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President's Message

Happy summer to all our members! I hope you are outside enjoying the beautiful weather we are having and spending time with your family and friends, or relaxing on a well-deserved vacation somewhere nice.

As we are enjoying our summer fraternal activities, such as the National Picnics at Knoebels, Wiegand Lake Park, or Slovak day at Kennywood, I wanted to touch on another yearly celebration approaching in the fall.

Coming up in September, the FCSU will

be celebrating the 58th anniversary dedication of the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel within the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The Board of Directors and I will be attending the yearly Mass on Saturday, September 23rd. I invite all members to come and join us in celebrating this special anniversary.

For those who aren't familiar with how our Chapel came to be, here is a little history on Our Mother of Sorrows.

Devotion to Our Mother of Sorrows has its origins from 1564 in the small town of Šaštín in western Slovakia when the Virgin Mary appeared as Our Mother of Sorrows to Angelika Bakičová who was praying for help to deal with personal trials in her life. In thanks-



Kenneth A. Arendt
President

giving for hearing her prayers, Pani Bakičová commissioned an unknown artist to sculpt a wooden statue at the place of the apparition. Word soon spread of her vision, and the faithful from nearby towns and villages began to visit the site as a place of pilgrimage.

The Šaštín Pieta became the focus of devotion for pilgrims who credited Our Lady of Sorrows for spiritual and physical miracles of healing. Then in 1667, the Vatican approved the feast of Our Sorrowful Mother to be recognized and celebrated.

Empress Maria Theresa took notice of the large numbers of pilgrims visiting the

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Reflection



The greatest story of love is hidden in a small white host.

will climax on Pentecost 2025. The focus will be on how the Holy Eucharist inspires and enkindles in us "missionary fire." The Slovak hymn chosen for this month, BUĎ VŽDY POZDRAVENÁ (ALWAYS BE PRAISED) is in keeping with this US Eucharistic Revival that Renews the Church.

Sr. Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

BUĎ VŽDY POZDRAVENÁ

čistá Hostia,
v ktorej je ukrytý
tajomstvo Krista.

SBOR

Ach, vitaj, môj Kriste,
Boh neomylný,
srdce mi daj čisté,
ducha posilni!

2. Teba pozdravujem
srdca z celého,
Boha, okrem Teba,
nemám iného.

SBOR

3. Ó nesmierna láska,
Pane môj milý
ktorý sa ukrývaš
v tejto Hostii.

SBOR

4. Tebe, Bože drahý
srdce venujem,
bo Ťa nadovšetko,
Kriste, milujem.

SBOR

(Editor's note: You may listen to this hymn at the following site, JKS 263: <https://tinyurl.com/bdespds3>).

The feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ) has lately acquired a special status of importance. Since the feast on June 11th this year, I have seen several reminders that we in the United States are now in the second year of a "Eucharistic Revival that Renews the Church." This "revival" began on Corpus Christi, June 19th, 2022, when the U.S. Bishops united in an endeavor to return Catholics to a deeper respect for and belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. During the first year the diocesan focus was on encouraging processions and Eucharistic adoration. Now parishes are promoting Eucharistic holy hours and adoration. In 2023 there will be many diocesan Eucharistic Congresses, leading up to a national one in Indianapolis in July 2024. The 3rd year

ALWAYS BE PRAISED

(BUĎ VŽDY POZDRAVENÁ)

1. With praise we honor You,
Host, pure and sacred.
Your Presence here, O Christ,
Is veiled by simple bread.

CHORUS

Oh, welcome, Christ, my God
Holy, almighty;
Give me a heart that's clean;
My soul with strength supply.

2. I greet You with my heart,
Love overflowing.
Lord, make my life complete,
'Tis You alone I seek.

CHORUS

3. Oh Love immense, divine,
Beloved Jesus,
Your glor'ous majesty,
Lies hidden in this Host.

CHORUS

4. My dearest Lord and God,
Here I adore You;
Now make my heart Your own
To live alone for You.

CHORUS

Message from the National Chaplain

The word "Pride" has seemingly taken on a life of its own in today's world. Its popular usage now may be causing some to trigger in their minds with what the word has been traditionally associated.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 1866) lists pride as the first of the seven capital sins. They are called so because they lead or cause other sins to be committed.

For a review of what many of us learned as children in Catholic school or in religious education classes, here are the seven capital sins listed in the order found in the Catechism with a brief description of each:

- Pride – making oneself the center of attention; an exorbitant bragging of one's accomplishments;
- Avarice – an excessive or disproportionate desire to possess what another has; greediness;
- Envy – a resentment towards the possessions or successes of another;
- Wrath – a desire to seek revenge for an evil to be committed against another;
- Lust – a consuming desire for that pleasure which is only proper between a husband and a wife;
- Gluttony – an overindulgence in the partaking of food and drink;
- Acedia or Sloth -- a refusal to pray or to recognize the presence of God in one's life; an aversion to work.

