



Catholic Fraternal

# Jednota

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## FCSU 2023 Board of Directors



Front row: Richard F. Ungvarsky, M.D.- Medical Director; Sabina Sabados-Regional Director (Region 1); Martha Zavada Wojcik - Regional Director (Region 3); Nicole L. Nasta - Regional Director (Region 2); Kenneth A. Arendt - President; Gregory J. Maurer - Chairman of Auditors; Joanne Fibbi - Fraternal Activities Director; James R. Marmol - Regional Director (Region 4); Bradley A. Matta –Regional Director (Region 5). Back row: Thomas J. Ivanec- Regional Director (Region 6); Milos Mitro- Regional Director (Region 8); Timothy C. Graves- Regional Director (Region 7); Damian D. Nasta - Vice President; Kevin J. Collins - Executive Secretary; Rev. Thomas A. Nasta - Chaplain; Gary J. Matta - General Counsel; John V. Tokarsky- Treasurer.

### 2023 Message from the National President

Happy New Year to all! I pray your holiday celebrations with family and friends were filled with happiness and joyful moments.

It is an honor for me to begin 2023 leading this great fraternal of ours. Thank you to all the delegates and members who placed your trust in me as your National President.



**Kenneth A. Arendt**

When I ran for this office at our 2022 Quadrennial Convention, I did so with a slate of seasoned candidates in a total team approach. We are now your duly elected National Board of Directors. I intend to continue leading with this team approach for the betterment of our Society.

We are all members with deep ties to our Society and a strong belief in the FCSU tenets of faith, fraternalism, and family. Like many National Board Members, I am proud

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# 2023

## Happy New Year

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	4.25%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	4.00%
6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	4.50%
Park 2 Annuity (not available in the state of NY) <span style="float: right; font-weight: bold;">4.25%</span>	
Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA- 1st year guarantee (new Park Free Plus max deposit \$25,000 per person)	2.80%
Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of (5 yrs +)	3.00%

Find an Annuity That's Right for You  
Call us at 800-533-6682

FCSU Financial | First Catholic Slovak Union  
Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office, [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), [annuity@fcsu.com](mailto:annuity@fcsu.com)





Kostol svätej Kataríny Alexandrijskej v Hertniku.  
The Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria in Hertnik.

## Reflection

**Reflection:** How gladly I recall joining in this hymn years ago in our Slovak Holy Trinity parish in Gary, Indiana, as we welcomed the New Year.

**Vesel' sa/ Rejoice** overflows with joy and gratitude for our arrival at the dawn of a New Year. Here we are reminded to renew our life in Christ. Let us honor Him as we respect the presence of Jesus acting in each person we encounter this year.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, help us on our way.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

**VESEL' SA, L'UDSKÉ STVORENIE**, prišlo k nám naše spasenie  
**ZBOR:** Radujme sa, veselme sa v tomto novom roku!

2. Mesiáša narodenie – dosiahlo svoje splnenie.

**ZBOR**

3. Panna z rodu kráľovského – počala Syna Božieho.

**ZBOR**

4. Daj pre Tvoje narodenie – Kriste, hriechov odpustenie.

**ZBOR**

**Vesel' sa – Rejoice!**

1. Rejoice! all people of the earth,  
Salvation came with Christ's holy birth.

**Refrain:** Let us rejoice with song and cheer, In this blessed New Year.

2. Truly Messias' birth revealed

How prophecies are clearly fulfilled.

**Refrain**

3. Virgin renowned with royal blood

You bore for us the Son of God.

**Refrain**

4. Gift us, O Christ, that by your birth

Grace is restored, we're given great worth.

**Refrain**

The New Year hymn **Vesel' sa** can be found in the *Jednotný katolícky spevník*, no. 107. To hear the song, the children's version is on this website: [www.tinyurl.com/2p8mhc26](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p8mhc26) (Editor).

## Message from the National Chaplain

Tuesday, January 24, is the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. To mark the 400th anniversary of the saint's death on December 28, 1622, Pope Francis last month issued the apostolic letter *Totum Amoris Est* (Everything is Love). One hundred years ago this month Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) commemorated the 300th anniversary of the saint's death with the papal encyclical *Disturbance of All Things* (*Rerum omnium perturbationem*). What follows is a summary of what Pius wrote.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

The encyclical begins with Pius referring to an encyclical he issued just one month earlier, the *Peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ*. He mentions a key point -- the necessity for all to turn their hearts from the things of this passing world to those that last forever. This is the purpose for the teachings and ministry of the church. By means of the teachings of the church and her ministry she hope to call all society back to the ways of Christ.

The command of Christ to be holy is not the exclusive prevue of just a few; the law of holiness is for everyone, without exception.

The pope names saints recently canonized by the church -- Ignatius Loyola, Francis Xavier, Philip Neri, and Teresa of Jesus -- as inspirations for people to model their own hearts and mindsets in the ways of holiness. To this list of saints to be admired and imitated he adds the Bishop of Geneva and Doctor of the Universal Church, Francis de Sales.

Saint Francis de Sales is praised for being a strong voice against the heretical teachings of the Protestant Reformation. He affirmed that genuine and true sanctity and holiness is not just the purview of the few who have taken religious vows and live in convents or monasteries, but is possible and can be achieved by all people, regardless of one's state of life.

Pius then gives a brief biography of Francis de Sales, noting the aspects of his personality that led him to be a model of holiness. Francis was friendly, meek, compassionate, and kind-hearted. At the same time, Pius also notes Francis angered easily and said the saint found success in working on controlling his anger.

The pope comments on the spiritual writings of the saint, writings that offer a "sure and easy path to Christian perfection." Two of Francis' best known books are *Philothea – An Introduction to the Devout Life* and *The Treatise on the Love of God*.

Saint Francis de Sales shows in the first book that a life of holiness is possible in every way of life in the secular world. He tells how a person can save one's soul by living one's life in a manner that is free from the spirit of the world. One pleases God by doing the things of everyday life correctly.

Once he describes how one is to turn away from sin, win the battles against temptation, and avoid all unnecessary and harmful actions, Francis goes on to teach pious practices that helps one's soul to grow and how it is possible for a person to be one with God. He suggests each person choose one particular virtue and continually practice it to the point of mastering it. Other items of interest he expounds upon include individual virtues, modesty, proper language, fidelity to God, and the duties of husbands, wives, widows, and young women.

An Introduction to the Devout Life concludes with instructions on how one is to conquer temptations and the allurements of earthly pleasures, and also the importance of making an annual renewal of commitment to love God with all one's mind, heart and soul.

The Treatise on the Love of God gives a history of God's love and offers ways for a person to develop and grow in God's love.

Pius writes of the efforts of the saint to win back people who abandoned the Catholic faith due to the Protestant Reformation. After much prayer and fasting, and without food

Continued on page 3

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023	Monday, Jan. 30, 2023
Wednesday, Mar. 15, 2023	Monday, Mar. 6, 2023
Wednesday, Apr. 12, 2023	Monday, Apr. 3, 2023

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

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

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY**

- 1** Br 553 – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH  
Br 855 – Meeting in Akron, OH
- 2** Br 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA
- 3** Br 746 – Mass for Members in Linden, NJ
- 6** Bishop Kulick – Featured Speaker in Pittsburgh, PA
- 11** Slovak Ball in NJ  
Br 553 – Valentine Karaoke in Akron, OH
- 15** Br 259 - Meeting in Struthers, OH  
Br 553 – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH
- 16** Monsters Hockey Game Ticket Deadline, OH
- 20** Home Office Closed – President’s Day
- 22** Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins
- 24** Br 553 – Lenten Fish Fry in Akron, OH



Slovakia  
Stamp  
Dedicated  
to Eugen  
Cernan,  
Slovak-  
American  
Astronaut, the  
last man on  
the Moon!

## Message from the President

continued from page 1

of my Slovak heritage and Catholic faith. Both of my maternal grandparents came to the US from Slovakia. My Slovak grandpa signed me up for Jednota when I was born.

Make no mistake, however, we all also understand the importance of maintaining and growing the FCSU's strong financial foundation. Many organizations aspire to this, but few have a Board filled with the combined work histories and fraternal knowledge to make it a reality. I am proud to have played a critical role in building our financial and operational successes for the past 28 years as Executive Secretary. I know many of our returning Board Members feel the same; while those new to their national offices are eager to bring their perspectives to help strengthen the FCSU.

I am very excited to be leading such a talented group, members just like you who care about our Society. Jednota means unity in the Slovak language, and we are truly united in our commitment to increasing membership value and ensuring the FCSU thrives far into the future.

We are already exploring new ways in which to serve you with fiscal excellence and enhanced fraternalism. Look for details in our newspaper, newsletter, and on our website throughout the year. We are looking forward to opportunities to interact with all of you as we continue our incredible journey started by Father Furdek 132+ years ago.

Fraternally,

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
National President

## Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

In January (január in Slovak), we start the new year of 2023, and the FCSU has a new set of leaders to guide us through the next four years. Let us pray that they and all our members practice wisdom and kindness in fulfilling the goals that Fr. Furdek initiated when he started Jednota – promoting the Catholic faith, Slovak culture, and fraternalism.

In her monthly Reflection, Sister Maria Teresa, SS.C.M. translates the hymn *Vesel sa/ Rejoice*, which expresses the joy of a newborn Savior and respect others as we see the presence of Christ in our family and neighbors.

We also remember Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI who passed away at age 95. The more I read about him the more I am impressed by his life and writings devoted to the Lord and His Church. The pope set a shining example for us to follow and had the wisdom to resign when he felt he could no longer handle the rigors of occupying the chair of St. Peter.

This month we feature a host of celebrations, including the 30th anniversary of Slovakia's independence in 1993. The University of Pittsburgh's Slovak Fest in November and many branches and districts hosted holiday parties, *villijas*, and charitable undertakings. These events help our Catholic and Slovak fraternal traditions dynamic and alive.

We also remember the achievements of our members, including Michael Krajsa, who received several awards for his outstanding service as a teacher at Penn State. He has served as Chairman at the last two FCSU Conventions and we applaud his accomplishments.

This issue also contains information about the visits of Monsignors Peter Polando and Robert Siffrin to the the Pontifical Slovak College of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, the very institute we support by donating to the cause which our chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta administers so well. I would ask all of you to pray for the recovery of Monsignor Siffrin, as he became very ill after returning to the USA and is now recovering under the care of the Oblate Sisters.

In ending, I would invite readers to let me know any additional features in the newspaper. Feel free to send a message to the editor by mail to the society or at the following e-mail address: [editor@fcsu.com](mailto:editor@fcsu.com).

With sincere fraternal regards, s úprimným bratským pozdravom,

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



## Message from the National Chaplain

continued from page 2

or money, Francis traveled on foot to Geneva with one travelling companion. When people initially ignored his talks pointing out errors in matters of faith taught them by the Reformers, Francis resorted to writing them on several loose leaflets, hoping they would eventually fall into the right hands. Pius describes Francis' writing style that identified the errors of the Reformers as elegant, polished, and charitable.

Francis' plan worked. The frequency of these leaflets gradually decreased and were eventually discontinued as more and more came to hear Francis preach. Pius XI says that the leaflets were lost for a time after the saint's death, but were later discovered, collected, and given to Pope Alexander VII (1655-1667).

Pope Pius XI called for the world's bishops to implement a commemoration of the tercentenary of the death of Saint Francis de Sales within their dioceses.

Bishops are to publicize and explain this encyclical throughout 1923, up to December 28, the actual date of the saint's death in 1622. They are to instruct the faithful in the doctrines taught and virtues lived by Saint Francis, especially meekness. Particular attention is given to efforts for the faithful to begin anew the practice of virtues and obligations proper to their state of life, a practice with the help of God's grace is possible for everyone.

Francis' books, writings, and sermons serve as an inspiration for people to develop and maintain a spiritual piety and so are to be made available to a wide an audience as possible.

Also, bishops are instructed to have every parish in their dioceses conduct a triduum or a novena sometime during 1923, up to December 28, so that the faithful can be exposed to the ways of holiness and instructed in the truths of faith taught by St. Francis de Sales. Anyone who participates in any function honoring St. Francis de Sales during this year of jubilee could receive a partial indulgence. Pius granted a plenary indulgence for participation on the last day of the triduum or novena or any other day chosen.

Pius XI expresses his hope that the tercentennial observance of the death of Saint Francis de Sales will inspire Catholic journalists and writers to explain, spread, and defend Church teachings with the same charity that characterized the works of the saint. He then uses his Apostolic authority in this encyclical to declare Saint Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church, the Heavenly Patron of All Writers

Pius XI concludes by asking his brother bishops to ask their people to pray to Saint Francis de Sales for him.

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



# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN MEETING:**

Vice President Kevin Collins opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked John Tokarsky to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:**

The Vice President presented the minutes of the October 21, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

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

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

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

Financial Report

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of October 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 October:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	197,686.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	63,045.00
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

The Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all 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.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

Vice President Kevin Collins announced the many events that will be held in 2023. Mr. Collins stated that the bowling tournament will be held May 19-20 in Buffalo, New York, the golf tournament will be held August 12 – 14 in DuBois, Pennsylvania

and three picnics planned at Frogbridge in New Jersey, Knoebels Amusement Resort in Pennsylvania and Wiegand Lake Park in Ohio. All the information will be published in the Jednota and posted on our website.

The Vice President stated information regarding the Coloring Contests and the 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 John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The Vice President asked Timothy Graves to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary



## Scholarship Winners Announced

Congratulations to the Winners of the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarship.

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Anna Ewoniuk    | 6. Jason Kolesar    |
| 2. Alexandra Glova | 7. Rebecca Mills    |
| 3. Gregory Glova   | 8. Katrina Mullen   |
| 4. Stefanie Hoyt   | 9. Robert Mullen    |
| 5. Thomas Kocis    | 10. Luke Smearcheck |



## The Patroness of Slovakia on the New Vatican Postage Stamp

The Vatican philatelic edition for 2022 includes a postage stamp dedicated to the three apostolic journeys undertaken by Pope Francis in the past year. The graphic composition, with a scene of the Pope embracing refugees sailing in a boat and the symbol of the ancient ziggurat, is dominated by the patron saint of Slovakia, the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows of Šaštín.

