



# Catholic Fraternal Jednota

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Volume 131

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NUMBER 6021

## Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

In September (September – pronounced “sep-tem-bear”), we look back at an eventful summer with many fraternal activities and our National Convention. In case you are not aware of it, our beloved president, Andrew Rajec, who has successfully guided the FCSU over the last 16 years, has decided to retire and withdrew his candidacy for a further term as president. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement and are grateful for all he has done for our fraternal, putting the society on a firm financial foundation, and his undaunting promotion of Slovak culture.



Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr

In our monthly Reflection, Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M., mentions two feast days to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Panna Mária) and presents a translation of the hymn “Mária, Mária.” We should also remember that September 15th is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the patroness of Slovakia. Slovaks refer to the day as the Sviatok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary. In Slovakia, her feast day is a national holiday in Slovakia, a holy day of obligation, and most businesses are closed.

We also remember and pay tribute to Cardinal Jozef Tomko, the Slovak priest who spent a lifetime serving the Catholic Church, the missions, and his native Slovakia, which he loved so much. Most people have little idea of how important Cardinal Tomko was, as he rose higher than any Slovak ever did in the Vatican. He was the right-hand man of several popes, particularly St. Pope John

Paul II, and headed the worldwide missions of the Church. He was held in such high esteem that three popes called on Cardinal Tomko to hear their confessions and give them ashes on Ash Wednesday, even though the Cardinal said he was unworthy of such an honor; he performed his duty. When he passed away at age 98, he was the oldest member of the College of Cardinals.

Jozef Rydlo presents a summary of some of his achievements which the mainline media even in Slovakia failed to highlight. His leadership proved pivotal in founding the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome. It started training priests during the dark days of communism, and published millions of books and religious literature which the totalitarian regime had prohibited. To this day, our chaplain Fr. Nasta continues the Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal to maintain the institution which Bishop Grutka of Gary, Indiana, had launched funding for in the 1960s.

Father Gerard (Martin) Gonda, O.S.B. of the Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland presents us with a timeline of the history of the Abbey, which is commemorating the 100th anniversary of its founding. In addition, Fr. Gregory Vaniscak, O.S.B., who in the 1920s organized the establishment of the Cleveland Benedictines and the high school which catered to the children of Slovak immigrants, is being honored by his hometown of Lemešany, which is creating a park that is named in his honor.

The September issue also features a host of photos which I took at the international fraternal golf tournament at Treasure Lake, near Dubois, PA. In addition, there are additional pictures from the National Bowling Tournament in May, the FCSU’s 2022 Convention and many branch picnics.

This month also my article, originally scheduled for August publication, on how one may take courses on learning to play the fujara and koncovka during summers at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. Take advantage of such opportunities, as they are rare and precious.

Remember also to use the prayers in Slovak and English to help you learn the lan-

Continued on page 3

## In Memoriam : The Passing of Jozef Tomko by Jozef Rydlo, Slovak historian, politician and university educator.

The current interest in the personality of Cardinal Jozef Tomko is understandable. Even less understandable is the apparent superficiality of the information reflected in both print and the electronic media. Various analysts, commentators and news reporters and their guests focus almost exclusively on the activities of Jozef Tomko only when he was a “cardinal”. They approach his activities only in the context of the Catholic Church at the international level. Of course, the activities of the Slovak Cardinal had a worldwide impact and we Slovaks are obviously continually feel a sense of pride that “one of us” has achieved such success in the world and lived to such a long life. In our national history, Jozef Tomko is the first Slovak to achieve such a high position in the world that he literally moved the destinies of millions of believers as papa rosso (the red pope). [Papa rosso refers to the cardinal who heads the Vatican’s Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The term reflects the fact that cardinals wear scarlet robes and exerts his greatest influence in missionary countries. – Editor]



Cardinal Jozef Tomko, TASR

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## Inside

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## Reflection

On September 8, we celebrate the birthday of God's mother, Mary. Then on September 12, we honor her holy name, Mary. Another special Marian feast is on September 24 when we honor her as Mother of Mercy.

For my name I prefer the Slovak form, Mária—beautiful in its simplicity, yet it resounds worldwide in various forms, combinations, cultures, countries, languages. How many have you encountered?  
Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

### Spevníček (Songbook) — Mária, Mária

Mária, Mária, nad slnko jasnejšia,  
Nad mesiac svetlejšia—nad hviezdy  
krasnejšia,  
O Mária! Meno tvoje ctené—nech je  
oslávené,  
Od nás pozdravené, O Mária!

Mária, Mária, pros Boha večného,  
Otca, Syna Jeho, i Ducha Svätého,  
O Mária! Bud pri nás v žalosti,  
V potrebe, uzlosti, dla svojej milosti, O  
Mária!

Mária, Mária, pros Ježiša Syna,  
By nám naša vina večne neškodila, O Mária,  
Vypros na výsosti, nad hriechom ľutosti  
Pravej skrušenost, o Mária!

[V roku 1853 mešťanosta Anton Krajčovič založil fundáciu pútnického miesta Topoľčany za účelom prehĺbenia úcty k Panne Márii prostredníctvom spevu mariánskej piesne. Každý deň pred ranným zvonením sa podobná pieseň z veže farského kostola na oslavu nebeskej Matky spievala táto pieseň.

In 1853, the burgher Anton Krajčovič established the foundation of a pilgrimage site at Topoľčany in order to deepen reverence for the Virgin Mary through the singing of a Marian hymn. Every day before the morning bell rang, a song similar to this was sung from the tower of the parish church in praise of the Heavenly Mother. — Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., PhD., editor. See: [tinyurl.com/3374z65n](http://tinyurl.com/3374z65n)

Versions with similar melodies using Ave Mária may be found at these websites: [tinyurl.com/mpee5bdz](http://tinyurl.com/mpee5bdz)  
[tinyurl.com/2sbsujuw](http://tinyurl.com/2sbsujuw)

### Translation

Maria, Maria—more brilliant than the sun,  
---more radiant than the moon,  
---your beauty dims the stars, O Maria!  
Your sacred holy name,  
---be honored and revered  
---by all with joyful praise, O Maria!

Maria, Maria—please intercede with God,  
---Our Father with His Son,  
---and Spirit, Triune One, --O Maria!  
Be with us when we grieve,  
---our losses and our needs,  
---with mercy give relief, O Maria!

Maria, Maria—ask Jesus your own Son,  
---to pardon all we've done,  
---with His most gracious love, O Maria!



Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel in the National Basilica in Washington, D.C., built with donations from the First Catholic Slovak Union

## The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows - Sviatok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie

The Church this month honors Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of the Slovak people. Devotion to the Sorrowful Mother of God dates from the 11th or 12th century, depending upon the source.

The feast started as a local observance of Our Lady of Compassion (from the Latin "to suffer with") and eventually was placed on the Roman Missal in 1482. Pope Benedict XIII (1724-1730) in 1727 designated the Friday before Palm Sunday as the day for the feast's observance.

Meanwhile, another feast honoring the Seven Sorrows of Mary was developing. By 1668, this feast was being celebrated on the Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Cross,

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## Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in September

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 August 30, the 2022 Appeal has received \$27,093.87 from 195 donors. Among the 61 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 3, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 40, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 112, Branch 153, 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 \$2,450. Donations to date have also been received from 6 parishes, 32 clergy and religious, and 96 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.

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## The Sign of the Cross in Slovak (Znamenie kríža)

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor

Prežehnanie - The Blessing - Znamenie kríža

V mene Otca, i Syna, i Ducha Svätého. Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You may listen to the fundamental prayers in Slovak at this website: [www.tinyurl.com/3wjhyn2t](http://www.tinyurl.com/3wjhyn2t)

Since early in the history of Christianity, the faithful have practiced making the sign of the cross. St. Basil the Great (c. 329-379) wrote that the first apostles themselves taught the sign of the cross. The very first references to the sign of the cross noted that it was a long-established custom and they encouraged believers to make it properly. It is a practice that commences most every Catholic religious ceremony and prayers.

## 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, Oct. 12	Monday, Oct. 3
Wednesday, Nov. 9	Monday, Oct. 31
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Monday, Dec 5

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:  
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## Insights and Viewpoints

### Homily September 18, 2022 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

The passage this weekend is known as The Parable of the Dishonest Steward. A steward was responsible for the management of his master's possessions. It seems that this steward squandered those possessions, rather than investing them to increase the value. He was serving two masters: his employer and himself. As usually happens with those who defraud, he was caught. The steward was told to prepare a full account of his work for the employer, for his service was about to come to an end. When the steward calls in the debtors, he reduced their debts. This act is not seen as cheating his master whom he had already made money on, nor is it an act of good will or charity. In addition to squandering his masters' money his dishonesty may also have been the high amount of commission that he added to their debts. By removing the commission, he was preparing for his dismissal so that he would be well liked by the debtors, and hopefully would find work with one of them.

The first lesson is this; do not follow the example of the steward in his dishonesty. When it comes to our serving the Lord we are to do so wholeheartedly and with total commitment. We cannot be both faithful stewards of the Lord, and self-serving. We cannot serve two masters, whether it be the Lord and some other individual, group or ourselves. We can only be faithful to one master, and for the Christian our Master is the Lord. Who is the Master whom we are serving? Is it the Lord, or have we allowed other people or things to dominate us in such a way that we have made them masters of our lives, thus straddling between the Lord and some other master.

The second lesson is do learn from the steward's clever dealing with the debtors. In the midst of undoing his crooked ways he cleverly repays the debtors. Regardless of the motive, this took creativity. Jesus calls on us to take the time and use our creativity to live and proclaim the Gospel. Jesus calls us to work at ways that will make us better stewards and draw others to him. This might move us from being comfortable and away from our daily routine, and lead us to new experiences of living God's presence.

Finally, he tells us that if we can be trusted with small matters, then we can be trusted with larger ones. Sometimes it is better to start small to gain knowledge and confidence. For some this might be increasing daily prayer, for others volunteering, and still for others generosity towards the Lord's work. Whatever it is, may we be faithful stewards of the Lord.

We live in an era in which we can become very devoted to, celebrities, collectables, or some other hobby or activity. We can be so devoted that we spare no expense in traveling to events, purchasing memorabilia, decorating our vehicles and homes with signs and banners, all to show our support for a particular interest. In doing this are we elevating these interests to a level in which we become so pre-occupied and committed that they take away time and resources that rightly should be given to the Lord? If we are guilty of this, are we not like the dishonest steward in the Gospel, squandering what truly belongs to the Lord? This is a question that is good for us to ponder.

Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.

## Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

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September 14. In 1814, the Seven Sorrows of Mary was officially inserted in the Roman calendar and in 1913, Saint Pius X (1903-1914) established September 15 as the feast day.

For a number of years the Church had two days set aside to honor the Sorrowful Mother of God. This ended in 1969 when the church calendar underwent a reform. The feast of Our Lady of Compassion was suppressed.

People over the centuries have turned to Our Mother of Sorrows to intercede for them before her Son. Blessed Pius IX (1846-1878) in 1849 approved this prayer to the Sorrowful Mother. It is a prayer by which we can lift up our sorrows and place them before her.

Hail Mary, full of sorrows, the Crucified is with you;  
Tearful are you among women,  
and tearful is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of the Crucified,  
Grant tears to us crucifiers of your Son,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Zdravas Mária, plná bolestí, Ukřižovaný je s tebou;  
Slzavá si medzi ženami,  
a plačúci je plod tvojho života, Ježiš.  
Svätá Mária, Matka Ukřižovaného,  
Udeľ slzy nám, ukřižovateľom tvojho Syna,  
teraz i v hodine našej smrti. Amen.

(Translation into Slovak by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.)



Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers

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guage, something I started several months ago. As Jozef Rydlo wrote: "Noviny Jednota sú dnes posledným majákom Slovenskej Ameriky, všetkých Amerických Slovákov." (The Jednota newspaper is today the last beacon of Slovak America, of all American Slovaks).

In ending, I would invite readers to let me know any additional features in the newspaper. One member said she would like to see more recipes, for instance, so I invite you to send in how make your favorite Slovak dishes. Sometimes each family did it a little differently.

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, s úprimným bratským pozdravom,

**Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor (redaktor)**  
e-mail: editor@fcsu.com

"For God and Nation" (Za Boha a národ).

## Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

continued from page 2

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

### 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, JULY 15, 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 (teleconference)  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
John Tokarsky, Treasurer (teleconference)  
Gregory Maurer, Chairman of Auditors (teleconference)

(by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES:**

The President presented the minutes of the June 11, 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.:**

Byron 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 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.

**Financial Report**

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2022 and answered the Committee's questions.

**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 June 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 June:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	241,294.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	50,030.10
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 led a review of our current annuity rates. After further discussion, the Executive Committee decided that the rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly report to the Executive Committee. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

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

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the status of the ad campaign for the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and the Pittsburgh International Airport. He will advise the Board when the campaign is finalized. He is also working on radio ads for local radio stations in Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

The Vice President gave an update on the fraternal activities. He stated that the International Golf Tournament will be held August 12-14, 2022 at Treasure Lake in Dubois, Pennsylvania.

**MATCHING FUNDS:**

The Executive Secretary stated that the information regarding the Matching Funds Program has been sent out to the Branches and Districts. The information is also available on our website. Anyone with questions is asked to contact the Home Office for further information.

**OFFICE UPDATE:**

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office finalizing all the details for our 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Independence, Ohio. The hospitality rooms and committee rooms have been assigned. The final delegate packet has been mailed out. All voting will be done electronically.

The President asked Gregory Maurer for an update on the delegate certification. Mr. Maurer stated that after further review a letter was mailed out to the branches who did not qualify and the steps they must take to be seated as delegates to the convention.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by John Tokarsky 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 Slovak Folk Cuisine on Demand



To view the  
webinar, go to  
[fcsu.com/events](http://fcsu.com/events)

Statement as of June 30, 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 .....	489,050,689		489,050,689	463,037,250
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks .....	4,250,000		4,250,000	4,250,000
2.2 Common stocks .....	2,178,608		2,178,608	2,106,577
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens .....	32,114,809		32,114,809	28,193,816
3.2 Other than first liens .....			0	0
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$ encumbrances) .....	482,944		482,944	492,761
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$ ..... encumbrances) .....	300,375		300,375	320,038
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$ encumbrances) .....			0	0
5. Cash (\$ ..... ), cash equivalents (\$ ..... ) and short-term investments (\$ ..... ) .....	15,253,729		15,253,729	15,945,623
6. Contract loans (including \$ ..... premium notes) .....	1,174,617		1,174,617	1,182,267
7. Derivatives .....			0	0
8. Other invested assets .....	8,200,099		8,200,099	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) .....	553,006,420	550	553,005,870	525,178,395
13. Title plants less \$ ..... charged off (for Title insurers only) .....			0	0
14. Investment income due and accrued .....	6,070,264		6,070,264	5,650,289
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection .....	81,868		81,868	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) .....	559,158,552	550	559,158,002	530,937,088
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts .....			0	0
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27) .....	559,158,552	550	559,158,002	530,937,088

Statement as of June 30, 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) .....	473,468,473	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) .....	24,797,212	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 .....	43,416	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 .....	1,152,256	142,354
10. Commissions to agents due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$ ..... , accident and health \$ ..... and deposit-type contract funds \$ .....	64,661	112,889
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed .....	0	0
12. General expenses due or accrued .....	74,881	71,775
13. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$ ..... accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves, net of reinsured allowances) .....	18,776	0
14. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued, excluding federal income taxes .....	0	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 .....	6,258,639	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 .....	3,819,242	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 .....	1,463,032	1,314,174
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25) .....	511,870,099	484,279,481
27. From Separate Accounts Statement .....	0	0
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27) .....	511,870,099	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) .....	47,287,903	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) .....	47,287,903	46,657,607
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37 .....	47,287,903	46,657,607
39. Totals of Lines 28 and 38 (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3) .....	559,158,002	530,937,088

Statement as of June 30, 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	34,173,227	54,006,658	92,488,251
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies			0
3. Net investment income	11,297,634	8,412,938	18,621,567
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	197,264	202,042	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	18,353	71,459	144,711
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3)	45,686,478	62,693,097	111,637,478
10. Death benefits	1,753,240	1,746,127	3,527,368
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments)			0
12. Annuity benefits	11,660,395	8,978,478	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	293,238	232,799	499,764
16. Group conversions			0
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds	(63,490)	185,506	545,658
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies			0
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts	27,281,123	49,621,411	80,420,136
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19)	40,924,506	60,764,321	103,747,123
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations, and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only)	648,799	1,090,015	1,805,274
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed			0
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses	2,129,820	1,984,382	3,389,089
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes	72,094	71,588	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	(418,743)	(443,237)	(886,714)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27)	43,356,476	63,467,069	108,180,410
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28)	2,330,002	(773,972)	3,457,068
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members	151,530	150,554	434,824
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30)	2,178,472	(924,526)	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)	2,178,472	(924,526)	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)	(109,928)	(144,412)	(142,041)
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34)	2,068,544	(1,068,938)	2,880,203
<b>CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>			
36. Capital and surplus, December 31, prior year	46,657,607	43,771,595	43,771,595
37. Net income (Line 35)	2,068,544	(1,068,938)	2,880,203
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$	(1,342,497)	763,669	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
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	(95,034)	(264,431)	(623,887)
45. Change in treasury stock			0
46. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period	0		
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
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	(717)	(6)	21
54. Net change in capital and surplus for the year (Lines 37 through 53)	630,296	(569,706)	2,886,012
55. Capital and surplus, as of statement date (Lines 36 + 54)	47,287,903	43,201,889	46,657,607

# Branch 181 Held its Annual Family Picnic

The 125th Plus 2 Anniversary of the St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United, PA was celebrated at the Annual Family Picnic on Sunday, June 26, 2022.

The anniversary celebration was to be held in 2020 but had to be delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic mandates.

We were blessed with a beautiful Sunday at Mammoth Park to reunite with our fraternal members and guests.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick of the Diocese of Greensburg and Protector of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) attended and led us in prayer before the start of the delicious picnic lunch.

FCSU Officers attending included Executive Secretary Ken Arendt, Vice President and Fraternal Activities Director Kevin Collins, General Counsel Gary Matta, Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer, Regional Director (Region 4) James Marmol, and Regional Director (Region 2) Damian Nasta.

Lucky registered branch members won door prizes, and everyone enjoyed the festivities.

We look forward to gathering again in 2023!

Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Recording Secretary



125th Plus 2 Anniversary cake



Seated from left: Gerry Hricik and Beth Silva, Standing from left: Theresa and Ken Arendt and Mary Borde



Member registration table with door prizes and giveaways from FCSU Home Office



Ed and Barb Mizikar registering.



Bishop Kulick praying before picnic lunch.

Linda Gonta and Darlene LaPay welcoming members and guests.



Darlene Patty, Barb Mizikar, Patty Marmol and Ed Mizikar serving lunch.



Many tasty side dishes and desserts were brought to picnic by members and guests.



President Darlene Patty announcing prize winners.

Barb Mizikar enjoying the day.



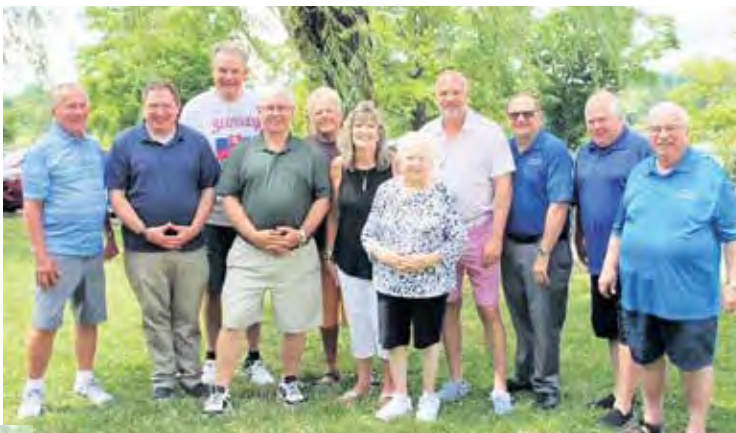
Bishop Kulick, Vice Pres. Ed Mizikar and Pres. Darlene Patty



Gerry Hricik and Bishop Kulick were happy to see each other.



