard Slovak though, yet my parents only spoke it to each other when they did not want us children to know what they were talking about. We visited baba and dzede on most every Sunday, and the

families of my Aunt Mary and Aunt Helen would also come. All the adults spoke Slovak, and the children of the extended family did not know the language. But my oldest cousin Rosemary learned more than any of us cousins, mainly because her family lived just a few blocks from baba and could go there more frequently.

Baba used to call me "malý Michal" and I used to think it was spelled like the name "Molly." My mother and baba used to talk on the phone with each other every day in their Spiš dialect, so my ear certainly caught something. My mother also had a very good voice, though it was never trained, and I think my daughter inherited her talent. Just once in a while, my mother would sing a Slovak Marian hymn, which was so beautiful that I recorded it after cassette tapes came on the market. On holidays, we heard Slovak music on the phonograph, so I became familiar with some Slovak tunes. And I remember my dzede was so happy when he used to sing *Ja parobek z Kapušán* (I'm a young man from Kapušany), one of the most popular Slovak-American songs. He and my father also loved to sing *Hej Slováci* (Hey Slovaks), which was the patriotic national song of Slovak-Americans.

I never learned to speak Slovak from my parents, but was always curious about the language. My mother did teach us to make the Sign of the Cross in Slovak, when we prayed before meals and when we prayed the rosary every day. And we heard a few basic words. When I was little, I did spend a week at baba's house during several

summers. She would communicate with me mainly through hand gestures. Dzede knew a little more English from working at the mill. They had no car like many Slovak immigrants, and they walked to church every day and to the store. Baba attended 6 am Mass daily at Holy Name of Jesus Slovak Catholic Church on Manhattan Street, in the heart of the Steelton community on the lower east side of Youngstown. On special occasions, we attended Slovak Mass there. Baba and a corps of other babas would sit on the left hand side of the church in the front and recite the rosary before each Mass.

I remember going to the store with baba. She would say "Idzeme do štoru" in her Spiš dialect Americanization of the Slovak word *obchod* into *štor*. We went to the bakery and to Roscoe's poultry shop, which smelled awful. That is because it had fresh chickens, so the soup baba made was always tastier and fresh. And it seemed like I was always eating chicken soup there (*kurová polievka*)! She made her own noodles and could roll dough and cut noodles faster than anyone I have ever known. She would spread the noodles all over her kitchen table to dry during the day.

In the summer, my grandparents always had plenty of fresh vegetables and fruits, for they cultivated a huge garden, as big as the yards of many people. Dzede took care of and sprayed his many fruit trees – plum, apple, peach, cherry, pear, etc. He raised bees for home-made honey, and produced his own brandy from peaches, which was sweet and powerful. My grandparents only ate what we viewed at the time as regular food, which was not called organic at the time. Baba scrimped and saved so they could make ends meet. She canned for the winter months, and my mother did the same. Baba even used to buy day-old bread to save money, for she had become accustomed to living in poverty during her years in Europe. Even on holidays, she scaled back compared to the typical Slovak Christmas and Easter custom foods we learn about today.

Baba always had a strange smell. When I was young, I never knew why, but after learning more about Slovak culture, I figured it out. In her later years, baba suffered from chronic arthritis, and she did not go to doctors. In fact, my mother used to say she was just like a doctor and knew all sorts of folk remedies and cures from the old country. The smell obviously came from the homemade remedies which she concocted from the spices which she grew in her garden.

As I grew older as a boy, I would help baba fetch things, and I cut the grass for my grandparents. My brother Jim and I also helped paint their home exterior as well as the house of the Slovak family of Mr. and Mrs. Mitsa across the street. My father had taught us boys to be handy, and we learned how to paint and do roofing when we were as young as 10 years old.

Dzede was rather gruff and grumpy, and very bossy, but we did share a love for baseball. The problem was that he was a Cleveland Indians fan, and I rooted for the New York Yankees. He always had the television on with the Indians game when we visited on Sunday afternoons, and I

continued on page 22

2nd Annual FCSU



Time once again to dig out the really ugly holiday sweater you have tucked into the back of your closet (but not the one you wore for last year's contest, please;-) Put it on, snap a selfie and ...

Enter the 2nd Annual FCSU Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.

May the ugliest sweater win!

CONTEST RULES:

1. You enter by emailing a digital picture of you and/or fellow members dressed in the ugliest Christmas sweater you own WITH a recent copy of the Jednota Newspaper in the picture to Kevin Collins at: Kevinfcsu@outlook.com.
2. Everyone in the photo must be a member. You must include your name (s), address, and branch number(s) in the body of the email with your digital photo. Please see the box below for a checklist of the information needed to constitute a qualified entry.
3. The preferred format for your digital photo is jpeg; pdfs can be accepted.
4. **Deadline to enter is Thursday December 31, 2021. The email with your digital photo and entry information (see below) must be time dated by midnight of the deadline day.**
5. Contest winners will be posted on the FCSU website and published in Jednota.

PRIZE LEVELS:

FIRST PRIZE – \$100 SECOND PRIZE – \$50 THIRD PRIZE - \$25 (prizes awarded in 3 categories: age 15 & Younger; age 16 – 39; age 40 & Better)

Info that MUST be submitted in your emailed entry along with your digital Ugly Christmas Sweater photo:

- Your Name (s): please list the full names of the members in your photo
- A recent copy of the Jednota newspaper must be in the photo as well
- Please indicate the category you are entering: under 15, age 16-39, or over 40
- You MUST include your branch number and the branch number of the people in the photo (if different from yours)
- Your Street Address: please include your main mailing address where you would like your prize mailed. Please include City, State, Zip
- Phone Number :please also include a number where you can be reached if questions



2021 FCSU Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

Time to get ready for the holiday season once again with your beautifully decorated Christmas tree. It's also the perfect time to show off a bit, have some fun, and share with other members how you creative you can be with your decorated Christmas tree (2020 contestants you need to be extra creative as we are asking for no repeats of last year's entries, please;-).

Snap a digital picture of it, include the necessary info and ...

You'll be entered in our 2021 FCSU Christmas Tree Decorating Contest – and you might just win!

CONTEST RULES:

1. You enter by emailing a digital picture of your decorated Christmas tree with each member who helped decorate it next to the tree AND a recent copy of the Jednota Newspaper in the picture to Kevin Collins at: Kevinfcsu@outlook.com.
2. Everyone in the photo must be a member. You must include your name (s), address, and branch number(s) in the body of the email with your digital photo. Please see the box below for a checklist of the information needed to constitute a qualified entry.
3. The preferred format for your digital photo is jpeg; pdfs can be accepted.
4. You may decorate your Christmas tree any way you choose. Consider including some decorations with special meaning, to your Slovak heritage, your FCSU district or branch, or your family. Have fun; be creative!
5. **Deadline to enter is Friday December 31, 2021. The email with your digital photo and entry information (see below) must be time dated by midnight of the deadline day.**
6. Contest winners will be posted on the FCSU website and published in Jednota.

