



# Catholic Fraternal Jednota

THE UNION  
USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 131

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022

NUMBER 6022

## Message from the President

The following was the greeting I had intended to give at the FCSU Convention July 31-August 2, 2022. However, because of its length and time constraints of the compacted Convention this is being printed in the October issue of Jednota.

Since then, you probably have learned that at the Convention I announced my intent not to run for re-election after 16 years as President. I take pride that the FCSU is in the strongest financial condition in its history. I give best wishes to the new Officers and Board of Directors.

My message to the Convention was as followed:

As we meet this week to conduct the 52nd National Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, let us pray that Divine Providence will be with the delegates and officers of our Society over these next few days. The delegates to this convention will be asked to make decisions that will affect the welfare of the Society for the future.

Congratulations to all Jednota delegates. In coming to Cleveland, you are representing our membership from east to west, north to south. We know that our Members are all over the continent. Americans and Canadians are a mobile society.

Most Slovak Catholic churches have closed or merged. Many places that our forefathers met and socialized in are no longer there. Almost all other fraternal societies face similar problems. New solutions must be found to address these issues.

Let us pray, that when this 52nd convention is over we will look forward to the future with accomplishment that we have

preserved this great institution, the Jednota, founded by Fr. Furedek and our grandparents; Slovak immigrants who came to America's shores. Let us use this trust wisely, faithfully and diligently.

Since our 51st convention, also held in Cleveland, the Society continues to evolve. The advent of Covid and all its uncertainties has much to do with repeating Cleveland as the Convention location.

The Society's assets and surplus continue to reach all-time highs. Membership peaked in the early 1960s at @ 105,000, today it's less than 50,000. Many of you are aware that the conditions of many branches are not good, with mergers and a lack of younger officers. We are not alone. Most other fraternal face similar issues.

To address this problem, we have attempted to appeal to younger members with expanded contests, picnics and other activities with some success.

Much of the Society's growth is due to our expanded independent agent system; over 450 agents at this time. Much thanks to Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents, for his hard work.

Before proceeding with the report, I would first like to bring to mind those supreme officers who were laid to their eternal rest since our last convention in 2018. Among those who we lost was: Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. (National Vice President), Michele Mager (Auditor), Robert Magruder (Supreme Court), George F. Matta II (National Treasurer), Joseph Minarovich (Regional Director Emeritus), Carl J. Ungvarsky (Regional Director Emeritus), Leonard Zilko (Chairman of Auditors). May all of our supreme officers, as well as all the deceased members of our Society rest in peace, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At our March 25, 2022 meeting I made a report to the entire Board and Counsel. This report will serve to shed insight into the Society operations over the last 3+ years.

The items discussed with the Board concerned the Society and its very survival in the next 25+ years and hopefully beyond.

The Board has made some hard decisions in these past few years.

The primary decision was to offer for sale

the Jednota estates, which consisted of an office building under lease and about 290 acres (plus or minus) of vacant land which was restrictively zoned agricultural, residential or limited use. We had the property professionally appraised and the appraisal came at @ \$12 million dollars. In 2019 we had to have outside expertise.

There were also very complicating issues involving a lawsuit filed by a property owner that had sewer rights granted by the Society in the 1970's that today escalated in value. Without the complication resolved the property could not be easily sold.

Several experienced developers made a live presentation to the FCSU Board and the Board selected a purchaser (D&H), a local Harrisburg company with 700+ employees. Their offer was accepted by the Board in a complicated sales process. Rezoning and development of the parcel was a long-time issue that had been on the agenda since

the 1960 Convention. The sale price was \$13 million without any commission paid to anyone. In addition, the land was subject to eminent domain and several pipelines and utility easements.

Through the President's efforts the FCSU received over \$400,000 for pipeline easements and timber sales in 2015-2016.

After the sale in 2019, the Society retained @18 acres of vacant land and has a permanent easement on 1 1/2 acres, on which sits our Memorial site. The life size



Andrew M. Rajec

continued on page 3



8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.95%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.60%
6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	3.50%
Park 2 Annuity (not available in the state of NY)	2.50%
Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA- 1st year guarantee	2.00%
(new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)	
Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.75% (5 yrs +)

### Find an Annuity That's Right for You

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

### Inside

Editorial/Commentary .....	2-3
Branch Announcements .....	15,18,19
District Announcements .....	21
Articles in Slovak/English.....	11

## Reflection

One of our most favorite Slovak Marian hymns has long been "Ó Mária ružencová," "O Mary of the Rosary." What better way to pray and ponder with Mary the mysteries of the life of her Divine Son, Jesus. In this way, they are the mysteries of her own life. How profoundly she sings, "The Mighty One has done great things for me." Sharing this trust in her Son, Mary lovingly guided the three Fatima children and us, to pray the Rosary fervently.

Now we honor Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. This was the day in 1571, when the Pope addressed Mary as Our Lady of Victory. Following an outpouring of Rosaries from the Church, the winds shifted at sea and the Holy League defeated the Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Lepanto. This miraculous victory is an eternal reminder of Mary's power when we intercede with her Rosary.

**Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.  
O Mária Ružencová, naša patrónka!**

Ó, Mária Ružencová, naša patrónka!  
My sa k tebe utiekame, čistá panenka.  
Ty si Matka dobrotivá, patrónka ružencová  
Prímlúvaj sa vždycky za nás u svojho Syna.

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

Tie ruže nad všetky kvety sú spanilejšie  
A v ruženci tom spojené sú najvonejšie  
Krásna vôňa je jeho pre kresťania každého;  
Veď Mária nám ho dala z trónu svojého.

Na tom svete nechcem iné mať potešenie  
Ani perly, striebro, zlato, drahé kamenie  
Moje drahoceny je ruženec jediný  
A s ním Ježiš, ten Baránok, Bože nevinný.

**HOLY MARY, Queen of the Rosary  
Ó, Mária Ružencová**

1. To your loving care Holy Mary, Queen  
and Maiden of the Rosary,  
we hasten, hold us tenderly.  
As Mother of the Rosary, hear your  
children's fervent plea.



Virgin Mary of the Rosary

May your Son, with love and mercy, bless  
us graciously.

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

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

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

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

## Message from the National Chaplain

A couple I know is expecting the birth of their first child together and showed me an ultrasound photo of their unborn baby about two months before his birth. The photo was not a grainy, black and white image, but rather a crisp, clear, 3-D image in color.

Two reactions immediately went through my mind. The first was to marvel at the technology that made the ultrasound photo possible. The second took the form of a question. How could anyone in good conscience, with a clear conscience, with a conscience formed by the Gospel ever want to consider ending the life of a child in the womb?

October is Respect Life Month. It the annual effort from our nation's bishops to remind all people that each and every person, young and old; healthy, infirmed or disabled; born and unborn, are created in the image and likeness of God and possess a dignity of the highest value.

With articles being published glorifying the actions of abortion providers as something heroic, some of whom, by the way, say they are responding to a call, and strong voices in government and elsewhere saying abortion is a right, we need to ask ourselves if anything we can do to affirm the truth of that which is in the womb is a human life.

First and foremost, prayer and acts of penance, particularly fasting, are traditional methods to help bring about a change in heart in others. Secondly, there are at least 50 rather well-known companies and corporations, including finance institutes, retailers, and some in the entertainment industry who have publically stated they will aid and abet their employees who wish to have an abortion. Their names can be found on an internet search engine. Maybe we can think twice before patronizing these businesses.

That may be easier said than done. However, take a look at the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass on Respect Life Sunday, October 2. From Paul's second letter to Timothy, we heard this: God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord...but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

With that strength, we can be those unprofitable servants that Jesus speaks of in the gospel selection from Luke from that same Sunday. We do what we are obliged to do.

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain**



Rev. Thomas Nasta

## 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.

As of September 30, the 2022 Appeal has received \$28,023.87 from 200 donors. Among the 62 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 100 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 ap-

continued on page 3

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
Wednesday, Nov. 9	Monday, Oct. 31
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Monday, Dec 5
Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023	Monday, Jan 3, 2023

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:  
Michael Kopanic, Editor; editor@fcsu.com  
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"  
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398  
FAX: 216-642-4310

## JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Fraternal - Published Monthly

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

MICHAEL KOPANIC, Editor; editor@fcsu.com

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

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

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

## Insights and Viewpoints

October 16, 2022 –Twenty-Ninth Sunday  
of Ordinary Time

*Luke 18: 1-8*

This parable would make a great plot for a made for television movie. We have a widow who goes up against a dishonest judge. The widow is persistent in her desire for the judge to make a decision in her case. She initially waited a long time with no ruling by the judge. No doubt the judge wanted this lack of a decision to discourage her from pursuing her case. Instead, she decides to pester him until he makes a decision. He finally gives in and makes a decision because her persistence is disrupting his lifestyle, and even has him wonder if she might act violently against him. These are not the purest motives for making a decision, but they were effective. The judge was not concerned about either justice or the widow. Jesus points out that if this dishonest judge can answer the woman's request how much more will God respond to our pleas for help.

The lesson for us is three-fold; be persistent in prayer, God's respond to our needs is out of both love and justice, and we should follow the example of God and be responsive to the needs of others.

There are both needs and struggles in living our faith that can affect our relationship with God. One response is to minimize our faith so as to have very low expectations of what God can do for us. It is important to keep in mind that our Heavenly Father is the perfect, just judge who looks upon us with love and mercy. To be persistent is to never lose trust that God is listening to us and to continue to pray with high expectations that He is attentive to us. This persistence in faith takes moving beyond faith as a feeling, to faith as a gift from God. It is meant to draw us closer to him, and not away from him. Persistence is believing that the needs we put before God will be answered in his time and way. In the letter to the Hebrews we heard that Faith is, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen." Persistence is continuing to pray even when the immediate results are unseen.

The second lesson in the parable is that God responds to our needs out of love. God does not act out of obligation, vengeance, or to quiet us so that we won't disturb him; God acts out of love for us. His love is the unconditional love with no strings attached. We are the ones who have the freedom to accept his love or reject it. He knows our hearts and knows more than we what is needed to bring us true, lasting, and eternal happiness. He sees the whole picture of our lives, while we live one frame at a time. This is not meant to minimize the reality of the anxiety or pain that our struggles might bring us. These are part of our human nature, but it is important to put these into perspective, that in the midst of these, God is lovingly present.

The third lesson can be approached with a few question about who are we more like; God or the unjust judge. When people come to us with a need are we like the judge and put things off, only to help when we are tired of someone pestering us, or are we like God who looks upon the one in need with love? Hopefully we will work to respond as God does, out of love. The three lessons can help us in our own faith lives as we approach God with our prayers.

Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.

## Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

continued from page 2

preciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2022 will be credited toward the 2023 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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

44 <sup>th</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal	
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____	
State _____	Zip _____
Amount \$ _____	
<i>Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:</i>	
Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President Slovak Catholic Federation Our Lady of Grace Church 225 Bellevue Avenue Pennel, PA 19047-4052	

## Message from the President

continued from page 1

Fr. Furdek statue that was originally on the orphanage grounds was at my direction re-bronzed, moved, and proudly sits in front of our home office.

In a previous report I saw of the 44th convention, the then FCSU president said the FCSU is at a crossroad. At that time the society was considering to consolidate with the Slovak Catholic Sokol which had about \$11 million in surplus at that time. That consolidation was rejected by the Sokols, and overtures since that time have been turned down.

The other proposal at that time was to sell insurance in Slovakia. Since that time, I have made inquiries into this idea. However, there are several issues;

1. Slovakia gained independence in 1993 and since that time several large insurance companies located in Europe are active in the market; and, there are certain complications with U.S. authorities about foreign operations. That being said, it may still be possible with costs and complications.

It's not a bad idea, but there are a lot of complications.