Protector of FCSU Bishop Kulick addressing members and guests.



FCSU Officers, Branch 181 Officers and District 3 Officers. From left front row: Branch 181 Vice Pres. Ed Mizikar, FCSU Protector Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Regional Director (Region 4) James Marmol, Branch 181 Pres. Darlene Patty, District 3 Secretary Linda Gonta, FCSU General Council Gary Matta, Regional Director (Region 2) Damian Nasta, FCSU Vice Pres. and Fraternal Activities Director Kevin Collins, and FCSU Executive Secretary Ken Arendt. Back row from left: Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer and District 3 Pres. Bill Patty.



Executive Secretary Ken Arendt and Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer



Regional Director (Region 4) James Marmol and wife, Patty



From left: Gerry Kovacina, Barb Mizikar, and Darlene Patty



Larissa Rathway & FCSU General Counsel Gary Matta



From left: Art Borde, Gerry Hricik, and Drew Silva



# Branch 181 Held its Annual Family Picnic



# Branch 199 Picnic Held at Waldemere Park

Members of Branch #199 gathered at Waldemere Park, Erie PA on Saturday, August 13, 2022. A great time was had by all in attendance.





Photo left to right - Charles Boone, John Argento, Marianne Rodacy, Ron Boone, Dr. Susan Painter, Monica Boone and Mike Bertovich.

## Branch 853 Achievements at the Washington, PA County Agricultural Fair

On August 15, 2022, six members of Branch 853 enjoyed the day at the Washington County Agricultural Fair in Washington, Pennsylvania. Member Michael Bertovich's agriculture knowledge and insights enhanced the event. Ron Boone's fly-fishing skills won First place Blue ribbons and prizes this year as well as in numerous past years. Marianne Rodacy's perfections in painting and crafts continued her winning experiences. Susan Painter's winning canned good entries secured her the Ball Preserving Award Ribbon. Monica Boone's perfection in sewing prevailed for the 16th year in a row. Charles Boone's talents earned him winning ribbons in both crafts and baking. Friend of the branch, John Argento, shared their happiness and everyone enjoyed a fun filled day. Congratulations and continued success to these Branch 853 members.

Submitted by Monica Boone

## Branch 55 Members at the Jednota Picnic at Knoebels on June 25



Laurie Payne with Daughters Laura Lynne and Lilyanna at BBQ lunch



Above: President Andrew Rajec with Laura Lynne

Lilyanna Payne Zip lining down Camelback Mountain



Kurt Payne with Daughters Laura Lynne and Lilyanna



Mass at Picnic



## F.C.S.U. donation to St. Mary Nativity R.C. Church in Uniontown, PA

Region IV Regional Director, James Marmol, presented the check to Pastor Father Anthony J. Klimko. Many members of Branch 162 are from St. Mary's, which is a Slovak based church. The church is in the Diocese of Greensburg, PA and has the great fortune of having Bishop Larry J. Kulick as its spiritual leader.

Both Father Klimko and Mr. Marmol wish to thank the First Catholic Slovak Union Board of Directors for their financial support to help make needed repairs and improvements to the church.

Submitted by Jim Marmol, Region IV, Regional Director



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](http://www.fcsu.com/forms).



For any questions, contact the Home Office at 800-533-6682 ext. 114 or [fcsu@fcsu.com](mailto:fcsu@fcsu.com)



# News From Slovakia

## Slovenská vláda je teraz v menšine a hrozí jej rozpad - The Slovak Government now is in a Minority and in Danger of Dissolution

Zostávajúci ministri za SaS podali demisiu.



**Caption:** Zľava minister zahraničných vecí Ivan Korčok, líder SaS Richard Sulík, ministerka spravodlivosti Mária Kolíková a minister školstva Branislav Groehling v Bratislave 5. septembra 2022 oznámili demisiu ministrov SaS - From left, Foreign Minister Ivan Korcok, SaS leader Richard Sulik, Justice Minister Maria Kolikova and Education Minister Branislav Groehling announcing the resignations of the SaS ministers in Bratislava on September 5, 2022 (photo by TASR)

Bratislava 5. septembra (TASR) - Zostávajúci traja ministri strany Sloboda a Solidarita (SaS) podali v pondelok 5. septembra demisiu, TASR sa dozvedela na ich tlačovej konferencii v ten istý deň.

Ministerka spravodlivosti Mária Kolíková, minister školstva Branislav Groehling a minister zahraničných vecí Ivan Korčok nasledovali lídra strany a bývalého ministra hospodárstva Richarda Sulíka. Líder SaS poznamenal, že od pondelka podali demisiu všetci ministri SaS.

“To, čo Slovensko zažíva pod vedením Igora Matoviča, nemožno nazvať inak ako rozvrat,” zdôraznil Sulík a pripomenul dôvody odchodu SaS z vlády. Podľa Sulíka mali partneri dva mesiace na to, aby sa zriadili a ukázali, že im na krajine záleží. Líder SaS opakovane kritizoval ministra financií Matoviča, pričom spomenul jeho konflikty, nekompetentnosť, spoluprácu s fašistami, porušovanie legislatívneho procesu a rozvrat verejných financií.

Sulík ďalej povedal, že premiér Eduard Heger (OLaNO) bol nádejou na zmenu, ale nechal sa Matovičom zastrášať a dodal, že po dvoch rokoch odchádza z vlády, v ktorej odviezol dobrú prácu. “Zanechávame veľa dobrej práce a sme na ňu hrdí,” zdôraznil s tým, že odchádzajú do opozície. “Budeme konštruktívnou, profesionálnou, ale aj tvrdou opozíciou,” poznamenal.

Sulík odmieta obvinenia, že uteká od zodpovednosti. Chcel by zostať na čele ministerstva a pokračovať v práci. Podľa neho by stačilo, keby Matovič odišiel a Sulík by sa vrátil dokončiť prácu, ktorú doteraz robil. Čo sa týka ďalšej práce v parlamente, Sulík na utorok (6. septembra) avizoval zasadnutie poslaneckého klubu SaS. Na ňom bude informovať o svojich krokoch v súvislosti s jednotlivými zákonmi vrátane otázky skrátenia volebného obdobia.

Na otázku o návrhu na vyslovenie nedôvery Matovičovi v parlamente odpovedal, že budú rokovať o svojich krokoch. Ak sa takýto návrh objaví, osobne bude hlasovať zaň a pokúsi sa presvedčiť aj svojich straníckych kolegov. “Bolo by nelogické, keby sme odišli z vlády, pretože Igor Matovič je jej členom, a potom by sme nehlasovali za jeho odvolanie,” povedal Sulík.

## The Remaining SaS Ministers Have Resigned.

Bratislava, 5 September (TASR) - The remaining three ministers of the Sloboda a Solidarita (Freedom and Solidarity) party (SaS) resigned on Monday, September 5, TASR learned at their press conference on the same day.

Justice Minister Mária Kolíková, Education Minister Branislav Groehling and Foreign Minister Ivan Korčok followed party leader and former Economy Minister Richard Sulík. The SaS leader noted that all SaS ministers have resigned since Monday.

“What Slovakia is experiencing under the leadership of Igor Matovic cannot be called anything other than a subversion,” Sulík stressed and recalled the reasons for the SaS leaving the government. According to Sulík, the partners have had two months to arrange themselves and show that they care about the country. The SaS leader repeatedly criticized Finance Minister Matovič, mentioning his conflicts, incompetence, cooperation with fascists, violation of the legislative process and disruption of public finances.

Sulík went on to say that Prime Minister Eduard Heger (OLaNO) was a hope for change, but he allowed himself to be bullied by Matovič, adding that after two years he was leaving a government in which he had done a good job. “We are leaving a lot of good work and we are proud of it,” he stressed, adding that they were leaving for the opposition. “We will be a constructive, professional but also tough opposition,” he noted.

Sulík rejects accusations that he is running away from responsibility. He would like to stay at the head of the ministry and continue his work. According to him, it would be enough if Matovič left and Sulík would return to finish the work he has been doing. As for further work in parliament, Sulík announced a meeting of the SaS parliamentary club for Tuesday (6 September). He will then report on his actions regarding individual laws, including the issue of shortening the electoral term.

Asked about the motion of no confidence in Matovic in parliament, he replied that they would discuss their actions. If such a motion emerges, he will personally vote in favor of it and will also try to convince his party colleagues. “It would be illogical if we were to leave the government because Igor Matovič is a member of it, and then we would not vote for his ouster,” Sulík said.

## Heger sa poďakoval Česku a Poľsku za ochranu vzdušného priestoru

Praha/Varšava/Bratislava 28. augusta (TASR) - Slovenský premiér Eduard Heger (OLaNO) sa poďakoval Česku a Poľsku za ochranu slovenského vzdušného priestoru do dodania stíhačiek F-16. Na sociálnej sieti v tejto súvislosti vyzdvihol vzájomné partnerské vzťahy, hovorí o silnom priateľstve.

“Týmto krokom nám potvrdili, že Slovensko má vo svojich susedoch silných priateľov a oporu. V časech, keď Ukrajina čelí brutálnej ruskej invázii, je dôležité, aby naše nebo bolo zabezpečené. Patrí im za to moja veľká vďaka,” napísal Heger v nedeľu na sociálnej sieti.

Poďakoval sa aj ministrom obrany Jaroslavovi Naďovi a jeho tímu za ich prácu. “Za relatívne krátky čas sa práve pod vedením Jara Naďa dostala naša obrana konečne do kondície, v akej nebola dlhé desaťročia,” dodal.

Dohodu o tzv. “air policing” podpísali minister obrany SR Jaroslav Naď, česká šéfka rezortu Jana Černochová a poľský minister Mariusz Blaszczak na 27. augusta v priestoroch Leteckej základne Malacky-Kuchyňa.

Prvé kusy stíhačiek F-16 by mali prísť na Slovensko v roku 2024. Nahradiť tak stíhačky MiG-29.



Premiér Eduard Heger (foto TASR)

## Heger Thanked the Czech Republic and Poland for Protecting Slovak Airspace

Prague/Warsaw/Bratislava, August 28 (TASR) – Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger (OLaNO) thanked the Czech Republic and Poland for their commitment to protect the Slovak airspace until the time Slovakia receives the belated delivery of F-16 fighter jets.

“With this step, they’ve confirmed that Slovakia has great friends in their neighbors, indeed, and a lot of support. At the time when Ukraine faces a brutal Russian invasion, it’s important to have our skies secured. And for that, they have my extensive gratitude,” Heger posted on a social network on Sunday.

Heger also thanked Defense Minister Jaroslav Naď and his team for their work. “In a relatively short span of time, our defense under the leadership of Jaro Naď has got into shape in which it hadn’t been for decades.”

The agreement on the so-called air policing was put to ink by Defense Minister Jaroslav Naď, his Czech counterpart Jana Černochová and Polish minister Mariusz Blaszczak at the Malacky-Kuchyňa air base on Saturday (August 27).

The first batch of F-16 jet fighters is slated to arrive to Slovakia in 2024, set to replace Russian MiG-29s.

## Cena elektriny na Slovensku opäť láme rekordy

Bratislava 16. augusta (TASR) - Zdražovanie elektrickej energie pokračuje extrémne rýchlo. Na pražskej burze PXE sa v pondelok (15. 8.) elektrina pre Slovensko s dodávkou v budúcom roku



predávala za 504 eur za megawatt-hodinu (MWh), keď psychologickú hranicu 400 eur/MWh prelomila iba 1. augusta. Pred rokom sa pritom elektrina obchodovala za cenu približne 70 eur/MWh. Rekordné ceny zaznamenali napríklad aj v Nemecku či Maďarsku.

Cena referenčného kontraktu na elektrinu v Nemecku s dodávkou v budúcom roku na európskej energetickej burze

EEX vzrástla v pondelok až o 3,2 % na 475 eur za MWh. To je takmer šesťnásobok v porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím minulého roka. Len počas uplynulých dvoch mesiacov sa cena zdvojnásobila.

Pričinou zdražovania elektriny sú obavy, či sa v Európe počas budúcej zimy vyrobí dostatok elektriny, keďže krajiny v regióne zápasia s nedostatkom dodávok plynu spôsobeným ruskou inváziou na Ukrajinu. Ďalším faktorom sú výpadky atómových kapacít vo Francúzsku, čo obmedzuje možnosti exportu francúzskej elektriny v najbližších mesiacoch, rovnako ako vysoké teploty a sucho na kontinente. V raste pokračovali aj ceny zemného plynu v Európe. Referenčný kontrakt na plyn s dodávkou v auguste na burze v Amsterdame stúpil až o 3,9 %.

## The Price of Electricity in Slovakia is Again Breaking Records

Bratislava, August 16 (TASR) - The price of electricity continues to rise extremely fast. On Monday (15 August), electricity for Slovakia for delivery next year was sold at 504 euros per megawatt-hour (MWh) on the Prague PXE exchange, having broken the psychological 400 euro/MWh threshold only on 1 August. A year ago, electricity was trading at a price of around EUR 70/MWh. Record prices were also recorded in Germany and Hungary, for example.

The price of the reference contract for electricity in Germany for delivery next year on the European energy exchange EEX rose by as much as 3.2% on Monday to €475 per MWh. This is almost six times higher than in the same period last year. The price has doubled in the past two months alone.

The reason for the rising price of electricity is concern over whether Europe will produce enough electricity during next winter, as countries in the region struggle with gas supply shortages caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Another factor is France’s nuclear capacity outages, which will limit French electricity export options in the coming months, as well as high temperatures and drought on the continent. Natural gas prices in Europe also continued to rise. The benchmark gas contract for August delivery on the Amsterdam exchange rose by as much as 3.9%.

Translated by Michael J. Kopanic, Ph.D., editor

# Learning Slovak Culture at Common Ground on the Hill

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Editor**

During July I had the opportunity to take classes at "Common Ground on the Hill," a summer folk music and arts class --- at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. The classes I took included Beginning Fujara and Koncovka, and another on Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Music. In 2002, I had purchased a small fujara, but had never learned how to play it, so this was an opportunity to learn. It turned out to be a wonderful experience that expanded my knowledge of the fujara and Slovak/Moravian culture.

The courses were taught by Bob (Bohuslav) Rychlik, an emigré from Czechoslovakia, who came to the USA by escaping from the communist country in 1983 when his job was in danger for political reasons. After emigrating, he became interested in getting back to his roots as he found himself drifting away from his home country's culture. After the 1989 revolution that overthrew communism, he rediscovered his heritage through folk music, particularly by playing the fujara. You may hear some background about Bob and the fujara at: TEDx Fujara and Freedom - <https://youtu.be/rtAmvk024TI>

The fujara first came to him in 1999, when he revisited his homeland and received "an unexpected gift from a Slovak friend." He wrote - "it changed my life!" He fell in love with the instrument's rich sound which reminded him of his distant homeland.

Since then, Rychlik has become one of the premier players of the fujara outside of Slovakia, performing at numerous venues, including the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center. He has also offered courses for 13 years to help others learn to play through McDaniel College's summer educational programs in culture and the arts. The course in fujara playing is not available anywhere else in the USA, and it is open to beginners or advanced students.

Rychlik owns several fujaras, and lends them to students, who usually would not have their own. He works individually with each student to ensure they all learn at their own pace and provides handouts with music and simple songs to start out playing. For instance, we practiced first on basic songs like "Amazing Grace" and "Here Comes the Bride," and he gave us the music to try some easy Slovak folk songs.

In the past, most of his students did not have a Slovak Heritage background, and in Rychlik's words, "they learned to play and loved the instrument and we had together very good time!"

The summer program of Common Ground on the Hill was only virtual, online for two years due to the covid virus, but in-person classes resumed this year while still offering some online. Being there is always better though. There are also folk concerts every day on the campus, and people jam together after the evening concerts or during the day. If you would like to find out more, go to the website: <http://www.commongroundonthehill.org/index.html>

## The Fujara

The fujara is a large wind instrument which originated in central Slovakia as a sophisticated folk shepherd's overtone flute. It has a unique design and is long, ranging from 5'3" to 6'6". It can be tuned in A, G, or F and has three finger holes on the lower part of the main



Three fujara players - Michael Kopanic\_Tyler Engel\_Bob Rychlik



Editor Dr Michael Kopanic with fujara



Bob Rychlik performing on fujara at one of the evening concerts



Bob Rychlik playing fujara in Folk Song class



Bob Rychlik on fujara in class at Common Ground on the Hill, McDaniel College

body. Its sound is quite unique and produced by blowing in a fipple, a mouthpiece which is blown through a thin channel cut through a block which pushes a stream of air to the larger hole at the end of the instrument. The air goes to the fipple through a smaller parallel pipe, called vzduchovod in Slovak (meaning "air channel"). One plays the fujara in a standing position and it can be braced against either thigh, depending on one's preference. It does take some time to get accustomed to finding the most comfortable position to hold it. Its distinct and striking sound has attracted the attention of music lovers worldwide. Appropriately in 2005, UNESCO added the fujara to its list of "The Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity."

## The Koncovka

In addition to teaching how to play the fujara, Rychlik also offered instructions on how to play the koncovka and lends one to each of his students. The koncovka is a shorter duct-blown overtone fipple flute about a yard long. Like the fujara, Slovak shepherds also traditionally played this instrument while guarding their flocks. It has one finger hole, which one can cover, and one may also open and close the bottom hole of the koncovka to make unique sound. The koncovka plays two different harmonies of notes by opening or closing the end hole. In class, the instructor provided students with a koncovka to use and practice at in their dormitory rooms. It blends especially well with other folk instruments and added some spice to jam sessions, including some blues recordings which the instructor had recorded.

## A Fujara Sample

To hear Bob Rychlik playing the fujara, one may visit the presentation which he made at the Library of Congress, which can be seen and heard on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y5fonktBzQ>

## Folk Songs of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia

The other class I took involved learning and singing traditional folk songs of former Czechoslovakia. Most of the songs we learned were from Slovakia and Slovácko, i.e., Moravian Slovakia (Moravské Slovensko), a cultural area in southeast Czechia. Known for their folklore, music, wine, folk costumes, and traditions, the people speak an Eastern Moravian dialect which is mixture of the Slovak and Czech languages. Up to the 20th century, many ethnographers considered Moravian Slovaks as politically belonging to the Bohemian Crown, "but ethnographically and culturally to the Slovak ethnic group" (Wikipedia). Thus, the music reflects the rich mixture of Slovak and Moravian themes and language.

I found I knew some of the Slovak folk songs, but not all, and recognized the tunes of some but did not know the lyrics or title of the songs. Even some of the songs of the Slovácko region were familiar and are commonly sung in Slovakia. By providing words as well as musical scores, I could later also try these out on the fujara. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the course, and we quickly learned to sing with gusto and enthusiasm.

Both courses proved well worth taking and I highly recommend that our readers consider looking into enrolling next summer when Common Ground on the Hill at McDaniel College will again offer such a rare opportunity to become enriched more in our Slovak as well as other folk cultures.

# Sister M. Germaine Kalnash-Oros



Mary Kalnash-Oros was born in Egeš, Slovakia on August 15, 1897, and after immigrating to the U. S. resided in Ranshaw, PA. From earliest childhood she recalled the lesson that her parents taught her: love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself. They also had great reverence for the priesthood and religious life which they passed on to their daughter. When Mary was five or six, she complained to her mother that she couldn't be a priest. Wisely her mother assured her she did not have to be a priest to serve God.