PRIZE LEVELS:

FIRST PRIZE – \$100 SECOND PRIZE – \$50 THIRD PRIZE - \$25

Info that MUST be submitted in your emailed entry along with your digital Decorated Christmas Tree photo:

- Your Name (s): please list the full names of all the members in your photo next to your tree
- A recent copy of the Jednota newspaper must be in the photo as well
- Your Branch Number: you MUST include your branch number and the branch number of all the people in the photo (if different from yours)
- Your Street Address: please include your main mailing address where you would like your prize mailed. Please include City, State, Zip
- Phone Number :please also include a number where you can be reached if questions

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



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

FCSU 2021 Christmas Coloring Contest for Kids

A



B



C



PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:

1st Place – \$25.00
2nd Place - \$15.00
3rd Place - \$10.00

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
 4 – 6 year olds – picture A
 7 – 9 year olds – picture B
 10 – 12 year olds – picture C
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures may be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
6. Your child's completed entry form & colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2021.**
7. Mail to:
 Kevin Collins
 628 Heather Brite Cr.
 Apopka, Fl. 32712

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Certificate Number: _____

Branch Number: _____ (MUST be filled in)

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2021





FCSU 2021 Christmas Coloring Contest for All Those Young at Heart



Color the image below and submit according to instructions

RULES

1. This contest is for all those Young At Heart Members:
You must be 55+ to enter
2. Enlarged reproductions of the picture will be disqualified.
3. You **MUST** be a member in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for a prize.
4. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
5. Your completed entry form with colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2021**
6. Mail to:
Kevin Collins
628 Heather Brite Cr.
Apopka, Fl. 32712



PRIZES

Winners in each Region will receive the following:

- 1st Place –\$50
- 2nd Place –\$35
- 3rd Place –\$25



Name: _____ Age: _____
 Certificate Number: _____ Branch Number: _____
 (MUST be filled in)
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email Address: _____

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 28, 2021, in the basement of Saint Joseph's Church at 600 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, PA. The meeting will begin at 9:15AM. All members are urged to attend. In keeping with the church norms, all unvaccinated are asked to wear face masks.

The annual meeting of Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will be held on Sunday, December 19, 2021, in the same location – the basement of St. Joseph's Church at 600 N. Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. The annual meeting also will begin at 9:15 AM. All members are urged to attend. Election of officers for 2022 will be held. Everyone not vaccinated is requested to wear a face mask.

Mike Koval, 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 Gaetano's 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 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 will hold their 1st annual branch meeting on Sunday, April 3, 2022. The meeting place will be at Denny's Family Restaurant on Theatre Drive in Richland. The meeting will begin at 1:30PM. Please try to attend, as a Branch member you are welcome. It's always a pleasure to meet with fellow members of our Branch and share time. We come from good stock and it makes for a good time.

Voting for Delegates to attend the FCSU 52nd. Convention will take place at this meeting. The Convention will be held on Saturday, July 30-Monday, Aug 2, 2022 in Ohio. Other upcoming events will be talked about too. Please join us. If you have any questions, please call Theresa 814 254 2532

Theresa Cassat, Financial 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 17 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 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold a branch meeting on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 7:00 pm. The agenda will include discussion on 2021 potential Fraternal social activities. We will also nominate and vote on Branch officers at this meeting. Out of an abundance of caution and with concern for all of our members, this Branch 38 meeting will be held virtually. Any member interested in attending this meeting should contact Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LLHASSELHOFF@gmail.com, to set up the virtual meeting invitation and details. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend. Thank you for your understanding and patience as together we continue to navigate these unusual times. Also, if anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

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

BRANCH 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. MATÚŠA 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 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45KSJ, will hold a meeting on Sunday January 23, 2022. We will meet in person at 1:00 PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City.

We kindly ask that all members attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

ČLENSKÁ SCHŔDZA SPOLKU SV. MATÚŠA Č. 45 1KSJ V NEW YORK CITY

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční členská schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku v nedeľu 23. januára 2022 o 13:00 hod po slovenskej svätej omši v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši - pokladnička

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Please Note that the Officers of Saint Joseph Society will host our Annual Branch Meeting virtually, on Sunday, January 2, 2022, to start at 2:00 PM. Due to a peak in new cases and an onslaught of cases of the COVID-19 VIRUS occurring in those who have already been vaccinated, the Branch Officers have decided to hold our Annual Meeting on ZOOM so as not to risk any endangerment of the health of our members. Unfortunately, we will have to forego our treasured traditional Vilija and Christmas Party for 2021.

The Agenda will include the reading of all Officer Reports, the Election of Officers for 2022, Election of Delegates to the District 8 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting, and Nominations of Convention Delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU in Cleveland, Ohio July 30 – August 2, 2022. Discussions on Branch Business and Charitable Donations, Activities.

Congratulations will be offered to an exceptional young woman, our Branch Member, Jillian Washco, Recipient of the prestigious FCSU Sponsored SOLTIS & BOSAK Family Nursing Scholarship.

We will also honor, by acknowledging their names, all those school students who did such a great job in participating in our Panel Discussion at our last meeting. The Topic was: Effects On The Family By Virtual School and Attending School Wearing Mask All Day. We had planned on presenting Token Awards of Appreciation at our Annual Meeting; instead, they will be mailed. We invite all our students from Pre-School to College to attend the January 2, 2022, meeting so that we can get a picture on the ZOOM.

For information and to RSVP your attendance on January 2, 2022, please Email John Gaydos, john@johngaydos.com, to request the ZOOM Invitation Link. For any other questions you may call or text President Erik Payne's Cell Phone, 215.280.1554 or call Helena Gaydos at 215.613.8987.

Helena Gaydos, Secretary/Treasurer

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

Dear Members: Please join us for our first meeting of the new year for the Election of Officers 2022. The meeting will take place on Saturday, January 8, 2022, beginning at 11:30AM. The location is Brisco County

Wood Grill, N96 W16865 Cumberland Ct, Menomonee Falls, WI, 53051 (at Highway 41 North & County Q Exit).

Please call to make your reservations by 1/5/2022. Please call Branch 89 President Mike Novak at 414.445.5382. Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BRANCH 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

Fraternal regards,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

As an incentive to grow Branch 89, members who refer new branch members or add a new contract of their own are now eligible to receive a Branch award. Specifically, Branch 89 members who successfully refer new members can receive an award of up to \$100. Members that add a new contract of their own can receive an award of up to \$50. To be eligible for an award, new policies must be issued during the calendar year in which Branch 89 otherwise qualifies for an FCSU stipend under bylaw section 4.05. Award amounts will depend on the amount of the FCSU stipend for the year and the number of members qualifying for an award. Awards cannot be combined or multiplied and members are limited to one award per calendar year.

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

Paul Novak, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Throughout the month of November, we remember our members who have passed on to their eternal reward. Please pray for the following members who died during this past year:

Michael Lattyak	Scott Kurinec
Joan Paulov	John Zigmund
James Knizner	Mark Rodman
Steven Soncek	Stephen Supa
Mary Kaiser	Louis Reitmeier
Eleanor Pekelnicky	Joseph Zmora

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 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 Patty at 724-493-8712 or Recording Secretary Vicki Hrick at 724-547-0803 be-

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 4 – THE MSGR JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT

There will be a Mass at St Joseph's Church (14 E Somerset St, Raritan, NJ) at 10:00 AM on December 5, 2021 for the deceased members of the Msgr John E. Rura District, District 4. Please try to attend.

Steve Minarovich, Treasurer

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 8 – THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8 will hold a short Zoom meeting on Sunday December 12, 2021, at 1PM for the election of officers. We will also choose a delegate for the 2022 Convention. 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 at Kings Restaurant at 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 1PM. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all Hlinka District members who attended the March 2021 meeting.

Any district member wanting to attend the Annual Meeting via Zoom, can contact District Secretary Monica RodacyBoone at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com for the Zoom link. 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 Convention Delegate; the annual election of district officers, plus planning the activities for 2022.

All Hlinka District members are urged to attend the November meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Monica RodacyBoone
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 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District Los Angeles will hold an in-person Annual Meeting on Saturday December 11, 2021. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave, Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda: officer reports and a financial report; election of officers for the year 2022; election of a delegate and an alternate to the FCSU 52nd Quadrennial Convention; and planning activities for the year 2022. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and hold a concurrent Annual Meeting. After the meeting, lunch will be at the Olive Garden.