As president and CEO of our Society I see more pressing issues such as membership, "governance", interest rates, future investments, and our KROLL rating.

"Governance" is an issue that concerns how a fraternal runs. I had an expert on fraternal make a presentation to the Board in 2018. Both the Ohio Insurance Department and KROLL brought the issue up last year. It must be addressed.

Thirty years ago, it was said that there were ten Slovak fraternal competing for the same business. Today, by my count there are only six. Combinations and mergers are likely in the future. The First Catholic Slovak Union stands at \$46 million in surplus and is in an excellent position to merge/acquire other fraternal.

The entire fraternal system is under stress. Virtually all fraternal are seeing declining memberships and an erosion of the membership activity in branches, districts, lodges, nests, or whatever names they are called. The need for people getting together in-person has changed with the Internet. We all have seen people sitting at the same table and texting or calling and not talking to each other.

Fraternal are founded on the branch or lodge system and in order to keep a tax-free status, must be maintained. Internal revenue code 503(c)(8).

Forced by changes in the law and also reality, almost all fraternal use agents to sell their products. Some are called "captive" but most use "independent agents", as does the FCSU.

In 2021, more than 80% of our annuity premium of \$90 million came through independent agents who can and do sell for several (many) companies. Thus, it becomes a question of interest rates, investment yields, integrity and trust.

A good number of you have invested in our annuities, but many have not.

When an independent agent sells our product for a commission, a client then becomes a member. We do not ask if they are Catholic or Slovak. You may remember the days when the parish priest had to verify a person was a "practicing Catholic" to be an FCSU member. Times have changed.

Today, it has become a money game. In many cases there is no loyalty or interest in fraternal activities; it's who pays the best rate.

The future direction of our Society can be at stake. What is our purpose?

Is it just to make money? Do we really make our Catholic faith an important part of our Society or do we only pay lip-service? These are questions that we must ultimately address.

### HOME OFFICE OPERATIONS

In the past "direct billing" was a big issue in the Society. We are way past that. The Society has its own mostly home-grown IT system that is functioning well and can be adapted. It will be for future Board of Directors to review the IT system and consider changes.

### HOME OFFICE BUILDING

The home office building dates from 1988 and was constructed as a "spec" building. There has been no remodeling and the carpet, drapes need replacement. Covid has put a hold on these changes. With Covid and the trend of working at home has left some vacancy in the home office (the Society occupies only one of three floors).

The old Jednota orphanage that had 4,000 orphans pass thru its doors was voted by the Board to be closed in 1989.

The Society then constructed a new printery building, a portion of which was dedicated for museum purposes. Because of changes in the printing industry, the building became obsolete and was closed by past president Hricik. Repeated efforts to sell or lease the building were not fruitful because it needed new roof and a new HVAC system. The artifacts in the museum were in large part donated to the nuns in Danville, PA for their museum in the 1990's.

Over time the age and number of nuns has left a question mark on longer term viability of their museum.

I raise the question. Does the FCSU want to preserve its heritage and how do we do it and at what cost?

You have heard, "you can't know where you are going if you don't know where you came from". Are we willing to honor and preserve our Slovak heritage in an expanded FCSU museum and bear some costs? I know some people say "nobody will come, it's too costly, nobody really cares". I hope that is not true.

Some ethnic groups have made the decision, i.e. The Croatians, Jews etc., to expend significant resources to preserve their heritage.

Is our primary purpose to make money, to what final end?

continued on page 5

# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA JUNE 11, 2022 HOLIDAY INN CLEVELAND SOUTH

## OPEN MEETING:

Reverend Thomas Nasta celebrated Mass at 8:30 AM in memory of our deceased officers and members.

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

## ROLL CALL:

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

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

## READING OF THE CALL:

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

## PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Kevin Collins to change the agenda order and move item #11 Convention Delegates – Complaints to Supreme Court as the next topic of discussion. Motion carried. A motion was made by Reverend Thomas Nasta and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept the rest of the agenda. Motion carried.

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MARCH 25, 2022:

A motion was made by Milos Mitro and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting held March 25, 2022, as corrected. Motion carried.

## CONVENTION DELEGATES:

The President asked Chairman of Auditors Gregory Maurer to present his audit report regarding the eligibility of convention delegates. Mr. Maurer stated that several branches/districts did not meet Bylaw 11.04(e) Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next Convention shall be published in the Official Organ and/or electronic media per 4.06 at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date of the branch or district meeting. The Branches/Districts in question did not use the proper wording of "election" in their meeting notice and/or did not submit the notice 30 days prior to the meeting date. The Board asked for clarification of Bylaw 11.04(e). General Counsel Gary Matta gave a verbal opinion to explain Bylaw 11.04(e).

The Executive Secretary will send a letter to the branches/districts and each delegate who did not qualify as a delegate to the convention for not following the Bylaws. They will have 30 days to appeal and provide documentation as why they should be seated as a delegate. If their appeal is denied, they will have the right to take their appeal to the convention body, according to Bylaw 11.03(e) The Convention shall be the sole judge of the qualification of its members and may award or deny the right of any person to sit as a delegate in the Convention and shall determine the remuneration of the delegates.

## AQS REPORT:

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT:

Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2022. After the Executive Secretary's report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2022 first quarter Financial Report will

be published in the Jednota newspaper.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

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

## TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky gave a detailed update on the investments and answered the Board's questions. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review

## PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

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

Investments

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

Business Continuity Disaster Plan

The Executive Secretary presented the Business Continuity Disaster Plan for 2022 for the Board's review and answered the Board's questions.

## SALES AND MARKETING:

Vice President Kevin Collins stated that he is working to recruit independent agents in the states we are licensed in and he is working with the Home Office on a recruiting campaign and an incentive plan for the agents.

Mr. Collins stated that the 3 billboard ads he has been working on will be in place at the Cleveland Airport before the convention. He stated he is also working on developing ads for local radio stations and publishing ads in church bulletins.

Mr. Collins stated that a membership meet might be held in late November, he is checking to see if it will be possible in this short amount of time.

## FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Vice President Kevin Collins updated the board on the results of the bowling tournament that was held May 13 – 14 in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Collins stated that the golf tournament will be held August 12 – 14 in DuBois, Pennsylvania. Mr. Collins informed the Board that he is upset he is not included with other fraternals involved in tournaments neither in the decision making process in choosing a tournament location nor in establishing the rules for the tournaments. This matter will be discussed at a later date. The Executive Secretary stated that the Loser's Pool contest will also be held this fall.

## DONATION COMMITTEE:

All donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

## PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Milos Mitro and seconded by Gregory Maurer to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

## ADJOURN:

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

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

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

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN MEETING:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kevin Collins, National Vice President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
John Tokarsky, Treasurer (teleconference)  
Damian Nasta, Regional Director (teleconference)

(by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES:**

The President presented the minutes of the July 15, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kevin Collins and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his 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 July 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 July:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	135,920.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	25,210.27
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 to raise the rates .25% effective September 1, 2022. The new rates will be as follows:

- Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA -- 3.95% APY
- Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA -- 3.60% APY
- New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA -- 3.50% APY
- New "Park 2 Annuity" -- 2.50% APY
- New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st year guarantee – 2.00% APY
- Single Premium Immediate Annuity – 2.75% APY (5+ years)

**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 stated that the 3 billboards are in place at the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. He will advise the Board when the campaign is finalized. He is waiting to hear back from local radio stations on advertising on with them.

The Vice President presented the results of the International Golf Tournament that was held August 12-14, 2022 at Treasure Lake in Dubois, Pennsylvania.

The Vice President stated that he is working on a membership meet for late November but not sure if it will be possible in this short amount of time.

**CONVENTION WRAP-UP:**

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office working on wrapping up the 52nd Quadrennial Convention that was held in Independence, Ohio. The committee vouchers are being processed, final payments are being made, the minutes are being corrected and bylaw changes are being finalized. Once the bylaw changes are made, they will be submitted to the Secretary of State of Ohio for approval. A preliminary cost summary will be presented at the September Board of Directors Meeting.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

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

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

## Message from the President

continued from page 3

I propose we form a committee of Board members and other interested parties to explore the future of our museum. What are your thoughts?

**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATUS OF OUR UNION**

During the course of our Convention, you will be presented with reports from our actuarial consultant Ed Depersis, our outside auditors Hosack, Specht and Muetzel, and our investment advisor Larry White of AQS.

The reports show that since 12/31/2006 FCSU assets increased from \$197.3 million to \$530.9 million as of 12/31/2021, an increase of \$333.6 million. More importantly, surplus in 2007 was \$11.5 million and stands at \$46.6 million as of 12/31/2021, an increase of \$35.1 million, an increase of almost 400%.

The explosive growth in our annuities was due to our competitive rates and the recruitment of independent agents which increased from about 90 to over 450, and I can say with pride, competent, dedicated management.

Annuities and independent agents can be both a boom to the Society when carefully controlled and it can cause serious financial problems if not carefully managed. I speak this from long experience in my job as a Vice President and Sr. Vice President at several commercial insurance companies.

**CONCLUSION**

It has been a privilege and honor to serve the membership of the First Catholic Slovak Union over these past 16 years. The society has experienced tremendous growth and profitability.

Personal animosities and slights should not have a place at our Convention or in our Catholic Society. I have tried my best and apologize to any I may have offended or slighted during these past 16 years.

As I have said before, imagine that Fr. Furdek was attending the Convention.  
God bless.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

# The 44th Slovak Heritage Festival in New Jersey

The Slovak American community gathered on Sunday, September 25, 2022, for the 44th Slovak Heritage Festival, the largest Slovak festival in the US, which took place at Middlesex County Fair Grounds in East Brunswick, New Jersey. The annual event commenced with a Greek Orthodox mass with the main celebrant, Fr. Martin Vavrák, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

The program, moderated by Katarina Vizina, commenced with an introduction of the Chairman of the Slovak Heritage Festival, Marek Soltis, and Co-Chair Jane Konzelman (Branch 716) as well as Nina Holy (Branch 716) who was recognized for her leadership of the event for 30+ years. Joining the festivities and addressing the 1,500+ attendees was Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Michal Mlynár who was joined by wife Andrea Mlynárová and Matej Salon, Deputy Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York. Members of First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 746 (Linden), 716 (New York City), and 45 (New York City) were in attendance to support the event including Director of the Slovak Institute in Cleveland and the Program Director of the Slovak Radio Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450) and FCSU Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados (Branch 746).

The colorful program included performances by Limboráčik, the Children's Folklore group from New York; Lipka, the Children's Folklore group from Linden, New Jersey; and Pajtáši from New York. Special guests from Slovakia included Labirsky Be'are, a folklore trio from Medzilaborce and the Komajota band from Prešov which brought the audience to its feet. Attendees of the Slovak Heritage Festival had the opportunity to try various Slovak foods from the multitude of vendors including traditional bryndzové halušky, grilled kolbasa, nut rolls and poppy seed rolls, and so much more! Vendors should a variety of products including traditional Slovak kroj (folk costume), artisan designs, personal care products, home-made honey and so much more. Some of the vendors included: MaHli designs by Maria Hlinková, products by Slovak designers presented KITnDO, and hair accessories Mishka Designs. Slovak-Czech Varieties (online ordering available) was on hand to sell Slovak and Czech chocolates and other favorite goodies.

Congratulations to the entire Slovak Heritage Festival Committee for another successful event. The 44th Slovak Heritage Festival was made possible by the support of the Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (USZZ).

The photos feature Jednota members in attendance.

