



Catholic Fraternal Jednota

THE UNION
USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 131

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

NUMBER 6018

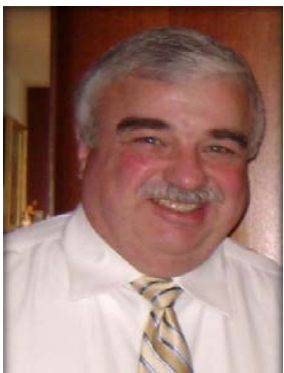


A Sunday night Presidential Banquet during Convention will be held on July 31, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South.

From the Office of the Executive Secretary

Dear Branch Officers/Members:

The First Catholic Slovak Union will be holding our 52nd Quadrennial Convention at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence, OH, from July 30 – August 2, 2022. Founded 132 years ago by Father Štefan Furedek, our Society has been the mainstay and promoter of Slovak culture and Catholic fraternal life for over a century.



We cordially invite you, your branch members, and your guests who are not delegates at the Convention to attend our Presidential Banquet with music by Pajtasi on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

The evening features a full-course dinner at special member pricing. Seating for the dinner is limited. Tickets must be ordered in advance. An order form is on page 17 of this issue.

We hope to see you there.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Happy Father's Day!

Inside

Editorial/Commentary	2
Branch Announcements	22-23
District Announcements	24
Articles in Slovak/English	

Message from the President Memorial Day 2022

This is a very busy time of the year with Convention planning and all the issues involved. However, as we approach every Memorial Day, we all should recognize the debt we owe to our veterans, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

Memorial Day was originally called "Decoration Day". The intention was to honor the military who died while serving their Country by visiting their graves on this special day. Decoration Day started in the 1860's.

I know many of our Members or their family members have served proudly in the military with too many paying with their lives. I served in the US Army for two years active duty. My uncle was killed in the Battle of the Bulge, a cousin was killed in Vietnam, my Dad and several other uncles served for several years during WWII. You and your family may have similar stories. Too many veterans still suffer from old injuries, either physical or mental. Homelessness is experienced by too many veterans.

Often we take our freedoms for granted. We no longer have a draft or required alternate public service like the old "Peace Corps". The situation in Ukraine reminds us that freedom is precious and many people are still willing to make great sacrifices for others to gain or keep their freedom.

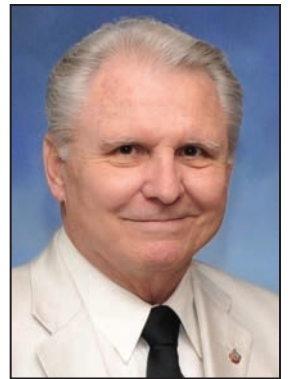
Some people say that prior generations have spoiled their kids and actually unintentionally harmed their growth and sense of responsibility. This has been a dream for most generations over the years - "make it easier" for our descendants. Maybe, at some point "tough love" is the best medicine. The school of "hard knocks" is sometimes the best teacher.

Unfortunately, as time passes and memories fade, Memorial Day for many is just an extended weekend, without thinking of the sacrifices of the deceased service men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice.

Let's not forget the true meaning of Memorial Day and those who served and gave their lives for our freedom.

God bless the United States and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Andrew M. Rajec, President



Andrew M. Rajec

Happy FATHER'S DAY

FCSU June Rates

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.70%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.35%
6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	3.25%
Park 2 Annuity (not available in the state of NY)	2.25%
Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA- 1st year guarantee (new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)	1.75%
Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.50% (5 yrs +)

Find an Annuity That's Right for You
Call us at 800-533-6682
 First Catholic Slovak Union | FCSU Financial®
 Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office
 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131, annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com



Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

JEŽIŠU, LÁSKA SRDCA MOJHO

Ježišu Láská Srdca Mojho
ktorýs' ma tolko miloval
Že si zanechal Otca Svojho,
aby si so mnou prebýval.

SBOR:

Ježišu, Teba milujem,
Srdce Ti svoje darujem.

Ježišu, pevne včul vyznávam,
Že vo Sviatosti živý si;
Tebe poklonu svoju vzdávam,
V nej Boh moj opravdivý si.

Pán moj a Boh moj, nádej moja!
Dufam len v Tebe jedine;
Život, utecha, láska moja!
Bez teba duša má hynie.

Bár by srdce moje nehodné
Iného nič nepoznalo
Len aby Teba, v noci, vo dne,
Ježišu moj milovalo.

Reflection

Jesus, Beloved of my Heart

How appropriate that June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, follows May—Mary's month.

Theologically, we address Mary as Theotokos, Greek for God-bearer. She mothered Jesus and taught Him the human ways of caring and helping others.

Now Jesus, with the fullness of His divine loving heart, gifts us with mercy. Let us gratefully accept His mercy daily and offer it for the many offenses committed. Thus, we can bring more souls to know and trust His merciful heart.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You! - Najsvätejšie Srdce Ježišovo, dôverujem Ti!

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

JESUS, BELOVED OF MY HEART (Ježišu Láská Srdca Mojho)

Jesus, beloved of my heart,
You love me more than I can tell,
For you obeyed and left your Father,
You came to earth, with me to dwell.
Ref. Jesus, you know I love you too,
And daily offer my heart to you.

Jesus, by faith I do accept
Your presence in the bread and wine;
I offer my profound adoration,
To Your heart filled with love divine.

My Lord, My God and Hope eternal,
I place my trust in You alone;
Your comfort, peace—with joy
o'erflowing,
Strengthens me 'til my life is done.

Would that my heart so weak and
fragile,
Sought no one else as Confidant;
Accept the fervent prayers I offer,
Jesus, my Love, You're all I want.

So grateful for all things God has done.

Message from the National Chaplain

The first Sunday of June this year was the Solemnity of Pentecost. It was the day the Church recalls the Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles gathered in that upper room and granting them the graces to preach with boldness and without fear that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this faith, [we] may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

The Solemnity invites us to recall and reflect upon the Spirit's 7-fold gifts (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and reverent fear) and his 12 fruits (charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity).

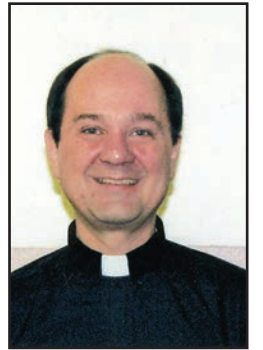
Without question, we need to stir up within ourselves the Spirit's gifts and fruits. But the Holy Spirit is also the source of all virtues. And though it can be argued that our world is in great need of the theological virtue of charity to be revitalized in the minds and hearts of so many, it can be argued that our world is in great need for a revitalization of another theological virtue. That virtue is hope.

Many of us look upon hope as the same thing as being optimistic, to wish or desire for things to be better than they are now. So, we hope for peace, for good grades in school, for a good marriage, for good health and safety, for a good-paying job, and for a loved one to return to the practice of the faith. We also hope for a lot of things to end. We hope for an end to domestic violence, to gun violence, to the war in Ukraine, to Covid-19, to hunger, to unemployment, and so on.

True hope is more than optimism. The virtue of hope, the gift of hope from the Holy Spirit, is a yearning for the presence of God in our lives. It is a confident trust for God's plan for humanity to be brought to fulfillment. And, so it is with this hope that:

- God will give and sustain us with all that is good, namely, what is holy and true;
- God will draw us into one with and in Christ Jesus;
- Jesus on the last day will raise up all who live and believe in him;
- God will have mercy on us and take away our sins.

And finally, it is with this hope, this joyful hope, that we pray at every Mass for the coming in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in June

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 44th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of May 27, the 2022 Appeal has received \$24,774.87 from 176 donors. Among the 53 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 3, Branch 35, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 112, Branch 162, Branch 173, Branch 213, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 746, Branch 853, District 17, and the Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union have donated a combined total of \$2,175. Donations to date have also been received from 5 parishes, 31 clergy and religious, and 87 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2022 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2022 will be credited toward the 2023 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

continued on page 3

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, July 13	Monday, July 5
Wednesday, August 10	Monday, August 3
Wednesday, Sept 14	Monday, Sept 6

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, 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:
Michael Kopanic, Editor; editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal - 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

MICHAEL KOPANIC, Editor; editor@fcsu.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

Insights and Viewpoints

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, Homily for Corpus Christi

Luke 9:11b-17 - Gospel Summary

Today's gospel passage is Luke's version of Jesus' miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish. This is one of the most significant miracles of Jesus as is evident from the fact that it appears in all four gospels. The scenario is quite familiar: there is a large, hungry crowd; the disciples bring this to the attention of Jesus; he instructs them, almost casually, to provide food for them; the disciples protest that this is clearly impossible since they have scarcely enough for themselves.

In spite of their reservations, the disciples obey Jesus when, having blest the loaves and fish, he asks them to distribute them to the hungry crowd. To their total amazement, there is not only enough for all those present, but twelve baskets filled with fragments are left over.

We can easily understand why the Church has chosen this gospel story for the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, for the primary theme of this feast is the nourishment that Jesus offers us in the Blessed Sacrament. We are now the hungry multitude, and we are reminded that Jesus offers us a nourishment that fully satisfies our needs. This is so because the food he offers is his own life, given for us.

Life Implications

There is obviously something miraculous about the way in which Jesus solves the problem of the hungry multitude. We should admire that and see it as a sign of the concern and generosity of Jesus. But we should also remember that all the miracles of Jesus' early ministry were intended to show that he was approved by God and that his message should be trusted. After all, those whom Jesus fed or cured all got hungry or sick again and died. These miracles do not constitute salvation; they are simply the introduction of the Savior.

There is, however, an even more important lesson here. We can readily identify with the disciples as we face overwhelming problems in our own world. There is so much violence and injustice that we often feel paralyzed by the enormity of the challenge. Like the disciples, we feel that we have meager resources for dealing with these problems. Nonetheless, Jesus tells us also to take what little we have and to do what we can with it. There is an implied promise that God will join us and turn our "five loaves and two fish" into food for the multitude...with an abundance left over!

As we celebrate the Eucharist, we find again a super abundance that can nourish us in spite of great needs. In the Mass, Jesus offers himself under the appearance of a few small wafers and a few drops of wine in a way that can nourish the whole world. Those of us who share in this divine meal should not only feel wonderfully nourished ourselves but also empowered to share our good fortune with all the hungry people whom we meet. No matter how poor we think we are, we become rich, for ourselves and for others, when we receive the boundless gift of God's love in the Eucharistic banquet.

Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B

Celebrate the 99th Slovak Day in Pittsburgh on Thursday, July 21, 2022

Slovaks in Western Pennsylvania Prepare for 99th Annual Slovak Day Celebration
West Mifflin, PA – Come celebrate with the Slovaks of Western Pennsylvania on Thursday, July 21, 2022, for the 99th Annual Slovak Day in Kennywood Park. Events will focus on the culture, food and spirit that is uniquely Slovak.



The festivities begin at 12:30 p.m. with games and treats for the children. The Slovak kitchen will also be open serving all the traditional favorites. Music in the food pavilion will be provided by George Batyi and friends from 1 until 3:30 p.m. At 4 pm, The Eucharistic celebration will take place. This year's main Celebrant will be the Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, Bishop of Greensburg Diocese. Bishop Kulick, grew up in South-Western PA., in Leechburg, PA., where he attended St. Martha's

Slovak Parish. He takes great pride in his Slovak religious & cultural traditions. He was ordained and installed as the 6th Bishop of the Greensburg Diocese on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at a special Mass in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, PA. He will be joined by Clergy from the Pittsburgh, and Greensburg, Dioceses. The Slovak Day festivities conclude with a performance by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.

Everyone must have a ticket to enter the park. Ticket prices are as follows: for anyone under age 60 the price is \$30, if you are age 60 and over the price is \$27. There are no super senior discounts this year. To order tickets make a check payable to: W. PA SLOVAK DAY

Mail to: 234 ILION ST.
PGH., PA 15207

Deadline for ordering tickets is July 14, 2021

There is something for everyone at the 99th Annual Slovak Day in Kennywood Park: rides, games, food, ethnic vendors, music and entertainment. Join in the festivities on July 21st, and renew your Slovak spirit.

Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

In the month of June (jún – pronounced "yoon"), we celebrate Pentecost (Turice, or Rusadlá in eastern Slovakia), the Feast of the Holy Trinity (Sviatok Najsvätejšej Trojice), and Corpus Christi. And as Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M. reminds us through song, the entire month is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Najsvätejšie Srdce Ježišovo). So let our faith be an integral part of our culture as Catholic Slovak-Americans and learn how Slovaks have traditionally celebrated them.



Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr

June is also a time to enjoy our two FCSU national picnics at Wiegand Lake in Novelty, Ohio, and Knoebels Park in Elysburg, PA, as well as a golf tournament coming up in August, so let us take advantage of these opportunities to share our fellowship and fraternal brotherhood, at both Mass and enjoying time in the parks. And do not forget to plan in July for the Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh and the Sisters of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Festival in Danville, PA. Feel free to share your branch and district events and photos as many have in the June issue. Doing things together makes us a stronger fraternal.

This issue contains a wide diversity of cultural articles, including my article on the history of the Feast of Corpus Christi, which underlines the Holy Eucharist as a core belief of our Catholic faith. For those who read Slovak, the Matica slovenská keeps us updated about Slovak culture abroad, and I translate these as time allows. And we observe the 80th anniversary of the Canadian newspaper Kanadský Slovák.

We are so fortunate to enjoy the freedoms we have and Michael Parkovcin's story of how he risked his life to escape the chains of communist Czechoslovakia to live a full life in Canada. Our brother and sister Slavs in Ukraine are not so fortunate and strive to defend their right to live freely despite invasive Russian aggression. The Ukraine people should remain in our thoughts and prayers, and we should offer them any financial assistance we can.

As I noted in the last issue, when submitting materials for the newspaper, please do not send me a scanned pdf file. A Word Doc is required, and if you send photos, upload them as .jpeg files. Please include captions by the number at the bottom of your Word document. This will lessen and mitigate an already heavy workload.

I still wish to start a Letters to the Editor section and welcome your input on articles in the paper or any recommendations our members have. We grow by sharing.

Feel free to send a message to the editor by mail to the society or at the following e-mail address: editor@fcsu.com - Note this is a new e-mail.

With sincere fraternal regards, so úprimným bratským pozdravom,

Dr Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor (redactor)

e-mail: editor@fcsu.com "For God and Nation" (Za Boha a národ).

Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in June

continued from page 2

brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys 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 Church, Pennel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

44th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

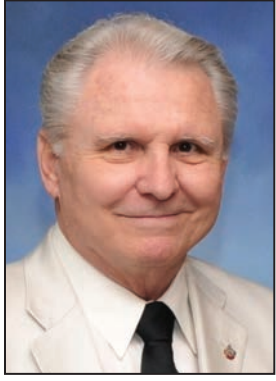
Amount \$ _____

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec For National President

PROVEN LEADERSHIP RESULTS



Andrew M. Rajec

FCSU CREDENTIALS: 50 Year member
Branch 89, Milwaukee, WI
Married 49 years - Idka Rajec (Riecan
- Born in Ruzomberok, Slovakia)
National President and Chairman of the Board
Leading FCSU since 2007
President FCSU 2007 – present
Elected consecutively since 2007
President of National Executive and Finance Committees
Past leadership in FCSU
President of Jednota Inc. and Jednota Properties
Selected (with Board approval) and led officers for Jednota subsidiaries

FCSU General Counsel

Regional Director- Region 7
President Branch 89 – 17 years
President, Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society
Board - Slovak League of America – Represented Slovak League in meeting at White House regarding Slovakia's admission to NATO
Honored as Friends of Slovakia – "Man of the Year"
St. Stephen Slovak Parish -Trustee/Treasurer/Council 12 years
Head Coach - club basketball & soccer- 8 years

High school assistant -2 years

EDUCATION

Marquette High School
Marquette University - bachelor of science, accounting honors
Marquette University Law School -Juris Doctor - honors

MILITARY

US Army - 2 years active duty
1st Lt. – Troop XO, Company Commander
4th armored cavalry - 1st division

MEMBERSHIP

Was admitted to practice law- Wisconsin Supreme, Federal District and Appeals Courts.

EXPERIENCE

Price Waterhouse- International CPA firm – Auditor
Arthur Young - International CPA firm – Tax Accountant
Blue Cross and Blue Shield - Assistant Vice-President
Association Life Insurance Co. - Vice-President & General Counsel
The Mutual Group (Life Insurance Holding Company with \$1.8 billion assets and \$125 million surplus),
Vice-President, General Counsel, Treasurer - Sr. Vice-President of Life Insurance subsidiary

FCSU ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leadership and knowledge of insurance and marketing - led to outstanding growth and profit.
Assets at 12-31-2006 were \$197,310,824; at 3-31-2022 assets are \$547,305,013; increase of \$349,994,189 million (277%)
From 2006 to 2022 surplus increased from \$13,112,264 to \$46,707,815 - increase of \$33,595,551 million (256%).
Annuity income was \$3,369,327 in 2006. In 2021 annuity income was \$90,000,000 million - increase of over \$86 million (25 times increase).
Managed the sale of Middletown properties for \$13 million – \$1 million over appraisals (with Board approval).
My knowledge and experience in the life and annuity business was vital in these results. Competent, proven insurance expertise is necessary. I know what I'm doing and the last 15 years proved it.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Honor the foundation of Jednota, its Catholic and Slovak heritage.
Formed a Board "Revitalization Committee" to target younger generations membership.
Protect financial strength of FCSU and Members' assets.
Grow assets prudently
Reach out to more recent Slovak immigrants.
Actively support finding, promoting fraternal activities for all ages
Explore joint ventures and cooperation with other fraternal.
Financial Strength and prudent management are vital in this challenging interest rate and inflationary environment.
I ask for your vote to continue to protect and grow our great Society.

"HONOR THE PAST – WORK FOR THE FUTURE"

GOD BLESS THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION – THE JEDNOTA
1-800-533-6682 ext. 119 email: president@fcsu.com

Kenneth A. Arendt Seeks Election as National President



For the past 28 years, it's been my privilege and honor to serve as your Executive Secretary. I am announcing my intent to seek election as National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union at the 52nd Quadrennial Convention.

I am the Chief Accounting & Correspondence Officer for the FCSU. This provides an excellent background for the National President. The Executive Secretary is responsible for all day-to-day operations of the Society including personnel and property management as well as all financial reporting and compliance of the FCSU at the federal, state, and local levels. Duties also encompass processing and certifying membership requirements.

I've worked hard toward the betterment of our Society throughout my tenure. Under my watch, we have consistently experienced solid financial successes while controlling operating expenses and complying with all necessary rules and regulations, both internal and external.

My wife Theresa, our family, and I truly appreciate the trust you have placed in me as your Executive Secretary. Now I respectfully ask you, the delegates, to vote for me as a qualified candidate for FCSU National President so we may continue to build a strong future together.

Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt

For details of my qualifications and background, please go to <http://www.yourfcsu.com>

Damian D. Nasta Seeks Election as National Vice President



Currently, I am the Regional Director of Region 2 for the First Catholic Slovak Union. It has been my honor to have been elected to this office at the past six consecutive FCSU Conventions. I believe the depth of knowledge I have gained as the longest serving National Board Member, combined with 40+ years as an active member of and leader for our Society at the branch and district levels, provides an excellent knowledge platform for the vice presidency. Furthermore, I bring skills gained in my professional life and my extensive community involvement. This encompasses 40+ years of successful work in the Information Technology Department of a secondary education institute along with such leadership roles as President of a Community College's Federal Credit Union and Treasurer for a Catholic Youth Organization at my church.

I respectfully ask all delegates for your consideration as I seek election as FCSU National Vice President at the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. With your vote, I am ready to help guide our Jednota from the first day of the new term and into a successful future.

Fraternally,
Damian D. Nasta

For details of my qualifications and background, please go to www.yourfcsu.com

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>

Sabina Sabados for National Vice President: A vision for the future!



For the past 16 years it has been my privilege and honor to serve the First Catholic Slovak Union in various leadership positions as National Officer - Region 1 Director (elected 2014 - present), National Supreme Court Secretary (2012-2014), District 4 President, and Branch 746 President. At the 2022 Convention, I seek your consideration of my candidacy for National Vice President.

I am an experienced professional with a proven record of achievement in international relations and public sector oversight and compliance. I am skilled in Governance, Project management, Enterprise Risk Management, Process Improvement, Operations, Event Planning, Marketing and Sales. I am a confident leader and manager, known for fostering organizational change through leadership development, team orientation and a coaching culture, developing a collegial and productive work environment. I bring a plethora of professional experience to the position along with a dash of creativity, enthusiasm, and passion.

I immigrated to the US as a child but continue to have strong ties to eastern Slovakia where I was born. I speak Slovak fluently. I bring a truly Slovak-American perspective to the society embracing our common heritage and our homeland, the US and Canada.

Jednota has been a resounding presence in my life. I want to continue to work towards strengthening our Jednota community – based on the values and ideals of our founder, but with a vision of sustaining our society for generations to come. I often refer to us as the “Jednota family” and this is what we should continue to foster and build at the local branch level, district level, regional level, and at the national level.