Paul Skuben, President

PRINC PRIBINA - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať výročnú schôdzu v sobotu 11-teho decembra 2021.

Výročná schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe sú správy funkcionárov a finančná správa, voľba funkcionárov na rok 2022, voľba delegáta a náhradníka na 52nd Convention a plán activity na rok 2022. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučuje sa základným organizáciám v Distrikte FCSU vykonať súčasne výročné voľby. Po schôdzke bude spoločný obed v Olive Garden.

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The AGM meeting will be held on Sunday January 9 2022 at 1:30 PM. This will include selecting delegates for "Convention 2022", to be located in Independence OH.

Because of Ontario's cautious Covid 19 public health rules that are still in place today, we plan to have both a Zoom call and person-to-person meeting at Sts Cyril's and Methodius Church Hall, unless all restrictions are removed. Further details will follow. RSVP is necessary; please call Mike Kapitan at 416-621-1534

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary



Branch 228 to Recognize its FCSU Scholarship Winners at December Meeting

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge FCSU Branch 228 congratulates Branch 228 members Grace Arendt and Melia Pachmayer for being chosen as two (2) of the recipients of the 2021 First Catholic Slovak Union Scholarship. To be awarded such a scholarship is fitting recognition of the hard work and dedication you have towards your education and future.

Grace, daughter of Catherine and Kevin Arendt, will be attending Kent State University, majoring in Aeronautics/Air Traffic Control. Melia, daughter of Melissa and Bryan Pachmayer, will be attending the University of South Florida majoring in Biology/Pre-Med. We sincerely wish them the very best as they pursue their respective careers and hope to follow their progress.

The Branch 228 officers and members has cordially invited Grace, Melia, and their respective parents to attend our Monday December 20, 2021 meeting to be held at the American Slovak Club, 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH, at 7 PM. We hope many of our members will attend. [Editor's note: see page 20 for Branch 228 meeting details]

- Submitted by Thomas B. Zuffa, Branch 228 Recording Secretary



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	Mary Demchak	086K	Laurie M Lipniskis	322K	Andrew T Pruzinsky Sr	636K	Joseph J Springer Sr
002K	Charles W Kovac	089K	Phillip R Kebis Jr	393K	Michael Grajcar III	670K	Edmund J Elder
002K	Margaret P Mizgorski	153K	Eleanor J Pekelnicky	393K	Karolina A Tkach	716K	Kenneth M Ukropetz
003P	Louise Bettin	157K	John J Coleman Jr	410K	Elizabeth G Holly	731K	Florence J Jablonski
005P	Amy Callahan	169P	Ralph J Maschue	419K	Cheryl Ann Butry	743K	Donald Kosin
005P	Bernard Martin	173K	Rosalie Guido	419K	Francis J Wassil	743K	David L Vorek
005P	Rita M Stajewski	200K	Jeffery L Dietz	484K	Gerald S Oswalt	746K	John T Lynch
019K	Irene M Sinanis	200K	Henry E Herbst	484K	Margaret Rouse	764K	Virginia A Kocis
024K	Marie Pallenik	200K	Victoria C Morandini	493K	Emil E Stajer	844K	Karlida Polak
024K	Bernice M Repko	226P	Joan V Heffner	553K	Margaret E Granchi	855K	Alexander A Lempeck Jr
024K	Mary Ann Strauss	260K	Richard J Svagerko	580K	Mary R Sabol	890K	Thomas M Wingate
038K	Louis A Farnish	266K	Vincent Joseph Kundrik	587K	Leslie Stovka	926K	Michael J Baye
038K	Florence A Horvath	276K	Joanne Ruby	595K	Shirley Goodman		
060K	Sidney J Cicchini	276K	Thelma T Toth	628K	Margaret A Galiyas		
085K	Joseph M Walusch Jr	292K	Joseph John Hovanec	628K	Dorothy Savolskis		

* Processed in the month of Oct. 2021

OBITUARIES

**DAVID E. YANTOS –
BRANCH 3 -
MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA**

David Eugene Yantos, Father, grandfather, friend, mentor and teacher left this classroom on September 6, 2021. A lifelong resident of the Twin Cities, MN, David was born on January 7, 1940 in Columbia Heights, MN, to Andrew and Catherine (Payla- Check) Yantos. He attended Immaculate Conception Grade School and was graduated from Columbia Heights High School. While attending night classes at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, David got his first job as a printing company production artist. This was to be the start of a professional art career which spanned 55 years and included more than 3 decades as a college art professor. He developed curriculum and held classes for the first-ever inmate art instruction program at Stillwater State Prison and was key in the creation of the commercial arts initiatives at Metropolitan State University and Hennepin Technical College. Following his formal retirement from academia, David turned his attention to composing a new body of his abstract paintings, traveling the U.S. and Europe including checking off the ultimate bucket list destination - Pearl Harbor, cooking and spending time with family. David was preceded in death by his parents Andrew and Catherine, a brother Andrew, and sister, Barbara (Jay) Schultz. He is survived by two sisters: Marlene (Tom) Mikulak and Kathleen (Gary) Danyo. Missing him now and always are his devoted children: Anne Marie L. Yantos, David (Joan) Yantos, Douglas Yantos, Laura (Elia) Griffith, Mark (Nichole Fletcher) Yantos. David felt blessed to have shared precious times with his six grandchildren: Andrew Yantos, Peter Yantos, Natalie Yantos, Avery Griffith, Zoey Yantos and Mark D. Yantos.

- Submitted by Branch 3 Secretary
James T. Genosky



**FRANK STRAKA
BRANCH 157 –
C A T A S A W Q U A ,
PENNSYLVANIA**

Frank B. Straka of Reading, PA, passed away peacefully on May 22 in the Spring Township home of his daughter Maryann, lovingly surrounded by his surviving children, their spouses and several grandchildren. Mr. Straka had resided with Maryann and her family since October 2020. Mr. Straka was a veteran of World War II and served in the European Theater from D-Day +17 until VE Day, May 4, 1945. As a courier in the 310th Signal Operations Battalion he was responsible for transporting secret communiques among high-level commanders including Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery during Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge. After the war he was employed by the United States Postal Service in Philadelphia and Reading. His 35-year career began as a vehicle driver and he advanced through driver examiner and instructor, accident investigator, vehicle operations analyst, and energy conservation officer. After retiring from the USPS in 1980 he began a second career as an administrative assistant for a Pennsylvania state representative, retiring from that position in 2000. A first-generation American, Mr. Straka was extremely proud of his Slovak heritage and was very active in civic and church organizations. He was a devoted Catholic and parishioner of SS. Cyril & Methodius Roman Catholic Church in Reading, where he was also a member of the Holy Family Guild. Frank was a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) and the Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary of the Slovak Home Association from 1946-1960. From 1962 to 1970 he was a member, Welfare Officer, and Commander of the Francis J. Adams Post #876 of the Catholic War Veterans. At various times Frank was a member of the council and board of directors of the Model Cities Program, the Library Board, Crime Watch, Emergency Management Agency, and Prince Street Historical District in Reading. He was a publicly-elected member of



the Reading School Board for eight years in the 1990s. Mr. Straka's life was notable for his strong devotion to his family and the church. Mr. Straka was predeceased by his wife Mary (née Ohrin) in 1978 and by his son the Rev. Francis P. Straka in 2017. He is survived by five children and thirteen grandchildren: Michael Straka of Denver, CO; William (Maryann) Bennethum of Sinking Spring, PA; Gregory (June) Straka of Exeter Township, PA; Joseph (Julie) Straka of Exeter Township; and Timothy (Catherine) Jones of Exeter Township. Mr. Straka's thirteen grandchildren include: Mary and Emily Straka of Denver; William (Bernadette) Bennethum of Denver; Nicholas Bennethum of Chapel Hill, NC; Katherine Bennethum of Sinking Spring; Joshua and Ashley Straka; and Joseph, Benjamin, Madison, and Maryjo Straka, and Dylan and Sarah Jones, all of Exeter Township.