Submitted by Sabina Sabados



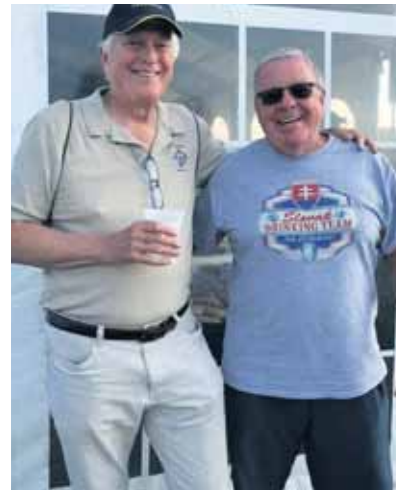


# District 10 at 2022 Lake Erie Crushers' Game

On the evening of Saturday, August 27, 2022, 64 members and guests from six Branches in District 10 met to watch a Minor League baseball matchup between the Lake Erie Crushers and the Washington Wild Things. Among the attendees were Executive Secretary and National President Elect Kenneth A. Arendt, and District 10 President Gregory Petrasek. The event kicked off with the opening of the ballpark at Mercy Health Care Stadium in Avon, OH, at 5:05 p.m. As part of the ballpark's fan appreciation weekend, members received a Lake Erie Crushers' transparent string backpack. Branch members from 1, 24, 228, 450, 553, and 855 then enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet at the stadium's open-air picnic pavilion, followed by a winning game against the Wild Things.

A great evening of fun and fraternalism was had by all!

Submitted by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director





# Annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day

Jednota members and guests enjoyed a beautiful day at Centennial Park Golf Course in Toronto on Sunday, September 11, 2022. 25 people participated with prizes to Frank Bokor and Milos Mitro for the men's member division, Jennifer Lindsay and Mary Ann Schmaus for the ladies' member division and Drew Lindsay for the guest division. Afterwards members and guests enjoyed wings, sandwiches, finger foods, beverages, and camaraderie. Stay tuned for details about next year's Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day!

Submitted by John Tokarsky, Fraternal Activities Director  
Toronto Area District and Branch Jednota



# Branch 23 Hosts Jednota Table at the Johnstown Slavic Fest

After a two-year hiatus because of the Covid-19 virus, the seventh annual Johnstown Slavic Fest was again an in-person, live event in 2022. The festival is held at the Heritage Discovery Center, 201 Sixth Ave., in the Cambria City section of Johnstown. Attendees also received free admission to the Heritage Discovery Center, which houses one of the best immigration museums in the country.

The festivities began on Friday evening, September 16, and continued into Saturday. The festival featured live music, ethnic Slavic foods, and three lecture presentations on Slavic themes. Entertainment featured a performance by Pajtáši, a Slovak folk acoustic band from New York City, as well as those from other Slavic groups, including the talented Rusyn group, Gerdan.

Branch 23 hosted a booth at the festival and offered information about the FCSU. Visitors could sign up to win a Giant Eagle Gift Card, so that attracted some attendees to check us out.

A thank you goes out to branch President Marian Hockycko and Financial and Recording Secretary, Theresa Cassat, who organized the table. Some Jednota issues and souvenirs were given to interested visitors, and Professor Michael Kopanic brought along a picture book about L'udový odev na Spiši (Folk dress in Špiš) which aroused great interest. Ďakujem to Želmíra Becková-Kucharovic, who gifted the book!

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



Mitch Hockycko, Annette Fenimore, Jim and Patty Marmol, Marian Hockycko



Pajtáši band from New York City



Jim and Kay Bench with Professor Michael Kopanic, editor of Jednota



Professor Michael Kopanic a Kamil Konkol of RTVS, Slovak TV



Darlene Kessler and Theresa Cassat



Professor Michael Kopanic and Theresa Cassat displaying Jednota and a book about Spiš folk dress at the Johnstown Slavic Fest



## District 3 Officers Re-elected

Re-elected Officers of George Onda District 3 pictured are (in back) William Patty, President, Darlene Patty, Vice President, (in front) Stephen Gonta, Treasurer, and Linda Gonta, Secretary.





**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.

# News From Slovakia

## Prognóza Národnej banky: Slovensko sa v roku 2023 pravdepodobne dostane do recesie



Bratislava 28. septembra (TASR) - Hrubý domáci produkt (HDP) Slovenska by mal v tomto roku vzrásť o 1,8 %, no v roku 2023 sa krajina pravdepodobne prepadne do recesie a HDP poklesne o jedno percento. V stredu to uviedol guvernér Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) Peter Kažimír pri prezentácii jesennej prognózy ekonomického a menového vývoja. NBS očakáva v budúcom roku aj výrazný rast inflácie na úroveň 18 %, v rizikovom scenári až na 22 %.

“Predpokladáme, že naša ekonomika v budúcom roku nebude rásť, ale naopak poklesne o jeden percentuálny bod,” povedal Kažimír. NBS ešte v júni rátať s rastom HDP v roku 2023 o 1,4 % a s infláciou okolo 11 %.

Prognózu ovplyvnili najmä rastúce ceny energií a neistota ďalšieho vývoja na svetových trhoch, ale aj vojnového konfliktu na Ukrajine. NBS preto pripravila tri scenáre. V strednom analytici uvažovali s rastom cien energií pre domácnosti na približne dvojnásobok. Pokiaľ by sa podarilo zastabilizovať ceny plynu a elektriny na nižšej úrovni, mohla by sa ekonomika Slovenska v budúcom roku vyhnúť recesii a rásť o niekoľko desiatin percenta. To sa približuje v utorok (27. 9.) zverejnenej prognóze Ministerstva financií (MF) SR, ktorá ráta s rastom HDP o 0,6 %. Negatívny scenár NBS ráta s poklesom HDP o viac ako štyri percentá. Situácia by sa mohla podľa Kažimíra zlepšovať v roku 2024, keď NBS očakáva rast HDP o viac ako tri percentá a poklesnúť by mala inflácia, no stále bude vyššia ako v minulých rokoch.

Dobrou správou je podľa viceguvernera NBS Ľudovíta Ódora, že zatiaľ nie sú signály poklesu zahraničného dopytu. Bez výraznejších zmien by mala zostať aj miera nezamestnanosti. Tá by sa mala aj v nasledujúcich dvoch rokoch držať medzi 6 až 7 percentami. K tomu prispieva už aj postupné starnutie populácie a odchod silnejších ročníkov z trhu práce.

NBS sa zaoberala aj prístupom firiem a skúmala, či spoločnosti nezneužívajú súčasnú situáciu a nezvyšujú ceny nad nevyhnutnú úroveň. Marže firiem sú však podľa NBS konštantné.

## Central Bank Forecast: Slovakia Will Probably Fall into Recession in 2023

Bratislava, September 28 (TASR) – Slovakia's gross domestic product is expected to grow by 1.8 percent this year, but in 2023 the country is likely to fall into recession, with GDP falling by 1 percent, Slovak central bank (NBS) governor Peter Kažimír reported on Wednesday, presenting the autumn forecast of economic and monetary developments. In addition, the institute expects inflation to reach 18 percent next year, and even 22 percent if it comes to the worst.

“We assume that our economy will not grow next year, but on the contrary will decline by 1 percentage point,” said Kažimír. In June, NBS (National Bank of Slovakia) forecast GDP growth of 1.4 percent in 2023, with inflation reaching approximately 11 percent.

The autumn prognosis was mainly influenced by rising energy prices and uncertainty concerning further developments on world markets, as well as the war in Ukraine. NBS has therefore drawn up three scenarios. The middling scenario estimates that energy charges for households could double. If gas and electricity prices are stabilized at a lower level, however, the Slovak economy could avoid recession next year and grow by several tenths of a percent. This optimistic scenario comes close to the Finance Ministry's latest forecast, which expects Slovak GDP to grow by 0.6 percent. The pessimistic scenario prognosticates a GDP decline of more than 4 percent.

According to Kažimír, the situation could improve in 2024, with NBS predicting GDP to grow by more than 3 percent and inflation to fall in that year, albeit the latter would still be higher than in previous years.

The good news, according to NBS deputy governor Ľudovít Odor, is that so far there are no signs of a decline in foreign demand. The unemployment rate should also remain unchanged, not diverging from a rate of 6 to 7 percent for the next two years. The gradual ageing of the population and the departure of older workers from the labor market are already contributing to this.

The NBS also looked at the approach taken by companies and examined whether they have been taking advantage of the current situation and raising prices above the necessary level. It found their margins to be constant, however.

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

## Warholove diela budú prezentovať na Kremenci v Poloninách

Warholova sieťotlač Kráľovná Alžbeta II. v Múzeu moderného umenia Andyho Warhola v Medzilaborciach 5. januára 2016 - Warhol's screenprint Queen Elizabeth II at the Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce on January 5, 2016 - (foto TASR)

Medzilaborce 4. augusta (TASR) – Osem výstavných tlačí diel Andyho Warhola vynesú v piatok (5. 8.) na Kremenc, najvyšší vrch Polonín na slovensko-poľsko-ukrajinskom trojhraní. Múzeum moderného umenia Andyho Warhola (MMUAW) v Medzilaborciach tak odštartuje koncept experimentálnych performatívnych výstav s názvom 15 minút slávy.

Ako pre TASR uviedol riaditeľ múzea Martin Cubjak, projekt, ktorého myšlienka vznikla počas prvej vlny ochorenia COVID-19, má za cieľ predstaviť umenie mimo tradičných výstavných siení a tiež spojiť plánované s náhodným. Vynesenie umeleckých diel do prírody bude mať podľa neho svetovú historickú premiéru.

“Veríme, že umenie, aj to vysoké, by sa malo popularizovať tak, aby bolo čo najbližšie k ľuďom. Našou prioritou je tiež spojiť plánované s náhodným, komunikovať o umení na miestach, ktorých primárny charakter nie je pripravený pre umeleckú prezentáciu,” uviedol.

Ako ozrejmil, myšlienka konceptu krátkodobých výstav diel Andyho Warhola na netradičných miestach vznikla počas prvého lockdownu, keď nebolo umenie v inštitúciách pre verejnosť prístupné. Pôvodne malo ísť o 15-minútové výstavy inšpirované Warholovým výrokom: “Každý raz bude mať svojich 15 minút slávy.” Výstavy, s ktorými sa MMUAW v piatok začne, budú napokon dlhšie.

Ich “plánovanie” spočíva vo výbere miesta a obrazov, ktoré s ním budú mať súvislosť, prvkom “náhody”, ktorá bola podľa Cubjaka pre Warholovu tvorbu typická, je neznámy počet ľudí, ktorí inštalované diela uvidia. Krátky časový predstih medzi avizovaním ďalšej výstavy a jej realizáciou je preto zámerom. “Naším zámerom nie je, aby ľudia pre to na konkrétne miesto prišli, ale skôr prekvapíť turistov, ktorí sa v lokalite nachádzajú,” uviedol.

Výber Kremenca ako miesta prvej exteriérovej výstavy je symbolický. “Je to jednak prostredie typické pre oblasť, v ktorej Warholovi rodičia žili a tiež v aktuálnej situácii vojnového konfliktu na Ukrajine je Kremenc symbolickým miestom, kde sa stretáva ‘svet Európskej únie’ s tým ukrajinským,” vysvetlil Cubjak. Medzi ďalšími zamýšľanými miestami je Miková, odkiaľ pochádzali Warholovi rodičia, Sninský kameň, Údolie smrti či opustené budovy roľníckych družstiev. Niektoré z nich zamýšľajú prekryť striebornou fóliou, aby evokovali zážitok z Warholovej Factory.

Zo všetkých výstav má tiež vzniknúť video približujúce jednak prejdenú trasu, inštaláciu umeleckých diel, reakcie ľudí, ktorí na výstavy “natrafia” či rozhovory s nimi.