Mary learned from others what religious life was all about. For instance, during summer vacations Sister Antonia who was a student at Mount St. Mary's where the young Sisters received their early training told her about life in formation. Later Mother Pius and Sister Augustine, who were among the first Sisters assigned to Shamokin when the mission opened in 1914, continued to encourage her. Mary felt she

should not delay entering because she was getting older (all of 17). How delighted she was when on August 19, 1915, she was finally able to begin her religious training.

Experiencing her religious profession brought Sister Germaine great joy. For over fifty years she had the opportunity to prepare children for the reception of the sacraments. For eight of those years, Sister took care of the boys at Middletown. Sister was also a capable seamstress and was able to upholster furniture and sew draperies. Sister Germaine had two memories that were particularly significant. She remembers seeing Guglielmo Marconi leaving the Sacred Heart rectory after Father Joseph Murgaš had given him his wireless broadcasting technology. She also recalls very vividly being within ten feet of Pope Paul VI when he visited New York City in 1964. Another memorable occasion occurred in 1976 when she participated in the Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia.

Sister Germaine was most grateful for all the achievements of the congregation during her 63 years as a member: "Everyone has worked together to provide what we share today." She urged those following her in religious life to remember it is the Lord who calls them. "You have not chosen me; I have chosen you." She continued with these words, "Prove your love by sacrifice, prayer, union with God." Sister Germaine experienced the results of living out these words.

Sister Germaine died at age 86 on Saturday, October 25 at Maria Hall. Her funeral was celebrated on Tuesday, October 28 at Maria Hall with the chaplain, Msgr. Alphonse Marcincavage, as main celebrant. The concelebrants were Father Eckert, CSSP, Father Friel, OSFS, and Father Zan.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

### Serving God is Top Priority

The work from home trend that exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way many companies now approach their workday, as well as the degree to which employees are expected to be in the office. This trend has also affected the way people view work in general, with many turning to entrepreneurial enterprises or simply viewing their homes as their primary offices. These trends can be beneficial, but change always presents new challenges—and a major challenge in this new environment is the responsibility to set one's own priorities and create a routine that facilitates reaching the goals we are called to.

A famous story of unknown origin tells of a philosopher who stood before his students holding a jar, which he first filled with rocks. When the rocks reached the top of the jar, he asked his students if it was full. They said it was full, but then the philosopher started dropping small pebbles in amongst the rocks, shaking the jar so the pebbles would find their way into all the crevices, until the jar looked full again. Next, the philosopher took sand and poured it into the jar, and it found its way into even smaller crevices until everyone agreed that the jar was full.

Then, the philosopher said to his students, "This jar represents your life. The rocks are the most important things: family, friends, loved ones, and the values we hold dear. If everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles represent secondary things that matter to our wellbeing, like our work and the essentials that sustain us. And the sand is everything else. The small stuff."

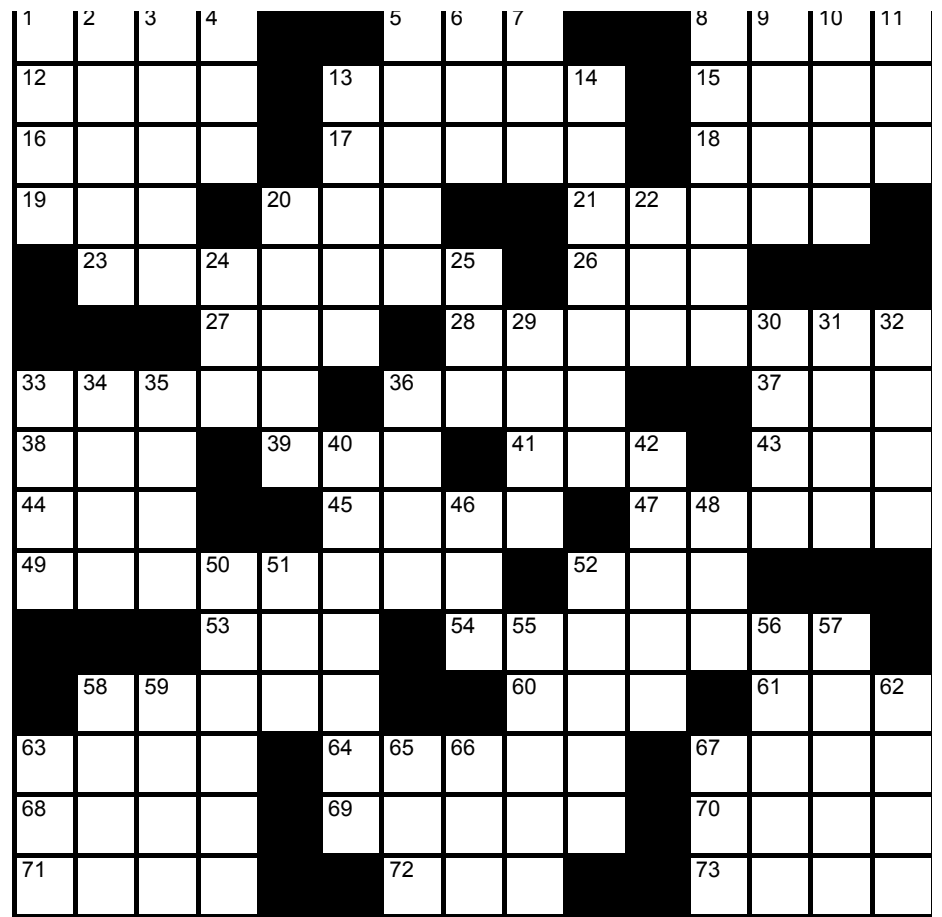
The philosopher concluded, "If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

This bit of wisdom has helped many people realize how to prioritize what matters most in their lives, and it is reminiscent of Christ's words, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

These words of Christ found their way into the beliefs of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, who taught that serving God should be our first priority. The things of this world should only be utilized to achieve that end, and we should rid ourselves of the things of this world to the degree they detract from that goal.

These lessons create great starting points for establishing priorities and creating our own routines in life. Start with the things that matter most, and you will be driven to achieve all you need to accomplish in your day. Prioritize prayer, and you will find inspiration to tackle the most challenging tasks. Make time for family, and you will find the fulfillment to sustain you throughout the rigors of the workday. Put first things first, and all things will follow. As Christ said, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



- |  |                           |                            |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Dash   | 71 Lager or pilsner, e.g. | 42 Banana oil, e.g.        |
| 5 Summer cooler  | 72 "Well done!"           | 46 Neither Rep. nor Dem.   |
| 8 Arm bone   | 73 Golfer's bagful        | 48 It's a free country     |
| 12 Fashion magazine                                    |                           | 50 Make fit                |
| 13 Bread maker   |                           | 51 Provoke                 |
| 15 Dock  |                           | 52 In a cold manner        |
| 16 Radio tuner   |                           | 55 Terra firma             |
| 17 About to explode                                    |                           | 56 Sarcastic               |
| 18 Abound  |                           | 57 Chilling                |
| 19 ___-Wan Kenobi                                      |                           | 58 First-class             |
| 20 <i>Monty Python</i> broadcaster                     |                           | 59 It has strings attached |
| 21 "I'm ___ of you!"                                   |                           | 62 Upside-down sleepers    |
| 23 Pierces with a spear                                |                           | 63 Little lie              |
| 26 Gear shift position                                 |                           | 65 Corn serving            |
| 27 "It's no ___!"                                      |                           | 66 ___ mode                |
| 28 Estrange  |                           | 67 Bumped into             |
| 33 Mountain lakes                                      |                           |                            |
| 36 Curved molding                                      |                           |                            |
| 37 Atlantic catch                                      |                           |                            |
| 38 Celestial altar                                     |                           |                            |
| 39 "How ___ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem) |                           |                            |
| 41 Fruity drink  |                           |                            |
| 43 Beldam  |                           |                            |
| 44 Mouth piece   |                           |                            |
| 45 Mayberry sot  |                           |                            |
| 47 Glove material                                      |                           |                            |
| 49 Cooking pot metal                                   |                           |                            |
| 52 "___ show time!"                                    |                           |                            |
| 53 ___ de Triomphe                                     |                           |                            |
| 54 Expire  |                           |                            |
| 58 Similar   |                           |                            |
| 60 Go public with                                      |                           |                            |
| 61 Colo. neighbor                                      |                           |                            |
| 63 Hoops call  |                           |                            |
| 64 Oyster's prize                                      |                           |                            |
| 67 Oscar winner Sorvinc                                |                           |                            |
| 68 Division word                                       |                           |                            |
| 69 Piquant   |                           |                            |
| 70 Rework an article                                   |                           |                            |

### Down

- 1 Decorate anew
- 2 Cover story?
- 3 Allegation
- 4 Pickled delicacy
- 5 Madcap comedy
- 6 Wanted-poster letters
- 7 After expenses
- 8 Billy Joel song \_\_\_ girl
- 9 In \_\_\_ of
- 10 Call for
- 11 Branch
- 13 Holy book
- 14 Answered
- 20 Boito's Mefistofele, e.g.
- 22 Beluga yield
- 24 Wordplay
- 25 Give in to gravity
- 29 Grasslands
- 30 Flu symptom
- 31 Contemptible one
- 32 Halftime lead, e.g.
- 33 Toiletry item
- 34 Operatic solo
- 35 Criticizes
- 36 Director Preminger
- 40 Delivery aid

See Solution on Page 24

# Interview with Ukrainian refugees - Summer 2022

## Brief interview with Oleksandra Panchuk and witness of Madam Cherkas Vera Andriivna – both Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia

By Martin Azzopardi sdc, B.A. (Hons)  
Theol. & H.S., P.G.C.E., M.A. (Melit.)

Throughout my summer mission in Slovakia, I had the opportunity to come in touch with Ukraine refugees hosted by the Capuchin Order at their refugee shelter home in Slovakia. Getting to know the Ukrainian refugees was an unforgettable experience as I came in touch with the true reality of the suffering Ukrainian people. Here is a brief interview with a young Ukrainian young mother, Madam Oleksandra Panchuk and the brief witness of an old Ukrainian woman, Madam Cherkas Vera Andriivna.

### **A. Brief interview with Madam Oleksandra Panchuk – Ukraine young mother and refugee in Slovakia**

#### **Q. 1. Could you please share some biographical information?**

My name is Oleksandra Panchuk known in brief as Sasha and I am 31 years old. I am from Vinnytsa, a town in central Ukraine and I am married to Valentin. We have one daughter, Anastasiia and she is 7 years old. My profession is that of a nurse at the military airfield.

#### **Q. 2. Could you please tell us what happened to you on February 24, 2022, when the Russian Ukraine war started?**

On the night of February 24, at 4:30 a.m., an emergency phone call woke me up. My niece called me from Kharkiv saying; "Sasha, we are being bombed! This is war." On this day, I was on duty at the military airfield. In the morning when I went to work, a rocket fell nearby and there was an explosion. I fell on the floor ... Everything was like a nightmare to me. My colleagues hid us in a safe place, but I was always concerned about my daughter left at home together with my mother. On that same day, other rockets fell on other Ukraine cities. Then we got to know that the Russian military invasion started. On Saturday, March 6, 2022, eight rocket missiles came down on Vinnytsa and it was then that I decided (with my husband's consent) to flee together with my daughter and my friend Natalia and her son Ilya. To safeguard my daughter, I had to pack up a few belongings and flee from Ukraine leaving behind me my dearest parents in Vinnytsa who are luckily still alive. And even now my city is still shelled by Russian rockets. They kill civilians, small children and destroy houses everywhere.

#### **Q. 3. Why did you decide to leave your country and family?**

I had no option as I knew what was going to happen and I had to safeguard my daughter. My husband works in Africa, and I immediately contacted him asking for his counsel. He also agreed that I should leave Ukraine as soon as possible to safeguard our daughter Anastasia.

#### **Q.4. How did you manage to leave Ukraine and come to find refuge in Slovakia?**

My daughter and I took a bus from Vinnytsa to Warsaw and then a Ukrainian friend of mine from Warsaw arranged for us to travel to Slovakia where we found refuge and full support at the Capuchin Friars house and at the volunteer organization Ukrainian House in Slovakia.

#### **Q. 5. For how long have you been finding refuge in Slovakia?**

We arrived in Slovakia on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, and we have been staying at the Capuchin Friars house for these last six months together with other Ukrainian families who are also hosted by the Capuchin Order.

#### **Q. 6. How did you feel throughout this terrible experience?**

Since I left Ukraine, I cried every night as I left behind my family, friends, and my job. My life and my future are shattered and that is also the reason why I still cry sometimes.

#### **Q. 7. How do you feel now that you found refuge in Slovakia?**

I feel very safe with the Capuchins in Slovakia, and I am very grateful to the Capuchin Order and to the Slovak government. However, my heart is in Ukraine, and I want to go back home when this terrible war is over.

#### **Q. 8. How do you feel for Ukrainian soldiers?**

I work as a nurse with Ukrainian soldiers, and it breaks my heart knowing that they have to fight for our country. I already experienced the death of many Ukraine soldiers back in 2014 and it is very painful to me. Sincerely, I feel incredible pride for our Ukrainian military soldiers who have the courage and strength to protect our land. On the other hand, it is very hard and painful to get to know that many of these soldiers are dying on the front in defending our country. Their children remain orphans, wives become widows, and mothers lose their sons.

#### **Q. 9. Till now have you lost any family relative of yours in this war between Ukraine and Russia?**

No, luckily, I lost nobody from my family. My husband's parents were living in Kharkiv city and as they were more exposed to the war they had to pack up and join my parents in Vinnytsa.

#### **Q.10. What are your feelings for the Russian soldiers?**

At the beginning of the war, I was very angry with them, very...I understand that they received orders from their commanders, but we are all God's children. There is a commandment "Thou shalt not kill!". There is a limit to every hatred ... Therefore, the Lord will be their judge!

#### **Q. 11. How would you react if you meet with Russian people?**

I do not know how I would react, but I cannot feel love for them. Actually, I feel nothing. My mum was born in Russia, but my father is Ukrainian. My family and I cannot understand the feelings of Russian people about this war, but they are surely biased by the Russian media. My uncle lives in Russia and we are shocked by his feelings versus this war as he is also biased by the Russian media. He still cannot understand our situation, our feelings, and our anger.

#### **Q. 12. What are your personal feelings about this war between Ukraine and Russia?**

I will frankly say that Russia will never change because history repeats itself. Our war with Russia has been ongoing since 2014 and I personally know many Ukrainian soldiers who died in service especially when trying to evacuate our country's people. With a broken heart I say that now these dead soldiers left their children orphans and wives widows. (While saying these words, Madam Oleksandra was shedding tears of despair)

#### **Q. 13. May I ask you a personal question please? Do you believe in God?**

Yes, I do believe!!!

#### **Q. 14. So what is your personal prayer to God Almighty?**

I confess that I pray to God every night, begging Him to save my country, our people, our children, our soldiers, and our future. I pray that humanity never makes such mistakes again.

#### **Q. 15. What do you want to say to the countries who are offering lots of financial support to Ukraine?**

I humbly call on the whole world to help us persevere in this difficult struggle for our existence. I know that there are many country people who perceive our misfortune as if it was theirs. I am highly grateful to everyone who cares for us and I truly wish everyone peace and tranquillity.

#### **Q. 16. Do you want to express any special thanksgivings at the end of this interview please?**

I want to express special thanks to Slovakia and its caring people. Also special thanks to the Ca-



Ukraine refugees at the Capuchin Friars House in Slovakia - August 2022



The Capuchin Friars House in Slovakia - August 2022

puchin Order in Slovakia who take care of us as if we were their family relatives. MUCH OBLIGED!!!

### **B. Brief witness of Madam Cherkas Vera Andriivna – an old Ukraine refugee in Slovakia**

I was born on April 19, 1939, in the Kharkiv region. The years of the Second World War and the difficult post-war period fell on my childhood and youth life. After that I had a happy life in the city of Kharkiv, where I got married, had my own home, gave birth to two daughters, and raised them.

On February 24, 2022, at 4:30 a.m., my peaceful old life ended by the sound of artillery fire from the side of the border with Russia. The night was sleepless and restless. Explosions, people's screams, cries, sirens, and panic sounded everywhere... On February 25, enemy tanks entered our city. From the first day of shelling, my daughter and I hid in the basement of the house. After the house was damaged, it was decided to evacuate by train to Lviv. The road was long, difficult, and exhausting. From Lviv we went to find refuge in Slovakia. In Slovakia I met with my daughter's friend, who was also fleeing the war. The Capuchin brothers gave us shelter, for which I am very grateful.

Now I feel safe. Until the end of my life, I will not be able to understand the reasons for this Russian invasion and its cruelty. We will never be able to live our life like before. Many innocent people die, cities are barbarically destroyed...

I have a dream to live until the time when my city, like other cities of Ukraine, will be rebuilt. I want to return back home to Ukraine. Here in Slovakia, I have the opportunity to pray at the Capuchin church daily. I ask God to save the lives of Ukrainian soldiers, Ukrainian people, and children. I wish that this terrible horror which hit our country will end soon. I am asking the whole world to help us stop this evil and tyranny over my people and land, so that future generations are born free in their own country.

### **N.B. Oleksandra Panchuk's reply to this interview is verbatim even the witness of Madam Cherkas Vera Andriivna is so [moving], but for data protection reasons the place where she is finding refuge is not mentioned.**

#### **Addendum:**

Vinnytsia (Ukrainian: Вінниця), is a city in west-central Ukraine, located on the banks of the Southern Bug. It is the administrative centre of Vinnytsia Oblast and the largest city in the historic region of Podillia. Administratively, it is incorporated as a town of oblast significance. It also serves as an administrative centre of Vinnytsia Raion, one of the 6 districts of Vinnytsia Oblast, though it is not a part of the district. It has a population of 370,601 (2021 est.). The city's roots date back to the Middle Ages. It was under Polish control for centuries until the Russian Empire annexed it in 1793. During the 1930s and early 1940s the city was the site of massacres, first during Stalin's purges and then during the Holocaust in Ukraine and the Nazi occupation. A Cold War-era airbase was located near the city.

Kharkiv (Ukrainian: Харків), also known as Kharkov, is the second-largest city and municipality in Ukraine. Located in the northeast of the country, it is the largest city of the historic Slobozhanshchyna region. Kharkiv is the administrative centre of Kharkiv Oblast and of the surrounding Kharkiv Raion. The latest population is 1,433,886 (2021 est.). Kharkiv was founded in 1654 as Kharkiv fortress, and after these humble beginnings, it grew to be a major centre of industry, trade and Ukrainian culture in the Russian Empire. At the beginning of the 20th century, the city was predominantly Russian in population, but as industrial expansion drew in further labour from the distressed countryside, and as the Soviet regime moderated previous restrictions on Ukrainian cultural expression, by the eve of World War II the greater part of the population was officially identified as Ukrainian. From December 1919 to January 1934, Kharkiv was the first capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Kharkiv is a major cultural, scientific, educational, transport and industrial centre of Ukraine, with numerous museums, theatres and libraries, including the Annunciation and Dormition Cathedrals, the Derzhprom building in Freedom Square, and the National University of Kharkiv. Industry plays a significant role in Kharkiv's economy, specialised primarily in machinery and electronics. In March and April 2014, security forces and counter-demonstrators defeated efforts by Russian-backed separatists to seize control of the city and regional administration. Kharkiv was a major target of the Northeastern Ukraine offensive in Russia's invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022. In May, Russian forces were pressed back toward the international border, but the city remains under intermittent Russian fire.

Article written by Martin Azzopardi sdc,

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Secondary School, Verdala, Cospicua, Malta

and Deputy President of the M.A.S.C. Faculty of Theology, University of Malta

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD OHIO

The next meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on November 20, 2022, at 1:00 pm. This will be our annual Christmas party and the election of officers meeting.

Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by November 1, 2022.

