

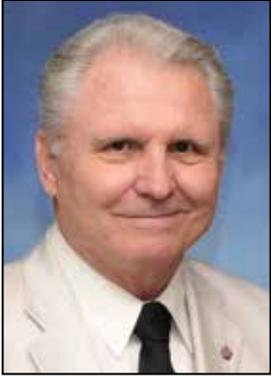


Catholic Fraternal Jednota



THE UNION
USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392

President Message 2022



Andrew M. Rajec

Dear Members,
By this time, you are probably aware that I am retiring as of December 31, 2022, after serving as President for 16 years. I want to thank our Members for the faith you had in myself and the Society to entrust your money to the Society's care. I have said several times to various audiences that I take this responsibility seriously, so much so that I want to invest your money as I do mine, carefully and conservatively. Some people may have interpreted this to mean I was treating the FCSU as my own company. That was not my intent. The Society has grown in assets from \$192 million to ½ billion dollars and surplus has grown 400% during these years. I do not claim these results were solely or even largely because of me.

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"The Officers and Board of Directors wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Thank you for keeping our traditions alive.

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

District 3 Hosted its Annual Christmas Eve Supper (Štedrý večer vilija)

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

On December 4, 2022, District 3, the George Onda District, sponsored its annual Štedrý večer vilija at Christ the Shepherd Center near Greensburg, PA. The events began with Holy Mass (svätá omša) celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., FCSU protector. In his homily, the bishop stressed the message of repentance and salvation through Christ in the Scripture readings for Advent and paid tribute to FCSU District 3 for promoting our faith and Slovak cultural traditions.

At Mass, the Pittsburgh Slovaks served as a choir in leading the singing

several English and Slovak hymns. During Communion, the congregation sang the popular Advent hymn, Ježíš, príď ku mne (Jesus, Jesus, Come to Me) and Sladké srdce Ježíša (Sweet Heart of Jesus). The concluding hymn was dedicated to our Sor-

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May Your
Christmas Be



... for more FCSU Fun!
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Contest
p 13

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Merry Christmas

6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	4.50%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	4.00%
8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	4.25%
Park 2 Annuity (not available in the state of NY)	4.25%
Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA- 1st year guarantee (new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)	2.00%
Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of (5 yrs +)	3.00%

Call us at 800-533-6682

FCSU Financial | First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office, www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



Reflection

Waiting! Mother Mary's waiting began with her response to the angel: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done according to your Word." She knew that a miracle had happened and the Holy Spirit led Mary to share it. Hastily she left to assist her pregnant cousin Elizabeth.

Here is our example of a hymn for Advent. From the Latin "to come", we are waiting with joy for the birth of a child 'to come.' How can each of us, as Mary, reach out to another? It can be a smile, word or simple assist. This in turn becomes a blessing in our prayerful active waiting.

But do we recognize Jesus in His daily coming? He comes in our neighbor, a challenge, a pain, a loss, or a cross. In so many ways, Jesus the Child reaches out to us for love—for acceptance. Let us embrace Him and have a joyous blessed Christmas.

Sister Maria Theresa

CHRIST WILL COME (Príde Kristus)
Príde Kristus, Spasiteľ Náš,
Cestu mu pripravme,
Príde drahý náš Mesiáš,
Hospodu Mu spravme.

ZBOR:
Príde, príde náš Spasiteľ,
Všetci zaplesajme.
Príde, príde Vykupiteľ,
Chválu Bohu vzdajme!

Plesajte, ó praotcovia,
ktorí ste v temnosti
bo stanú sa veci nové
plesajte v radosti. ZBOR

Hľa prijala Panna čistá
Posla nebeského
Porodila by nám Krista
Z lona panenského. ZBOR

O ktorom povedali už proroci slávní
A ktorého si žiadali
Ľudia starodávni. ZBOR

CHRIST WILL COME (Príde Kristus)
Christ will come, our Lord and Savior
Highway we are clearing.
Lo! He comes, desire of nations,
Hope He is fulfilling.

CHORUS
He is coming, our own Savior,
Rise and sing rejoicing!
He is coming, dear Redeemer,
Praise Him with thanksgiving!

Shout with joy, you ancient prophets,
Clothed in silent shadows,
New creation is appearing,
Exultation follows. CHORUS

Lo! A virgin lowly, welcomed
Heaven's holy angel;
She then bore for us the Christ Child,
Son of God Incarnate. CHORUS

Christ who was anticipated,
Prophesied in glory,
Longed for, sought, desired, fulfilling
Our ancestors' story. CHORUS

This hymn no. 28 from the Jednotný katolícky spevník is often sung during the blessing of the Advent wreath (Spev počas požehnania adventného venca). To listen to the music as played by the organist František Beer at St. Bartholomew Church in Košice-Myslava on December 17, 2017., go to the following Youtube website: www.tinyurl.com/2s369azs.

Message from the National Chaplain

Perhaps the greatest memory we have this time every year is recalling when we saw our name written on a tag that was fastened or taped to a box covered with Christmas wrapping paper. Removing the wrapping paper to find out what the present is never gets old. It's a tradition that continues to this day.

The gifts we receive at Christmas generally fall into three general categories. It's either an article of clothing, a toy or game, or some electronic device. Some gifts all the rage; people "had" to have them for Christmas. Remember Cabbage Patch dolls? Tickle Me Elmo? Beanie Babies? Furbies? Nintendo Wiis?

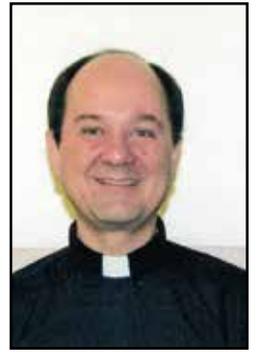
A lot of things we got as Christmas presents eventually either became outdated, worn, broken, or just a memory.

Christmas celebrates the day God gave as a gift the Gift of his Son. He is the Perfect Gift for every one of every age. The author of the Letter of the Hebrews tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Unlike other gifts we receive at Christmas that eventually become either outdated, broken, or forgotten, Jesus is the gift from God that is ever new, ever fresh, everlasting.

It is through Jesus that we receive the gifts of divine mercy and divine love. Jesus is the best gift we can receive.

God bless you and your families now and throughout the New Year. You will be remembered in my Christmas Masses.

Merry Christmas!



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

**These are the hours the Home Office
will be closed for the holidays.**

**Closed: Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26, 2022,
in observance of the Christmas holiday.**

**Closed: Monday, January 2, 2023
in observance of the New Year**

2023 dates for Jednota publication

Issue date	Copy date
Wednesday, Jan 11	Tuesday, Jan 3
Wednesday, Feb 8	Monday, Jan 30
Wednesday, Mar 15	Monday, Mar 6
Wednesday, Apr 12	Monday, Apr 3
Wednesday, May 10	Monday, May 1
Wednesday, Jun 7	Tuesday, May 30
Wednesday, July 12	Monday, July 3
Wednesday, Aug 9	Monday, July 31
Wednesday, Sep 13	Tuesday, Sep 5
Wednesday, Oct 11	Monday, Oct 2
Wednesday, Nov 8	Monday, Oct 30
Wednesday, Dec 13	Monday Dec 4

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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, Jan. 11, 2023	Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023	Monday, Jan. 30, 2023
Wednesday, Mar. 15, 2023	Monday, Mar. 6, 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

Insights and Viewpoints

**December 30, 2022 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3: 12-21; Gospel Luke 2: 22-40**

This celebration of the Holy Family is one that puts the birth of Jesus into an important context for us. When God sent his Son, he did drop down to earth from Heaven or mysteriously appear from nowhere. The Redeemer is God himself, the second person of the Trinity. This second person is also the Word of God which is the creating power that made all of creation. In the Prologue of John's Gospel, we are told that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." God himself as second person of the Trinity, is the Divine Word, who took on flesh and was born into the world just like those who he came to re-create. We have just celebrated his birth to Mary in Bethlehem, and today we celebrate how they truly Jesus, Mary and Joseph were a Holy Family.

This Gospel describes a ritual that would take place Forty Days after a woman gave birth to a Son, and we celebrate this event on February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation. In the midst of their completion of this purification in the Temple and elderly man approaches them with a work of knowledge. He knows that this forty-day old baby is not just any baby, but he is the Messiah. He has been waiting for this day and had been inspired by the Holy Spirit so as to know that he would not see death before he had seen Christ the Lord. He is drawn to the Holy Family and in his short prayer says much. 1. Simeon may now approach death for he has seen the Messiah, 2. Jesus would be the fall and rise of many in Israel, and 3. A sword will pierce your heart. His prayer is known as Simeon's Canticle and is part of Compline, Night Prayer of the Church.

This encounter of the Holy Family and Simeon was probably not noticed as being special by others in the Temple. There were numerous families who came to Jerusalem for this ritual each day and to the eyes of many they were just another family with their forty-day old baby. However, this was an encounter that brought peace to Simeon for he saw that God was true to his word and allowed him to see the Messiah. He also spoke in somewhat a prophetic way as he revealed what the presence of Jesus meant to Israel and to Mary and Joseph. To the Holy Family it was a confirmation of the message of Gabriel to Mary, and the dream of Joseph in which the Angel told him to trust. It confirmed that this child born of a virgin was truly God Himself and would change the world. How often in our lives do the seemingly insignificant events and encounters turn out to be moments of profound confirmation to God's work in our lives.

This Feast of the Holy Family presents us with two important reminders that can help us in our faith. The first is that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were the Holy Family. And even as the Holy Family they faced the knowledge that things would not be perfect. The second point is that each family is called to be a Holy Family. We grow in holiness by growing in unconditional love for one another, praying for one another, and praying for each other. This Feast calls us to ask the Holy Family to intercede for us in our various needs as God's families. As Servant of God taught us, Fr. Patrick Peyton taught us, "The family that prays together, stays together."

Father Killian Loch, O.S.B

Christmas Greetings from the National Vice President

Maybe it is in August when we put the Hallmark Channel on the TV.....

Or maybe it is Black Friday or Cyber Monday.....

When it finally hits us that Christmas is right around the corner.

As we are preparing for Christmas, do we stop to truly reflect on the meaning of Christmas?

Do we take the time to reflect on Advent?

The 3 Wise Men traveled a great distance to visit Jesus giving him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We get excited about shopping for the special person and family members in our lives. Can we find the special gifts that will bring a smile and glow to their faces on Christmas morning? Or whenever we get to see them.

While we are out running around, listening to Christmas songs, and greeting strangers with Merry Christmas do we seem to be more pleasant and understanding during the holidays?

As we reflect on Advent and the true meaning of Christmas, let's ask ourselves how we can celebrate this Holy Day every day in our daily lives? Let's share the love that we share during this Holiday with the special people in our lives and with strangers on a daily basis.

I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members. May God's blessings be plentiful to you and your family.

Prajem všetkým veselé Vianoce!

Kevin J. Collins, Vice President



Kevin Collins

Executive Secretary 2022 Christmas Greeting

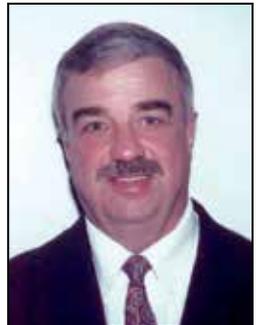
Blessings to you and yours this special holy season. As we celebrate the good news that our Savior is born, let's remember all we have to be thankful for — especially the loved ones we still have with us and those whose memories we are left to cherish.

I know all of us at the Home Office are thankful for you, our members. It's your ongoing loyalty to our Society's tenets of faith, fraternalism, and family that makes our continued growth and success possible.

This Christmas may the warmth of Christ's light brighten every step of your way into a happy, healthy new year.

On behalf of the Home Office staff as well as my wife Theresa and our family, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

I wish all our members and readers a Merry Christmas, happiness, good health, and success in the New Year 2023!

Prajem všetkým našim členom a čitateľom príjemné prežitie vianočných sviatkov, veľa šťastia, zdravia a úspechov v novom roku 2023!

With sincere fraternal regards, s úprimným bratským pozdravom,

**Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor (redaktor)
editor@fcsu.com**



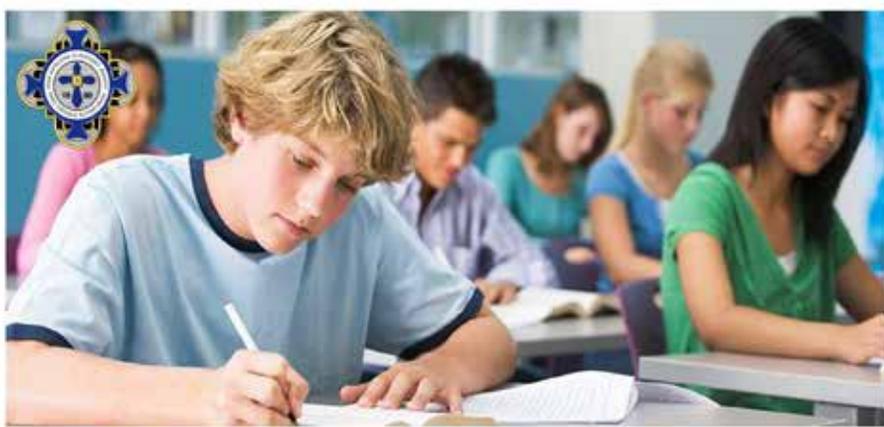
Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr



Branch 112 member Kevin Collins Officiates his 100th Football Game.

Congratulations to Kevin Collins (Region 2), for attaining the prestigious milestone of officiating 100 games at the NCAA Division 1 FBS Level.

The award was presented to him by his crew members before the Navy at East Carolina University Game on September 24th, 2022.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

helps its young members succeed through education by awarding over \$142,000 in scholarships each year.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOLS (5-8 gr)	\$500
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS	\$1,000
COLLEGES	\$1,500
GRADUATE SCHOOLS	\$1,500
VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOLS	\$1,000

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have: a minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life, NOT a JEP -JEP members as of December 31, 2021 are still eligible as long as they have been a member for 4 years); or minimum of \$500 in an annuity or Coverdell IRA with the FCSU for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year in which they are applying.

Applicants are eligible to win once in each of the 5 categories.

All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years. **Applicants must submit** an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or www.fcsu.com and mail it to: Scholarship Program, FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131.

Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and checks will be made payable to the winners.

Find Scholarship Applications at WWW.FCSU.COM
(www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)

Applications must be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2023**
For more info call us at 800-533-6682

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The President presented the minutes of the September 17, 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.

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 September 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 September:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 220,699.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 18,595.00
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.

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.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:Annuity Rates:

Larry White and Byron White, both representing AQS Management, Inc., led a review of our current annuity rates. After a lengthy discussion, the Executive Committee decided to raise the annuity rates effective November 1, 2022. The new rates will be as follows:

- Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA – 4.25% APY
- Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA – 4.00% APY
- New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA – 4.50% APY
- New "Park 2 Annuity" – 4.25% APY
- New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st year guarantee – 2.00% APY
- Single Premium Immediate Annuity – 3.00% 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 updated the Executive Committee on the advertising campaign at the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. He stated he is working with Clear Channel on radio campaigns and will update the Committee at the next meeting.

The Vice President stated that the dates for the bowling and golf tournament for 2023 have been finalized. He gave a review of the Loser's Pool Contest and stated that the Coloring Contest and Gingerbread Contest will be published in the next issue of the Jednota.