## Museum to Present Andy Warhol Prints on Kremenc Peak in Poloniny Mountains

Medzilaborce, August 4 (TASR) – Eight exhibition prints by Andy Warhol will be taken to Kremenc, the highest peak of the Poloniny Mountains on the Slovak-Polish-Ukrainian border, on Friday (August 5), with the Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce (Prešov region) thus starting the concept of experimental performative exhibitions called 15 minutes of fame, TASR learnt on Thursday.

Museum director Martin Cubjak told TASR that the project, from an idea that arose during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, aims to present art outside traditional exhibition halls and also to combine the planned with the random. According to him, the bringing of works of art into nature will have a world premiere.

“We believe that art, even high art, should be popularized so that it is as close as possible to people. Our priority is also to combine the planned with the random, to communicate about art in places with a primary character that is not ready for artistic presentation,” he said.

The director pointed out that the idea of the concept of short-term exhibitions of Andy Warhol's works in non-traditional places arose during the first lockdown, when art in institutions was not accessible to the public. Originally, it was supposed to be a 15-minute exhibition inspired by Warhol's statement: “In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes.” The exhibitions with which the museum starts on Friday will be longer after all.

Their “planning” consists in the selection of the place and the images that will have a connection with it, the element of “chance”, which, according to Cubjak, was typical for Warhol's work, is the unknown number of people who will see the installed works. The short time between the announcement of the next exhibition and its implementation is therefore intended. “Our intention is not for people to come to a specific place, but rather to surprise the tourists who are in the area,” he said.

The choice of Kremenc as the site of the first outdoor exhibition is symbolic. “It is both a setting typical of the area where Warhol's parents lived and also, in the current situation of the war conflict in Ukraine, Kremenc is a symbolic place where the ‘European Union world’ meets the Ukrainian one,” Cubjak explained. Other intended sites include Miková, where Warhol's parents came from, Sninský kameň, the Valley of Death, and abandoned buildings of peasant cooperatives. They intend to cover some of them with silver foil to evoke the experience of Warhol's Factory.

A video is also to be made of all the exhibitions, showing both the route taken, the installation of the artworks, the reactions of people who “stumble upon” the exhibitions or interviews with them.





# Kentucky Derby Hat

*WIN – PLACE – SHOW! The results are in! Congratulations*

## Female

### Category: Female 40 - Older



Jeanne Oost  
First Place  
Region 7, Branch 313  
Orland Park, IL



Judith Pendel  
Second Place  
Region 6, Branch 764  
Warren, OH



Joanne Marmol  
Third Place  
Region 4, Branch 162  
Uniontown, PA



The Sterling Family  
Second Place  
Region 2  
Branch 112  
Mahanoy City, PA

### Category: Female 16 -39



Stephanie Sutilla  
First Place  
Region 6, Branch 855  
Cleveland, OH



Jen Marmol  
Second Place  
Region 4, Branch 162  
Uniontown, PA



Erin Salko  
Third Place  
Region 1, Branch 132  
Boonton, NJ

### Category: Female 15 – younger



Cora Rose Strekal  
First Place  
Region 6, Branch 24  
Cleveland, OH



Ava Marie Scally  
Second Place  
Region 6, Branch 450  
Cleveland, OH



Garlow Marmol  
Third Place  
Region 4, Branch 162  
Uniontown, PA





# Contest Winners 2022

to the winners of the 2022 FCSU Kentucky Derby Hat Contest.

Family

## Male Kentucky Hat Contest Winners 2022

Category: Male 40 - Older

The Oost Family  
First Place  
Region 7  
Branch 313  
Orland Park, IL



George Yuricek  
First Place  
Region 6, Branch 764  
Warren, OH



Ron Boone  
Second Place  
Region 4, Branch 853  
Charleroi, PA



David Oost  
Third Place  
Region 7, Branch 313  
Orland Park, IL

Category: Male 16 -39



The Branch 855  
Family  
Third Place  
Region 6  
Branch 855  
Cleveland, OH



Charles Boone  
First Place  
Region 4, Branch 853  
Charleroi, PA



Derek MacMath  
Second Place  
Region 1, Branch 290  
Bridgewater, NJ



Michael Marmol  
Third Place  
Region 4, Branch 162  
Uniontown, PA

Category: Male 15 – younger



Ezra Marmol  
First Place  
Region 4, Branch 162  
Uniontown, PA



Luke Scally  
Second Place  
Region 6, Branch 450  
Cleveland, OH



Jonah Sterling  
Third Place  
Region 2, Branch 112  
Mahanoy City, PA



# Sister Apollonia



Lucy Dorothy Gvusc-Gruce was born in Brezovica, Slovakia, the oldest of eleven children. Two Scriptural quotations, one from the Old Testament, the other from the New, describe the person she was all her life: "Sing a new song unto the Lord," Psalm 99, and "Whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God as a child will not enter it" (Luke 18:17). Lucy who became our Sister Apollonia always had a song in her heart and always radiated the joy of the Lord. In her childlike simplicity she shared hymns and folk songs spontaneously with everyone she encountered.

When Lucy was in the fourth grade at St. Cyril's School in Bridgeport, CT, Mother Mary, who became our first General Superior, was her teacher. Mother Mary was very gentle and kind and often reminded her students of the beauty of religious life. Lucy always tried to imitate Mother Mary's kindness and dedication. She also remembers the encouragement she received from her cousin Father Eugene Kozar, a Passionist. All the girls in Mother Mary's class were planning to be Sisters and three of them actually did,

Sister Apollonia and Sisters Jerome Kollar and Margaret Dirda. Lucy also had another distinction: When Father Matthew Jankola, the founder of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, was her pastor and gave her First Holy Communion on June 24, 1912. Even the organist at St. Cyril's, Mr. George Lucas, had sincere praise for "Miss Lucy," whom he considered an outstanding member of the parish choir.

Because Lucy was the oldest of eleven children, she waited until she was 21 to enter the SSCM's. She helped the family by working in a factory and often recalled the kinds of responsibilities she was called upon to fulfill. On the day of her entrance, March 19, 1922, Sisters Rose and Benigna accompanied her to Danville.

Sister taught in the Dioceses of Harrisburg, Scranton, Newark, Syracuse, and the Archdioceses of Hartford, Philadelphia and New York. It seemed she never taught in schools west of Danville and taught more than once in Yonkers, Torrington, and Philadelphia. A gentle and conscientious teacher, Sister taught for forty-nine years, mostly in the fourth grade. She loved the children and was known especially for being understanding and compassionate. One of her earliest pupils at Most Holy Trinity School in Yonkers, NY, Rev. Joseph Pacacha, later became pastor of Holy Trinity Church.

When Sister Apollonia celebrated her Golden Jubilee in Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in Bridgeport, CT on August 11, 1974, the Most Reverend Walter W. Curtis, S. T. D. and nine concelebrants officiated. What a joyous occasion that must have been.

For the last 18 years of her life Sister served the congregation and the Church through the ministry of prayer and presence at Maria Hall. Her beautiful, childlike attitude made every encounter with her a fresh, new experience. She never gave evidence of dullness or boredom. Always interested and grateful, simple, and joyful, the least kindness she received surprised and delighted her. At her sixtieth jubilee celebration in 1984 she gave her parents credit for teaching her how to love everyone and with a smile assured us all, "I don't think I have any enemies." Affectionately dubbed "Happy Appy" Sister Apollonia provides us with an example of a generous life lived in the simplicity and joy of the Gospel.

One of her favorite convent pastimes was playing Parcheesi, but her most outstanding quality was being able to share with those who visited her the hymns and songs she knew. Naturally, they were always rendered on perfect pitch.

Sister Apollonia died on January 16, 1992, and her funeral was celebrated by Father Edward Deller, chaplain at Maria Hall on January 20. The choirs of heaven no doubt greeted another member with great delight, one who all her life had sung on perfect pitch with especial joy.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

## A Feast of Forgiveness

Pope Francis made history this summer when he became the first pope in 728 years to open the Holy Door of L'Aquila at the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio in central Italy. In his August 28th homily delivered at the Mass that he offered before opening the Holy Door, Francis said, "For centuries L'Aquila has kept alive the gift that Pope Celestine V left it. It is the privilege of reminding everyone that with mercy, and only with it, the life of every man and woman can be lived with joy."

In his trip to L'Aquila, Pope Francis was following in the footsteps of Pope Celestine V, who, in 1294, began the tradition that has come to be known as Celestinian Forgiveness, when he issued a bull of forgiveness offering a plenary indulgence for all who visit the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio between Vespers on August 28 and sunset on August 29.

Celestine served as pope for only five months before his resignation on December 13, 1294, but the tradition he began in L'Aquila has carried on ever since. After his death in 1296, his remains were buried in the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio. The indulgence he established was rare in a time when obtaining indulgences often required monetary gifts. The Celestinian Forgiveness was open to all people because it did not cost anything except penance, a visit to the basilica, and reception of the Eucharist.

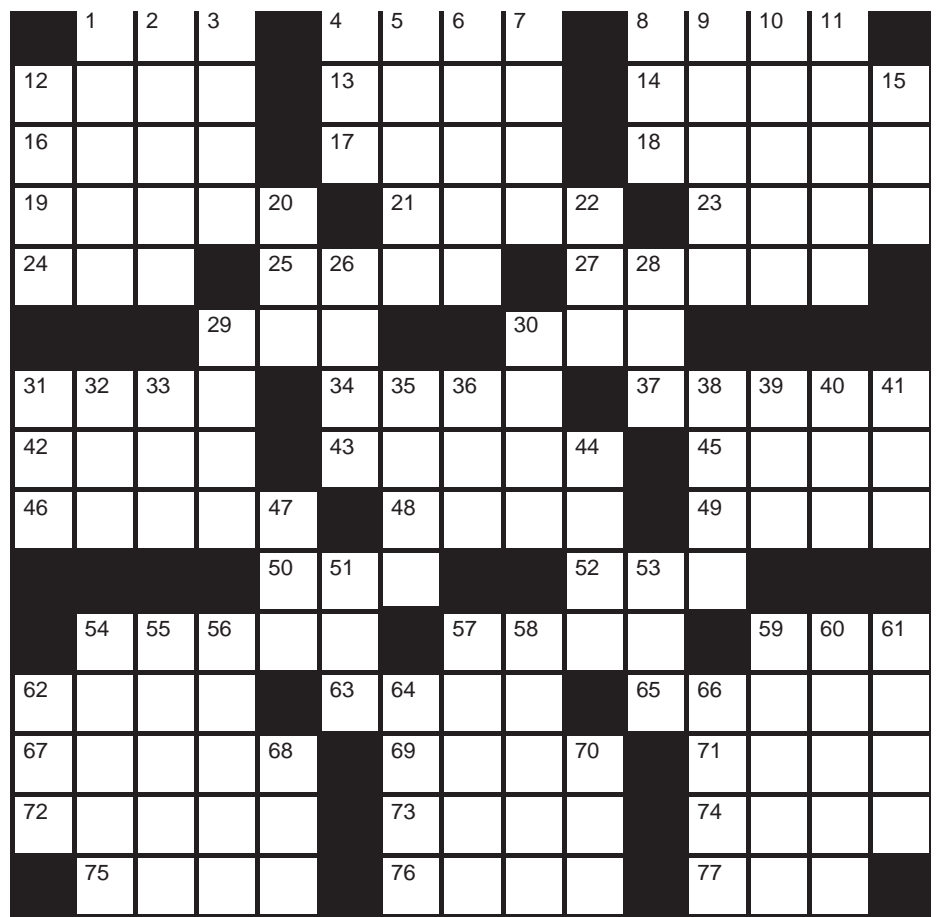
It's no wonder this tradition has been so widely embraced through the centuries, and it seems fitting that Pope Francis should highlight this wonderful celebration of mercy because it perfectly demonstrates the nature of God's forgiveness, which is offered to all people regardless of rank or status. The only thing required of us is to open ourselves to that forgiveness with humble hearts and the rest simply follows. Once we accept God's mercy as the guiding force in our lives, we are led to the joy of Christ in all we do. In his homily, Pope Francis said, "To be forgiven is to experience here and now what comes closest to the resurrection. Forgiveness is passing from death to life, from the experience of anguish and guilt to that of freedom and joy."