Three apostolic journeys took Pope Francis to Iraq in March (5-8), to the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest and Slovakia in September (12-15), and to Cyprus and Greece in December (2-6).

## Patrónka Slovenska na novej vaticánskej poštovej známke

Vo vaticánskej filatelistickej edícii na rok 2022 je aj poštová známka venovaná trom apoštolským cestám, ktoré podnikol pápež František v uplynulom roku. V grafickej kompozícii so scénou objatia pápeža s utečencami plaviacimi sa na člna a so symbolom starovekého zikkuratu dominuje šaštínska Sedembolestná Panna Mária, patrónka Slovenska.

Tri apoštolské cesty zaviedli v roku 2021 pápeža Františka v marci (5. – 8.) do Iraku, v septembri (12. – 15.) na Medzinárodný eucharistický kongres v Budapešti a na Slovensko a v decembri (2. – 6.) na Cyprus a do Grécka.

# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 VIRTUAL MEETING

**OPEN MEETING:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**READING OF THE CALL:**

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

**PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:**

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING JUNE 11, 2022:**

A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Michael Lako to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held June 11, 2022. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2022. After the Executive Secretary's report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2022 second quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

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

**AQS REPORT:**

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

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer John Tokarsky gave a detailed update on the investments and answered the

Board's questions. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review.

**PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Executive Committee

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

Investments

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

**CONVENTION COST COMPARISON:**

The Executive Secretary presented a cost comparison of the 2018 Convention to the 2022 Convention and answered the Board's questions. The comparison sheet will be sent to the Board following the meeting.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:**

Vice President Kevin Collins announced the many events that will be held in 2023. Mr. Collins stated that the bowling tournament will be held May 19-20 in Buffalo, New York, the golf tournament will be held August 12 – 14 in DuBois, Pennsylvania and three picnics planned at Frogbridge in New Jersey, Knoebels Amusement Resort in Pennsylvania and Wiegand Lake Park in Ohio. All the information will be published in the Jednota and posted on our website.

**DONATION COMMITTEE:**

All donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

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

A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Damian Nasta to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Timothy Graves to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

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

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



**L to R: Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania; Renáta Kamenárová, Director of Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh; Radovan Javorčík, Slovak Ambassador to the United States; Michelle Javorčíková, wife of the Ambassador; Rick Martin, Development Director of the Czech and Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

## Slovak Ambassador Visits Pittsburgh

It was a busy weekend in November for Ambassador Radovan Javorčík, his wife Michelle, and Cultural Secretary Stanislav Buchtová. On Friday evening, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association held a reception for them with approximately 75 people attending. Guests included: Renáta Kamenárová, Director of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh; Rick Martin, Development Director of the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Bishop Larry Kulick of Greensburg; and Father Valarian Michlik, pastor of St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church. On Saturday, they toured Pittsburgh, including a private tour of the Warhol Museum and an evening concert at Heinz Hall. On Sunday, Ambassador Javorčík was a speaker at the 32nd Slovak Heritage Festival at the University of Pittsburgh.



**OHIO FRATERNAL ALLIANCE  
2023 Scholarship Program**

The Ohio Fraternal Alliance annually awards a college scholarship to a graduating high school senior up to \$500.

Scholarship applications may be obtained from any Ohio Fraternal Alliance member fraternal home office or contact:

Joyce Nicholson  
740-264-6238  
nicholson63@comcast.net

**Scholarship Applicant Requirements:**

1. Applicant must be an Ohio resident. They must be a current youth policy member of a fraternal society, or included in a family member policy that does not have youth policies belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Alliance.
2. Applicant must be a 2023 high school graduate.
3. Applicant must submit a minimum 150-word essay entitled: *How I'm personally involved in my Fraternal Society & its Future.*
4. Applicant must submit a list of the following activities: Church related activities, local community and volunteer activities, school activities/clubs.
5. Applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from a local Fraternal Society officer.
6. Essay, all activities, and letter will be judged. Completed application must be dated and submitted by April 1, 2023, and mailed to:

OFA Scholarship Committee  
Attn: Joyce Nicholson  
63 Meadow Lane  
Wintersville, OH 43953

To print the application go to  
[www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)



Fr. Stefan Chanas, Pastor of St. John Nepomucene Church, greets St. Nicholas during the children's Mass. (O. Štefan, farár Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, víta sv. Mikuláša počas detskej sv. omše.)

**St. Nicholas Visited Children In St. John Nepomucene Church Parish In NYC**

On December 4th, during the Slovak children's Mass celebrated by Fr. Stefan Chanas, Pastor of the St. John Nepomucene Church, St. Nicholas visited the children. In the afternoon he came to the beautifully decorated church hall where more than 100 children and their parents were impatiently waiting for him. Students of the Slovak language school greeted St. Nicholas with a short program and then each child received a bag of goodies. It was a memorable afternoon for the children of St. John Nepomucene parish.

**Sv. Mikuláš Navštívil Deti Farnosti Sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku**

4. decembra počas slovenskej detskej sv. omše, ktorú celebroval o. Štefan Chanas, farár kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, navštívil deti sv. Mikuláš. Popoludní zavítal do krásne vyzdobenej kostolnej haly, kde ho netrpezlivo čakalo viac ako 100 detí s rodičmi. Žiaci slovenskej školy privítali Mikuláša krátkym programom a potom každé dieťa dostalo mikulášsky balíček dobrôt. Pre deti farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého to bolo nezabudniteľné popoludnie.



Children of the Slovak language school (Žiaci slovenskej školy)



**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](http://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](http://WWW.FCSU.COM)  
([www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships))

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





Members of Jednota of Branch 746 at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the rejuvenation of Slovak masses at St. Michael's Church in Trenton.



Organizers of the 20th anniversary celebration and members of St. Michael's Church.

## 20th Anniversary of the Rejuvenation of the Slovak community in Trenton

On November 6th, 2022, the Slovak community in Trenton came together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of renewing Masses in the Slovak language at St. Michael's Church in Trenton, New Jersey. All Slovak priests, from the New York Oratory of St. Philip Neri, who are also members of Jednota Branch 746, came to celebrate Holy Eucharist including Fr. Vladimir Chripko - provost, Fr. Frantisek Conka, Fr. Roman Palecko, Fr. Dusan Nemeec, Fr. Peter Bujdos and our pastor from St. Ann Parish, Fr. Leandro Dela Cruz. Other members of Branch 746 members in attendance included: Mr. and Mrs. Jan and Kristina Draculin, Mr. and Mrs. Emil and Emilia Filak, and FCSU Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados. Following Mass was a reception with traditional Slovak food and homemade pastries.



Slovak priests from the New York Oratory of St. Philip Neri have been ministering to the Slovak community at St. Michael. From L to R all members of Jednota Branch 746: Fr. Frantisek Conka, Fr. Roman Palecko, Fr. Vladimir Chripko, Provost, Fr. Peter Bujdos, and Fr. Dusan Nemeec.

This was the second celebration of the community, the first was on October 1st, with a folk ball with special guest performers from Slovakia, Kristian Dufinec, the front man of the ICONITO band, his fiancé dancer, Veronika Vargova, and musician, Silvester Michalenko. Almost two hundred people came and enjoyed Slovak music, dance, traditions, food, and drink. The event was a fundraiser for the church to help with renovation costs.

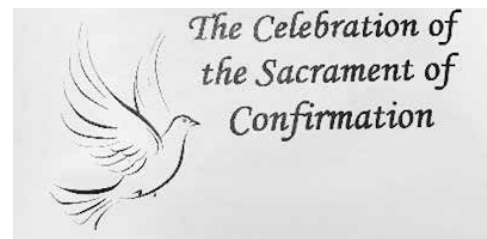
St. Michael Church in Trenton was founded by Slovaks and continues to have a strong Slovak community. Last year, in December 2021 the parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of its consecration. Members of three communities – English, Slovak, and Korean – celebrated Holy Mass with their priests and the Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton, David M. O'Connell C.M.

The Slovak community in Trenton is grateful to the First Catholic Slovak Union Board of Directors for their financial support to help make needed repairs and improvements to the church including new spaces for classrooms for catechism and Slovak language education.

Submitted by Fr. Peter Bujdos, Branch 746 member



Various regions of Slovakia were represented with native dresses at the Folklore ball organized by St. Michael's Church in October 2022.



Congratulations

## Confirmation Candidates 2022

On November 19, 2022, Most Reverend William J. Waltersheid celebrated the Rite of Confirmation at St John XXII Parish (St. Ben's), McMurray, PA.

Branch 320 would like to congratulate the class of 2022 and thank everyone involved.  
Submitted by Mary Anne Higginbotham, Branch 320 President



Branch 320 would like to extend a Happy and Blessed New Year.  
Šťastný nový rok!  
Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice-President

Fr. Bujdos assessing progress made on the renovation of a classroom at St. Michael's Church.



## Bishop Kulick Will Be Featured Speaker

At the monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) on Monday, February 6, at 7pm, Bishop Larry Kulick of the Greensburg Diocese will be the featured speaker. His presentation is entitled "Evangelizing Today in the Footsteps of Saints Cyril and Methodius". The meeting is open to the public. All are invited.

The meeting will take place at St. Bernard Church  
Clairvaux Hall  
311 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
Phone: 412-561-3300



# Members of Branch 855 get creative decorating pumpkins for Halloween



Barb Shedlock



Kelly Shedlock



Ben Daley



Br 855 Fraternal Activities Director Stephanie Sutila



Rebecca Sutila



Br 855 President Barbara Sutila



Br 855 Recording Secretary Karen Habian



Br 855 Treasurer Ann Sutila



David Habian



Tim Scally, Christian Scally, Br 855 VP Karin Scally



## Celebrating the Season

### Branch 320 – Christmas Party 2022

Branch 320 would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Safe & Happy New Year. Branch 320 met in a fraternal celebration of the season this December. Traditional Italian favorites were served with a twist of holiday cheer at LaEda's (Monessen PA). Please keep in your thoughts & prayers all who are not with us. May God bless FCSU in the upcoming year.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice-President



(L-R) Frances Tarquinio (Branch 320 - Financial Sectary), Gayle, Paula (Branch 320)



(L-R) Mary Anne Higginbotham (Branch 320 – President), Joseph Tarquinio (Branch 320 – Vice-President)



(L-R) Bruce, Kamryn, Mary Anne (Branch 320)



(L-R) Sarah, Tom, Emily (Branch 320)



Newly elected Branch 24 Officers pose with District 10 President on beautiful sunlit afternoon (L- R) Auditor Susan Moynihan, Auditor Robert Kopco, Treasurer Joseph Oros, President John Moynihan, Vice President Jennifer Allen, Fraternal Activities Director Thomas Ivanec, Secretary Anna Gibson, and District 10 President Gregory Petrsek.

## 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: 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 162 and the Jefferson Club Donation to Nursing Home in Uniontown, PA

Branch 162 along with the Jefferson Club of St. John The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church donated signed Christmas cards to the Bella Health Care Nursing Home in Uniontown, PA. All 120 patients received a signed card.

Submitted by Joanne Marmol

(L-R) Joanne Marmol, Vice President Branch 162, and Betty Rozzell, member of Branch 162 and the Jefferson Club





# Lighting the Way

*Branch 320 and Boy Scouts of America Troop 1313*



On Christmas Eve, Boy Scouts of America (Troop 1313) and Branch 320 helped setup a traditional luminary display at St. Francis of Assisi Church (Finleyville PA – pictured above) and St. Benedict the Abbot Church (McMurry PA), both part of St. John XXII Parish.

The Roman Catholic Church believed the lights would guide the spirit of Christ's birth when used in the Christmas celebration. The modern tradition has evolved into Christmas luminaries decorating sidewalks, driveways, rooftops, and windows as a way to guide travelers to their holiday destinations.

**Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice-President**

## Branch 181 Donations in 2022



"What do we live for if not to make the world less difficult for each other." As we reflected on this quote of George Eliot, our hearts yearned to help those in need.

Branch 181 was inspired to donate \$1000 to the Catholic Relief Fund through the Diocese of Greensburg out of concern for the people of Ukraine during the current crisis. We pray for an end to this conflict.



A donation of \$650 was made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory of recent deceased members. St. Jude's mission is to advance cures and means of prevention for children with catastrophic diseases.



St. Florian Preschool Program was given a donation of \$500. Early childhood education is vital to a child's development in learning about themselves and the world around them. The donation was to be used for the preschool's greatest need.

**Submitted by Vicki Hricik**



**Fr. Martin Kertys, Parochial Vicar, with parishioners of St. John Nepomucene Church, Peter Gaspar first on the left (O. Martin Kertys, kaplán a farníci Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Peter Gaspar prvý vľavo.)**

**Fr. Martin Kertys standing in the back, Peter Gaspar fourth on the right. (Vzadu naľavo stojí O. Martin Kertys, kaplán, Peter Gaspar, štvrtý napravo.)**



## Deň Vďakyvzdania (Thanksgiving Day) Posedenie

Poslednú sobotu v mesiaci slovenská televízia LUX vysiela priamym prenosom slovenskú sv. omšu z Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NY. V sobotu 26. novembra po sv. omši, Peter Gaspar, Vice Prezident Okresu 16 IKSJ, pozval prítomných farníkov na "Thanksgiving Day" pohostenie a posedenie pri tradičnej morke s prílohami.