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



Branch 320 - Supporting our Veterans

Thank You for your service...

Branch 320 was recognized by American Legion Post 949 and Sons of the American Legion Post 949 for their continued support of our local veterans. This Veterans Day fund raiser will help veteran programs at Post 949. Thanks to all that were involved.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice-President



(Volunteers L-R) Vince Pro, Blanch Caseber, John Schoster (Sons of the American Legion Post 949 – Chaplain), Dave Sarroskie, Pam Vukich, Joseph Tarquinio (Branch 320 – Vice-president), Patty Davies (Branch 320 – Auditor), Jerry Massano (Sons of the American Legion Post 949 - Steward), Frances Tarquinio (Branch 320 – Financial Secretary), Bill Bounce, Bill Bury.



OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



A Typical Slovak Christmas Eve Menu

- Oplatky
- Wine
- Honey
- Garlic
- Dried Peas
- Mushroom Soup
- Pagach
- Bobalky
- Stewed Prunes
- Mushroom Soup (Machanka)
- Caraway Soup
- Mushroom Stuffed Cabbage
- Bread for Christmas Eve
- Christmas Bread
- (Figs, Dates, Oranges, Apples, Tangerines)
- Mixed Nuts
- Nut Rolls
- Poppyseed Rolls
- Pirohy

PIROHY

- 1 cup flour
- About 4 tablespoons water
- 1 egg

Mix flour and egg with enough water to make a soft dough; knead well. Roll out on floured board until thin. Cut into squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square. Fold in half, making a triangle. Pinch edges well to keep filling inside. Drop into boiling salted water and cook until they rise to surface. Cook 5 minutes longer. Rinse in colander with hot water. Drain. Pour melted butter over pirohy and serve.

- Cheese Filling
- 1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
 - 1 egg yolk
 - 1 teaspoon butter
 - pinch salt

Mix together

Potato Filling

- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter

(Optional-grated cheese to taste)

Lekvar may be used as filling. Cooked sauerkraut may also be used as filling. Drain and rinse sauerkraut in cold water. Brown diced onion in shortening, add sauerkraut. Cook for a few minutes.

BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/2 cup lukewarm water
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 6 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons salad oil

Dissolve yeast in warm water with 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. Set in warm place to rise. Sift 6 cups flour in deep bowl, add 2 cups warm water, 4 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons salad oil.

Knead well and set aside to rise. When double in bulk, punch down, let rise second time until double. Punch down. Divide dough in two. Shape one part into round bread, cover and let stand 20 minutes. Punch down and reshape. Place in greased

pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Note: The second part of this dough will be use for Bobalky.

CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

Use other half of above dough for bobalky. Knead and roll on floured board into rope. Cut and roll into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on floured pan, let rise 15 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until just slightly brown. Cook then place in deep bowl, pour boiling water over just to soak a little. Drain in colander. Then place in serving dish, heat honey with a little water, pour over bobalky.

Mix 1/2 cup ground poppyseed and 1/4 cup sugar and then add to bobalky. Let stand several hours in cool place (or refrigerator) for several hours before serving.

Note: some bobalky are served with sweet cabbage or sauerkraut. Sautee cabbage or sauerkraut with onion in salad oil, then mix with bobalky.

NUT ROLLS

- 8 cups flour
- 2 cups milk (scalded)
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large yeast or 3 envelopes dry yeast
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1/2 pound oleo or crisco
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm milk. Stir well. Add sugar, shortening and salt to rest of the milk and cool. Beat egg slightly and add to mixtures, then add the yeast mixture to the rest of the lukewarm mixture. Put half of the flour in a bowl and add the above mixture a little at a time. Mix well. Add remainder of flour to make soft dough using just enough flour to knead without sticking. Cover. Let rise double in bulk.

Keep in warm place. Takes about 2 hours to rise. Knead down a little to get out puffiness. Divide into 6 parts and let stand 10 minutes. Roll out and spread with nut mixture. Roll tightly and place on greased baking sheet and let rise about 1 hour and bake in 350 degrees over 35 to 40 minutes. Brush each roll with slightly beaten egg before baking. Brush with melted butter after baked.

NUT MIXTURE

- 4 pounds nuts (ground)
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 1/4 cup milk (enough to moisten nut mixture)

PAGAČ

- 10 cups flour
- 2 yeast cakes (or 2 packages dry yeast)
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 1/2 cups milk (or more necessary)

Knead all together until well blended as for bread dough. Let rise double in bulk in warm place. Punch down, let rise once again. Turn

out on floured board, separate into 8 or 10 portions. Let rise until light. With rolling pin flatten enough to place about 1 cup of filling in center of each mound of dough. Bring dough up over mound and pinch together to shape a round ball. Let rest about 1/2 hour with filling then carefully roll out as thin as you want it. Place on cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown then butter on both sides. Rounds should be about 14 inches in diameter or as thin as you like them.

Filling: Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

TWO HOUR NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS

- 6 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 packages dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 1/4 pound butter
- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1 cup sour cream

Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Sift together flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and butter. Mix as for pie crust. Add beaten eggs and sour cream. Add yeast - blend well.

Divide dough in four parts. Let rise 30 minutes. Roll each part thin as for jelly roll. Spread with one of the following fillings. Roll and place on greased pan and allow to rise for one hour or until double in bulk. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

NUT FILLING

- 1/2 pound chopped nuts
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1/4 cup scalded milk
 - 1 teaspoon melted butter
- Melt butter. Add walnuts, sugar and vanilla.

Add scalded milk. Mix well.

POPPYSEED FILLING

- 1/2 pound ground poppyseed
 - 3/4 cup sugar
 - 1/2 cup scalded milk
 - 1 tablespoon melted butter
- Combine all ingredients, mix well.

CHRISTMAS BREAD

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 cups scalded milk
- 1 cup warm water (NOT HOT)
- 2 packages dry or compressed yeast
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup seedless raisins

Put sugar, shortening, salt and scalded milk in a large bowl; stir until shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Pour warm water into small bowl; sprinkle or crumble in yeast, stir until dissolved. Add eggs and yeast to lukewarm milk mixture and blend. Add 2/3 of flour and beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining flour, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and turn out on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic; place in greased bowl. Brush with melted shortening, cover, and let rise in warm place until it doubles (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch down divide into 3 equal portions. Shape

into 2 round loaves; let rise again until it doubles. Brush with beaten eggs. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes at 450 degrees then turn to 350 degrees and continue baking for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

MUSHROOM CABBAGE

- 1 head cabbage (about 3 pounds)
 - 1 large can sauerkraut
 - 1 cup ground mushrooms (either canned, dry or frozen)
 - 1 cup rice (uncooked)
 - 2 tablespoons oleo
 - 1 medium onion
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- For Sauce and Brown Gravy
- 1 tablespoon shortening
 - 1 tablespoon flour

Cut core out of cabbage to loosen leaves. Place cabbage into boiling water for a few minutes. Remove leaves, cut away the thick rib from cabbage leaves. Fry the onions in the oleo until soft, add to mushrooms, rice. Season to taste. Place about 1 teaspoon in each cabbage leaf and roll. Drain sauerkraut, use about half the kraut in the bottom of the pot. Arrange rolls over the kraut, cover the remaining kraut. Fill pot with water, to top off the rolls. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

Sauce: Brown flour in shortening. Add about a cup of water. Bring to boil, then pour over the cabbage rolls. Cook for just about 5 more minutes.

MUSHROOM SOUP (MAČANKA)

Wash dried mushrooms. Soak overnight. In morning cook mushrooms in the water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cook slowly for 2 hours or more.

Zapraška (Soup thickening)

Brown 1 chopped onion in 2 tablespoons salad oil, add browned onion to mushroom soup. To remaining oil add 2 tablespoons flour slowly, brown and then add to mushroom soup to thicken. Cook for a few minutes and serve hot.

MUSHROOM SOUP

- 7 cups fresh mushrooms (chopped)
- 3 quarts water
- 1 quart sauerkraut juice
- Salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1 small onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour

Cook mushrooms in water about 1 hour.

Brown butter onion; add flour and brown well. Add sauerkraut juice and boil this for 5 minutes. Add to soup and boil 1/2 hour longer.

CARAWAY SOUP

- 3 tablespoons oleo
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 3 cups water
- 3 tablespoons flour

Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion and cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend into 3 cups cold water and bring to boil, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.

Statement as of September 30, 2022 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

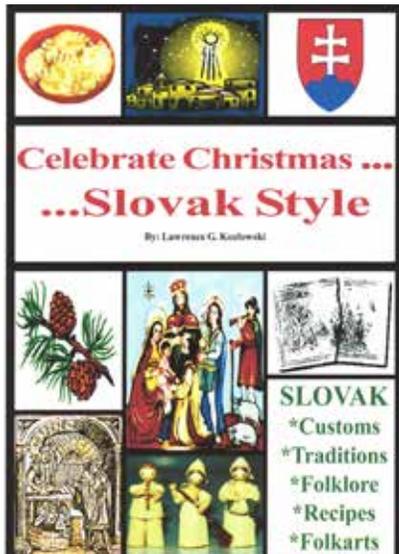
	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds	489,329,381		489,329,381	463,037,250
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks	4,250,000		4,250,000	4,250,000
2.2 Common stocks	2,020,172		2,020,172	2,106,577
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens	37,037,216		37,037,216	28,193,816
3.2 Other than first liens			0	0
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$ encumbrances)	478,036		478,036	492,761
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$ encumbrances)	290,543		290,543	320,038
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$ encumbrances)			0	0
5. Cash (\$ 12,691,784), cash equivalents (\$) and short-term investments (\$)	12,691,784		12,691,784	15,945,623
6. Contract loans (including \$ premium notes)	1,204,278		1,204,278	1,182,267
7. Derivatives			0	0
8. Other invested assets	8,232,878		8,232,878	9,650,063
9. Receivables for securities	2,000,000		2,000,000	0
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets			0	0
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets	550	550	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11)	557,534,838	550	557,534,288	525,178,395
13. Title plants less \$ charged off (for Title insurers only)			0	0
14. Investment income due and accrued	6,277,058		6,277,058	5,650,289
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection	84,473		84,473	108,404
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$ earned but unbilled premiums)			0	0
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$)			0	0
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers			0	0
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies			0	0
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts			0	0
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans			0	0
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon			0	0
18.2 Net deferred tax asset			0	0
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit			0	0
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software			0	0
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$)			0	0
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates			0	0
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates			0	0
24. Health care (\$) and other amounts receivable			0	0
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets	0	0	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 to 25)	563,896,369	550	563,895,819	530,937,088
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts			0	0
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27)	563,896,369	550	563,895,819	530,937,088

Statement as of September 30, 2022 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts \$ less \$ included in Line 6.3 (including \$ Modco Reserve)	477,526,331	446,187,350
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$ Modco Reserve)		0
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$ Modco Reserve)	25,671,164	25,771,894
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health		0
5. Policyholders' dividends/refunds to members \$ and coupons \$ due and unpaid		0
6. Provision for policyholders' dividends, refunds to members and coupons payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Policyholders' dividends and refunds to members apportioned for payment (including \$ Modco)		
6.2 Policyholders' dividends and refunds to members not yet apportioned (including \$ Modco)	400,000	400,000
6.3 Coupons and similar benefits (including \$ Modco)		
7. Amount provisionally held for deferred dividend policies not included in Line 6		
8. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$ discount; including \$ accident and health premiums	47,434	44,470
9. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
9.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts		
9.2 Provision for experience rating refunds, including the liability of \$ accident and health experience rating refunds of which \$ is for medical loss ratio rebate per the Public Health Service Act		
9.3 Other amounts payable on reinsurance, including \$ assumed and \$ ceded	0	0
9.4 Interest Maintenance Reserve	829,358	142,354
10. Commissions to agents due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$, accident and health \$ and deposit-type contract funds \$	34,756	112,889
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed		
12. General expenses due or accrued	56,633	71,775
13. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$ accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves, net of reinsured allowances)		
14. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued, excluding federal income taxes	18,776	18,776
15.1 Current federal and foreign income taxes, including \$ on realized capital gains (losses)		
15.2 Net deferred tax liability		
16. Unearned investment income		
17. Amounts withheld or retained by reporting entity as agent or trustee	6,297,763	6,182,080
18. Amounts held for agents' account, including \$ agents' credit balances		
19. Remittances and items not allocated		
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates	9,511	9,511
21. Liability for benefits for employees and agents if not included above		
22. Borrowed money \$ and interest thereon \$		
23. Dividends to stockholders declared and unpaid		
24. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
24.01 Asset valuation reserve	3,855,776	3,724,208
24.02 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$) companies		0
24.03 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$) reinsurers		
24.04 Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates		
24.05 Drafts outstanding		
24.06 Liability for amounts held under uninsured plans		
24.07 Funds held under coinsurance		
24.08 Derivatives	0	0
24.09 Payable for securities		0
24.10 Payable for securities lending		
24.11 Capital notes \$ and interest thereon \$		
25. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities	1,553,914	1,314,174
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25)	516,601,416	484,279,481
27. From Separate Accounts Statement		
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27)	516,601,416	484,279,481
29. Common capital stock		
30. Preferred capital stock		
31. Aggregate write-ins for other than special surplus funds	0	0
32. Surplus notes		0
33. Gross paid in and contributed surplus		
34. Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0	0
35. Unassigned funds (surplus)	47,294,403	46,657,607
36. Less treasury stock, at cost:		
36.1 shares common (value included in Line 29 \$)		
36.2 shares preferred (value included in Line 30 \$)		
37. Surplus (Total Lines 31+32+33+34+35-36) (including \$ in Separate Accounts Statement)	47,294,403	46,657,607
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37	47,294,403	46,657,607
39. Totals of Lines 28 and 38 (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3)	563,895,819	530,937,088