- Submitted by Maryann Bennethum

**ROSALIE GUIDO
BRANCH 173 –
WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Rosalie Jean Guido, 98, of Luzerne, PA, passed away July 26, 2021, at Kingston Rehabilitation and Nursing Center with her great-niece, Annie, by her side. Born Rozalia Gajdos on March 2, 1923, in Luzerne, she was the daughter of Michael F. Gajdos, of Dacov, Slovakia, and Rose Simko Gajdos, of Bridgeport, CT; she lived almost all of her life in Luzerne, with 94 years in the same home. A bright and studious young lady, Rosalie graduated from St. John Nepomucene Slovak grammar school with the highest grades, then was valedictorian of Luzerne High School, Class of 1941. Rosalie graduated with a degree in chemistry from College Misericordia, Dallas, Class of 1945. She was a supervisor at the Duplan Corporation, Kingston, until her retirement in 1976. A devout Catholic, Rosalie was a member of Holy Family Parish, Luzerne, and was previously a member of St. John Nepomucene Slovak Catholic Church before the consolidation of the Catholic parishes in Luzerne. She was proud of her Slovak heritage, visiting Slovakia three times, including her fam-

ily's ancestral villages: Dacov, Velka Lodina and Mala Vieska; and took Slovak language lessons well into her 70s.

She is survived by nieces and nephews, all of whom she loved the company of, Rosemary Mosko, Hazlet, N.J.; Janice Mosko, Georgetown, DE; Martin Guido, Shavertown, PA; John Mosko (Pamela), Perth Amboy, NJ; Thomas Guido, Millsboro, DE.; Mark Guido, Nanticoke; and Deacon David (Jane) Guido, Vicksburg, MI; as well as great-nieces and great-nephews, Susan "Suzie," Ann "Annie," Sara, Lisa, Katherine "Katie," Jonathan, Alexander, who is studying for the priesthood as Brother Joseph with the Philadelphia Oratory, and Elizabeth. She also has great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews, Lance, Macy, David and Lucy.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law, Helen T. Guido Mosko and John Mosko, Perth Amboy; and brother and sister-in-law, Bernard B. Guido and Wilma Guido, Luzerne; as well as her nephew, Michael Guido, Hanover Twp, PA.

- Submitted by Pamela Mosko

**DONALD JOSEPH
DLUGOS
BRANCH 199 –
HOSTETTER,
PENNSYLVANIA**

Donald Joseph Dlugos, 68, of Latrobe, PA, was born April 7, 1953, at Latrobe Hospital, the son of the late Joseph T. and Margaret (Stas) Dlugos. He spent his early childhood as the shadow of his grandfather, (Dzedo) Dlugos, who helped him develop a lifelong love of nature and the outdoors. He received many college scholarship offers to play football and accepted a full scholarship to attend Miami University of Florida. During college, he realized he missed his beloved home state of Pennsylvania and its breathtaking autumns. He transferred to Edinboro College, where he was an All-American football player, but most fatefully, where he met and married Karen Wesley, the love of his



continued on page 17

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

life. They were married nearly 48 years, had five children and 18 grandchildren, whom he loved fiercely. He loved the uniqueness of each of his children and grandchildren, and they knew it. He lived to give to others constantly, including specific instances where he gave the shirt off his back, the shoes off his feet, and every monetary resource for the benefit of anyone he thought "needed it more" (which was often anyone else). He is survived by his wife, Karen (Wesley) Dlugos; five children, a son, Robert Dlugos and his wife, Julie, and their children Zach, Nate, Nicky, Annie and Tommy, a son, Joseph (Jody) Dlugos and their children, Danny, Lizzie, Abby and Sam; a daughter, Jennifer (Aaron) Detwiler and their children, Henry, Sophie and Evie; a son, Matthew (Loren) Dlugos and their children, Lucy, Ellie and Jack; and a daughter, Julie (Brian) Fadden and their children, Pete, Charlie and Rosie; three sisters, Joanie (Vert) Komoraski, Kathy (Kreg) Mendus Dlugos and Rita (Clive) Dorell; his mother-in-law, Norma ("Pete") Wesley; a brother-in-law, Harry Wesley; and a sister-in-law, Laurie (Tim) Saporito.

- Submitted by Barb Patula, Branch 199 Secretary/Treasurer

**MARGARET GRANCHI
BRANCH 553 –
AKRON, OHIO**

Margaret E. Granchi, 94, passed away September 9, 2021.

Margaret was born October 3, 1926 in New Castle, PA to John and Anna Mastcko.

On July 3, 1948, she married Paul Granchi and together they celebrated 46 years of marriage.

Margaret was a graduate of New Castle High School and Business College and worked at Ohio Casualty Insurance Company for 17 years, retiring in 1979. She was a founding member of St. Michael Catholic Church and a member of the Garden Club, Hope Ministry and was also a Mass greeter. Margaret enjoyed traveling, golfing and was a wonderful baker.

In addition to her parents Margaret was preceded in death by Paul, her husband, her brothers John, Joseph and Robert Mastcko



and her best friend Bob Zirhut. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Paul (Dana) Granchi, Sharon (Jim) Harpster, Mark Granchi and David Granchi; Her grandchildren: Rick (Becca) Harpster, Brian Harpster, Paul Granchi Jr., Mark Granchi Jr., Kristen (Dave) Knight and Laura (Chad) Isom and her great grandchildren: Jillian & Luke Harpster, Reagan & Rylie Knight, Brooklyn & Colton Granchi.

- Submitted by David Granchi

**PAUL R. BELLE
BRANCH 731 –
YOUNGSTOWN,
OHIO**

Paul R. Belle, 91, passed away June 29, 2021 at his home.

Paul was born on August 26, 1929 in Youngstown, OH, a son of Paul and Anna Bellej.

He lived in the area his whole life and served in the United States Army serving as a Sergeant First Class in the Korean War and was a Purple Heart recipient.

Paul married the former Regina J. Donofrio on September 12, 1953, and she passed away on May 27, 1994.

After serving in the military he worked at Republic Steel Company as a Motor Inspector in the Open Hearth and then moved to the Line Gang. After many years working in the mill, he retired and worked with his son in the family business as an electrician. He then followed him to RLM Electric where he was affectionately known in the trades as Mr. Belle.

Paul was a member of St. Mathias Catholic Church and enjoyed traveling to Hawaii for over 30 years, first with his wife, then alone and then with his sons. He made many friends on the island where he was known as Uncle Paul.

He leaves three sons, Paul F. Belle of Struthers, OH; Thomas J. Belle of Indianapolis, IN; and Anthony R. (Kara) Belle of Cincinnati, OH; one sister Florence Dornbush of Woodstock, GA, and one sister-in-law, Addy Bellej.

Paul was preceded in death by his three brothers, John Bailey, Joseph Bellej and Leonard Bellej; and four sisters, Irene West, Margaret Guidos, Helen O'Dea and Emma Fabian.