Below, for your consideration, are my credentials:

EDUCATION

New York University

Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation, 2018-2019

Institute of Risk Management,

International Certificate in Enterprise Risk Management, 2021-present

Seton Hall University

Master of Arts, Diplomacy and International Relations, Honors, 2003-2004

Drew University

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (Minor: Europe Studies & French), 2000-2003

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNICEF

Office of the Comptroller, 2018 - present

Office of the Executive Director, 2017

United Nations, Office of Internal Oversight Services

Inspection and Evaluation Division, 2016 - 2017

Internal Audit Division, 2009 - 2017

Procurement Division, 2008 - 2009

Save Your World

Director of Operations, 2005 - 2008

Global Institute for Leadership and Civic Development

Director, Argentina Summer Program and Lead Instructor, 2004 - 2008

Schering-Plough Corporation, International Law Department, 2005

Leonard & Leonard, P.C, 1999-2000

CURRENT LEADERSHIP & FRATERNAL EXPERIENCE

First Catholic Slovak Union

Region 1 Director, elected in 2014 – present

- Serves on National Branch Revitalization Committee
- Serves on National Scholarship Committee
- Top fraternal sales leader in FCSU
- Annually organizes various FCSU events including the Region 1 Picnic

National Supreme Court Secretary, appointed September 2012-2014

Branch 746 President, 2006-present

District 4 President, 2009-present

Slovak-American Cultural Center, New York

President, 2012 – present

Chairwoman of The Slovak Ball, 2014 - present

Treasurer, 2011; Secretary, 2007-2010

Friends of Slovakia, Washington, DC

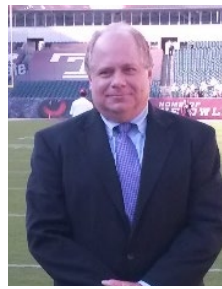
Board of Directors, 2014 – present

Drew University, College Alumni Board

Co-Chair of Affinity Networks, 2019 - present; Board member since 2003

Recent awards: 2020 Recipient of the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York Award for outstanding professional achievements and contribution to community empowerment.

Kevin J. Collins Seeks Election as Executive Secretary



Currently, I am your National Vice President of the First Catholic Slovak Union. I was elected to this position by the FCSU Board of Directors at the September 2021 quarterly meeting following the passing of National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Prior to this, I was elected to the FCSU Board of Directors as your Fraternal Activities Director at the 2018 Convention.

As a lifetime member of our Society, a strong and vital Jednota is very important to me. It was my privilege as Fraternal Activities Director to triple the number of national contests and activities so more of you throughout the Society could have fun and be more involved.

And, of course, following in the footsteps of a great fraternalist such as Andy Harcar has been an awesome responsibility, one which I have taken very seriously.

The experience and insights I have gained in these two board-level positions along with my 30+ years of a successful work history in sales, customer service and operations management are extremely applicable to the position I now am seeking as FCSU Executive Secretary. I also bring to the position years of community leadership including co-chairing an educational program, serving as a board member for a vocational school, coaching Special Olympics, and being an NCAA College Football Official. I am looking forward to greeting those of you who are delegates of the 52nd Quadrennial Convention, and I respectfully ask for your vote. Together we can ensure a strong future for our beloved Jednota.

Fraternally,
Kevin J. Collins

For details of my qualifications and background, please go to www.yourfcsu.com

Andrew P. Rajec for Executive Secretary



Jednota Professional Experience

I have been a lifelong Jednota member and the Director of Independent Agents for the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) for over 10 years. My duties include being the head of independent agent recruitment, maintaining agent relationships, and developing new sales and marketing strategies to drive sales growth for the FCSU. During my tenure we have grown the program from around 50 agents when I began in 2011 to over 450 independent agents today. Annuity sales in 2011 were \$16,447,544 and the sales mix was 1/3 from agents, 1/3 from recommenders, and 1/3 from the

home office. Annuity sales in 2020 were a Jednota all-time high of \$44,717,387, of which around 75% came from independent agents. In 2021, sales totaled \$87,931,132 (over 80% from independent agents).

Education

I earned my MBA with High Honors (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of Notre Dame and was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society. I also graduated from Marquette University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, specializing in Finance and was awarded membership into Alpha Sigma Nu, the honor society of Jesuit colleges and universities.

Professional Credentials

I have earned the FICF (Fraternal Insurance Counselor Fellow) and FIC (Fraternal Insurance Counselor) professional designations, one of the very few to do so in the FCSU. I am also professionally licensed to sell insurance in 9 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Slovak Background

Slovakia has always been a major part of my life. My mother (Idka) was born in Ružomberok and escaped Communism to come to America with her family in the late 1960's. My father's family also has strong roots in Slovakia. I studied at the Studia Academica Slovaca – The Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language (SAS) at Comenius University in Bratislava. I am a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for the Friends of Slovakia, a Washington, DC based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to enhancing U.S.-Slovak relations. I am also Interim President of Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities.

Washington, DC Experience

Prior to joining the FCSU, I was an integral part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) where I served as the International Cooperation Specialist for Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Romania and as the Deputy Director for the Office of Faith- Based and Community Initiatives.

I was awarded USAID's Meritorious Honor Award in recognition for exemplary service and leadership in furthering the Europe and Eurasia Bureau's Foreign Policy Interest and USAID programs. I also participated as an international election observer for the crucial presidential elections in the Republic of Georgia, helping to enhance accountability and transparency in the country's election process.

I began my career in Washington, DC as personal assistant to United States Senator Mitch McConnell, the current Senate Minority Leader, and eventually became Special Assistant to Secretary of Labor, Elaine L. Chao, and served as a member of the Secretary's transition team.

Monica Rodacy Boone Executive Secretary Candidate

****Voting for Monica brings ****



Knowledge and Experience to run an Office.

****Unbiased**Knowledgeable** Dedicated****

****Supports Transparent Office Procedures****

****Experienced* *Supports ADA* * Trusted ** Qualified****

****Fair & Just ** PA Fraternal Licensed** Family Values****

EXPERIENCED

Deloitte Tax LLP – 20 years - Tax Manager

Specialty: Nonprofits; Charitable Organizations; ERISA Expert;

Compliance; Plan documents and Testing; Experienced before the DOL and IRS; Highly Proficient in Accounting

Procedures; Advised Clients in HR and Payroll Functions; Major Client Contact; Responsible in Daily Office Functions; Presented Seminars to clients and employees on Nonprofit and HR Matters.

Grossman Yanak & Ford-Tax Specialist– ERISA Nonprofits

Ampco Pittsburgh – Tax Assistant

Gannon University – Personnel Office Assistant

Family Values –

At the peak of my career, I chose Family first: I put my profession aside to be a Mom and raise my son.

I later continued my career with nonprofits.

FCSU ALWAYS INVOLVED

- Lifelong Member 3rd Generation
- Trustee Pension Board 1988-1991
- National Auditor 1994 -1998
- Hlinka District – Secretary
- Hlinka District – Past Auditor,
Past Fraternal Director
- Originator & Columnist -
It Happened in the Hlinka District
- Branch 853 President
- Pennsylvania Fraternal Licensed
- Co-Chairperson – Save Our Slovak
Orphanage Home Campaign

EDUCATION

- MBA – Gannon University
– Organizational Behavior
- BSBA –Gannon University
Finance and Economics
- Certified Employee Benefit
Specialist-CEBS-ERISA Expert
- Harvard Business School -

Leadership Certificate

Management Certificate

INTERESTS

- Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity –
Past Province III Director Alum
- AGD - Honor of Arc of Epsilon Pi
- Vintage – Volunteer -
Assist Disabled Elderly
- IRS VITA-Site Coordinator-16yrs
- Catholic Women's College
Club – President
- American Society Women
Accountants- Committee Member
- WEB Inc. - Member
- Antique Automobile Club of
America – Own & Maintain Limited
Production Antique 1975 Ford Elite
- St Catherine of Siena Parish –
Past Eucharistic Minister
- St Catherine Laboure Parish –
Member

- Arranged and conducted 14 tours to Slovakia (approximately 300 attendees)
- Collected, reconditioned, and sent 250 computers to 43 schools in Slovakia
- Collected and sent medical supplies to 3 Catholic nursing homes in Slovakia
- Dual citizenship (Slovak and American)

RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION

- Church sacristan
- Eucharistic minister
- Homebound minister
- Knight of Columbus – 4th Degree
- Serra Club – Past president
- Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher

RECOGNITION

- Presidential Medal-Slovak government's highest award bestowed on foreigners
- Slovak American of the Year-Honored by the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC
- Fraternalist of the Year - Honored by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh
- Past President – Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh
- Distinguished Accounting Alumnus - Honored by the Duquesne University accounting faculty
- Beta Gamma Sigma – National Business Honor Society
- Since becoming Slovak Honary Consul, I was awarded 11 medals from various Slovak officials for outstanding work

If elected, I will attend all meetings in person.

John V. Tokarsky Seeks Election as National Treasurer



Currently, I serve as the National Treasurer of the First Catholic Slovak Union. I was elected to this position by the FCSU Board of Directors at the September 2021 quarterly meeting following the passing of National Treasurer George F. Matta.

In this capacity, I have successfully performed all required duties of the office including serving as a key member of the Executive Committee which oversees the financial operations of the Society and conduct all pertinent FCSU business as necessary.

My service to the FCSU is complemented by a long and successful work history as the President and Owner of a corporate services firm in the greater Toronto area of Canada. I act at the level of Chief Financial Officer, Controller and/or Corporate Secretary for junior public companies as well as those companies preparing to go public.

A member of our Society since 1989, I also have been active in leadership roles on the branch and district level. I am the current Treasurer and Financial Secretary for District 19, as well as the Fraternal Activities Director for both District 19 and Branch 785.

I respectfully ask all delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention for your vote to help me continue guiding the FCSU to a future of continued financial success and growth.

Fraternally,
John V. Tokarsky

For details of my qualifications and background, please go to <https://www.yourfcsu.com>

Joseph T. Senko for National Treasurer



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Duquesne University – BS in Accounting
- Robert Morris University – MS in Taxation
- Current Treasurer of Mt. Lebanon municipality and school district
- Licensed as a Certified Public Accountant
- Licensed as a Personal Financial Specialist
- Licensed as a Chartered Global Management Accountant
- Former Certified Financial Planner (29 years)

- During my Professional career, I served as Treasurer for over 15 different non-profit organizations

FCSU INVOLVEMENT

- Current Internal Auditor
- Past Chairman of Auditors (12 years)
- Treasurer of Jednota Properties, Inc.
- Financial Secretary of Branch 254

SLOVAK ACTIVITIES

- Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania
- Western PA Slovak Cultural Association - Founder and Executive Director
- Friends of Slovakia – Chairman Emeritus

Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!



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

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

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

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

Greg Maurer Seeks Election as National Chair of Auditors



Since 2020, I have served as your National Chair of Auditors. I was elected to this position by the FCSU Board of Directors at a quarterly meeting in September of that year upon the passing of the National Chair of Auditors Leonard Zilko. Prior to this, I was a National Auditor as elected by delegates to the 2018 Convention.

I successfully completed a comprehensive review of all audit types for fiscal year 2021 under particularly challenging conditions. I also serve on the National Branch Revival and National Scholarship Committees.

My work history with the FCSU is complemented by an MBA, a double BA (Mathematics and Computing and Information Science), and 25 years of professional success with a leader \$1.8 billion global technology leader with more than 8,600+ employees in over 60 countries. I currently serve as Senior Applications Analyst.

I am an ISO 9001 certified Internal Auditor and I also have a Lean Green Belt in Value Stream Mapping. I have earned various awards and certifications during my career at Kenametal in pursuit of operational excellence.

My Catholic faith is critically important to me, and I have volunteered in many activities and positions at my local parish, Saint Vincent College, and Greenburg Central Catholic High School. I currently serve as Homecoming Liaison at Saint Vincent College, and I was President in 2006 – 2007 of the Saint Vincent Alumni Association.

My qualifications are further enhanced by a strong background in community leadership and interests such as extensive genealogical research into my ancestral ties to Slovakia – four trips to Slovakia. I am extremely proud of my Slovak heritage and deeply grateful for the sacrifices of my ancestors. My grandparent's membership in the FCSU dates to 1910. I dedicate my service in the society to their memory.

I am a responsible person who is concerned with performance and accountability. I ask for your support to continue working as your National Chair of Auditors for the betterment of the FCSU.

Fraternally,
Greg Maurer

For details of my qualifications and background, please go to <https://www.yourfcsu.com/>

Statement of Candidacy

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. Auditor

First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada



Objective: Continue to provide High levels of OBJECTIVITY, ETHICS, PROFESSIONALISM, and CONFIDENTIALITY as one of the National Auditors. Continue working as part of a team helping improve the quality and depth of audits, rotating audit areas among the team members for a different look at each area. Apply objective review of practices during audits while providing recommendations for the improvement of the organization from prior knowledge and experience.

Education:

M.B.A., Accounting, March 1978:

Youngstown State University, 1975--1978. Graduate School, concentration in accounting.

Youngstown State University, 1973--1975, General business and accounting courses preparing for the MBA program.

B.A., March 1973: Youngstown State University, 1967-1973. History Major; Political Science Minor; extensive coursework in Psychology and Philosophy. Gamma Pi Chapter, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

Professional: Retired after over 30 years combined in governmental (over 26) sector and private, or corporate accounting, finance, and management.

- Completed various Auditor of State auditing and investment seminars including Commercial Paper and Banker's Acceptance; Treasurer of State continuing education investment classes.

- Audit experience includes cash, loans, collateral, fixed assets, income and expense items, checking and savings accounts, internal control reviews, embezzlement investigation, and consolidation of affiliated bank year end income statements during audits of affiliated banks.

- Adept at reading, interpreting, and applying local, state and federal statutory and regulatory laws, codes, and rules.

- Experienced in analyzing financial and trend information, and financial forecasts; determine and identify potential challenges; plan and recommend changes and alternative courses of action.

- Performed City Administrator duties nearly four years in addition to responsibilities as Director of Finance.

- Experienced in reviewing, analyzing, and negotiating contracts.

2007 – Present
2011 – 2014

Auditor, First Catholic Slovak Union
Accountant/Budget Analyst, Portage County, Ohio, Department

of Budget and Financial Management, Ravenna, Ohio

2003 – 2009

1986 – 2003

Director of Finance, City Of Campbell, Campbell, Ohio

Project Accountant, Auditor of State of Ohio, Local Government Services Division

1984 – 1985

1982 – 1984

Trust Operations Officer, Second National Bank, Warren, Ohio

Accounting Manager, Woods Of America, INC., Lordstown, Ohio

Ohio

1979 – 1982

Western

Cost, Budget, Warranty Analyst, E. W. Bliss Division, Gulf +

Manufacturing Co., Salem, Ohio

1978 – 1979

Lumbus, Ohio

Staff Auditor, Internal Audit, Huntington Bankshares, Inc, Co-

Military Service: Enlisted in U.S. Army Reserves December 1969. Received an Honorable Discharge after completing twenty-four qualifying retirement years of reserve service. Placed in Retired Status effective April 21, 2009. Twelve years with a Petroleum Unit (six as Assistant Petroleum Operations Sergeant / Unit Training NCO). Three and a half years as Battalion (8" SP Howitzer) S1 NCO, PAC (Personnel Action Center) Supervisor; responsible for soldiers' personnel actions, strength accounting, and battalion headquarters office administration and coordination. Five years in a Quartermaster Supply Company (Petroleum Platoon Sergeant, additional duties as Mobilization NCO and Movement NCO). Instructor for two and one-half years with the 2077th USARF School and 84th Division (Training), teaching Petroleum Supply Specialist and Motor Transport Operator (Truck Driver) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Courses.

Gary J. Matta Seeks Re-election as General Counsel



I have served as your General Counsel since 2007. It has been my honor and privilege to have been elected consecutively to this position by you, our delegates, at the four previous Conventions.

The General Counsel has an important role to play in keeping the First Catholic Slovak Union strong and thriving. We as a team have brought our Society a long way but much hard work is still before us. I am responsibility for reviewing all Society legal documents, rendering opinions on legal matters referred by the President, minimizing outside legal expenses, and cooperating with all National


Officers.

I also am a successful practicing attorney, serving as managing partner with a Pittsburgh area law firm for both public and private clients. Some of the specific areas in which I practice encompass real estate law, finance law, corporate law, municipal law, and school and education law.

I, along with many members of my family, are lifelong member of the FCSU. In addition to General Counsel, I have held various positions of leadership within the FCSU throughout the years on the branch and district level and continue to attend and participate in as many fraternal activities as possible. I ask the delegates of the 52nd Quadrennial Convention for your vote to re-elect me to the position of General Counsel. Together we can keep our Society successful for years to come.

Fraternally,
Gary J. Matta

For details of my qualifications and background, please go to: <http://www.yourfcsu.com>



ANNOUNCING

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship

- ✓ Are you a member of Branch 746?
- ✓ Are you currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school?
- ✓ Are you active in Branch 746 or want to become active?

**If you answered YES to the above,
you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship!**

For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to:
<https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

Members and delegates of the First Catholic Slovak Union,

I, Charles Boone, am announcing my candidacy for the office of Fraternal Activities Director of the FCSU. I am publishing this intent according to First Catholic Slovak Union bylaws section 8.02.

The position of Fraternal Activities Director is an important part of our society for it's the catalyst for people of all ages, to become involved. We had diligent people in this position. I want to be the next Fraternal Activities Director to continue the outstanding work and to continue to bring in new ideas and ways to use more technology into the society.

Knowing my Slovak heritage is important to me. I've been involved in Slovak activities and been a lifelong member of the FCSU. For years I danced with the Pittsburgh Junior Slovaks. I received the FCSU scholarship. I'm involved in both Branch 853 and the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District activities.

In being young in my career as a professional pilot, I can adjust my schedule so that I can dedicate the time that's needed, when it's needed, for this very important position.

As we adjusted our lives these last two years, Covid interrupted college for me. I am currently continuing with my flight hours as I strive towards my ATP and as I finish my degree in Computer Science. Technology is part of all our lives. My degree will enhance my ability to perform this position.

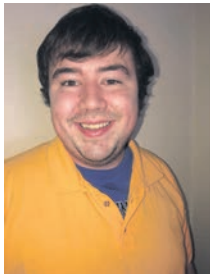
Organizing events is essential for this position. I became a Guinness World Record holder when I was 18. There're many hoops to jump through but I was able to organize it, and get it done.

I am an Eagle Scout in which I made Boy Scouts history by being one of the few scouts who earned every Boy Scout merit badge. When it was time for my Eagle project, I remembered those who do not have a voice. I organized and conducted a community-wide donation event for Animal Friends of Pittsburgh. My project was the largest single donation ever made to the animal shelter. Also, by working with Animal Friends to recruit a merit badge counselor, I organized the Dog Care Merit Badge and Pets Merit Badge programs so that other scouts can earn the badges. In scouts, I stayed true to my religion by earning all the Roman Catholic Scouting Religious Awards. Over Christmas break one year, I presented the Religious Activity Rosary Series program for my troop.

As you can see, I am not a stranger to organizing events. With the FCSU and my Slovak heritage being an important part of my life, I can assure the members of our great FCSU, that I will work to keep the position fun and to increase the membership participation. I respectfully ask for your support and vote at the upcoming Convention. Vote for Charles Boone for Fraternal Activities Director.

Fraternally,

Charles Boone



Announcement of Candidacy of Bradley Matta for Regional Director, District 5

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I intend to run for the position of Regional Director, District 5 at the upcoming Convention.

First, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Michael E. Lako who is retiring from the position as Regional Director. I have known Mr. Lako since I was a young child participating as a member of the Pittsburgh Junior Slovaks; learning the Slovak language, culture, and folk dances. Mr. Lako is a man of great character. He has always been proud of his Slovak heritage and demonstrated his love for his family. I believe I have these same characteristics and would like to take this opportunity to briefly tell you a little bit about myself and my interest for running for Regional Director for District 5 of the Pittsburgh Region.

I am most proud of my family – so it is only appropriate to start with them. I am blessed to be married to my wife, Gretchen Dimeling Matta, and we have two sons: George Hagen Matta (2 years old), and Bradley Bannon Matta (1 year old). My wife and I are extremely proud to have named our oldest son after my late father and grandfather, George F. Matta. Both my father and grandfather served as National Treasurer to the FCSU, and I am proud to run for Regional Director in their honor. My family has been involved in the FCSU since I literally can remember – and have attended my first convention back in Orlando, Florida back in 1986.

I am a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University (2007), receiving a B.S. in Public Policy and Management, and minor in Business Administration. I next obtained my law degree from Duquesne University School of Law in 2010, and currently work for Viatrix Inc. (formerly Mylan Inc.) as Litigation Counsel, handling litigation through North America, including employment, antitrust, product liability, commercial, and securities matters. I have been in this role since 2015.

I am interested in being elected for Regional Director to bring a young, energetic attitude that is interested in working with, and learning from, the current Board and Executive Officers to be part of the bridge that continues moving the FCSU forward for the Society's future generations.