Statement as of September 30, 2022 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts	45,087,951	73,473,842	92,488,251
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies			0
3. Net investment income	17,643,684	13,105,316	18,621,567
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	204,941	333,588	382,949
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses			0
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded			0
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded			0
8. Miscellaneous Income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts			0
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts			0
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income	24,102	123,395	144,711
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3)	62,960,678	87,036,141	111,637,478
10. Death benefits	2,336,970	2,644,813	3,527,368
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments)			0
12. Annuity benefits	20,871,705	13,263,072	18,754,197
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts			0
14. Coupons, guaranteed annual pure endowments and similar benefits			0
15. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts	372,978	344,055	499,764
16. Group conversions			0
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds	1,032,285	267,518	545,658
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies			0
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts	31,338,981	65,201,769	80,420,136
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19)	55,952,919	81,721,227	103,747,123
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations, and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only)	872,872	1,420,588	1,805,274
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed			0
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses	4,168,627	2,853,488	3,389,089
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes	105,249	103,128	125,638
25. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums			0
26. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance			0
27. Aggregate write-ins for deductions	(639,682)	(664,975)	(886,714)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27)	60,459,985	85,433,456	108,180,410
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28)	2,500,693	1,602,685	3,457,068
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members	308,798	309,476	434,824
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30)	2,191,895	1,293,209	3,022,244
32. Federal and foreign income taxes incurred (excluding tax on capital gains)			0
33. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and federal income taxes and before realized capital gains or (losses) (Line 31 minus Line 32)	2,191,895	1,293,209	3,022,244
34. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding gains (losses) transferred to the IMR) less capital gains tax of \$ (excluding taxes of \$ transferred to the IMR)	(96,112)	(157,772)	(142,041)
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34)	2,095,783	1,135,437	2,880,203
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
36. Capital and surplus, December 31, prior year	46,657,607	43,771,595	43,771,595
37. Net income (Line 35)	2,095,783	1,135,437	2,880,203
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$	(1,329,321)	682,483	629,675
39. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss)			
40. Change in net deferred income tax			
41. Change in nonadmitted assets			0
42. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies			
43. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease			0
44. Change in asset valuation reserve	(131,568)	(323,943)	(623,887)
45. Change in treasury stock			0
46. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period			
47. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement			
48. Change in surplus notes			
49. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles			
50. Capital changes:			
50.1 Paid in			
50.2 Transferred from surplus (Stock Dividend)			
50.3 Transferred to surplus			
51. Surplus adjustment:			
51.1 Paid in	0		0
51.2 Transferred to capital (Stock Dividend)			
51.3 Transferred from capital			
51.4 Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance			
52. Dividends to stockholders			
53. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus	1,902	(4)	21
54. Net change in capital and surplus for the year (Lines 37 through 53)	636,796	1,493,973	2,886,012
55. Capital and surplus, as of statement date (Lines 36 + 54)	47,294,403	45,265,568	46,657,607



Celebrate Christmas ... Slovak Style

By: Lawrence G. Kozlowski

Slovakia is a small territory, a tiny and independent country (since January 1, 1993) in the heart of Europe, rich in heritage, traditions, and folklore. Slovakia is a place where eastern and western cultures mix together. "Celebrate Christmas ... Slovak Style" is a unique collection of Slovak customs, traditions (Christmas Eve Dinner Menus, Recipes and Symbolism), folklore, recipes: (Potato Pancake, Potato Dumplings & Cheese, Dumplings &

Fried Cabbage, Honey Cakes, Pagac - Filled Dough, Hot Brandy, Sour Mushroom Soup with Dumplings, Baked Fish, Filled Dumplings - Pirohy, Bread Biscuits - Bobalky, Sweet Roll - Klace Filled Cookies - Rozky, Christmas Bread - Vianočka, Rye Bread, Roast Goose, Jellied Pig's Feet, Spiced Wine, Carnival Crullers - Cieregy, Roast Pork & Sauerkraut, Bishop's Bread, and many more holiday favorites. Learn of the custom of the "Up-Side Down" Christmas Tree, make Slovak Straw Christmas Ornaments or a paper Slovak Nativity Creche for under your holiday tree. Keep your precious Slovak heritage alive and celebrate the priceless treasures of Slovak Christmases of the past with an inspiration for Slovak Christmases of the future. Enjoy a \$10.00 Jednota Christmas Special with an order of 3 books!

"Celebrate Christmas ... Slovak Style"

\$14.00 Each
Slovak Heritage Special
3 Books For \$30.00

--Free Shipping--

L.G. Kozlowski
525 Beatty Road
Monroeville, Pa. 15146
e-mail: lgk505@aol.com

Lawrence Kozlowski, was honored as the 2021 recipient of the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, for his lifelong service to the Slovak American community and his lasting contributions to promote Slovak language, culture and heritage in western Pennsylvania. Larry is also a member and Vice-President, First Catholic Slovak Union - Branch 2 -North Side, Pittsburgh, PA.



Front row: Theresa Cassat, Marian Hockycko, Mitch Hockycko, Ronald and Darlene Patty Carpenter; Back row: Patty "Trish" Carpenter, Dr. Michael Kopanic, Carl Butara, Annette Fenimore, Luke and Cody Fenimore, Darlene and Ronald Bellak, Elaine Capretti, Andrea Fenimore

Branch 23 Held its Semi-annual Meeting in Johnstown, PA

Branch 23 in Johnstown held its semi-annual meeting at Our Sons' Family Restaurant in Johnstown. The members chose new officers. Marian Hockycko was re-elected president and Luke Fenimore will be the vice-president. Theresa Cassat will continue as Financial Secretary and Treasurer, and Dr. Michael Kopanic, the Jednota editor, was selected to be the new Recording Secretary.

In addition to general business discussed at the meeting, members decided to donate \$200 to Resurrection Parish in Johnstown. At Dr. Kopanic's suggestion, we decided to learn and sing a new Slovak song at our next meeting, and a Slovak prayer. When we ended the meeting, Dr. Kopanic taught the group how to say the Sign of the Cross in Slovak.

Znak kríža

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

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

You may listen to the fundamental prayers in Slovak at this

website: www.tinyurl.com/32x57rr4

Submitted by Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., Jednota editor

2022 Jednota Branch 682 Scholarship Winner



Struthers High School Senior Peyton Shorthouse (Jednota FCSU Branch 682 scholarship winner) with Struthers Rotarian & Jednota Branch 682 President Drew Hirt. Peyton has participated in numerous civic activities and is a member of the Struthers Rotary Interact Club. Of Slovak heritage, Peyton was selected for her academic achievements and dedication to serving the community. She will be attending John Carroll University in University Heights, OH with plans to enter the medical profession. The scholarship was presented at a Scholarship Luncheon on May 17th hosted by the Struthers Rotary Club.

Submitted by Drew Hirt

Branch 853 Donation to World War II American-Slovak Veterans Exhibit

Branch 853 member Charles Boone is honoring our WW2 American-Slovak veterans by organizing the only American-Slovak exhibit in the USA. The exhibit will be at the Eldred World War II Museum in Eldred, PA. Charles' late grandfather, our deceased fraternal brother Charles Rodacy, was a veteran of the war.

Charles is one of the young active members of the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District. In recognizing his efforts to honor our veterans, the district made a donation to his exhibit. Congratulations Charles.

Submitted by Monica Boone, Hlinka District Secretary



The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District officer presenting a donation to Charles Boone for the American-Slovak WWII exhibit. L-R- Treasurer Maureen Massafra, Charles Boone, VP Joe Tarquinio, by zoom President Cherly Hyatt, not pictured Secretary Monica Boone.

The Slovak-American Cultural Center
cordially invites you to

The Slovak Ball

February 11, 2023

celebrating the 30th anniversary of Slovak Independence
featuring
double platinum folklore artist
Stefan Stec

For ticket information:
SLOVAKAMERICANCC.ORG

7pm - 2 am
Music by Express Band
Black tie

The Royal Manor
Garfield, New Jersey



The nearest tree is by Branch 162 and the gentleman in the hallway is Frank Marmol, Branch 162 auditor, checking on all the other decorated trees.



(L-R) Joanne Marmol, Vice President; Betty Rozzell; Dolores Marmol, Secretary. Second row is Frank Marmol, Auditor; Patty Marmol, Treasurer and Jim Marmol, Regional Director. The branch would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and thank the home office for their generous financial support for a community cause. Photo by Cathy Marmol and missing from the photo is Andrew Marmol.



Branch 162 Donation to the Uniontown Hospital Fund Raiser

Branch 162 Donation to the Uniontown Hospital Fund Raiser

Members and officers of the St. Wendelin Branch 162 decorated a donated Christmas tree as a fund raiser for the WVU Medicine, Uniontown Hospital Volunteer Services, at the Annual Festival of Trees which benefits the hospital's volunteer services. This activity was closed the last few years due to Covid-19, but was reinstated this year.

Submitted by Jim Marmol, Regional Director

The Sign of the Cross in Slovak (Znamenie kríža)

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., editor

Prežehnanie - The Blessing

Znamenie kríža

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

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

You may listen to the fundamental prayers in Slovak at this website: Znamenie kríža - <http://www.tinyurl.com/ms9d6229>

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

This website explains the sign of the cross in English and has Slovak subtitles: Znamenie kríža <https://www.tinyurl.com/32x57rr4>

Branch 199 Donation to the Westmoreland County Food Bank

On Monday, November 14, 2022, members and guests of Branch 199 presented a \$500.00 donation to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. In addition, branch members completed volunteer service hours by separating food items for distribution to local food pantries and to those in need.



(L-R) Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer; Gina Colosimo, Coordinator of Volunteers at Westmoreland County Food Bank; Tom Pipak, Branch 199 President; Renee Bann, branch guest



Hard at Work - Tom Pipak, President - Skilled with the Tape Dispenser.



Happy to Volunteer - Renee Bann

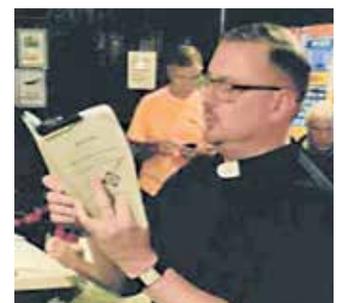


(L-R) Branch 199 officers were elected on November 6th - Future officers: grandchildren Max and Sophia accompanied by grandfather, John M. Pipak, II

Branch 553 Elects New Officers

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553, held its final meeting for 2022, with its election of officers for 2023.

Branch Spiritual Advisor	Rev. Father Jared Orndorff
President	Deborah Speck
Vice President	Joan Lewis
Treasurer	Terry Eller
Financial Secretary	Linda Hanko
Recording Secretary	Sandra Klukar
Auditors	Michael Minrovic
	Carol Gifford
	Paula Danish



Father Jared, administering the oath of office

Father Jared administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Branch leaders. The election was conducted by District President Greg Petrasek, accompanied by Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec. All attending members were delighted to see such a large turnout for the final meeting of the year.

Submitted by Gregory G. Petrasek, District 10 President



(R-L) Front row: Father Jared Orndorff, Carol Gifford, Deb Speck, Terry Eller, John Lewis, Sandra Klukar; Back row: Mike Minrovic, Paula Danish Minrovic.

News From Slovakia

Vianočné trhy v Prešove ponúkajú kultúrny program i občerstvenie

Po trojročnej prestávke sa do centra Prešova vracajú aj oslavy nového roka.

Prešov 25. novembra (TASR) - Kultúrny program i občerstvenie ponúkajú vianočné trhy, ktoré sa začali v piatok v Prešove. Organizuje ich Park kultúry a oddychu (PKO) spoločne s mestom Prešov a Oblastnou organizáciou cestovného ruchu Región Šariš. Potrvajú do 22. decembra a po Vianociach budú pokračovať od 26. decembra do 6. januára 2023. TASR o tom informovala manažérka kultúry PKO Patrícia Nagyová.

"Počas týchto dní je nielen pre Prešovčanov pripravený zaujímavý kultúrny program nabitý najmä vystúpeniami lokálnych umelcov, a tiež sprievodné atrakcie ako vyrezávaný drevený betlehem, alej vianočných stromčekov ozdobených žiakmi základných škôl, svetelné inštalácie v parku či voňavá gastro zóna obohatená živou folklórnou hudbou," povedala Nagyová.

Ako ďalej uviedla, chýbať nebude ani vianočný stromček na námestí pri konkatedrále. "Ten už tradične 6. decembra príde rozsvietiť Mikuláš so svojimi pomocníkmi, ktorí deťom okrem sladkostí prinesú aj jedinečný mikulášsky darček, hudobno-zábavný koncert Paci Pac," priblížila Nagyová.

Po trojročnej prestávke sa do centra Prešova vracajú aj oslavy nového roka. "Silvestrovský program otvoria prešovské kapely Akustika a Chiki liki tu-a, po nich prevezme silvestrovskú zábavu doslova do svojich rúk Bubnová šou Batida a ohňostrojom a novoročným príhovorom Prešov privíta rok 2023. Zábava v meste však ani po polnoci neskončí. O jej vygradovanie sa postará uznávaný DJ Dlugosh," doplnila Nagyová.

Program vianočných trhov je zverejnený na webstránke PKO www.pkopresov.sk.



Vianočný trh v Prešove (The Christmas Market in Prešov (Foto: TASR))

Christmas Markets in Prešov Offer a Cultural Program and Refreshments

After a three-year break, the New Year's celebrations are also returning to the center of Prešov.

Prešov, November 25 (TASR) - A cultural program and refreshments are offered at the Christmas market, which started on Friday in Prešov. They are organized by the Park of Culture and Leisure (PKO) together with the city of Prešov and the Regional Tourism Organization Region Šariš. They will last until 22 December and after Christmas they will continue from 26 December to 6 January 2023. TASR was informed about this by the manager of culture of PKO Patrícia Nagyová.

"During these days, an interesting cultural program is prepared not only for Prešov residents, especially packed with performances by local artists, but also accompanying attractions such as a carved wooden crib, an avenue of Christmas trees decorated by primary school pupils, light installations in the park, and a fragrant gastro zone enriched with live folk music," Nagyová said.

She added, there will also be a Christmas tree in the square near the cathedral. "Traditionally, on December 6, St. Nicholas and his helpers will come to light it up, and besides sweets, they will also bring a unique St. Nicholas gift to the children, a musical and entertainment concert by Paci Pac," Nagyová said.

After a three-year break, the New Year celebrations are also returning to the center of Prešov. "The New Year's Eve program will be opened by the Prešov bands Akustika and Chiki liki tu-a, after which the Batida drum show will literally take over the New Year's Eve entertainment and Prešov will welcome the year 2023 with fireworks and a New Year's speech. However, the fun in the city will not end even after midnight. The acclaimed DJ Dlugosh will take care of its build-up," added Nagyová.

The program of the Christmas market is published on the PKO website www.pkopresov.sk.

Zrekonštruovanú Slovenskú národnú galériu otvorí pre verejnosť 11.12.

1. decembra 2022 (TASR). Po viac ako 20 rokoch od stanovenia nevyhnutnosti zrekonštruovať Slovenskú národnú galériu (SNG) a takmer siedmich rokoch od začatia prác je kultúrny stánok pripravený na otvorenie. Verejnosti národnú zbierkotvornú inštitúciu sprístupnia v nedeľu 11. decembra. Vo štvrtok o tom informovali predstavitelia SNG i ministerstva kultúry.

"Počas otváracieho dňa si budú môcť návštevníci užiť celodenný program, dve úvodné výstavy, špeciálny projekt diel v architektúre a samozrejme sa nadychať jedinečnej novoty, na ktorú sme všetci čakali," uviedla generálna riaditeľka SNG Alexandra Kusá. Rekonštrukciu národnej galérie označila za historickú chvíľu nielen pre SNG, ale i celú krajinu. "Je to najväčšia kultúrna stavba, ktorú sme začali a dokončili po revolúcii," zdôraznila. Poďakovala sa všetkým, ktorí sa o dielo zaslúžili.

Ministerka kultúry Natália Milanová (OLANO) vidí v obnove a opätovnom sprístupnení SNG unikátny počin s obrovským prínosom pre umeleckú obec a všetkých milovníkov vizuálneho umenia. "Opätovne nadobúdame monumentálne reprezentatívne priestory, ktoré si naše umenie zaslúži," dodala.

Zmluvu na rekonštrukciu SNG podpísali na konci roka 2015, obnova sa diala podľa víťazného návrhu architektov Martina Kusého a Pavla Paňáka. "Našou snahou bolo vytvoriť autentické dielo, v

ktorom sú skĺbené štyri posledné storočia architektúry, priestory pre modernú prevádzku inštitúcie a prezentáciu našej výtvarnej kultúry," povedal Paňák.