- Submitted by Paul F. Belle



Immigrant Sisters

continued from page 6

surprising that she believed wholeheartedly in the saying, "Happiness is having Jesus in the chapel. I feel secure in His presence."

When Sister Lidwina died at Maria Hall at age 91, St. Stephen's pastor at the time, the Reverend Victor Anselmi, was celebrant and homilist. The concelebrants were the Reverend Edward Deller, Maria Hall chaplain, and the Reverend Augustin Zan, chaplain at Maria Joseph Manor. In his homily Father Anselmi extolled Sister's life. "Although Sister left Shenandoah more than 65 years ago," he said, "her spirit of sacrifice and dedication as a religious is a source of blessings for St. Stephen's, her home parish. Eucharist was the one steady center of her life amid changes of residence and ministry." Father then elaborated on the theme of the Eucharist as a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom. Indeed the funeral liturgy was a fitting tribute to a dedicated parish organist.

In the community tribute read toward the end of the liturgy, the assembled heard these consoling words: "Sister passed quietly into eternity to join the angels and saints in melodious praise to the Lord whom she served faithfully on earth. At Maria Hall she continued to serve with joy until He called her to serve him in humility and patient suffering."

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Reflections for Thanksgiving

"If you cannot thank God when things are easy, how much harder will it be to thank God when [life] is hard?" That's a question author Hannah Brencher asked herself, and it caused her to reflect on the nature of gratitude, an appropriate topic for this Thanksgiving week.

On her website HannahBrencherCreative.com, she wrote, "I really believe good things are happening every single day. They pass us by without us even realizing it. A lot of times, our focus is on whatever is coming 'next,' and we fail to see the beauty God has set before us for this day, this hour, this moment. Just this morning I've experienced so much: another chance at life. A good cup of coffee. A chance to bond with my husband. A home that keeps me warm and dry...If I am not careful, I will consume all of this without ever murmuring a prayer or a response of gratitude. Today I am urging all of us: let's not go another minute or hour without stopping everything to be grateful...Who do you love right now? How have you been blessed recently? Where do you see God moving? There is so much to be thankful for even if we have to dig a bit deeper to find it."

A surge of gratitude hit Katie Powell Bell unexpectedly before Thanksgiving one year. She headed to Kroger's with her two-year-old daughter to pick up some groceries. Katie got done quickly and scanned all her items in the self-checkout lane only to discover that her debit card was registering as "Not Authorized." A store employee came to help, but with a restless two-year-old and a growing line of people behind her, Katie felt more than a little "frazzled." Then, she got some unexpected good news.

The lady who had been checking out next to Katie and witnessed her struggles had paid for all her groceries but slipped out to remain anonymous. On the Today Show's Community blog, Katie wrote, "I burst into tears, incredibly touched by the generous stranger's act of kindness."

Before you sit around the Thanksgiving table this year, take account of the simple kindnesses and blessings for which you are grateful. And if you need a prayer to say before your meal, here is one that I composed: "Gracious Lord, as many of us in this country gather around the table with our loved ones on this special day, we praise and thank You for the blessings in our lives. May we never take them for granted, and may we live with a grounding in gratitude all year long. For some of us, blessings may be hard to see because of struggles we are enduring with family, friends, work, health, or even faith. Remind us, Father, that You are with us every step of the way and help us to see Your presence always.

"Open our eyes to the beauty that surrounds us: from the vibrant colors of nature, to the delightful laugh of a baby, to acts of kindness between strangers. Remind us also that 'it is in giving that we receive,' so that we can serve as conduits of Your divine love and bring blessings into the lives of others.

"Finally, Father, thank You for the gift of life. Help us to make the most of our days on this earth, so that when we eventually pass into eternal life with You, the people we leave behind will be grateful for having known us. Amen."



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

Focus on Fraternalism

Branch 716 Provides Food at Memorial Service

(L – R) Branch 716 President Jan Škrkon served up traditional dishes such as homemade goulash to attendees after the memorial service celebrated by Fr. Štefan Chanas and Fr. Martin Kertys of St. John Nepomucene.



Madeline Joob was a parishioner at St. John Nepomucene for 81 years.

Branch 716 demonstrated FCSU Fraternalism in Action– by arranging and providing food service for a memorial service of a longtime and valued parishioner at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Recording Secretary



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.

Reflections on Remembrance Day 2021

by M. Mark Stolarik

Ever since my family emigrated to Canada in 1951, and I started to attend school in grade two, our classes always held Remembrance Day commemorations on November 11th, primarily for Canadian soldiers who were killed during the Great War of 1914-1918. While I always gladly participated in these commemorations, I wondered why Slovaks in the Old Country did not do likewise. Certain villages or cities in Slovakia did have monuments to the fallen, including my father's village of Turzovka (now a city), which lost 500 killed in action out of a population of 8,425 in 1910 (6% of the population). Not until I did some research a few years ago did I discover the great disparity in casualties suffered by the Slovak population during World War I and that of Canada during that same conflict.

If we compare some statistics concerning the Canadian contribution of soldiers to the Great War versus that of Slovakia, we will discover a huge difference between them. Canada sent 470,000 men overseas and suffered 60,000 fatalities (12.8%). Slovakia contributed 400,000 soldiers to the Austro-Hungarian war machine and suffered 69,000 fatalities (17.2%). Furthermore, if we compare the population of Canada at that time (8,000,000) with that of Slovakia (2,000,000), we will detect an even greater disparity between them: Canada lost 0.75% of its adult male population whereas Slovakia lost 3.45% of its adult male population. In reflecting upon these numbers, I suspect that Slovakia does not commemorate Remembrance Day very much for two reasons: As a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Slovakia was on the wrong side of the war and, more importantly, its loss of lives was enormously more than that of Canada. Perhaps the memory of the Great War was (is) much more painful for Slovaks than for Canadians. Perhaps the Slovaks would rather forget World War I, rather than commemorate it.



(L – R) Sharon Ciocca, Dave “Bubba” Schaub, Vicki Schaub, Patrick Froncek, Karen Gregg, Bernard Piroch, Velma Luketic, and Lillian Goldinger.

Scene from a Successful District 11 Meeting

District 11 the Msgr. Josef Tiso District recently held our meeting on Sunday, October 10th at Rick's Taproom in Butler, PA. It was an afternoon of great fellowship and a productive meeting. We have some plans in the works and have decided to hold 4 meetings in 2022. We spoke on having another Polka Party, summer picnic and a Vilija table. Did you know, in Slovakia the Christmas dinner starts with a carp that sometimes became a pet and lived in the bathtub for a day or two?

- Submitted by Vicki Schaub, District 11 Treasurer

Recording Secretary Joan Skrkon Celebrated with Branch 716



Branch 716 members helped its Recording Secretary Joan Skrkon celebrate her birthday on Oct 10, 21 with others at St. John Nepomucene, NYC. Happy Birthday, Joan!



Photo courtesy of the Permanent Mission of the United Nations
-Source: <https://www.state.gov/76th-session-of-the-United-Nations-General-Assembly/>

[L to R]: Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Michal Mlynar; FCSU Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados; Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic H.E. Ivan Korčok; Henrieta Scholtzova, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, NYU; and Vladimir Lackovic, COO Digital Natives Group.

FCSU at United Nations 76th Session in September

This year marked the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 76), opening in New York on September 14, 2021. UNGA High-Level Week took place September 20-24.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is the main policy-making organ of the Organization providing a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 and currently is made up of 193 Member States.