Social distancing will be observed so we need to know in advance if you will be attending. All members are welcome to attend.

**Submitted by Barbara J. Golias, Secretary**

## BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Stephen's Society, Branch 06K, is having a fraternal gathering for its members on Sunday, October 2, 2022. Members will enjoy a comedy play, "GET SMART" at 2pm. At Engle Lane Theater, 1012 Columbus Rd., Streator, IL. The members attending will have their ticket paid for by the branch. Please contact Paul Chismar (815) 822-8851 if you plan to attend or have any other insurance questions. Thank you.

**Submitted by Paul Chismar, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 27, 2022 at 9:00 A. M. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St., Ramey, PA 16671. Election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

**Submitted by Joseph C. Cervenak, President**

## BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

Branch 23 will hold our 2nd Annual Branch meeting on Sunday Oct. 9, 2022 at 1:30 PM. Denny's Family Restaurant is in Richland, Theater Drive. Come to hear about what took place at the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. Our delegates who attended the Convention will be glad to answer any questions you may have. This will be very interesting to hear about.

We will have Elections at this Branch meeting for Officers. Prior to our annual meeting, please note.\*\*

This is a reminder that the 7th Annual Johnstown Slavic Festival will take place at the Heritage Discovery Center in Cambria City on Sept. 16-17. This is a big event. This free event features some of the best Slavic food, entertainment, and beer. We will have our "Jednota Booth" to promote the FCSU. Branch 23 and District 7 have been setting up a booth each year. As a member, please consider volunteering to be with us representing FCSU.

Help us spread the Good News of our great "new" Annuity Rates, (A very good investment at this time!!!!). If you don't know where to put your money to make money, check out our Annuity Rates!!!!

Please Come Join us. Be part of this cool, fun group of people. We welcome You!!! Any questions please call Theresa Cassat at 814-254-2532.

**Submitted by Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold a branch meeting on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 7:00 pm. In addition to discussing information from the FCSU National Convention, Branch officers will be elected. Out of an abundance of caution and with con-

cern for all of our members, this Branch 38 meeting will be held virtually. Any member interested in attending this meeting should contact Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LLHASELHOFF@gmail.com, to set up the virtual meeting invitation and details. All Branch 38 members are encouraged to attend. Thank you for your continued support of Branch 38.

Brittany Kowalski, Vice-President of Branch 38, Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer of Branch 38

**Submitted by Logan Haselhoff, President of Branch 38**

## BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Submitted by Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## ROČNA SCHÔDZA SV. MATÚŠA ČÍSLO 45 1KSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 1KSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 4. decembra 2022 o 13:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi. Ďakujem s pozdravom.

**Predložila Maria Jurasi, finančná tajomníčka**

## BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officers' reports, upcoming events, delegate reports from 52nd Quadrennial Convention, and election of officers. All members are urged to attend.

**Submitted by Julie Perla, Branch Secretary**

## BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Please join us for our Branch 89 meeting on Sunday October 2, 2022.

The time is 11:30 AM.

Members are free. Guests are welcome, but guests will have to pay for their own meal.

The cost is \$30.00 per guest.

Location: Brisco County Wood Grill

N96W16865 Cumberland Court

Menomonee Falls, WI

Location: Highway 41 North and County Q Exit

Please call to make your reservation by 9/28/2022. Please call Mike Novak President Branch 89 at 414.445.5382.

Please make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89

Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222

Issues:

Review highlights of the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada.

Review of the Holy Hill Slovak Pilgrimage Labor Day 9/5/2022.

Discuss future activities/donations.

Discuss the future 53rd Quadrennial Convention of The First Catholic Slovak Union of The United States and Canada, and when we will have the election of delegates. The dates and place of the 53rd Convention are yet to be determined. A meeting will be set prior to the convention.

**Submitted by Mike Novak, President Branch 89**

## BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, BOONTON, NJ

Branch 132 will have its remaining meetings are as follows: 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 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, October 22, at 11:30 am. The meeting will be at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL. At this meeting, election of officers, discussion of the Convention and charitable donations will take place. Please call Dorothy at (708) 995 7378 before October 16 to reserve a place at the meeting.

**Submitted by Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA.

Officers' Reports will be given and branch activities will be discussed. The Donations Committee will make its recommendations, the results of the convention will be discussed, and Regional Director, James Marmol, will advise us of developments from the home office. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before September 20th for reservations for you and your guest to attend the meeting.

**Submitted by Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 166 - BINGHAMTON, NY

Greetings Branch 166K! It's been a busy and fast Summer! Our Delegates attended the FCSU Quadrennial Convention in July/August, a wonderful time was had by all!

We will be having our Semi-Annual meeting on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 2 pm at Saint Cyril's Parish Hall 148 Clinton Street Binghamton, New York we will be having an election of officers.

We will also be celebrating our member's Birthdays. Lunch will be provided for members in attendance at no cost. Please RSVP to Morgan Dendler (607)206-7243 by October 25, 2022 (To ensure we have enough food ordered). Your attendance is greatly appreciated!

**Submitted by Judie Dendler, Secretary**

## BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

A meeting of The St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 will be held at 6 pm on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at Thirty's Craft Pizza. It is located at 4433 State Route 30, Latrobe, PA 15650. RSVP is required to accommodate all members planning to attend. Please call Vicki (724-547-0803) or Darlene (724-493-8712) by October 1, 2022, to reserve a seat.

The meeting agenda will include upcoming activities and Election of Officers. Please note - To qualify to be a delegate for an upcoming convention, a delegate must attend 1 meeting per year – every year prior to the convention which would be a total of 4 meetings over the 4 years. Also, to participate and be active in fraternal activities such as the branch picnic and the Villija, etc.

**Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

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

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

**Submitted by Vicki Schaub**

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 7 P.M. IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. The format/formats of future Branch 228 meetings will be discussed at this important meeting. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July, and August when no meetings are held. All meetings will begin at 7 P.M. regardless of a virtual or in-person format.

The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 19, 2022. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

Once again, I ask that our members plan to attend our meetings whenever possible. FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt attends each of our meetings. In addition, our Region 6 Director, Thomas Ivanec is a frequent attendee. Their reports not only give us current information about the ongoing concern of our organization, they provide a relaxed forum to ask a particular question you may have. The FCSU would like to see the fraternal activities of all districts and branches increase. Attending our Branch 228 meetings can give you first-hand knowledge of items and events being discussed as well as an opportunity for

continued on page 20

# Scenes from the International Golf Tournament

The FCSU, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and Greek Catholic Union held their annual International Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake on August 12-14, 2022. The weekend commenced with a "meet and greet" hospitality social at the Treasure Lake Lodge. On Saturday and Sunday, golfers played the 18-hole Gold and Silver courses.

On Saturday, the FCSU chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta celebrated Holy Mass at an outdoor pavilion at the Silver Course. Afterwards, all enjoyed a scrumptious meal catered by Luigi's Villa from Dubois.

A special thanks goes out to all the organizers and participants who made the event possible. Enjoy the photos taken by yours truly, the editor, Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

## Treasure Lake Golf Results

Congratulations for closest to the pins on Sunday go to:

### Silver Course:

- Hole 4: Joe Weber
- Hole 12: Mike Nemcheck (FCSU)

### FCSU 2022 Prize Money:

#### "A" Flight

- Michael Bolby, tied for 3rd Place: \$105.00
- John Rosa, tied for 3rd Place: \$105.00

#### "B" Flight

- Anthony Coval, tied for 7th Place: \$60.00

#### Callaway Flight

- Jerry Hromada, tied for 4th Place: \$90.00
- John E. Pastorek, Jr., tied for 4th Place: \$90.00
- Terry Treskovich, tied for 7th Place: \$60.00
- Gary Matta, Tied for 10th Place: \$50.00

#### Senior Flight

- Anthony Nastasi, 2nd Place: \$150.00
- John Metarko, 6th Place: \$80.00
- Martin P. Finklestine, Sr., 7th Place: \$70.00

Thanks again! Kevin J. Collins, Vice President



Treasure Lake Entrance



Flags of Slovakia, USA, Canada at the Silver Course Pavilion



Rev Thomas Nasta blessing before Golf Meet at Treasure Lake



Saturday Banquet at Silver Course Pavilion



John Tokarsky, Kevin Collins, Joseph Burkhart, John Grottenthaler



Barry Halula, Patrick Quinn, Mike Nemchek Jake Sweitzer



Bruno Felus, Martin Finklestine, David Degol, Anthony Nastasi



David Schumucker, Michael Bolby, Rusty



Damian D. Nasta  
Vice President  
Elect  
First Catholic  
Slovak Union  
Good Luck  
Golfers!

To view more pictures go to [www.fcsu.com/events](http://www.fcsu.com/events).



Terry Treskovich, William Quinn, Lou Fabo, John Rosa



John D Pastorek, John E Pastorek Jr, Anthony Coval, David Sinagra



Nick Sweitzer, Jake Sweitzer, Austin Matta, Gary Matta



Remember to  
Have Fun Today!  
John Tokarsky  
National  
Treasurer FCSU



# Tournament at Treasure Lake, Dubois, PA



Group photo, Treasure Lake Gold Course, Sat Aug 13, 2022



Kevin Collins seeing off golfers at Gold Course



Fr. Nasta giving Holy Communion



Fr. Nasta sermon at Mass at Silver Course pavilion



Friday Hospitality at Treasure Lake, Damian Nasta, Nicole L. Nasta, Rev Thomas Nasta, Dr. Michael Kopanic, Kevin Collins, Ed Nasta



John E. Pastorek, Jr., Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., John D. Pastorek



Rusty Groner, Groner



Frank Pipek, Steve and Richard Yokopenic, Tom Pipek



Friday Hospitality Reception at Treasure Lake



Treasure Lake Golf photographer and editor, Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr.



Ed Nasta, Rev Thomas Nasta, Nicole Nasta, Damian Nasta



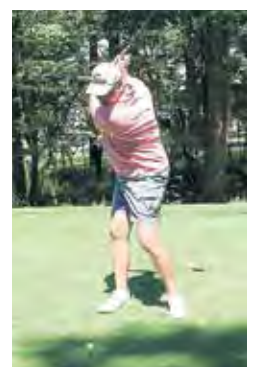
Derek Johnston, John Metarko, Scott Harr, Tim Quinn - FCSU Br. 670



Derek Johnston swinging away



Ryan Burfield teeing off



John Tokarsky showing his form

# 2022 International Golf Tournament Scores

## WOMEN'S FLIGHT SUMMARY

Treasure Lake, Pa		Gold Course			Silver Course			HCAP	SCRATCH
Participant	2022	TTL	HCP	NET	TTL	HCP	NET	TOTAL	TOTAL
Macko	Carol	99	23	76	109	35	74	150	208
Underation-Smith	Keri	115	40	75	124	46	78	153	239
Popik	Catherine	102	25	77	100	23	77	154	202
Kopchak	Kayla	105	27	78	115	38	77	155	220
Smith	Loretta	106	27	79	111	35	76	155	217
Bakita	Karen	109	31	78	118	40	78	156	227
Skorupka	Stephanie	97	17	80	103	27	76	156	200
Frank	Linda	116	37	79	126	48	78	157	242
Karaffa	Janice	119	40	79	127	48	79	158	246
Palchanis	Kelly	130	50	80	127	48	79	159	257
Nasta	Nicole	127	50	77	138	50	88	165	265
Macko	Catherine	131	50	81	136	50	86	167	267
Karaffa	Kelsey	141	50	91	127	49	78	169	268
Babik	Judy	138	50	88	141	50	91	179	279

## "A" FLIGHT SUMMARY

Iskra, Sr.	Dave	79	6	73	76	6	70	143	155
Murry	Joseph	74	0	74	70	0	70	144	144
Bolby	Michael	79	4	75	79	4	75	150	158
Cyr	Josh	84	9	75	84	9	75	150	168
Rosa	John	87	11	76	85	11	74	150	172
Iskra, Jr.	Tom	79	7	72	87	7	80	152	166
Macurak	Adam	87	9	78	83	9	74	152	170
Pisano	Vincent	89	7	82	77	7	70	152	166
Degol	David	85	5	80	81	5	76	156	166
Quinn	Patrick	84	7	77	87	7	80	157	171
Hornacek	Scott	92	12	80	92	12	80	160	184
Schmucker	David A	91	10	81	90	10	80	161	181
Falbo	Lou	90	9	81	90	9	81	162	180
Karaffa	Joseph	96	11	85	91	11	80	165	187
Kozusko	Tim	97	12	85	94	12	82	167	191
Harr	Scott	97	8	89	88	8	80	169	185
Hoekstra	Rob	85	8	77	100	8	92	169	185
Quinn	Tim	108	11	97	89	11	78	175	197
<b>18 Golfers</b>									

## "B" FLIGHT SUMMARY

Last Name	First Name	TTL	HCP	NET	TTL	HCP	NET	TOTAL	TOTAL
Iskra, III	Tom	83	17	66	88	17	71	137	171
Burfield	Ryan	79	13	66	85	13	72	138	164
Burfield	Matt	89	17	72	85	17	68	140	174
Moeller	Benjamin	94	20	74	93	20	73	147	187
Underation	Joseph	92	16	76	90	16	74	150	182
Macko	Bob	93	14	79	86	14	72	151	179
Coval	Anthony	90	15	75	92	15	77	152	182
Cyr	Dave	85	13	72	93	13	80	152	178
Hoenninger	Tom	93	13	80	85	13	72	152	178
Hoenninger	Matt	97	16	81	88	16	72	153	185
Macurak	Nick	96	16	80	93	16	77	157	189
Shedlock	Corey	98	16	82	91	16	75	157	189
Smith	John	104	20	84	93	20	73	157	197
Suchan	Fr. Deacon Stephen	98	15	83	90	15	75	158	188
Weber III	Joseph	97	14	83	89	14	75	158	186
Bajus	Edward	91	13	78	94	13	81	159	185
Karaffa	Kyle	96	16	80	96	16	80	160	192
Dziuba	Chet	99	18	81	101	18	83	164	200
Johnston	Derek	99	15	84	95	15	80	164	194
Rasimas	Tony	96	14	82	96	14	82	164	192
Dorich	Dusan	96	14	82	97	14	83	165	193
Iskra, Jr	David	95	13	82	96	13	83	165	191
Macko	Donald	101	20	81	106	20	86	167	207
Groner	Rusty	102	13	89	98	13	85	174	200
Halula	Barry	106	19	87	109	19	90	177	215
Tokarsky	John	114	17	97	105	17	88	185	219

## "C" FLIGHT SUMMARY

Treasure Lake, Pa		Gold Course			Silver Course			HCAP	SCRATCH
Participant	2022	TTL	HCP	NET	TTL	HCP	NET	TOTAL	TOTAL
Macko	Chris P	89	21	68	94	21	73	141	183
Francis	Jeremy	114	36	78	105	36	69	147	219
Matlon	Kevin	97	21	76	92	21	71	147	189
Macko	Stephen	98	24	74	99	24	75	149	197
Brennan	Shawn	102	25	77	98	25	73	150	200
Fareri	Jason	103	21	82	90	21	69	151	193
Recker	Jeff	97	22	75	105	22	83	158	202
Philips	Brian	107	22	85	96	22	74	159	203
Hvozdovic, Jr.	Joseph	108	25	83	102	25	77	160	210
Francis	Justin	108	22	86	98	22	76	162	206
Grottenthaler	John	106	23	83	102	23	79	162	208
Keagy	Nathan	113	34	79	117	34	83	162	230
Pogorelec, Jr	Steve	107	21	86	99	21	78	164	206
Tutko	John	122	33	89	110	33	77	166	232
Nemcheck	Mike	106	21	85	103	21	82	167	209
Loehle	Derek	104	24	80	112	24	88	168	216
Muldoon, III	Thomas P	118	27	91	104	27	77	168	222
Sadowyj	Jesse	104	23	81	110	23	87	168	214
Waksmunski	Kevin	103	22	81	109	22	87	168	212
Coley	Ken	116	26	90	106	26	80	170	222
Moeller	Edward	116	31	85	119	31	88	173	235

## SENIOR FLIGHT SUMMARY

Treasure Lake, Pa		Gold Course			Silver Course			HCAP	SCRATCH
Participant	2022	TTL	HCP	NET	TTL	HCP	NET	TOTAL	TOTAL
Hornacek	John	94	24	70	89	24	65	135	183
Nastasi	Anthony	76	8	68	81	8	73	141	157
Macko	Greg	93	22	71	93	22	71	142	186
Burfield	Joe	86	13	73	84	13	71	144	170
Suess, Jr.	Albert	81	9	72	85	9	76	148	166
Metarko	John	93	16	77	88	16	72	149	181
Finklestine, Sr.	Martin P	86	11	75	86	11	75	150	172
Macko	Paul	92	23	69	107	23	84	153	199
Checton	Clarence	109	30	79	107	30	77	156	216
Koval	Steve	103	22	81	97	22	75	156	200
Macurak	Robert	98	19	79	96	19	77	156	194
Macurak	Donald	95	25	70	111	25	86	156	206
Muldoon, Jr	Thomas P	98	22	76	102	22	80	156	200
Skorupka	Stephen	102	23	79	100	23	77	156	202
Bart	James	95	17	78	97	17	80	158	192
Pipak, Jr.	Frank	90	14	76	96	14	82	158	186
Palchanis, Jr.	Bob	107	26	81	105	26	79	160	212
Pogorelec, Sr	Steve	92	9	83	88	9	79	162	180
Pastorek Sr.	John D	98	17	81	100	17	83	164	198
Quinn	William	98	13	85	94	13	81	166	192
Felus	Bruno	101	15	86	96	15	81	167	197
Hudzik	James	115	30	85	112	30	82	167	227
Lipski	Frank	107	16	91	93	16	77	168	200
Sinagra	David	109	19	90	97	19	78	168	206
Waksmunski	Francis	115	32	83	119	32	87	170	234
Koval	Donald	112	23	89	105	23	82	171	217
Onderko	John	119	33	86	118	33	85	171	237
Shedlock	Keith	106	18	88	102	18	84	172	208
Tokach	Charles	115	28	87	113	28	85	172	228
Burkhart	Joseph R	123	37	86	125	37	88	174	248
Shedlock	Robert J	107	20	87	111	20	91	178	218
Horvath	Michael	124	30	94	124	30	94	188	248
Nasta	Damian	126	30	96	126	30	96	192	252
Nasta	Edward	129	30	99	130	30	100	199	259
Nasta	Fr. Thomas	118	30	88	DNF				
Baker	Edward	102	20	82	DNF				

# 2022 International Golf Tournament Scores

## CALLAWAY FLIGHT SUMMARY

Treasure Lake, Pa		Gold Course			Silver Course			HCAP	SCRATCH
Participant	2022	TTL	HCP	NET	TTL	HCP	NET	TOTAL	TOTAL
Last Name	First Name								
Macko	Hayden	83	10	73	81	7	74	147	164
Weber	Thomas	87	11	76	87	14	73	149	174
Underation	Dan	95	20	75	93	18	75	150	188
Hromada	Jerry	91	15	76	87	12	75	151	178
Macko	Chris M	96	19	77	95	21	74	151	191
Pastorek, Jr.	John E	109	31	78	97	24	73	151	206
Nydam	Ken	93	17	76	89	13	76	152	182
Smith	Joshua	91	15	76	88	12	76	152	179
Treskovich	Terry	91	14	77	90	15	75	152	181
Dorich	Adam	113	36	77	102	26	76	153	215
Kopchak	John	105	28	77	108	32	76	153	213
Matta	Gary	103	26	77	108	32	76	153	211
Podrasky, Jr.	Samuel	99	23	76	99	22	77	153	198
Manyak	Gary	104	27	77	102	25	77	154	206
Matta	Austin	96	19	77	91	14	77	154	187
Muldoon	Caleb	119	40	79	115	40	75	154	234
Popik	Mark	101	24	77	113	36	77	154	214
Sweitzer	Nick	108	30	78	110	34	76	154	218
Underation	Luke	110	33	77	111	34	77	154	221
Sweitzer	Jake	116	36	80	106	29	77	157	222
Underation	Andy	110	32	78	107	28	79	157	217
Kopchak	Tyler	120	40	80	110	32	78	158	230
Manyak	Drew	106	27	79	114	35	79	158	220
Laury IV	Frank	112	33	79	107	27	80	159	219
Popik	Milan	114	35	79	107	27	80	159	221
Manyak	Zach	114	37	77	124	40	84	161	238
Manyak	Trevor	104	29	75	132	40	92	167	236
Underation	Matt	129	40	89	140	40	100	189	269
Collins	Kevin	135	40	95		DNF			
Pipak	Thomas	124	40	84		DNF			



### THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2022 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is accepting applications for its 2022 Scholarship Program.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO **TEN (10) \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS** TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA. Applicants, even those who are previous recipients of this scholarship, may apply yearly.