Investičný náklad akcie bol vo výške 75,5 milióna eur s DPH, investícia do interiéru bola vo výške 3,45 milióna eur s DPH. Pôvodne boli práce naplánované na 36 mesiacov. Harmonogram sa niekoľkokrát menil z rôznych dôvodov - najmä v dôsledku odhalení nových konštrukčných skutočností a nevyhnutných zmien v postupe stavebných prác. Rekonštrukcia zahŕňala niekoľko budov a verejných priestorov a rieši celý rozsiahly areál na brehu Dunaja.

Nová SNG ostane v tomto roku otvorená do 21. decembra. "Po novom roku bude galéria vzhľadom na veľkosť a potrebu zabezpečenia plynulej prevádzky fungovať na základe regulovaných vstupov - individuálnych prehliadok budovy a výstav, na ktoré sa budú môcť návštevníci prihlásiť," informovala Klára Hudáková z oddelenia marketingu a tvorby programov SNG.

Novými priestormi SNG návštevníkov prevedie úvodná výstava Prológ 12 farieb reality. Prostredníctvom netradičného spojenia diel z rôznych historických období majú návštevníci získať pohľad na pestrosť zbierok SNG. K prvým aktivitám v novej SNG patrí tiež projekt Monumentálky, spájajúci sochy a diela úžitkového umenia, rovnako interaktívna výstava Prečo (ume)nie, odpovedajúca na najčastejšie otázky, spojené s umením.



Interiér zrekonštruovanej slovenskej národnej galérie (Interior of the Reconstructed Slovak National Gallery), Foto: TASR Webmagazin

The reconstructed Slovak National Gallery will open to the public on December 11.

1 December 2022 (TASR). After more than 20 years since the need to reconstruct the Slovak National Gallery (SNG) was determined and almost seven years after the work began, the cultural exhibit is ready for opening. The Slovak National Gallery will be opened to the public on Sunday 11 December. Representatives of the SNG and the Ministry of Culture announced this on Thursday.

"During the opening day, visitors will be able to enjoy a full-day program, two introductory exhibitions, a special project of works in architecture and, of course, to take in the unique novelty we have all been waiting for," said Alexandra Kusá, Director General of the National Gallery of Latvia. She described the reconstruction of the National Gallery as a historic moment not only for the SNG, but also for the whole country. "It is the biggest cultural construction we have started and completed since the revolution," she stressed. She thanked all those who contributed to the work.

Culture Minister Natália Milanová (OLANO) sees the restoration and reopening of the SNG as a unique achievement with a huge benefit for the art community and all lovers of visual arts. "We are regaining the monumental representative spaces that our art deserves," she added.

The contract for the reconstruction of the SNG was signed at the end of 2015, and the renovation was carried out according based on the winning design of architects Martin Kusý and Pavel Paňák. "Our aim was to create an authentic work that combines the last four centuries of architecture, spaces for the modern operation of the institution, and the presentation of our artistic culture," Paňák said.

The investment cost was 75.5 million euros including VAT, the investment in the interior was 3.45 million euros including VAT. Originally, the work was planned to be completed in 36 months. The schedule was changed several times for various reasons - mainly due to the discovery of new construction facts and necessary changes in the construction work procedure. The renovation included several buildings and public spaces and addresses the entire large area on the banks of the Danube.

The new SNG will remain open until 21 December this year. "After the new year, due to its size and the need to ensure smooth operation, the gallery will operate on the basis of regulated admissions - individual tours of the building and exhibitions that visitors will be able to sign up for," said Klára Hudáková from the SNG's marketing and programming department.

Visitors will be guided through the SNG's new spaces by the inaugural exhibition Prologue 12 Colors of Reality. Through an unconventional combination of works from different historical periods, visitors will get a glimpse of the diversity of the SNG's collections. The first activities in the new SNG also include the Monuments project, which brings together sculptures and works of applied art, as well as the interactive exhibition Why (Art) Not, answering the most frequent questions related to art.

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

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

2022 FCSU Vianočné omalovánky - Christmas Coloring

A



B



C



PRIZES

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

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

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
 4 – 6 year olds – picture A
 7 – 9 year olds – picture B
 10 – 12 year olds – picture C
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures may be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
6. Your child's completed entry form & colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2022.**
7. Mail to:
 Fraternal Activities Director
 Joanne Fibbi
 1741 Hempstead Ln
 Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Certificate Number: _____

Branch Number: _____ (MUST be filled in)

Street Address: _____

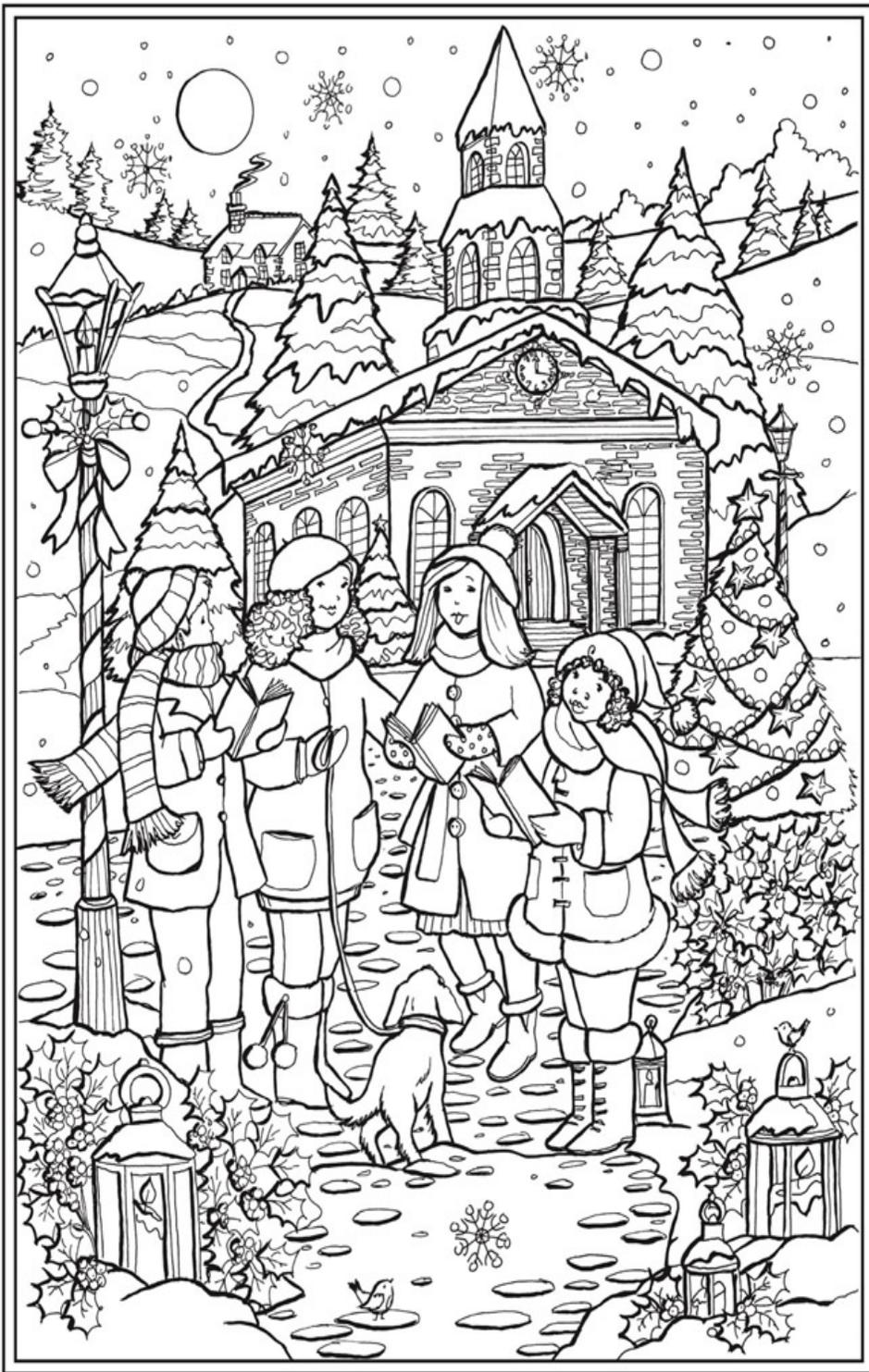
City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

You may resubmit if the picture was too small. Access the pictures to color and content info online at <https://www.fcsu.com/events/>

Color the image below and submit according to instructions



FCSU New Years' Coloring Contest for All Those Young at Heart

Happy New Year! Šťastný Nový Rok!

RULES

1. This contest is for all those Young At Heart Members: **You must be 55+ to enter**
2. Enlarged reproductions of the picture will be disqualified.
3. You **MUST** be a member in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for a prize.
4. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
5. Your completed entry form with colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2022**
6. Mail to:
Fraternal Activities Director
Joanne Fibbi
1741 Hempstead Ln
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Please submit this form with your entry by December 31, 2022. Please print legibly

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

PRIZES

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

2nd FCSU Gingerbread House Contest 2022 Back by Popular Demand...



Hot cocoa in your Hand or maybe eggnog

Cold crisp air on your noseor warm sunshine

Let's get ready for the Christmas Holiday!

What would be more fun than to build a gingerbread house - by yourself, or with your family, or maybe with other members at your FCSU Holiday Party?

So Merry Christmas and welcome to our 2nd FCSU Gingerbread House Contest.

CONTEST RULES:

1. You enter by emailing a digital picture of each participant with your gingerbread creation (making sure the photo includes a recent copy of the Jednota Newspaper) to contest@fcsu.com
2. You must be a member to enter. You must include your name, address, email address and branch number in the body of the email with your digital photo.

3. Entry must consist of all these elements to qualify: name, address, and branch number of each/all participant(s) along with a photo of participant(s) with your gingerbread creation, and a copy of the Jednota newspaper in the photo.
4. You may build and decorate your gingerbread house or village any way you choose.
5. However, the gingerbread house and village etc. must be made out of entirely edible food. If not, the entry will be disqualified.
6. There are two divisions to enter: individual and group (see details below).
7. Deadline to enter is Saturday December 31st, Midnight EST.

INDIVIDUAL DIVISION DETAILS:

- ❖ Members Only!
- ❖ 1 entry per member
- ❖ 1 Gingerbread House per entry
- ❖ Build your Gingerbread House and decorate it anyway you prefer. Have fun; be creative!
- ❖ Review rule number 5!

GROUP DIVISION DETAILS:

- ❖ Members Only!
- ❖ You must have at least 2 houses to qualify in this division; the houses can be built and decorated anyway you prefer. Consider building a Village or Town, perhaps honoring your home town or ancestral village.
- ❖ Review rule number 5!

PRIZE LEVELS (Individual & Group):

- ❖ FIRST PRIZE – \$250
- ❖ SECOND PRIZE – \$150
- ❖ THIRD PRIZE - \$100

HAVE FUN! BE CREATIVE!

Branch 670 meeting at Kings in Canonsburg on November 13, 2022.



Branch 670 November 2022 meeting attendees



Branch 670 makes donations to Salvation Army and Saint Andrew the Apostle Food Bank

Submitted by Maureen Massafra, Branch 670 Recording Secretary



Branch 24 Elects New Officers

On November 20, 2022, Branch 24 held its last meeting of the year for the election of officers at the Walton Hills Community Center. Also on the agenda were general branch business and upcoming activities for 2023. Some 40 members and guests attended the meeting, including FCSU National Officers President-Elect Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary-Elect Kevin Collins, District 10 President Gregory Petrsek, and Branch 855 President Barbara Sutila. A luncheon followed the meeting.

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director

Branch 743 December Meeting

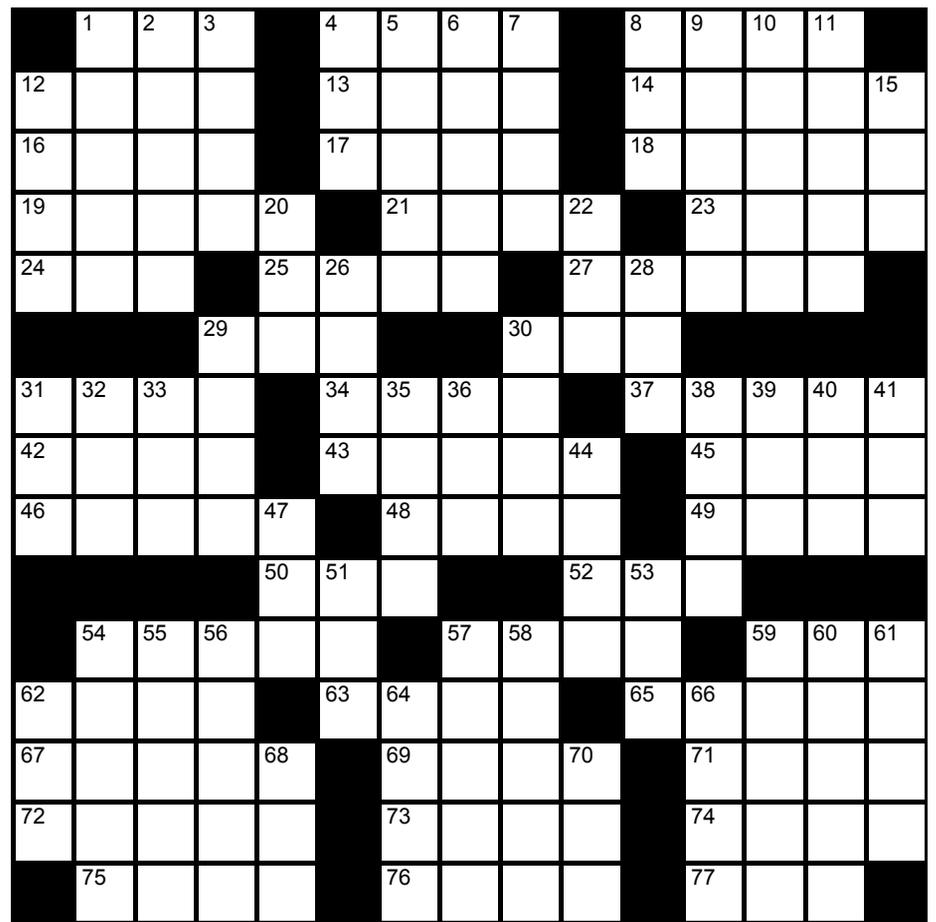
At the annual Christmas meeting held on December 4, 2022, branch officers for 2023 were elected.

Submitted by Milan Straka, Branch 743 Chairman of Auditors



(L - R) Jozef Kovac (Auditor), Joseph C. Rimarcik (President/Financial Secretary), Ružena Kováčová (Treasurer), Milan Straka (Chairman of Auditors), Daniela Grisak (Auditor), Michal Labas (Auditor).