### Thanksgiving Day Get-Together

On the last Saturday of the month, Slovak television LUX broadcasts the Slovak holy Mass from the Church of St. John Nepomucene in NY. On Saturday, November 26 after holy Mass, Peter Gaspar, Vice President of District 16 FCSU, invited parishioners attending the Mass to a Thanksgiving Day get-together with traditional turkey with all the trimmings



**Branch 45 Committee - From left: Anton Kucharovic, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Maria Jurasi, Julie Ann Gurega, Jozef and Anna Korcak, Joseph Jurasi, Antonia Krajkovic, and Maria Zakovic.**

## Branch 45 of New York City's Celebration of Christmas

St. Matthew's Branch 45 held an annual meeting on December 4, 2022, at St. John Nepomucene Church in NYC with its committee.

On the same day, December 4, 2022, after the annual meeting, we organized St. Nicholas day with children greeting and singing a Slovak song "Málo nás, málo nás pod' te sv. Mikuláš medzi nás."

Annually our branch gets together for a Christmas Dinner – "Vigilia" at St. John Nepomucene Church after the Slovak mass. As tradition continues, this year on December 11, 2022, together we said a prayer, sang traditional Slovak Carols, ate traditional Slovak food unique for "Vigilia", in a beautifully decorated hall full of attendees with an excellent Christmas atmosphere.

On December 4, 2022, Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic church in Clifton, NJ also had a St. Nicholas day, where members of Branch 45 were attending a celebration.

**Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Sports Coordinator**



**Children performing on stage**



**Jurasi and Vasil family with St. Nicholas**



**Joint picture of all children at the hall**



**Our priests praying and singing before dinner, Fr. Martin Kertys and Fr. Stefan Chanas**



**Pictured are Jan Vasil with his son Janik, and St. Nicholas.**



**Branch 45 committee and guests - Anton Kucharovic, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Jozef and Anna Korcak, Maria Jurasi, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil and guests.**



# Scenes from A Successful Christmas Vilija at St. Andrew Abbey

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, hosted their annual Vilija on Sunday, December 4, 2022. Some 300 people attended the Vilija, including many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) in Branches 1, 24, 450, and 855. This year's event was graced by the presence of Bishop Emeritus of the Cleveland Diocese, the Most Reverend Bishop Roger Gries, OSB.

Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas Eve "feast" of oplatky, mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppy seed and nut rolls.

The luncheon began with prayers and songs in Slovak and English by the Benedictine monks, led by Abbot Gary Hoover, and including Vilija Emcee Fr. Michael Brunovsky, Fr. Gerard Gonda, Brother Gabriel Balazovic, Brother Simon Corrigan, and Brother Gregory Coyne. The monks then brought the first course of mushroom soup to each table. The First Catholic Slovak Union donated funds toward the food which was prepared and plated by members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club who are also members of the FCSU. These included: Mike Anderko, Milka Anderko, Maria Cvicela, Vlad Cvicela, Joe Elias, Jana Horvath, Milan Kobulsky, Dominik Nosek, Terezia Nosek, Karin Scally, and Tim Scally. The Radio Club is headed by President Henry Horvath (FCSU Supreme Court Member Elect and Branch 855 Member).

Ralph Szubski, the Accordion Man, provided music for dancing and listening pleasure throughout the day. After the meal, Fr. Michael pulled winning tickets for the Christmas Cash Raffle sponsored by the FCSU. There were 10 prizes of \$100 each for winning tickets. The raffle was coordinated by Branch 855 President Barbara Sutilla and Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec with help from FCSU National Auditor Elect and Branch 855 Treasurer Ann Sutilla and Branch 24 Members Terri Ivanec and Cora Strekal. The 11th ticket won the decorative Santa. All raffle proceeds went directly to support St. Andrew Abbey Monastery.





# News From Slovakia

## Správy zo Slovenska



**Dary prezidentky pre Svätého Otca (Gifts of the President for the Pope)**  
Photo, Vatican News

## Pápež František prijal prezidentku SR Zuzanu Čaputovú

V sobotu 10. decembra dopoludnia prijal Svätý Otec František na osobnej audiencii v Apoštolskom paláci prezidentku Slovenskej republiky Zuzanu Čaputovú spolu so sprievodom. Stretnutie sa uskutočnilo v Sále knižnice, kde pápež zvyčajne prijíma hlavy štátov.

Audienca u pápeža trvala 45 minút. Svätý Otec privítal pani Zuzanu Čaputovú o 10.30 a pol hodinu s ňou pobudol v súkromnom rozhovore. Nasledovalo predstavenie členov delegácie so spoločnou fotografiou a výmena darov.

Slovenská prezidentka sa následne stretla v priestoroch Štátneho sekretariátu s Mons. Paulom Richardom Gallagherom, vatikánskym sekretárom pre vzťahy so štátmi a medzinárodnými organizáciami.

Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová venovala pápežovi Františkovi obraz sv. Františka z Assisi od akademickej umelkyne Doroty Sadovskej, tradičné ručne vyrábané sklenené vianočné ozdoby z družstva Okrasa v Čadci a sviatočné pečivo zo sociálneho podniku Bivio v Bratislave na prútenom podnose z chránenej dielne Vrbovnica v Bardejove.

Ako dary pre Svätého Otca priniesla slovenská prezidentka aj dve publikácie: Ilustrovanú knihu „Pápež František deňom“ z vydavateľstva Nové mesto s ilustráciami Evy Šimonovej a biografickú publikáciu „Silvo Krčméry“ o významnej osobnosti slovenského katolíckeho disentu z doby komunistickej totality, vydanú v rámci projektu „Nenápadní hrdinovia“.

### Návšteva v Slovenskom dome v Ríme

Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová v podvečerných hodinách navštívila na severnom okraji mesta vo štvrti Giustiniana Pápežský slovenský ústav a kolégium sv. Cyrila a Metoda, kde sa stretla so Slovákmi pôsobiacimi v rozličných cirkevných inštitúciách v Ríme. Rector kolégia o. Pavol Zvara, ktorý prezidentke predstavil komunitu kolégia a ďalších členov slovenskej komunity v Ríme, privítal zároveň aj ministra zahraničných vecí SR Rastislava Káčera a veľvyslanca SR pri Svätej stolici Mareka Lisánskeho.



V kostole zasvätenom svätým solúnskym bratom so známymi mozaikami od akademického majstra Jozefa Cincika rektor Zvara na úvod predstavil historický význam tohto miesta. (In the church dedicated to the Holy Brothers of Thessaloniki with the famous mosaics by the academic master Jozef Cincik, Rector Zvara introduced the historical significance of this place.)

## Pope Francis Received the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová

On Saturday, December 10, 2022, the Holy Father Francis received the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová with her entourage in the Apostolic Palace of the Slovak Republic. The meeting took place in the library hall, where the Pope usually receives the heads of state.

The audience with the Pope lasted 45 minutes. The Holy Father welcomed Mrs. Zuzana Čaputová and held a private interview with her. This was followed by a presentation of members of the delegation with an exchange of photos and an exchange of gifts.

The Slovak President then met in the premises of the State Secretariat with Mons. Paul Richard Gallagher, the Vatican Secretary for Relations with the States and International Organizations.

President Zuzana Čaputová gave Pope Francis an image of St. Francis of Assisi by the academic artist Dorota Sadovská, traditional hand-made glass Christmas decorations from the Okrasa team in Čadca, and festive pastry from the Bivio Company in Bratislava on a wicker tray from its workshop Vrbovnica in Bardejov.

The Slovak President also brought as gifts for the Holy Father two publications: the illustrated book “Pope Francis” from the publishing house of Nové Mesto with illustrations by Eva Šimonová, and the biographical work of “Silvo Krčméry” on a prominent personality “Inconspicuous heroes”.

### Visit to the Slovak Institute in Rome

President Zuzana Čaputová visited the Papal Slovak Institute and the College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, where she met with Slovaks working in various church institutions in Rome. Rector College Father Pavol Zvara, who presented the President of the College and other members of the Slovak Community in Rome, also welcomed the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic Rastislav Káčer and the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic at the Holy See of Marek Lisánský.

President Čaputová spoke after the rector's introduction. In her speech, she highlighted the historical importance of the Slovak Institute of Saints Cyril and Methodius as an “island of freedom”, and recalled the personality of the recently deceased Cardinal Jozef Tomko. She stated that the institution today still plays important cultural, spiritual, and educational roles.

The President also spoke about the importance of the messages of Pope Francis about solidarity, respect, and unification, especially now, when in addition to global challenges, Slovakia also faces difficult divisions in society. At the same time, she appreciated the wave of solidarity with refugees from Ukraine, as many spiritual or religious Sisters were on the front lines to offer assistance to refugees.

## Parlament Vyslovil Nedôveru Vláde

Návrh na vyslovenie nedôvery vláde podala opozičná SaS. Pod zvolanie mimoriadnej schôdze sa podpísali aj nezaradení poslanci okolo Petra Pellegriniho.

Bratislava 15. decembra (TASR) - Národná rada (NR) SR vyslovila vo štvrtok nedôveru vláde Eduarda Hegera (OLANO). Za pád vlády hlasovalo 78 zo 102 prítomných poslancov, proti boli 20, zdržali sa dvaja a dvaja nehlasovali. Ešte pred hlasovaním opustili sálu poslanci OLANO.

Predseda NR SR Boris Kollár (Sme rodina) po hlasovaní prerušil schôdzu do piatka (16. 12.) do 9.00 h. Oznámil, že s premiérom pôjdu k prezidentke Zuzane Čaputovej. V piatok sa nebude hlasovať, najbližšie hlasovanie bude podľa jeho slov v utorok (20. 12.). “Pokračujeme ďalej v schôdzi národnej rady, nepadol parlament, padla vláda,” povedal Kollár. Zároveň médiám povedal, že je za predčasné voľby, ktoré by sa podľa neho mohli konať v máji či júni.

Návrh na vyslovenie nedôvery vláde podporili poslanci Smeru-SD, SaS, ako aj Martin Borguľa, Patrick Linhart, Ján Krošlák a tiež opoziční nezaradení poslanci s výnimkou Miroslava Kollára a Martina Klusa. Martin Čepček a Romana Tabák (Sme rodina) sa zdržali.

Ešte počas štvrtka ponúkol minister financií Igor Matovič (OLANO) svoju demisiu, pokiaľ SaS stiahne podpisy spod návrhu na vyslovenie nedôvery a podporí rozpočet.

Návrh na vyslovenie nedôvery vláde podala opozičná SaS. Pod zvolanie mimoriadnej schôdze sa podpísali aj nezaradení poslanci okolo Petra Pellegriniho.

Líder SaS Richard Sulík v pléne počas diskusie uviedol, že si vie po páde vlády predstaviť jej riadnu a zmysluplnú rekonštrukciu. V takom prípade by SaS kabinet podporila, no nebola by jeho súčasťou. Hovoril aj o možnosti predčasných volieb či úradnickej vlády.

V pléne vystúpili aj viacerí členovia vlády a premiér. Návrh SaS odmietali. Liberálov vyzvali, aby urobili krok späť. Argumentovali zachovaním demokratickej vlády a upozorňovali na riziká návratu Smeru-SD a Hlasu-SD.



## The Parliament Has Expressed No Confidence In The Government

The motion of no confidence in the government was submitted by the opposition SaS party. Non-aligned MPs around Petr Pellegrini also signed the motion to convene an extraordinary session.

Bratislava, December 15 (TASR) - On Thursday, the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR) voted no confidence in the government of Eduard Heger (OLANO). 78 out of 102 MPs present voted for the fall of the government, 20 were against, two abstained, and two did not vote. Before the vote, the OLANO MPs left the chamber.

After the vote, the President of the National Assembly Boris Kollár (Sme rodina) adjourned the sitting until Friday (16 December) at 9.00 a.m. He announced that he and the Prime Minister would go to President Zuzana Čaputová. He said there would be no vote on Friday and the next vote would be on Tuesday (20 December). “We are continuing the National Council session, the parliament has not fallen, the government has fallen,” Kollár said. He also told the media that he was in favor of early elections, which he said could be held in May or June.

The motion of no confidence in the government was supported by Smer-SD and SaS MPs, as well as Martin Borguľa, Patrick Linhart, Ján Krošlák and opposition non-attached MPs, with the exception of Miroslav Kollár and Martin Klus. Martin Čepček and Romana Tabák (Sme rodina) abstained.

On Thursday, Finance Minister Igor Matovič (OLANO) offered his resignation if SaS withdrew its signatures from the motion for a vote of no confidence and supported the budget.

The motion of no confidence in the government was submitted by the opposition SaS. Non-attached MPs around Petr Pellegrini have also signed the motion for an extraordinary session.

SaS leader Richard Sulík said in the plenary during the debate that he could imagine a proper and meaningful reconstruction of the government after its collapse. In such a case, SaS would support the cabinet, but would not be part of it. He also spoke about the possibility of early elections or a caretaker government.

Several members of the government and the prime minister also spoke at the plenary. They rejected the SaS proposal. They called on the Liberals to take a step back. They argued for the preservation of democratic government and warned of the risks of a return of Smer-SD and Voice-SD.



# Branch 746 celebrates

October 16, 2022 marked the centennial anniversary of Branch 746 - St. John the Baptist Society of Linden, New Jersey! To celebrate, Branch 746 organized a gala evening with over 140 guests in attendance. The main centerpiece of the evening was the impeccably preserved 100 year-old original Branch Charter which resides at the rectory of Holy Family Church.

The evening began with Holy Mass celebrated by the Pastor of Slovak Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Fr. Mariusz Luksza, for the intention of the branch and its members. The liturgy was followed by a gala dinner at Msgr. Komar Hall which commenced with a bountiful cocktail hour an assortment of finger foods, shrimp cocktail, fruits, including tradition Slovak open-faced sandwiches called chliebicky. The event was catered by Julie Rada and family and dinner included Slovak specialties such as holupky and segeninsky gulas and knedliky.

The rich program commenced with singing of the National Anthems of the US, Canada, and the Slovak Republic by renowned Broadway star, Luba Mason, member of Branch 716. The invocation was offered by FCSU National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta in English and Fr. Roman Palecko of Branch 746 in Slovak.