#### Jednota Benevolent Foundation Award Criteria:

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

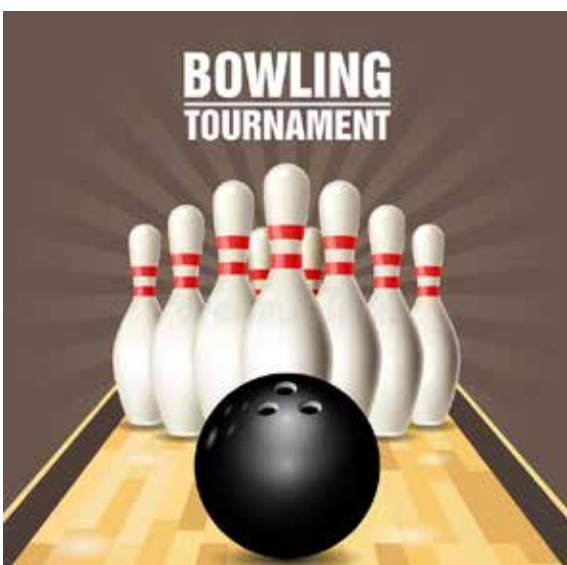
#### For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.  
First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131  
Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310  
E-mail: [fcsu@fcsu.com](mailto:fcsu@fcsu.com) - Website: <http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2022

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

## "Save the Date" for these 2023 Fraternal Events



### International Bowling Tournament.

Date: Friday-Saturday May 19-20, 2023  
Location: AMF Airport Lanes  
3754 Genesee Street  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

### FCSU National Picnic, Saturday, June 24, 2022

Location: Frogbridge  
7 Yellow Meeting House Rd.  
Millstone Township, N.J. 08510



### Annual Picnic



### 2023 International Golf Tournament

Dates: August 18-20, 2023  
Location: Kennsington Golf Club  
4171 Westford Place, Canfield, Ohio 44406

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

sonal input. The meetings are fun and help to promote comradery so give us a try!

**Submitted by Thomas B. Zuffa,**  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold an interim meeting on Sunday, October 23, at noon at Panera's Restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

**Submitted by Joseph Senko,**  
Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their Annual Meeting at Donavito's, 139 S. Bridge St., Struthers, Ohio on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 1:00 PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2023, followed by a luncheon-with reservations to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

**Submitted by Beverly Yurcinis,**  
Recording Secretary

## BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Future 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 276 – MCKEESPORT, PA

The next branch meeting will be held Sunday, November 13 at 1 PM, at Eat & Park Restaurant on Route 30, North Versailles PA, near Walmart and the Great Valley Shopping Center. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary. We will also discuss district events and the results of the recent national convention. Officers for 2023 will be elected.

The FCSU has expanded its scholarship program. It now includes grades 5-12 as well as college and trade school. Check the Home Page under Membership Benefits/Scholarships for deadlines and eligibility requirements.

**Submitted by Margaret Nasta,**  
President Branch 276

## BRANCH 290 – BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Branches 290 encourages members to gather at the Washington, DC Pilgrimage at the National Basilica on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Rosary recitation begins at 1:00 pm, followed by Mass at 1:30pm. District members who attend can contact Steve Minarovich @ 908-507-0505 for travel reimbursement.

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 1:00PM. Branch 290 will host the luncheon meeting at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 by October 12th if you plan on attending. Agenda will include Election of Officers for 2023, as well as a re-cap of the Ohio Convention, and discussion of plans and activities for the next year.

Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

**Submitted by Mary Kapitan**

## BRANCH 312 – LATROBE, PA

On Sunday, October 23, 2022, Branch 312K will hold its semi-annual meeting at 1 pm in the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr., Latrobe, PA 15650. For further info, phone 724-589-8326.

**Submitted by Micki Smolleck,**  
Secretary/Treasurer

## BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, IL

Our 2nd Semi-annual Branch Meeting for the 22 year, will be held on September 27th at 11:30AM. The meeting will take place at, "Southfork Family Restaurant" at the location of, 14631 South LaGrange Road, Orland Park, Illinois 60462. Included in this meeting's agenda will be discussion of this year's F.C.S.U. Convention, and it will conclude with Branch 313's Election of Officers. A complimentary fraternal luncheon will follow the meeting. We kindly ask that those attending to please wear a face mask. Hand sanitizer will be available for use at the table. Members interested in attending this meeting, please contact Branch President, Marge Dickinson at 708-226-8157, by September 13th, to reserve a place at the meeting.

**Submitted by Jennifer Carlton,**  
Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA

On October 2, 2022, at 11 a.m., Branch 372 will hold a meeting at St. Joseph's Chapel in St. Joseph's Cemetery. The purpose of the meeting is to advertise and promote the FCSU. If you wish to contact me, the e-mail address is BORDERGAL46@yahoo.com.

**Submitted by Ruth Ann Gerko**

## BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 KJ of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 6, 2022. Officers and members will gather at 12:30 P.M. in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

The agenda will include a report by the Branch delegates to the 2022 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU as well as reports from the executive officers and the representatives to the District 17 meeting.

A report of the August 13 Branch Picnic will be presented. Members will also discuss future branch activities and the Annual Report for 2022. Information from the home office will be disseminated. Election of officers for 2022-23 will be held. Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend.

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

**Submitted by Elizabeth M. Slovenkai,**  
Vice President

## BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2022 Semi -Annual Meeting which will be held at 4 pm on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at Flavio Restaurant, 212 N Warren Ave, Apollo, PA 15613. Members

are encouraged to attend as we will be electing new officers for 2023 and your input is always welcome.

**Submitted by Kathy Froncek, Secretary**

## BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

Branch 746 encourages members to gather at the Washington, DC Pilgrimage at the National Basilica on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Rosary recitation begins at 1:00 pm, followed by Mass at 1:30pm. District members who attend can contact Steve Minarovich @ 908-507-0505 for travel reimbursement.

**Submitted by Mary Kapitan**

## BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OH

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, November, 19, 2022, at 11:00 AM.

The meeting will be held at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, West 54-th Street, Parma, OH. 44129.

On the agenda will be officers report, discussion of plans and activities for next year and other business pertaining to the branch.

The election of branch officers will take place at this meeting. We encourage all of our members to attend.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. For more information please call: (440)- 885 - 5702

**Submitted by George Carny, President**

## BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Mark your calendars for up-coming events for Branch 553 members to be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Contact the Club at 330-786-9972 after 3 pm.

All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinners – Served 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm; Adults \$10.00, Children \$8.00

Oct. 5, Nov 2

Monthly Mystery Dinner – served 4:30 pm 6:30 pm - Call Club for Reservations

Sept. 21, Oct. 19

Sunday Breakfast Buffet Served 9:00 am – 11:45 am - Sept. 25, Oct. 30

Casino Night – Saturday, October 15, 2022, at the Slovak J Club from 6pm-10pm. Presale Tickets \$10.00 Day of the Event \$15.00 Admission includes finger food and there will be a CASH Bar. Proceeds for the Roof Fund.

Nov. 6 – Sunday – Lodge Meeting 2 pm

This will be the last Lodge Meeting for 2022. The meeting will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. This meeting is to election officers for the Branch for 2023. The meeting will start at 2 pm. If you wish to serve on the Board of Directors for the upcoming year you must submit a letter to the Nominating Committee c/o of the Slovak J club. Letter must be received by October 29, 2022. The letter should contain your intention to run for a position. You must name the position in your letter – President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary or Auditor (3 positions available).

Nov. 12 – 125 Club Banquet – details to be announced at a later date.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to support and serve you Branch 553. Hope to see you at these events.

**Submitted by Linda M Hanko,**  
Secretary/Treasure

## BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Our annual meeting for the election of officers is on Sunday, November 6, 2022, also at 5:00 pm. Both meetings will be at Café 422, South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio. On Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, 2022, our annual Mass for our deceased members will be at the Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio at 12:10.

**Submitted by Jacquelyn Bobby,**  
Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Wednesday, October 12, 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.

**Submitted by Drew Hirt**

## BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Our annual meeting for the election of officers is on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at Café 422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio. On Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, 2022, our annual Mass for our deceased members will be at the Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio at 12:10 pm.

**Submitted by Jacquelyn Bobby,**  
Financial Secretary

## BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

The Slovak Heritage Festival will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2022 on the Middlesex County Fairgrounds (655 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816). Greek Catholic Service/ Mass is at 10:30am; cultural program and entertainment will follow. There will be exhibits and Slovak food. Admission is \$15 for adults. Parking is free.

The annual Slovak Pilgrimage at the Marian Shrine in West Haverstraw, NY will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2022. An outdoor Slovak Mass will be celebrated at 11:30am. Priests will be available for confession before the mass. The day will conclude with the recitation of the Rosary along The Rosary Way. There will be light refreshments available for purchase. If interested, please register with Fr. Stefan Chanas at 212-734-4613 or Maria Bozekova at 347-612-1934. Cost is free for branch members.

Branch 746 is celebrating our centennial! You are cordially invited to join us as we commemorate 100 years as JEDNOTA, BRANCH 746. The celebration will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 6:00pm at Msgr. Komar Hall (2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ 07036). There will be dinner, dancing, and open bar. Live music by Pajtasi. Tickets are \$70; \$50 for branch members; \$25 (age 13-21). Please call Mary Ann at 732-589-1608 for tickets. RSVP by October 2nd.

Branch 746 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 16, 2022, at 2:00pm at the Msgr. Komar Hall, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ 07036. The agenda will include planning of December meeting/Christmas party. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry.

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 1:00PM. Branch 290 will host the luncheon meeting

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# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISTRICT 2 - REV. JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Annual Meeting of the Rev. John J Spitzkovsky District will be held on Sunday, October 2 at 2 PM at the Missionary Sisters of St Benedict. It is at 5900 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL. Fraternal Social begins at 1:30 PM. At this Meeting, we will have Election of Officers and will present highlights of the Convention. Dinner will be served after the Meeting. Make your reservation with Dorothy at (708) 995 7378 by September 24. Bring a prize for the raffle. Bring your mask. Hand Sanitizers will be available.

**Submitted by John Jurcenko, District 2 President**

## DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. RURA DISTRICT, NJ

District 4 and Branches 290 and 746 encourage members to gather at the Washington, DC Pilgrimage at the National Basilica on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Rosary recitation begins at 1:00 pm, followed by Mass at 1:30pm. District members who attend can contact Steve Minarovich @ 908-507-0505 for travel reimbursement.

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 1:00PM. Branch 290 will host the luncheon meeting at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 by October 12th if you plan on attending. Agenda will include Election of Officers for 2023, as well as a re-cap of the Ohio Convention, and discussion of plans and activities for the next year. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

**Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH, PA

The Pittsburgh District extends its congratulations to the following members elected to office at the national convention: Brad Matta, Region 5 Director, Joanne Fibbi, National Activities Director, Gary Matta, General Counsel, and Ray Lako, Auditor.

The district mourns the loss of former financial secretary, Joseph Yuros, who passed away on July 28.

The Pittsburgh District has scheduled the Fall Business meeting at Holy Trinity Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin PA on Sunday, November 20, at 1 PM. (The Steelers/Bengals game doesn't start until 8 PM.) We will review the convention, discuss business matters, and plan events for the next year. We still need a host branch for the meeting.

Officers for 2023 will be elected at this meeting. The offices of vice president and activities director will be vacant. If you are interested in running for these or any other office, please get in touch with the district president.

The FCSU has expanded its scholarship program. Tuition funding is available for grades 5 through 12, as well as college and trade school. Check the home page under Membership Benefits/Scholarships for forms and eligibility requirements.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: Meets at 7PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. Consider joining the organization and get its newsletter. October 3: Joseph Bielecki is speaking on "Emigration from Slovakia 1880-1924"; November 7: Nativity Sets; December 5: Show & Tell; January 2: To be announced; February 6: Bishop Larry Kulick.

- NSS September Fest – Saturday, September 24 – performers, vendors, food.

- Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance – Sunday, October 2

- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt – Sunday, November 6 – performers, vendors, food.

- NSS Christmas Around the World – Saturday, November 26 – animated Bethlehem wood carving

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests. This is the time to be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com).

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

## DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT, PA

The Rev. John Martvon District, will hold its meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at Hoss's Steak and Seafood, 1198 Wayne Ave., Indiana, PA, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

Branch 484 will be hosting this meeting. The election of district officers will take place, and we expect a very interesting discussion of this year's 52nd Quadrennial Convention. In addition to these, the Ukraine situation and many other important matters will need to be discussed. Please try to attend. Enjoy the summer and upcoming fall season.

**Submitted by Monica Rura (724) 479-8181.**

## DISTRICT 8 – THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT, PA, NY

District 8, the Reverend Stephen Furdek District, will be having its semiannual meeting on October 2, 2022. Mass will be held at 11:30AM at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 4464 Main St., Egypt, Whitehall Township, PA, 18052.

Immediately following the Mass, a luncheon will be served, concluding with our annual meeting. The location for the luncheon/meeting will be held at the VFW Post 7293, 5209 Springmill Road, Whitehall, PA, 18052.

All branches are encouraged to attend this meeting. On the agenda: discussion of convention 2022, finances, and election of officers for 2023.

All delegate forms/credentials must be received by September 18, 2022. Cost: \$20 per person. Forms will be sent to each Branch Financial Secretary

We have a few branches that have not yet paid the district dues. Any branch dues can be paid prior to the meeting or at the meeting. They can be mailed to Monica Fabian, 4137 Wilson St., Whitehall, PA, 18052-1615.

Any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Jo Austin at [jeaustin89@gmail.com](mailto:jeaustin89@gmail.com) or call 315-391-0526.

**Submitted by Jo Austin, District Secretary**

## DISTRICT 9 - FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT, UNIONTOWN, PA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 1PM at the Dairy Queen Grill and Chill at 575 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Those attending will be briefed on the updates of the Jednota in the new year from those who attended the FCSU Quadrennial Convention in Independence, Ohio.

**Submitted by Barbara A Holly, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 10 – REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT MEETING, AKRON, OH

District 10 will be holding a (virtual and in person) meeting at 2 pm, on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. This will be our last meeting for 2022 and will include the election of officers for 2023. If you wish to serve in a position – please submit a letter of intent – which must include the position, which you wish to be elected too. President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer or Auditor. Please submit your letter of intent to Linda Hanko, 1473 Ries Street, Barberton, OH 44203 by October 14th. These letters will be turned over to the nominating committee. If you plan on attending this meeting in person, please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or email [lhanko@neo.rr.com](mailto:lhanko@neo.rr.com). The J Club

would appreciate a head count for preparation of refreshments. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Submitted by Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer**

## DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT, PA

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.

CORRECTION TO SEPTEMBER 25, 2022, PIG ROAST:

RSVPs were required by August 14, 2022.

The Pig Roast is from 1-6 pm, Jack Tady will play from 2-6 pm.

The Pig Roast is for District 11 Beneficial members and guests.

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 14, 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](mailto:patrickf007@yahoo.com) 724-236-4226

Secretary Karen Greggs [kgreggs39@gmail.com](mailto:kgreggs39@gmail.com) 724-372-0690

Treasurer Vicki Schaub [vschaub123@gmail.com](mailto:vschaub123@gmail.com) 724-763-9229

**Submitted by Karen Greggs, Secretary, District 11**

## DISTRICT 12 - THE MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT, PA

The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District will hold the Annual Meeting at Kings Restaurant at 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA on Sunday, November 13, 2022, at 1pm. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all Hlinka District members who attended the March 2022 meeting. Any district member wanting to attend the Annual Meeting via Zoom, can contact District Secretary Monica Boone at [hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. Some topics on the agenda will be the review of the 2022 activities, the annual election of district officers, plus planning the activities for 2023. All Hlinka District members are urged to attend the November meeting.

**Submitted by Monica Boone**

## DISTRICT 14 - REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT, OH, PA

The September 20, 2022, meeting date is changed to September 27, 2022. It will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514. The change is due to circumstances beyond control.

The Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2022); Fireplace remains unchanged.

The short Meeting and Christmas Dinner scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. remains unchanged. Location TBD

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

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

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

1. Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace
2. Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2022); Fireplace
3. 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

## DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA, LOS ANGELES, CA

The Prince Pribina District will hold a semi-annual Meeting on Saturday October 22, 2012. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: an up-date on Bylaw changes adopted by 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland on July 30 – August 2, 2022; a tribute to the deceased Fr. Aloysius Pestun, SDB; activities focused on membership drive. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate.

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať schôdzu v sobotu 22-ho októbra 2022.

Schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe je informácia o zmenách Bylaw prijatých na 52-jej convencii v Clevelande 30. Júla - 2. Augusta 2022, udelenie pocty zosnulému otcovi Aloysiusovi Pestunovi, SDB, a orientácia na aktivity zamerané na získanie nových členov. Pozvaní sú členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí.

**Submitted by Paul Skuben, President of the Prince Pribina District**

## DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT, NEW YORK

VÝROČNÁ SCHÔDZA OKRESU MONS. ŠTEFANA KRASULU Č. 16 PRVEJ KATOLÍCKEJ SLOVEN-SKEJ JEDNOTY

Výročná schôdza Okresu Mons. Štefana Krasulu, č. 16, bude v nedeľu 30. októbra 2022, po anglickej sv. omši o 12.00, na fare Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Na programe budú správy spolkov patriacich do Okresu č.16, finančná správa, plán činnosti na budúce obdobie a voľby nových úradníkov na 2023. Hľadáme nových kandidátov na úrad prezidenta, vice-prezidenta, sekretára a pokladníka, tieto funkcie budú uvoľnené od 1. januára 2023. Po schôdzi bude malé občerstvenie. Všetci členovia sú vítaní.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA - DISTRICT 16 OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church, following the English Mass at 12:00 p.m. On the agenda will be reports of activities of the District 16 branches, financial report, plan of future activities and election of district officers for 2023. We are looking for new candidates for the following offices - office of the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, these offices will be vacant as of January 1, 2023. There will be light refreshments after the meeting. All members are welcome.