I look forward to meeting the Delegates and their families at the upcoming Convention and would hope to spend a few moments together in answering any questions and further explaining my interest in serving as a Regional Director, and why I believe I have the background, education, and qualifications to serve in this position.

Sincerely,

Bradley Matta

Thomas J. Ivanec Announces Candidacy for Region 6 Director

I am announcing my candidacy for FCSU Region 6 Director at the 52nd Quadrennial Convention, July 31 – August 2, 2022. I was honored to have been elected to this position at the last Convention in 2018. Since I assumed the office in January of 2019, I have worked diligently to fulfill the duties entrusted to me according to the bylaws of our great Society. This includes serving on the FCSU National Board of Directors where I have attended every meeting as well as those of the Executive Committee Meeting by invitation of the National President.

By now, I have attended numerous District and Branch Meetings and functions. I am extremely proud of the fact that although much of my term has been COVID-challenged my District and Branch Officers along with our members have worked hard to keep FCSU fraternalism alive and well. I have done my part to help in any way possible: helping to set up and host virtual meetings, participating in in-person meetings as soon as it was safe to do so for membership, and helping organize family-friendly activities such as district-wide minor league sporting events as well as encouraging our members to attend and support the many local Slovak-American organizations throughout our Region. These include organizing ticket discounts to the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic, Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland Pig Roast, and Vilija (Christmas Eve re-enactment) that benefits the Slovak-founded Benedictine monastery of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey.

In addition, I am the Fraternal Activities Director for Branch 24 and am very involved in the greater Cleveland Slovak-American community. I am the President of the Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland, the Founder and Director of Lučina Slovak Folklore Ensemble, and a member of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, and the American-Slovak Zemplín Social Club.

I am passionate about the future of our Society, and my wife Terri and I hope our children and grandchildren, all of whom are members, can continue to enjoy a strong and thriving Jednota.

I thank the delegates of Region 6 for the trust you placed in me in 2018. I ask for your vote this year so that together we may continue to keep our region a vital part of our beloved Jednota.

Thomas J. Ivanec
Region 6 Director

Nicole L. Nasta Seeks Election as Regional Director for Region 2



I am happy to announce my candidacy for Regional Director for Region 2. I'm running to continue the legacy of my father, Damian Nasta, who has served on the Board of Directors as Regional Director for the past 24 years, which is almost my entire life. When I was growing up, my mom, brother and I would accompany my dad to the summer meetings where I got to meet the other people on the Board.

I am a lifelong member of Branch 857 and currently serve as the Branch treasurer. I attend Branch and District meetings, participate in the national bowling and golf tournaments, and as many other fraternal activities as I can. I am grateful to the members of Region 2 for their support and confidence in me to serve

as your Regional Director.

Fraternally,
Nicole L. Nasta

June 14th Flag Day



Statement as of March 31, 2022 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds	479,076,726		479,076,726	463,037,250
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks	4,250,000		4,250,000	4,250,000
2.2 Common stocks	2,246,988		2,246,988	2,106,577
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens	32,117,001		32,117,001	28,193,816
3.2 Other than first liens			0	0
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$ encumbrances)	487,853		487,853	492,761
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$ encumbrances)	310,206		310,206	320,038
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$ encumbrances)			0	0
5. Cash (\$12,715,232), cash equivalents (\$) and short-term investments (\$)	12,715,232		12,715,232	15,945,623
6. Contract loans (including \$ premium notes)	1,196,402		1,196,402	1,182,267
7. Derivatives			0	0
8. Other invested assets	8,952,105		8,952,105	9,650,063
9. Receivables for securities			0	0
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets			0	0
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets	550	550	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11)	541,353,063	550	541,352,513	525,178,395
13. Title plants less \$ charged off (for Title insurers only)			0	0
14. Investment income due and accrued	5,873,077		5,873,077	5,650,289
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection	78,873		78,873	108,404
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$ earned but unbilled premiums)			0	0
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$)			0	0
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers			0	0
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies			0	0
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts			0	0
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans			0	0
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon			0	0
18.2 Net deferred tax asset			0	0
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit			0	0
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software			0	0
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$)			0	0
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates			0	0
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates			0	0
24. Health care (\$) and other amounts receivable			0	0
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets	0	0	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 to 25)	547,305,013	550	547,304,463	530,937,088
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts			0	0
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27)	547,305,013	550	547,304,463	530,937,088

Statement as of March 31, 2022 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts \$ less \$ included in Line 6.3 (including \$ Modco Reserve)	462,425,454	446,187,350
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$ Modco Reserve)	0	0
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$ Modco Reserve)	25,631,818	25,771,894
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health	0	0
5. Policyholders' dividends/refunds to members \$ and coupons \$ due and unpaid	0	0
6. Provision for policyholders' dividends, refunds to members and coupons payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Policyholders' dividends and refunds to members apportioned for payment (including \$ Modco)	0	0
6.2 Policyholders' dividends and refunds to members not yet apportioned (including \$ Modco)	400,000	400,000
6.3 Coupons and similar benefits (including \$ Modco)	0	0
7. Amount provisionally held for deferred dividend policies not included in Line 6	0	0
8. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$ discount; including \$ accident and health premiums	50,008	44,470
9. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
9.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts	0	0
9.2 Provision for experience rating refunds, including the liability of \$ accident and health experience rating refunds of which \$ is for medical loss ratio rebate per the Public Health Service Act	0	0
9.3 Other amounts payable on reinsurance, including \$ assumed and \$ ceded	0	0
9.4 Interest Maintenance Reserve	355,464	142,354
10. Commissions to agents due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$, accident and health \$ and deposit-type contract funds \$	158,770	112,889
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed	0	0
12. General expenses due or accrued	23,204	71,775
13. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$ accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves, net of reinsured allowances)	0	0
14. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued, excluding federal income taxes	18,776	18,776
15.1 Current federal and foreign income taxes, including \$ on realized capital gains (losses)	0	0
15.2 Net deferred tax liability	0	0
16. Unearned investment income	0	0
17. Amounts withheld or retained by reporting entity as agent or trustee	6,266,618	6,182,080
18. Amounts held for agents' account, including \$ agents' credit balances	0	0
19. Remittances and items not allocated	0	0
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates	9,511	9,511
21. Liability for benefits for employees and agents if not included above	0	0
22. Borrowed money \$ and interest thereon \$	0	0
23. Dividends to stockholders declared and unpaid	0	0
24. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
24.01 Asset valuation reserve	3,551,997	3,724,208
24.02 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$) companies	0	0
24.03 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$) reinsurers	0	0
24.04 Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates	0	0
24.05 Drafts outstanding	0	0
24.06 Liability for amounts held under uninsured plans	0	0
24.07 Funds held under coinsurance	0	0
24.08 Derivatives	0	0
24.09 Payable for securities	0	0
24.10 Payable for securities lending	0	0
24.11 Capital notes \$ and interest thereon \$	0	0
25. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities	1,405,028	1,314,174
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25)	500,596,648	484,279,481
27. From Separate Accounts Statement	0	0
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27)	500,596,648	484,279,481
29. Common capital stock	0	0
30. Preferred capital stock	0	0
31. Aggregate write-ins for other than special surplus funds	0	0
32. Surplus notes	0	0
33. Gross paid in and contributed surplus	0	0
34. Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0	0
35. Unassigned funds (surplus)	46,707,815	46,657,607
36. Less treasury stock, at cost:		
36.1 shares common (value included in Line 29 \$)	0	0
36.2 shares preferred (value included in Line 30 \$)	0	0
37. Surplus (Total Lines 31+32+33+34+35-36) (including \$ in Separate Accounts Statement)	46,707,815	46,657,607
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37	46,707,815	46,657,607
39. Totals of Lines 28 and 38 (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3)	547,304,463	530,937,088

Statement as of March 31, 2022 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts	19,207,670	26,029,250	92,488,251
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies			0
3. Net investment income	5,180,197	3,922,551	18,621,567
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	93,233	108,419	382,949
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses			0
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded			0
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded			0
8. Miscellaneous Income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts			0
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts			0
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income	(4,592)	375	144,711
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3)	24,476,508	30,060,595	111,637,478
10. Death benefits	826,528	847,118	3,527,368
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments)			0
12. Annuity benefits	5,237,023	4,648,343	18,754,197
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts			0
14. Coupons, guaranteed annual pure endowments and similar benefits			0
15. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts	154,378	105,357	499,764
16. Group conversions			0
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds	172,542	257,467	545,658
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies			0
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts	16,238,104	23,388,693	80,420,136
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19)	22,628,575	29,246,978	103,747,123
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations, and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only)	359,822	562,670	1,805,274
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed			0
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses	944,540	1,054,695	3,389,089
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes	42,048	33,626	125,638
25. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums			0
26. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance			0
27. Aggregate write-ins for deductions	(198,051)	(221,077)	(886,714)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27)	23,776,934	30,676,892	108,180,410
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28)	699,574	(616,297)	3,457,068
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members	77,850	78,725	434,824
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30)	621,724	(695,022)	3,022,244
32. Federal and foreign income taxes incurred (excluding tax on capital gains)			0
33. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and federal income taxes and before realized capital gains or (losses) (Line 31 minus Line 32)	621,724	(695,022)	3,022,244
34. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding gains (losses) transferred to the IMR) less capital gains tax of \$ (excluding taxes of \$ transferred to the IMR)		4,116	(142,041)
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34)	621,724	(690,906)	2,880,203
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
36. Capital and surplus, December 31, prior year	46,657,607	43,771,595	43,771,595
37. Net income (Line 35)	621,724	(690,906)	2,880,203
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$	(743,727)	126,275	629,675
39. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss)			
40. Change in net deferred income tax			
41. Change in nonadmitted assets		0	0
42. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies			
43. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease			0
44. Change in asset valuation reserve	172,211	(175,843)	(623,887)
45. Change in treasury stock			0
46. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period			
47. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement			
48. Change in surplus notes			
49. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles			
50. Capital changes:			
50.1 Paid in			
50.2 Transferred from surplus (Stock Dividend)			
50.3 Transferred to surplus			
51. Surplus adjustment:			
51.1 Paid in	0	0	0
51.2 Transferred to capital (Stock Dividend)			
51.3 Transferred from capital			
51.4 Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance			
52. Dividends to stockholders			
53. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus	0	0	21
54. Net change in capital and surplus for the year (Lines 37 through 53)	50,208	(740,474)	2,886,012
55. Capital and surplus, as of statement date (Lines 36 + 54)	46,707,815	43,031,121	46,657,607

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kevin Collins, National Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
John Tokarsky, Treasurer (teleconference)
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES:

The President presented the minutes of the March 26, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by Kevin Collins 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 to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

Mr. White also reviewed new investment opportunities in commercial mortgages and answered the Committee's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky reviewed his monthly report to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the report in advance for his/her review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

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

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

The President stated he will set up a teleconference with Sean Hardy from UBS to give us an update on our portfolio at the next meeting.

Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary updated the 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 March for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of March 2022:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	309,400.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	73,212.39
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**Annuity Rates:**

The President reviewed the current annuity rates and stated that they will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Committee agreed.

SALES AND MARKETING:

Vice President Kevin Collins presented a sales report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated that he is working with the Home Office and an agency to develop a program to recruit more independent agents in the states that we are licensed in. The Home Office will continue to use email to recruit agents. As more information is available, he will present it to the Board.

The Vice President stated that he has been in contact with Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, Pittsburgh International Airport and Akron-Canton Airport regarding ad campaigns. As more information is available, he will present it to the Board.

The President and Vice President stated that since no membership meet was held in 2020 or 2021, they are looking into the possibility of holding one in late 2022.

The Vice President gave an update on the fraternal activities. He stated the bowling tournament will be held in May in Brook Park, Ohio. There will be two national picnics, Making Memories at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio on June 12, 2022 and at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, Pennsylvania on June 25, 2022. Registration for the picnics will be required. He gave a review of the March Madness and Losers Pool Contest. He stated that the Kentucky Derby Hat contest will be held in May.

HOME OFFICE UPDATE:

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office will be updating their hours May 2. The Office is open but members are encouraged to call and make an appointment if possible.

MATCHING FUNDS:

The President stated that the Matching Funds Program has been finalized. The information will be on the website, sent out in the branch mailing, emailed in our monthly newsletter and published in the Jednota. If you have any questions you are asked to contact the Home Office.

CONVENTION:

The President and the Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office staff is making final preparations with the Holiday Inn – Cleveland South Independence, the host of our 52nd Quadrennial Convention. The President and Executive Secretary are working on the Convention Agenda and various activities. Information regarding the Convention will be mailed out to the delegates in May.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

The President stated that two large donations were made this year to aid the Ukrainian people; \$25,000 to Kosicky Eparchialny Urad, Kosice, Slovakia (Slovak Catholic Eparchy of Kosice) and \$25,000 to the U.S. Bishops' Fund for Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Washington, DC.

The President stated that St. Andrew Abbey will host their 100th anniversary in September 2022. We will discuss a contribution.

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Kevin Collins to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

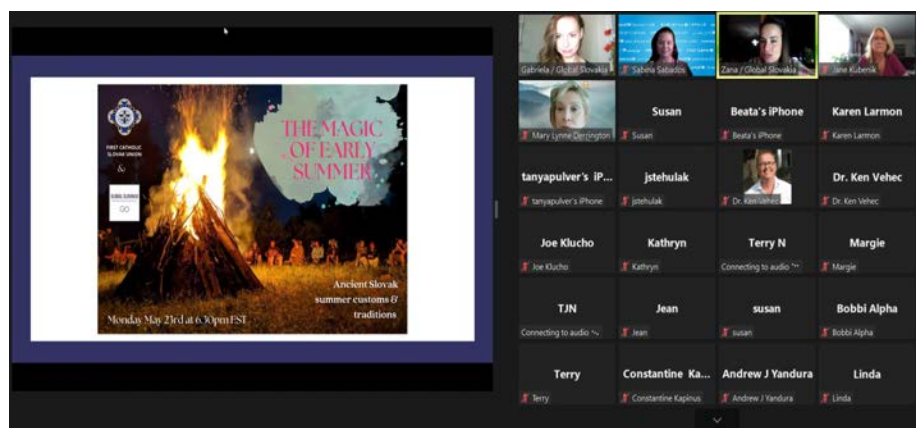
The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Global Slovakia Webinar on Spring Customs for Jednota Members

On May 23, 2022, Global Slovakia held a webinar for FCSU members on Ancient Slovak Summer Customs and Traditions. Late spring and early summer are filled with enchanting, yet little known, customs. From maypoles to Summer Solstice and St John's Night, the season is rooted in ancient practices, many of which are still alive today. The attendants had a precious opportunity to tap into this fascinating crevice of Slovak culture and connect with their roots deeper. Thank you, Global Slovakia, for the opportunity and good work promoting Slovak culture and heritage with Slovak descendants around the world! To learn more about the organization and their many fascinating books and projects, please visit: www.globalslovakia.com. The recorded webinar is available at: www.fcsu.com/events



Br 40 Scholarship Information

FOR GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



You may be eligible to win a scholarship if:

- You are a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union's St. Clement's Society Branch #40 of Streator, Illinois
- You are in high school and have applied for a fall term at a qualifying institution
- You are attending a Private Grade School

St. Clement's Society Branch #40 will be offering Scholarships to their youth members. They will be giving out one One-Time \$500.00 scholarship for college and one One-Time \$250.00 scholarship for a Private Grade School student.

These scholarships are solely funded by your local lodge Branch #40, not the national office.

For more information and an application, please call Theresa at 815-257-6142 (leave a message) or e-mail her at ttegraves@mchsi.com.

Applications must be postmarked by July 18, 2022.

Submitted by Theresa Graves



District 12 Mon Valley, PA held its Summer Picnic

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District held its second annual Summer Picnic. The afternoon started as a cool breezy day with a luncheon coordinated by District Treasurer Maureen Massafra. District members and young adults Destyni Hall and Charles Boone took charge of the photographs. Kendyll Wiggins and Nicole Hyatt handled the yard games. The four young adults Destyni, Charles, Kendyll, and Nicole, along with the members enjoyed the afternoon of good food, friendship, and fraternalism.

Submitted by Monica RodacyBoone

Branch 320 Honoring Memorial Day



Thank You for your service...

American Legion Post 949, Sons of the American Legion Post 949 and Branch 320 honored our local veterans with a flag ceremony at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Over 2000 flags were placed during this event. Thanks to all that were involved.

Before the Flag Burning Ceremony, Branch 320 gave a donation to Post 949 for helping past, present, and future veterans. (Unserviceable Flags Ceremony - Disposing of unusable flags in done in a prescribed and respectful manner and replaced. See: <https://www.legion.org/flag/ceremony> - Editor)



(left to right)
George Eckert (Mon Valley Honor Guard), Lee Hemings (Mon Valley Honor Guard), Bill Eckels (Post Commander), Joseph Tarquinio (Vice President - Branch 320), Alan Veliky (Sons of the American Legion Commander), Frank Lomago (Mon Valley Honor Guard)

Placement by Joseph M. Tarquinio on his father's grave. Joseph E. Tarquinio, veteran of the Korean War.



Placement by William Bury on his father's grave. Joseph Bury, veteran of World War II.





Branch 746 celebrated Mother's Day with the Lipka Academy

Being a mother is a precious gift. Mom - it is above all an embrace of security. Every year, the second Sunday in May is marked by a celebration of all moms. It is a celebration of motherhood, sacrifice, and the love mothers have for their children.

We can pay tribute to mothers in many ways. The children of Linden Academy (Linden, NJ) have chosen a way that is especially rare here in America.

On a beautiful Sunday, they performed a program called "Circus" and humorously showcased the dedication and work of parents, without whom children would not have a happy and beautiful childhood.

The whole program was in the Slovak language, because Slovak is a living language, including those of the young generation living in the USA. We owe it to the members of Jed-

nota, headed by their regional director Sabina Sabados, who came to support their youngest members in large numbers, to keep the language alive and to work on its preservation.

The local priest Mariusz Luksa, who is the administrator of the Slovak parish in Linden, was also present.

All those attending went home with a smile on their faces and many experiences. We thank our mothers for giving so much and contributing to a better life with their dedication and love.

-Article submitted by: Marianna Fecova, Director of the Lipka Academy and Branch 746 member. (Translated by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor)

Pobočka 746 oslávila Deň matiek s Lipkou Academy

Byť matkou je vzácny dar. Mama- to je predovšetkým náruč bezpečia. Každý rok sa druhá májová nedeľa nesie v znamení osláv všetkých mamičiek. Je to oslava materstva, obetavosti a lásky matiek voči svojim deťom.

Vzdať úctu mamkám môžeme rôznymi spôsobmi. Deti z Lipky Academy (Linden, NJ) si zvolili spôsob, ktorý je vzácny hlavne tu v Amerike.

V túto nádhernú nedeľu vystúpili s programom "Cirkus" a tiež humorne predstavili obetavosť a prácu rodičov bez ktorých by deti nemali šťastné a krásne detstvo.

Celý program sa niesol v slovenskom jazyku, nakoľko slovenčina je živým jazykom aj u mladej generácie žijúcej v USA a práve udržiavaním a pracovaním na jej zachovaní

vďačíme aj členom Jednoty na čele s ich regionálnou riaditeľkou Sabinou Sabados, ktorí svojich najmladších členov prišli podporiť v hojnom počte.

Nechýbal ani miestny kňaz Mariusz Luksa, ktorý je správcom slovenskej farnosti v Linden.

Všetci prítomní si odniesli domov úsmev na tvári a veľa zážitkov. Ďakujeme našim mamám, že dávajú tak veľa a svojou obetavosťou a láskou prispievajú k lepšiemu životu.

Článok predložila: Marianna Fecová, riaditeľka Akadémie Lipka a členka pobočky 746. Preložil Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., redaktor Jednoty



The incredible teachers that from Lipka Academy. Pictured from L to R: Valeria Lalkovicova, Marianna Fecova (Director of Lipka Academy and Branch 746 member; Michaela Sedlak, Michelle Janitor, and Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados. (Not pictured: Jaroslava Hrehova).



Prince Pribina District and Branch 844 Los Angeles celebrated Slovak Easter Monday traditions.

Slovaks and Slovak friends enjoyed the time at The Velaslavasay Panorama in Los Angeles and participated with hands on Slovak Easter Monday traditions. They enjoyed the food and tasted the Slivovice liqueur, painted Easter eggs, they saw the willow wand master whip and they tried it. How did it come to have Easter Monday Holiday in Slovakia?

You probably can imagine the shocking surprise of people about the crucifixion of Jesus and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. And on Monday after Sunday's resurrection huge crowds of women gathered outside in public places to talk about the shocking news of Jesus' resurrection. This was a troubling time for Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, afraid of rebellion so he decided to send out soldiers and disperse the crowds by throwing the water on them and whipping them. That's the real time situation.

Slovaks commemorate this event but make it more socially acceptable. On Easter Monday Holiday boys go to visit the house of their favorite girls and symbolically sprinkle them with water or perfume and pull out their willow wand master whip. They have a lot of fun with this activity and each village or town has a different intensity of this activity associated with social gathering, feast and drink.