H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Michal Mlynar offered the toast and congratulated the Branch on its centennial anniversary noting the significance of this milestone for the Slovak community and encouraged members to continue to preserve the vision of the founder, Fr. Furdek. Having two daughters' members of Branch 746, Ambassador Mlynar spoke to the important need for youth engagement and the role they play in preserving FCSU for future generations.

In her opening remarks, Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados, spoke to the legacy of Branch 746 members that played a pivotal role in building the Slovak church in Linden. Branch 746's connection with Holy Family Church spans several decades were members of Jednota Branch 746 were an integral part in convincing the Archbishop of Newark to build a church in Tremley Point (the area where the church and hall are located). Four men, one of which was Mr. John Kopas whose daughter and grandson, Anna Zofchak and Edward Zofchak were in attendance, played an important part in establishing the Slovak church in Linden. Their efforts date back to 1939 when they first started to dream about a Slovak church where the community could grow in the faith and provide a refuge for those in need. Baking, which the church in partnership with Branch 746 members continues to do as fundraiser, started with selling lekvar donuts (šišky) to raise money for the land and building of the church. Finally, in 1955 after many years the dream of many came true when the Archbishop announced the erection of the new Slovak church in Linden --- Holy Family!

In the 100-year history of our local branch, members have given of their time and talents to organizing fundraisers, picnics, annual "Jednota zabavas" typically held in late November, and faith pilgrimages, including to Canada and to the National Basilica in Washington DC and countless other activities. Under the leadership of many including one of our oldest members, +Mrs. Mary Tkach, the Karch family, +John and Anna Balas, the Rada family, the Vrabel family, Mrs. Samudovska, the Budis and Beno family and many more organized picnics, pilgrimages to Marian Shrine in Hav-



Members of Region 1 - Branches 45, 716, and 746 came together to celebrate this special occasion. A few members are missing here, as it was difficult to pull them off the dance floor and away from all the delicious home-made pastries.



Branch 716 members pictured here with Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Michal Mlynar and his wife Andrea Mlynarova.



Pajtasi, the well-known and loved Slovak folklor band, performed all evening with a selection of songs from various regions of Slovakia.



Broadway star, Luba Mason member of Branch 716, performed a beautiful rendition of the Star of the East. In a touching moment, many shed tears as Luba in singing the S



# its 100th anniversary



It was all smiles as the celebration lasted into the early morning hours!



Branch 746 Vice President Joanne Tkach Polt, Region 1 Director and Branch 746 President Sabina Sabados, and Branch 746 Treasurer Mary Ann Ranahan. Not pictured but attending in spirit was long time Branch 746 Secretary Mary Kapitan.



Mr. and Jan and Kristina Draculin and Magda Bredova. Special thank you for the Slovak pastries.



It was a special privilege to have clergy join the celebration and extend their blessings on the Branch and its members. Pictured from L to R: Fr. Peter Bujdos (Branch 746), National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta (Branch 857), Fr. Mariusz Luksza (Pastor of Holy Family Slovak Church), Fr. Roman Palecko (Branch 746), Fr. Vladimir Chripko (Branch 746), and Fr. Dusan Nemecek (Branch 746).



A special thank you to our incredible bartenders, pictured here Marcus Gurega (Branch 716) and Jozef Vengler. The bar was stocked with premium liquors including Slovak whisky, "Nestville" and Goral Vodka available at Wesmont Liquors G4 in Woodridge, NJ.



Slovak with a sons in

ber of Branch 716 sang r-Spangled Banner and k national anthem. In a s as they accompanied Slovak national anthem.



The Rada family – three generations of Jednota members. Julie Rada also catered the 100th anniversary and countless other Jednota zabavas and events. She is known within the community as the "top chef" making our incredibly delicious and iconic Slovak dishes.

erstraw, trips to Danville to the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, trips to Sight and Sound, winery tours, and activities too numerous to name individual. Members attended Jednota conventions around the country.

Today the Branch continues its long tradition of being active within the community offering events and activities for the new generations including helping to promote and support the work of Lipka Academy, the Slovak children's school established more than 15 years ago, volunteer activities, paint nights, movie nights to see films that have religious significance, webinars in cooperation with Global Slovakia, and much more! In addition to the educational scholarship opportunities offered by the headquarters, our local branch instituted a scholarship program to financially support the youth of Branch 746 member in their academic pursuits.

At the core of the First Catholic Slovak Union is faith and family. For the members of Branch 746, Jednota has a special meaning as it served as a support mechanism for those recently immigrating and starting new lives in the United States due to the oppressive communist regime in the homeland, Czechoslovakia. Many of the members joined Jednota when they first arrived from Slovakia to the US – the members became like family as many had left behind their parents, grandparents, and siblings to start a new life in the United States. Members have shared their joys – attending one another's weddings, christenings, and sharing in other momentous life events – as well as heartaches, supporting one another when loved ones have passed away. This is Jednota – "unity" and it is still true today in our Branch. Let us be proud of the legacy our forefathers and continue in this path.

The 100th anniversary celebration was a way to celebrate together 100 years of fraternalism and community. Although the founding members of Branch 746 are no longer with us, we recognize their sacrifice and contributions. Many members of Branch 746 have been active members for 20, 30, 40, or even 60 years – we extend our appreciation to them for their commitment. Two very special women who remain very active in the branch were recognized for their dedication and contributions - Mrs. Mary Tkach who has been a member for 75 years and Mrs. Anna Zofchak, whose father, Mr. John Kopas, was an officer and who has been a member for 70 years! Each received a goodie bag from the home office which also included a beautiful Pieta!

Although the celebrations began at 6pm the evening did not conclude until 3am (formally at 1am)! Entertainment was provided by Slovak folk band, Pajtas! All the guests had a wonderful time dancing to traditional Slovak songs!

Branch 746 would like to thank the First Catholic Slovak Union Board of Directors for their support in making the 100th anniversary celebration possible. Thank you for your support and encouragement over the years.

By means of this article, let us also thank all of the wonderful members of Branch 746 for their dedication and commitment over the many years. The 100th anniversary gala evening was a night to celebrate OUR success in nurturing our faith, maintaining our Slovak roots and traditions, and keeping the spirit of fraternalism alive in our Slovak – American community. ZA BOHA A NÁROD - FOR GOD AND NATION!

Article by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director  
Photo credit: Maynard Wallace, Prog4to.com





Jednota Branch  
746 members  
with Consul  
General of  
the Slovak  
Republic in  
NY, Milan  
Vrobovsky and  
his family.

## Rozprávkové Vianoce v Lipke Academy v NJ

Vianoce – najkrajšie sviatky roka. Prinášajú so sebou ľudskosť, radosť, pokoj a predovšetkým lásku. Pre deti je to však aj obdobie darčiekov, na ktoré sa nesmierne tešia. Kto by už len nechcel obdarovať detskú dušu a vyčariť radosť v detských očiach?

To, že Vianoce nie sú len o darčekom, ale predovšetkým o ľudských hodnotách vedia aj deti v Lipke Academy a v ten deň priniesli radosť, vyčarili úsmev všetkým, ktorí sa vianočnej oslavy zúčastnili.

Tento rok ste mali možnosť zažiť rozprávkové Vianoce. Program pripravili spolu s deťmi Lipky Academy pani učiteľky a témou bola rozprávka "Frozen", v preklade "Ľadové kráľovstvo". Myšlienkou celého vystúpenia bola láska, ktorá dokáže roztopiť ľadové srdce a zažiť čarovné Vianoce.

Vianočná atmosféra, tajuplné čaro, vianočné piesne a kapustnica. To všetko sa dalo zažiť v Lipke Academy. Celý program sa niesol v slovenskom jazyku, nakoľko slovenčina je živým jazykom aj u mladej generácie žijúcej v USA a práve udržiavaním a pracovaním na jej zachovaní vďačíme aj členom Prvej Slovenskej Katolíckej Jednoty, Branch 746 na čele s ich regionálnou riaditeľkou Sabinou Sabados, ktorí nás finančne znovu podporili a aj vďaka nim máme možnosť rozvíjať a skvalitňovať výučbu slovenského jazyka. Vážia si našu prácu a veľmi im záleží na mladej slovenskej generácii vyrastajúcej v USA. Aj vďaka nim Lipka Academy má možnosť sa posúvať a rásť a poskytovať svoje služby všetkým, ktorí majú o udržanie jazyka záujem. Zo srdca im ďakujeme za finančnú pomoc, podporu a možnosť vždy ich vidieť na našich vystúpeniach.

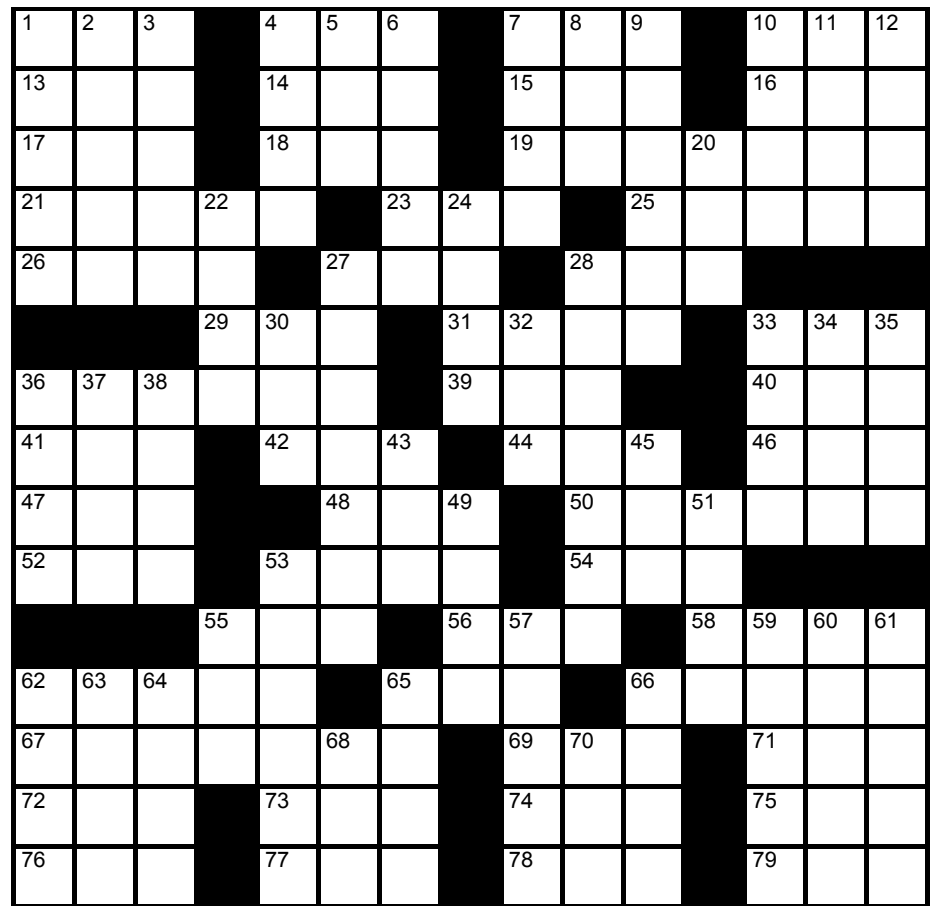
Svojou návštevou nás potešil aj generálny konzul v New Yorku Milan Vrobovský spolu so svojou rodinou. Veľmi sa teší udržiavaniu slovenského jazyka v USA, vždy nás poteší svojou návštevou a nezabúda obdarovať sladkosťami deti. Vystúpenia sa zúčastnil aj miestny farár Mariusz Luksza, ktorý sa tešil z vystúpenia detí a udržiavania slovenského jazyka aj u najmladšej generácie. Sme mu vďační za túto možnosť patriť pod slovenský kostol Svätej Rodiny v Linden.

Veríme, že si každý odniesol len tie najkrajšie zážitky a že v tejto tradícii budeme v zdraví aj naďalej pokračovať.

S vďačnosťou a prianím zdravia všetkým, Marianna Fecova - Lipka Academy (Branch 746)



# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 1 Wharton grad  
4 Family member  
7 Chapter in history  
10 Do some yard work  
13 Ashes holder  
14 Fla. neighbor  
15 Albanian money  
16 Leave dumbstruck  
17 Ryan of "I.Q."  
18 Idiosyncrasy  
19 Tiny amount  
21 Mince words?  
23 Furrow maker  
25 Damp  
26 Hebrides island  
27 \_\_\_ Quentin  
28 Good buddies use them  
29 Cry of mock horror  
31 Small salmon  
33 Deuce  
36 Bronx Bomber  
39 Merino mother  
40 Helping hand  
41 Absorbed, as a loss  
42 Dashboard abbr.  
44 Butterfly catcher  
46 Roswell sighting  
47 Fan setting  
48 Can opener  
50 Sampler  
52 River to the North Sea  
53 Lover of Aeneas  
54 "If the \_\_\_ is concealed, it succeeds": Ovid  
55 Holiday mo.  
56 Old English character  
58 Per person

62 Sitting spot

65 Biblical suffix

66 Mac maker

67 Forecast

69 Tire filler

71 Lunch meat

72 Fruit drink

73 Affirmative action

74 Seafood delicacy

75 Belfast grp.

76 Barnyard male

77 Like some martinis

78 Kind of testing

79 Study

### Down

- 1 Infectious disease  
2 Coffee \_\_\_  
3 Furious  
4 Check information  
5 \_\_\_ Baba  
6 Russian villa  
7 "If all \_\_\_ fails ..."  
8 Sleep acronym  
9 With hands on hip  
10 Epiphany figures  
11 Has a tab  
12 Hit the road  
20 Old PC platform  
22 Hunt for  
24 Fairy tale opener  
27 Doubter  
28 Big cat  
30 Suffix with auction  
32 Possess  
33 Lacking slack  
34 Ring bearer  
35 Methane's lack  
36 Eli's school  
37 Bohr's study

43 Like some scientists

45 Black gunk

49 Dugout, for one

51 Dance lesson

53 Count on

55 Flyspeck

57 Pottery fragment

59 Ladybug's prey

60 \_\_\_ Booth Luce

61 Hercules

62 Squabble

63 Commotion

64 Utah city

65 Mini-whirlpool

66 Carpet layer's calculation

68 Common conjunction

70 Lithium-\_\_\_ battery

See Solution on Page 23



# Christmas Baking at Slovak Church Holy Family in NJ

In December, Branch 746 members participated in the annual Christmas baking fundraiser for Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. This Slovak church has been baking traditional koláče (nut, cheese, and poppyseed rolls) for decades! Branch 746 members have been helping with this fundraiser for many years. Baking is organized by Branch 746 member Julie Rada who also caters the luncheon for all the volunteers. All proceeds from the fundraiser baking go to the church.



Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director  
Photos courtesy of Steve Rada



## ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA JEDNOTA MEMBERS & FRIENDS



**Hockey Night in Cleveland**  
Saturday, March 18, 2023

7:00pm

Monsters vs. Belleville Senators  
Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse -Cleveland, OH



**Special Offer Includes:**

**Discounted Lower Goal End Tickets!!**

- \$24 group rate per seat, with possible deeper discounts for MEMBERS ONLY through your branch
- GIVEAWAY – Denzel Ward Bobblehead, courtesy of Dominion Energy, to first 7,500 fans

**To get your branch discount and order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:**

- Branch 1: Rochelle Popovich, 216-789-6390
- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
- Branch 228: Lisa Trifiletti-Palos 440-960-2111
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Linda Hanko, 330-706-0151
- Branch 855: Stephanie Sutula, 440-409-9405



*Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch. Contact your branch officer for details!!*

**Deadline to order: Thursday, February 16, 2023**

**Seating is Limited: First Come, First Serve, So Don't Delay**

**TICKET DELIVERY:**

From your branch officer or Ohio Regional Director Tom Ivanec

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in the arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

## District 12 Meeting Swears in Officers and Holds Memorial Service for Deceased Members

On November 13, 2022, District 12, the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District of the Mon Valley held its Annual Meeting at the Kings Restaurant in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. The well-attended meeting's discussions centered on the wrap up of 2022 and upcoming events for 2023. The District Secretary Monica Boone conducted the annual candlelight Memorial Service remembering the deceased members of Branches 320, 670, and 853. To close out the meeting, the officers were sworn in by the Regional Director, Jim Marmol. Good Luck to members of District 12 and their officers for continued success and growth for 2023.

Submitted by District Secretary Monica Boone, [HlinkaDistrictSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:HlinkaDistrictSecretary@gmail.com)



Group photo - members of Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District



Swearing in officers ceremony by director Marmol: (L-R) Michael Bertovich Auditor, Dorothy Rudenic Auditor, Maureen Massfra Treasurer, Monica Boone Secretary, Joe Tarquinio VP, John Curcio Auditor, Cheryl Hyatt President (zoom attendance).

## Webinar Lecture Offered

January 18, 2023: H.E. Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States ("30 Years of Slovak Foreign Policy").

To register to participate online in the January 18 event click here (<https://tinyurl.com/2xf9jc4p>) or visit Friends of Slovakia Facebook or LinkedIn.



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 is providing special Branch 24 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7 pm), March 18, 2023, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage Field-House in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$24. A Branch 24 member ticket is \$5. Reservations are required and available by calling Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. The deadline to order tickets is February 16, 2023. Order now and join other FCSU members and guests from Branch 24 and other branches in District 10 for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism.

**Submitted Tom Ivanec, Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director**

## 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 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 162, UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA.

Officers' Reports will be given, and branch activities will be discussed. A review of the last years activities will be given, and the Donations Committee will make its recommendations for the coming year. Regional Director, James Marmol, will advise us of developments from the home office, and the meeting will be followed by breakfast. Call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before February 27th for reservations for you and your guest to attend the meeting.

**Submitted by Dolores Marmol, 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., 910 6th Ave Ford City, PA

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

## BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge Br. 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday March 20, 2023, at 7 P.M.

IN-PERSON at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Beginning in 2023, all quarterly meetings (March, June, September, and December) will be held in the IN-PERSON format at the American Slovak Club. All other monthly meetings will be held in the VIRTUAL format using the FreeConferenceCall.com Audio Conferencing service we have used since late 2020. All meetings will be conducted on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 P.M. Please keep in mind that there are no meetings held in the months of January, February, July, or August. You may contact Lisa at 440-773-1442 for specific instructions to attend virtually if needed.

The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date of this year's election meeting is December 18, 2023. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

The December 2022 election results for Branch 228 officers were as follows: President - Luis Palos, Vice-President - Ryan Trifiletti, Financial Secretary - Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were each re-elected to a 1-year term expiring on December 31, 2023. For representatives to the American Slovak Club Board of Directors, Kathleen Trifiletti and Ryan Trifiletti were each re-elected to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2025.

We respectfully ask all of our FCSU members to please pray to our Lord God to bless us all with His love, peace and mercy. May He unite the leaders of all nations to diligently work together for world peace.

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

## 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.

**Submitted by Thomas B Zuffa**

## 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 553 - AKRON, OH

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave., Akron, OH 44311.

Jan 18 Wed. Mystery Dinner - Cincinnati Style Chili - Served 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Feb 01 Wed. All You Can Eat Spaghetti - Served 4:30 - 7:00 pm

Feb 11 Sat. Valentine Karaoke - 6:30 pm - \$10 per person, Finger Food Served

Feb 15 Wed. All You Can Eat spaghetti - Served 4:30 - 7:00 pm

Feb 24 Fri. First Lenten Fish Fry - Served 4:30 - 7:00 pm

Mar 01 Wed. All You Can Eat Spaghetti - Served 4:30 - 7:00 pm

Wishing all members the best in the New Year and Thanking you for your continued patronage.

**Submitted by Linda M Hanko, Financial 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 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Branch 731 recently held our election of officers for 2023. The officers elected were Chaplin Monsignor Robert Siffirin, 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

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 12, 2023, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30 am. at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's day.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:30 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch Secretary, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620. No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

**Submitted by Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Happy New Year! The first meeting of 2023 will be on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ 07036). The agenda will include discussion of this year's activities. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. The Okres (District) meeting will follow at 3:00 PM. Then an early dinner will be served. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by March 1st if you plan on attending.

Additional branch news:

Members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00 PM (in Slovak) at

Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Masses are offered for the intention of all Branch 746 members living and deceased as follows: February 3rd, March 3rd, April 14th, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, November 3rd, and December 1st. October 6th mass is offered for blessings on Branch 746 on the occasion of its 101st Anniversary.

**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 hrusovskyyw@embarqmail.com.

**Submitted by Bill Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

HAPPY NEW YEAR ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 855! Please check out pictures from our Pumpkin Decorating Activity in this issue. Up next - meetings and activities for the new year:

February 1 - Wednesday: Our first meeting of the year will take place at the Akron Jednota Club at 485 Morgan Ave - Akron Ohio 44311. We will be enjoying an all-you-can-eat spaghetti and meatball dinner anytime between 5:00pm and 7:00pm followed by a meeting at 7:00pm concluding with a few games of bowling. No reservations required but appreciated. All Branch 855 members eat and play for free. All guests of Branch 855 pay \$12.00 for dinner and play for free. Cash bar all evening. Meeting agenda - fraternal activities for Branch 855 for the year 2023.

March 18 - Saturday: Hockey Night in Cleveland. See the announcement in this issue of the Jednota. All Branch 855 members will receive a free ticket to the game (advanced payment required with reimbursement at the game). All guests of Branch 855 members must pay full price of \$24.00. MUST RSVP by February 16th. Seating is limited so make your reservations early!

For questions, reservations or more details please contact your Fraternal Activities Coordinator Stephanie Sutilla by text or phone at 440-409-9405 or by email at fcsu855@gmail.com.

**Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, Br. 855 President**

## 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**



# The George Onda District's 29th annual Štedrý Večer in Greensburg, PA

On Sunday, December 4, 2022, the George Onda District (3) of the FCSU held its 29th annual Štedrý Večer. 154 members and guests gathered in the Christ, Our Shepherd center in Greensburg, Pa. The festivities began with Holy Mass celebrated in the Chapel with the Diocese of Greensburg Bishop Larry J. Kulick, our Chaplain, assisted by Reverend Chris Pujol, Edward Mizikar and Richard Mizikar. Choral and organ accompaniment during Mass was by the Pittsburgh Slovaks under the direction of Sue and Rudy Ondrejco.

Following Mass, the Slovaks performed an Advent/Christmas pageant with songs and dances by all ages as well as our beloved "Jasličkáři".

Guests were then seated in the dining room at tables laden with beautiful Oplatki, handmade by Barbara and Edward Mizikar, fresh fruit, nuts and honey. The first star in the evening sky was spotted by Carter Sheridan and Vincent Lombardo, grandsons of Marie and Russ Morgan of branch 181. A traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner of mushroom/sauerkraut soup, fish, pagach, pierogies, bobalki, prunes and peas were served. For dessert, everyone received apricot and nut kolache. Violinist, Marty Myers, graced us with dinner music. Numerous beautiful door prizes were awarded. Jednota editor, Michael Kopanic, was there along with National officers.



### National officers in attendance were:

- Chaplain-Reverend Thomas Nasta
- Vice-President Damian Nasta and wife Peggy
- Executive Secretary Kenneth Collins
- Treasurer John Tokarsky and wife Christine
- General Counsel Gary Matta and wife Larissa
- Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer
- Supreme Court Member James Bench and wife Kay
- Region 4 Director-James Marmol and wife Patty

### George Onda District members present were:

- President- William Patty
- Vice-President-Darlene Patty
- Secretary-Linda Gonta
- Treasurer-Stephen Gonta

We are very proud to have continued this Štedrý Večer for 29 years. We encourage all to return again, especially our youth, so this beautiful Slovak custom lives on for years to come.

Submitted by Linda Gonta, Secretary

Photos courtesy of: Darlene LaPay, Vickie Hricik and Darlene Patty



## Preserving the history of Slovak American World War II Veterans



Branch 320 is proud to announce a new Slovak Americans Veterans WWII Memorial located in the Eldred WWII Museum <https://eldredpawwiimuseum.com/home-mobile/>. The memorial was created so Slovak American WWII Veterans could be remembered for their service. This project is being spear-headed by Charles Boone (Branch 853) "in-order that no Slovak American WWII Veteran is forgotten."

Branch 320 would like to thank all Veterans for their sacrifice.

Donation

(L-R) Frances Tarquinio (Branch 320 – Financial Secretary), Charles Boone (Branch 853), Joseph Tarquinio (District 12 – Vice-President)

The museum is always on the hunt for WWII artifacts, plus donations are always welcome. Please email Charles at [slovakamericanww2exhit@gmail.com](mailto:slovakamericanww2exhit@gmail.com) for details.

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Branch 320 Vice President



## Clarification of Donation by the Monsignor Hlinka District

This is a clarification of a donation on page 9 of December 14 Jednota issue to the new Slovak American WWII exhibit. The donation was from the Monsignor Hlinka District, not Branch 853. Charles Boone who organized the event is a member of Branch 853.

Submitted by Monica Boone



## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. RURA DISTRICT, NJ

Happy New Year! The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 3:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ 07036). The agenda will include discussion of this year's activities. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry. Dinner will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by March 1st if you plan on attending.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

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

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

### DISTRICT 8 - REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT, PA, NC

The Reverend Stephen Furdek Districts wishes a very Happy New Year to all its Branches and Members. We hope your Christmas was merry, joyous, and blessed. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." - Romans 15:13

District 8 will hold its bi-annual meeting in April in Washington D.C. more information will be forthcoming.

Submitted by **Joann Austin, Recording Secretary**

### 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**



## Geletka Family Gathering

Members of the Geletka family gathered on December 3, 2022 for the "Seventh Annual" luncheon at DeNunzio's restaurant in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. Cousins traveled from Ohio and New Jersey to join those from the Pittsburgh area.

The cousins are proud descendants of Slovak grandparents Josef and Agnes (Monka) Geletka, who immigrated to the United States, married in 1901, and raised a family of fourteen children. The family home was in Coral, PA (Jednota Branch 484).

Submitted by **Joan (Galetka) Kort, Branch 484**

## A New Year Wish in Slovak

Here is a typical wish on New Year's Day in eastern Slovak dialect. When entering a household, the well wisher would recite a long wish, and then be acknowledged, a sign of good luck.

Vinšujem vám, vinšujem, tento slávny svätý rok nový,  
aby vám dal Pán Boh zdraví, sčastá,  
hojnejšieho božského požehnáňa,  
po smrti kráľovské nebeské obsáhnutí.  
Pochvalený budz Pán Ježiš Kristus!

Odpoveď: Na veky Amen.

I wish you, I wish you, this glorious holy new year,  
that the Lord God may grant you good health,  
more abundant divine blessings,  
and upon dying, attaining royal heavenly bliss.  
Praise be the Lord Jesus Christ!

Answer: Forever, Amen.



Group Photo below, Caption: First graduation from St. Cyril Academy on June 14, 1926—Sisters from left to right: Sister Emerentia Petrasek, Sister Gabriel Hricko, Mother Pius Yakubov, Sister Cyril Podracky and Sister Benedict Yantoshik. Bishops Marián Blaha, Banská Bystrica, Jan Vojtašák, Spiš, Bishop Philip McDevitt, Harrisburg, Pavol Jantausch, Trnava Jozef Čársky, Košice. Pavol Jantausch was referred to as Apostolic Administrator of Trnava.