**Submitted by Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, President**

# 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 sviati. 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	Janet Ebinger	075K	Betty L Bosnjak	228K	Thomas J Rothwell	756K	Joanne E Smith
001K	Thomas Kolibab	075K	Stephen G. Kujovsky	228K	Veronica Brazina	831K	Martin Martonik Jr
002K	Nora Benko	086K	Florence C Freeman	259K	Loretta Cioci	855K	Dennis Dancak
004K	Shirley Jean Romanello	086K	Mary Ann Leshko	313K	Jerome A Janotta	855K	Jane Balombin
024K	Dorothy Stefanov	089K	Joseph M Budiak	315K	Joanne C Lucas	855K	Rose Burmich
024K	William Edward Krempasky	157K	Elizabeth M Gagliardi	322K	Bernard L Sweka	900K	Thelma K Appel
035K	Damon Bradley Pavlinsky	157K	Mary Kraynek	367K	Thomas Marcinek	901K	Mary J Vail
038K	Frances T Skantar	166K	Francis M Benek	372K	Francis A Dill	916K	Ruth Sroka
038K	James C Sturms II	166K	Joseph R Behil	584K	Joseph Scerbak	919K	Dorothy M Mindick
038K	Joseph G Deley	173K	Carl J Ungvarsky	584K	Michael Shemo	919K	Lawrence A Gruenwald
038K	Robert D Stout	173K	Mary Ann Major	618K	Agnes Walman		
038K	Stanley F Mazer	181K	Rebecca M Pravlik	667K	Joan L Harcharik		
045K	Mildred Wyatt	199K	Helen R Domurat	682K	Richard L Siman Jr		
060K	John Rice Mular	200K	Mary Corso	721K	Andrew Minarik		

\* Processed in the month of August 2022

## NEKROLÓGY – OBITUARIES

### JOSEPH J. YUROS, BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PA

Joseph J. Yuros, age 96 of Forest Hills, PA, passed away on July 28, 2022. Joe was born August 18, 1925, in Pottstown, PA to Joseph and Anna Yuros.



He was the brother of Stanley (late Mary) Yuros and the late John, Robert, and Daniel Yuros. Joe moved to Pittsburgh and met the late Ruth Berniece (Orris) Yuros, with whom he enjoyed 58 years of marriage. He was the loving and dedicated father of Maribeth (Michael) Colbaugh of Level Green, PA; Patricia (Joseph) Wojnar of Apollo, PA; and Janet (Pete) Sullivan of Forest Hills, PA. He was the treasured grandfather of Michelle (Matthew) Vecchio, Mark Colbaugh, and Melissa Colbaugh; Andrew (Chrissy) Wojnar and Eric Wojnar; Lindsay (Jason) Perry and Patrick Sullivan. Joe was the dear great-grandfather of Allyson and Beckett Perry; Sophia and Caleb Vecchio; and Thomas Wojnar.

After arriving in Pittsburgh, Joe began employment with the H.J. Heinz Co., where he proudly worked for 37 years until his retirement in 1987. Throughout his life, Joe was dedicated to giving back and serving others. He was a 66-year member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Pittsburgh, a non-profit organization that serves more than 100,000 individuals in need each year. On October 17, 2021, Joe was presented with a plaque from the St. Vincent de Paul Society honoring his many years of service to our "Friends in Need". Additionally, on August 11, 2020, Joe was congratulated by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with a Citation upon the celebration of his 95th birthday. The Citation mentions his dedicated employment with Heinz, his volunteer efforts with Heinz retirees, devoted service to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and his delivering of meals with the Meals-on-Wheels program in Forest Hills. Joe was also the past treasurer of the Forest Hills chapter of AARP.

The First Catholic Slovak Union was a significant part of Joe's life. His father orig-

inally joined the FCSU in 1908, leading the Yuros family to over 110 years and counting of continuous membership in the Society. Joe's parents were officers of the former Senior Branch 126 in Pottstown, PA from the 1940's to 1960's. After moving to the Pittsburgh area, Joe joined Branch 35K in Braddock, PA, where he served for nearly 60 years as the Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the branch. Joe also served as the Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Pittsburgh District for many years and, in 2016, received a Distinguished Service Award from the District upon his "retirement". Joe was an active member of the former Jednota Bowling League, having participated in many bowling tournaments and serving as the treasurer of the league. Additionally, during the 1980's and 1990's, Joe served as a National Officer through several consecutive terms on the Supreme Court of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Joe was dedicated to his Catholic faith. He was an active member of St. Maurice Church (now part of St. Joseph the Worker Parish) and was a friend to many, especially the Vincentians at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA and the Marianists at the University of Dayton in Dayton, OH. In his spare time, Joe enjoyed gardening, music, and all sports – especially baseball and the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was also known among his family and friends for his sense of humor, always with a joke to tell.

Family and friends were received at the Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home in East Pittsburgh, PA on Sunday, July 31, 2022. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Maurice Church of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Forest Hills, PA, on Monday, August 1, 2022, with the Rev. Kenneth Kezmarsky and Deacon Herb Riley presiding. Joe was laid to rest in Braddock Catholic Cemetery alongside his late wife, Berniece. In accordance with Joe's wishes, memorial donations may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Maurice Conference at 2001 Ardmore Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

Submitted by Patrick Sullivan, Financial Secretary and Treasurer - Branch 35

### GERALDINE D. HRICIK, BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

Geraldine D. Hricik, the wife of former President Emeritus Thomas Hricik, died peacefully Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022, at her daughter's home



in Greensburg. Geraldine, who was affectionately known as Gerry, was born May 27, 1935, in Calumet. She was the eldest daughter of the late Andrew and Ann Wasil Firment. Gerry graduated from Hurst High School in Norvelt and was a proud graduate of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh. Gerry worked at Latrobe Hospital prior to dedicating her life to raising her five children and nephew. Gerry was the dear wife of her husband of 53 years, Tom Hricik, who preceded her in death in 2010.

Gerry prided herself on her health and appearance and she was never ill in the hospital until she was in her 80s. All through her life, she maintained an extensive network of close friends and large extended family. Gerry would meet monthly with her "card club" friends, whom she had known for over 50 years. She was always the heart and soul of family events. Gerry had a deep and lifelong Roman Catholic faith as a member of St. Florian Parish in United. As a sign of her faith, she was appointed by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt in 2006 as a Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, an honor she shared with her husband, Tom, as he was a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. She was a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) Branch 181 of United. She attended every FCSU convention with her husband, Tom, FCSU President Emeritus. They also traveled together to Slovakia where they met and represented American Slovaks to Slovak presidents, ministers, and Slovak clergy including the late Slovak Cardinal Jozef Tomko.

Gerry was also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCS-LA). Gerry's favorite pastimes were shopping for the best deals, traveling, and dining out. For decades, Gerry and her husband

Tom would go to 6 a.m. Mass at St. Vincent Basilica, out for breakfast, and to the local flea market. She was always prepared to give a gift to someone for their birthday, for Christmas or just to make them feel welcome.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Gerry was predeceased by her husband, Thomas M. Hricik; her grandson, Robert Borde; and son-in-law, Ruben Silva. She is survived by her five children, Mary Borde (Art), of St. Augustine, Fla., Michael Hricik (Vicki), of Mt. Pleasant, Beth Silva, of Greensburg, Thomas Hricik (Brandi), of St. Augustine, Fla., and Stephen J. Hricik (Lori), of Germany; nine grandchildren, Arthur Borde, Michael and Paul Hricik, Mary Ella and Thomas Hricik, Drew Silva, Anne-Sophie Hricik, Allison and Parker Chambers; and nephew, Stephen M. Hricik, whom she helped raise after his mother died. She is also survived by her eight siblings, Jacqui Pinkerton, Conrad Firment, Andrew Firment, Dorie Miner, Mary Helen Kulha, Tom Firment, Tim Firment and Margie Firment.

Family and friends were received in the JAY A. HOFFER FUNERAL HOME, in Norvelt. Geraldine's Funeral Mass took place on Aug. 12, 2022, at St. Florian Church, United, with the Rev. John A. Sedlak, Celebrant. Interment followed at the St. Florian Cemetery, Trauger. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Gerry's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at stjude.org, or by mail at Memorial Giving, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Gerry donated to St. Jude's Hospital for decades.

Submitted by Michael Hricik

### JERRY JAROSLAV KRUPA, BRANCH 915 INDEPENDENCE, OH

Jerry Jaroslav Krupa, age 85, of Maitland, FL, passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2022.

Jerry was born in Valašská Bela, Slovakia, on February 5, 1937, and had 5 brothers and sisters. He lived a long and in-



## OBITUARIES

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interesting life, frequently telling stories of his family and their move from the country to the capital, Bratislava, their experiences during World War II, his escape from Communism, and his new life in the United States.

He was a chemist by profession, but his real passion was serving as a freedom fighter. He attended and was vocal in underground anti-Communist meetings and dreamed of escaping the Communist regime. He married his lovely wife, Mária Mešťanková, on July 6, 1963, and their son, Roman, was born October 4, 1964. Shortly after he made the ultimate sacrifice: he left on a quest for freedom and a better life for his family, living by his motto, "No Risk, No Gain". His original plan to head for Germany fell through and he ended up at a political refugee camp in Italy for 6 months, until the International Rescue Committee offered him a chance to go to America. For a short while he lived in New York City and then settled in New Jersey. It wasn't until 3.5 years later, on July 7, 1968, was he reunited with his wife and son. Their daughter, Diana, was born 10 years later, on March 24, 1978.

After arriving in the U.S., Jerry participated in several Slovak cultural, social and political organizations in New York City. The Slovak League of America was the first organization he became a member of and was elected as Secretary of the New York branch. He established a newspaper, Slobodna Tribuna (Freedom Tribune), for which he worked as its Chief Editor. In 1970, the Slovak World Congress was established, and he was one of its original members. He twice served as President of the Slovak-American Cultural Center, and spent a lot of time working towards promoting Slovak culture in the NYC area and towards gaining political independence for Slovakia. In the early 1990's, he led the political committee of the Slovak World Congress and drafted a document entitled, "Concrete Steps to an Independent Slovakia." Its message was that for a nation to be fully productive, it must be independent. This document served as a template for Slovakia's presidential platform. Aside from the end of Communism in 1989, his prayers were answered on January 1, 1993, when Slovakia became an independent nation.

Jerry spent 25 years in New Jersey working as a chemist for Unilever Research and earned 6 patents that are registered in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, and India. He went back to school earning degrees in business and chemistry, and he and Maria owned and operated a video store for several years. Jerry was also a published author of 4 books in Slovak: *Láska a Myslienky* (Love and Thoughts), *Cesta k Uspechu* (Road to Success), *Výber z Poezie a Prozy* (Selection of Poetry and Novels), and *Rastislavov Otčenás* (Rastislav's Prayers).

He and his family lived many years in Rockaway, NJ, before he retired, after which he and Maria moved to Florida in 1999, first to Cocoa Beach and then settled in Maitland. Jerry served as President and Manager of a Slovak community in Slovak Garden in Winter Park, FL, where he also edited their Golden Jubilee Book, 50th Anniversary of the Slovak Garden, Inc.

He will be always remembered for his love for freedom and his beloved Slovakia,

his bravery, his leadership, his writing, his powerful speeches, his love for culture, art and beautiful music, his love for life and laughter, his amazing encyclopedia-like mind, his Catholic faith, but most of all the love he had for his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jozef Krupa and Vilma Krupová, and siblings Andrej, Jozef, Vincent, and Helena.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife, Mária Krupa, son, Dr. Roman Krupa, daughter, Diana B. S. Swiderski, son-in-law, Joseph J. Swiderski, grandchildren, Sofia A. Tiberio-Krupa, Chiara J. Tiberio-Krupa, Adriana T. Swiderski, Sienna T. Swiderski, and sister, Hana Hafnerová.

Visitation and funeral service was Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at Newcomer Cremations, Funerals & Receptions (Winter Park Chapel), 3806 Howell Branch Rd, Winter Park, FL.

Submitted by Livia Karak

ROBERT F. KOTCH, BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PA

Robert F. "Bob" Kotch, 87, of Monessen, passed away on Friday, July 22, 2022, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 11, 1934, in Monessen, son of the late John Kotch Jr. and Julia Drabik Kotch. Bob was a lifelong resident of Monessen and a 1952 graduate of Monessen High School. He served his country during the Korean War in the U.S. Navy on the USS Valley Forge. Bob worked as a construction foreman for Gerald Vitale Inc. and later in maintenance for the Mon Valley Health Center.

He was a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Church, where he served as an usher for many years. He was also a member of American Legion Post 22 in Charleroi and the Ukrainian Club in Monessen. Bob was a former member of Most Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, Elks 773, Eagles Aerie 2399, and the Slovak Home, all of Monessen.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Cynthia E. (Wisianski) Kotch; a son, Robert F. (Melissa) Kotch of Belle Vernon; two daughters, Johanne (Vincent) Tebalt of Peters Township and Kimberly (Christopher) Duda of Monessen; five grandchildren, Ashlyn Kotch, Sydney and Victoria Duda and Anthony and Alex Stone; three sisters-in-law, Peggy Kotch, Alice Kotch and Clemmie Malec; three brothers-in-law, Vince (Julie) Wisianski, Warner (Pat) Wisianski and Greg (Fran) Wisianski; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, John E. Kotch and Leonard A. Kotch.

Friends were received at DALFONSO-BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES, Monessen, PA. A funeral Mass was held at Epiphany of Our Lord Church on July 25, 2022, with Father Michael J. Crookston officiating. Interment was at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville. Condolences accepted for the family at [www.dalfonso-billick.com](http://www.dalfonso-billick.com).

Submitted by Cynthia E. Kotch

MARTIN R. MARTONIK, JR., BRANCH 831 - TARENTUM, PA

Martin R. "Marty" Martonik, Jr., age 87, of Butler, formerly of Tarentum, passed away on Saturday, May 7, 2022, while under the care of the Butler VA Community Center.

Born April 2, 1935, in Natrona Heights, he was the son of the late Martin R. Martonik, Sr. and Marie Kupcik Martonik.

Marty was a member of the All Saints Parish+St. Conrad Roman Catholic Church. He graduated from Tarentum High School in 1953 and also from Conley Vocational School in Pittsburgh. He was an U.S. Air Force veteran flying with VIPs as a senior helicopter engineer. Marty was employed at the International Staple Machine Company (ISM) as a machinist. He was a press photographer for the Valley News. In addition to the FCSU, he also belonged to the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. He was a former member of the Holy Name Soci-



ety. Marty and his family enjoyed their family hobby, photographing weddings. He will be fondly missed and lovingly remembered.

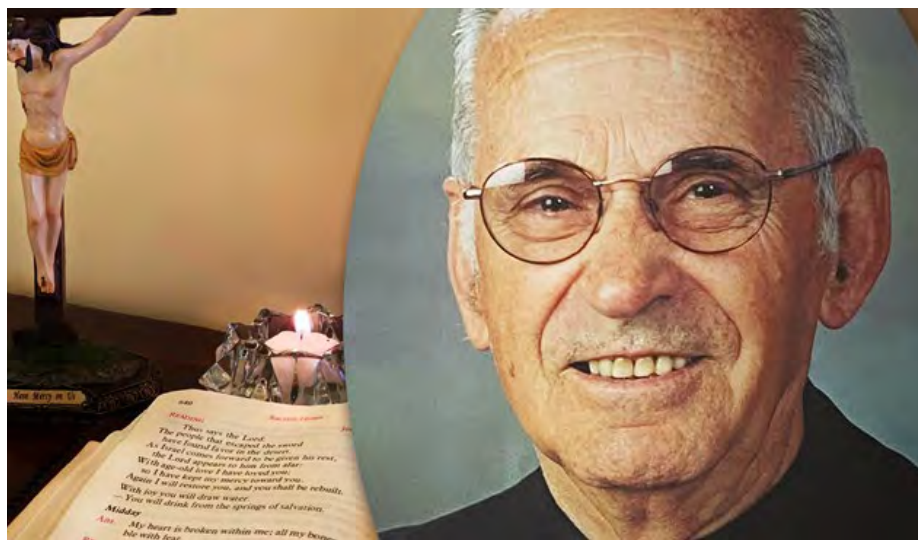
Marty leaves behind to cherish his memory his loving wife of 62 years, and his primary care giver, Nancy Ann Heinick Martonik who he married on August 22, 1959; his daughter, Maria A. (Paul) Worst of Butler; his grandchildren, John (Bethany) Worst, Christopher (Becca) Worst, Kimberly (Eric) Lawrence, and Julie Worst; his great grandchildren; Lucas and Lily Worst, Clairra Worst, Stetson, Colton, and Scarlett Lawrence; his brother in law, Jake Ross; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Marty was preceded in death by his sisters, Agnes Santarlaschi and Patricia Ross.

Friends were received at the Boylan Funeral Home, Renfrew, PA 16053. A Mass of Christian Burial was officiated by the Rev. Fr. Dan Waruszewski. Marty was laid to rest at Butler County Memorial Park in Butler.

The family would like to express their appreciation to April Moore, Marty's Health Aide for her care and compassion during Marty's illness.

Submitted by Nancy A. Martonik

## IN MEMORIAM



### In Memoriam Rev. Aloysius Preston, SDB, 1928-2022

Beloved Father Aloysius J. Pestun, SDB, +94, on this date, July 22, 2022, joined our Risen Lord in eternal life, was born on Slovakia on October 28, 1928, in the town of Šulekovo, Slovakia. He took his First Profession of Holy Orders as a Salesian of Don Bosco on August 9, 1947, in Slovakia, shortly before the 1948 communist takeover. To complete his priestly studies, he would have to flee the country.

In 1950, the communist Czechoslovakia regime closed all the monasteries and religious houses and transported the clergy to concentration camps in 1950. Father Titus Zeman decided to help priests and young men who wanted to study for the priesthood to escape from the country. The young Aloysius Pestun was one of those young men.

The secret police first rounded up all the Salesians. Father Pestun recalled how the police raided the Salesians during night prayers, and "very dark clouds come upon us. Let us say the Sorrowful Mystery." The secret police came, "stomp, stomp," with the police guarding three buses, and herded them onto the buses, forced them to drop their cassocks on the floor of the bus, then loaded onto a train that transported them to a hard labor camp.

Father Pestun was released a few months later from the camp after being hospitalized because of arthritis and was working a job in an office when Father Zeman's cousin found him and told him about a chance to secretly leave with Father Zeman. Father Pestun successfully escaped, in his second attempt to flee. He first continued studied first in Italy and then eventually completed his seminary work in California. Father Zeman continued to assist escapees, and the police eventually arrested and imprisoned him. Five years after his release, Father Zeman died in 1969 from illness related to his internment and is considered a Church martyr.

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# Abbey Founder Honored in Slovakia

It is certainly true that every Benedictine monastery and educational institution has an international character because the Benedictine order is over 1500 years old and is located in every corner of the globe. However, St. Andrew Abbey has a new, unique connection over the ocean and in the little town of Lemešany in the Prešov region of eastern Slovakia.

It was in this picturesque town that John Vaniscak was born July 24, 1884. While tending sheep as a boy, he dreamed about becoming a "shepherd of souls" in the future as a priest. God's providence would help him to cross the ocean and join his uncle in Johnstown, Pennsylvania around the turn of the century. There he met several American-Slovak priests who helped him to enroll at St. Procopius College in Lisle, Illinois. The rest is history as it has been related in the last three issues of "Ora et Labora." John became "Fr. Gregory" and is considered the primary founder of St. Andrew Abbey.

In July of 2020, Fr. Peter Lazor, the pastor of the parish of St. Martin in Lemešany wrote to St. Andrew Abbey explaining that the parish recently built a new church and rectory, and the town is creating a park that would be named in honor of Fr. Gregory Vaniscak, OSB, their native son. He asked for photographs of Fr. Gregory from which a bust could be commissioned for the park.

Fr. Michael and Fr. Gerard sent Fr. Lazor a number of articles in Slovak and in English about Fr. Gregory as well as a number of photos. They included photos of the famous bronze bust of Fr. Gregory that was created for St. Andrew Abbey by the noted immigrant Italian artist Ugo Graziotti in 1949. It now stands outside the Advancement Office at the abbey.

Despite delays due to the COVID closures, the bust and the park were completed and dedicated by Archbishop Bernard Bober of Košice, Slovakia on July 2, 2022. He also dedicated the new church and blessed the new rectory. However, Fr. Lazor went even further in honoring Fr. Gregory by publishing a beautiful booklet of his life and accomplishments complete with photos of the current Benedictine campus in Cleveland as well as historical photos. Funds generated by the sale of the booklet will be used to help renovate the old historical church in the village.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this booklet should contact Fr. Lazor by e-mail at: [farnostlemesany@gmail.com](mailto:farnostlemesany@gmail.com). The booklet is 20 pages long and is in Slovak.