Slovakia's President Zuzana Čaputová addressed the General Assembly via recorded message. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Michal Mlynar hosted a reception at his residence on the occasion of the official visit of Slovakia's Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, H.E. Ivan Korčok. Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados was in attendance along with leaders and professionals from the Slovak community. H.E. Ivan Korčok encouraged and welcomed continued collaboration with the Slovak-American community.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



Pizza & Prayer with Branch 746



On Friday, October 22, 2021 Branch 746 celebrated the 99th anniversary of the branch with pizza and prayer at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. Those not able to attend the meeting in person were connected virtually though they weren't able to savor the delicious local pizza. Branch 746 commemorated the special occasion with a scrumptious nut cake. The FCSU Challenge Cup finally arrived to Region 1 and was presented to the winner of the Gingerbread House contest (Christmas 2019) Mrs. Mary Tkach. After the meeting the group attended holy mass which was celebrated by Fr. Mariusz Luksza in Slovak.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Fr. Mariusz Luksza, pastor of Holy Family Church, pictured with Mary Tkach, winner of the Gingerbread House contest 2019.

Do You Have Enough Life Insurance?

We Have a Special Insurance Offer for You!

Excellent opportunity to prepare for the increasing costs of life insurance directly to all our loyal members age 0-80. The younger you are, the lower the premium!

offer expires 12/31/21



Details coming directly to your mailbox.

Act quickly!



FCSU Financial® - First Catholic Slovak Union, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com

Thanksgiving — A Catholic holiday?

British writer and Catholic philosopher G.K. Chesterton is quoted as saying: "The worst moment for an atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank." Today, football games and dining room tables filled with food tend to overshadow the real meaning of Thanksgiving for American citizens, even Catholic ones.

Thanksgiving has been on the liturgical calendar for the United States as an optional memorial since 1970. Father Robert Garrow, pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka in New Carlisle, IN, appreciates the reminder to be appreciative of what God has given.

"Of course, we have the Mass, which is thanksgiving. We give thanks to God for everything in our lives," Father Garrow stated. He stressed that giving thanks to God for His boundless blessings should be a frequent occurrence, "but it's an important reminder for us of a greater thanksgiving that we should do every day."

Scripture is filled with words of praise and thanksgiving to God for all He has done for His people. Even the readings for Thanksgiving Day Mass reflect this theme of showing gratitude to God, particularly the Gospel story of the 10 lepers whom Jesus cured of their disease, and the one Samaritan who returned to thank Him. So, though it may not be a liturgical feast, the Church has certainly embraced the holiday as a natural part of the faith life.

While most Americans know the history of Thanksgiving, there are some historians who claim that the first Thanksgiving was actually a Catholic celebration. More than 50 years before the Mayflower, a group of Spanish colonists celebrated Mass and had a feast with native Timucuan in what would become the oldest settlement in the U.S. — St. Augustine, Florida. Michael Gannon, former professor at the University of Florida, wrote about the event in his 1965 book "The Cross in the Sand."

Another story tells of a different group of Spaniards lead by Don Juan de Oñate, who in 1598 traversed the dangerous Chihuahuan Desert that spans northern Mexico and southern Texas, seeking to colonize the American southwest. After safely reaching the Rio Grande, Franciscan missionaries said Mass for the colonists, and a great feast with the natives followed.

The Spaniards eventually settled at Santa Fe. The Texas Almanac notes that various historians point to this event and the new settlement as milestones of Spanish influence in America — "one of hundreds of towns the Spanish had already established in the New World" prior to the arrival of the Puritans at Plymouth.

Even if these potential "first Thanksgivings" are not celebrated as such, the traditionally held event did have a Catholic attendee — Squanto, the Native American who taught the Puritan settlers survival techniques in their new land. Years prior, he had been captured by the English and freed by Franciscans who educated and catechized him. It is not known with complete certainty that he converted to Catholicism, but it is highly likely, as his Christianity is documented.

No matter where or when the first Thanksgiving took place, there is no doubt that it was a means of giving thanks to God for His boundless gifts. Catholic families have many ways to bring a sense of the sacred to the day and praise God for His goodness.

- Excerpted from the 11/10/20 post "Thanksgiving – a Catholic holiday?" by Jennifer Barton at todayscatholic.org. Reprinted with permission by Today's Catholic.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES | CANADA APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

November Reflection – People who suffer from depression



November 2021 Intention – We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

If you or someone with whom you are close has suffered from depression, you might know how isolating it can be. Depression is a mental illness that touches every part of one's life: family, work, friendships, hobbies. It can feel dark and alone. Sometimes those with depression withdraw so as not to burden others with

their darkness. At other times, they are isolated by the stigmas that surround depression. Some friends may tell them, "Just get over it," while others avoid them altogether. Jesus, however, shows us how to meet people in their suffering. He meets the blind man Bartimaeus, the woman at the well, lepers, and paralytics. They have been pushed to the margins of society, and Jesus meets them there. He gets close to them, connects with them and offers restoration. So, how can we follow Jesus' example as we encounter those suffering from depression and burnout in our world today? How do we extend an opportunity for healing and restoration? We draw close, we connect, and we offer the Light of Christ. He is the Light that gives us hope always.

To those suffering from depression or burnout: there is hope. Depression is a treatable mental illnesses. Do not be afraid to take the risk of reaching out and seeking professional help. Do not be afraid to let others accompany you in your difficult journey. If you know someone who is suffering in this way, reach out; encourage them to see a counselor. And invite Jesus close. Ask for His healing and His Light. Take consolation in His words, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

- Guest Author Timothy Bishop, SJ, a Jesuit seminarian in studies at Loyola University Chicago

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

fore 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 Hrick, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will meet on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 1:30 PM for Election of Officers for 2022. Meeting Location: Sharkey's Cafe, 3960 Lincoln Way (Route 30), Latrobe, PA 15650. Lunch will be provided by the branch. A brief discussion to share information concerning the FCSU National Convention in the summer of 2022 will take place. Looking forward to sharing information, lunch and fraternal fellowship.

Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 199 interested in attending the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper (Stedry Veccar) on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, PA, should call Barb Patula at 724-423-4745 for reservations. Deadline is Monday, November 22nd or until all reservations are filled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Members: It seems as though summer has just passed and we are heading into the holiday season. With COVID still on the rise, we wish all our families and friends to stay safe and healthy. Thanksgiving (Slovakia does not have) and Christmas (Vianoce) may not be as we have grown accustomed to throughout our lives but we need to count our blessings and be "Thankful" for all we have. A special "Thank you" to our Officers and Board of Directors for sticking with it during these trying times. God bless each and every one of you! Peace be with you all!

Vesele Vianoce,

Vicki Schaub, Fin. Secretary/Treasurer

PS: We extend an invitation to all members to attend our meetings and support our Social Club.

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 has planned the following dates for our branch meetings in 2021: 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 alter-

nates 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 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 2, 2022, at 1pm at Panera's restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers, election of delegates to the convention, report of activities as well as the year-end financial report. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

Joseph Senko, Financial 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

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 6, 2022, at 2:00 PM at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, Ohio. We will conduct an audit and elect the delegates for the 52nd Quadrennial Convention (July 30th to August 2nd, 2022); and also discuss the activities for 2022. Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

On behalf of all the officers, we would like to extend our wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, Branch 260 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 266 – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Peter and Paul Society 266, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 28, 2021, in the basement of Saint Joseph's Church at 600 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, PA. All members are urged to attend. In keeping with the church norms, all unvaccinated are asked to wear face masks.

The annual meeting of Saint Peter & Paul Society, Branch 266, will be held on Sunday, December 19, 2021, in the same location – in the basement of Saint Joseph's Church at 600 N. Laurel Street, in Hazleton, PA. The annual meeting also will begin at 9:15 AM. All members are urged to attend. The election of officers for 2022 will be held. Everyone who is not vaccinated is requested to wear a face mask.