Many thanks go to Sara Velas, owner of the Velaslavasay Panorama, Luba Caps for preparing delicious food and drinks, and photos by Forest Casey.

Submitted by Paul Skuben, President, Prince Pribina District



Portion of the Easter Groupe Celebration



Good food



Easter Monday Fun



Šibačka sa začína, The Whipping Begins!



Why is the Easter Monday Holyday in Slovakia



Pastries – koláče



Slovak-English Vocabulary



Boys need to have Willow Wand Master Whip



Easter Egg decorating workshop



Drinks and pastries – koláče are ready



Easter Egg Decoration



SAVE THE DATE for NATIONAL PICNIC and Golf Outing

Saturday June 25th, 2022 – Knoebel's Amusement Resort and Three Ponds Golf Course

Knoebel's Amusement Resort and Three Ponds Golf Course
 391 Knoebels Blvd
 Elysburg, PA. 17824
 www.knoebels.com

FREE Park Admission for All. Each member will have the option to receive 1 free book of tickets (\$20.00 value) OR \$20 off the price of golf.

– Mass at 4:30pm celebrated by Fr. Tom Nasta (Pavilion E)

GOLF OUTING

– Saturday June 25, 2022, at 8:00am -1:30 pm (golf course is 1/2 mile from amusement park)
 – \$40.00 per golfer (open to all ages and golf levels)
 – MUST register to the Home Office by 6/03/2022: email events@fcsu.com or call 800-533-6682 ext. 110

AMUSEMENT PARK

– Meet us at Pavilion E at 10:30am for coffee and baked goods
 – Park hours: 12:00pm-8:00pm
 – Pool hours 11:00am-6:00pm (pool day pass adult \$8.00, kids 2-11 \$6.00)
 – Complimentary lunch served from 2:30pm-3:30pm (Pavilion E)
 – MUST register to the Home Office by 06/03/2022: email events@fcsu.com or call 800-533-6682 ext. 110

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

– Hampton Inn, 137 Old Valley School Rd, Danville, PA 17013, (570)-271-2500
 – Room rate: 2 queen beds \$149.00 per night. Use Group Code: FCSU (limited blocks of rooms, book before 5/25/2022))
 – Members must make their own hotel reservations. Make your reservation at tinyurl.com/knoebelspic

Family members will be able to attend the park while golfing family members participate in the one-day scramble. After the scramble is finished, golfers will be able to drive to the amusement park.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

– Bald Eagle Habitat, Carousel Museum, Knoebel's History Museum, Mining Museum, Time Machine Theater (interactive theater), Davison Family Circus performances at 12:30pm and 5:00pm, Mini Golf 18 holes for \$5.00.

DRIVE TIME

From Cleveland Hopkins International Airport 4h 45m
 From Pittsburgh International Airport 4h
 From Philadelphia International Airport 2h 30m
 From Linden NJ 2h 40m
 From Newark Liberty International Airport 2h 35m
 From Chicago International Airport 11h 10m
 To register for the golf outing or picnic, please call the Home Office at 800 533 6682 ext. 110 or email events@fcsu.com by 6/03/2022.

Register early! Your name will be placed in a drawing every Friday before the picnic to win a prize.

The earlier you register, the more chances you have to WIN!
 HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Website: www.fcsu.com/events



Branch 746 and 45 Root for the New Jersey Devils!

On April 23, 2022 Branch 746 and Branch 45 fans gathered to cheer on the New Jersey Devils against the Carolina Hurricanes. The joint branch activity was well attended with almost 30 members participating.

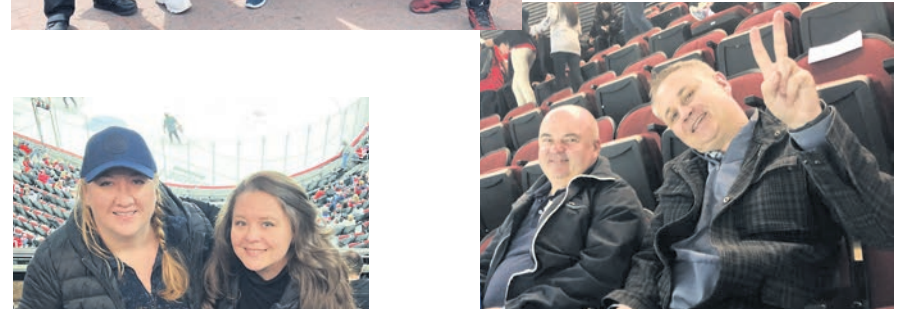
As the crowds gathered to enter New Jersey Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey it was evident that many Slovak fans were attending the game to cheer on NJ Devils Forward #90 Tomas Tatar from Ilava, Slovakia. There were lots of Slovak Jerseys and flags on display including those adorned by Jednota members!

For 55 minutes against the New Jersey Devils, the Carolina Hurricanes were in danger of seeing their chances at winning the Metropolitan Division take a major hit but the tide quickly turned as the Hurricanes rallied to beat the Devils in over-time, 3 to 2.

Although we left the stadium disappointed, it was a treat to see each see each other and catch up! To fairly represent both branch states, it was agreed that the next joint branch hockey will be to cheer for NY Rangers!

Thank you to the members of Branch 45 (New York City) and Branch 746 (Linden, NJ) for attending this co-organized event!

- Submitted by Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados



David Dinga, her cousin and Bratislava Choir member



The Bratislava Boys Choir Performed at the Slovak Embassy in Washington D.C.

I received a message from my cousin in Slovakia that a relative of mine was going to be singing at the Slovak Embassy in Washington D.C. on May 6, 2022. He suggested it would be nice if I would go to meet him and hear the choir perform. I called the embassy to see if there were tickets still available and that I needed four. I was able to get four that I needed. My husband and I then traveled from North Carolina to Washington D.C.

To my surprise the cousin was a twelve-year-old young boy named David Dinga. He comes from a very talented musical family. His great grandfather played the French horn. His grandfather and uncle were original members of the Malokarpatska Kapela. His uncle Kamil Rosko was first trumpet player in the Slovak Philharmonia Orchestra for many years. Now he has retired from there. During the program David sang a solo with accompaniment of the choir. The choir traveled to several states to perform before going back to Slovakia. Branch 856 members attending the concert were Marion Mistrik, Veronica Parcan Bernard, and Katherine Nowatkoski. I again heard from my cousin after David returned home. David told his family he would like to go back to U.S. to live.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856 President

Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania Observes Memorial Day 2022

Following a Mass for the Deceased Military of Branch 382 K at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton Pennsylvania, Branch members gathered at the Veterans' Memorial Plaza in Holy Family Cemetery in Throop, Pennsylvania. The worn flag was retired, and a new American flag was blessed by Deacon Ed Shoener of the Cathedral. It was then raised to fly above the area dedicated to the deceased military of Holy Family Church (now closed) and of Branch 382 K.

Following the flag ceremony, Branch members joined with fellow parishioners of Holy Family Church for the Memorial Day Prayer Service conducted by Deacon Shoener.

Pictured left to right in front are Deacon Shoener, Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Branch Vice President; Helen Czankner-Carroll; and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Branch Treasurer. Holding the flag are Paul J. Czankner, Rebecca Czankner, and David Czankner. Standing left to right in the back row are Laura Christianson, Matthew Christianson, Joshua Christianson, and John J. Slovenkai, Jr.



Members of Branch 382 K Instrumental in Bringing the Bratislava Boys Choir to Northeast PA



Members of Branch 382 K were part of the audience from Scranton and Lackawanna County to enjoy a concert performance of the Bratislava Boys Choir on Thursday, May 12, in the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Pictured left to right are Msgr. Dale Rupert, pastor of the Cathedral Parish; John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Branch 382 K; Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president of Branch 382 K; and Michael Stretanski, Regional Ambassador for World Artists Experiences (WAE). WAE and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic were instrumental in bringing the Bratislava Boys Choir to Northeast Pennsylvania.



**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
52nd QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION
SUNDAY PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET
Holiday Inn Cleveland South, Independence, OH
July 31, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

Adult Tickets - \$40.00 Children Tickets - \$15.00
Cash Bar

_____ Number of adult tickets X \$40.00 = \$ _____

_____ Number of children tickets X 15.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

***** ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY ***
DEADLINE: July 18, 2022**

Return this form with your check to:
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131
OR

To pay by credit card, please call 1-800-533-6682, ext 120

Fill out your Forms Online! Save your Time!

Now you can fill out the FCSU forms online at <https://www.fcsu.com/forms>
Fill them out, print, sign and



mail them to the Home Office.
Take advantage of our Faster, More Readable and Time Saving Feature.

International Golf Tournament, August 12-14, 2022

SAVE THE DATE: August 12-14, 2022

Hello, FCSU Golfers.

Thanks again for participating in the 2021 International Golf Tournament. I hope you had a good time. I certainly enjoyed getting to spend time with all of you. I appreciate your interest and feedback for making this year's event even better.

SAVE THE DATE:

International Golf Tournament
Friday, August 12 – Sunday, August 14, 2022

Treasure Lake Golf Resort
95 Coral Reef Rd
Dubois, PA 15801

More details to follow.

FCSU golfers had a great time at the 2021 FCSU/SOKOL/
GCU International Golf Tournament on a beautiful August weekend.

Take a look at scenes from it. Hope you'll join us this year!

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

Kevin Collins



[The announcement is on the FCSU website and has an address that was not included in the May issue: <https://www.fcsu.com/events/2021-international-golf-tournament/>]

The address that needed added is:

Treasure Lake Golf Resort
95 Coral Reef Rd.
Dubois, Pa. 15801



Hole Sponsorship at our 2022 Golf Tournament

Hole Sponsorship Opportunity

Sign Dimensions 24" X 18"

Cost \$50.00

It is a great fraternal way to promote your District, Branch, business, or family to over 150 golfers the weekend of August 12th through the 14th, 2022.

The Golf Tournament will be held at Treasure Lake Resort, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

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

Please send a check for \$50.00 made payable to: FCSU (please note golf hole sponsorship on memo line)

Deadline: July 15, 2022

Email: kevinfcsu@outlook.com

Mailing Address: FCSU – 6611 Rockside Rd – Suite 300 – Independence, OH 44131

**First Catholic Slovak Union/GCU/SCS
67th International Golf Tournament Entry Form**

August 12th-14th 2022

Treasure Lake Golf Resort – DuBois, PA

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

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

ENTRY DEADLINE: JULY 15th 2022

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

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Certificate # _____ Branch/Assembly/Wreath _____

Golfer Signature _____

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

President or Secretary

____ I have participated in two previous FCSU/GCU/SCS Golf Tournaments

____ I have not participated in two previous FCSU/GCU/SCS Golf Tournaments

____ Men: I am 62 years or older and wish to enter the Senior Flight and have participated in at least two previous FCSU/GCU/SCS Golf Tournaments

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

Preferred Doubles Partner: _____

____ Full Golf Package	Double Occupancy Package Fee: \$ 265.00 Entry Fee/Tournament Expense: \$ 30.00 TOTAL DUE: \$ 295.00	<u>Fairfield Inn</u> \$ 265.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 295.00	<u>Hampton Inn</u> \$ 265.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 295.00
____ Full Golf Package	Single Occupancy Package Fee: \$ 385.00 Entry Fee/Tournament Expense: \$ 30.00 TOTAL DUE: \$ 415.00	<u>Fairfield Inn</u> \$ 385.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 415.00	<u>Hampton Inn</u> \$ 385.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 415.00
____ Golf Only Package	Package Fee: \$130.00 Entry Fee/Tournament Expense: \$ 30.00 TOTAL DUE: \$ 160.00		
____ Banquet Only	Banquet Fee: \$ 25.00 TOTAL DUE: \$ 25.00		
____ Non-Golf Package	Double Occupancy	\$140.00	\$140.00
____ Non-Golf Package	Single Occupancy	\$265.00	\$265.00

All hotel reservations to be made directly through the Fairfield Inn & Suites, DuBois, PA, 814-371-2260 or Hampton Inn, DuBois, PA 814-375-1000

**67th International Golf Tournament
August 12th – 14th 2022
Treasure Lake Golf Resort – DuBois, Pennsylvania**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Every contestant must be a member of the FCSU/GCU/SCS in good standing for at least one (1) year or three (3) months with Single Premium Life Insurance.
- (A) The golf tournament will consist of six (6) flights as listed below before applying 75% to handicap:
 "A" Flight 0 to 12 Handicap "D" Flight Callaway System
 "B" Flight 13 to 20 Handicap "S" Flight Senior, 62 years and over
 "C" Flight 21 and over "W" Flight Women, Callaway System
 (B) Maximum Handicap per round: Men – 40 & Women - 50
 (C) Only the FCSU/GCU/SCS Handicap will be accepted for all flights.
- The tournament shall be held with prevailing U.S.G.A. rules.
- Callaway Flights: Golfers who do not have a handicap (handicaps are determined after two years or four rounds) of Tournament play. The Callaway Modified System will be used with two blind holes each round to calculate the daily handicap.
- (A) All handicaps are subject to review and possible re-rating by "Handicap Committee". In the case of ties, lowest handicap will be declared flight winner.
 (B) Women golfers will compete in a separate flight with a Modified Callaway System.
- All play will be 36 holes: 18 to be played on Saturday August 13th and 18 on Sunday, August 14th.
- Entry Fee is \$15.00 and Tournament Expense is \$15.00. A Golf Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at Luigi's Villa 800 W. Weber Avenue, DuBois, PA 15801
- Prizes: There will be a Champion in each flight and the prize money will be awarded according to the number of entries received for each flight.
- Foursomes will be paired at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Participants wishing for special twosomes & foursomes, please indicate your golf partners on the golf tournament application.
- Penalty for being tardy at the starting tee will be according to U.S.G.A. rules with loss of position.
- Entries will close with a Postmark Date of July 15th, 2022.** All tournament fees must accompany Golf Entry Form.
- Make checks payable to: **FCSU (Please note golf tournament on the memo line)**
- Mailing address: 6611 Rockside Rd – Suite 300 – Independence, OH 44131

Michelle Jursa, Branch 785



It is with great pleasure that I introduce Jednota readers to Michelle Jursa, finger painting artist extraordinaire. Michelle is the youngest of three girls born to the late John Jursa and his wife Mary of Toronto. All are members of Jednota Branch 785.

Michelle's early preoccupation in art was in the ceramics and crafts areas, although there was always a latent interest in oil painting and enthusiasm for it. Her talent surfaced about eight or nine years ago and she decided to enrich her experiences in oil painting by enrolling in a number of related courses.

Painting which began as a hobby, has evolved into her primary focus. She maintains a fresh approach in her works by regularly exploring new avenues and techniques adding interest and character to her pieces.

In producing many canvases, Michelle found herself using her fingers to achieve certain effects with the paint. Eventually she put the brushes aside and used just her fingers. She did some research and took a workshop with Iris Scott, an outstanding American artist and master finger painter.

Michelle's work, which number in the hundreds, have captured the interest and admiration of an increasing number of followers. She has given numerous workshops in and around Toronto and Ontario. In 2019, she was asked by the Columbus Artist's Guild in Columbus, Georgia to give two finger painting workshops - an experience which she enjoyed immensely. She was also asked to be a demonstrating artist at the Mayor's Gala, in support of the Toronto Arts Foundation.

More recently, at the request of a friend, Michelle has branched into transferring her works onto note cards. These have become very popular and are scooped up as quickly as they are produced.

Michelle lives in Mississauga, on the outskirts of Toronto with her husband Joe Krupa and twin daughters Mila and Katerina. She is the Director of Programs for a company which owns two national business recognition programs; Canada's Outstanding CEO of the Year and Canada's Top 40 Under 40 - a position she has filled for the last twenty years. A husband, twin daughters who play hockey, a demanding job, painting and countless other obligations - a busy life!

Her goal at some point in the future is to make art and give finger painting workshops a full-time career. We wish her every success in her future endeavors.

For those of you interested in learning more about Michelle's art, visit her website at www.mishkapaintings.ca or Facebook and Instagram@mishkapaintings.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13				14		15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21		22				23			
			24			25			26	27				
28	29	30		31			32		33					
34			35			36		37			38	39	40	
41						42					43			
44				45	46					47				
			48				49		50			51		
52	53	54						55			56			
57					58	59	60		61			62	63	64
65					66				67		68			
69					70						71			
72					73							74		

Across

- 1 Fishing gear
- 5 ___ bear
- 10 Educ. group
- 13 Aviary sound
- 15 "Not ___!"
- 16 Irritation
- 17 Copy, in a way
- 18 Unpleasant
- 19 Lennon's widow
- 20 Kind of cut
- 22 Consume
- 23 Mideast title
- 24 Pro or con
- 26 Maximum
- 28 Pooch grp.
- 31 Cuba libre ingredient
- 33 Kind of deer
- 34 Stir up
- 36 Detailed
- 41 Popular fashion magazine
- 42 It's corny
- 43 Sticky stuff
- 44 Distaste
- 47 Mystery, e.g.
- 48 Kind of code
- 49 Pasty-faced
- 51 Conclusion
- 52 Maintenance
- 55 Bondman
- 57 Periscope part
- 58 Fall behind
- 61 Caught
- 65 Born
- 66 Hysterical
- 68 Drivel
- 69 One of Frank's exes
- 70 Expenditure
- 71 ___ Lauder
- 72 Danger signal
- 73 Parting word

74 Overflow

Down

- 1 Dudley Do-Right's org.
- 2 Buckeye State
- 3 Expo presentation
- 4 Tournament favorites
- 5 "Polythene ___" (Beatles song)
- 6 "The Morning Watch" writer, 1951
- 7 Org. with a mission
- 8 Interrupt
- 9 "___ questions?"
- 10 Trailer
- 11 One of the Barbary States
- 12 Cut short
- 14 Constabulary
- 21 Old name for Tokyo
- 23 Come into view
- 25 Bumper sticker word
- 27 Furthermore
- 28 Bailiwick
- 29 City on the Rhein
- 30 Kind of film
- 32 Honolulu's ___ Tower
- 35 Grabs
- 37 Vast chasm
- 38 Blue-ribbon

- 39 Unable to decide
- 40 Supplemented, with "out"
- 45 Mincemeat dessert
- 46 Cheer
- 47 Spin around
- 50 Lady lobster
- 52 Of an arm bone
- 53 Tick off
- 54 Work dough
- 56 Leading the pack
- 59 Dead against
- 60 Computing abbr.
- 62 Kind of beer
- 63 Fencing weapon
- 64 Regard
- 66 Bygone bird
- 67 Romaine lettuce

Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius
 Villa Sacred Heart
 Danville PA

Summer Festival

Saturday
July 9 2022
10:30-5:00

Fun • Food Trucks • Baked Goods • Books
 Flea Market • Bingo • Religious Articles
 Sisters' Art • Silent Auction • Furniture Sale
 Saturday Mass for Sunday 5pm • Basilica

4-445 Flea Market --fill a bag for \$5.00

Stations of the Cross Dramatized in Slovak at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City

On Palm Sunday, April 10th the students of the Slovak School and their teachers presented the dramatized Stations of the Cross in the St. John Nepomucene Church.
Submitted by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic

Na Kvetnú nedeľu 10. apríla žiaci a učiteľky Slovenskej školy predviedli zdramatizovanú Krížovú cestu v Kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého.
Odoslala Želmira Becková-Kucharovic



Ms. Renata Bukovicova, teacher - on the left
Fr. Stefan Chanas, administrator - fourth from the left
Fr. Martin Kertys, parochial vicar - first on the right
Students of the Slovak school

Renáta Bukovičová, učiteľka - naľavo
o. Štefan Chanas, administrátor - štvrtý sprava
o. Martin Kertýs, kaplán - prvý zľava
Študenti Slovenskej školy

Remembering Fr. Martin Svitan

Remembering Fr. Martin Svitan, the former pastor of the St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City

On Palm Sunday, April 10th the parishioners of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York commemorated the 10th anniversary of passing of Fr. Martin Svitan, Pastor of the St. John Nepomucene Church from 1999 to 2012.

Submitted by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic

Na Kvetnú nedeľu 10. apríla si farníci Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku pripomenuli 10. výročie úmrtia otca Martina Svitana, farára Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého od 1999 do 2012.

Odoslala Želmira Becková-Kucharovic



Fr. Stefan Chanas, Administrator and Fr. Martin Kertys, Parochial Vicar

O. Štefan Chanas, administrátor a o. Martin Kertýs kaplán

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

is HOSTING

SLOVAK PICNIC



Saturday JUNE 18th

3 pm to 11 pm

Free Admission

American Slovak Sokol Camp
(a.k.a. Sokol Farm)

2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Heights
(Between State Rd and Broadview Rd)

Serving Traditional Slovak Food, Beer (Pivo), & Pastries
Anthony Culkar Band & Dancing

Bake Sale



Fr. Martin Svitan

O. Martin Svitan



Members of St. Matthew the Evangelist society attending the celebration

Členovia spolku sv. Matúša evanjelistu na oslave



Prof. Mark Stolarik receiving the Daniel Rapant Award from Slovakia's Ambassador.