Touring L'Aquila, where over 300 people lost their lives in a 2019 earthquake, Francis applauded the resilience of those affected by the tragedy and called upon the city to be a "capital of forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation."

L'Aquila is an ancient city surrounded by medieval walls built upon a hill in the Abruzzo region of Italy. It is a beautiful place that is home to a university and many cultural institutions, and its annual celebration surrounding the Celestinian Forgiveness makes it a perfect focal point to remind the world of the abundance of God's mercy.

The story of L'Aquila is an amazing intersection of geography, community, forgiveness, and faith. It's a story that shows how the places we inhabit can become sanctified and marked by celebrations and gatherings that heal the mind, heart, and soul. Anyone privileged to be in proximity to visit L'Aquila towards the end of August in any given year should consider taking part in their wonderful celebration of forgiveness. But let's also remember that our Catholic tradition teaches us to cultivate such pious devotions wherever we are in the world so that the mercy of God can be known and touch the lives of all people, most especially the lost and the broken-hearted.

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



- |                                  |                           |                          |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Skye cap                       | 76 Egg holder             | 47 Henpeck               |
| 4 Glimpse                        | 77 Kind of sauce          | 51 Doze (off)            |
| 8 Wood sorrels                   |                           | 53 Botanist Gray         |
| 12 Rodents                       | <b>Down</b>               | 54 Neighbor of Fiji      |
| 13 Foal's mother                 | 1 Church offering         | 55 Mr. T's group         |
| 14 Passion                       | 2 Squirrel's stash        | 56 Moxie                 |
| 16 Collar type                   | 3 Diner's card            | 57 Sambuca<br>flavoring  |
| 17 Opening for a coin            | 4 German river            | 58 Confronts             |
| 18 Plains tribe                  | 5 Pre-entree course       | 59 Type of brewery       |
| 19 No answer motion              | 6 TV teaser               | 60 Hard wood             |
| 21 In the thick of               | 7 Himalayan legend        | 61 Triumphs              |
| 23 Kind of cut                   | 8 Symbol of strength      | 62 By means of           |
| 24 Lady lobster                  | 9 Neck problem            | 64 Dr. Pavlov            |
| 25 Loosen                        | 10 Glorify                | 66 Empty promises        |
| 27 Exposed                       | 11 Scattered, as seed     | 68 Mark of<br>perfection |
| 29 Down Under bird               | 12 Netting                | 70 Humor                 |
| 30 Dejected                      | 15 Damp and chilly        |                          |
| 31 In ___ of                     | 20 Bubble source          |                          |
| 34 Curly cabbage                 | 22 Genetic stuff          |                          |
| 37 African animal                | 26 Microwave              |                          |
| 42 Claim                         | 28 Wood-shaping<br>tool   |                          |
| 43 Choose                        | 29 New money              |                          |
| 45 Butcher's offering            | 30 Religious offshoot     |                          |
| 46 Construction barrier          | 31 Cat hangout            |                          |
| 48 Like the White Rabbi          | 32 Wrigley Field<br>flora |                          |
| 49 Drop-off spot                 | 33 Aquatic shocker        |                          |
| 50 To some extent                | 35 Friend in war          |                          |
| 52 Human being                   | 36 Grazing ground         |                          |
| 54 Ballroom dance                | 38 Fifty-fifty            |                          |
| 57 Concert array                 | 39 Hospital unit          |                          |
| 59 Kitten's cry                  | 40 Maid's cloth           |                          |
| 62 Ballot                        | 41 Brewed drink           |                          |
| 63 Have supper                   | 44 Office fill-in         |                          |
| 65 It might be airtight          |                           |                          |
| 67 Sluggish                      |                           |                          |
| 69 Penthouse feature             |                           |                          |
| 71 It's clicked on a<br>computer |                           |                          |
| 72 Tequila source                |                           |                          |
| 73 Italian wine area             |                           |                          |
| 74 Sea eagles                    |                           |                          |
| 75 End of grace                  |                           |                          |

# 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 2 – PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael's Branch 2 will hold our Annual meeting on Monday November 14, at 7 pm at the Eat N Park on Ohio River Blvd., rte. 65. In Bellevue Pa. Please plan to attend as we will be holding election of officers and discuss upcoming events. Please RSVP to Joanne at 412-715-5577.

**Submitted by Joanne Roithner**

## BRANCH 3 – HAZELTON, PA

The semi-annual meeting of St. Joseph Society, Br. 0033p, will be held on Sunday November 6, 2022, at 9 a.m. in the church basement of St. Joseph Church of the parish of SS. Cyril and Methodius at 604 N. Laurel St. in Hazelton, PA. Suggestions for increasing attendance at meetings and getting more involved in society activities in encouraged. Members are urged to attend.

**Submitted by Mike Koval,  
Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Stephen's Society, Branch 06K, will hold its Annual Meeting and Elections of Officers for 2023 on December 17, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at Deangelos Vault Restaurant, 202 E. Main St., Streator, IL.

The meeting will include a report from the delegates who attended the 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Independence, Ohio on July 30-August 2, 2022. Any member in good standing may attend the meeting by calling Paul Chismar (815) 822-8851.

**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 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and a Branch meeting via Zoom on December 4, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. A mass will be offered for our deceased members at 8:30 a.m. on November 13 at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

At the November meeting, the election of officers will take place and the distribution of our annual donations will be discussed.

At the December meeting, the recipients of the John A. Zahor Scholarship are invited to join us via Zoom. The college freshmen who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Grace Olivia DeDonato, Maeve Mary McMullin, and Jenna Grace Zahor.

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

In addition, the recipients of the Andrew J. Imbro Grant are invited to join us via Zoom. The following college juniors who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Matthew Proulx and Grace Marie Sherriff.

This grant was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Imbro served as financial secretary of the St. Joseph Society and his commitment to the financial support of its young members. Since we are unable to award the checks in person, they will be mailed to the eligible recipients.

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

**Submitted by Deborah M. Nelson,  
Secretary**

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will have a meeting on Sunday November 20, 2022, at 1:00 PM at the Walton Hills Village Hall, 7595 Walton Rd, Walton Hills, Ohio (corner of Alexander and Walton Rds, the parking lot is off of Alexander Road).

The agenda will include election of branch officers. Lunch will be served. Please advise Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797 if you plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you.

Branch 24 is also providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

Branch 24 members may purchase a Vilija dinner at the special discounted price of \$5. This discounted ticket is for Branch 24 members only. It is non-transferable and may not be used for carryout orders. The regular cost per dinner is \$25 and may be purchased at this price for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director, at 440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline to order your meals from Branch 24 (for members and non-members) is Monday, November 14, 2022.

**Submitted by Bob Kopco, President**

## 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 činnos-

ti 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, Swisssvale) 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 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PA

Branch 112 will hold an annual meeting on Wednesday, December 7 at 1PM. The meeting will be held at Palermo's Restaurant. The agenda will include these: officers reports, a convention report, discussion on donations, new business, and election of officers. If you plan on attending, please call Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 by December 1, 2022.

**Submitted by Matthew Sterling,  
Secretary**

## 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 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 199 - HOSTETTER, PA

Branch #199 will meet on Sunday, No-

vember 6, 2022, at Sharkeys (meeting room) at 1 PM. This meeting will be for the Election of Branch Officers for 2023. Lunch will be provided by the branch.

Additional discussion will take place on activities for the remainder of 2022, including a volunteer service day at the Westmoreland County Food Bank and the "Stedry Večer" - The Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve - dinner being held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 ,at Christ or Shepherd Center, Greensburg PA.

Branch #199 members and guests will meet at the Westmoreland County Food Bank, 100 Devonshire Drive, Delmont, PA on Monday, November 14, 2022, from 9 AM to 11 AM for a volunteer service project. Your participation is both needed and appreciated as we prepare the food boxes for Thanksgiving distribution for those in our local area in need of food bank services.

Branch #199 members are asked to contact Barb Patula at 724-423-4745 for ticket information for the "Stedry Večer" - A Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner - being held on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at Christ or Shepherd Center, Greensburg, PA.

**Respectfully submitted by  
Barb Patula, Secretary**

## BRANCH 213 - PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11, 2022. It will take place at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting may also be accessed via phone. Contact information: weaz1958@aol.com.

The agenda will include: Officer's Reports, Election of officers for 2023, Branch business, and an overview of this year's activities and charitable donations. There will also be discussion regarding any upcoming activities and ways to increase membership.

We will continue to take all precautions regarding Covid, and all safety guidelines will be followed.

**Submitted by Anita Nixon, President**

## BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, October 17, 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 further 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 on-going concern of our organization, but they also provide a relaxed forum to ask a particular question you may have. The FCSU would like to see the fraternal activities of

**continued on page 18**



## Branch 856's Nowatkoskis Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Celebrating 60 years of marriage are Bernard and Katherine Nowatkoski of Cary, N.C. They were married on October 20, 1962, at Saint Charles Roman Catholic Church in Arlington, Virginia by Rev. Vincent Sikora.

Bernard is the son of the late Stanley and Helen Nowatkoski of West Leechburg Pa. Katherine is the daughter of the late Joseph and Elizabeth Mago of Leechburg, Pa. Bernard and Katherine are parents of: Gregory, whose children are Danielle, Alexander and Alison of Cary, N.C.; Lisa Ann Hess and her husband Richard with children Erica and Justin of Wake Forest, N.C.; and Michelle Francowic and husband Michael with children Matthew, Sarah and husband Jake, Jacob, and Megan of Monesson, Pa.

Katherine is the President and Financial Secretary of Branch 856 and President of Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8. All the family are members of Branch 856.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski

## New Chairholder In Slovak History At The University Of Ottawa

As of July 1, 2022, Dr. Roman Krakovský became the new Chairholder of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa in Canada. A native of Slovakia and a graduate of Comenius University in Bratislava in history and French, (1998), Professor Krakovský earned his Doctorate from the Sorbonne University in Paris in 2012. Since then he has taught at the Sorbonne, at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris (known in English as "Sciences Po"), and at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He specializes in the history of Slovakia and in Central Europe in general. He has published five books and many articles in his field and will be a worthy successor to the current Chairholder, Professor Mark Stolarik, who retired on June 30th. As a Professor Emeritus, Stolarik will mentor Prof. Krakovský until the latter is comfortable in his new role. We hope that members of the Slovak community in North America will support Professor Krakovský, much as they did Professor Stolarik.



### 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 fcsu855@gmail.com or by text to 440-409-9405
- Submissions must be made by October 30th
- Everyone from Branch 855 who joins in the fun receives a \$20.00 gift card AND their picture in the Jednota!

Let's get creative!!!



From left Dr. Alice Skuben, Paul Skuben District 15 President presenting Mr. Jaroš with 100 Years B-Day Certificate, Georget 100 Years old French friend, Dr. Maria Cyprich Recording Secretary

## Pavel Jaroš's 100th Birthday Celebrated in California



Mr. Pavel Jaroš 100 Happy Birthday Certificate

Pavel Jaroš celebrated his 100 Years Happy Birthday Anniversary with Prince Pribina District 15 representatives on September 20, 2022. District President Paul Skuben presented Mr. Pavel Jaroš with a special Certificate for the occasion, signed by the leaders of the California Slovak community. The City of Whittier Mayor also paid a visit with gratulation.