If we are to find any of the above-mentioned to be a character trait in our lives, our faith tells us it is never too late to seek out and practice its opposite virtue so that we can live a life pleasing to God:

- Humility – to recognize one's limitations; a spirit of deference; a modesty in spirit or manner;
- Charity – to possess a genuine love for others;
- Generosity or Kindness – to give to others with a warm heart;
- Patience – to forbear under provocation or strain; to endure pains or trials calmly;
- Chastity – to exercise self-control over thoughts and desires one may have for another;
- Temperance – to have a healthy discretion over satisfying basic human instincts for food and drink;
- Diligence – to put forth a steady, conscientious effort.

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain

SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 45th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of June 26, the 2023 Appeal has received \$22,428.51 from 174 donors. Among the 55 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 3, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 85, Branch 96, Branch 112, Branch 153, Branch 213, Branch 290, Branch 320, Branch 382, Branch 450, Branch 484, Branch 743, Branch 746, Branch 855, Branch 856, District 16, and the Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union have donated a combined total of \$3,975. Donations to date have also been received from 6 parishes, 27 clergy and religious, and 86 individuals. On behalf of

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
Wednesday, Aug 9	Monday, July 31
Wednesday, Sep 13	Wednesday, Aug 30
Wednesday, October 11	Monday, October 2

When submitting announcements for upcoming events, remember that JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, and time is lost in the postal system. Please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be edited and printed. Please send all Branch & District announcements to branch@fcsu.com or district@fcsu.com.

Send all articles (English AND Slovak) to:
Michael Kopanic, Editor; editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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Editor Letter

Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

July (júl – pronounced “yule”) marks the peak of the summer season and I hope you can all enjoy some of our fraternal picnics and Slovak festivals. In Slovakia a host of Folk Festivals also occur, and I am planning to attend the one in Telgárt, the village below Kráľová hora, the highest mountain in eastern part of the Lower Tatra range.

In her Reflection, Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M. reminds us to remember the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and pilgrimages to holy sites are a good way to do so. In Slovakia, there are many annual pilgrimages, such as the largest at Mariánska hora above Levoča during the first weekend of July. Another is the pilgrimage to St. Ann near Viňaz and Kluknava in the Spiš region, which I have attended multiple times. Every day I recite the prayer to honor St. Ann and her husband Joachim, the parents of Mary and the grandparents of Jesus, and I wanted to share that with our readers:

Dobrá svätá Anna, baba Ježiša, svätý Joachim, dzedo Ježiša, orodujte za nás.
Good Saint Ann, grandmother of Jesus, Saint Joachim, grandfather of Jesus, pray for us.

For your information, Kasigarda, the Museum of Emigration from Slovakia to North America, is located in Ťahyňa, but you will not find it on most maps since it is unincorporated and very small. The hamlet's address is connected to the larger village Pavlovce nad Udom, and it is located just west of Uzhhorod, Ukraine. To arrange a visit, please contact the director, Professor Martin Javor, who can be reached at javorisko@gmail.com.

Finally, please be sure to turn in all submissions for the August Jednota issue by July 31. S Bohom – God be with you.

Fraternally yours in the Risen Christ,

S krajanským pozdravom v zmŕtvychvstalom Kristovi,

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

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



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

SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

continued from page 2

the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2023 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2023 will be credited towards the 2024 Appeal.** Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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

45th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2023

- 2 Br 553 – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH
- 3 Br 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA
- 4 Br 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
Br 320 – WildThings vs Grizzlies Game – Washington, PA
Dist 12 - WildThings vs Grizzlies Game – Washington, PA
- 5 Br 166 – Picnic in Harpursville, NY
- 10 Br 367 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA
- 12 Br 24 – Picnic in Walton Hills, OH
- 13 Br 254 – Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA
Br 382 – Picnic in Covington Township, PA (RSVP 8/6)
Br 746 - Region 1 Picnic in Linden, NJ (RSVP 8/5)
Dist 1 - Region 1 Picnic in Linden, NJ (RSVP 8/5)
Dist 4 - Region 1 Picnic in Linden, NJ (RSVP 8/5)
Dist 14 - Picnic in Struthers, OH (RSVP)
Dist 16 - Region 1 Picnic in Linden, NJ (RSVP 8/5)
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Slovak Heritage Festival, Youngstown, OH
- 16 Br 553 – Chicken Dinner in Akron, OH
- 18 FCSU National Golf Outing - Canfield, OH
- 19 FCSU National Golf Outing - Canfield, OH
Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic - Broadview Hts, OH
Br 553 – Slovakfest - Akron, OH
- 20 FCSU National Golf Outing - Canfield, OH
Br 89 – Meeting in Menomonee Falls, WI (RSVP 8/15)
Br 393 – Meeting(Elections) in Greensburg, PA
- 26 Br 382 – Picnic in Covington Twp., PA (RSVP 8/18)
Dist 10 - Crushers Baseball Game – Avon Lake, OH