Prof. Mark Stolarik's family with the Ambassador's wife.

Slovak Ambassador Honors Retiring Professor

On a sunny and warm Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., Mr. Vit Koziak, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Canada, held a reception at the Slovak Embassy in honor of Professor M. Mark Stolarik. Prof. Stolarik will be retiring on July 1, 2022 as Chairholder, Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa after 30 years of service to the University (50 years of employment in a professional capacity). The Dean of the Faculty of Arts supported Prof. Stolarik's application to the Board of Governors of the University for the title "Professor Emeritus." In return, Prof. Stolarik promised the Dean that he would mentor his successor, Professor Roman Krakovský (Ph.D., Sorbonne), a specialist on the history of Slovakia and Central Europe.

The reception was attended by around 60 members of the Ottawa and Montreal Slovak communities, as well as friends and students of Professor Stolarik. Ambassador Koziak then outlined Stolarik's contributions to the Slovak community, both at the university and in other capacities. He also read various greetings and appreciations sent to the Ambassador by Stolarik's colleagues and grateful students who could not attend. The Ambassador then presented to Prof. Stolarik the Medal of Daniel Rapant, the founder of modern Slovak historiography. The medal was bestowed upon Prof. Stolarik by the Matica slovenská (Slovakia's oldest cultural institution) for his work in promoting Slovak history and culture at the University of Ottawa and in the Western World. After this Ambassador Koziak introduced Professor Eda Kranakis from the Department of History at the University of Ottawa, who delivered the official "laudatio" of Professor Stolarik's achievements over the past thirty years. Finally, Prof. Stolarik briefly outlined the history of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa, and stressed that this was the only such Chair in the Western World, and Slovaks in Canada and the United States should cherish and support it.

Once the ceremonies ended, Ambassador Koziak thanked all those present at this, the first official reception at the Embassy since the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic in March of 2020. He then invited the attendees to help themselves to a sumptuous smorgasbord of Slovak food and drink and to personally meet and speak with the retiree. The reception lasted until 9:00 p.m.

Väčšina Slovákov by nebola ochotná bojovať za svoju krajinu (PRIESKUM)

Linda Cebrová, TS

13. apríla 2022 o 14:05

- Na Slovensku mierne rastú obavy z ekonomických dôsledkov vojny
- Ochota bojovať za Slovensko, ak by bola vojna, je nízka

Zdieľať

Štrnásť vlna výskumu „Ako sa máte, Slovensko?“ prebehla v období 31. 3. až 7. 4. 2022. V tomto období pokračoval útok vojsk Ruskej federácie na Ukrajinu. Ruské vojská ustúpili z okolia Kyjeva a médiami prebehli správy o masakroch ukrajinského civilného obyvateľstva.

Väčšina západného sveta, ako aj Európska únia naďalej odsudzovali ruskú agresiu a zavádzali nové ekonomické sankcie. Na Slovensko prišlo už viac ako 300-tisíc vojnových utečencov z územia Ukrajiny.

Epidémia koronavírusu bola v tomto období na Slovensku stabilizovaná, s rozšírením variantu omikron klesla závažnosť ochorenia, ale denné prírastky, ako i počet hospitalizovaných ostávali na pomerne vysokých úrovniach.

Podobne ako pred mesiacom i v aktuálnom výskume respondenti pociťujú najväčšie obavy z rastúcich cien energií a inflácie (88,7 %, na prelome marca a apríla to bolo 85,7 %).

Mierne tiež narástli obavy z ekonomickej krízy zapríčinennej vojnou (zo 77,5 % na 83,6 %). Na druhej strane sa veľmi mierne oslabili obavy zo samotnej vojny na Ukrajine (zo 78,2 % na 74 %).

Obavy z rozpútania tretej svetovej vojny (73,6 %) a z rozšírenia vojnového konfliktu na Slovensko (70,3 %) narástli veľmi mierne. Veľká časť respondentov pociťuje tiež obavy zo stavu slovenského zdravotníctva (81,2 %) a z popularity extrémistických a antisystémových skupín na Slovensku (65,8 %).

Narástli tiež obavy z príchodu utečencov z krajín sužovaných vojnou (68,8 %) a z pandémie koronavírusu (49,2 %), ktoré však sú – podobne ako začiatkom marca 2022 – najnižšie v porovnaní s obavami z ostatných skutočností.

Naša ochota bojovať za vlasť je biedna

Na otázku „Ak by bola na Slovensku vojna boli by ste ochotný(á) bojovať za svoju krajinu?“ odpovedalo kladne iba 27,5 % respondentov, záporne 37,1 % respondentov a odpoveď „neviem“ zvolilo 35,4 % respondentov.

O niečo častejšie by boli ochotní bojovať muži (33,5 %) ako ženy (21,7 %), ale muži tiež častejšie ako ženy odpovedali na túto otázku záporne. 39,6 % mužov uviedlo, že by neboli ochotní bojovať, v prípade žien tak odpovedalo len 34,7 %, pričom ženy odpovedajú najčastejšie „neviem“. Viac ochotní bojovať za Slovensko sú muži nad 60 rokov ako muži do 40 rokov.

Ochota bojovať za Slovensko súvisí s dôverou v inštitúcie, ako sú vláda, parlament či prezidentka, ale tiež s dôverou k médiám či zamestnávateľom. Za Slovensko by boli tiež ochotnejší bojovať respondenti, ktorí si myslia, že Slovensko by geopoliticky malo stáť na strane Západu (EÚ a NATO).

Naopak, respondenti, ktorí si myslia, že Slovensko by malo stáť na strane Ruska by boli ochotní bojovať menej. Podobne platí, že za Slovensko sú ochotnejší bojovať prívrženci členstva v NATO. Bojovať sú menej ochotní vysokoškolsky vzdelaní respondenti.

Nízku ochotu bojovať za svoju vlasť dokumentuje i medzinárodný Výskum európskych hodnôt z roku 2017, ktorého výsledky znázorňuje Tabuľka 2. Pre lepšiu porovnateľnosť dát z jednotlivých výskumov uvádzame ochotu bojovať za svoju krajinu pre mužov vo veku 18 – 60 rokov.

V európskom porovnaní mali v tomto výskume nižšiu ochotu bojovať ako Slováci iba Taliani a Španieli. V porovnaní s rokom 2017 však ochota Slovákov vo veku 18 – 60 rokov bojovať za svoju vlasť klesla z 56,4 % na súčasných 32,5 %.

„Veľmi nízka ochota bojovať za Slovensko môže súvisieť nielen s nízkou dôverou v niektoré inštitúcie a štát, ale tiež s istou geopolitickou rozpoltenosťou. Dôležitým kontextom je tiež história: na Slovensku nemáme tradíciu heroizovať svoje ozbrojené sily a na rozdiel od iných štátov či národov sme ani v minulosti nevybojovali žiadne väčšie úspešné ozbrojené konflikty či povstania,“ hovorí sociológ Robert Klobucký zo Slovenskej akadémie vied (zdroj: SITA/AP, Russian Defense Ministry Press Service).

„Nižšiu ochotu bojovať za Slovensko v roku 2022 než v roku 2017 možno interpretovať tak, že keďže dnes je vojna skutočnosťou, ktorá sa odohráva tesne za hranicami Slovenska a každodenne vidíme jej dôsledky, respondenti svoju ochotu bojovať za vlasť posudzujú menej idealisticky než v roku 2017,“ vraví sociálna psychologička Barbara Láštiová zo Slovenskej akadémie vied.

„Podobne, viac ochotní bojovať sú najmä starší muži, ktorí si prešli povinnou vojenskou službou počas studenej vojny, ich otcovia bojovali v 2. svetovej vojne, a teda boli socializovaní do príbehov o vojne a hrdinskom boji proti nepriateľom,“ dopĺňa.

Ďakujeme, že čítaš Startitup. V prípade, že máš postreh alebo si našiel v článku chybu, napíš nám na redakcia@startitup.sk.

Zdroj: Ako sa máte, Slovensko?

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The next branch meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on July 24, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by July 12, 2022. Social distancing will be observed so we need to know in advance if you will be attending. All members are welcome to attend. Wishing everyone a very happy Summer filled with health and happiness. Barbara Golias is now the Secretary of Branch 1.

Submitted Richard J Golias Jr,
President

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The semi-annual meeting of Branch 006, St. Stephen's Society, will be held on June 18, 2022, at 11 a.m. at 1406 Baker St., Streator, Illinois.

The regular meeting will be conducted, and the branch encourages all members to attend. New ideas on a fraternal gathering will be discussed. Please contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851, if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Paul Chismar, Secretary/
Treasurer

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 will hold a meeting on Sunday, August 14, 2022, at 9:00 A. M. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St. Ramey, PA 16671. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Submitted by Joseph C. Cervenak,
President

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting, we will recognize the recipients of the Margaret Evancho Award. Gift cards will be sent by mail to the following:

Emma Hackett
Brendan P. McMullan
Juliette R. Nichols

This award was established in recognition of the many years Margaret Evancho dedicated to the youth of Branch 19.

We cordially invite interested members to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Submitted by Deborah M. Nelson,
Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Mark your calendars for two June National Picnics in OH & PA. Come enjoy these fun fraternal events with things to do for the whole family!

The Ohio picnic is on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, OH. The Pennsylvania picnic is on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at Knoebel's Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. You need to register with the FCSU Home Office by June 3, 2022, to attend either or both. Visit www.fcsu.com/events for picnic and registration details.

We hope to see as many Branch 24 mem-

bers as possible at the picnics. To help offset the costs of attending the picnic in PA, Branch 24 is offering a reimbursement of a \$25 VISA gift card per attending member. To receive your special reimbursement from Branch 24 for the PA picnic, you must also register with Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec by Friday, June 10th at 440-668-7797.

Submitted by Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 encourages our branch members to attend the June 18, 2022, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic at the Slovak Sokol Campground, 2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Hts., OH, 44147. The picnic is scheduled for 3PM – 11PM. Admission is free.

Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will be serving Slovak food, beer, and pastries for purchase; there also will be music for dancing and your listening pleasure. Adult members of Branch 24 will receive \$10 in food/beverage tickets. Children (10 and under) who are members of Branch 24 will receive \$5 in food/beverage tickets. If you need more information, please contact me at 440-668-7797.

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.

Submitted by Tom Ivanec,
Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of St. Joseph Society Branch 055 K is scheduled to be held on Sunday, June 26, 2022, at 2:00 P.M. as a Zoom meeting.

Regular business will also be conducted. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please send your Email address to helenagaydos@outlook.com so we can send you the private Zoom link to attend the meeting.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's essential book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. For those interested in building a successful career, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Submitted by Helena T. Gaydos

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

As an incentive to grow Branch 89, members who refer new branch members or add a new contract of their own are now eligible to receive a Branch award. Specifically, Branch 89 members who successfully refer new members can receive an award of up to \$100. Members that add a new contract of their own can receive an award of up to \$50. To be eligible for an award, new policies must be issued during the calendar year in which Branch 89 otherwise qualifies for an FCSU stipend under bylaw section 4.05.

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

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

Paul Novak, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PA

Members are invited to a National Picnic to be held at Knoebel's Grove on June 25. Details are posted below. Karen Sterling noted that anyone from member attending from Branch 112 will be offered an extra \$20 in tickets. You may call here at 570-640-1796.

Submitted by Henry Sterling, President,
Karen Sterling, Recording and
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, BOONTON, NJ

Branch 132 will have its remaining meetings are as follows: August 21, October 23, and December 29. After all of the meetings we will have an activity. Our May meeting will follow with a trip to a local college.

Please continue to read the Jednota for all the exciting things that are happening in contests and the updates on annuities and insurance. Contact Sue if you are planning on attending the District meeting. Looking forward to our next meeting.

Submitted by Josie Copp Salko,
Secretary

BRANCH 173 – WILKES BARRE, PA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its semi-annual meeting on June 12, 2022 at Norm's, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. starting at 12:30 pm.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

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

Submitted by John A. Ungvarsky,
President FCSU Branch 173

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

The Branch 181 Family Picnic is being held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, June 26, 2022. Registration begins at noon with the picnic beginning at 1 p.m. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Beverages and main entrées will be provided by branch. If you plan to attend the picnic including guests, please RSVP by phone or email Vicki Hricik at 724-547-0803 or vickihricik@gmail.com. This will help greatly to determine the appropriate quantities of food. Contact Vicki for more information or directions if needed. There will be a brief meeting for all picnic volunteers after the picnic..

-Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Recording
Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

WANTED: Bowling towels needed for: 1984 to 1992 and 2003

Branch 200 is making a wall hanger or quilt for the years we know members bowled in the JEDNOTA Tournaments. There are probably more years prior to 1984 our members bowled but unsure of the years. Please call Vicki Schaub, Branch 200's Financial Sec./Treas. @724-763-9229 or e-mail vschaub123@gmail.com.

All Branch meetings are held the 1st Thursday of every month except June and July at 7:00 p.m. - August 4th, Sept. 1st, Oct. 6th, Nomination of Officers Nov. 3rd, and Election of Officers Dec. 1st.

Submitted by Vicki Schaub

BRANCH 213 PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2022. It will be held at 1:00 pm at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Still with Covid, you may access the meeting via phone. Contact information: weaz1958@aol.com.

The agenda will include all old, current, and new Branch business, officer's reports, and discussion of upcoming Branch and District events and activities. All Covid safety guidelines will continue to be followed. Respectfully, Joe Belechak, Secretary

Submitted by Anita Nixon

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

On Wednesday, July 20th, 2022, branch 260 will hold a meeting at Donivito's Restaurant in Struthers, Ohio at 5:00pm. On the agenda will be discussion on the upcoming convention. Additional meeting dates are as follows: Thursday, October 20th, 2022 at Donivito's Restaurant @ 5:00pm. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Friday, December 9th, 2022 at Alberini's Restaurant for our annual Christmas celebration directly after the meeting. God Bless!

Submitted by Carlie M. Peshek, Vice
President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PA

Any Branch 320 member interested in celebrating the 99th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, on Thursday, July 21, please contact Frances at (724) 929-9788 by July 8.

A 'ticket stipend' will be available for Branch 320 members. Check your Jednota for details.

Submitted by Frances Tarquino,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

Saint Joseph Lodge #367 of Fairchance, Pa 15436 will hold a meeting on Friday July 8th, 2022, at Mountain View Café, 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA 15478 at 12:30 PM. A discussion of plans for attending the FCSU convention, and future projects. All members are invited to attend.

Please call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik, President

continued on page 23

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 22

at 724-438-3887. Have a safe and happy summer.

Submitted by Kathryn Baranek

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

Branch 382 K Plans Summer Picnic SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold its Second Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 13, 2022, from 11:30 A.M. to dusk. Branch members and guests will gather at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club in Covington Township, Pennsylvania.

Branch members and guests will be able to socialize and enjoy the natural beauty of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The cost of the event for Branch members is \$10 per person. The price for a guest is \$15 per person.

A "Chilled and Grilled" lunch will be served. Members and guests will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the afternoon. A late-afternoon corn roast will end the day.

To make reservations, contact Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Branch Vice President, at 570.344.3854. Messages can be left on Voice Mail.

Your check guarantees your reservation. Checks should be made payable to FCSU Branch 382 K and mailed to: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016.

The deadline for reservations is Saturday, August 6, 2022.

Submitted by Elizabeth M. Slovenkai,
Branch 382 Vice President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

Branch 382 K Plans Summer Picnic SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold its Second Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 13, 2022, from 11:30 A.M. to dusk. Branch members and guests will gather at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club in Covington Township, Pennsylvania.

Branch members and guests will be able to socialize and enjoy the natural beauty of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The cost of the event for Branch members is \$10 per person. The price for a guest is \$15 per person.

A "Chilled and Grilled" lunch will be served. Members and guests will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the afternoon. A late-afternoon corn roast will end the day.

To make reservations, contact Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Branch Vice President, at 570.344.3854. Messages can be left on Voice Mail.

Your check guarantees your reservation. Checks should be made payable to FCSU Branch 382 K and mailed to: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, 505 Emmett Street, Scranton, PA 18505-1016.

The deadline for reservations is Saturday, August 6, 2022.

Submitted by Elizabeth M. Slovenkai,
Branch 382 Vice President

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410 will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

On the agenda will be information regarding the FCSU's 52nd Quadrennial Convention which will be held in the Holiday Inn at Independence, Ohio from July 30 to August 2, 2022. Call for reservations by Monday, July 11, 2022 at 724-425-2576. All members are invited to attend.

Submitted by Geraldine Buchheit,
Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 2 pm in the Eat 'n Park Restaurant, Rt. 286 So., Indiana, PA. The agenda will include the situation in the Ukraine, our branch's financial assistance to organizations, scholarship applications, the April district meeting, as well as the fall district meeting, and the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. Happy Spring and Summer to all!

Submitted by Monica Rura, Financial
Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON OHIO

Nicer weather seems to be on its way to Ohio. Mark your calendar for the upcoming events at St. John the Baptist Branch 553. Please join us at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio for meals and other listed events.

June 15 - Wednesday Monthly Mystery Dinner served from 4:30-6:30pm. Reservations required – call 330-786-9972 to reserve your seat at this month's dinner – Pork Chops \$15.00 per person

June 26 - Sunday Breakfast Buffet \$10.00 per person – Served 9:00 am – 11:00 am

July 6 – Wednesday All You Can Eat Spaghetti Served 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm (NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

July 20 Wednesday Monthly Mystery Dinner – Served 4:30 – 6:30 pm Call 300-786 -9972 to reserve a seat and learn what the meal will be that evening

July 23 – Saturday 53rd Annual Kielbasa Open 8 am Shot Gun Start at Mayfair Country Club – call 330-786-9972 to sign up your team (foursome)

August 6 – Sunday Slovak Fest – Details to be published soon

Happy Father's Day to all our members – enjoy your special day.

Submitted by Linda M Hanko,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – PORTER, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will meet on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at noon at the Paragon Restaurant, 1701 E. 37th Ave. in Hobart, IN. The agenda will include donations to organizations, the upcoming convention and any new business. Please RSVP Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793. Thank You!

Submitted by ERNEST & ANN
BUCZEK

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Branch 731 will meet on June 12, 2022, at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be at Café 422, 8586 South Ave, Boardman, Ohio. The purpose of this meeting is to review ideas and plans affecting the impending FCSU National Convention. The next meeting will be on August 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm also at Café 422.

Submitted by Bridget Bobby,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Additional branch news:

Branch 746 members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ offered for the intention of all Branch 746 members living and deceased. Masses will be offered in 2022 as follows: June 10th, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, and December 2, 2022.

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship deadline is April 30th. If you are currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school and active in Branch 746 or want to become active, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>.

Activities: Branch 746 will also be organizing a trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA to see King David on Saturday, September 10, 2022, at 11am. If you wish to obtain additional information, please reach out to Mary Ann.

Members are reminded that mass will be offered for the intention of Branch 746 members living and deceased on the following dates: June 10, July 1, August 5, Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4 and Dec 2. We encourage you to attend.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

1. The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Wednesday, July 13th, 2022, at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will include discussion of sponsored projects/programs for the remainder of the year and preparation for attendance at the FCSU Convention.

2. The 2022 Jednota Branch 682 Scholarship Winner

Submitted by Drew Hirt

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

Attention 853 members

Any member interested in attending a summer Slovak heritage event, such as American Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, in West Mifflin, PA or the Simply Slavic Festival Youngstown OH please contact the branch president at fsubranch853@gmail.com for financial assistance for park entry.

Any Branch 853 member who is interested in attending either of the national picnics in Novelty, OH or Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA, please contact the branch president at fsubranch853@gmail.com for the location of where we are plan-

ning to meet at the event.

Any Branch member interested in attending the Washington County Agricultural Fair in Washington, PA on August 15, 2022, please contact the branch president at fsubranch853@gmail.com for tickets.

Any Branch 853 member needing assistance with their policy, please contact the branch president. All members are urged to review their policy and update them when necessary for address changes, beneficiary changes or others so that the policy is up to date.

Any Branch 853 member interested in submitting Bylaw changes/amendments to the Convention, please email your suggestions to FCSU Branch853@gmail.com by June 25, 2022 - so they can be submitted timely.

Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone,
Branch 853 President

BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

Members, please join us this June as we support the following activities:

June 12 - FCSU National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty Ohio. FREE ADMISSION...FREE FUN...FREE FOOD for all members and guests. You MUST register at the Home Office to attend this picnic.

June 18 - Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Hts OH. FREE admission. Members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will be serving Slovak food, beer, and pastries for purchase. EXCLUSIVE TO BRANCH 855 MEMBERS: Adult members will receive \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children (10 and under) who are members will receive \$5 in food/beverage tickets. Check in at the FCSU table at the picnic for your Branch 855 food/beverage tickets.

June 25 - FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels Park in Elysburg, PA. FREE ADMISSION...FREE FOOD for all members and guests. FCSU members can choose to receive a \$20.00 book of ride tickets or \$20.00 off the price of golf. And, as a special treat EXCLUSIVE TO BRANCH 855 MEMBERS each of our members attending will receive a \$25.00 VISA gift card to offset driving expenses. You MUST register at the Home Office to attend this picnic.