Pavel Jaroš emigrated from Trenčianske Bohuslavice, in the Trenčín Region, first in the year 1949 to Canada, where he was assigned a job deep in the forests of Canada. He recalled hard work in the freeze of -40 degrees Celsius during the wintertime, far away, 150 miles from the nearest city. After one year of this treacherous job, he moved to work for a fishing company and that was another life-threatening experience. He prayed all the time that he would not be swept from the deck of the fishing boat with the waves as high as 10 feet. Merciful Got kept a guarding hand on him and saved him.

I asked Mr. Jaroš what his diet was, since he is reaching such a wonderful age with a clear conscience and overall good health. He is still traveling by himself by bus to the beach or surrounding cities. He said that while he worked for the fishing company it was salmon on the breakfast menu, salmon at lunch, salmon at dinner. I made a note not to skip salmon from my diet.

Mr. Jaroš recalled that life in Canada was difficult for him because even though he spoke several languages besides Slovak (German, Russian, Polish), he did not speak English and at that time Canada did not offer English as a second language classes, Canada offered only hard labor. When he moved to the US it was different. He quickly learned language and was able to perform his trade as craftsman and was able to earn a better salary. He also showed us his beautiful oil paintings of the scenery he memorized when working in the Canada countryside and paintings of the American landscape. Unfortunately, he is not able to paint anymore because of his failing eyesight.

He lives in the Brookdale retirement house with his French friend Georget. She also celebrated her 100 Years Birthday earlier this year.

Submitted by Paul Skuben



Recording Secretary Dr. Maria Cyprich is presenting a gift of a bottle of slivovica from the village of Bošáca, where Mr. Jaroš was born 100 years ago.

Bottle of famous slivovica from the village of Bošáca, two times distilled







## 32nd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival

Sunday, November 6, 2022, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Date: Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, at 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Location: University of Pittsburgh, 4200 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA  
Organizer: The Slovak Heritage Festival

This is one of America's biggest annual Slovak events with live performances of song and dance, lectures, displays, Slovak food, pastries, and gift items. Now in person again! Come out to the 32nd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival for an afternoon of food, music, dancing, and more!

As always, it's free for all. Street Parking is free on Sundays, most park in Soldiers and Sailors across the street for a flat rate fee.



## Slovaks Working at the United Nations Meet with President Zuzana Čaputová

On the sidelines of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Ms. Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic, met with Slovaks working at the United Nations including Slovaks working for UNICEF and UNDP in an intimate setting at the premises of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations. The gathering was organized by the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Ambassador Michal Mlynár. Branch 746 member Sabina Sabados participated in the discussion.

The President of the Slovak Republic addressed the United Nations General Assembly on September 23, 2022. Her full statement can be viewed at: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/77/slovakia>.



Photo credit: Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations.



Slovak Professionals pictured with H.E. Ms. Zuzana Čaputová President of the Slovak Republic

## Slovak President Zuzana Čaputová Meets with Slovak Professionals in NY

On the occasion of the official visit of the President of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Ms. Zuzana Čaputová met with Slovak Professionals in New York for an informal meeting and discussion to share views and professional experiences. President Čaputová also conferred state decoration on Professor Emerita Ms. Ružena BAJCSY. The event was hosted by Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Mr. Milan VRBOVSKÝ and co-sponsored by the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations H. E. Mr. Michal MLYNÁR and Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States H. E. Mr. Radovan JAVORČÍK at the new premises of the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in New York.

Branch 746 members Lucia Kapogiannopoulos and Sabina Sabados, FCSU Region 1 Director had the privilege to participate in this unique event.

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Photo credit: Marian Garaj, Peter Sit



Recently appointed Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Rastislav Káčer and Sabina Sabados, FCSU Region 1 Director.



Roundtable discussion

## Two Events to Celebrate Your Slovak Heritage - Oslavujte svoje Slovenské Dedičstvo

The Western PA Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) is holding a Meet & Greet Reception with Radovan Javorčík, the new Slovak Ambassador to the US, his wife and fellow diplomat, Michelle Joanne Javorčíková, and Cultural Secretary Stanislava Buchtová. The reception will take place Friday, November 4, 2022, 7:00 p.m., at Crown Plaza, 164 Fort Couch Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

The event precedes the 32nd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival hosted by University of Pittsburgh's Slovak Program in the Cathedral of Learning on Sunday, November 6, 2022, 12-4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Christie Dutcher, Director, WPSCA



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## continued from page 18

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 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 04, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a Convention update, 2022 financial report, approval of the 2023 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of 2023 Branch Officers will also take place.

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

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

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

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

**Submitted by Victor P. Jiomkowski,  
President**

## BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Our last meeting of the year will be on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 12:30 PM at the Garlic Rose Bistro (28 North Avenue West, Cranford, NJ 07016). The agenda will include election of officers and discussion/planning of next year's activities. A Christmas luncheon will follow the meeting (\$50.00 for non-members). Please call or text Mary Ann Ranahan @732-589-1608 by November 23rd if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry.

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: 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: Members are reminded that mass will be offered for the intention of Branch 746 members living and deceased on the following dates: Nov 4 and Dec 2. We encourage you to attend.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OH

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on November 3, 2022, at 10:00 am at Panera Bread, 3641 Elm Rd. NE in Warren, Ohio, 44483.

The meeting will review the results of the upcoming take-out dinner planned for October 29, 2022 and finalize the distribution of proceeds from the dinner. The election of officers for 2023 will take place. Also to be discussed are any plans for the upcoming holiday season and contributions to be made to various charities. Further information may be obtained from Bill Hrusovsky, 2284 Bazetta Rd., Cortland, Ohio, 44410. Telephone number is (330) 372-1948, or email at [hruvovskiy@embarqmail.com](mailto:hruvovskiy@embarqmail.com).

**Submitted by Bill Hrusovsky,  
Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday December 3, 2022, at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. The meeting will start at 11:00 AM with an agenda as follows: Officer Reports and financial report, Election of officers for the year 2023, preparation of the Slovak Christmas mass at a new location (Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church on 6028 S Victoria Ave., Los Angeles), and plan activities for the year 2023. All members in our area are encouraged to participate. After the meeting lunch will be served at the restaurant.

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

Branch 853, St. Pio, will hold its Annual meeting on Dec 4, 2022, at 11:30 am at Armando's in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. The meeting will discuss the review of the 2022 activities, plan activities for the 2023 year as well as hold the election of officers for 2023. Branch members attending will be treated to lunch. If you want to attend by zoom link, leave a message and in a return call, information will be given on how to attend. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at [FCSUB-ranch853@gmail.com](mailto:FCSUB-ranch853@gmail.com) or 412-341-1577 with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and non-branch members will be attending.

Branch 853 members are also encouraged to participate in the program to memorialize our WWII veterans. Branch member Charles Boone is spearheading a program to remember of Slovak American WW2 veterans. Members are encouraged to send a photo of their WW2 veteran, if known, information about their war encounters, and from where they immigrated to [SlovakAmericanWW2exhibit@gmail.com](mailto:SlovakAmericanWW2exhibit@gmail.com). See the full article in the September issue of JEDNOTA.

**Submitted by Monica Boone**

## BRANCH 855 – CLEVELAND, OH

All members of Branch 855 are invited to attend our final meeting of the year on December 7th at Creekside Restaurant at 8803 Brecksville Rd in Brecksville. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm with an early bird cocktail hour to begin at 5:30 pm. On the agenda - election of officers for Branch 855, a re-cap of the convention held in August

and other branch matters. Please rsvp by November 28th to Stephanie Sutula by email at [fcsu855@gmail.com](mailto:fcsu855@gmail.com) or by text/phone to (440) 409-9405 for yourself and one guest. Our charity collection for this meeting will be for the West Side Catholic Center. Please bring new socks and/or hat and gloves for men, women, or children for our Christmas donation.

Also, please check this issue for our Branch 855 pumpkin decorating activity. Join the fun to show off your skills and receive a \$20.00 gift card and your pumpkin picture in the newspaper. Deadline for submission is October 30th.

**Submitted by Stephanie Sutula,  
Fraternal Activities Director**

## Prayer Request to our Members

A member of the Society of St. Pius X has requested that Jednota publish a prayer request anonymously.

"A priest who is suffering requests a 54-day rosary novena for his intentions. Any prayers and sacrifices would be greatly appreciated." I know Our Lady will reward you generously for this.

Rosary Novenas to Our Lady  
54 Day Rosary Novena



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)





# 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	Beverly Kosarko	040K	Ronald W Kettman	320K	Robert Kotch	743K	Carl John Furchak
002K	Anne T Vavrek	064K	David Slovensky	320K	Stephen N Major Sr	743K	Emilia Cornak
004K	Anna M Hanlon	064K	Joseph A Slovensky	333K	Delores Zelenky	746K	George Torhan
004K	Frances V Kandzer	096K	Helen M Kolasa	367K	George Trout	746K	Joseph W Sitarz Jr
004K	Jerome M Callwood	096K	John Kolasa	382K	Michael J Sofranko	746K	Mary Petrusky
005P	Rita Kaminski	112K	Irene M Collins	401K	Marilyn L. Ohms	855K	Bernard Matyk
019K	Daniel Michael Loch	112K	John Harner	410K	Deborah A Churilla	855K	John W Ludrosky
019K	Joseph J Krekoska Jr	157K	Elizabeth M Gagliardi	484K	Stephen M Szymusiak Sr	855K	Marilyn Dolenc
019K	Robert Trovarelli	162K	Eleanor Ann Semans	553K	Barbara Matuch	904K	Richard L. Bonnesen
023K	Richard J Martinek	166K	Bernard F Herceg	553K	Elizabeth Kingston	915K	Jerry J Krupa
024K	Josephine Andrasak	181K	Geraldine F Hricik	553K	Theresa A Vargo	916K	Francis J Ariano
024K	Louise A Weber	181K	Patricia A Hajas	580K	Joseph M Sabol Jr	916K	John E Maslar
024K	William Anthony Yonkof	199K	Benedict Janecko	628K	Nancy Baker	916K	Marion King
024K	William Edward Krempasky	199K	John J. Kundrod	670K	Alberina R Perunko	916K	Francis X Klevence
035K	Joseph J Yuros	276K	Mildred P Matta	682K	Hugo Paul Maddamma	924K	George J Kochis
038K	Bernard M Kushnir	292K	Joseph J Hudack	706K	Arnold J Uhrina	924K	George J Kochis
038K	Martin C Pancurak	294K	Frank Tokach	731K	Mary B Pitko	926K	Audrey M Driessen
038K	William A Krohmaly	315K	Anna Cusumano	731K	Rita Roberts		
040K	Anna T Harcar						

\* Processed in the month of September 2022

## NEKROLÓGY – OBITUARIES

### MARIE A. GOLIAS, BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH



Marie A. Golias, age 67, passed away on Good Friday at 109PM, 15 April 2022, from a heart attack.

She was the beloved daughter of Wanda M. (née Shiplett) and Richard Sr. "Red" Golias (both deceased). Marie had five Brothers, and one Sister. She was never married. Marie was a graduate of Marymount High School and received a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University.

Marie was a Proud Slovak and was involved in the Slovak Community of Greater Cleveland. She retired from Cleveland State University in the Admissions Dept. She also worked for the FCSLA-Life, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association- Life Main Office, as Executive Assistant to National President Cynthia M. Maleski. and the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma Office, as Secretary for Bishop Milan Lach.

She served the following offices: President of Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities; Second Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation; the Executive Committee, FCSU; the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 1 Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary; FCSLA-Life, Branch 9 Treasurer and Recording Secretary; FCSLA-Life Cleveland District Vice President and Secretary. She was also a member of the Slovak Catholic Federation of Cleveland, the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club, the American Slovak Zemplin Social Club, the Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland, and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club. In addition, Marie served on the St Andrew Abbey Benefit Committee, and on the Committee for the Blue and White Gala for Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio. She helped clean St. Emeric Church, weekly in Cleveland, and raised money for the roof repair of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, in Cleveland. Marie would go to St. Andrew's Abbey and pray with Oblates and attended Evening

Vespers with the Benedictine Priests.