Richard Lazar, Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, Saint Joseph Lodge 367 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, OH, 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 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 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2021 starting at 6:30 pm for all members. The agenda will include election of officers, membership discussion and branch activities. Please call or text Steve Minarovich at (908) 507-0505 by December 7 to get the details on the location, as there is the possibility this may be a virtual meeting.

There will be a Mass at St Joseph's Church (14 E Somerset St, Raritan, NJ) at 10:00 AM on December 5, 2021 for the deceased members of Jednota District 4. Please try to attend.

Steve Minarovich, Recording Secretary

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 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 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Van-

dergrift, 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, 02, 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 will be holding election of officers on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 2PM at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Any Bonafide member wishing to serve on the Board of Directors must submit a written letter stating their intention of running for a specific position (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, or Auditor). Letters must be received by 11/10/21. Please address your letter to the Nominating Committee, Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

Mark your calendar for the following events:

November 13: 125 Club Annual Dinner/Raffle

November 14: Annual Election of Officers 2PM Lodge Meeting; District Meeting 3PM. If planning to attend in person please call Linda Hanko @ 330-706-0151 or email @lhanko@neo.rr.com Info needed to plan for refreshments.

November 17: Wednesday Monthly Dinner (served 4:30-6:30pm) – Ham Dinner; Reservations Required
November 27: Ohio State vs Michigan Tailgating starts at 9 am – Bloody Mary's \$1.00 until start of the game

November 28: Breakfast served 9:00-12:00

December 1: Spaghetti 4:30pm-7pm

December 5: Annual Vilija Celebration – 4PM; \$20 per person prepaid; at the Door \$25.00 (if space is available). Reserve your place early. Call Bar after 3pm for all reservations

December 15: Monthly Dinner – served 4:30-6:30PM (dinner to be announced)

January 5: Spaghetti Served 4:30-7:30PM

The Board of Directors sends our wishes to all members for a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting and at social events.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

continued on page 21

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 20

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 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 587 will hold its annual meeting on December 5, 2021, at the home of Branch President Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA, 15241. The meeting will be from 2:00 – 4:00PM. On the agenda: election of officers and our Christmas Luncheon. Please RSVP by November 28th if you plan on attending to Joanne Fibbi at jfibbi@gmail.com or 412-953-4721.

Joanne Fibbi, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595's final meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at which time branch officers will be elected. The meeting will 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

Branch 670 will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at the Kings Restaurant, 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA beginning at 11:30AM. Upon request, a Zoom link will 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, the annual election of branch officers and the 2022 branch activities. All 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 members are reminded of the following events and meetings:

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 Lucia'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 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its end of the year meeting on Sunday, December 12th at 11 AM. The Agenda will include Election of Officers for 2022, officer reports, discussion of ideas to increase memberships, charitable donation ideas, and discussion of plans and activities for 2022. Due to the recent uptick in Covid-19 cases, and the safety and protection of our members, we will hold a virtual meeting on the Zoom platform. Please contact Tyler at 989-413-5936 for information on how to access the Zoom platform on your computer. If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would be interested in contributing to any of the above agenda items, please contact me at 989-277-8787, or email at garrit@chartermi.net. We welcome and encourage your input!

Gary Gregoricka, President

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

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 hrusovskiy@embargmail.com.

William Hrusovskiy, Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 – St. John Society – Notice of AGM Meeting: All Jednota Branch 785 members are being called to attend our members Annual General Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 1:30 PM. Your attendance is important, as this meeting will

include selecting delegates for the "FCSU Quadrennial Convention July 30 – August 2, 2022" in Independence, Ohio.

Because of Ontario's cautious Covid-19 public health rules in place today, we plan to have both a person-to-person meeting at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Drive, Mississauga, Ontario AND a simultaneous Zoom Call (if all Covid-19 restrictions are not removed by January 2022).

RSVP is necessary, please call Milan Zoldak at 647-350-0604 ***** Further details about the meeting will follow.

The Branch Executives hope to see everyone there (in-person or by Zoom). Until then, may God Bless you now and throughout the Christmas Season!

Sharon Tomas, Recording Secretary Branch

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 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday December 11, 2021, at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. The meeting will start at 11:00 AM with the agenda as follows: Officer Reports and financial report, Election of officers for the year 2022, Election of Delegate and Alternate to 52nd Quadrennial Convention, and planning for activities for the year 2022. All members in our area are encouraged to participate.

Milan Konkol, 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 52 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 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856 will hold their first meeting of the new year on March 5, 2022. In keeping with restrictions due to the Covid-19 and for the safety of our members we will try to go to a restaurant place to be announced at a later date or meeting will be by ZOOM. This meeting is being held for the election of delegates to the 52nd-Quadrennial Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio July 30th to August 2, 2022. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-3856 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, President

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 will be held on Sunday December 5, 2021. Mass will be celebrated at 10AM at: Our Lady of Grace Parish, 225 Bellevue Ave, Penndel, PA, 19047. Mass will be followed by the meeting at 11AM. The meeting will be held at: The IHM Center, 338 Hulmeville Road, Penndel, PA, 19047.

At the meeting we will be discussing recent activity within the society, the upcoming convention, potential branch delegates for the convention and election of officers for 2022.

Branch 857 wishes all members a safe and Blessed Christmas holiday.

Fraternally,
Danielle Lasher, Recording Secretary

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- information you provide to us in an application or other form;
- information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public Information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

The Impact of My Mother's Homeland: My Mother's Family (part 3)

continued from page 10

came to dislike the Indians because their fans like dzedo used to pick on me for backing the Yanks. I did play catch with dzedo when I got a little older, and he claimed that he played baseball before for the Toledo baseball team, but I have never been able to verify that, and he was a bit of a braggart who told tall tales. I used to climb the hill at Borts Park and play ball if I had a chance, especially when I became old enough to get selected in a pickup game, particularly after I improved playing Little League baseball.

I developed a genuine affection for my grandparents over the years, but I knew they were different than some grandparents of kids I went to school with, for we lived in a non-ethnic community on the north side. I wanted to get to know them better, and I realized that not knowing the language was a barrier. That kernel of curiosity would later drive my interest in the Slovak language and Slovak history and culture.

On my paternal side of the family, I had less personal experience which I can remember. My paternal baba died when I was only two years old, so I do not remember her at all. My dzedo was a very kind man who I remember as very loving. After his wife's passing, he moved in with my Aunt Mary Malley on the East side of Youngstown. I recall how he used to sit me on his lap and rock me a little. He always would give me a penny, which was big money to me when I was four or five years old. I really looked forward to visiting him. Unfortunately, he died on March 20, 1961, when I was just six years old. I will never forget his funeral, an overcast and rainy day. It was the first funeral I remember when someone I loved died. And I cried in the rain at Calvary Cemetery, as I am crying now thinking about him. How I wish I could have known him better. And I never knew my Aunt Nellie, who died from breast cancer in 1947, and is buried next to him and my baba. Nellie's death had devastated my father, since she was his favorite sibling.

We did visit some of my father's other siblings, especially Aunt Helen Evans. Her husband Bill was handicapped with polio and died in 1965. She always fed us well and made superb kolače (nut rolls). We also visited with Uncle Anthony and his wife Velma, especially over the Christmas holidays. They had three children of similar age, and we enjoyed playing games with them, especially Twister. But there was very little talk about Slovakia or grandparents and their family had very much assimilated into American society. We rarely saw Uncle Paul Kopanic or Aunt Anna Dechant. Marriage to a non-Slovak appears often to facilitate the assimilation process. After my paternal dzedo died, we only saw the rest of my father's family sporadically, usually on the occasion of a wedding or funeral.