Please check this issue or the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com/events for more details and information about all the picnics. To register for the National Picnics you must call 1-800-533-6682 ext.110 or email: events@fcsu.com.

Mark your calendars and join the fun! If you have any questions you want to ask me about our branch participation please contact me at the Branch 855 email at fcsu855@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Stephanie Sutilla,
Fraternal Activities Branch 855

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

All members of Branch 856 are invited to attend the National Picnic being held at Knoebels Grove in Elysburg, Pa. on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Free park admission to all. Must register to Home Office by June 3, 2022, or email events@FCSU.com or call 800-533-6682 ext 110.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski
President

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 1 - REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT BRIDGEPORT, CT

The Reverend Matthew Jankola District will conduct its semi-annual meeting via Zoom on July 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

At this meeting, we will discuss plans for the coming year. Interested members are encouraged to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to hearing from our dedicated members.

Submitted by Deborah M. Nelson, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH, PA

We haven't had our usual Father's Day Brunch since 2019. This year the Pittsburgh District officers will host the 2022 brunch at Holy Trinity Hall in West Mifflin PA on Sunday June 19 at 11 AM. There will be a brief business meeting prior to the meal.

The cost of the brunch is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. The cost for the ad booklet is \$75/\$40/\$25 for whole/half/quarter page ads. RSVP by June 5. All ads go to Dave Matta at lotlights@hotmail.com or 412-754-0945. Ads must be emailed in PDF format. Brunch reservations go to Patrick Sullivan at psull179@gmail.com or 412-719-6721.

The district hopes to host a Pirate game and tailgate in September, with the assistance of Branch 38. We still need a host for the fall meeting.

The 52nd convention is planned for July 30 to August 2 at the Holiday Inn in Independence OH. David Matta has been elected district delegate. Branch delegates will have an evening meeting at Holy Trinity Hall shortly after Father's Day. Watch for an email.

Other announcements of local interest.

WPSCA: meets 7PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. Meetings and other events resume in October.

Slovak Day at Kennywood - Thursday, July 21. Tickets: regular \$30; Senior (60+) \$27. Contact Sue Ondrejco.

Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt - Sunday, November 6.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as picnics and contests. This is the time to be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. Check FCSU.com for information.

Submitted by Margaret Nasta, District Secretary, manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY, JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, July 10,

2022, at 1P.M. at the Dairy Queen Grill and Chill at 575 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

On the agenda will be information regarding the FCSU's 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.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT, PA

Note there is a date change for District 11 meeting in August:

August 21, 2022 -Meeting will be held at the CU Club, Ford City

November 6, 2022- Meeting will be held at Villa Blanca, 2740 Leechburg Rd. Lower Burrell, PA 15068- The November Annual meeting will include election of officers for the year 2023.

The 1st Annual Family Picnic will be held on September 25, 2022, at the Pony Farm Trap and Gun Club, 592 Pony Farm Rd. Kittanning, Pa. 16201. Pork, Hot dogs, corn on the cob, tableware, soft drinks, and water will be provided. Please bring a covered dish or dessert if attending. RSVP with a total headcount by August 21, 2022. Event is a BYOB.

Entertainment by well-known Jack Tady and the Tady Bears Polka Band. They have played at Branch 200 with a wonderful turnout. Fun was had by all whether dancing or just enjoying the music.

Outdoors we will have cornhole, badminton and any other activity you would like to bring. Bingo will also be indoors when the band isn't performing.

RSVP to:

President Patrick Froncek patrickf007@yahoo.com 724-236-4226

Secretary Karen Greggs kgreggs39@gmail.com 724-372-0690

Treasurer Vicki Schaub vschaub123@gmail.com 724-763-9229

Submitted by Karen Greggs, Secretary, District 11

DISTRICT 12 - MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT MON VALLEY, PA

Attention Andrew Hlinka District members:

The annual district picnic will be held at the Chamber Plaza in Charleroi on May 15, 2022, from 1pm to 4pm. If you plan to attend, we are happy you will be there.

Any questions, please email the district secretary at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com or leave a message at 412-341-1577. Include your name, phone number, and the names and branch numbers of the members attending.

All district members are encouraged to attend. It will be an afternoon of fun, food, and fraternalism.

Submitted by Monica RodacyBoone, District Secretary

DISTRICT 14 YOUNGSTOWN OHIO - THE REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2022:

2. Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Semi-Annual Meeting); Fireplace
3. Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace. (Convention Related Update)
4. Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace
5. Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2022); Fireplace
6. Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

Appropriate social distancing and masking protocols will be followed as long as the Covid-19 issue remains. Dates and locations may change for the same reason. An Additional meeting might be scheduled if needed for convention or fraternal activities.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. Alternate location will be The Falcon Grille; 39 N. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, OH 44515.

Sincerely,

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President
Home: (330) 549.3788
Cell: (330) 559.5981



With FCSU MATCHING FUNDS

FCSU Matching Funds Guidelines for Branches and Districts

1. The **Eligibility Form** should be completely filled out and submitted at least 30 days prior to the event.
2. The activity must be sponsored and planned by the branch/district (Br/D) submitting the activity. If more than one Br/D is involved only one Br/D may submit for the matching funds. Every Br/D is permitted to apply twice in a calendar year.
3. The Br/D officers/members are responsible for recruiting as many Br/D members to be involved in the activity. The Br/D officers may also invite other branches or districts, church members, a community or other organizations to participate in the activity.
4. After your Br/D has received approval for your activity, it should be publicized on our website, in our newspaper/magazine, direct mail to Br/D members, church bulletin, diocesan newspaper or local newspaper. The FCSU name should be prominently displayed at the site of the activity. Posters are available upon request from the Home Office.
5. The maximum amount matched by the FCSU is **\$600.00 per event**. The cause must be charitable or benevolent in nature. Phone or email the Home Office if you are not sure your charitable or benevolent cause qualifies.
6. Br/D that consider helping an established project at their church or in their community may submit the activity as a matching funds project, providing the Br/D sponsors the entire activity or in conjunction with the event a Br/D sponsors a raffle, bake sale, etc. and has a separate table or booth.
7. The Br/D officers are responsible for taking pictures and keeping receipts that should be submitted with the "Matching Funds Request for Payment Form".
8. **Matching Funds Request for Payment Form** must be submitted for payment no later than 30 days after the completion of the activity to the Home Office. Forms are available on www.fcsu.com/forms.



For any questions, contact the Home Office at 800-533-6682 ext. 114 or fcsu@fcsu.com



Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 19

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

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.

Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im svieti. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen
Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Marie Anne Golias	085K	David Edward Herman	315K	Dorothy Jean Day	731K	Vincent R Roth
001K	Arthur Mondak	086K	Joan Marlene Moore	315K	Robett Ruzanic	731K	Donna Yuhaniak
002K	Ann Hynes	122K	Joseph Michael Slonecki	322K	Robert Leiberton	743K	Bernadette Radich
002K	Anthony James Kuban	157K	Charles J Kuruc	333K	Mary Ann Eckard	746K	Irene Bakos
002K	Anthony J Murgia Sr	162K	James M Marine	367K	Robert Anthony Pierno	746K	Stephen Banas
002K	Barbara Ann Wastrodowski	162K	Eugene J Tajc	367K	Johanna Marie Swetz	746K	Douglas Gochal
003P	Michael L Acri	169P	Barbara V Siciliano	372K	Jean F Maloskey	746K	Kamila Olsavska
005P	Judy L Gaul	173K	Daniel Bagonis	372K	Paul E Maloskey	746K	Barry Sarisky
019K	Julia Ann Diasio	173K	Cynthia M Colvin	382K	James M Antonik	746K	Joseph P Skalla
019K	Richard L Diasio	173K	Helen Mary Piazza	382K	Ronald J Crambo	746K	George Tkacs
019K	Richard J Grich	173K	Charles P Pluto	401K	John J Matisko Jr	764K	Christine A Dreas-Felise
019K	Anna M Jarusinsky	181K	Robert S Vangrin	419K	Patrick Michael Umbra Jr	764K	Anne B Smith
019K	Jacqueline Ann Zack	199K	Gerald J Lucas	484K	Edward F Stossel	780K	Matthew A Barancik
023K	Alison L Ermeigh	200K	Frederick A Edwards	553K	David Case	796K	Agnes E Kohler
024K	Madeline A Bukovsky	200K	Ernest Babe Ruth	553K	Michael P Vegh Jr	796K	Thomas J Minarovic Jr
035K	Leonard Kvorjak	200K	Larry Shoop	581K	Rev Clare J Hendricks	831K	Susan Buday
035K	Evelyn Matlak	224K	Edwin Bach	636K	John F Martis	855K	Edward Dobransky
038K	Richard Hudak	238K	Anne M Motichka	652K	Judith A Bancroft	855K	Jeannette Lucark-Schroeder
038K	John C Tonecha Jr	260K	Thomas Krotky	652K	Mary E Liesch	856K	Chris Ann Lavelle
045K	Marylou Popovic	266K	James E Miller	682K	Anthony Colello Jr	857K	Kathleen Theresa Elias
060K	Patricia Pastirik	293K	Thomas M Gimbor	731K	Adelyn A Bellej	900K	Evelyn Woodruff
060K	Phyllis J Usko	293K	Joseph Zavodny	731K	Kenneth E Ferenchak	909K	Wallace E Gamer
075K	Raymond M Bednar	294K	Stephen V Condash	731K	Anna Hruska	916K	Joan E Derango
075K	Mark Thomas	294K	Theresa M Wycheck	731K	Stephen A Hruska	916K	John C Tonozzi
085K	Antoinette Czyzyk	299K	Donald Joseph Bucha	731K	Peter Nagy	921K	Darrell D Leiser
085K	M Joyce Doyne	313K	Kenneth W Michalik	731K	Frank J Rigelsky	924K	Greg E Potochn

* Processed in the month of May 2022

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL JAMES JURNAK, BRANCH 173 – WILKES BARRE, PA



Michael James Jurnak (“Uncle Mike”), 94, was peacefully greeted by the Lord on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, at Linwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Taylor, PA, he was the son of the late James and Eva Ruscin Jurnak. After his graduation from Taylor High School in 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the time of World War II. After his discharge from the Navy, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Scranton and Millersville University.

Michael was a devout Catholic. As a young boy, he was an altar server at daily mass and was in the choir at St. John’s Church in Taylor; as an adult, he was president of the choir, organized church dances weekly, was active in fundraising at the church, and proclaimed God’s Word, serving as a lector.

Michael enjoyed an extensive career in public administration. He was the Director of the Public Assistance Program of the United States Agency, encompassing Luzerne and Wyoming counties, supervising public assistance programs such as the Bureau of Children Services and the Offices of Aging, Mental Health, and Transportation. For the next 15 years, he was the Executive Director for the Department of Public Welfare, responsible for the overall operation of the Luzerne County Assistance Office. Michael was also President of the Pennsylvania Association of Executive Directors and President for the Northeastern Pennsylvania International Personnel Management Association.

Michael loved travel, both professionally

and personally. Michael worked as a Volunteer Executive in Poland, where he provided recommendations to the social welfare department for a region with the highest unemployment rates. He attended conferences in Warsaw, Poland, which allowed him to visit the Auschwitz concentration camps and the Warsaw ghetto, and he resided in a twelfth century castle. He also attended conferences in Russia in the Moscow Kremlin. He traveled on the Trans-Siberian Railroad to St. Petersburg. He went fishing on the Volga River, and he hunted bear in the mountains of Eastern Russia.

Upon retirement, Michael was a consultant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and was responsible for the operation of service centers when there was a natural disaster declared, including varied locations across the US as well as in Puerto Rico and Samoa.

Michael was fluent in Slovak. He loved to talk about history, politics, and religion. He took diligent care of his health, and he valued family, who will immensely miss him.

Surviving are his sister, Dorothy Nestor, 90, as well as nine nieces and nephews: Nancy Meredick and husband, John, Taylor; John Gary Nestor, Dushore; James Sopko, Ponte Vedra, FL; Christine Kochan and husband, Ron, Ponte Vedra, FL; Richard Sopko and wife, Sue, Clarks Summit; Diane Franklin, and husband, Terry, Gouldsboro; George Jurnak, Old Forge; Mary Louise and husband, Joe, Old Forge; Jack Solanik and wife, Linda, Denver, CO; and the late Marie Thorne, Baltimore, MD; as well as 26 great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by siblings Mary Solanik, Joseph, John, and George Jurnak, and Katherine Sopko. He was also preceded in death by his long-time, beloved friend, “Rocco” James Juliano.

Special thanks to his sister, Dorothy, who cared for Michael for the past six years, and

special thanks to Glenmaura Senior Living, which he loved and to which he wanted to return. Special thanks also to Sacred Heart Hospice for your loving care in Michael’s final days. Most special thanks to Linwood Rehab staff, nursing staff, and especially the exceptional social worker, Sharon Cullen, for showing Uncle Mike comfort, respect, and love.

Mike’s funeral Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Rev. Francis L. Pauselli at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton. Interment with military honors followed at St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Taylor. Please visit www.semiancares.com to share memories or extend condolences.

Submitted by Tamara Semian and John A. Souter

EDWARD G. DOBRANSKY – BRANCH 855 CLEVELAND, OH



A Mass of Christian Burial for Edward G. Dobransky, age 96, of Wickliffe, Ohio, was held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 29850 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe.

Edward passed away March 2, 2022. Edward was born on December 31, 1925, in Euclid, Ohio. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and worked at TRW for 40 years. After retirement, he volunteered as a Meals on Wheels driver for 21 years. Edward was a handyman who could build and fix anything. He enjoyed photography, woodworking, gardening, and growing houseplants, and working jigsaw puzzles. He enjoyed many vacations to New Brunswick, Canada. He was a longtime parishioner of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

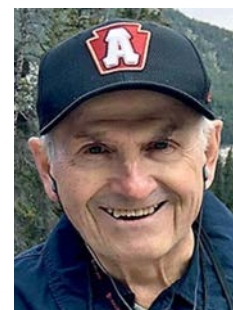
Edward was the beloved husband of Syb-

il; dearest father of Elaine; dear brother of William of Mesa, AZ, and of the late Mary Gyulveszy, Elizabeth Stocker, and Anna Kollar; dear uncle and great-uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was loved by his pets.

The family received friends at The Orlando-Donsante-Previte Funeral Home in Wickliffe, on Monday, March 7th. Burial took place at All Souls Cemetery in Chardon Twp. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Edward’s memory to a charity of your choice.

Submitted by Sybil Dobransky

GEORGE TARASOVIC – BRANCH 181 UNITED, PA



George M. Tarasovic, 79, formerly of Hazelwood. He passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones on Monday, January 31, 2022.

He is survived by his loving siblings Ray (Janet) Tarasovic, and Georgene (Dan) Bassi; beloved UGEE to his nieces and nephews, Amy (Pete) Talbot, Danielle (Eric) Power, Louis (Amanda) Bassi, and Michael Tarasovic; 7 great nieces and nephews.

Friends were received the Edward P. Kanai Funeral Home, 500 Greenfield Ave. 15207. A Funeral Mass followed at 10 a.m. in St. Paul Cathedral Parish—St. Stephen Worship Site, 5115 Second Ave. 15207. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of George Tarasovic please visit the funeral home’s Tribute Store.

Submitted by Georgene Bassi

continued on page 26

OBITUARIES

continued from page 25

JACQUELINE ZACK - BRANCH 19 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Jacqueline Ann Zack, 86 of Trumbull, the beloved widow of Henry J. Zack, Sr., passed away peacefully at home on April 27, 2022. Jacqueline was born in Bridgeport on April 25, 1936. She was the daughter of the late John and Josephine (Haluska) Zahor.

She was a graduate of Harding High School and attended New Haven State Teachers College. Jacqueline was a member of St. John Nepomucene Church choir where she met her husband. They settled in Trumbull, Connecticut where they lived for the last 66 years.

Jacqueline first worked as a secretary for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and became an Assistant Buyer of children's clothing for Howland's Department Store. She became the manager of Capitol Package Store in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1967. In 1983, she joined the staff of Marian Heights Nursing Home where she worked as a Certified Nurse's Aide. She dedicated her life to the care and comfort of the elderly retired Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and retired in 2008.

Jacqueline was a faithful member of St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church in Trumbull, CT where she participated in the choir. She was a Co-President of the St. Theresa Home School Association and a member on the Confraternity of the Rosary Committee and Social Action Committee. Jacqueline also taught Religious Education (CCD) and was an assistant troop leader in the Housatonic Council of the Girl Scouts of America.

Jacqueline was devoted to Slovak fraternalism and served as the Financial Secretary for St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, and Financial Advisor for District 1 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. She and her husband enjoyed attending many conventions throughout North America and made several trips to Slovakia and encouraged her children and grandchildren to become involved in Slovak fraternal organizations.

She contributed to various charitable organizations including Trinity Missions, Missionary Oblates, St. Benedict Abbey, and the Priests of the Sacred Heart. She and her husband enjoyed Saturday night dances and traveling to visit family in Europe. She always enjoyed sending just the right card to friends and family to remember special occasions.

Jacqueline was preceded by her parents and sister, Marie Solek. She is survived by her brother, John Zahor, and her devoted daughters Deborah Nelson and her husband Lawrence, Laura Minese and her husband David, and devoted son Henry John Zack, Jr. She was the proud grandmother of Katherine Bendin and her husband Eric, Dr. Amanda Nelson and her husband Calvin Johnson, Matthew Minese and his wife Carrissa Jett, and Emily Nelson along with three great-grandchildren Julia Bendin, Grant Minese and Jackson Bendin. She was also a cherished aunt to numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends paid their respects at the Pis-



tey Funeral Home in Stratford. The funeral took place on May 3, 2022 at Saint Teresa Church in Trumbull, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Submitted by Henry Zack

MARY ANN ECKARD - BRANCH 333 GRASSFLAT, PA

Mary Ann Eckard, 77, of Cumberland, MD, died at UPMC Western Maryland on Monday evening, September 20, 2021.

Mary Ann was born in Williamsport, PA, on July 6, 1944, to Delmont Pittinger and Mary Petrof Pittinger. She received her ASN, RN from Allegany College of Maryland and her BSN from University of Maryland. Mary Ann was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, University of Maryland in May 1990.

Mary Ann served as a registered nurse at Memorial Hospital for many years. She dedicated her career to serving others.

Mary Ann married Bruce Daniel Eckard on September 17, 1964. She was a devoted wife and mother to eight children. Mary Ann was dedicated to her family and participated as an active member of St. Mary's Church, Our Lady of the Mountain Parish. She was an active member of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Secular Franciscans, Padre Pio Fraternity, and a member of the Blue Army. Mary Ann was an advocate for education and a role model for mothers. In May 1993, Mary Ann and family were recognized by Allegany College of Maryland for dedication, commitment, and support of educational goals, career aspirations, and personal enrichment.

Mary Ann is survived by her husband, Bruce and her children, Ann Shipway, husband Tim, Virginia Baker, husband Ralph, Daniel Eckard, wife Carla, John Eckard, wife Virginia, Teresa Kutschke, husband Walter, Mary Lou Coyle, husband John, Catherine Dormarunno, husband Matt, and Angela Eckard, and 23 grandchildren.

Friends and guests were received at the Scarpelli Funeral Home, Cumberland, on September 27. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Cumberland, September 28. Interment took place at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.ScarpelliFH.com. To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Mary, please visit the funeral home's Tree Store.

Submitted by Ann Shipway

MARY ANN (SIVY) RODGERS - BRANCH 24 CLEVELAND, OH

Mary Ann Rodgers, a native and a life-long resident of Ravenna, Ohio peacefully passed away on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at the age of 74 surrounded by her family. She was the first-born of the five daughters born to Joseph and Catherine (Stabl) Sivy, who preceded



ed her in death. She led the pack of Sivy daughters doing chores on the farm, playing baseball, and trying to keep herself and her sisters out of trouble.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 7, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Ravenna. The Reverend Father William Kraynak officiated. Mary Ann was laid to rest with her beloved husband, the late Donald H. Rodgers, in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. Mary Ann and Don were married for 32 years prior to his death in 2007. During their married life, they loved to travel and share their lives with each other. Survivors include her stepdaughter Keri Rodgers, sisters Janet Knott, Marge Hewitt, Jody Hartman (Terry), Kathy Stover (Lowell) numerous nieces and nephews, her cherished companion, Paul Worthing, as well as countless friends whom she has made over the years.

Upon graduation from Southeast High School, Mary Ann began her career as bookkeeper at the former Martin Motors in Ravenna. Mary Ann became the office manager when the business was acquired and became the Courtesy Chrysler Plymouth auto dealership. It was a perfect match as she loved interacting with the public and the employees.

Mary Ann was also a licensed cosmetologist who not only relished the profession but also the relationships she developed with her clients. In the years following her retirement, Mary Ann devoted time to her beloved church community, Immaculate Conception. She was the first to raise her hand and volunteer her service to church ministries. She was a talented organist who played masses at Immaculate Conception, Randolph, and Lake Milton as well as family weddings.