## Sister Felicita Stofko

Born in Široká, Slovakia, Anna Stofko immigrated to Reading, PA as a young adult and lived there with her brother. On August 5, 1924, when she was 25, she entered the SS-CMs at Villa Sacred Heart. Her pastor at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church commended her for the good example she had displayed as a laywoman. She had given evidence of humility, peacefulness and fervor in the house of God. How much more would virtue flower in the religious community she planned to enter? And flower it did. In the twenty years of religious life Sister Felicita served as a dedicated homemaker and cook in nine different local convents. Sister Felicita, however, is remembered by the Sisters in her "band" as being a faithful religious. Since she was older than most of them, she had the reputation of being motherly and approachable, also sensible, caring, kind and helpful.

Besides being an excellent cook she was an expert dressmaker. She liked to surprise the Sisters in the convents to which she was assigned by making their clothes disappear from the wash and reappear on their beds, beautifully and skillfully mended.

In June 1926, the Sisters at Villa Sacred Heart were delighted with the visit of four Bishops from Slovakia. They came there on their way to the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago and were at the first graduation. The delegation from Slovak included the following bishops: Marian Blaha of Banská Bystrica, Jan Vojtašák from Spiš, Pavol Jantausch of Trnava, and Bishop Jozef Čársky from Košice. One of the novices knew Bishop Čársky. He had been her pastor in Slovakia. Sister Felicita, a novice at the time, was particularly happy to see Bishop Čársky who had once been her pastor.

Twenty-two years after her entrance into religious life, Sister Felicita was stationed at Jednota where she was suddenly taken in death. It was October 17, 1946.

Group Photo below, Caption: First graduation from St. Cyril Academy on June 14, 1926—Sisters from left to right: Sister Emerentia Petrasek, Sister Gabriel Hricko, Mother Pius Yakubov, Sister Cyril Podracky and Sister Benedict Yantoshik. Bishops Marián Blaha, Banská Bystrica, Jan Vojtašák Spiš, Bishop Philip McDevitt, Harrisburg, Pavol Jantausch, Trnava Jozef Čársky, Košice. Pavol Jantausch was referred to as Apostolic Administrator of Trnava.





Papal nuncio Msgr. Nicola Girasoli. Photo: Vatican News

## Nuncius Girasoli v slovenskom kolégiu v Ríme: Nielen veriaci, ale vierohodní

Pápežské slovenské kolégium sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme navštívil v utorok 15. novembra apoštolský nuncius v Slovenskej republike Mons. Nicola Girasoli. Zoznámil sa so životom kolégia a slávil svätú omšu spolu so slovenskými kňazmi, rehoľnými sestrami a laikmi pôsobiacimi vo Večnom meste. V homilii povzbudil v prvom rade k intenzívnej práci na budovaní a obnove vierohodnosti Cirkvi.

Rektor kolégia Pavol Zvara medzi prítomnými osobitne privítal veľvyslancu SR pri Svätej stolici Mareka Lisánskeho, pracovníkov Slovenského historického ústavu v Ríme, ako aj dvojicu amerických kňazov so slovenskými koreňmi, ktorí sú práve na návšteve Večného mesta: Robert Siffrin je predsedom Konferencie slovenského kléru v USA a Peter Polando je kaplánom Ženskej slovenskej katolíckej jednoty a bývalým predsedom Združenia slovenských katolíkov v USA. V úvodnom slove rektor Zvara pripomenul aj pamiatku nedávno zosnulého kardinála Jozefa Tomka.

Pri svojom prvom stretnutí so slovenskou komunitou v Ríme sa nový nuncius najprv podelil s tým, ako po príchode do Bratislavy postupne absolvoval zdvorilostné návštevy, pri ktorých zakaždým dostal otázku, s akou agendou prichádza:

„Ako nuncius nemám program, nemám agendu, mojim programom je evanjelium, slovo, ktoré nám Pán zanechal. Poslanie a služba nuncia je jednota, kráčať spoločne ako Cirkev, s biskupmi, kňazmi, rehoľníkmi, rehoľníčkami, s Božím ľudom,“ uviedol 65-ročný Mons. Nicola Girasoli, ktorého Svätý Otec vymenoval za nuncia na Slovensku 2. júla.

„To, čo dnes potrebujeme, je nielen byť veriacimi. Pápež František nám to neustále opakuje: musíme byť vierohodní. Vierohodnosť je veľmi dôležitá. Potrebujeme byť nielen veriaci, ale vierohodní. ... Musíme preto kráčať spolu, a nikto sa nesmie cítiť vylúčený, nikto sa nesmie považovať za lepšieho ako ten druhý...“

Ohlasovanie evanjelia sa musí prejavovať slovami premietanými do skutkov. Vierohodné gestá vyvolávajú radosť a oduševnenie, zdôraznil nuncius a pripomenul niektoré momenty návštevy pápeža Františka na Slovensku, osobitne medzi mladými v Košiciach a na sídlisku Luník. Odporúčal vracať sa k príhovorom Svätého Otca z návštevy Slovenska, ktoré obsahujú dôležité podnety.

V súvislosti s pastoračným prístupom pápeža Františka si Mons. Girasoli zaspomínal aj na svoje niekdajšie diplomatické pôsobenie v Argentíne. Rodák z juhotalianskej oblasti Bari pri homilii hovoril v taliančine, no prítomných ubezpečil, že sa už začal učiť slovenčinu, aby mohol čoskoro sláviť eucharistiu zo slovenských liturgických kníh. Pri pohostení kapustnicou, o ktoré sa postarala domáca komunita Milosrdných sestier sv. Vincenta – satmárov, sa apoštolský nuncius spontánne prejavil už aj niekoľkými slovenskými výrazmi.

## The Apostolic Nuncio Girasoli at the Slovak College in Rome: Not Only Faithful, but Credible

The Apostolic Nuncio to the Slovak Republic, Mons. Nicola Girasoli visited the Pontifical Slovak College of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Rome on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. He learned about the life of the College and celebrated Holy Mass together with Slovak priests, religious sisters, and lay people working at the College in the Eternal City. In his homily, he encouraged the clergy to work intensively to build and renew the credibility of the Church.

The Rector of the College, Pavol Zvara, welcomed those present, which included the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the Holy See, Marek Lisánský, the staff of the Slovak Historical Institute in Rome, as well as two American priests with Slovak roots who are currently visiting the Eternal City: Robert Siffrin is the President of the Conference of Slovak Clergy in the USA (founded in 1985 to associate priests and deacons in the United States, who are of Slovak ancestry, and to assist those preparing themselves for priestly ministry for the Roman Catholic Church in Slovakia [Kopanic]), and Peter Polando is the chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union and the former President of Slovak Catholic Federation in the USA. In his opening remarks, Rector Zvara also recalled the recently deceased



Slovak clergy at the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Photo: Vatican News

Cardinal Jozef Tomko.

In his first meeting with the Slovak community in Rome, the new nuncio first shared how, after his arrival in Bratislava, he made successive courtesy visits, each time being asked what kind of agenda he had. He responded: “As a nuncio, I have no agenda, I have no agenda, my agenda is the Gospel, the word that the Lord has left us. The mission and ministry of the nuncio is unity, to walk together as a Church, with the bishops, priests, religious men and women, with the people of God,” said the 65-year-old Msgr. Nicola Girasoli, whom the Holy Father appointed nuncio to Slovakia on July 2, [2022].

“What we need today is not only to be believers. Pope Francis keeps telling us: we need to be faithful. Credibility is very important. We need not only to be believers, but to be credible. ... We must therefore walk together, and no one must feel excluded, no one must consider himself better than the other...”

The proclamation of the Gospel must be manifested in words translated into deeds. Credible gestures evoke joy and soulfulness, the nuncio stressed, recalling some moments of Pope Francis' visit to Slovakia, especially among the young people in Košice and in the Lunik housing development. He recommended returning to the Holy Father's speeches from his visit to Slovakia, which contain important messages.

In the context of Pope Francis' pastoral approach, Msgr. Girasoli also recalled his former diplomatic assignment in Argentina. The native of the southern Italian region of Bari spoke in Italian during his homily, but he assured those present that he had already begun to learn Slovak so that he could soon celebrate the Eucharist in the Slovak liturgy. While they were treated with kapustnica (Slovak sour cabbage soup with klobása), which was provided by the local community of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent – Satmarians, the Apostolic Nuncio spontaneously even spoke a few Slovak expressions.

Source: Vatican News, November 16, 2022, [www.tinyurl.com/4zhhyssc](http://www.tinyurl.com/4zhhyssc)

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

### LIGHT ONE CANDLE

## Don't Give Darkness Power Over Light

In my previous column, I shared parts of my interview with Joy Marie Clarkson, author of the book “Aggressively Happy: A Realist's Guide to Believing in the Goodness of Life.” She revealed how a period of suffering led her closer to God and a greater appreciation for the joys we can experience if we open ourselves to them. But getting to that point was not a straight line for Joy, who admits she has struggled with doubt as well.

She doesn't see doubt as a bad thing, though, noting that she feels a kinship to two characters in Dostoevsky's novel “The Brothers Karamazov” because “it portrays someone who, with the best intentions of their heart, cannot believe in God—and someone who, with the best of intentions of their heart, chooses to [believe] anyway. I always have felt like I had both of those within me. A part of choosing to believe... is saying that my life is more sensible, more endurable in faith—and the consolation that comes with faith can't come from the outside. I have to take the step into faith to be able to receive its consolations. Having that story in my mind has helped me know that God is faithful to me even when I waver in doubt.”

Among the consolations of looking at life through the eyes of faith is the belief “that at the heart of reality is goodness, is joy, and that in choosing to cultivate happiness, we are speaking to that reality.” Still, there are people who view the world through a darker lens, seeing only its hardships and sufferings. While acknowledging that we can't be happy all the time, Joy believes that view gives the darkness too much power over the light.

She explained, “There's a great quote by Jack Gilbert, the American poet, who says, ‘To only attend to evil would be to praise the devil.’ So, attend to what is good and beautiful and true, but not in a way that ignores all the difficult things of life...There can be this idea that if...someone in the world is suffering, you're being selfish because you're being happy...It's like, ‘If I'm sitting around being cynical and unhappy, I'm more righteous than everybody else because I'm more knowing.’ When in fact, you're probably making life for everyone around you more unpleasant. It's not helping anyone on the other side of the world, it's not helping anyone around you, and it's not being attuned and thankful for what is in front of you.”

When Joy encounters problems nowadays, she tries to follow The Christophers' approach of lighting a candle rather than cursing the darkness. She concluded, “I always start with the practical...What I try to do is I... eat something healthy, I'm going to sometimes literally light a candle. It's amazing to me how much pleasure...lighting a candle can be. Then...I try to be intentional about reaching out to friends. Sometimes when I'm encountering difficulties, trying to give kindness to other people helps me feel better, because it also reminds me that I'm not just a victim to the rest of life. I can be an agent of positivity.”

“Then, I [rest] in God. There are times for shaking one's fist at God and doing all the Psalmist activities. But I think also [about] trusting in God's love for me, no matter what happens. Sometimes that takes the form of prayers and listening to a beautiful song and knowing that God made beautiful things in the world.”



## Kissell Family Dedicates Scholarship to Service Learning

A priest at Saint Vincent changed the course of Thomas Kissell's life, something he has never forgotten.

The son of a coal miner/farmer father and a homemaker from United, Kissell, C'51, had never been beyond Greensburg until he joined the Navy in 1943 at age 17. After serving for 27 months in the Pacific Theater, and an honorable discharge, he returned home. He obtained a job at Jeannette Tire and Rubber, but when the company began layoffs, as one of the recent hires, he lost his job. He made plans to go to school in Hershey to train for the Pennsylvania State Police, and even had a letter of recommendation from his pastor. However, when the time came for him to leave, his pastor, Rev. Louis Hohos, would not let him go.



"He said to me, 'you're going to Saint Vincent,'" Kissell recalled. He called Father Edmund Cuneo, O.S.B., the dean, but the dean responded that not only was there no room, but there was a waiting list in the hundreds. The pastor did not give up, Kissell said, telling the dean "When you needed money for the college, Tommy Kissell went door to door to solicit funds for you. He didn't turn you down.' I was enrolled."

Kissell went to work before he went to school, however, getting up at 2 a.m. to tend to a coke oven in United, and finishing at 6 a.m. He even had energy left for the baseball team until the sport was discontinued at the end of his sophomore year. The Navy veteran married Helen Whisdosh while still in school, and they had two of their ten children before he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in education.

Over his long career in education, he has been an English teacher at Hurst High School, an evening school instructor at Saint Vincent, supervising principal in the Unity Township and then the Unity-Youngstown Joint School District, assistant superintendent and then superintendent of the Greater Latrobe School District, and superintendent of the Penn Cambria School District. He retired in 1986.

Just as important as his work and his family, was—and is—giving back. During his career and in retirement, he has served with dozens of professional, community, and church organizations. Since retirement, he continues involvement with his church—Saint Cecilia in Whitney—and with other organizations such as serving on the board of Overly's Country Christmas and with the Westmoreland County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. He has received the Letterman of Distinction Award and Alumnus of Distinction Award from Saint Vincent College, where over the years he has been involved with the Alumni Council, the Drug and Alcohol Primary Prevention Program, Vocational Educational Programming, and the Letterman's Club.

Thus, a few years ago, when the ten Kissell children and their children wanted to do something to honor their parents, they looked at the couple's life of service and established the Helen and Tom Kissell Endowed Scholarship for Service Learning at Saint Vincent College.

"There is no question that Saint Vincent is special to both of my parents," said Helen Kissell Burns. "We wanted to recognize something that was important to them. So my siblings and I decided to establish a scholarship in their honor."

The Kissells' ten children include Helen Burns, Paulette Stratico, Darlene Kimmel, Don, Kathryn Mitchell, Cindy Hoffman, Annette Mowery, Jennifer Strayer, Kevin, and the late Dr. Thomas X. Kissell. Two of the Kissells' 25 grandchildren have attended Saint Vincent, the daughters of Helen and Gerald Burns: Jodi C. Kraisinger, C'91, and Courtney Marie Burns, C'03.