For more info go to the Branch and District announcement pages.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE The Gift of Mercy

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

On July 6, we celebrate the Feast of St. Maria Goretti, who died on that date in 1902 at age 11 after suffering a brutal attack by 20-year-old Alessandro Serenelli. On her deathbed, Maria forgave Alessandro, an act that inspired him to convert while he was in prison for his crime, setting him on a course of penance and service to God for the rest of his life.

The Gorettis and Serenellis were sharecroppers living in the same house in the Italian countryside outside of Rome. Alessandro betrayed the trust that existed between their families by trying to rape Maria. When she resisted, he stabbed her multiple times in a fit of rage. Their parents returned home to find the horrible crime that had occurred, and Maria was rushed to the nearest hospital in the town of Nettuno. She died a day later after having declared her forgiveness for Alessandro and her desire for him to be with her in heaven.

Alessandro was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He spent the first three years of his sentence unrepentant, but then he began to correspond with Monsignor Giovanni Blandini, a local priest who visited him in jail. Alessandro informed Monsignor Blandini that Maria had appeared to him in a dream in which she gave him lilies that burned to ash in his hands.

Upon being released from prison, Alessandro went to Maria's still-living mother and begged her forgiveness, which she granted, saying that if Maria could forgive him, she could do no less. The next day, they attended Mass together and received Holy Communion side by side. Alessandro went on to become a lay Capuchin Brother of the Order of Friars Minor. He lived in a monastery and worked as a receptionist and gardener until his death in 1970 at the age of 87.

It seems clear that Alessandro's path to God was only made possible by Maria's forgiveness, which revealed to him the immense mercy of God. His dream of her giving him lilies seems to represent his realization of the profound gift of her mercy. And when they turned to ash, it seems he was realizing the state of his own soul and his need for repentance.

Maria's gift of mercy reveals the mercy that we must all continually seek to reveal to the world. Christ demonstrated this mercy for us in His prayer from the cross, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” It is not about ignoring the reality of evil, but rather about mercy for those caught up in evil. Christ shows us that mercy is sometimes the only way to rescue those who have gone astray.

And we know what Christ says about those who have gone astray. He says, “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?”

In forgiving Alessandro from her deathbed, Maria followed in the footsteps of Christ on the cross and helped Alessandro find his way to God. By showing him mercy, she was being like Christ, the good shepherd, who goes after the sheep that has been lost. This is the kind of love we must have for all people despite the wrong they may do. We must be constantly looking for ways to show them Christ's mercy to inspire a change of heart and call them home to God.



Bishop Grutka and Jednota officers at the Pietà of the New Shine to Our Lady of Sorrows.



A huge crowd attended the dedication of the Jednota Shine at the National Basilica of Washington, D.C. in 1965.

President's Message

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shrine and requested a larger church be built to house the Pietà. By 1764, with Maria Theresa in attendance, a cathedral was consecrated to Our Mother of Sorrows in Šaštín.

Pope Pius VII in 1813 declared the third Sunday in September to be the feast day of Our Mother of Sorrows and added the observance to the Roman Catholic calendar of Saints. Nearly 100 years later in 1913, Saint Pius X moved the observance of the feast to September 15th. Today, September 15th is recognized as a non-working, national Catholic holiday. Slovaks refer to it as the Sviatok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary.

In 1927, Pope Pius XI first proclaimed Our Mother of Sorrows as Patroness of all Slovakia and Saint Paul VI strengthened this proclamation in 1964 by designating the Šaštín cathedral to be a minor Basilica, the first Basilica in Slovakia.

Within the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., is a Chapel honoring Our Mother of Sorrows, the Patroness of Slovakia. FCSU donated nearly \$140,000 towards the construction of the Chapel.

In conjunction with the 75th Jubilee of the founding of FCSU in 1965, the Chapel was completed in time for its Consecration on September 4th by Most Rev. Andrew G. Grutka, Bishop of Gary, Indiana, and Episcopal Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Abbot Theodore Kojis, O.S.B., of St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland Ohio, gave the homily.