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 On vacation
- 4 "Omigosh!"
- 8 Desire
- 12 Wind instrument
- 13 Stubborn beast
- 14 Parting word
- 16 Sassy
- 17 Meager
- 18 It won't hold water
- 19 Union locale
- 21 Like gastric juice
- 23 Arch type
- 24 Golf ball position
- 25 Perimeter
- 27 Express
- 29 First lady
- 30 Bio stat
- 31 Henry VIII's last wife
- 34 Fujairah bigwig
- 37 Monastery head
- 42 Draft
- 43 Reason for a raise
- 45 Country bumpkin
- 46 Bullion unit
- 48 Kind of admiral
- 49 Surrounded by
- 50 "I ___ you one"
- 52 Consume
- 54 Contour
- 57 Hard to fathom
- 59 Ave. crossers
- 62 Casket
- 63 Time to beware
- 65 Marina sight
- 67 Goldbrick
- 69 Alternatively
- 71 Tender
- 72 Buckwheat pancake
- 73 Smeltery refuse
- 74 Frost lines

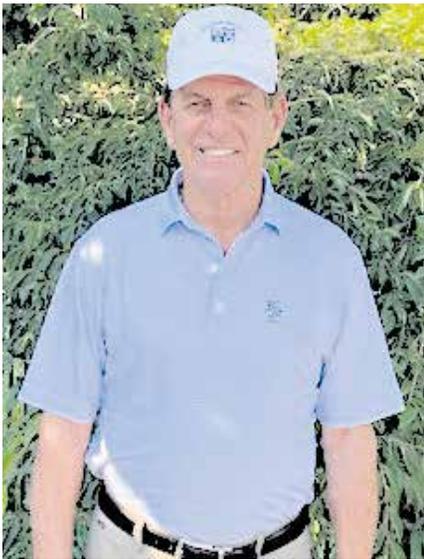
- 75 Checkup
- 76 Send to the canvas
- 77 ___ Anne de Beaupré

Down

- 44 Test choice
- 47 Spinner
- 51 Chinese dynasty
- 53 Snoop
- 54 Move crabwise
- 55 Coil
- 56 Boxing site
- 57 Street of mystery
- 58 Bacon piece
- 59 Skedaddle
- 60 Losing come-out roll in craps
- 61 Flower stalk
- 62 Apron, of sorts
- 64 Education station
- 66 Egyptian snakes
- 68 Canyon feature
- 70 Psychoanalysis subject
- 1 Dagger mark
- 2 Strong point
- 3 Salad cheese
- 4 German resort
- 5 Russian prison camp
- 6 Wonderland girl
- 7 Prefix with god
- 8 Occurred
- 9 Kind of box
- 10 Military blockade
- 11 Hang around
- 12 Australian export
- 15 Behold
- 20 Gun, as an engine
- 22 Excavated
- 26 Adjudge
- 28 Mad Hatter's drink
- 29 Consequently
- 30 Horne solo
- 31 Chi follower
- 32 Barley bristle
- 33 18-wheeler
- 35 A ___ pittance
- 36 Intense anger
- 38 Scottish hillside
- 39 Depress, with "out"
- 40 Kimono sash
- 41 Poet Hughes

See Solution on Page 23

Branch 372 member David DeGol Shoots an Albatross



David DeGol shot an Albatross

Congratulations to David DeGol (Region 4) for shooting an Albatross on Saturday July 30th, 2022, at Iron Masters Country Club in Roaring Spring, PA.

An Albatross is also known as a double eagle and usually occurs on par 5's. The odds of hitting an Albatross is 6 million to 1.

The total yardage for this hole was 490 yards. David drove his first shot 313 yards using a driver. His 2nd shot went 177 yards using a 6 iron, but more importantly it went in the hole. Also, David accomplished this amazing feat at the young age of 73.

Besides shooting an albatross, David has scored 2 hole in one's in his 40 plus years of golf.

Congratulations again David!

Written/Submitted by Kevin Collins, Vice President/Fraternal Activities Director

Oplatky and Slovak Christmas Cards for Sale

St. Andrew Abbey will be selling oplatky and Slovak Christmas cards for the holidays. You may call Rose at St Andrew Abbey at 216-721-5300 ext. 100. Oplatky are 2/\$1.00 and Slovak Christmas Cards are \$1.00 each.

To request by mail, please send to: Saint Andrew Abbey, Slovak Benedictines, 10510 Buckeye Rd. Cleveland, OH 44104



Slovak-American Veterans WWII Memorial Extension for Submissions

Charles Boone announced that because we received a high volume of donations recently, we extended the deadline, and we will take all the donations and stories to the Eldred Museum for a formal presentation in January 2023. Please try to have donations sent by December 31, 2022. Details are included in the November Jednota issue. Email Charles with questions: slovakamericanww2exhibit@gmail.com

“Save the Date” for these 2023 Fraternal Events

Buffalo New York

a Joint Tournament of GCU, FCSU, NSS & SCS

20 National Bowling 23
Tournament

Friday, May 19, 2023
Saturday, May 20, 2023

AMF AIRPORT LANES
3754 Genesee St.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716.632.0655

Accommodations
BUFFALO
AIRPORT HOTEL
4600 Genesee Street
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716.634.6969

\$109 plus tax Single or Double
Block Code:
Fraternal Societies Bowling Tournament

Applications will be available by
February 1, 2023

Deadline for applications will be
April 17, 2023

New This Year!
Mixed Doubles & Team Divisions
Minimum Participants
Doubles (20)
& Teams (24)



FCSU National Picnic, Saturday, June 24, 2023

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



2023 International Golf Tournament

August 18-20, 2023

Location: Kensington Golf Club
4171 Westford Place, Canfield, Ohio 44406

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 35 - BRADDOCK, PA

St Michaels, Branch 35 will hold its annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The agenda will include officers' reports and the election of officers for the upcoming year. Branch members who are interested in attending the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185.

**Submitted by Janet Sullivan,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, IL

St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 8, 2023, at Chipper's Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St. in Streator, IL at 2:00 PM. All members are urged to attend the meeting. Election of officers will take place. Lunch will follow the meeting. Please RSVP by calling (815) 257-6142 (leave a message) by January 5, 2023.

**Submitted by Theresa Graves,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK CITY, NY

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 1:00 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Submitted by Maria Jurasi,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

Please note that the Officers of Saint Joseph Society will host our Annual Branch Meeting for 2022 virtually, on Sunday, January 8, 2023, to begin at 2:00 PM. Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19, Wesley Hall is not available to us; the Branch Officers decided to hold our Annual Meeting on ZOOM. Unfortunately, we will have to forego our treasured traditional Vilija and Christmas Party for 2022, although we encourage every member to celebrate it in their homes. You can check the Jednota December Issue for a Vilija Menu and Recipe.

The agenda will include the reading of all Officer Reports; Reports from those who attended the Jednota Picnic at Knoebles Grove Park, in Elysburg, PA; the Celebration Dinner held in Ohio before the 52nd Quadrennial Convention; and the Festival at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. We will also hold the Election of Officers for 2023, and the Election of Delegates to the District 8 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting. Discussions will be held on Branch Business, Charitable Donations, review of the 2022 Activities, and plans for 2023.

After reading President Rajec's report and his reminder that we are losing more and more Slovak Churches throughout the country, we realized how fortunate we are here in Philadelphia to have a Slovak Church, and that we should make every effort to encourage our members to attend St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church. Therefore, please see our Special Invitation.

For information and to RSVP your attendance on January 8, 2023, please e-mail John Gaydos, john@johngaydos.com, to request the ZOOM Invitation Link. For any other questions you may call or text President Erik Payne's Cell Phone, (215) 280-1554, or call Helena Gaydos at (215) 613-8987.

May everyone enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving Day, and a Most Blessed Christmas Season with the Blessings of good health and good fortune in the New Year. Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok!

**Submitted by Helena T. Gaydos
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Please join us for our meeting for The Election of Officers for 2023 and a discussion about donations and activities for 2023. The meeting will take place on Sunday January 29, 2023, at 11:30 AM. Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal. The cost for guests is \$30.00 per person.

Location: Brisco County Wood Grill
N96W16865 Cumberland Court (Highway 41 North and County Q Exit)

Menomonee Falls, WI
Please call to make your reservation by 1/24/2023. You MUST CONFIRM. Please call Mike Novak, President, Branch 89, at (414) 445-5382.

Please make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY AND JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to Mike Novak, 3237 N.93rd Street Milwaukee, WI 53222.

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

BRANCH 108 – CONNELLSVILLE, PA

Branch 108 will hold its next meeting on December 18, 2022, at 1:00 pm at 1916 Second Street, S. Connellsville PA. The agenda will include an overview of the branch's activities and volunteer work for the past year. Discussion about 2023's planned volunteer activities and election of officers will be held.

**Submitted by Dolores Kocis,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, BOONTON, NJ

Branch 132 will have its final meeting for the year on 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 157 – CATASAWQUA, PA

St. Andrew Jednota Branch 157 will be holding a meeting at St. Andrew Jednota upstairs, at 5th and Grove N., Catasauqua, on December 11, 2022, at 1:00 pm. On the agenda will be the Christmas party and old and new business.

On December 18, 2022, we will hold a meeting at the same location at 11:00 am, which will include the election of officers, new business, and the Christmas party. The Christmas party will be held after the meeting at 1:00 pm. All officers wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. For any questions, please call Greg Harakal at 484-908-9200.

**Submitted by Greg Harakal,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its last meeting of 2022 on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at La Napoli, 427 South Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, PA, starting at 1 pm.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities, and fraternal activities of the FCSU. Election of officers will also take place.

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

**Submitted by Matthew Ungvasky,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

All Branch meetings are held the 1st Thursday of every month except June and July at 7:00 p.m.

**Submitted by Vicki Schaub,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OH

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

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

Once again, I ask that our members plan to attend our meetings whenever possible. FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt attends each of our meetings. In addition, our Region 6 Director, Thomas Ivanec is a frequent attendee. Their reports not only give us current information about the ongoing concern of our organization, 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 all districts and branches increase. Attending our Branch 228 meetings can give you first-hand knowledge of items and events being discussed as well as an opportunity for personal input. The meetings are fun and help to promote comradery so give us a try!

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

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OH

St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259 will hold a meeting on February 15, 2023, at 2:00 P.M., 175 Harvey St., Struthers, Ohio. We will conduct an audit and discuss the activity for 2023. The members are invited and encouraged to attend. On behalf of all the officers. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

**Submitted by Beverly Yurcisin,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

On Thursday, March 9, 2023, Branch 260 will hold a meeting at Belleria Pizza in Struthers, Ohio at 5:00 pm. On the agenda will be discussion of the year's activities and other business. Friday, December 8th, 2023, will be our annual Christmas celebration directly after the meeting. The location and time will be posted at a later date. God Bless!

**Submitted by Carlie M. Peshek,
Vice President**

BRANCH 290 - BRIDGEWATER, NJ

There will be a mass at St Joseph's church (14 E Somerset St, Raritan, NJ) at 10:00 AM on January 8, 2023 for the deceased members of Jednota District 4. Please try to attend.

Submitted by Steve Minarovich

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

2022 Breakfast with Santa: Branch 320 members are invited to attend Breakfast with Santa at the American Legion, Post #949. This is an open public event. Branch 320 members are welcome to call Frances Tarquinio (724.929.9788) for details.

**Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch
Vice-President**

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 wishes all members a Blessed Christmas Season. Please mark your calendars for upcoming events at the Slovak J club:

12/21	Wednesday	Mystery Dinner – Cincinnati Chili – Served 4:30- 6:00 pm
2/1	Wednesday	All You Can Eat Spaghetti – Served 4:30-7:00 pm
2/11	Saturday	Karaoke
2/15	Wednesday	Mystery Dinner – Fried Chicken – served 4:30-6:00 pm

**Submitted by Linda M Hanko, Financial
Secretary**

BRANCH 628 – WEST HOMESTEAD, PA

The final meeting of the year for Branch 628 will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022, at 3:00 PM at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA. Phone: 412-241-9779.

The agenda will include the election of officers for the year 2023 and a summary of events during 2022.

**Submitted by Sylvia J. Vehec,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Friday, January 13th, 2023, at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will include the assembly of the branch annual report.

Submitted by Drew Hirt

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

St. Stephen Branch 716 will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2023. The meeting will be held in person at St. John Nepomucene Church following the conclusion of the Slovak mass at 1:00pm. The agenda will be regarding the upcoming election of branch officers for the year, financial report of 2022, and discussion of branch activities from the past year. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting and all members of Branch 716 are highly encouraged to attend.

Branch 716 has also been active in preparations for events at St. John Nepomucene Church, such as the Svätý Mikuláš celebration on Sunday December 4, 2022, in addition to the upcoming Silvester celebration on December 31, 2022. The celebration will have live music from the band Pajtáši, traditional Slovak food prepared by branch members, and an open bar. Branch 716 cordially invites both Jednota members of New York City and neighboring tri-state areas to the Silvester celebration. Please contact branch member Eva Lysáková at (718) 223-0379 for more information on RSVPing and tickets.

**Submitted by Emily Lysáková,
Recording Secretary**

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 731 recently held our election of officers for 2023. The officers elected were Chaplin Monsignor Robert Siffrin, President Irene Makovec, Vice-president Bridget Bobby, Recording Secretary Maura Blumer, and Financial Secretary Jackie Bobby. Two auditors, John J. Leskovyansky and Tom Krispinsky, were also elected. Our Mass for our Patron Saint will be on March 19, 2023, at 4:00 pm at Saint Columba Cathedral, 159 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Submitted by Maura Blumer, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

At the semi-annual meeting held on December 4, 2022, the following Officers were elected by acclamation: President and Financial Secretary, Joseph C Rimarcik; Treasurer Ružena Kováčová, Chairman of Auditors Milan Straka; Auditors Jozef Kovac, Daniela Grisak and Michal Labas.

Submitted by Joseph C Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

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/>.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OH

Due to recent scheduling conflicts and health considerations, our proposed December meeting of Branch 764 for election of officers for 2023 and planning for activities for the coming year has been postponed to January 19th, 2023. The meeting will be held at Panera Bread, Elm Rd., Warren, Ohio, at 10:00 a.m. All Branch members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Further information can be obtained

from Bill Hrusovsky at 330-372-1948, or hrusovskyw@embarqmail.com.

Submitted by Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, CANADA

(Encourage all Euchre Players to attend "Euchre Night" held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Located at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall in Mississauga.

The Annual General Meeting will be held Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 1:30 pm at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall in Mississauga. All members are encouraged to attend in person. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Milan Zoldak at 647-350-0604 for Euchre Night and especially the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856 will hold its first meeting of the new year 2023 sometime in March or April. The place and date will be announced at a later date. Save the date of September 23, 2023 for our annual mass in honor of our Slovak Chapel Our Mother of Sorrows, celebrating the 58th Anniversary. Wishing all our members and friends and their families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Krásne Vianoce a Šťastný nový rok.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, President, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PA

The Annual Meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 will be held on Sunday December 18, 2022. The meeting will be held at: The IHM Center, 338 Hulmeville Road, Pennel, PA, 19047. At the meeting we will be discussing recent activity within the society, activities from 2022, the convention and future events planned for 2023. We will also hold the election of officers for 2023.