During a recent afternoon visit, the Kissells displayed the "surprise" letter they received in 2007 from then-President Jim Towey announcing the gift of the scholarship, as well as thank-you notes written by several students who have benefited from the scholarship in the past few years.

The first award helped pay travel costs for a student to go to Brazil where she spent a week working with AIDS patients. The most recent stipend went to a student who worked with the poor in Nicaragua.

"Our children know how I feel about Saint Vincent. They know my heart's there," Kissell said. The scholarship is a way of keeping it there."

—Kim Metzgar

### Postscript

Tom Kissell was member of Branch 181 United, PA. He helped his father pull coke before going to St. Vincent College. Tom told me he would study for tests by asking himself a question when taking the coal up the ramp and he would need to answer the question before returning the wheelbarrow for more coal. Once he was finished, he would hitch hike to school as he did not own a car.

In the Navy he started out serving as a cook and used many of his mother's Slovak recipes. This brought much satisfaction to the crew and assisted in his promotion.

Tom was one of the first public school superintendents in an era where there was prejudice against Catholic's serving in the public school system. When I was in eighth grade, we were not permitted to play in the WPIAL, we had to play in the Pittsburgh Catholic League.

Submitted by Greg Maurer, FCSU Chairman of Auditors

## Slovak Women in Space

On October 28, 2022, members of Branch 45 and 746 along with the Slovak-American community in NYC had the unique opportunity to meet two remarkable Slovak women who are connected through their love of space and Slovakia. The event entitled "Slovak Women in Space" featured a conversation between astrobiologist Dr. Michaela Musilová and explorer and business executive Vanessa O'Brien. These accomplished scientists, explorers and authors discussed their life journeys, described pivotal moments leading them to climb summits, explore Mars and fly to space. Their riveting discussion undoubtedly inspired us all to reach for the stars!

The event was hosted at the residence and under the auspices of the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Michal Mlynár and Dr. Andrea Mlynárová in collaboration with the Slovak-American Cultural Center.

To listen to the recorded event, go to: [SlovakAmericanCC.org](http://SlovakAmericanCC.org). The recording is under tab Events: 2022 Slovak Women in Space. To read more about these incredible women, pick up their books! *Žena z Marsu* by Dr. Michaela Musilová is currently available only in Slovak. To order a copy email: [michaela@michaelamusilova.com](mailto:michaela@michaelamusilova.com). To the Greatest Heights: *Facing Danger, Finding Humility, and Climbing a Mountain of Truth* by Vanessa O'Brien is in English and available online: [www.porchlightbooks.com](http://www.porchlightbooks.com).

Submitted by Sabina Sabados



Jednota Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados was presented with a very special gift – a Slovak flag that was taken over the Kármán line to sub-orbital space reaching 107km on 4 August 2022 by 6x Guinness World Record holder Vanessa O'Brien.



Jednota members from Branch 45 and 746. Pictured from L to R: Julie Ann Gurega (District 16 President), Frederik Koval (Branch 45), Sabina Sabados (Branch 746 President), Vanessa O'Brien, Dr. Michaela Musilová, Rosemary Golia (Branch 45), Rene Gurega (Branch 45), Dr. Ivica Labuda, Marcus Gurega (Branch 45). Not pictured: Lucia Kollárová Kapogiannopoulous (Branch 746) and Michaela Mylnárová (Branch 746).

Dr. Andrea Mlynárová and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Michal Mlynár being presented with a Slovak flag which has traveled to space by Vanessa O'Brien. With her most recent adventure Vanessa was the first female to complete the "Explorers' Extreme Trifecta".





# 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
002K	James J Lisiak	108K	Joseph Kosisko	320K	Rev John G Petro	743K	Marie A Kwiatkowski
003P	Alice Piazza	112K	Elizabeth Kostick	367K	Mary Sajsa	746K	Mary D Kovatch
004K	Helen Orgero	157K	Albert C. Libricz Sr	373K	Mary Frances Rudibaugh	746K	Rose Rapach
023K	Frank Prebola	157K	Mary Ann Snyder	382K	Paul W Zelinka	746K	Rosemary Resetar Miller
024K	Jeanne C Kizak	157K	Rosemarie Mraz	410K	Rose M Smetanka	785K	Stefan Kmec
038K	John A Zedo	166K	Robert Hanyak	419K	Cyril Pipan	796K	Carol A Makovsky
038K	Ronald Michael Kinner	181K	Anna R Rich	429K	Mary Vieira	796K	John Halushak
038K	Stephen Straka	181K	Beth Ann Silva	456K	George J Pallo	796K	Joseph Petrakovic
040K	Gloria Muntz	181K	James M Bench Jr	484K	James E Yanoscsik	900K	Andreas Gross
055K	Thomas J Tinney	181K	Lisa D Munson	580K	Harvey W Jackson	916K	Adele Halstead
085K	Joseph M Janinek	199K	Helen L Walor	580K	Valeria Edith Mattis	916K	Jerrylene V Lype
086K	Joseph Svonavec	200K	Eileen Lux	587K	John Fetkovich	926K	Genevieve Mary Smits
096K	Jeffrey P Merriman	215K	Mary Ann Noga	706K	Albert A Musuta	926K	Gerald J Carey
096K	Stephen Drahnak	313K	Robert Margala	731K	Kellie M Bindas		

\* Processed in the month of December 2022

## NEKROLÓGY – OBITUARIES

**JOHN J. GLUVNA, BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH**



John J. Gluvna, 83, of Lorain, passed away peacefully and with his family by his side on Friday November 18, 2022, after a lengthy illness. He was born June 27, 1939 in Lorain and had been a life-long Lorain resident.

John graduated from Lorain High School in the 1957 B Class, attended Case Western Reserve University for his undergraduate studies, then graduated from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. After successfully passing his state board exams, John became an Ohio licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer and joined the family business becoming the 3rd generation in business that was begun by his grandfather John J. Gluvna in 1912. John worked alongside his father Joseph J. Gluvna for many years and in 1959 designed and built the current funeral chapel in Lorain with his father-in-law Joseph DiSimone. He continued serving families in the community until 1998 when he sold the business to his employees and then continued to work as a consultant until fully retiring in 2000.

John was very active in the community having served on the board of directors of First Federal Savings in Lorain, board member and past president of the Lorain City Health Department and member and past president of the American Slovak Club. He was a member of the former Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lorain where he had served on parish council and was a member of the Holy Name Society. His family was one of the charter members of Holy Trinity as the original funeral home was located just north of the church. He was a current member of St Joseph Catholic Church in Amherst. John enjoyed reading, gardening, horse racing, gambling, traveling with friends and playing golf and even had a hole-in-one once.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years Germaine Gluvna (née DiSimone), children: Judy Gluvna, Joanne Godlewski (Dan), Jack Gluvna and Janice O'Connor (John); seven grandchildren; eight great grandchil-

dren; sister Joan Gluvna and brother Joseph J. Gluvna Jr (Linda). He was preceded in death by his parents Joseph & Anna Gluvna (nee Homola), uncle, Rev Father William Homola and sister-in-law, Bernie Gluvna.

A mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am at St Joseph Catholic Church and burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Lorain. Memorial contributions can be made to Second Harvest Food Bank, 5510 Baumhart Rd, Lorain, OH. 44053 or the Salvation Army, 2506 Broadway, Lorain, OH. 44052. Online condolences can be made at [www.gluvnashimohromada.com](http://www.gluvnashimohromada.com).

**Submitted by Janice O'Connor**

**JOSEPH M. JANINEK, BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PA**



Joseph M. Janinek, 92, of Carbondale, died Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at Wayne Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family. His wife was the former Patronella Jablonowski Janinek who passed away in 2014. The couple was married for 58 years.

Born in Jessup, he was the son of the late Joseph and Mary Podrasky Janinek. Joseph was a member of St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale, and was a graduate of Jessup High School, class of 1948. He was a corporal in the US Air Force who served during the Korean War.

Before his retirement in 1997, he was employed by both Hendrick Manufacturing and Cross Manufacturing as a machine operator. In the summer months you could find him working events at McDonnell's Grove. Joseph was a founding member of the Cottage Hose Ambulance Company and was actively involved with the Carbondale Little League.

The family takes comfort knowing that Joseph is now reunited with the love of his life, Patronella. Together they raised five children and instilled a love and emphasis of family and faith that continues to be passed down through the generations of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Family meant the world to Joseph. Hol-

idays and family events were centered around our Dad. He was affectionately called Poppy by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a lifetime Phillies fan, enjoyed reading the daily newspaper, as well as completing his jigsaw puzzles.

The family is thankful for the lifetime of care from Dr. Frank Moro, the therapy, love, and support from the VNA Home Health, and the compassionate care from all personnel at Wayne Woodlands Manor.

Surviving are his five children, Joseph F. Janinek and wife, Karen, Rochester, NY; Karen Burgio and husband, Joseph, Greenfield Twp.; Lisa Emmett and husband, Mark, Myrtle Beach, SC; Michael Janinek and wife, Mary Ellen, Lansdale; Sue Tolerico and John Schiavone; 11 grandchildren, Matthew and wife, Jessica Janinek; Krista Janinek; Lauren Farber and husband, William; Kaitlin Tuffy and husband, Kevin; Jenna Burgio; Alyssa Williams and Joe Dechiaro, Ryan Emmett and wife, Becky; Michael Janinek and wife, Jennifer; Jordan Janinek; Marcus Janinek; Sarah Tolerico; 8 great-grandchildren, Sophia, Brayden, and Olivia Farber, Nathan and Carter Emmett, Piper Williams, Caleb Janinek, and Addison Tuffy; his sisters, Veronica LaMacchia, Marie Homentosky, Josephine Palmer, Ann Simeone, and Barbara Smith.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Agnes Janinek.

A mass of Christian burial took place at St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale. Entombment followed at Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery, Finch Hill. Visitation was held at Louis M. Margotta Funeral Home, Jessup. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Rose of Lima Church, 6 N. Church St. Carbondale, PA 18407.

**Submitted by Lisa Emmett**

**MARY D. KOVATCH, BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NJ**



Mary D Kovatch, 99, of Lakewood, New Jersey, peacefully passed away Monday, November 14, 2022, at Monmouth Southern Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in Lakewood. Born and raised in Linden, New Jersey she spent many years in Mountainside and Lakewood. Mary was a dedicated mother first and foremost. She was an active member of the Women's Club of Mountainside and a member of the Rosary Altar Society at Holy Family Church, Linden and Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mountainside.

Daughter of the late Martin and Anna (Fedorchak) Vanco, wife of the late Andrew Kovatch, she is predeceased by three brothers and two sisters. The devoted mother of the late Joyce Marie Albers-Schonberg, grandmother of the late Eric Kovatch, Christopher Kuser, she is survived by a son and daughter in law Richard and Nancy Kovatch, 2 daughters and 2 sons in law Joann and William Kuser, Andrea, and Joseph Correia, 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

The funeral was held on November 19, 2022, at the Mather-Hodge Funeral Home in Princeton. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated 9:45 am St. Paul's Church 216 Nassau Street, Princeton. Burial followed at Princeton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers Memorial Contributions may be made to Catholic Charities or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Memorial mass intentions would also be appreciated.

**Submitted by Richard Kovatch**

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# The Testimony of Slovak-Americans: the Spiritual Roots and Personality of Cardinal Tomko

The article addresses the impact of Cardinal Jozef Tomko and the long-term relationship of Slovak-Americans with the Pontifical Slovak Institute and the College of St. Cyril and Methodius in Rome. It includes interviews with two priests of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, Mons. Robert Siffrin and Msgr. Peter Polando.

Msgr. Robert J. Siffrin is the chairman of the Conference of Slovak Clergy in the USA. Msgr. Peter M. Polando is the chaplain of the First Slovak Women's Catholic Unity in the USA and former president of the Association of Slovak Catholics in the USA. During their visit to Rome in November 2022, Fr. Jozef Bartkovjak SJ, head of the Slovak editorial office of Vatican Radio-Vatican News, recorded an interview recorded in English and the Vatican website translated it into Slovak.

One may listen to the entire interview on a podcast in English at the Vatican News website: [www.tinyurl.com/24s2p9r9](http://www.tinyurl.com/24s2p9r9).

Welcome to the Slovak department of the Vatican Radio. Msgr. Siffrin, you are not in Rome for the first time, nor are you, Mons. Polando, you are frequent guests in Rome and Slovakia. I know that you both attended the funeral of Cardinal Jozef Tomko in Košice in August. Share with us your impressions and your long-term friendly re-



**Na Slovenskom veľvyslanectve v Ríme pri prezentácii knihy „40 rokov od prvej pápežskej návštevy Slovákov“ (Presentation of the book “40 years since the first papal visit to Slovaks” at the Slovak Embassy in Rome). L-R: Daniel Čierny, Director of the Slovak Institute in Rome, Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Msgr. Robert J. Siffrin, and Rev. Viliam Zemančík.**

lationship with the late Cardinal Tomko.

Msgr. Siffrin: The funeral in Košice was a wonderful tribute to Cardinal Tomko. I have a warm relationship and deep admiration for his

service in the Church, for his work in the field of missions all over the world and for his great love for Slovakia. How many times did he share how much his faith was rooted in the heritage of his fathers and he lovingly brought it to others. So it was really beneficial to participate in his funeral in Košice, to show a warm tribute to his life and his love for the Church.

Msgr. Polando, you visited Cardinal Tomko in Rome several times in the past. These days you came again to a place that reminds us of him, how do you feel here?

Msgr. Polando: Indeed, we have really known Cardinal Tomko in Youngstown, Ohio for many years. Already in the 60s and 70s of the last century, when Father George Franco was the administrator of the parish of the Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, he used to visit him, and that's when I met Father Tomko for the first time. And then, when he became a cardinal, he also invited us to his house for dinner, and it was wonderful to be there with him. Ever since we came to Rome, with Mons. Siffrin, and also with my mother, if he knew we were in town, he always invited us for dinner and had great conversations with us about what he was doing in the world, in the field of evangelism, and also about his personal life.