The family suggests honoring Mary Ann's memory by contributing to Immaculate Conception Church in Ravenna, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or to the donor's individual choice. The family would like to thank Dr. Benjamin Walter at the Cleveland Clinic for his amazing care of Mary Ann and family support. In addition, we greatly appreciate the wonderful nursing and support team at Crossroads Hospice Care. Condolences and memories of Mary Ann may be shared with the family at www.sscfuneralhomes.com.

Submitted by Jennifer Long

PATRICIA A. OESTERREICHER - BRANCH 780 SAGINAW, MI

Patricia A. Oesterreicher was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Patricia passed away January 10, 2022, in Dallas, Texas at the age of 79. She will be greatly missed.

Born June 23, 1942, to Merlin White and Helen Mitas in Saginaw, Michigan. Patricia grew up in Albee Township of Michigan, and attended high school in Chesaning, Michigan where she met and fell in love with her best friend, Jim. She married James Erwin Oesterreicher on August 10, 1963, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albee Township, Michigan. The two moved from Michigan to Pittsburgh, on to New Jersey and Ohio, Pennsylvania to California and finally Texas,



having three sons along the way. Wherever they were, Patricia had an incredible way of making each place a special home for her family.

Pat had a talent for preparing and hosting the warmest gatherings for family and friends, making special memories for all gathered. Known for her superior bridge playing, she had prowess on the golf course, as well. Once shooting a hole in one, Patricia was an avid golfer who relished getting time on the course. Mapping out golf courses in the area, she would create special outings for she and Jim, often inviting close friends to join in.

Patricia's loving heart was a beacon of light to all who knew her. She cared for others without end. With her priority to care for her husband Jim, three sons and grandchildren, she still set aside time to volunteer with numerous organizations. Close to her heart, she worked diligently with the Spina Bifida Association and Scottish Rite of Dallas.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Oesterreicher of Athens, Texas; son, Scott Oesterreicher and wife, Michelle of McKinney, Texas; son, Tom Oesterreicher and wife, Sandy of Arvada, Colorado; daughter-in-law, Melissa Oesterreicher of Plano, Texas; grandchildren, Nicole, Kaitlin, Julia, Owen, and Elise; brother, Harold Mitas and wife, Sue of McKinney, Texas; sister, Mary Lou Hudecek and husband, Jim of St. Charles, Michigan, and a host of other loving family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her son, David James Oesterreicher.

A private family funeral service was held on Saturday January 15, 2022, at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home in Allen, Texas. The service was also live streamed at TJMfuneral.com and can be viewed on Patricia's obituary page by clicking on the following link: <https://celebrationoflife.tv/blog/patricia-a-oesterreicher>. Interment was held at Ridgeview Memorial Park in Allen, Texas. In lieu of flowers, consider donating to the charity of your choice.

Submitted by James Oesterreicher

RONALD ANDREW LICHALK - BRANCH 60 PLEASANT HILLS, PA

Ronald Andrew Lichalk, age 85, of Pleasant Hills, PA, formerly of McKeesport, PA, passed away suddenly on January 26, 2022.

Ronald is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Juanita May Lichalk. Loving father of Lauren (Dan) Galardini and Tracy (Hal) Hunter; Grandfather of Daniel (Jenny), Matthew (Laine), Adam, and Jessica Galardini, Hal T. (Kindall) and Andrew Hunter, as well as Dalton and Madison Lichalk. Great-grandfather of Henley Hunter and Burek Galardini. Brother of Arlene (Vince) Barth, brother-in-law of Edward A. (Carolyn) May, Mary Ann (Michael) Elliott, W. Joseph (Janet) May, and Lawrence R. (Linda) May. Also survived by many very special nieces, nephews, and cherished friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Bertha Lichalk, his in-laws,

continued on page 27



OBITUARIES

continued from page 26

Walter and Margaret May, his beloved son, Ronald Andrew Lichalk Jr., and his infant grandson, Nikolas Lichalk.

Ronald was a 1954 graduate of McKeesport High School and a 1960 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Mechanical Engineering. Ronald proudly served in the Army during the Vietnam era. He was a devout Catholic and served as a Eucharistic Minister for 49 years at Triumph of the Holy Cross- St. Thomas A' Becket Church. Growing up, Ronald loved to assist his father in the garage he had in McKeesport which led to a lifelong love of automobiles. He was a member of the Allegheny Region Porsche Club and the Allegheny Region Mercedes Club, as well as a 60-year member and a two-time President of the SAE: Society of Automotive Engineers Pittsburgh Section. When he wasn't working on cars as a hobby, Ronald was an avid fisherman, devoted Steeler fan and season

ticket holder, member of the Pleasant Hills Garden Club, but he was best known for his Eastern European baking skills. Above all Ronald was a devoted loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and loyal friend. He will be fondly missed by all who knew him.

Visitation was held on Monday, January 31, 2022, 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME, INC., in Pleasant Hills, 15236. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 10:00 am at Triumph of the Holy Cross- St. Thomas a' Becket Church in Clairton, PA. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org, or The Navy Seal Foundation, www.navysealfoundation.com. Condolences may be shared at www.jeffersonmemorial.com.

Submitted by Juanita M. Lichalk

Branch 23 Luncheon with the Arts Held in Johnstown, PA



Branch 23 had a fraternal "Luncheon with the Arts" featuring the paintings of Branch president, Marian Hockycko. One painting shows the former St. Stephen's Slovak Catholic Church, now Resurrection Parish, in the Cambria City section of Johnstown, near VOMA (Venue of Merging Arts), where a luncheon was held. It was an enjoyable afternoon.

Submitted by Marian Hockycko



Branch 24 Supports Our Member Lexi Glova

On Sunday April 10, 2022, 19 members of Branch 24 attended a performance of the Tamburitzans at Breen Auditorium on the campus of St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, OH. The Tamburitzans are a multicultural song and dance company headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA. The troupe is comprised of fulltime college students, all of whom must audition in three categories: song, dance, and their choice of musical instrument. Lexi Glova, in her inaugural Cleveland performance with the Tamburitzans, danced, sang, and played the violin. Lexi, a fulltime sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh, has been a longtime member of the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Dance Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. In addition to Branch 24, more than 50 people throughout the Cleveland Slovak-American community were at the show to cheer her on. Congratulations, Lexi!

- Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Region 6 Director & Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director

Sister Clare



Gabriella Miškovský was born in the last year of the 19th century, on February 17, 1899, in Sliach, Slovakia, and was baptized by the priest-patriot Msgr. Andrew Hlinka. When she and her parents came to the U. S, they settled in Olyphant, PA where her father served as organist in Holy Ghost Church. In those days an organist's role was a combination of liturgist, pastoral minister, and DRE (Director of Religious Education).

Gabriella always recalled the kindness of Sister Cyril who had a strong influence on her choice of religious life, as well as the words of Father Martinček, who when he gave out report cards said to her, "Gabriella will be a Sister when she grows up." It proved true, for on September 8, 1914, Gabriella entered the congregation and was received and professed at Mt. St. Mary's in Scranton. She and Sister Clement made their novitiate in Plymouth and Sisters Loretta, Veronica and Bernard made theirs in Olyphant.

Sister Clare was professed on August 3, 1917, and served for 74 years in the elementary grades in the Dioceses of Scranton, Harrisburg, Greensburg, Gary, IN, Syracuse, and the Archdioceses of Hartford and Philadelphia teaching grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. Coming from a musical family, she was almost always in charge of the school's choir. She also gave piano and violin lessons. Even as a nonagenarian Sister Clare could sing on pitch and recall melodies of hymns and songs.

In the tribute to Sister Clare at her funeral, the story is told of her attempt to make a second confession a week after receiving First Communion. She and a friend went to church at 4 p.m. and after examining their consciences, found they had nothing to confess. The simple solution was to go to a store nearby and steal a grape, after which they returned to church to make their "second confession."

Sister Clare never failed to "tell it like it was." Absolutely no pretense. Her fidelity, generosity and good humor were the keystones of her personality. For instance, she never failed to demonstrate concern for others. Sister Clare made it a point to inquire about a Sister's health and about her family members. Sister never failed to be of generous service, a prime example being her joy in assisting Sister Mary Gilbert in her ministry at Most Holy Rosary parish in Elysburg.

Sister Clare died at age 91 on the Feast of St. Andrew after a life dedicated to serving others for 77 years as a Cyrilite. At prayer the evening before her funeral celebrated by Father Edward Deller at Maria Hall, the third antiphon pointed to the joy of Advent: "I am coming soon, says the Lord. I will give to everyone the reward her deeds deserve."

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

Awe Before God's Mercy and Love

In the days leading up to Pentecost, I've been reflecting upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit that Christ won for us through His death and Resurrection. Sometimes these gifts seem to have been foreshadowed by the most unlikely people, such as the Good Thief, who asked of the criminal hurling insults at Christ, "Do you not fear God?", a question that both reflects Judaic teaching and anticipates one of the most misunderstood gifts of the Holy Spirit that would be poured out at Pentecost 52 days later.

Fear of the Lord, which is the awe we are to have before God's mercy and love, is not the only misunderstood gift of the Holy Spirit. The reality is that each of the gifts poured out to the Apostles and followers of Christ at Pentecost is a treasure that can only be unlocked by those who are humble of heart.

Take, for instance, the gift of wisdom. A worldly interpretation of wisdom would have us believe it is all about our experiences and how much knowledge we've acquired. But Christ commands us to be like children when He says, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4-5).

Socrates linked a similar concept into his interpretation of wisdom 400 years before the time of Christ, when he said: "Wisest is he who knows that he does not know." In other words, it is only through humility that we can truly be wise. By recognizing our smallness in relation to God and the wonders of His creation, we can begin to act with wisdom. As the words of Christ might be interpreted, it is only when we meet the world with the awe and wonder of a child that we are truly wise.

It is no wonder that both Socrates and Christ were put on trial by those governing the societies of their respective time periods. Socrates challenged worldly values, and Christ represented an entirely new way of seeing things, one in which, as He said, "The last will be first, and the first last." It is through this lens that places God's timeless values above worldly values that the gifts of the Holy Spirit can truly be understood, and we are able to see that the awe inspired by a fear of the Lord unlocks the wonder needed to appreciate the treasures of heaven.

Through this lens, understanding arises from seeing beyond superficial interpretations. Good counsel is less about achieving success for ourselves and more about serving others. Fortitude is devoid of hubris and instead a prayer of long-suffering united to Christ on the cross. Knowledge is about discovering the truth of God written into His creation. And piety is the human inclination to reverence directed towards God lest it be turned to the things of this world.

Unlocking an understanding of the Holy Spirit's gifts is the first step to integrating these gifts into our lives. It takes thoughtfulness and intentionality to act upon the treasures God has bestowed upon us, but it is well worth the effort. As we see with the Apostles and followers of Christ in the aftermath of that first Pentecost, nothing would ever be the same. In seeking renewal, we should strive for this same fervor, turning from worldly concerns so the fire of the Holy Spirit can be kindled within our hearts.

Branch 785 Meeting Held in Mississauga, Ontario

Branch 785 held its Annual meeting on March 22, 2022, in Mississauga, Ontario, and in person, and here are few pictures.

Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Social Committee, Branch 785, Mississauga



Matica slovenská zinventarizovala archívny fond Slovákov v Rumunsku

Medzi najčastejšie sprístupňované a najviac žiadané fondy Krajského múzea Matice slovenskej patrí archív Dolnej zeme. Matica postupne vytvorila digitálne inventáre fondov bývalej Juhoslávie, začiatkom roka dokončila práce na fonde z Maďarska a v dnešných dňoch ukončila inventarizačné práce archiválií z Rumunska.

Fond Slovákov žijúcich v Rumunsku tvorí 3938 jednotlivín, uložených v 33 archívnych škatuliach. Najkongruentnejšiu časť fondu tvorí pozostalosť Petra Pavla Dovála (8 archívnych škatúl). Je tvorená jeho osobnou dokumentáciou, fotodokumentáciou, súkromnou i pracovnou korešpondenciou (listy vo veci slovenských škôl v Rumunsku, listy zo spolkového činnosti, listy z redakčnej činnosti, osobné záležitosti a iné), archiváliami z činnosti Spolku Slovákov z Rumunska, rukopismi prednášok s poznámkovým aparátom, knižnou zbierkou, aktivitami v presídľovacej komisii a spolkoch, informáciami k nákupu obrazov od J. Podlipného, komunikáciou ohľadne Slovenského týždenníka, výstrižkami z časopisov a ďalšími jednotlivinami.

Pozostalosť Ladislava Kissa (2 škatule) je tvorená zbierkou fotografií, negatívov a osobných dokladov. O čosi rozsiahlejšia je osobná pozostalosť Michala Kolimára (5 škatúl). Nachádzame tu jeho rukopisnú básnickú tvorbu, fotografie, časopiseckú a knižnú zbierku a výstrižky z novin.

Ostatná časť dokumentačnej zbierky je tematicky rôznorodá. Obsahuje materiál o živote Slovákov v Rumunsku – fotografie, pohľadnice, novinové články, listiny, písomnosti, výskumné materiály, periodiká, fotoarchív a iné. Činnosti spolkov je venovaná jedna archivačná škatuľa, ďalšie archiválie predstavujú písomný materiál – Slováci v Bukovine, xerokópie listov z časopisov Naše snahy (až po rok 1992) a Slovenský týždenník (1929 – 1939).

Ďalšiu časť zbierky predstavujú úradné dokumenty týkajúce sa vystaňovalectva z Rumunska do USA (vyrozmernenia o vystavení pasov a dôležité upozornenia vystaňovalcom, vystaňovalecké predpisy, memorandum o vystaňovaleckých a kolonizačných otázkach a iné). Prevažne národopisná fotodokumentácia Pavla Javora a Evy Lehotskej zachytáva (aj) fotografie prvých stavieb Slovákov v Rumunsku už od roku 1810. Ďalší fotografický materiál uchovaný v KM je z medzivojnového obdobia z Bihorskej oblasti (Stará Huta – dvor, Varzaľ – nedokončený dom, Čerpotok – konica, hospodárstvo na Židárni, obchod v Bihore). Vzácnymi sú aj dva evanjelické kancionály Cithara sanctorum z rokov 1881 a 1886. Uchované sú aj rôzne výskumné práce realizované s presídľencami, jazykovedné štúdie, práce Ľudovíta Hamaša (1946), rukopisný materiál pre zborník Slováci v Rumunsku (1995) a kópie fotografií z výstavy Slováci v Rumunsku (1995).

Bádatelovi sú k dispozícii inventáre, ktoré popisujú každú jednotlivinu archívu, čo umožňuje urobiť si o fonde jednoznačný obraz. Jeho inventáre sú zverejnené na webe Matice slovenskej alebo na vyžiadanie v Krajskom múzeu MS. V prípade záujmu je fond dostupný prezenčne v priestoroch sídelnej budovy Matice slovenskej. Pri menšom množstve výpožičiek Krajské múzeum môže vyhotoviť bádateľom digitálny scan.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Solidarita a vzájomná podpora

I napriek obmedzením možností hmotnej podpory krajanov sa Matica slovenská snaží plniť všetky požiadavky, ktoré jej krajanovia počas roka pravidelne adresujú. Primárne pristupuje k plneniu požiadaviek prijatých na zasadaní jej najvyššieho poradného orgánu pre krajskú problematiku – Rady pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri MS. Dnes ju tvorí 17 zástupcov z desiatich krajín sveta (Čierna Hora, Česko, Francúzsko, Chorvátsko, Kanada, Maďarsko, Rumunsko, Poľsko, Švédsko, Ukrajina). Tieto organizácie spoločne vyslovili návrh, či by Matica slovenská mohla zabezpečiť pre krajskú mládež nahrávky slovenských ľudových piesní a rozprávok.

Ešte počas minulého roka Matica slovenská adresovala svojim kolektívnym členom (folklorným, dramatickým a divadelným súborom) list, v ktorom ich požiadala o darovanie CD s ich tvorbou pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí zastúpených v členstve Rady. Matičná členská základňa zareagovala na výzvu veľmi agilne. Do Krajského múzea Matice slovenskej postupne zaslala tri desiatky CD, ktoré mapujú slovenský folklór od Záhoria po Zemplín. Do zbierky odovzdali i publikácie, slovenské rozprávky, pašie, omše, muzikály i dramatické diela. Nájde tu aj CD venované od krajanov krajanom (FS Spiš z Novej Belej).

Do výzvy sa zapojili: ženská folklórna spevácka skupina Harčarki z Pozdišovca / Ľudová hudba Stana Baláža; FSS Močaranka; Matičný spevokol Zborovčan; Kálnici šípári; Pekná Dolinka z Vlachova; Mihaľovski nevesti i bežare; Spevácka skupina Prameň zo Žarnovice; Folklorný súbor Šiňava; Folklorná skupina Bučina; DDO Rosička; Bánovčanka; Z rozprávky do rozprávky; Projekt Renesancia tisovských rozprávok; Spevník Ej, poniže Tisovca; Spevokol Nádej; Pavlovčane / Ľudová hudba Cifra; FSS Záhorčan; FS Moravčan, 35 rokov zvykov folklóru – publikácia venovaná folklóru – piesňam, zvykom, tradíciám obce Moravany; dramatický krúžok Gymnázia L. J. Šuleka pri MO MS – Snehulienka a zopár trpaslíkov; Dramaťák – študentský muzikál Slečna Loreline, študentský muzikál Popoluška a tučná myš, Zver – audio záznam zo živého predstavenia, študentský muzikál podľa námety Williama Shakespeara Sen noci svätôjanskej; Folklorom motivovaný súbor Slovenskí Rebeli – Šťastie, zdravie, pokoj svätý vinšujeme vám, Život; Ženská spevácka skupina Juskovčanky; Studzenka – V Plechococh pod koscelom; Štvorčan – Ej, dze hrajú, tam hrajú... / Ľudová hudba Železiar; FSK dolina Maňa – Hojné požehnanie vám / Vianočná omša z veľkej Mane; Folklorná spevácka skupina Závadské ženy z Lietavskej Závadky – Lietavy – Piesne; FS SPIŠ z Novej Belej – Špiery i muzyka ZF „Špis“ z Nowej Bialej; Mužská spevácka skupina Hačure 2 a ich hostia – Rusínske ľudové piesne; Folklorná skupina ROVINA – Kec sebe dluzanske chlopi i ženi zašpivaju; ženská a mužská spevácka skupina Rovina, Detský folklórny súbor Rovinka, Folklorný súbor Rovina a LH FS Zemplín – Čudná to novina. Matica slovenská tieto dary rozdelila a koncom marca zaslala na krajský adresár členov Rady.

V splnenej výzve sa odzrkadlia nielen dobrosrdečnosť matičiarov, ale i vzájomná solidarita Slovákov roztrúsených na geografickom území Slovenska i mimo neho. Krajanom želáme príjemné počúvanie a do radov štedrých matičných donorov zasielame úprimné poďakovanie za zbierku, ktorá rozšíri a spropaguje matičné aktivity do celého krajského sveta.

Zuzana Pavelcová

Corpus Christi in Slovak Religious Traditions

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

The Feast of Corpus Christi has traditionally played an important role in the culture and history of religion in Slovakia. The feast celebrates the Real Presence of the Body and Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. It is a part of faith which separates Catholics, Anglicans, and Western Orthodox believers from most Protestants, who view the Eucharist as purely symbolic.

The belief in the Living Presence of Christ in the Eucharist derives from Jesus' own words as cited in the Holy Scriptures: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

The holy day is referred to in Slovakia in both the Latin Corpus Christi, and the Slovak, Sviatok Božieho tela (The Feast of God's Body). Corpus Christi is formally called in Latin Dies Sanctissimi Corporis et Sanguinis Domini Iesu Christi, i.e., The Day of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ the Lord. It is also shortened to the form of The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Liturgically, Corpus Christi is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, but the Church moved its observance to the Sunday after the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. In 2022, Catholics celebrate Corpus Christi on Sunday, June 16th.

In Catholic traditions, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament displayed in a monstrance occurs at the conclusion of Holy Mass. A Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament takes place after the procession. The most famous Eucharistic procession takes place each year in Rome, presided over by the Pope. The procession commences at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the pope's parish, and then continues to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, for Benediction and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Public processions have a long history as a way of showing devotion to God. The ancient Hebrews held processions with the Ark of the Covenant, and King David joyfully danced in celebration of God. Christians could not perform public demonstrations of their faith due to Roman persecutions. By the 5th century when Christianity became the official religion of Rome, processions began on the feast of the Sacrifice of the Lord. In Rome, St. Ambrose wrote of processions from churches which honored the relics of martyrs of the faith (Stanček).

Historical Origins

Special devotion to the Holy Eucharist originated in 13th century Belgium. St. Julianna of Cornillon practiced a deep devotion to the Eucharist from childhood. During her stay in Liege, she experienced a vision of a full moon darkened in one spot. A heavenly voice told her that the moon was the Church, and the dark spot indicated a missing feast, one to honor Corpus Christi (The Blessed Sacrament). Upon reporting her vision to higher clergy, the Bishop of Liege established the feast of the Blessed Sacrament starting on June 5, 1249. However, the celebration remained confined to that diocese. But the idea spread.