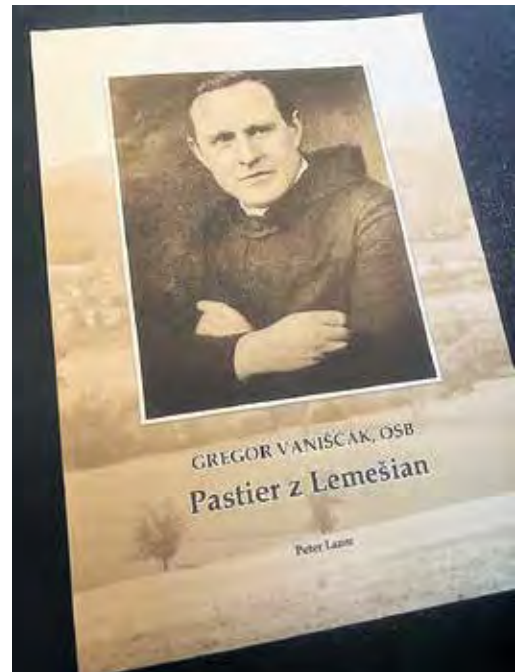
**Pioneers - Election of Fr. Gregory Vaniscak, OSB (center seated) as the first Conventual Prior in 1929**



**Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB – current superior of St. Andrew Abbey**



**Joint retreat of the monks of St. Andrew Abbey with the monks of St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle this past June 6-10, 2022**



**Booklet on Fr. Gregory Vaniscak, OSB published by Fr. Peter Lazor of Lemešany**

## In Memoriam Rev. Aloysius Preston, SDB, 1928-2022

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Father Pestun had planned to travel to the September 2022 beatification of Salesian Father Titus Zeman.

Read about Fr. Pestun's escape from communism at this website: <https://tinyurl.com/384y78d3>.

Fr. Pestun was ordained priest on June 13, 1959, which is also the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua.

"Fr. Al" SDB, as everybody knew him, served since time immemorial, as a Salesian priest-teacher at St. Don Bosco High School in Bellflower, California while also serving Slovak mass celebrations for the Slovak community in Los Angeles.

Among his brother Salesians, he used to enjoy recalling his years of studies for priesthood. He also spoke often of his assignments after priestly ordination, as librarian at St. John Bosco High School (Bellflower) and at Salesian High School (Richmond). His vivid memory would not allow him to forget the many students and laity among whom he worked.

As associate pastor and a popular confessor, he spent a short time at Ss. Peter and Paul Church (San Francisco) before retiring. In the year 2009, Fr. Al Pestun SDB, celebrated 50. year jubilee of his priesthood and after retirement moved to Salesian community of Corpus Christi church in San Francisco.

The Salesian community of Corpus Christi gathered at the San Francisco General Hospital with Fr. Al and his niece and nephew prayed together and gave their farewell as the medical staff turned off the extraordinary machines.

"Fr. Al's loving-kindness towards everyone and his faithfulness towards his priestly duties, will continue to be a lasting example of what it means to love God and neighbor until the last breath. Fr. Al will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace" – Nech odpočívaj v pokoji (Rev. Thomas Anthony Thodukulam, SDB).

Submitted by Paul Skuben, edits and additions by Michael Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 13

R	A	C	E			F	A	N		U	L	N	A				
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D	I	A	L			I	R	A	T	E	T	E	E	M			
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B	E	E	R				R	A	H				T	E	E	S	



## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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at Carpaccio Ristorante, 651 Bound Brook Road, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Please RSVP to Steve at 908-507-0505 by October 12th if you plan on attending. Agenda will include Election of Officers for 2023, as well as a re-cap of the Ohio Convention, and discussion of plans and activities for the next year. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, 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: 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: Oct 7, Nov 4 and Dec 2. We encourage you to attend.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

### BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OH

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on September 29, 2022 at 10:00 am at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Road NE in Warren, OH 44483. The meeting will discuss and finalize plans for a Slovak dinner in October. For further information contact: Bill Hrusovsky, 2284 Bazetta Rd. Cortland, OH 44410. You may also telephone at (330) 372-1948, or e-mail [hrusovskyy@embarqmail.com](mailto:hrusovskyy@embarqmail.com).

Submitted by **Bill Hrusovsky**

### BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 844, Los Angeles, will hold its semi-annual Meeting on Saturday October 22, 2022, at 11:00 AM at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831.

The Branch program will focus on the update on Bylaw changes adopted by 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland on July 30 – August 2, 2022; a tribute to the deceased Fr. Aloysius Pestun SDB; activities focused on membership drive. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting.

Submitted by **Milan Konkol, Secretary**

### BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PA

September 23 is the feast day of Branch 853's namesake, St Pio of Pietrelcina. On this day let us take a moment, say a "Hail Mary", a prayer which he loved to say, and remember this holy man and the miracles he performed. St. Pio (Padre Pio) intercede for us.

On Sunday October 2, 2022, Branch 853 will hold an event in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, making a paw-print shaped stained-glass suncatcher in the color of your choice. There is no cost for Branch 853 members.

This event is open to any FCSU member. All costs are the responsibility of the member. The stained-glass cost is \$45 and would be paid directly to the establishment.

Email Monica Boone at [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com), or call her at 412-341-1577 by September 30, 2022, to sign up for the event.

Submitted by **Monica Boone**

### BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PA

Branch 853 is holding a branch art event. On October 2, 2022, Branch 853 will be making a paw print stained glass suncatcher/ornament (about the size of your palm). The event will be held in Charleroi, PA and will run approximately 3 hours. There is no cost for the afternoon for branch members. You will be able to pick the color of your suncatcher. After the art event, those who want to, will go to eat at a local restaurant. Branch 853 members can sign up for the event by emailing [FCSUBranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUBranch853@gmail.com) or by leaving a message at (412) 341-1577.

Submitted by **Monica Boone**

### BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC

1) We will be celebrating the 57th anniversary of the dedication of our Slovak Chapel Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 400 Michigan Avenue N.E. Washington D.C. Mass is on September 17, 2022. Starting with the rosary at 1:00pm

and mass at 1:30. This will take place in the Crypt Church. At this time the cafeteria is closed to visitors. I would recommend bring a mask to wear just in case they are still required. Restrictions change from day to day. For more information call Marion Mistrík at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

2) Branch 856 Our Mother of Sorrows will hold their next meeting on September 17, 2022, after the mass in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows. The group attending the mass will not be going to the Slovak Embassy after the mass at the shrine, as previously announced.

The meeting will take place in the meeting room up the few steps from the Crypt Church. All members of Branch 856 are invited to join in this meeting. On the agenda will be discussion on the convention that was held in Cleveland, Ohio in July/August, report on finances, how to get more members involved in attending meetings and the election of officers for the coming year 2023. Hopefully there will be many branch members attending both mass and meeting that is scheduled for that day. Mass is at 1:00 starting with rosary and mass at 1:30 in Crypt Church. Meeting to follow. For more information call Marion Mistrík at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Submitted by **Katherine Nowatkoski, President**

## In Memoriam : The Passing of Jozef Tomko

continued from page 1

However, it is of great importance for Slovakia not to forget, map and remember Tomko's "pre-Cardinal period". Have we heard or read anything these days about why Slovak priests who studied in Rome after the Second World War and could not return home? After all, apart from Jozef Tomko, there were among them such personalities as Dominik Hrušovský, Štefan Vrablec, Jozef Zlatňanský and František Škoda. Later, the "people's democratic" [the communist regime] persecution of the faithful forced people to safeguard their very lives, such as the priests Anton Botek, Štefan Náhalka, Pavol Hnilica, Anton Hlinka, František Reves, Félix Litva, and many others, Salesians, Jesuits, Verbists (Verbisti -Spoločnosť Božieho Slova – The Society of the Divine Word), Franciscans...

Has anyone mentioned the realities of the Slovak post-war diaspora? The suffering of thousands of Slovak women and men, or even millions of Eastern European refugees fleeing the specter of communism seizing that part of Europe which the Allies had left at the mercy of the Soviet Union? Have we heard anything about Jozef Tomko and the Society of Slovak Writers and Artists Abroad? Has anyone mentioned the five Slovak expatriate priests (Michal Lacko, Félix Litva, Ľudovít Macák, Štefan Náhalka, Jozef Tomko) who in 1959 founded the Cyrilometodianum project, the project of the Slovak Center in the Eternal City? In 1963, from the "pennies of a poor widow", it became today's Pontifical Slovak Institute of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Or that Jozef Tomko was a founding member of the Slovak Institute in Rome, an academic institution of Slovak cultural, especially scientific, workers, and that he was one of its first full members and was at the cradle of the annual academic journal Slovak Studies, which is still published today, almost half a century later?

Silence has also shrouded his collaboration with ÚSKI, the Centre of Slovak Catholic Intellectuals, which awarded him its highest honor: the Great Cyril and Methodius Gold Medal with Chain. And did anyone evaluate his writing activity? His first books of theological literature were published by the Slovak Institute of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Has anyone remembered that during the first 25 years of its existence this Institute published three million copies of books, which during the years of totalitarianism were intensively smuggled into Slovakia, the Czecho-Slovak Socialist Republic, and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic? And Tomko's contacts with Slovak America were crucial: fraternalist organizations, the Slovak League in America, the Slovak Catholics Association (SSK), the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, the World Congress of Slovaks...

Has anyone pointed out all the struggles that Jozef Tomko and with him all the Slovak priests in Rome, such as Štefan Náhalka, the Jesuit Michal Lacko, or the Salesian Ľudovít Macák, had to fight and successfully overcome in the Eternal City in order to achieve recognition of the national and political individuality of the Slovaks in the most influential circles of

the Roman Curia? When the Slovak Institute of St. Cyril and Methodius, not only the Czech clergy in Rome opposed its establishment, but also Hungarian prelates who were obsessed with the nostalgia [of resurrecting the old Hungarian borders. (Editor)]. Plots were hatched not only by the Czech communists in Prague and their proconsul in Bratislava, but also by their accomplices in Budapest and Rome. The enemies of the Slovaks could not prevent the establishment of the Institute, but like polecats, they symbolically achieved something at the consecration of its foundation stone to Pope John XXIII. They struck out the nouns and adjectives Slovakia, Slovaks, Slovak... from the speech.

Several books from the pen of Jozef Tomko were published in Slovakia after 1989, unfortunately not all of them. They are mostly memoirs. His key theological writings are waiting for their translator and publisher. Unfortunately, this is not only his fate, but the fate of all Slovak exiles, be it the legendary Dilong, the unique Strmeň, the outstanding Pelikán, the forgotten Henrich Bartek, the neglected Gorazd Zvonický, the unappreciated Šprinc, but also the "uranium king" Štefan Roman or Eugen Löbl, whose dozens of books have been published everywhere in the world, but not a single one has been published in Slovakia since 1989 to this day. Was it because he was a Jew, a communist, who in the trial of Slánský and company did not get hanged, but was "only" sentenced to life imprisonment, and in exile clearly stood up for the independence of Slovakia?

In 2000 at Lúč Publisher, I penned a representative book about the 75 year-old Cardinal Jozef Tomko. It was exquisitely prepared by the academic artists Ladislav Vančo, yet few people noticed it, even though it was published under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Slovakia and presented in the Hall of Mirrors of the Primate's Palace in Bratislava, which was attended by the political, intellectual, and ecclesiastical elite of our restored state. The same fate awaits the two huge volumes Cardinal Jozef Tomko, "Life in the Service of the Gospel" (2018) and "From the Desk of Cardinal Jozef Tomko" (2022), prepared by a priest from Košice, ThDr. Marián Čizmár.

Whoever has had the opportunity to know Cardinal Jozef Tomko personally and had the privilege of working with him at various stages of his exile life knows that today it is still too early for the narrative of his life to be objective and comprehensive: the Slovaks liked to live and live a life shrouded in fairy tales and legends... Jozef Tomko is not only an example which shows that the symbiosis of the national, the international and the supranational do not contradict each other, but also an immanent example that an integral part of the Christian worldview of the Slovaks is a conscious national awareness, i.e. that an integral part of the national consciousness of the Slovaks is the Christian worldview. If only Slovak contemporaries also understood this... Joseph, Goodbye!

– J.M. Rydlo

Translated by Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor

# Benedictine Monks Celebrate 100 years in Cleveland

The Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Abbey have been celebrating their Centennial in the Diocese of Cleveland all this year. The first Benedictine monk to arrive in Cleveland was Fr. (later Abbot) Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB who came from St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, Illinois on February 5, 1922.

The major Centennial celebration will be on Sunday, September 18, 2022. Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 3:00 PM in the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio. Homilist will be Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, fourth abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey and retired auxiliary bishop of Cleveland. After the Mass, there will be a reception and gala banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Rockside Road in Independence, Ohio.

Here is a timeline of the events that brought the Slovak Benedictine monks to Cleveland:

1904 .....The first Slovak-American student, John Vaniscak of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (born in Slovakia) enrolls at St. Procopius High School in Lisle, Illinois. It was a high school (and college) founded for Czech-American boys by the Czech Benedictine Monks of St. Procopius Abbey (outside of Chicago). Francis Gmuca would be the second Slovak-American student in 1907.

1911 .....The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Its purpose was to establish bonds between the various Slovak organizations in the United States. Another purpose was to promote the education of the children of Slovak immigrants.

1914 .....The Slovak Catholic Federation expresses an interest in helping to establish secondary schools for Slovak-American students. The prior of St. Procopius Abbey reads about this in a Slovak newspaper (Jednota) and proposes that the Slovaks stay at St. Procopius High School which would build a separate building for Slovak studies on their property. This idea was promoted at the national convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation in 1914 and more Slovak boys enrolled at St. Procopius.

1918 .....As a consequence of the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in World War II – the country of Czecho-Slovakia is created. Almost from the start there is tension between the majority Czechs and Slovaks. This carries over to the U.S. and gives new impetus for the creation of a Slovak high school independent of St. Procopius Academy.

1921 .....The young priest, Fr. Gregory (John) Vaniscak of St. Procopius Abbey informs his abbot (Abbot Valentine Kohlbeck) that the Slovak Catholic Federation wants first help to found a Slovak Benedictine monastery in the U.S. and already contacted Bishop Schrembs of Cleveland who likes the idea and is willing to give a parish to Slovak monks sent from St. Procopius Abbey. In November, the idea is presented to the monks of St. Procopius Abbey who initially are critical. However, since Abbot Valentine sat next to Bishop Schrembs in college at St. Vincent's in Latrobe, Pennsylvania (where Bishop Schrembs' brother was a Benedictine monk), he slowly persuades the community.

1922 ..... In January, the monks of St. Procopius meet and vote to accept the offer of St. Andrew Parish in Cleveland to start a priory here. On February 5, Fr. Stanislaus (Francis) Gmuca arrives at St. Andrew's Parish. Later two more monks come from St. Procopius. Also, the Sisters of Saint Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania open St. Cyril's Academy for Slovak Girls with the help of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Fr. Gregory Vaniscak, who was assigned to St. Michael's Slovak Parish in Chicago after his ordination, speaks at the convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation and conveys to Abbot Valentine that Bishop Schrembs is disappointed that the monastery in Cleveland is developing so slowly and the leadership of the Federation wants progress on opening a high school.

1923 ..... Slovaks in Cleveland organize the Slovak School Guild (later called the Slovak Catholic Educational Institute) to hold fundraisers to help finance the opening of a high school for boys by the Cleveland Benedictine monks.

1924 ..... Abbot Valentine tells Fr. Stanislaus to find a site for constructing a bigger church and school. Fr. Stanislaus examines the options and decides to stay at St. Andrew's and build there. Fr. George Luba, who would become the first principal of Benedictine High School arrives from St. Procopius.

1925 ..... The monks of St. Procopius Abbey vote to move the community in Cleveland toward independence status.

1926 ..... The Abbot Primate (the head of the Benedictine order in Rome), who is visiting Chicago, comes to Cleveland with Abbot Valentine and meets with Bishop Schrembs who helps finalize all the plans for the new priory and high school in Cleveland. The new church



**St. Andrew's Abbey of the Slovak Benedictines in Cleveland, Ohio**

and school at St. Andrew's are dedicated.

1927 ..... In September, the first class of Benedictine High School is welcomed in the school building at St. Andrew's (along with its elementary students).

1929 ..... The abbey and the high school move from St. Andrew's Parish to St. Mary's School for Girls on Buckeye Road which the monks purchase from the Sisters of Notre Dame. Fr. Gregory Vaniscak is elected first Prior of the independent monastery.

1930 .... In September, Benedictine High School begins the new school year with all four grades.

1934 ....The priory is raised to the status of an abbey and Fr. Stanislaus Gmuca, OSB, is elected its first abbot.

## Branch 382 K Summer Picnic

SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania, held its Second Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 13, 2022, on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club in Covington Township, Pennsylvania.

Several Branch members arrived early to perform set up tasks; others stayed late for clean-up duty.

Attendees gathered at the Pavilion to chat and exchange news and to play board games and cards.

The stellar summer day lent itself to ball games, fishing and wandering the grounds to enjoy the natural beauty of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A catered lunch of Slovak foods was served. During the warm afternoon, attendees enjoyed beverages and snacks.

Later in the afternoon, grilled chicken and hot buttered corn-on-the-cob were offered.

The overwhelming comment was: "What a great day!!"

**Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai**



**Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio**



# Annual Slovak Heritage Society Pig Roast 2022

The Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland held its annual Pig Roast on August 20, 2022, at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Heights, OH. Some 90 people – including many who are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union from Branches 1, 24, 228, 112, 450 and 855 – attended. Everyone enjoyed a meal of delicious roast pork which was prepared by Tim Scally, Slovak Heritage Society Auditor and Branch 855 member, with help from Mike Anderko, Slovak Heritage Society Second Vice President and Branch 450 Member, Mark Cvicela, Branch 24 member, and brother Tom Scally. They also prepared the traditional Slovak side dish živánska, which included, sausage, bacon, potatoes, and peppers, while Slovak Heritage Society and Branch 855 Member Milka Anderko prepared another traditional side of sauerkraut and sausage that all enjoyed. Other sides for the all-you-can-eat roast pork meal: corn on the cob, macaroni salad, and potato salad. Children 10 and under had hot dog, chips, and juice box. Every meal included choices among tasty desserts baked and plated by Branch 24 Treasurer and Slovak Heritage Society First Vice President Joe Oros. Karin Scally, Slovak Heritage Society Corresponding Secretary and Branch 855 Vice President, ran the kitchen and was helped by Joe Oros, Terri Ivanec, Branch 24 member, Maria Cvicela, Branch 24 member, Anita Anderko, Branch 855 member, Adriana Anderko, Branch 450 member, and Ariel Benewiat. Bartenders included Justin and Fran Strekel, both Branch 24 members, Tim and Tom Scally, and National Vice President and Executive Secretary Elect, Kevin Collins. FCSU Branches 24 and 855 offered half-priced tickets to their members who attended, which was a total of 34 members this year.

We were pleased to have national officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union with us again this year: National President Elect and current Executive Secretary Ken Arendt and his wife Theresa as well as Executive Secretary Elect and current National Vice President Kevin Collins.

Many thanks go out to everyone who helped make our annual Pig Roast another success this year – those who worked so hard preparing for and working at it, and all those who came out to support it and enjoy a great afternoon of good food and good company. Together, we are keeping our wonderful Slovak traditions alive!

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



FCSU Executive Secretary Elect, current FCSU National Vice President, and Branch 112 Member Kevin Collins arrives at the pig roast and later in the evening helped at the bar.