She was an organ donor for LifeBanc, helping even in death. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Therese Church in Garfield Heights, on April 23, 2022, by Bishop Roger Gries Diocese of Cleveland. Bishop Milan Lach, Byzantine Eparchy of Parma, Abbot Gary Hoover, O.S.B., along with Fr. Anslem Zupka, O.S.B., and Fr. Louis Carey, O.S.B., from St. Andrew's Abbey. Other celebrants included Fr. Gary Yanus Chancellor, Eparchy of Parma, Fr. Robert J. Kropac, Pastor of St Wendelin Church, Deacon Rev. Mr. Robert Bugaj, of St. Therese. Brother Gabriel Balazovic, O.S.B., read the second reading at Mass.

Marie wished to be cremated, and her ashes were buried at All Saints Cemetery. Fr. Michael Brunovsky, O.S.B., officiated at the grave site service, on May 28, 2022. She will dearly be missed.

Submitted by **Richard J. Golias Jr., Branch 1 President**

### JOSEPH RICHARD BEHIL, BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NY



Joseph Richard Behil, 90, long time resident of Endwell, NY, passed away peacefully in his home in Fuquay Varina, NC, on May 26, 2022. Joseph is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years Barbara (Kenderes) Behil, 4 children, Mary (Richard) Allen, Vincent (Karen) Behil, Theresa (David) Keiser, Matthew (Christine) Behil, 8 grandchildren, Michael Allen, Laura Allen, Matthew Allen, Stephen Behil, Paige Keiser, Zachry Keiser, Kathryn Behil and Nicholas Behil, sisters in law Joan Behil and Patricia Hromek as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is predeceased by his parents Joseph and Anna Behil, brothers Stephen and John Behil, sisters Rose Ivan, Helen Indrick, and Mary Pochily, brothers in law Frank Ivan, Steven Indrick, Henry Pochily, Joseph Hromek, and sister-in-law Genevieve Behil.

The youngest of 6 children, Joe was born in Corunna, Michigan in 1933, his family moved to Binghamton, NY in 1933. He was raised with strong family values, Catholic devotion, and a powerful work ethic. Joe graduated from Johnson City High School in 1950 and soon chose to serve his country in the United States Air Force from 1951-1954. He was proud of his work as an airplane mechanic and in the ensuing years, loved to talk about and visit air shows that displayed planes such as the B26's, P51 Mustangs, and F100's he worked on, among others. Joe served in the Korean War, receiving several commendations for exemplary conduct. Upon completion of his time with the Air Force, he had risen to the rank of Airman First Class and had command of his own hangar bay. When he re-entered civilian life, Joe considered himself fortunate to be accepted into one of the first apprentice programs offered through IBM and completed a rigorous 4-year program to become a manufacturing engineer.

It is not surprising that Joe met his loving wife at a church dance, as family and religion are an integral part of the man he was. His family was his greatest pride and accomplishment. He loved taking family vacations, attending school sporting events, and hosting many extended family picnics. He was always very proud of his family and their own accomplishments. Joe was employed by IBM for 38 years before retiring. He was a member of the IBM Quarter Century Club. Through his employment with IBM, Joe had the opportunity to take his family to Germany for a 9-month assignment. It was with great pride he was able to travel to Czechoslovakia with his family to see the birthplace of his parents and meet many of his relatives still living there. Joe was very proud of his Slovak heritage. Once Joe and Barbara's children had gone off to college, the two enjoyed vacationing across the United States together. They would often pick a destination, fly there, then rent a car and explore.

Joe was an avid fisherman in his younger years, sharing this love with his nephews, and also enjoyed hunting before starting his own family. He loved to listen to polkas and

polka dance with his wife. Joe served several years on the board for Slovak Catholic Cemetery. He was a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Binghamton before moving to Endwell to start his family. He was an active member in the St. Joseph community with both the school and church until he and his wife moved to Fuquay Varina, NC in 2014. They have most recently been members of St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Fuquay Varina.

A mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Endicott on Tuesday, June 21 at 11:00 am. Burial followed at Slovak Catholic Cemetery. Any donations in Joe's memory may be sent to The American Heart Association, St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Endicott, NY, or EWTV.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" - 2 Timothy 4:7

S Pánom Bohom - Slovak to English translation- "God go with you."

Submitted by **Barbara Behil**

### FRANCIS A. DILL, BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PA



Francis A. Dill, age 86, of Hamden Twp., OH, passed away on June 17, 2022, at his home. He was born January 29, 1936, to Joseph and Mary (née: Margo) Dill in Cambria County, PA. He married Margaret "Peggy" Krupa on August 30, 1958, in Maryland. They made Chardon, OH their home in 1967, where they raised their family. Margaret preceded him in death on August 7, 2009.

He was a retired machinist at Fusion Inc. A member of the FOE of Chardon and a member of St. Mary Church in Chardon. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, winemaking, cooking, and gardening. Most of all he cherished spending time with his children, grandchildren and was blessed to have spent time with his great grandchildren.

He is survived by his children, Francis

continued on page 22

# OBITUARIES

## continued from page 21

Michael Dill of Hambden Twp., OH, Lisa D. (Mark) Cipolla of Thompson Twp. OH, and Peggy Ann (Chuck) Yako of Hambden Twp., OH, daughter in law, Michelle Dill of Hambden Twp., OH; Grandchildren, Toni (Greg), Jeffrey (Megan), Rachael (Michael), Michelle, Megan, Mitchell, Maddy and Jason; Great Grandchildren, Connor, Abby, Luke, Carter, Jack, and Cole; brother, John Dill of Jacksonville, FL.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Margaret, son, Joseph John (Jay) Dill and brother, Joseph Dill.

The family received friends at St. Mary Church, Chardon, OH. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at the church, with interment at All Souls Cemetery in Chardon.

The family suggests contributions be made in his memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org) or mail to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Submitted by Lisa Cipolla

## JOAN L. HARCHARICK, BRANCH 667 – RAMEY, PA

Joan L. Harcharick passed away at her home in Mission Viejo, CA, on June 18, 2002. Joan was the 7th child of 12 children born to John and Verna. Harcharick, originally from Ramey, PA. Joan was a 1955 graduate of Moshannon Valley High School in Madera, PA. Upon graduation, Joan moved to Michigan where she lived and worked as a medical secretary for 34 years. In 1989, Joan moved to California to be close to her family. Joan was employed by Allergan Medical Optics in Irvine, CA.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, John and Verna, brothers, Raymond, Joseph, Richard, and James; sisters Dorothy and Helen. Joan is survived by her brothers John of Concord, CA, Robert of Reno, Nevada, and Edward of Foothill Ranch, CA; sisters Mary Ann and Kathleen of Mission Viejo, CA, and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

The viewing and rosary for Joan was held on June 26, 2022. Her life was celebrated at a Catholic Mass on June 28, at St. Killian Catholic Church in Mission Viejo, CA, where she was active in the Catholic Women's Council. Joan was laid to rest at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Rowland Heights, CA.

Submitted by Mary Ann Harcharick

## BROTHER BENEDICT JANECKO O.S.B., BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PA

Brother Benedict F. Janecko, O.S.B., 83, a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey for more than 60 years, died Friday, May 20, 2022, after



a brief illness. He was born November 22, 1938, in Marguerite, a son of the late Frank and Margaret (Kralik) Janecko. He had one brother, the late Thomas Janecko.

He taught for many years at Saint Vincent College and Saint Vincent Seminary, before becoming, in his "retirement" an assistant manager of the Saint Vincent Post Office, something he did for nearly two decades. Brother Ben attended Saint Benedict's Pa-

rochial School in Marguerite as well as Saint Vincent Preparatory School before earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Saint Vincent College in 1961. He entered the monastic community at Saint Vincent in 1958 while a student in the College, made simple vows on July 2, 1959, and solemn vows on July 2, 1962.

He moved on to graduate work in Rome, first at the international Benedictine School in Rome, Sant' Anselmo, where he received his S.T.L. in theology in 1966. He then received his S.S.L. in Sacred Scripture in 1969 from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. During his time in Europe, he was ordained a deacon on July 4, 1964, in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, by Bishop Joseph Avack.

After his return from Rome, he began teaching in the Religious Studies Department at Saint Vincent College, where he taught courses such as Old Testament I & II and Mythologies of the Middle East. He spent the summers of 1970 and 1971 as a visiting scholar at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

At Saint Vincent Seminary, he taught Old Testament; was dean of men and later vice rector and served as coordinator of workshops in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute and Latrobe Area Hospital. He took a sabbatical leave to Israel at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Jerusalem, in 1981. In 1985, he was among 29 professors named a National Endowment for the Humanities recipient of a grant to study "Judaic Studies" with Jacob Neusner and others at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. The grant entailed six weeks of lectures, discussions, library work and research on how Judaic Studies might complement the study of the Humanities and the teaching thereof. He had been a member of the Catholic Biblical Association Task Force on "The Old Testament and Ecology" headed by Lawrence Frizzell of Seton Hall University.

Brother Ben was promoted to the rank of Professor at Saint Vincent College and Saint Vincent Seminary in 1995. He retired from the seminary faculty in 2007 and the college faculty in 2012.

He continued teaching novices the Psalms and for a time offered an adult "course" at Saint Vincent Basilica Parish once a week based on the upcoming Sunday Readings of the Scriptures.

Brother Ben was also known for his authorship of "The Psalms: The Heartbeat of Life and Worship," published in 1986 by St. Meinrad Abbey Press and reprinted in 2007 by Archabbey Publications. He wrote many articles on the Psalms, as well as other topics, in such publications as The Bible Today. In 2003, he received a first place for best feature article, prayer, and spirituality, from the Catholic Press Association, for "Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Genesis," which was published in The Bible Today. In June 2009, Brother Ben was honored by the Saint Vincent Prep School Alumni for his success as a student and his commitment to faith, family, and community.

The body of Brother Benedict was received at 2 p.m. Monday, May 23 at the Elizabeth J. Roderick Center of Saint Vincent Seminary. A vigil service was held at 7:15 p.m. Monday in the Archabbey Basilica, with Archabbot Martin Bartel, O.S.B., as principal celebrant and homilist. A Mass of Christian

Burial was celebrated at the Basilica with Archabbot Martin Bartel presiding, followed by the Rite of Committal at the Saint Vincent Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Benedictine Health and Welfare Fund at Saint Vincent Archabbey, 300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe, PA 15650.

Submitted by  
Fr. Killian Loch, O.S.B., Prior

## TOM URICH, BRANCH 373 – WEIRTON, WV



Tom Urich (left) and brother Robert Urich on a 1981 episode of ABC's 'Vega\$' EVERETT

Tom Urich, Actor and Older Brother of Robert Urich, Dies at 87.

He appeared four times on Broadway and on lots of TV shows, occasionally alongside his late brother. By Mike Barnes

Tom Urich, an actor on Broadway and soap operas who also showed up on TV shows opposite his younger brother, the late Robert Urich, has died. He was 87.

Urich died July 17 of complications from a stroke and diabetes at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, his wife of 56 years, Judy, told The Hollywood Reporter.

Urich was a regular on the 1997 ABC miniseries Murder One: Diary of a Serial Killer and guest-starred on shows including Kate & Allie, Jake and the Fatman, Matlock, In Living Color, Silk Stalkings, Beverly Hills, 90210, JAG, and The Practice.

He appeared on Broadway in Applause, Seesaw, Musical Chairs and, as Georges, in La Cage Aux Folles and on such soap operas as The Doctors, The Edge of Night, Search for Tomorrow, Another Life, and Passions.