Bishops realized there was a need for public respect for the Eucharist. "The first procession of Theophoric Corpus Christi was celebrated in Germany as early as 1247 and was led by Bishop Robert at the request of Sister Juliana." (Stanček).

The celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi only became enshrined in universal Church traditions, when St. Thomas Aquinas suggested to Pope Urban IV the creation of a holy day dedicated to the Holy Eucharist. He was inspired by St. Julianna and the 1264 Eucharistic Miracle in Bolsena, Italy, where blood trickled from a Host consecrated by a doubting priest. The priest wrapped the bleeding Host in corporals and took it to the Bishop in Orvieto, where the pope was staying. The pope himself witnessed blood flowing from the Sacred Host, verified the miracle, and established the feast of Corpus Christi as a Solemnity of the Church. The pontiff commissioned St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the Office of the Mass and Liturgy of the Hours for the new feast. To this day, the corporal with blood stains remains in the Orvieto cathedral as a testament to the miracle. The event is portrayed in Raphael's famous fresco, "The Mass at Bolsena." [Angela: Good place for the picture The Mass at Bolsena.]

The Procession

Initially, the celebration of Corpus Christi was just held in church without a procession. But the idea of a procession to display the Blessed Sacrament caught on very quickly and spread across Europe. The first procession took place in 1274 in Cologne (Germany today). In the area around Slovakia the custom appeared as early as 1290. As a result, Pope John XXII (1316-1334) proclaimed that the feast of Corpus Christi should be celebrated with a procession carrying the Blessed Sacrament through the streets (Procesia).

Since that time, priests have regularly celebrated a Mass of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. After Communion, the monstrance is set up on the altar and the deacon or the celebrant places the Host in the monstrance. "All other items are removed from the altar. The celebrant, after leading the prayer after communion, then approaches the altar and incenses the Holy Eucharist while an appropriate hymn, for example the Adoro Te Devote, is sung. The concluding rites of the Mass are omitted, and the celebration continues with the procession.

Any outdoor Eucharistic Procession should use a canopy. The canopy serves a dual purpose. On one hand, it protects the Blessed Sacrament during the procession. It creates a "sacred space" that is reserved for the priest carrying the monstrance. As a practical matter, it protects the monstrance against anything that might fall on it, including light rain. Secondly, the faithful at the back of the procession can locate the Blessed Sacrament at the head of the procession more easily" (Joens).

The Corpus Christi procession is not part of the liturgy but a pious act. It represents "a walking with the Lord; it is itself an element of the Eucharistic celebration, one dimension of the Eucharistic event. The Lord who has become our bread is thus showing us the way, is in fact our way, He leads us (Joens).

The order of the procession consists of several altar boys, then the priest with the monstrance, accompanied by deacons, and followed by the faithful in an organized manner. Those who had just received their First Communion dressed in their finest attire come first after the canopy, with girls dressed in their white Communion dresses and the boys in their new suits. They are followed by various youth groups or other organizations, such as police, soldiers, fraternal organizations, etc. Usually, the procession has to be coordinated with local authorities.

continued on page 31

This publication is funded in part
by the Government of Canada.
Cette publication est financée en partie
par le gouvernement du Canada.
PM# 40026440



ZA BOHA A NÁROD

Kanadský Slovák

The Canadian Slovak

Canada



FOR GOD AND NATION

The only Slovak newspaper in
Canada is 80 years old

Jediné slovenské noviny v
Kanade sú 80. ročné

„S božou a vašou pomocou!“ (“With God’s and your help!”) sounded out in the central administration of the Canadian Slovak League (KSL) on March 5, 1942, on the occasion of the publication of the first issue of the newspaper of the Slovak minority in Canada – Kanadský Slovák (The Canadian Slovak). At the beginning of March, the Slovak society commemorated the 80th anniversary of the continuous publishing of this last Slovak periodical in Canada.



The magazine was created from requests and needs of KSL members, with the intention of “confirming the Slovak people in a national and Christian spirit; to defend the rights of the working people; to bring together Slovak organizations, to drive out dishonesty; to cultivate fraternal love and harmony.” The league’s need to own and issue an official publication was born at its first congress. The process of creating a periodical resulted in controversy and disagreements between League members and editors of Bratstvo (Brotherhood), the Slovak periodical in Canada at the time, and the subsequent departure of its editor Štefan Hreha. After unsuccessful negotiations of the League with the editorial office of Bratstvo, the request for the creation of an independent periodical was submitted to the V. Congress of the League (held on November 10, 1941), where the majority supported it. The first chairman of the press committee was Pavol Blaho. On November 24, 1941, the first working meeting took place at his home, where a Working and Supervisory Committee was appointed. Its task was to create a press body of the League to form and create the magazine. Štefan Hreha (*1918, Vranov nad Topľou † 2015, Montreal) was approached by the Working Committee to be editor of the periodical, and he accepted this offer. After determining the name of the magazine, the committee officially registered it, determined its periodicity (first it was published every other week on 10 pages, later every week on 8 pages), and selected the Verdun Printing to print it (The magazine was printed there until April 1948.).

Members of the Press Committee and choirs of the Canadian Slovak League in Toronto and Montreal anchored the financials of the publication. The publication of the magazine was in Montreal, where the chairman of the press committee Pavol Blaho came from. Later, the Canadian Slovak struggled with the sale and purchase of his own printers (Winnipeg, later Toronto).

The newspaper experienced a complicated beginning (as it was originally supposed to be published as early as 1941, but due to the war the first number was postponed a quarter later). They struggled with political pressure about its content, which always remained Slovak with an emphasis on the national and Christian lines. Before the arrival of the first Slovak political emigration, he published articles from Slovakia, devoted himself to federal events and supported Slovak poetic work. After the arrival of the new emigration to Canada, he became involved in the political struggle for freedom and democracy. At the same time, he has always been sympathetic to Canadian political and cultural circles. To this day, Kanadský Slovák still keeps most of its content in Slovak, issued bi-weekly, but it is struggling with a lack of funds, a depletion of staffing, and a loss of subscribers.

Július Behul currently serves as the editor-in-chief, and has been working very intensively with Matica Slovenská for many years. In addition to regularly sending a periodical for the Library of Matica slovenská, it maintains a lively contact with its staff, communicates ideas, topics, and is interested in what is happening in Slovakia. In the library of the Krajanský Museum, entire years of periodicals are preserved from 1949 through the last edition. The result of friendly personal contacts with the editorial office and vibrant cooperation is reflected in articles from the pen of Matica slovenská on the website of Kanadský Slovák.

Recently, the Matica slovenská addressed a congratulatory letter not only to Kanadský Slovák, but also to the Canadian Slovak League, which celebrated its 90th anniversary at the end of the year. Marián Mark Stolárik, President of the Canadian Slovak League, commented: “Our bi-weekly Canadian Slovak celebrates its 80th anniversary on March 5, 2022. This is a great success, because of the 37 weekly newspapers that Slovaks have published in Canada since 1910, only one has been preserved. Our Canadian Slovak. (...) As Canadian Slovak is our calling card for the entire Canadian society, it allows everyone to join and financially support this last Slovak-language newspaper in Canada! Let us show Canadian society that the Slovak community in Canada is still alive and well.”

On the pages of the last issue of the Canadian Slovak, many congratulations are posted, which mainly center around the idea of preserving the periodical and the wish for many future successful years of publication.

Zuzana Pavelcova

“Translation by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor

„S božou a vašou pomocou!“ odznelo v ústrednej správe Kanadskej slovenskej ligy (KSL) 5. marca 1942 pri príležitosti vydania prvého čísla novín slovenskej menšiny v Kanade – Kanadský Slovák. Začiatkom marca si slovenská spoločnosť doma i v zahraničí pripomenula 80. výročie nepretržitého vydávania tohto posledného slovenského periodika v Kanade.



Časopis vznikol z požiadaviek a potrieb členov KSL, s úmyslom „utvrdzovať ľud slovenský v národnom a kresťanskom duchu; hájiť práva robotného ľudu; spojiť slovenské organizácie, vyháňať nepoctivosť; pestovať bratskú lásku a svornosť“. Potreba Ligy vlastniť a vydávať oficiálny tlačový orgán sa zrodila už na jej prvom kongrese. Proces vzniku periodika uchýlili polemiky a nezhody členov Ligy s redaktormi vtedajšieho slovenského periodika v Kanade Bratstvo a následný odchod jeho redaktora Štefana Hreha. Po neúspešných rokovaníach Ligy s redakciou Bratstva sa žiadosť vzniku samostatného periodika dostala na V. kongres Ligy (konaný 10. novembra 1941), kde bola väčšinou podporená. Prvým predsedom tlačového výboru sa stal Pavol Blaho. Dňa 24. novembra 1941 uskutočnil prvú pracovnú schôdzu vo svojom dome, kde bol menovaný pracovný a dozorný výbor. Jeho úlohou bolo myšlienku vzniku tlačového orgánu Ligy zhmotniť a viesť časopis do života. Ako redaktor periodika bol pracovným výborom oslovený Štefan Hreha (*1918, Vranov nad Topľou † 2015, Montreal), ktorý túto ponuku prijal. Po určení názvu časopisu ho výbor oficiálne zaregistroval, určil jeho periodicitu (najprv vychádzal každý druhý týždeň na 10 stranách, neskôr každý týždeň na 8 stranách) a bola vybratá tlačiareň Verdun Printing (tu sa časopis tlačil do apríla 1948).

Finančne časopis ukotvili členovia tlačového výboru a zbory Kanadskej slovenskej ligy v Toronte a Montreale. Ako miesto vydávania časopisu sa učil Montreal, odkiaľ pochádzal predseda tlačového výboru Pavol Blaho. Neskôr Kanadský Slovák zápasil s predajom a nákupom vlastných tlačiarní (Winnipeg, neskôr Toronto).

Noviny sa rodili komplikovane (pôvodne mali vyjsť už v roku 1941, no kvôli vojne sa prvé číslo posunulo o štvrtroka neskôr), zápasili s politickým tlakom na jeho obsah, ktorý ostal vždy slovenský s dôrazom národnej a kresťanskej línie. Pred príchodom prvej slovenskej politickej emigrácie uverejňoval články zo Slovenska, venoval sa spolkovým udalostiam a podporoval slovenskú básnickú tvorbu. Po príchode novej emigrácie do Kanady sa zapojil do politického boja za slobodu a demokraciu. Zároveň bol vždy naklonený kanadským politickým a kultúrnym kruhom. Kanadský Slovák dodnes zachováva väčšinu svojho obsahu v slovenčine, vychádza ako dvojtýždenník, no zápasí s nedostatkom finančných prostriedkov, personálnou podvýživou i úbytkom predplatiteľov.

Aktuálne na pozícii hlavného redaktora pôsobí Július Behul, ktorý dlhoročne veľmi intenzívne spolupracuje aj s Maticou slovenskou. Okrem pravidelného zasielania periodika pre knižnicu Maticy slovenskej, udržuje s jej pracovníkmi čulý kontakt, komunikuje nápady, témy, zaujíma sa o dianie na Slovensku. V knižnici Krajanského múzea sú uchované celé ročníky periodika od roku 1949 až do ostatného vydania. Výsledkom priateľských osobných kontaktov s redakciou je živá spolupráca zrkadliaca sa v článkoch z pera Maticy slovenskej na stránkach Kanadského Slováka.

V týchto dňoch Matica slovenská adresovala gratulačný list nielen Kanadskému Slováku, ale aj Kanadskej slovenskej lige, ktorá na sklonku roka oslávili svoje 90. výročie. Predseda Kanadskej slovenskej ligy Marián Mark Stolárik, poznamenal: „Náš dvojtýždenník Kanadský Slovák slávi 5. marca 2022 80. výročie svojho vzniku. Je to veľký úspech, pretože z 37. týždenníkov, ktoré Slováci v Kanade vydávali od roku 1910, sa zachoval len jeden. Náš Kanadský Slovák. (...) Keďže Kanadský Slovák/The Canadian Slovak je našou vizitkou pre celú kanadskú spoločnosť, umožňuje všetkým sa pridať a finančne podporovať tieto posledné noviny v slovenskom jazyku v Kanade! Ukážme kanadskej spoločnosti, že slovenská komunita v Kanade je stále živá a zdravá.“

Na stránkach posledného čísla Kanadského Slováka je uverejnených mnoho gratulácií, ktorých spája najmä myšlienka zachovania periodika a pranie mnohých spokojných rokov jeho vydávania.

Zuzana Pavelcová

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

Corpus Christi in Slovak Religious Traditions

continued from page 29



A Corpus Christi Procession in Sered' in western Slovakia; (right) Dolný Lopašov (okres Piešťany)

No doubt, the First Catholic Slovak Union dressed in uniforms and participated in some of the early Corpus Christi processions of Slovak immigrant churches. The Slovaks would frequently dress in colorful kroj (folk costume) following the procession, as they do in Slovak villages today.

Later History

The Feast of Corpus Christi continued in the Catholic Church, and transubstantiation, the complete transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, became a bedrock of belief, as it had been since early Christian times. During the Reformation, Protestant churches suppressed its celebration for theological reasons: outside Lutheranism, which maintained a belief in consubstantiation, the belief of the Real Presence along with the bread and wine, most Protestant sects denied the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist other than as a merely symbolic or spiritual presence. In 1526, a letter to the Bishop of Esztergom (the primatial seat of the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary, which incorporated Slovakia) described how "Protestant heretics" disrupted a Corpus Christi procession "by blasphemous catcalls" (The Reformation). To this day, Protestant denominations do not recognize the feast day. The Church of England abolished it in 1548 as the English Reformation progressed, but later reintroduced it. Most Anglican churches now observe Corpus Christi, sometimes under the name "Thanksgiving for Holy Communion".

Catholic traditions have maintained the undeniable doctrine that the Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ. In 1849 Pope Pius IX instituted the Feast of the Blood of the Lord Jesus, but and later Pope Paul VI combined the two feasts into the feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus (Stanček).

More recently, St. Pope John Paul II reminded us that the Eucharistic sacrifice represents "the source and summit of all Christian life." He added that "the parish is a community of baptized people who express and affirm their identity primarily by celebrating the Eucharistic Sacrifice" (Homily).

To emphasize the importance of the Holy Eucharist, the Bishops of the United States have announced a three-year "grassroots revival of devotion and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. They believe that God wants to see a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out in mission 'for the life of the world.'" The three-year devotion "will culminate in the first National Eucharistic Congress in the United States in almost fifty years. Almost a hundred thousand Catholics will join in Indianapolis for a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage toward the "source and summit" of our Catholic faith" (National Eucharistic Revival).

Eucharistic Miracles

The Miracle of Bolsena was just one of many wonders attesting to the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. While many such miracles dated from the Middle Ages, a number have occurred in since 1999 in Argentina, Poland, Mexico, and Italy. The book *Eucharistic Miracles of the World* describes over 126 Church-approved Eucharistic Miracles in detail. Scientists have investigated the consecrated hosts, which turned red, and confirmed them having the characteristics of human flesh and blood. A *Eucharistic Miracles* movie also confirms the phenomena. These miracles are documented in the film "Segni" (Italian for "signs"), which received inspiration from the life of Carlo Acutis, a young boy who dedicated his life to spreading awareness of Eucharistic miracles (Merlo, *Eucharistic miracles*).

In my own parish of Saint Aloysius in Cresson, PA, our pastor, Father Leo Arnone, organized an exhibit which Blessed Carlos Acutis assembled to attest to the real presence of Christ. The exhibit was on display at St. Aloysius along with a film about Carlos's work from May 8-14, 2022, including a cartoon for children he made on the life of Jesus.

The venerable Carlos Acutis (1991–2006) was an English-born Italian Catholic youth and amateur computer programmer, who came from a wealthy family that was not particularly religious. He received inspiration from the miracle of Consecration, the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the Fatima children Francisco and Jacinta, St. Bernadette, as well as several other devoted saints. Wishing to act on his faith, he devoted the last two years of his abbreviated life to documenting Eucharistic miracles around the world and cataloging them on a website. Despite suffering from leukemia, he diligently continued his work, and he offered up his tribulations to the pope and the Church. He died at the age of 15, but not before finishing his passionate project. After many urged the Church to consider him for sainthood and a miraculous recovery of a boy in Brazil, the Church formally beatified him in 2020.

To make Carlos' dream of sharing his research with the world, two bishops, Raffaello Martinelli and Angelo Comastri, decided to organize a travelling photo exhibition of all the Eucharistic miracle sites which he had collected. As a result, the exhibit has travelled to dozens of countries across five continents. The exhibit consisted of displays documenting each miracle with pictures and an explanation of the location and circumstances. A common theme was someone doubting the Real Presence of Christ, a Host dropping, sacrilegious theft, or someone taking a Host out of a church. The chronology extends from the Middle Ages to recent times and covers countries around the world.

Fr. Arnone sees Carlos' life as a special model for youth. He hopes "that people will find it in themselves to revitalize their spirit, their faith in Christ, His Eucharistic Presence, and because of that faith, they will find themselves more and more often in Church." Father stated that "Carlos had a saying: 'When you spend time in the sun, you get a suntan, when you spend time before Christ in the Eucharist, you get holy.' In today's day and age, people need a little more facetime with the Lord at Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. I hope we see that first starting here in the Cresson Catholic Community and then throughout the larger diocese." The exhibit will return to Cresson for the Feast

of Corpus Christi.

Corpus Christi in Slovak traditions

Corpus Christi presents an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Holy Eucharist in Slovak traditions. Today the feast is still celebrated in some localities on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday (unlike the USA where it is celebrated on a Sunday). In villages across Slovakia, many businesses close for the day, and processions are accompanied by prayers of the faithful.

The recent exception was during the covid-19 virus when processions were suspended across much of Slovakia. Also, during the communist era, processions in larger towns disappeared, and authorities banned them in the 1950s and could even punish participants in religious parades. In some small villages, the processions still occurred, but stayed closer to the parish church out of fear of retaliatory action from the communists.

For instance, in Skačany, a village in the Partizánske District of the Trenčín Region, the procession of priests, numerous altar servers, and the parishioners traditionally started from the church and would stop in front of the house and recite prayers. It would then continue to the main square where four sheltered "altars", called chládky, stood in front of four family homes. The procession would stop at each shelter and the priest would lead some special prayers, which also asked the Lord to protect them from evil and provide them with a bountiful harvest that year. As a form of symbolism, each altar faced a different side of the world. Families placed greenery and flowers in front of their homes in anticipation of the procession. Here public worship and the blessing of the Eucharist took place.

The priest walked with the monstrance under a canopy, followed by girls dressed in pristine white clothes, or sometimes in pink. As a sign of reverence, the girls would scatter flower petals along the procession path. Other believers would be behind the girls, ordered by gender and social status. The faithful would sing religious hymns, usually accompanied by a brass band. But during communism, the sheltered altars in front of the family houses disappeared and instead were built around the church, where they remain to this day (Sviatok).

In Sered', a town in southwestern Slovakia near Trnava, on the right bank of the Váh River, the tradition also continues. The photos included show the order of the procession with the altar boys, followed by the priest carrying the monstrance, women dressed in kroj, First Communicants, followed by the parishioners. In previous times, the path of the procession was lined with maypoles and greenery, which the priest blessed. People believed that the greenery and the flowers consecrated during the procession were sacred. After it ended, they would tuck the plants under the roofs of their homes to protect against fire, and they would also scatter some into their gardens and fields to protect against insects. The practice is still observed in some villages in the regions of Horehronie, Spiš, and Šariš.

Once the procession finished, festivities would ensue, and the people would celebrate in a carnival-like atmosphere akin to a fair. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Eucharist and then socialize the rest of the day.

Conclusion

Although the tradition of processions on Corpus Christi has declined, there are hopeful signs of revival. In recent history, St. Pope John Paul II recommended that Catholics renew the custom of processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and stated, "Our faith in the God who took flesh in order to become our companion along the way needs to be everywhere proclaimed, especially in our streets and homes, as an expression of our grateful love and as an inexhaustible source of blessings" (Pronechen).

The Eucharistic adoration is far more than just folklore, rather it is a proclaimed manifestation of our special relationship with Christ in the Eucharist. Such public expressions of adoration for the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist revitalize our faith and get the community involved in actively expressing their beliefs. They leave a lasting impact on people and provide spiritually moving memories for youth as well. Such rituals reinforce our most sacred truths and can help revitalize the faithful. Secular institutions regularly hold parades and stage public manifestations of their allegiances to sports teams and heroes. It is about time that we renew our Corpus Christi processions to honor our Savior and King who is present in the Holy Eucharist.

To listen to a beautiful beautiful hymn, Vitaj Pokrm (Welcome the Food), go to the website: www.tinyurl.com/26j3nh3t

Contact Dr. Kopanic if you wish to see Sources for the article.



The Eucharistic Miracles exhibit of Blessed Carlos Acutis at Saint Aloysius in Cresson, PA. Rebecca Kopanic on the right.

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.**




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




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)
- Fun youth activities

Deadline:
December 31, 2022

**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