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

Danielle Lasher, Recording Secretary



Mass celebrants, Father Štefan Chanas and Father Martin Kertys from St. John Nempomucene, New York City

Slovak Mass at the Slovak Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows in Washington

Branch 856 officers would like to thank Father Štefan Chanas, Father Martin Kertys, Mária Rechtoriková, and all the people from New York and New Jersey, and those who traveled near and far to Washington D.C. to celebrate the mass on September 17, 2022. This is done to honor the patroness of Slovakia at our Slovak Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows, keeping with the holiday celebrated in Slovakia and the dedication of the Chapel at the shrine. This year marked 57 years since its establishment with the assistance of donation of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

I try to get a priest to say the mass in Slovak and sing Slovak songs to Mary. Mass is the same in any language. I hope to see more in attendance next year when we celebrate 58 years. Mass has been scheduled for September 23, 2023. We will start with the rosary at 1:00 pm, in both Slovak and English, and mass will be at 1:30. Thank you. Ďakujem.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, President

Special Invitation to All Slovaks Living in the Philadelphia, Pa Area

Branch 55 Annual Meeting Changed to Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 1:00PM

Mass and Luncheon to Precede the Meeting will be held at 9:30 AM on Sunday

Because of the difficulty of the elderly traveling at night and for safety reasons, the Mass to precede the Branch 55 Annual Meeting originally scheduled for Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 5:00PM has been changed to be held at 9:30 AM on Sunday at St. Agnes-St. John Nep. Church followed by a luncheon at 11:30AM.

For information and to RSVP your attendance on January 8, 2023, please Email John Gaydos, john@johngaydos.com, to request the ZOOM Invitation Link. For any other questions you may call or text President Erik Payne's Cell Phone, (215) 280-1554, or call Helena Gaydos at (215) 613-8987.

May everyone enjoy a Most Blessed Christmas Season with the Blessings of good health and good fortune in the New Year. Vesele Vianoce a Stastny Novy Rok!

Submitted by Helena T. Gaydos



Branch 320 would like to extend God's blessings in this most holy of times.

Veselé Vianoce

Submitted by: Mary Anne Higginbotham, Branch 320 President



Slovaks in Concert

This year's biggest and greatest Slovak music show in the United States took place on November 3, 2022, 7.30 pm at Carnegie Hall - Zankel Hall, NYC. Finally, after over two years of Covid break, we were invited to attend the second edition of SLOVAKS IN CONCERT.

Slovaks in Concert is an event dedicated to both the Slovakian community in the U.S. and the city of New York. It symbolizes a mutual inspiration of the American and Slovak cultures by fusing jazz with classical, soul, R&B (Rhythm and blues), and pop-music.

Special thanks to the Slovak Consulate General in New York and our Slovak Consul Milan Vrbovský for preparing such a wonderful show presenting the best of Slovak musical exports. Many Slovaks from Jednota Branches 45, 716 and 746 were in attendance.

Following artists made this concert in the Carnegie Hall unforgettable – Lash & Grey (Slovakia), Janoška Ensemble (Slovakia), Keyon Harrold (trumpet, USA), Harrish Raghavan (bass, USA), Bireli Lagrene (guitar, France), and Martin Valihora (drums, Slovakia).

No need to introduce Martin Valihora - a Slovak drummer and percussionist who established himself as a part of the New York's jazz scene and actively participated in preparation of both Slovaks in Concert editions.

All the way from Bratislava, Slovakia, the power duo Kristin Lash and Jakob Grey opened the concert with their songs in English and Slovak. Lash & Grey won the best performance award at Bratislava Jazz Days 2019, the Jazz Start Up contest in 2019, the Discovery of the Year award at the New Faces of Slovak Jazz 2017, and they were also awarded the prestigious Slovak Tatra Banka Art prize for the young artists.

The second part of the concert featured the Janoška Ensemble. It was formed in 2013 by three brothers from Bratislava, Slovakia: Ondrej (violin), Roman (violin), and František (piano) Janoška, and their double-bassist brother-in-law, Julius Darvas. The Janoškas have been making music for seven generations, Julius Darvas builds on three generations and more of double bass playing.

The standing ovations at the end of the concert brought all musicians back on stage and the audience consisted of few hundred Slovaks and Americans got to hear some additional songs. Some of the guests and musicians even continued to have a wonderful night at the after party in the nearby restaurant. We are all looking forward to the third edition of SLOVAKS IN CONCERT hopefully next year in the Carnegie Hall again.

Submitted by Lucia Kapogiannopoulos, Branch 746



Photos by Lucia Kapogiannopoulos and Paul Martinka

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT - NJ

There will be a mass at St Joseph's church (14 E Somerset St, Raritan, NJ) at 10:00 AM on January 8, 2023 for the deceased members of Jednota District 4. Please try to attend.

Submitted by Steve Minarovich

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT, PA

The FCSU has expanded its scholarship program. Tuition funding is available for grades 5 through 12, as well as college and trade school. Check the home page under Membership Benefits/Scholarships for forms and eligibility requirements. Contact Joe Senko for information about the 2023 WPSCA scholarship for summer school in Slovakia.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: Meets at 7PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. Consider joining the organization and get their newsletter. January 2: To be announced; February 6: Bishop Larry Kulick.
- Slovak classes started again at the Greentree Public Library on Wednesday, September 14. For additional information, contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net.

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

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

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Caporella's Italian Ristorante at 90 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. The election of officers will be on the agenda. Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 - MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT, CANADA

District 19 announces its Annual General Meeting for Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. It will be an in-person meeting at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga. Lunch to be provided. Any topics for the agenda will be greatly appreciated prior to the meeting.

Please RSVP your attendance to Mike Kapitan at 416-621-1534

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

Viac ako sto notebookov pre študentov slovenských stredných škôl vo Vojvodine

Pokles počtu študentov slovenských stredných škôl vo Vojvodine je v poslednom období alarmujúci. Na smutnú skutočnosť, ktorá je v slovenských stredných školách aktuálne prítomná, upozornil predsedu Matice slovenskej, Mariána Gešpera, bývalý predseda Matice slovenskej v Srbsku, Ján Brtka, na jednej z jeho služobných ciest.

Odliv budúcej slovenskej inteligencie bol pre Maticu slovenskú natoľko znepokojujúci, že predseda Matice slovenskej vyvolal stretnutie s predsedom Matice slovenskej v Srbsku, Branislavom Kulíkom a predsedom Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, Milanom Jánom Pilipom. Na spoločných rokovaní sa dohodli, že situáciu Matica slovenská zmapuje a navrhne riešenie.

Riaditeľka Krajského múzea (KM) Matice slovenskej, Zuzana Pavelcová a neskôr i Matica slovenská v Srbsku, začiatkom roka 2022 požiadali slovenské gymnáziá v Srbsku (v Kovači a v Petrovci) a Strednú zdravotnú školu, ktorá prevádzkuje aj vyučovanie v slovenskom jazyku v Novom Sade o informácie k vývoju počtu prihlásených žiakov v prvých triedach stredných škôl so slovenským jazykom za ostatné štyri roky. Na požiadavku KM zareagovalo iba gymnázium Jána Kollára v Petrovci, ktoré informovalo, že počas štyroch rokov vyučovalo v troch odboroch nasledovné počty žiakov:

Všeobecné gymnázium (porovnanie 2019 a 2022) zaznamenalo prepád prihlásených

Gymnázium Jána Kollára v Báčskom Petrovci			
Odbor	Všeobecné gymnázium	Elektrotechnik informačných technológií	Kuchár
2022	25	17	11
2021	31		15
2020	23		27
2019	44		

študentov o 43%, študenti odboru kuchár (porovnanie 2020 a 2022) zaznamenali úbytok 59%. Aktuálne tieto čísla možno považovať iba za relatívne. Krajania tieto čísla vysvetľujú nízkou pôrodnosťou či veľkou migráciou mladých rodín na Slovensko i do Európy. Zo štatistických údajov vieme, že v roku 2002 mala Vojvodina 56 637 Slovákov. Dnešné laické odhady počtu Slovákov vo Vojvodine sa pohybujú okolo 50 000 – pokles obyvateľstva je teda na úrovni okolo 10%. Samozrejme, v presných výpočtoch poklesu mladých zohráva úlohu i vek obyvateľstva a krivka natality, avšak tie nám pri porovnaní neboli známe. Akokoľvek sa však na čísla pozeráme, miera úpadku študujúcej slovenskej mládeže v Srbsku je zarážajúca.

Po príklade bývalej predsedníčky Matice slovenskej v Srbsku, Kataríny Melegovej-Melichovej, ktorá sa zaslúžila o podporu slovenských prvákov projektom nákupu školských pomôcok, navrhla riaditeľka KM motivovať mladých krajanov hmotne – nákupom tabletov alebo notebookov. V návrhu zohľadnila vek krajanov a možné preferencie mládeže, ktoré by ich mohli priťahovať do slovenských stredoškolských lavíc. Ideu konzultovala s bývalou riaditeľkou petrovského gymnázia – Annou Medvedovou, ktorá ho nadšene prijala.

„Slovensko patrí medzi vyspelé štáty Európy, preto je nepochopiteľné, že aj priamou formou významne nepodporuje študentov na slovenských školách v Srbsku. Práve v tejto dobe je finančná pomoc (napr. štipendium, alebo zásadný príspevok na zakúpenie učebných pomôcok ako napr. notebook) významným morálnym stimulom. Obzvlášť ak uvážime, že počet slovenskej mládeže na slovenských školách v Srbsku klesá. Vec sme za Maticu slovenskú v Martine navrhli Úradu pre zahraničných Slovákov v Bratislave a som rád, že predseda Milan Ján Pilip aktívne vo veci konal a pomohol. Pomoc by mala byť každoročná a cielená zameraná na všetkých Slovákov, ktorí chcú študovať na slovenských školách v srbskej Vojvodine. Robia tak aj iné štáty, napr. Maďarsko. Slovenská republika by nemala byť výnimkou,“ spresnil predseda Matice slovenskej, Marián Gešper.

Po konzultáciách návrhu trojicou predsedov, podal predseda MSS, Branislav Kulík, projekt na Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí: „Treba azda najprv pripomenúť, že my máme určitú víziu, teda traja predsedovia, aby sa táto podpora stala akosi samozrejmosťou, a tak ako



Študenti Gymnázia Jána Kollára v Petrovci (Students of the Ján Kollár Gymnasium in Petrovec)

Matica slovenská v Srbsku podporuje žiakov prvákov a udeľuje im vhodné darčeky – tašky a učebné pomôcky, aby sa aj táto podpora pre stredoškolákov stala samozrejmosťou, teda aby to bolo tiež jednou z motivácií, aby sa ôsmaci rozhodli pre stredné školy s vyučovacím jazykom slovenským. Pre tento druh podpory je vyčlenených 30 900 eur, čo určite bude motivačným pozitívom, aby sme žiakov dostali do slovenských tried. Totižto prvoradým nám je zachovanie slovenského povedomia, a samým tým aj jazykovej kultúry a identity.“

Vďaka finančnej podpore ÚSZZ sa 14. novembra 2022 uskutočnilo prvé odovzdávanie šesťdesiatich troch notebookov žiakom prvého ročníka Gymnázia Jána Kollára v Báčskom Petrovci. Zvyšné notebooky budú odovzdané študentom Gymnázia Michala Pupina v Kovači a Strednej zdravotníckej škole 7. apríla v Novom Sade.

To, ako táto pomoc zaváži a či ňou bude možné dosiahnuť aspoň čiastočnú nápravu v odlive budúcej slovenskej inteligencie, ukáže čas...

Zuzana Pavelcová

More than a Hundred Laptops for Slovak High school Students in Vojvodina

Article summary by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

This article discusses the „alarming recent decline in the number of Slovak high school students in Vojvodina.“ During a business trip, the former President of the Slovak Matica in Serbia, Ján Brtka, brought this fact to the attention of the President of the Slovak Matica, Marian Gešper.

Many of our readers might not be aware of the fact that ethnic Slovaks who live in the Vojvodina province of Serbia may attend grammar and high schools where the Slovak is the primary language of instruction, and the Serb language is a minor subject. This differs markedly from the USA, where English is required language of instruction in schools.

The concern over the decline of Slovak students led Matica slovenská leaders to investigate the situation and propose a solution. This included input from the former head of the Matica in Serbia, Branislav Kulík, and Milan Ján Pilip, the chairman of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad (ÚSZZ). In early 2022, Zuzana Pavelcová, the director of the Museum of Compatriots (KM) at the Matica slovenská, solicited information about enrollment over the last four years from Slovak grammar schools in Serbia (in Kovačica and Báčský Petrovec) and the secondary level Medical School in Novi Sad, which also teaches Slovak language classes.

Only the Ján Kollár Gymnasium (a college prep school) in Báčský Petrovec responded to the request, and reported the numbers of students in three areas, which are outlined in the table in the article in preceding Slovak version of this article. Comparing 2019 and 2022, General Studies at the Gymnasium showed a 43% drop in enrollments, and students in

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Šťastie, zdravie, pokoj svätý vinšujeme Vám – Branch 746 Christmas party!

On the cusp of St. Nicholas Day, Branch 746 held their annual Christmas party at the Garlic Rose Bistro in Cranford, New Jersey. Members gathered on a warm sunny afternoon at a family-owned casual restaurant featuring an eclectic menu on Sunday, December 4, 2022. The event began with a branch meeting where there was a recap of the year's activities including the success of the 100th anniversary celebration of the branch held in October. Discussion was held on proposed 2023 activities and the elections of officers was held.

Members enjoyed a delicious four-course "garlicy" meal which was certain to keep away any "vampires" if any dared to come around! After the filling meal, two very special Santa's elves, Isabel Jabornik and Patrik Feco, were in charge of the fun games! First up was the moose ring toss game with teams computing for electronic back massagers – competition was fierce! There were several winners with the "Christmas" themed bingo game and we all refreshed our "Slovak" Christmas terminology, noting that some Christmas items just can't be translated into Slovak! The most challenging game may have been the "pin the carrot on the snowman," but it was evident that the players had excellent strategies with 4 winners taking home prizes!

After four hours of laughing, eating, and sharing good times with old friends – the celebration came to an end. Thank you to all the Branch 746 and Branch 290 members that were able to attend from near and far!

Branch 746 would like to wish the Jednota community many blessings this Christmas season and much peace and happiness in 2023!

Vianočný zvon tíško cinká, v Betleheme dieťa spinká.

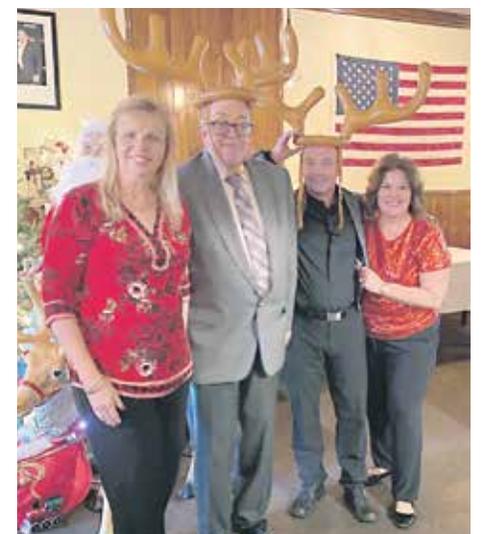
Dobrú pohodu vinšujeme vám, štedrosť a hojnosť vašim chalupám.

V novom roku zdravie pevné, nech vám všetkým slúži verne.

**Article by: Sabina Sabados,
Region 1 Director**



Branch 746 newly elected officers including Scholarship Committee.