Now you are staying in Rome for several days and have the opportunity to participate in various events. Could you mention some of them?

Msgr. Siffrin: It was a wonderful coincidence that we could be here in Rome for the anniversary celebration at the Slovak Institute and for the presentation of the jubilee publication. It is a beautiful way to share the good news of the faith and to honor and continue to pass on the Slovak Catholic heritage to the Church. It was truly an amazing honor to be a part of those celebrations.

How do you perceive your Slovak roots within your Catholic identity? You live in the United States, you are members of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio. How do the people there view it?

Msgr. Polando: It's something natural for me, because I have 100% Slovak roots from both sides of my parents. My grandparents emigrated from Slovakia to the United States at a young age, 15 to 20 years old. You know, sometimes we don't like our 15 or 20-year-olds going abroad, but it was a challenge for them. And the people coming from Slovakia to America helped build America into what it is today. They found work there, but they were hard working laborers. They worked in coal mines in Pennsylvania, in steel mills in Ohio or in Gary, Indiana... And that taught us honest hard work. Grandparents were not educated at that time because they left school and came to work and start a family. They had big families in those days - I have a lot

of aunts and uncles, you can verify that. And this work ethic was then reflected in education. My parents were already able to go to schools, high school, and they allowed me and my siblings to go to college. And now we are the ones helping to build America in a different way.

Msgr. Siffrin, you are the chairman of the Conference of Slovak Clergy in the USA, an organization with historical roots. Could you introduce her in a few words?

Mons. Siffrin: The Conference of Slovak Clergy was founded in 1985. Slovak clergy have been involved in brotherhoods for many years. The Slovak Clergy Conference wants to keep the faith alive. That is why we value our heritage, which is very important and is an integral part of our Catholic identity. The clergy are also very supportive of higher studies here in Rome; several colleges and institutes were funded by the Americans back in the 1960s. We continue to fund the colleges today, to run them and to support the studying priests who come from Slovakia so that they can grow educationally and bring the skills they have acquired back to Slovakia. There are about 75 of us, we meet every other year for joint spiritual events, and we are also all involved in various Slovak fraternities to encourage faith in the Church and to maintain the heritage of Slovak history in our parishes and families.

On 15 November, a ceremony was held at the Pontifical Slovak College of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Rome to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the first visit of Pope St. John Paul II to this place. The visit was a recognition of this Slovak institution during the times of communism, when there was no freedom in Slovakia. Did you have the opportunity to meet John Paul II in person back then in 1981?

Mons. Polando: Not directly in 1981, but I met St. John Paul II later. There were five Slovak priests and one bishop in our group. They had five special chairs for us in the basilica and the Pope gave his weekly address and then came up to us to greet us. And so he met first with Bishop Adamec and then with three or four other monsignors, and I was just an ordinary priest. And the Pope comes to me and asks, "Where is your purple?" And I said: "Holy Father, only you can give me the purple." So the next Palm Sunday I became a monsignor. That's how I conversed with His Holiness. This is my remembrance of St. John Paul II and it was a wonderful occasion, I felt extremely honored at that time.

And you, Mons. Siffrin, did you meet St. John Paul II in person?

Yes, I met the Holy Father once.

But I was ordained a deacon the year he was elected, so my whole priesthood has been influenced by the witness, the teaching and the holiness of his life, it really inspired me as a young priest to continue to strive for this heroic virtue, to fulfill what I had committed myself to. He always challenged us to not be afraid to live our faith and to witness to the world the love of Jesus Christ.

Slovak organizations in the U.S. are in an odd situation because the younger generation no longer speaks Slovak, but their Slovak roots are clear. Mons. Polando, you are currently the chaplain of the First Slovak Women's Catholic Unity in the USA. How do you manage to maintain traditions without speaking Slovak?

All Slovak associations in the United States emphasize Slovak traditions. We have dancers in traditional costumes who are involved in dancing, and we have musicians who are involved. But the associations are in different chapters all over the United States. The First Catholic Ladies Association, of which I am chaplain, is present in 48 of the 50 states in the United States. So we try to maintain Slovak traditions, but we also help those people who are less fortunate than we are, because what we get, we try to give back to others, and not only to

## OBITUARIES

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### GEORGE J. PALLO, BRANCH 456 – HAWK RUN, PA

George J. Pallo, 94, of Morann, passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at Penn Highlands Clearfield Hospital.

Born on April 24, 1928, in Hawk Run, PA, he was the son of the late John and Anna (Ruman) Pallo.

He was a US Army veteran, having served in Okinawa during the Korean War. He was a member of Christ the King Parish in Houtzdale, The Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Valley Council 10376, I.B.E.W. Local 126, Jednota Lodge, and Transport Workers of America Union.

On June 27, 1953, he married Madeline Slifko in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Houtzdale. She survives at home.

George was an avid Pirates, Penn State, and Steelers fan. He liked gardening, hunting, fishing, and sports. He loved polka music and attended many polka dances. At every wedding he could be found with the orchestra singing the Polka Bridal Dance.

In addition to his wife, he is survived his son George J. Pallo, Jr. of Morann; a brother, Frank Pallo of Force, PA; two sisters, Delores Pallo of Hawk Run, and Ann Mae (Gene) Mehallow of Hawk Run. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, George was preceded in death one brother, Joseph Pallo.

Friends were received at Kruse-Spewock Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., Ramey. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Christ the King Catholic Church, Houtzdale. Rev. Joseph Czarkowski was the celebrant. Military Honors were accorded at the church. Private interment took place at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Brisbin.

Condolences can be made at [www.kruse-spewock.com](http://www.kruse-spewock.com).

Submitted by Madeline Pallo



### KATHLEEN V. VRABEL, BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA

Kathleen V. Vrabel, age 70, of Boiling Springs, PA passed away at home on Sunday, October 23, 2022.

She was born May 7, 1952, in Allentown, PA to the late Thomas W. and Josephine A. (Lupcho) Hudak.

Kathleen was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She worked at Trinity High School, Capital Blue Cross, General Electric and volunteered as a CCD Aide at St. Patrick Church.

She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Richard J. Vrabel; daughters Roseann T. Vrabel of Columbus, OH and Maura R. (Vrabel) Brown and her husband Brad of Raleigh, NC; brothers Thomas Hudak and his wife Valerie of Emmaus, PA, James Hudak and his wife Gloria of Whitehall, PA, Frederick Hudak and his wife Gail of Whitehall, PA and Jeffrey Hudak and his wife Eileen of Bath, PA; sisters Theresa Hudak of Coplay, PA, Diane Lloyd and her husband Kevin of Whitehall, PA and Jane Horensky and her husband Ray of Slatington, PA.

In addition to her late parents, Kathleen was preceded in death by her brothers William and Joseph Hudak and sister Joanne Hudak.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Carlisle, PA. Interment followed at St. Patrick Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Discerning Hearts, PO Box 45923, Omaha, NE 68144. To sign the guestbook, please visit [www.HoffmanFH.com](http://www.HoffmanFH.com).

Submitted by Richard J. Vrabel



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# Testimony

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Slovaks, but to other peoples as well.

What remains in your memories of the personality of the recently deceased Cardinal Jozef Tomek?

Mons. Siffrin: The occasions of visits to Cardinal Tomek were always a testimony on his part of a great enthusiasm for the life of the Church, a great desire to know what was going on, what people were thinking. He was a great storyteller and gave a wonderful testimony of sharing faith in different parts of the world and of understanding how differences in cultures can enrich us and broaden our search for Truth. I will always remember the long conversations we had, learning more about the world and especially about the challenges the Church faces in various missions around the world.

Mons. Polando: I still remember him as a priest. Father Tomko came to Youngstown when I was in elementary school, and our pastor brought him to all the classes so we could meet him. He came from here, from Rome, it was when communism was still alive. And later, it was a great honor and privilege, when I was a priest and pastor of one of our Slovak parishes in Youngstown, he decided to come and stay with us and celebrate as a cardinal a Holy Mass in Slovak, which everyone was thrilled about. And that's my real memory of him, that he always held on to his heritage, his Slovak heritage, and always reminded us to be good, holy Catholics.

At this year's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first papal visit to the Slovak Institute in Rome, it was mentioned that the contribution of the Catholics from the United States, the Slovaks who helped build the College, is something that is etched in memory and people are grateful for. Anyone who comes to see the college, the chapel of St Cyril and Methodius, the mosaics and this beautiful place will realize that this is the contribution of 'American Slovaks'. Do you have an emotional attachment to this place in Rome?

Mons. Siffrin: I have been to the Slovak Institute about ten times. The Conference of Slovak Clergy helps to keep the functioning of the College in the awareness of all members. And also our continued support, as we have come to realize that the studies that young priests undertake here in Rome provide a wealth of knowledge and experience for ministry in the various dioceses in Slovakia. And as part of this, I have also invited to Youngstown four theologians of Slovak nationality, future priests, so that we are enriched by their ministry. We have a connection with what is happening especially in Eastern Slovakia, in the Archdiocese of Košice. I have been there 25 times. To see that living Church in

the men and women and priests and religious, it was just an amazing experience.

And you, Mons. Polando, your first memory of the Slovak Institute?

The first one is from my childhood. Because among our envelopes of alms that our parents gave in church at collection time, there were always envelopes for this institute once a year. At that time there were about 8 to 10 Slovak parishes within our diocese, all of which worked together, along with other Slovaks, especially in Pennsylvania and Ohio, the states that had the largest Slovak population, to make sure that this institute was built. And it is a miracle even today that we have such a building as we have here in Rome.

To conclude our conversation, as you return to Youngstown, Ohio, what will you share with your parishioners and members of your organizations? What is the main impression you bring with you?

Msgr. Siffrin: Every time I have been to Rome or Slovakia, it has been a wonderful opportunity for me to share the vibrancy of the Church back home in Youngstown. And it helps all of our people of Slovak descent to feel connected to their homeland and to the life of the Church and the support that we provide to help the ministry of the Church in Slovakia to continue to grow and develop.

Mons. Polando: When I first went to Slovakia, it was in 1973 for 35 days. And I met a priest in my grandmother's village who took me to Košice to see the cathedral, but at that time, under communism, they called it a museum. I was amazed at the vibrant Catholic faith of the people in a time of oppression. And I still carry that with me as a priest because they prayed for the local priests, and this was during the communist era. It made me wonder if I shouldn't do the same for my Catholic faith, for my Slovak heritage. And thanks to that, I am the priest I am today for 42 years.

Thank you both very much for your testimonies, for reminding us of things that the younger generation should know and preserve as historical memory. I wish you a safe journey home and perhaps we will see you again in Rome.

Mons. Siffrin: I sincerely hope that we will see you again in Rome. It's always a great joy to come here, to pray, to reflect, just to enjoy Italy and Rome.

Mons. Polando: And if I do not return to Rome, I will see you up in heaven. How does that sound?

Very good, let's be surprised.

(Recorded November 18, 2022, in Rome)



Slovakia's Ambassador to the USA, Radovan Javorčík, speaks to Slovak-American leaders in Croghan-Schenley room at the Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Michael Kopanic with Slovak Program director Dr. Renata Kamenárová and Dr. Oscar Swan, Professor Emeritus



Greg Maurer, FCSU Chairman of Auditors, with Dr. Michael Kopanic

Dr. Michael Kopanic with Slovak language teacher Dennis Ragan, and Jim Bench, FCSU Supreme Court member



## The 32nd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival at the University of Pittsburgh

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

On Sunday, November 6, 2022, the Slovak Studies Program, with the help of generous sponsors, including the First Catholic Slovak Union, hosted the 32nd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus. After a three-year hiatus due to the covid-19 virus, it was a welcome event to be back in person again to celebrate Slovak culture, history, food, crafts, and have opportunities for some education about Slovaks.

In the morning before the festival opened, invited fraternal and local dignitaries met with Radovan Javorčík, Slovakia's ambassador to the USA, before the Slovak Fest in the beautiful historic Croghan-Schenley Ballroom. Ambassador Javorčík opened with a speech about how important the Slovak Program was in teaching the Slovak language and culture and lauded the tradition of carrying on the festival to keep alive traditions.

Honorary Consul and board member of the W. PA Slovak Cultural Assn., Joseph Senko, noted how area Slovak organizations have worked to promote Slovak culture with lectures and annual events such as wine tasting, etc. Each attendee spoke a few words about the Slovak Program, its uniqueness as the only university that regularly taught Slovak, and our need to support it financially and in spirit. My particular concern as an historian was the long-term viability of keeping the Slovak Program going into the distant future, i.e., in hundreds of years. I also suggested that the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that the institution consider establishing a traveling museum exhibit in areas where more Slovaks live.

Attendees from the University of Pittsburgh included professors from the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and the Slavic Studies Department. Representing the fraternals which helped fund the Slovak Program were Michael Horvath (President, Slovak Catholic Sokol), Cynthia Maleski (President FCSLA), Joseph Stefka, Jr. (President, NSS Life), Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D. (Jednota editor).

### The Slovak Heritage Festival

At the festival, Larry Kozlowski was kind enough to share his place with the FCSU, so I displayed some handouts, including copies of Jednota, which were quite popular. Larry gave some demonstrations in making oplatky (Christmas wafers) and offered for sale his short book on Slovak Christmas customs. Other interesting booths featured exhibits and materials and books. As at any Slovak gathering, a menu of Slovak foods included halušky, holubky, klobasa, pirohy, and orechový koláč (nut rolls).

To read the complete 2022 festival program booklet, go to the following website, which included some Slovak songs with translations by Jerry Jumba from the sing-a-long: [www.tinyurl.com/2p9xsvbv](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p9xsvbv). To stay connected with Slovak Fest, go to the following webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/3nwwe3cf>.

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 14

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