On my mother's side, my Aunt Mary married a Slovak, Aloysius (Al) Sobinovský, who was born in Slovakia in Malý Hnilčík, Slovakia, and immigrated to America at age three. So he could not remember Slovakia, but my Aunt Mary had such dour memories of her hard times in her former homeland that she never wanted to return there, and never did. I do remember that Aunt Mary had a good sense of humor, made fantastic cookies, and her husband was a great cook. We were also close with his parents,

Louis and Maria Sobinovský, who lived in the Slovak section of Lansingville on Youngstown's south side. We most always visited them at Christmas, and Baba Sobi, as we called her, was so kind to us children and also baked super koláče.

During my childhood, I gradually acquired a love for history and this would ultimately carry over into sparking my interest in learning more about Slovak history. Early on, I was fascinated with biographies of US Cavalry officers like Custer and Sheridan and devoured biographies of soldiers from the Old West. During my college years, my interest shifted from early American history to German history, as I minored in the German language, the tongue of my paternal grandfather. Then when Professor Martin Berger made some general statements about Czechs and Slovaks forming a country after an agreement in Pittsburgh, a new interest in Slovak history emerged. I wanted to learn about my own people.

I exhausted and read every book written in English about Slovaks in the Youngstown State University Library. But the one that struck me the most was the book *Racial Problems in Hungary* by Scotus Viator (the pen name of R.W. Seton-Watson). Inspired by the 1907 Černová massacre, he wrote the book to awaken the world to the attempts of Magyars to deny other nationalities the right to use their own languages in multi-national Hungary. The tragedy occurred when Hungarians refused to allow a Slovak priest, Andrej Hlinka, to consecrate the village church which had been built with the donations of American Slovaks and the parishioners' own money. To disperse a peaceful protest, Hungarian gendarmes shot and killed 15 unarmed Slovaks who had gathered to prevent a blessing by a pro-Magyar bishop. The quote in the book that stood apart and stirred me was the Hungarian saying in the Magyar tongue "Tót nem ember", meaning "a Slovak is not a man!" I had to learn more about my people.

Thus my love of history and the experience of hearing the language and some stories about the Old Country aroused my desire to know more about my family's history. I realized that knowing the language was the key to unlocking the past and getting to know better my own parents and ancestors. The quest unleashed a lifelong desire to pursue Slovak studies when I was in college, and it continued when I went on scholarships to study at the University of Notre Dame for my Master's degree, and then the University of Pittsburgh, where the Slovak language was taught.

I just started to learn a smattering of Slovak words and phrases when my baba died while I was studying at Notre Dame. I so much wanted to talk to her and understand. And she was so enthusiastic when she learned of my interest in her culture and tongue. When she told me her cane was called a kuľaga in Spiš dialect, and I pronounced it correctly, she beamed with pride. Although I could no longer speak with her, my interest in Slovak studies just magnified, and continues to this day; it is my driving passion. The learning never ends, and is a connection I have with my mother, father, ancestors and the land they lived in - Slovakia.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM CHEWY

Hi, Kids & All Those Young at Heart,
Hope this Thanksgiving is the best yet. I know I have a lot to be thankful for – bet you do, too! For sure, a few chuckles passed around the table with all the fixings never hurt

Keep your ears up & your tail waggin,'
Your pal (priateľ) - Chewy



Attention:

New suitability forms



Dear Branch Officers/Members;

The NAIC has released new recommendations for our annuity suitability forms. These recommendations have been adopted by the State Department of Insurance.

According to the State Department of Insurance we can **NO LONGER** accept the old suitability form with new annuity applications.

Please disregard any old annuity applications.

For **NEW ANNUITY APPLICATIONS and SUITABILITY FORMS** go to our website www.fcsu.com/forms and download the entire application.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 800 533 6682.

Thank you,

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Andrew P. Rajec to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES:

The President presented the minutes of the July 16, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by James R. Marmol and seconded by Andrew P. Rajec to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

Mr. White also presented new investment opportunities that the Committee will review and take under consideration.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of July 2021:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 326,696.22
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 30,430.09
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The President stated that he is working on developing a new insurance and annuity program with Ed Depersis and our actuary Ed Cowman. More information about this product will be presented at the September board and executive committee meetings.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The President stated the new interest rate changes went into effect on August 1, 2021.

- 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

The Executive Secretary stated that a notice regarding the interest rate changes will be published in the newspaper, on the website, and in our monthly newsletter. Andrew P. Rajec will send updates to our agents.

Financial Report:

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

CONVENTION:

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office staff is making preparations with the Hol-

iday Inn – Cleveland South Independence, the host of our 52nd Quadrennial Convention. The Executive Secretary is working on the Convention Agenda and activity schedule. As more details are finalized, a report will be presented to the Board.

HOME OFFICE UPDATE:

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

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President and Executive Secretary reported on the International Golf Tournament that was held August 6 – 8, 2021 at Treasure Lake Golf Resort in DuBois, PA with the Greek Catholic Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Fraternal Activities Director Kevin Collins is also working on the FCSU Loser's Pool and a Pen Pal program between the United States and Slovakia.

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 to celebrate the 56th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine honoring Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia. Mass is scheduled at 1:30 pm. The Board will follow all of the recommended CDC guidelines. Information regarding this event is published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website. Following the Anniversary on September 18, Father Nasta will celebrate a Mass for the Board of Directors at the hotel at 4:00 pm.

BRANCH/DISTRICT QUALIFICATIONS:

The Executive Secretary encourages all branches and districts to refer to Bylaw 11.03 and 11.04 in preparation for the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. If they have any questions, they should contact the Home Office. The Executive Secretary stated that information regarding the election of delegates will be sent out to the branches and districts in mid October.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated on his way back from New Jersey he stopped and visited the Jednota Memorial in Middletown, PA. He met with the landscaper who maintains the grounds. The Memorial will be power washed, including the "doughboy" pedestal and the Memorial bricks. Some shrubs and flowers will be replaced as we are adding additional shrubbery. The D&H warehouse is almost finished. It is an imposing structure that fits in well as a back drop for the Memorial. D&H and their construction contractors are doing as they promised.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Andrew P. Rajec closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

So Little Can Protect So Much

1st year premium WAIVED on \$10,000 JEP Term Insurance

- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Fun youth activities

Deadline: December 31, 2021

**Higher amounts available-contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office. Standard underwriting applies*



FCSU FINANCIAL® - First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 800-533-6682, fcsu@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

According to a recent article in TIME magazine the cost of a funeral is between \$6,000 and \$15,000 with an average of \$7,775?

Don't leave a financial burden for your family or loved ones.

Inquire today about **FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE**

The sooner you do, the less it costs!

Premium based on the Single Premium Whole Life rates
Call 800.533.6682 or visit www.fcsu.com



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact Branch Officer or the home office

6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



ARE YOU PLANNING ON PASSING YOUR ASSETS TO LOVED ONES?



Then consider

WEALTH TRANSFER

Wealth management

through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

Here are the benefits:

- Avoid income tax
- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

Interested? Call 800.533.6682 today!



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your branch officer or the home office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131,
800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



FEATURES:

Pay ONE premium and have fully paid-up life insurance

Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more)

Excellent for Estate Planning or final expenses.

(Subject to normal underwriting)

FCSU SINGLE PREMIUM

Protect your family's future

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your Children, Grandchildren or Yourself.

To learn more go to www.fcsu.com or contact your local branch officer or call

First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800-533-6682.