Medzinárodný vedecký seminár (International Academic Seminar attendees)



Medzinárodný vedecký seminár Auditorium (Auditorium at the Seminar): Foto by Ján Seman

Medzinárodný vedecký seminár venovaný životu a dielu Štefana Boleslava Romana

V predchádzajúcom roku (2021) si Slováci doma i v zahraničí pripomenuli 100. výročie narodenia významného rodáka z Veľkého Ruskova (dnes Nový Ruskov) – Štefana Boleslava Romana. Dodnes málo poznané meno významného mecena slovenskej otázky v zahraničí, uránového kráľa a jedného z najbohatších mužov Kanady, sa zapísalo do slovenskej histórie najmä cez prizmu vzniku Svetového kongresu Slovákov (SKS). Tejto významnej exilovej organizácii krajanov, pôsobiacej v 70. a 80. rokoch minulého storočia, sa pripisuje zjednotenie politického exilu a spoločný boj za práva slovenského národa proti komunistickému režimu. Štefan B. Roman bol jej zakladateľom a dlhoročným predsedom.

V minulom roku Matica slovenská odhadila jeho prvú bustu na Slovensku – v Aleji národných dejateľov pred sídelnou budovou Matice slovenskej v Martine; natočila historický film venovaný jeho životu a dielu; vyvinula úsilie k vydaniu Romanových a Löblových ekonomických teórií na Slovensku – Zodpovedná spoločnosť (ktoré však stroskotali na neudelení licencie autorských práv od potomkov Romana) a založila Miestny odbor Matice slovenskej Š. B. Romana v Novom Ruskove, s cieľom trvalého udržiavania pamiatky Romana a osadenia jeho pamätníka. Matica mala v pláne usporiadať i spomienkový vedecký seminár, ktorý sa však pre pandemické obmedzenia neuskutočnil.

Svoje ambície naplnila v predvečer zasadania Rady pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri MS, 26. októbra 2022 a usporiadala medzinárodný vedecký seminár za prezenčnej účasti krajanov z Európy a virtuálnej účasti krajanov zo zámoria.

Pozvanie na podujatie prijali: Vladimír Skalský, predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v Českej republike (Česko), Michal Spevák, st., prvý predseda obnovenej Matice slovenskej v Južoslávii (Srbsko), Michal Spevák, ml., predseda spolku Čiernohorsko-slovenského priateľstva (Čierna

Hora), Branislav Kulík, predseda Matice slovenskej v Srbsku (Srbsko), Branislav Slivka, bývalý predseda Matice slovenskej v Srbsku (Srbsko), Bohdan Kraus, zástupca Obce Slovákov v Českej republike (Česko), Ida Deskászová (zástupkyňa Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí zo Slovenska) a Pavol Demjanič (Slovenský historický ústav v Ríme, Taliansko).

Počas seminára sa prezentovala takmer desiatka odborných príspevkov z pera vedcov z Ústavu pamäti národa, z Matice slovenskej a ďalších organizácií a jednotlivcov. Seminár otvorilo úvodné slovo rev. Dušana Tótha z Toronta – bývalý generálneho tajomníka SKS a osobného priateľa Š. B. Romana, ktorý sa účastníkom seminára prihovril virtuálne: „Som nesmierne rád, že sa táto konferencia koná na pôde Matice slovenskej a úprimne ďakujem aj doktorke Zuzane Pavelcovej, že dokázala pozvať takúto úžasnú reprezentáciu, aby si uctila človeka, génia ľudského ducha, vizionára, ktorý miloval svoje rodisko a ktorý zasvätil svoj život, aby videl Slovensko vysoko v rodine národov – Štefana Boleslava Romana.“

Pozdravný príhovor Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí zaznel z úst jeho predsedu, Vladimíra Skalského: „Predovšetkým sa chcem veľmi poďakovať za to, že keď sa seminár nepodaril kvôli pandémie minulý rok, Matica slovenská nezabudla a tento rok pripomína túto významnú osobnosť. Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí sa veľmi hrdo hlási k odkazu Štefana B. Romana a Svetového kongresu Slovákov, hoci tieto dve inštitúcie pôsobia v úplne odlišných podmienkach.“

Pracovnú časť seminára otvoril príspevok Jána Chovanca, ktorý sa venoval legendárnym príbehom zo života rodiny Štefana Romana v rodnom Veľkom Ruskove. Doktorka Beáta Katrebová-Bleňová (ÚPN) sa zamerala na založenie Svetového kongresu Slovákov v medzinárodnom kontexte politiky détente. Pôsobenie Svetového kongresu Slovákov v

druhej polovici 80. rokov 20. storočia zhodnotil Peter Jašek z Ústavu pamäti národa. Výsledkami ôsmich Generálnych zhromaždení Svetového kongresu Slovákov sa zaoberal historik Radoslav Žgrada zo Slovenského historického ústavu Matice slovenskej.

Ďalšiu pracovnú časť uviedla riaditeľka Krajanského múzea Matice slovenskej, Zuzana Pavelcová, ktorá referovala o vzťahoch SKS a Matice slovenskej. Docent Pavol Parenička (Slovenský literárny ústav MS) sa zameral na koncepciu Zodpovednej spoločnosti a Romanov a Löblov príspevok ku ekonomickému mysleniu. V závere seminára vystúpil prezident Kanadsko-slovenskej obchodnej komory – Joseph M. Burza s príspevkom venovaným prínosu reprezentačnej knihy k 100. výročiu narodenia Štefana B. Romana.

V záverečnom slove predseda Matice slovenskej, Marián Gešper, uviedol: „Možno je to už istou tradíciou, že Matica je jedna z posledných ustanovizní (ak nie aj posledná), ktorá sa systematicky a urputne snaží udržať pamiatku a súčasne odborne, ale i popularizačne sprítomniť našich veľkých národovcov. Dnes si pripomína Štefana Romana. Je známy ako uránový kráľ, ale to by bolo príliš málo... On je naozaj plnohodnotná, intelektuálna, organizačná, krajanská, zahraničná, pribojná a morálne čistá osobnosť. Nasadil svoj majetok, čiastočne aj rodinnú značku „Roman“ do národných a štátoprávných procesov.“

V diskusii zúčastnení navrhli viaceré závery. Medzi nimi boli i vydanie osobitnej publikácie z príspevkov seminára, vytvorenie pracovnej skupiny, ktorá by systematicky prezentovala život a dielo Š. B. Romana na Slovensku i v zahraničí a prezentácia témy na rozličných fórach nielen odbornou, ale i popularizačnou metódou. Podujatie symbolicky ukončilo kladenie vencov účastníkov podujatia pri buste Štefana Romana.

Zuzana Pavelcová

International Seminar Dedicated to the Life and Work of Štefan Boleslav Roman

Last year (2021), Slovaks at home and abroad commemorated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Štefan Boleslav Roman, a prominent native of Veľký Ruskov (today Nový Ruskov). The name of this little-known patron of the Slovak cause abroad, the so-called uranium king and one of Canada's richest men, has been written into Slovak history mainly through the prism of the founding of the Slovak World Congress (SWC). Active in the 1970s and 1980s, this important exile organization of compatriots is credited with uniting the political exile in the common struggle for the rights of the Slovak nation against the communist regime. Štefan B. Roman was its founder and long-time chairman.

Last year for the first time, the Matica slovenská unveiled his bust in Slovakia - in the Alley of National Historians in front of the headquarters of the Matica slovenská in Martin; it also produced an historical film dedicated to his life and work; it attempted to publish Roman's and Löbl's economic theories in Slovakia – The Responsible Society (which, however, foundered on the failure to obtain a copyright license from Roman's descendants) and it founded the local branch

of the Matica slovenská, Š. B. Roman, in Novo Ruskov, with the aim of permanently keeping the memory of Roman alive and establishing a monument to him. The Matica had also planned to organize a commemorative academic seminar, however, that did not take place due to pandemic restrictions.

It fulfilled its ambitions on the eve of the meeting of the Council for Slovaks Living Abroad at the MS, on October 26, 2022, and organized an international academic seminar attended by compatriots from Europe and the virtual participation of compatriots from overseas.

The following accepted the invitation to the event: Vladimír Skalský, President of the World Association of Slovaks in the Czech Republic (Czech Republic), Michal Spevák, Sr., the first President of the restored Matica slovenská in Yugoslavia (Serbia), Michal Spevák, Jr, President of the Association of Montenegrin-Slovak Friendship (Montenegro), Branislav Kulík, President of the Matica slovenská in Serbia (Serbia), Branislav Slivka, former President of the Matica slovenská in Serbia (Serbia), Bohdan Kraus, representative

of the Municipality of Slovaks in the Czech Republic (Czech Republic), Ida Deskászová (representative of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad from Slovakia) and Pavol Demjanič (The Slovak Historical Institute in Rome, Italy).

During the seminar, nearly a dozen papers were presented by scholars from the Institute of Memory of the Nation, the Matica slovenská, as well as other organizations and individuals. The seminar opened with an introduction by Rev. Dušan Tóth from Toronto, the former Secretary General of the SWC and personal friend of Š. B. “I am extremely happy that this conference is being held at the Matica slovenská and I sincerely thank Dr. Zuzana Pavelcová for inviting such a wonderful representation to honor a man, a genius of the human spirit, a visionary who loved his birthplace and who devoted his life to seeing Slovakia ranked highly in the family of nations - Štefan Boleslav Roman.”

The opening speech of the World Association of Slovaks Abroad (WASA) was delivered by its chairman, Vladimír Skalski: “First of all, I would like to thank you very much for

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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	James W Kadlubak	173K	John P Soltis	429K	Joseph C Furka	746K	Robert L Apgar
006K	Daniel Hrabusicky	173K	Mary Virginia Frano	484K	John T Kuffic	746K	Ronald Szukics
023K	Margaret Jarabak	199K	Dolores A Sass	484K	Josephine Valenti	764K	Adrian Hovanic
024K	Vincent P Andrasak	213K	Janet Ruffolo	484K	Margaret Swinko	764K	Steve J Saluga
038K	Christine A Vincent	228K	William Kiely	484K	Theodore J Bernot	796K	Kathleen Victoria Vrabel
038K	Richard Misage	238K	Anne M Motichka	543K	Stanley J Pajkos	831K	Robert Manga
038K	Ruth A Donovan	276K	Elizabeth Ducay	553K	Joseph Petronek	900K	Frances G Bernard
040K	Mary C Ryan	276K	Richard G Krall	571K	Bernard Francis Babik	916K	Donald B Mc Millan
045K	Andrew Komonchak	313K	Joanne M Long	584K	Gerald Paul Jakubik	917K	Robert D Christensen
152K	Leonard J Shutta Jr	320K	Paul Podanie	633K	Mary M Zuwala	921K	Dale Primus
153K	Wendell Monyak	320K	Rita Polansky	652K	Doris M Harcar		
157K	Jacob J Mehefko	330K	Robert J Fox	731K	Marta V Ferenchak		
166K	Michael Davis	403K	Mary Jo Cahill	743K	Sharon Rimarcik		

* Processed in the month of November 2022

NEKROLÓGY – OBITUARIES

BETH A. (HRICIK) SILVA, BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA



Beth A. (Hricik) Silva, 60, died Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at Barnes Place in Latrobe, PA. Beth was born in Latrobe on December 1, 1961. She was the devoted daughter of the late Thomas M. and Geraldine D. (Firmont) Hricik.

She was a graduate of Greater Latrobe High School. She received her BSN from Edinboro University. Beth obtained a master's degree in Leadership and Management from St. Vincent College. Beth began her nursing career in New York in the Bronx, then at New York University Hospital in Manhattan. Beth worked in various capacities of nursing for over 30 years at Excelsa Latrobe Hospital. While she was working in New York, Beth met the love of her life, Ruben S. Silva, who was also a registered nurse. Beth and Ruben were married 33 years prior to his passing in January 2022.

Beth was the caregiver for her mother from February 2021 until her passing in August 2022. They were not only mother and daughter, but also best friends. They enjoyed shopping together especially at yard sales and thrift shops. Beth was the kindest and most generous person to everyone she met. She spent time volunteering and making donations to the local homeless shelter. Beth and Ruben enjoyed trips to Germany, visiting her brother Steve and his family, they also visited France, Italy, and the Caribbean. Beth, Ruben, and Drew visited The Philippines Ruben's home on the island of Cebu. Beth also loved going to Florida to visit her sister Mary and going to Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando.

Beth is survived by her beloved son, Drew R. Silva and his wife Crystal of Brooklyn, Michigan. In addition to her son, Beth is survived by her sister and brothers: Mary Borde (Arthur) of St. Augustine, FL, Michael Hricik (Vicki) of Mount Pleasant, Thomas Hricik (Brandi) of St. Augustine, FL, and Stephen Hricik (Lori) of Stuttgart, Germany and her dearest friend, Mary Bitner. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles, all of whom she dearly loved. Family and Friends

were received Friday, November 4, 2022, in the JAY A. HOFFER FUNERAL HOME, 2245 Mt. Pleasant Road, Norvelt, PA. Beth's funeral Mass was held Saturday, November 5, 2022, at St. Vincent Basilica, with the Fr. Richard Ulam O.S.B., as celebrant. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude's Research Hospital online at www.stjude.org or by mail at Memorial Giving, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 in Beth's memory. The family wishes to thank Barnes Place and Excelsa Home Health and Hospice for their excellent care of Beth.

Submitted Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary, Branch 181

CHRISTINE VINCENT, BRANCH 38 WHITE OAK, PA



Christine Vincent, 69, of Ellwood City, passed away on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, at her residence.

Born in Ellwood City on March 21, 1953, Christine was the daughter of the late John and Olga Yakim Daransky. She is survived by her husband, Bill Vincent, whom she married on July 12, 1975.

Christine was a special education teacher at McGuire Home and later at Tiny Tots in Rochester. A 1971 graduate of Lincoln High School and a 1975 graduate of Slippery Rock University, she was a member of Divine Grace Parish, Holy Redeemer Church. Christine enjoyed painting, crafts and cooking. She also enjoyed "fishing" with her husband at their cottage in Pymatuning. Mostly she enjoyed the quiet times spent with family and friends at their cottage.

Besides her husband, Christine is survived by her two children, Allisyn (Kevin) Skolnik of Duquesne, Pa., and Bryan Vincent, at home.

Christine was preceded in death by her two brothers, John and Tom Daransky.

A tribute to Christine's life was held in May at the family cottage in Pymatuning. The family suggests memorial contributions can be made in Christine's name to Family Hospice, Suite 305, 3124 Wilmington Road, New Castle, PA 16105. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Joseph A. Tomon Jr. Funeral Home & Crematory.

Submitted by William Vincent

VALERIA E. (MIKLOS) MATTIS, BRANCH 580 WEST MIFFLIN, PA



Valeria E. (Miklos) Mattis, affectionately known to many as "Mother Val," died on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at Jefferson Hospital, surrounded by her children, at the age of 83. Born in Duquesne, PA on April 2, 1939, she was the youngest of twelve children to Andrew and Helen (Kushnir) Miklos. She married the late Michael T. Mattis on August 29, 1964. She is survived by son Michael (Amy) of White Oak, daughter Monica, with whom she resided, of McKeesport, son William (Tina) of West Mifflin and son Christopher (Paul-James Cukanna) of Churchill; grandsons Michael (Kayla), Ryan, Nicholas, and Jonathan; great grandson Michael John; sister Charlotte (Donald) Nasta of Levittown, PA; in-laws Joseph and Barbara Mattis of Finleyville, PA; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Theresa Mattis (August, 2022), her husband and parents, her parents-in-law Michael and Anna (Hlad) Mattis, and siblings, Helen Miklos, Elizabeth Miklos, Margaret Miklos, Alexander Miklos, Andrew "Timmy" Miklos, Bernard Miklos, Virginia Miklos, Gertrude Motel, Rosalia Miklos and Philomena Demeter.