Alongside his brother, he worked on two episodes of ABC's Vega\$ in 1979 and '81; three installments of ABC's Spenser: For Hire from 1986-88; and one episode of TNT's The Lazarus Man in 1996.

Robert Urich, a popular actor who starred on more than a dozen TV series during his career, died in April 2002 after a battle with cancer at age 55.

Thomas John Urich was born on March 26, 1935, in Weirton, West Virginia, and raised in Toronto, Ohio. After a year at Ohio State, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and performed for his fellow servicemen on military bases during the Korean War.

"He fully embraced the safety of stage drama after a refueler jet crash ended his time in the service," his family noted.

He studied acting at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, appeared off-Broadway in the 1960s in The Fantasticks, The Streets of New York and Shoemakers' Holiday and first made it to Broadway in 1970 in Applause.

He was an accomplished baritone and loved playing the charismatic con man Harold Hill in The Music Man in dinner theater and local stages.

Urich served as commander at the American Legion's Hollywood Post 43 and as a lector at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in North Hollywood.

In addition to his wife, survivors include their sons, Christian and Justin; daughters-in-law Jessica and Barbara; and grandsons Jasper, Cyrus, Spencer, Thaddeus, and Skyler.

His life was celebrated at 1 p.m. on Friday at the Los Angeles National Cemetery columbarium, followed by a mass at 2:15 p.m. at St. Charles.

Donations in his memory can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Submitted by Judith Urich

## GEORGE TORHAN, BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ

George Torhan, 85, of Fords, passed away Thursday, July 21, 2022, at his home. Mr. Torhan was born in Vinna, Czechoslovakia to the late Michael and Maria Torhan. He came to the U.S.A. in 1945 and lived in Perth Amboy, NJ, before moving to Fords fifty-seven years ago.

Mr. Torhan was a US Army Veteran of the Vietnam War.

He was employed by Simmons Precision B.F. Goodrich in Cedar Knolls, NJ, before retiring in 2000. George was pre-deceased by three brothers.

He is survived by his loving wife Arlene Torhan, one son, Michael Torhan of Pittsburgh, PA. two daughters, Mary Ann Grennen and her husband John D. of Spotswood, and Laura Keefe and her husband Steve of Asbury, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday 2:30 pm at the Mitruska Funeral Home, Inc., 531 New Brunswick Ave., Fords. Private cremation followed at the Rosehill Crematory in Linden.

Submitted by Laura Keefe

## ROBERT J. TROVARELLI, BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

Robert J. Trovarelli, age 88, of Stratford, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 22, 2022, at St. Vincent's Medical Center with his loving family by his side.

He was the beloved husband of Antoinette Montini Trovarelli. Born in Bridgeport on June 8, 1934, he was a son of the late Saverio "Sam" and Helen (Gmitter) Trovarelli. Bob was proud to have served his country honorably in the United States Army, and later went on to become a postal carrier for many years until his retirement. He loved watching UCONN women's basketball, playing the lottery and tending to



continued on page 23

# OBITUARIES

continued from page 22

his birdbath and flowers in his garden. Bob was a very social guy and looked forward to weekly breakfast and lunch with his friends and family. He will be remembered best for always having a smile on his face. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, poppy, brother, uncle, and friend of many. His genuine kindness and sincerity will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

In addition to his beloved wife, Antoinette of 65 years, other survivors include his two loving daughters, Diana Lello and her husband Michael of Shelton, and Lynnmarie Schwarz and her husband Gary of Orange; two brothers, Joseph J. Trovarelli, Sr. of Bridgeport, and John Trovarelli of Derby; three cherished grandchildren, Michael and Samantha Lello of Shelton, and Rachel Farrell of Meriden; his sister-in-law, Patricia McCarthy of Bridgeport; as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Frances Briganti.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Mark Church in Stratford, on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. Interment with Full Military Honors followed at Mountain Grove Cemetery, Easton. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For online condolences, please visit [www.abriola.com](http://www.abriola.com).

Submitted by Antoinette Trovarelli

## FRANK M. SLOVENKAI, JR., BRANCH 382K – SCRANTON, PA

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr., a life-long resident of Scranton, Pennsylvania, died unexpectedly at home after a brief illness on Saturday morning, September 10, 2022.

Born in Scranton on September 12, 1951, Frank was the son of the late Frank M. Sr. and Marie Kalinich Slovenkai. He attended Scranton Public Schools and was a 1969 graduate of West Scranton High School. He attended Penn State University and was a loyal Penn State fan.

Frank was a third-generation member of the First Catholic Slovak Union Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, at Holy Family Church, Scranton. He was Branch Vice President during his father's tenure as Branch President. Following in his father's footsteps, Frank became Branch President and served in that capacity for over 25 years until his death.

Frank attended the FCSU District 17 Annual Summer Picnics at McDade Park, Scranton. He was a willing volunteer -- arriving early to do set-up and staying late for clean-up.

He was also a life-long member of the Greek Catholic Union (GCU) Lodge 65 at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Scranton.

Frank was a member of Holy Family Church, Scranton, until its closing in 2010. There he was a member of Boy Scout Troop 47 where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, an achievement of which he was very proud. He also received the Ad Altare Dei medal and wore it with pride.

He was a life member of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club (HFS&W). As a young man, Frank enjoyed going with his father Frank and Grandfather Michael to the HFS&W Club grounds in Covington Township.

At the time of his illness, Frank was employed in Maintenance HVAC at Sanofi-Pasteur in Swiftwater, Pennsylvania.

Frank believed in volunteering in his community. He was a member of the Pocono Area Radio Klub (PARK) and Keystone Emergency Unit (KEU) where he had served as treasurer. As part of KEU, he was a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a trained ambulance driver and SCUBA team member.

He was a kind and loving husband, father, brother, and uncle. Frank leaves behind his wife of thirty-six years Maureen Burke Slovenkai and his children Frank M. III, Danielle, and Matthew. He is also survived by his sister Elizabeth and brothers Michael and John -- all officers of Branch 382K -- and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Family and friends were welcomed on Friday, September 16, 2022, at the Bernard J. Piontek Funeral Home, Duryea. Services were conducted at the funeral home on Friday by Deacon Edward Shoener of St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton. As was his wish, Frank was buried next to his father in Holy Family Cemetery, Throop. Committal services were led by Deacon Shoener who joined Branch 382K members in reciting The Prayer for a Deceased Member at the Place of Committal.

Submitted by Elizabeth M. Slovenkai,  
Vice President, Branch 382K

## Call for Articles for the 2023 Edition of "Dobry Pastier" (Good Shepherd)

The Slovak Catholic Federation is accepting articles for its 2023 edition of the "Dobry Pastier" (Good Shepherd). The Good Shepherd is a collection of literary articles submitted by contributing authors on all things Slovak, Catholic, faith, cultural and heritage, the arts, and personal essays or other topics the writer wishes to share with

the readers. The Good Shepherd also serves as the only source for contact information for the Church in Slovakia, and those Slovak clergy and religious in the United States, as well as religious congregations, and places of worship. The articles come from authors in the United States, Slovakia and the Slovak Diaspora from around the world.

Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can submit their articles to Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821, or [barbarasable@hotmail.com](mailto:barbarasable@hotmail.com). The Deadline for submitting an article is June 30, 2023. The articles submitted need to be double spaced, typed in doc format, and in Times New Roma font.

Any questions regarding the Good Shepherd, the articles, etc. can be sent to Michael Horvath, [msjhm185@aol.com](mailto:msjhm185@aol.com), Chairperson, Slovak Catholic Federation Communications Committee.

## Slovakia Boasts the Best Beekeepers

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

When Tibor Vargapál's career as a financier collapsed, he decided to take up beekeeping and now he's the world's best beekeeper (včelár). He won 7 gold medals at a recent international beekeepers' competition.

Slovak beekeepers have become the champions of the world and have defended three times their title of the having most successful bee farms in the world. The most recent competition occurred at the 47th Apimondia World Beekeeping Exhibition in Istanbul, Turkey. Slovak beekeepers won 28 medals, with Poland (12 medals) and Brazil (8 medals) coming in second and third. And this is not the first time that Slovak beekeepers achieved such accolades. Slovak honey was also awarded first place at a previous exhibition in Montreal, Canada.

Tibor Vargapál started beekeeping and producing honey when he was 39 years old. His career as a financial analyst ended when the stock market collapsed in 2008. When his wife also lost her job, the family needed to look for new opportunities.

Luckily, Vargapál remembered his grandfather's Zemplín apiary in Hraň, which was part of the family farm, complete with cows, pigs, poultry, and pigeons. As a boy, he with his grandfather had tended 40 hives. So, when he lost his job, he decided to pursue beekeeping as a new career, which thrilled his grandfather, who was over eighty-years-old at the time.

Much to his dismay, Vargapál found that only five of the hives from his grandfather still had much value. Here is where his former career in finance clicked on. Determined to pursue beekeeping as economically viable, he took the risky step of borrowing money from his friends and purchased 125 hives! Not content with just his previous experience, he consulted experienced beekeepers from the Czech and Hungarian beekeeping community and traveled to visit large bee farms in Germany and Austria. In addition, he read all that he could get his hands on in the evenings.

Fortunately, he was blessed by good weather in his first year of beekeeping and gathered nearly ten tons of honey! With the profits, he paid off all his loans and still retained enough to invest further in the new family business and bought a honey extractor.

By western European standards, he still runs a family bee farm. He maintains 170 producing bee colonies and a backup of 70 reserve hives. He still uses his grandfather's old techniques in processing the honey and harvests over 30,000 pounds of honey, which he sells in his own shop in Košice. To spur sales, his wife Jana creatively designed some beautiful packaging to sell their healthy products.

His late grandfather has since passed away, but he would be proud of how much his grandson has accomplished!

The quality of Slovak honey (med) is part of a long tradition of beekeeping among Slovaks. Even my own dzedo (grandfather), Štefan Susa, kept his own bees and so I grew up accustomed to tasting the best homemade honey (Kopanic).

\*Thanks go out to Milan Kobulsky for alerting me about this beekeeper's achievements.

Source: "Slovákovi krachla kariéra finančníka. Dal sa na včelárstvo a teraz porazil na hlavu svetovú konkurenciu," Pravda, Sept. 6, 2022, [www.tinyurl.com/3ky2jpcw](http://www.tinyurl.com/3ky2jpcw) (accessed October 1, 2022).



Tibor Vargapál with his gold medals for beekeeping (Pravda)

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 14

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

**FEATURES:**

*Pay ONE premium and have fully paid-up life insurance*

*Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more)*

*Excellent for Estate Planning or final expenses.*

*(Subject to normal underwriting)*


**FCSU SINGLE PREMIUM**

*Protect your family's future*

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

To learn more go to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) or contact your local branch officer or call

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

**ARE YOU PLANNING ON PASSING YOUR ASSETS TO LOVED ONES?**



Then consider

**WEALTH TRANSFER**  
Wealth management

through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

Here are the benefits:

- Avoid income tax
- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

**Interested? Call 800.533.6682 today!**

FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union  
Contact your branch officer or the home office  
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131,  
800.533.6682, [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), [insurance@fcsu.com](mailto:insurance@fcsu.com)




**So Little Can Protect So Much**

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

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

Deadline:  
**December 31, 2022**

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



**FCSU FINANCIAL**® - First Catholic Slovak Union,  
6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131  
800-533-6682, [fcsu@fcsu.com](mailto:fcsu@fcsu.com), [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)



**Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...?**

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

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

Inquire today about **FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE**  
The sooner you do, the less it costs!

Premium based on the Single Premium Whole Life rates  
**Call 800.533.6682 or visit [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union  
Contact Branch Officer or the home office  
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,  
[www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), [insurance@fcsu.com](mailto:insurance@fcsu.com)