(L – R) Theresa Arendt, Branch 228 Member; Ken Arendt, FCSU Executive Secretary, FCSU National President Elect, and Branch 228 Member; and Henry Horvath, Slovak Heritage Society Treasurer, FCSU Supreme Court Member Elect, and Branch 855 Member



Branch 24's Donna Oros with Branch 855's George Balak



Branch 24's Johanna Oros



Branch 1's Jana Horvath is having her turn at holding Baby Dominik, flanked by Proud Auntie Anita Anderko, Branch 855, and Dominik's Proud Papa Mike Anderko, Slovak Heritage Society Second Vice President and Branch 450 Member



Mike Anderko greets Branch 450 Recording Secretary George P. Carny, Jr



Slovak Heritage Society Corresponding Secretary and Branch 855 Vice President Karin Scally helps ready the živánska for serving with Branch 450 Member Pete Anderko



(L – R) Tom Ivanec poses with Joe Oros outside the kuchyňa (Slovak kitchen)



(L – R) Branch 24's Justin, Henry, Fran, and Eli Strekal pose for a moment before the event got underway, and Dad and Mom got busy tending bar for the afternoon.



Branch 24 Auditor Sue Moynihan arrives with son John, Branch 24 Vice President, and Supreme Court member elect.



Jessica Anderko arrives at the event with one of the newest (and cutest!) additions to the Cleveland Slovak-American community, son Dominik František Anderko.



Branch 24's Mary Lesko attends with her sons, John and Steve

Branch 450 Member and FCSU Administrative Assistant Adriana Scally takes a break from helping serve to enjoy a bite with her kids and other young members of the FCSU, including (L – R) Branch 24 sisters Madeline, Lily and Emma Halley; Branch 855 Christian Scally, and Branch 450's Ava and Luke Scally



Sue Halley, Slovak Heritage Society Recording Secretary and Branch 24 Member, sells Slovak Heritage Society merchandise and 50-50 raffle tickets while Tom Ivanec, Slovak Heritage Society President, and Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, handles registration for the event



Branch 24's Vladimir and Maria Cvicela

(L – R) Mike Anderko, Slovak Heritage Society Second Vice President and Branch 450 Member, and Tim Scally, Slovak Heritage Society Auditor and Branch 855 Member, with the "guest of honor"





## ATTENTION BRANCH 855 MEMBERS:

Time to start thinking about all things pumpkin! Mark your calendars to show off your pumpkin decorating skills.

- From October 15 – October 30 snap a picture of yourself with your painted or carved pumpkin creation
- Send your picture along with your name to [fcou855@gmail.com](mailto:fcou855@gmail.com) or by text to 440-409-9405
- Submissions must be made by October 30th
- Everyone from Branch 855 who joins in the fun receives a \$20.00 gift card AND their picture in the Jednota!!

Let's get creative!!!



## Slovak Heritage Festival

The Slovak Heritage Festival in New Jersey will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2022 on the Middlesex County Fairgrounds (655 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816). Greek Catholic Service/Mass is at 10:30am; cultural program and entertainment will follow. There will be exhibits and Slovak food. Admission is \$15 for adults. Parking is free. See the website for more info: <https://slovakfest.org>

**10:30** GRÉCKOKATOLÍCKA SLUŽBA  
GREEK CATHOLIC SERVICE / CELEBROVANÁ MARTINOM VAVRÁKOM

**1PM** LIMBORÁČIK  
CHILDREN'S FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE / DETSKÝ FOLKLÓRNY SÚBOR | NEW YORK | NY

LIPKA  
CHILDREN'S FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE / DETSKÝ FOLKLÓRNY SÚBOR | LINDEN | NJ

**2:30 PM** PAJTÁŠI  
FOLK MUSIC / LUDOVÁ HUDBA | NEW YORK | NY

**3:30 PM** LABIRSKY BEŤARE  
FOLK TRIO / FOLKLÓRNE TRIO | MEDZILABORCE | SK

**4:30 PM** KOMAJOTA  
MUSIC BAND / HUDOBNÁ SKUPINA | PREŠOV | SK

THE PROGRAM IS ACCOMPANIED BY /  
PROGRAMOM SPREVÁDZA KATARÍNA VIZINA

**44**<sup>TH</sup>  
SLOVAK HERITAGE  
FESTIVAL  
IN NEW JERSEY

September 25th 2022 at Middlesex County Fair Grounds  
655 Cranbury Rd. | East Brunswick | NJ 08816 | [www.slovakfest.org](http://www.slovakfest.org)



## Book Corner



**DOMINIK HRUŠOVSKÝ: Roztratených zhromažďovať: Rozprávanie o mojom živote (Gathering the Scattered: The Story of My Life). Bratislava: Post Scriptum, 2018. 531 pp. [Libri historiae Slovaciae. Memoriae VI.] ISBN 978-80-89567-85-0**



## Archbishop Dominik Hrušovský

Archbishop Dominik Hrušovský (1926 – 2016), a member of the Slovak Institute, is one of the outstanding figures of modern Slovak Catholicism. The unique course of his life reflected the destiny of the Slovak nation and all Slovakia during the second half of the 20th century and at the turn of the new millennium.

This book of memoirs enables us to follow the story of his life, which began unfolding in the south of Slovakia in a poor farming family. His parents used to migrate for seasonal agricultural work from impoverished Czechoslovakia to wealthier Austria. In October 1938, Slovakia acquired autonomy, and in March 1939, independence. However, between those dates, in November 1938, by a decision of the Great Powers – the so-called Vienna Award – Slovakia was compelled to cede a considerable part of its territory, including young Dominik Hrušovský's birthplace, to Hungary. Accordingly, during the 1938-45 period, the maturing student lived under a foreign rule, which used strong-arm methods to suppress Slovak identity.

Following the ending of World War II, in the atmosphere of the incipient People's Democracy, he began his studies at the Theological Faculty in Bratislava. His bishop sent the brilliant theology student to Rome for further study. After the culmination of his studies and his priestly ordination, however, he was no longer able to return to his homeland: a Catholic priest was persona non grata in the eyes of the newly-established communist regime. His first engagement in pastoral work was in Italy, and he became a professor of philosophy in the regional seminary in Viterbo. Later he moved to Paris, to the Slovak Catholic Mission, and he finally settled in Rome.

In Rome he was active in the Slovak Institute of Ss. Cyril and Methodius. This institute was founded in the Eternal City in 1963 by Slovak emigrants and exiles, with the aim of helping Slovaks in enslaved Slovakia to maintain the Christian faith, to aid the Catholic Church, and to sustain among Slovaks a desire for freedom, democracy, and Slovakia's independent statehood.

He became editor of the monthly "Hlasy z Ríma" (Voices from Rome) and a correspondent for Vatican Radio. In due course, he became the second rector of the Slovak Institute of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, responsible for pastoral care of Slovaks abroad. Finally, in 1982 Pope John Paul II appointed him bishop for Slovak Catholics living outside the territory of Slovakia. After the fall of the totalitarian communist regimes in central and eastern Europe, he became auxiliary bishop of the Bratislava-Trnava archdiocese, and his career culminated as Papal Nuncio in Minsk, capital of the Republic of Belarus, during the years 1996-2001.

His memoirs consist of 91 chapters. Complementing their documentary value, we have also included farewell addresses at the archbishop's funeral in his birthplace, biographical notes on selected persons mentioned in the text, an index of names, foreign language summaries (in Italian, French, German, Russian and English), and an extensive photo-documentary appendix.

Review by Jozef Rydlo, translation edited by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

## The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15

September 15th is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Slovaks refer to it as the Sviatok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary. In Slovakia, her feast day is a national holiday in Slovakia, a holy day of obligation, and most businesses are closed.

The identification of the sorrowful Mother with the Slovak nation stems from a miracle which occurred long ago in the 16th century. Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows started in Šaštín, a town western Slovakia. In 1564, the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows appeared to Angelika Bakičová while she was praying for help to deal with some personal trials in her life. In thanksgiving for hearing her prayers, Pani Bakičová commissioned an unknown artist to sculpt a wooden statue at the place of the apparition.

Soon word spread of her vision, and the faithful from nearby towns and villages began to visit the site as a place of pilgrimage. Before long, pilgrims from far away heard of the apparition and started to make longer journeys to Šaštín to pay homage to Our Sorrowful Mother. A Marian Chapel was built to house the statue in the 16th century, and in 1748, a basilica which was continually adorned over the centuries. Today it is the home of one of largest and most popular shrine in Slovakia for Christians - the Monastery and Church of the Seven Sorrow of the Virgin Mary (Kláštor a Kostol Sedembolestnej Panny Márie). Even Popes visit it, including St. Pope John Paul II in 1995 and Pope Francis in 2021.

One of the most popular hymns dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows is "Tie šaštínske zvony" (The Bells of Šaštín), and most every Slovak Catholic knows it by heart. Below is the hymn followed by my translation. Since I lack the skill of rhyming hymns which Sister Hronec has, I found her splendid translation from the September 26, 2012 issue of Jednota. Please continue to pray to the Virgin Mary for her recovery from her fall which I wrote about in the August issue.

You may also watch a procession and listen to the song online from a 2014 pilgrimage. The crowd was so huge that the service took place outside the basilica. The song is found in Jednotný katolícky spevník (The Uniform Catholic Hymnal), JKS hymn #405, at the following Youtube site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-vZ1bmAnyE>

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

### Tie šaštínske zvony

1. Tie šaštínske zvony – k sebe nás volajú,  
Patrónke Slovenska – poklonu vzdávajú.  
Sedembolestná – Panna Mária,  
tebe Slovenská – spieva krajina:  
Tisíc ráz buď Zdravas, – oroduj vždy za nás!

2. Radosná chvíľa nám, – vždy vtedy nastáva,  
keď Matka Šaštínska – zvonmi nás zvoláva.  
Podme rodáci, ženy a panny,  
milostivý chrám – tu je pred nami.  
Radosne spievajme, – Máriu vítajme.

3. Šaštínsky chrám vzácnu – zdobený je perlou;  
Patrónka Slovenska - tu si tróni s berlou.  
Matka premilá – nášho národa,  
oroduj za nás u svojho Syna!  
Národ Ťa zve, – volá, – vypros mu pokoja!

4. Vy, šaštínske zvony, – hlaholte slávnostne,  
nech sa váš zvučný hlas – Slovenskom roznesie.  
Zaznej radosťou – každá dedina, – slávou zajasaj – celá krajina!  
Slovenský národ náš – ochraňuj v každý čas!



Our Lady of Sorrows, in Šaštín, a town western Slovakia

### The Bells of Šaštín

- Šaštín bells ring your song, joyfully call us here;  
Patroness of our land, we honor and revere.  
Mother Sorrowful, hear our nation's praise.  
Trusting in your care, now our prayers we raise.  
Thousand times, "Hail," we pray, guide us in every way.
- With joy we hear your voice, 'tis Mary's welcome-call.  
Gladly we come, respond, hastening one and all,  
To this wondrous place, children young and old,  
This your glor'ous shrine, which we now behold.  
Our Slovak nation sings, receive the thanks we bring.
- Our Šaštín shrine now glows with one majestic pearl –  
Our Patroness who reigns, her royal throne endures.  
Loving Mother/Queen, hear us as we come.  
Lift our fervent prayers to your loving Son.  
Our nation begs for peace, may your love never cease.  
O Šaštín bells peal forth, echo for all to hear.
- Our prayerful hearts are glad, your hopeful sound is here.  
Every hill and plain rings with joyous praise.  
May each town resound with the song we raise.  
O bless our land we pray, this day and every day.

Translation by Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M. ©2012

## Ján Francisci

### Unikátny historický dokument mapujúci život a dielo Jána Francisciho

Pozrite si unikátny historický dokument mapujúci život a dielo Jána Francisciho z autorskej dielne tajomníka Jána Semana a Pavla Pareničku, ktorý vznikol pri príležitosti jeho 200. výročia narodenia.

Matica slovenská si v roku 2022 pripomína v rámci ROKU ODKAZU ŠTÚROVCOV 200. výročie narodenia osobností národného obrodovania, osobností, ktoré významným spôsobom zasiahli do slovenských dejín.

Prvého júna sa pred dvomi storočiami narodil prvý kapitán slovenských dobrovoľníkov, ale aj významný národný buditeľ, revolucionár, redaktor, prozaik, prekladateľ, popredná osobnosť slovenského národného hnutia v druhej polovici 19. storočia, spolupracovník Ľudovíta Štúra a Štefana Marka Daxnera, doživotný čestný podpredseda Matice slovenskej, Ján Samuel Francisci-Rimavský (\* 1822 – † 1905).

Zdroj: <https://matica.sk/unikatny-historicky-dokument-mapujuci-zivot-a-dielo-jana-francisciho/>

### A unique historical document mapping of the life and work of Ján Francisci

Look at a unique historical document mapping the life and work of Ján Francisci from the author's workshop of secretaries, Ján Seman and Pavel Parenička. They created this on the 200th anniversary of his birthday.

In 2022, the Matica slovenská commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of personalities of the national revival, personalities who have significantly influenced Slovak history as part of the YEAR OF THE LEGACY OF ŠTÚR'S FOLLOWERS.

The first captain of Slovak volunteers was born on June 1st two centuries ago. He was a prominent national awakener, revolutionary, editor, novelist, translator, and leading figure of the Slovak national movement in the second half of the 19th century. He collaborated with Ľudovít Štúr and Štefan Marek Daxner, Slovak, Ján Samuel Francisci-Rimavský (\* 1822 - † 1905).

Translated by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor



Ján Francisci, a handsome Slovak youth was born 200 years ago

# Bowling Scenes From The 2022 Joint Fraternal Event

The FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS Combined to hold a NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT on Friday, May 13-14, 2022. The event took place at Brookgate Lanes, 14950 Snow Rd. in Brook Park, Ohio. To view more pictures go to [www.fcsu.com/events](http://www.fcsu.com/events).



# Branch 853 Charles Boone, from Dormont, PA, in Conjunction with the Eldred WWII Museum

*Presents: the brand new - Slovak-American Veterans WWII Memorial.*

According to the VA, the WWII veterans are dying at a rate of over 200 veterans a day with the average age of the veteran being mid 90's. I want to make sure that our Slovak American veterans who served in World War II, that their service is not forgotten. This is how we, together as Slovak Americans, will do it. You have two ways to take part in this event.



1. We want your Slovak American WWII veteran's service story. Donations accepted but not required.

Submit a typed story of your WWII Slovak-American veteran that you want remembered.

Disclose as little or as much information about their war experiences.

Since this is geared towards the Slovak-American exhibit, please include from what area your veteran or his/her family immigrated.

Copies of photos of your veteran would be appreciated.

Photos could be of your veteran in uniform or photos taken where they served or during their service, discharge or other papers. Please no vital numbers or Social Security Numbers.

Only WWII. Other wars cannot be accepted.

These items will become the property of the museum and will not be returned – copies only please.

This information will be put into binders into a new section of the Eldred Museum dedicated to the Slovak-American who served their country in WWII.

2. Donate to the Museum in memory of your Slovak-American Veteran.

Checks payable to the Eldred WWII Museum. The checks can be sent to Charles Boone so that all the checks can be delivered at one time, or checks can be sent directly to the museum. Eldred WWII Museum, 201 Main St, Eldred, PA 16731

Donate any amount. If you donate \$25 in memory of your WWII Slovak-American veteran. The veteran's name and military service line will be engraved on a name plate for a plaque.

We will take all the donations and the stories to the Eldred Museum for a formal presentation the week of December 7, 2022. Email Charles with questions: [slovakamericanww2exhibit@gmail.com](mailto:slovakamericanww2exhibit@gmail.com)

## I want to donate to the new Slovak-American WWII Exhibit.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

For Memorial Name Plate with \$25 donation

WWII Veteran Name \_\_\_\_\_ (18 spaces maximum)

Military Service Army \_\_\_ Navy \_\_\_ Coast Guard \_\_\_ Marines \_\_\_ Air Force \_\_\_

CHECK DONATIONS: Donate any amount. \$25 will qualify for Memorial Name Plate

SUBMIT YOUR WWII VETERAN'S STORY: No donation required, but you can donate if you want.

Send your story and/or your check donation (payable to Eldred WWII Museum) to:

Charles Boone, WWII Slovak American Museum,

2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216

All donations will be taken to the Eldred Museum for a single presentation.

Eldred WWII Museum has final decisions on any matters in question.

**DONATION DEADLINE: December 1, 2022**



## What Kind of Letter Did Our Ancestors Write to the Old Country?

Jerry Siman (po slovensky, i.e., in Slovak, Jaroslav), a lifelong member of Jednota, clipped this article from 30 years ago, and asked that we publish it again. It is a curious and comical mixture of Slovak and English, and one might notice that it lacks Slovak diacritical marks.

But this resembles the way some of the first generation talked when they were from Slovakia and just knew the eastern Slovak dialect and bits and pieces of English that they used in their everyday lives. When I used to stay with my baba (grandmother) for a week, when my mother needed me out of the way to get some peace, I remember baba saying: "Idzeme do storu," not the Spiš dialect "Idzeme do obchodu," or the standard literary Slovak, "Ideme do obchodu."

I remember reading some of my mother's letters when I did research in communist Slovakia for a year, and she wrote more grammatically correct than this because she finished the 8th grade in Slovakia. But even she interjected and Slovakized some English words, did not always capitalize when needed, and wrote sentences which lacked proper punctuation.

One needs to know a bit of Slovak to fully comprehend the humor. And only the Good Lord knows how much of it the people in Slovakia would have understood!

The article below was submitted by Jerry Siman, a FCSU Pension Board Trustee. He was elected to be a Pension Board Trustee for the 7th time at the last convention. – Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., Editor

### A Slovak letter to starého kraju – A Slovak letter to the Old Country

Long time ja nepisal bo ja bula very upset. Moj husband mi povedal, že to ja getting fat. Ja almost pukla moju slacks. Ja neznala že to what I gotta do. Ja vidzela moju next door neighbor, a ona mne povedala že to jest novi good diet doctor downtown. Ja pošla do diet doktora, dva tižne ago. On mi povedal, že to ja "better go on a diet". Ja mušim countovac moju calories. Ja mušim looking good for mojho husbanda. Ja kupila diet scale i fšetko čo to ja jem, ja weighujem and countujem calories.

First den OK. Ja weigh my food. I ja countujem calories. Druhi den, ja weighujem moju food, i countujem moju calories i chewujem moju nails do two o'clock in the afternoon, ked' ja wachujem moju soap opera na T.V. Ja getting so hungry. Moj stomach growling. Ja chewujem so much celery moju zubi almost worn out.

Jaki to life ja mam? Every bite ja takujem ja gotta count. Ja gotta mark down na listok for doctora: half slice bread --- dry, 50 calories --- raz na den. Coffee možem mat, ono nema calories ---- možem mat skim mleko, ale no sugar. Ja možem mat kolbasi ale len one inch piece.

A ja hledam, I hledam, a nemožem fine-ovac na calorie-list pirohi. Neška je Friday, a to jak člověk može žic bez pirohi na Friday? Ja videla moju next door neighbor, tota co mi rekomendovala diet doctorra, že co to ja gotta do. Ona povedala, že to ja možem mat jednu pirohu ale nemožem mat my half slice bread nor tablespoon potatoe that day.

Ja panikovala! Ja rushing around the house, i dumam, I dumam, idumam, že to je somarovi diet. Ja pojdem do discount store I kupim bigger slacks, a zfoolujem mojho človeka.

Ja turnovala off TV show "As The World Turns", a dumam naj turnuje bez mne. Ja pošla do kitchen, takovala pirohi od freezer where ja hindovala od husbanda, ja fry some onions i butter a ja eat šicko žebi husband nefind out. Ja taka happy --- diet ne pre mne. No ta finišujem ten letter.

Budce zdrave!  
Ostavam  
Tlusta, Helena



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University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA*

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