A 1957 graduate of Duquesne High School, Valeria worked as a Tele-Typist at

Fisher Scientific and later as an Administrative Assistant in the Housing Office at Carnegie Mellon University.

Mother Val was a strong woman with tremendous faith and perseverance. She embraced the challenges and responsibilities of raising her five children herself following the death of her beloved husband Mike, who died suddenly in 1983. She loved her family, her friends, her Catholic religion and playing board games with her family. She enjoyed having fun, laughing, and joking around with those she loved. She was highly proficient at Scrabble. She kept up to date on current, worldly events. She also enjoyed playing games of chance on her iPad, and especially "taking rides" to various casinos.

She was a strong woman who never complained and made the best of challenging circumstances throughout her life. Family was an important priority in her life that she taught her children in values and traditions, especially her favorite holiday, Christmas. She enjoyed decorating, baking, cooking, and sharing the traditional Christmas Eve Slovak Vilija supper. She reinforced these values by reminding all of us of the importance of always saying the following three words, "I Love You."

Friends were received at the MALOY-SCHLEIFER FUNERAL HOME in Duquesne, PA. A blessing service took place at the Funeral Home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at on October 19, 2022, in Mary Mother of God Parish at the St. Mary Czesłochowa (Corpus Christi) worship site in McKeesport, PA, with her Godson, Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, as celebrant. Interment followed at Holy Trinity Cemetery, West Mifflin.

Submitted by Michael Mattis

Branch 320 would like to extend wishes to all for a Happy and Blessed New Year in 2023.

Šťastný nový rok!

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice-President





Group photo of Jednota Officers. Photos by Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr.



District 3 Hosted its Annual Christmas Eve Supper (Štedrý večer vilija)

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rowful Mother, the patroness of Slovakia – Ó Mária bolestivá (Oh Sorrowful Mary).

Following Mass, the Pittsburgh Slovaks treated attendees to several reenactments of traditional Slovak customs on St. Andrew's Day (Ondrej), St. Nicholas Day (Mikuláš), and the Jasičkári (Bethlehem strollers). On Ondrej, eligible young ladies would pour hot lead into water. Upon cooling, the shapes formed by the pieces of lead would foretell their future husbands, and the girls in the play showed joy or distress depending on the guy. Children in the group then reenacted the awaiting of St. Nick, the devil for misbehaving children, and an angel. The event concluded with the Jasičkári play filled with song and dancing, and ending with humble offerings to Ježiško, the child Jesus. Even the half-witted and ill-clad Kubo offered what little he had to the Christ child, jeho srdca (his heart). The audience heartily applauded the stunning and memorable performance.

Following the play, Bishop Kulick led the prayer before the meal and attendees then enjoyed a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve vilija. The meal consisted of oplatky s medom (blessed wafers with honey), cesnak (garlic), kaputsnica (sour mushroom soup), pečená ryba (baked fish), pirohy, hrachy (peas), bobalky (poppy seed rolls), sušené slivky (dried plums), and koláče (nut and fruit rolls) for dessert. Three types of tasty local homemade wines added some flavor to the meal.

A big ďakujem (Thank you) goes out to the volunteers for the sold-out event, including Marty Meyer of Branch 181, who played his violin for guests at the banquet. Special recognition is deserved to the organizers, District 3's Vice President Darlene Patty and President William Patty. District 3 is proud of the fact that the vilija commences with the sacrifice of the Mass and hopes to continue this tradition for years to come.

More than a Hundred Laptops for Slovak High school Students in Vojvodina

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cooking (2020-2022) saw a 59% decline.

The compatriots looking at these figures attributed the sharp drop in enrollments to low birth rates or the high migration of young families to Slovakia and other parts of Europe. In the 2002 statistics, Vojvodina counted 56,637 ethnic Slovaks. Today researchers estimate about 50,000 Slovaks live in Vojvodina, a decline of around 10%. Still, when we look at the figures, „the rate of decline of Slovak youth studying in Serbia is striking.“

Using the example of the former chair of the Slovak Matica in Serbia, Katarína Melegova-Melichová, who supported Slovak freshmen by purchasing school supplies, Pavelcová, the director of KM, decided to act after consulting the former head of the Petrovec gymnasium, Anna Medveďa. She proposed motivating youth by purchasing tablets or laptops for them. Marián Gešper, chairman of the Matica slovenská, stated:

„Slovakia is one of the developed countries in Europe, so it is incomprehensible that it does not significantly support students in Slovak schools in Serbia in a direct way. It is precisely at this time that financial assistance (e.g. a scholarship or a substantial contribution to the purchase of teaching aids such as a laptop) is an important moral incentive, especially considering that the number of Slovak youth in Slovak schools in Serbia is decreasing. On behalf of the Matica Slovenská slovenská in Martin, we proposed the matter to the Office for Foreign Slovaks in Bratislava and I am glad that the chairman, Milan Ján Pilip, actively acted in the matter and helped. The assistance should be annual and targeted to all Slovaks who want to study at Slovak schools in Serbian Vojvodina. Other countries, such as Hungary, are also doing so. The Slovak Republic should not be an exception.“

A trio of chairmen discussed a proposal and submitted it to the ÚSZZ, the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad. Since the Slovak Matica in Serbia supports first graders and gives them schoolbags and teaching aids, it also needs to provide motivation so that eighth graders choose secondary schools with instruction in the Slovak language. They agreed to earmark 30,900 euros to encourage student to select Slovak classes. „This is because our primary concern is the preservation of Slovak awareness, and thus also of linguistic culture and identity.“

Thanks to the financial support of the ÚSZZ, first year students at the Gymnasium Ján Kollár in Báčský Petrovec received 63 laptops on November 14, 2022. The remaining laptops will be donated to students at the Gymnasium in Kovačica and the Secondary Medical School in Novi Sad on April 7, 2023.

„Time will tell how effective this aid will be and whether it will be able to achieve at least a partial remedy to the outflow of future Slovak intelligentsia...“

International Seminar Dedicated to the Life and Work of Štefan Boleslav Roman

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the fact that when the seminar failed due to the pandemic last year, the Matica slovenská did not forget and this year commemorates this important personality. The WASA is very proud of the legacy of Štefan B. Roman and the Slovak World Congress, although these two institutions operated in completely different conditions.“

The working part of the seminar commenced with the contribution of Ján Chovanec, who discussed the legendary stories from the life of Štefan Roman's family in his hometown Veľký Ruskov. Dr. Beáta Katrebová-Blehová (ÚPN) focused on the founding of the Slovak World Congress in the international context of détente politics. The activities of the SWC in the second half of the 1980s were evaluated by Peter Jašek from the Institute of Memory of the Nation. The results of the eight General Assemblies of the SWC were discussed by historian Radoslav Žgrada from the Slovak Historical Institute of the Matica slovenská.

Zuzana Pavelcová, Director of the Regional Museum of the Matica slovenská, introduced the next working session. She reported on the relations between the SWC and the Matica slovenská. Associate Professor Pavol Parenička (Slovak Literary Institute of the Slovak Republic) focused on the Concept of a Responsible Society and Roman and Löbl's contribution to economic thinking. At the end of the seminar, the President of the Canadian-Slovak Chamber of Commerce, Joseph M. Burza, presented a talk on contribution of the representative book on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Stefan B. Roman.

In his closing remarks, the chairman of the Matica slovenská, Marián Gešper, stated: „Perhaps it is already a tradition that the Matica is one of the last institutions (if not the very last) that systematically and tenaciously tries to preserve the memory and at the same time professionally and popularly commemorate our great nationalists. Today it remembers Štefan Roman. Although he is known as the uranium king, that label would be insufficient... He is indeed a full-fledged, intellectual, organizational, regional, foreign, pioneering, and morally pure personality. He deployed his fortune, and in part, the family reputation of „Roman“ in national and state activities.“

In the discussion, the participants proposed several conclusions. Among them were the publication of a special publication from the seminar papers, the creation of a working group that would systematically present the life and work of Š. B. Roman in Slovakia and abroad, and the presentation of the topic at various forums not only in a professional circles, but also for a popular audience. The event symbolically ended with the laying of wreaths by the event participants at the bust of Štefan Roman.

Zuzana Pavelcová,

Translated and edited by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D., editor

President Message 2022

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As you may know General Counsel Gary Matta and most of the current Board of Directors filed a Complaint against me in July 2022.

I had announced that I was seeking re-election for President in the June 8 issue of the Jednota. I subsequently announced at the Convention that I was withdrawing my name for re-election and did not run due to my own and my wife's health issues.

The Supreme Court hearing was held on November 3, 2022. The decision of the Court is printed in this Jednota.

I had to hire an attorney at my own expense. Four of the twelve elected Members of the Court had to be excluded from the hearing because of conflicts of interest according to the Bylaws, including Charmain Mr. Engle, Secretary Mrs. Austin and elected members Mr. Andrew P. Rajec and Mr. Kopco.

The Bylaws are silent as to who runs the proceedings with these exclusions but Mr. Kapitan acted as Acting Chairman.

In the spirit of cooperation and respect for the Society I properly responded to the Complaint and sent copies of my answer with all attachments (at least 640 pages) to the entire Supreme Court and to the entire Board the Directors.

I was told that there were rumors circulating at the 2022 FCSU Convention that I had stolen money from the Society.

Let me be clear I never stole any money from the Society. I did not take any money or kickbacks from any attorney or law firm or any suppliers to the Society. In fact, I never asked for or received any free tickets, any free lunches or anything else of real value from any of these folks. I typically put any gifts of candy or fruit on the employee lunch table.

Any attorney that was engaged only worked for the Society. Any attorney charges were solely for the benefit of the Society. I do not believe any charges were at inflated rates. Because of my legal background I believe that I saved the Society many dollars involving attorney fees.

With regard to 7.02(f) I received Fr. Visnovsky's letter addressed to the FCSU President on April 5, 2022.

I questioned Fr. Marek if he really wanted to act on his complaint. He wanted to send the letter to Steve Engle. He did so and copied me and Ken Arendt. The Board became aware of the letter no later than June 2, 2022.

The next Board of Directors meeting was June 11, 2022, when we discussed delegate certification. I believe the General Counsel and Board of Directors were or became aware of the Branch 24 issues.

Fr. Visnovsky made an appeal to be seated at the 2022 Convention and was turned down by the Convention.

I have tried to comply with Bylaws 7.09(e) and 9.04 (i) and apologize to the Board and the General Counsel for any errors or oversights.

There was no intent to cause harm and all actions were taken in good faith and for the benefit of the Society.

I personally did not benefit from any errors or oversights; or from any financial or legal transactions in my time in office.

I have complied with the Court's decision regarding count 1, count 2 and count 3. All the records and correspondence are contained in the Society's files and in the files of my assistant Beata Fedoriouk. I keep no original files at home. Most of the information requested was already contained in the approximately 640 pages of my response to the Complaint. I will voluntarily give \$500 to the FCSU Scholarship Fund.

I again expect no adulation for the 16 years I served as President of the First Catholic Slovak Union. I did not seek any honors such as the Ellis Island award.

I just did my job as well as I could and the record financial results prove it.

- To the contrary, several items that most Members are not aware of are:
- 1) I initiated our membership in the FHLB (Fraternal Home Loan Bank) program where we borrowed millions of dollars at an average rate of 1½ % and we were then able to invest at 4-6%.
 - 2) My personal friendship with the deceased Steve Matula whereby he willed \$750,000 to the FCSU Scholarship Fund.
 - 3) Our relationship with AQS Asset management which arose out of the 2007-2008 world finan-

cial crisis; where I called at least two special Board of Directors meetings to get proposals from professional money managers. All these were done with the knowledge and approval of the Board of Directors.

- 4) Donations we made to St. Andrew Abbey and religious orders and communities in Slovakia. I tried to promote the Catholic Faith and our Slovak culture in many ways and as best I could. May God bless the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Goodbye - Z'Bohom

Andrew M. Rajec
President



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November 23, 2022
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Mr. Andrew Rajec
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ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

An appeal was filed on July 26, 2022, by Plaintiffs Gary J. Matta General Counsel, Kenneth Arendt Executive Secretary, Kevin Collins Vice President, John Tokarsky Treasurer, Greg Maurer Chairman of Auditors, Regional Directors Damian Nasta, Martha Zavada Wojcik, James Marmol, Mike Lako, Thomas Ivanec, Timothy Graves and Milos Mitro which alleged that President Andrew Rajec violated F.C.S.U. Bylaws 7.02(f), 7.09(d), 7.09(e) and 9.04(i). The Defendant Andrew Rajec President replied defending his actions. A hearing was held on November 3, 2022.

After hearing testimony from both the Plaintiffs and the Defendant the Supreme Court deliberated and finds the following:

On the Charge that President Rajec Violated **Bylaw 7.02(f) Arrange to investigate any Irregularities and misunderstandings existing in any branch or district. All reports received shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at their next meeting.**

The court found that that the information President Rajec requested and received (especially in May 2022) should have been shared with the Board of Directors and General Counsel so they were made aware of the issue(s) with Branch 24.

On the Charge that President Rajec violated **Bylaw 7.09(d) Minimize legal expenses for outside counsel. The general counsel will be involved in the retention of all outside legal counsel. The general counsel will review along with the President all legal invoices.**

The court found the President Rajec failed to cooperate and provide the information that was requested by Legal Counsel and the Board of Directors.

On the Charge that President Rajec violated **Bylaw 7.09(e) The General Counsel will review all legal documents of the society.**

The court found that President Rajec failed to provide Information that was requested by General Counsel and the Board of Directors.

On the Charge that President Rajec violated **Bylaw 9.04(i) Authorize and direct the execution of any and all contracts or agreements that may be necessary to protect and promote the interest of F. C. S. U.**

The court found that because of the strained relationship the President seemed to have with the members of the Board of Directors and the General Counsel that this information was not shared as it should have been.

Although President Rajec has certain authorities the court believes they the Board of Directors are the ultimate governing body of the F. C. S. U.

Due to the Court's findings that President Rajec is guilty on all counts of violating Bylaw 7.02(f), 7.09(d), 7.09(e) and 9.04(i) the Supreme Court **ORDERS** the following actions be imposed against President Rajec.

- 1) President Andrew Rajec to be immediately directed to cease and desist from violating F.C.S.U. Bylaws, specifically Bylaw 7.02(f), 7.09(d), 7.09(e) and 9.04(i).
- 2) President Andrew Rajec be immediately directed to provide the Board of Directors and General Counsel all correspondence, invoices and opinions from all outside legal counsel that was or may have been retained (this is to be from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2022).
- 3) President Andrew Rajec be immediately directed to no longer retain special counsel without the involvement of F.C.S.U.'s General Counsel and approval of F. C.S.U. Board of Directors.
- 4) President Andrew Rajec be immediately directed to make of donation to F. C. S.U. 'S Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars). To be done by December 31, 2022.

SO ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION.

M. Kapitan

Michael Kapitan
Acting Chairman of the Supreme Court

Cc: Supreme Court Officers
Board of Directors

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 14

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

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