The following day, September 5th, the shrine was dedicated to Our Mother of Sorrows as a true and lasting tribute to the deep faith and devotion of the Slovak people in Slovakia and America. In attendance were Most Rev. Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States; Most Rev. Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, DC; and Msgr. Thomas J. Grady, Rector of the National Shrine.

The Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Andrew G. Grutka. Most Rev. Paul Hnilica, S.J. from Rome, Italy gave the homily in Slovak and Most Rev. Joseph A. Durick, Bishop of Nashville, Tennessee presented the homily in English.

An estimated 15,000 people were in attendance for Mass and, due to the large crowd, two other Masses were celebrated at the same time, one in the Crypt Church and the other on the West Terrace of the National Shrine.

FCSU members even set a Washington D.C. record when 5,000 people attended a luncheon at the Sheraton Park Hotel and an overflow crowd of about 5,000 used the facilities of the adjoining Shoreham Hotel. It was reported as the largest luncheon crowd in Washington, D.C. hotel history in 1965.

Not even a year later, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Grady announced the American Sculpture Company wanted to honor the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel with the Henry Hering Memorial Medal in March of 1966. This award was dedicated to those who worked on the shrine: Eugene F. Kennedy, Jr. F.A.I.A, architect; Ernest Morenon, sculptor; and Cardinal Spellman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Shrine. Although this award was already given out to the National Shrine in 1961 for the exterior design, this was the first Chapel to receive the award.

As the years progressed, the Chapel continues to gain visitors from people far and wide who want to honor Our Mother of Sorrows. Each year the FCSU organizes trips within our Branches for members to come to an annual Mass and experience the shrine in all its glory.

Over time, the Chapel became in need of some renovation and cleaning. Approval was given at the 47th convention of the FCSU for a donation of \$75,000 to refurbish the Chapel and for the erection of a memorial plaque.

On September 6th, 2003, the Slovak Catholic Federation sponsored a "Pilgrimage of Faith" to mark the rededication of the Chapel once the refurbishing was completed. The over 800 people attending the rededication Mass were welcomed by Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.F, National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF). Those in attendance for the 38th anniversary were inspired by the liturgy and magnificent music along with a homily from Most Rev. Joseph Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown and Episcopal Moderator of the SCF, on the significance of the day.

Over 600 people came on September 12th, 2015, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the chapel's dedication. Rosaries were blessed and distributed as commemorative gifts to all those in attendance. The rosary was then recited with the decades alternating between Slovak and English. Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, was the principal celebrant and homilist with the Most Reverend Joseph Adamec, Bishop Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown and Episcopal Moderator of the SCF, and Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, and Abbot Protector of the SCF, concelebrating.

Today, our members continue the annual tradition of visiting this staple monument. The

Basilica, known as "America's Catholic Church," is the largest Roman Catholic Church in the Western Hemisphere and the eighth largest Church in the world. The Basilica, dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, is the home to over 35 individual chapels and oratories dedicated to Mary that express the ethnic diversity of the United States. One of the most admired and visited of these chapels is the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel. The Chapel is located in the upper level of the basilica, on the right side, about halfway towards the altar. It features a life-sized Pietà of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin with a Slovak language inscription which reads in English translation: "Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia, pray for us." It is widely considered the most beautiful Chapel in the Shrine.

I encourage anyone who has not been to the Basilica and seen the historical Shrine to celebrate the 58th anniversary this September 23rd, 2023. Join us and your fellow members in the pilgrimage at the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows.

A rosary will be said at 1:00pm followed by Mass at 1:30pm. Please keep a lookout at the Branch Announcements to see if your Branch is planning transportation.

I look forward to seeing and meeting all of you and wish you all safe travels to D.C.

Invitation to All FCSU Members to Attend Mass at the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows on September 23, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

Branch 856 would like to invite all Jednota members and Slovaks to come to Washington, D.C. to join The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., Bishop of Greensburg and FCSU Protector, in celebrating the 58th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 23, 2023. The rosary will be said at 1:00pm followed by mass at 1:30pm.



For information regarding the Mass please contact Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Organize your Branch or District to take a bus trip to Washington, D.C. with our help!

The FCSU Corporate Office will subsidize, up to \$500.00 for a bus trip organized by a branch or district who wishes to organize this trip for their members to join in this fraternal celebration.

For info regarding sponsoring a bus please call Barbara at 1-800-533-6682 ext. 122



Chartering a Bus to the Immaculate Conception Basilica in Washington, D.C.

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023.

Attention to anyone considering reserving a bus for the mass in the crypt at the Immaculate Conception Basilica in Washington, D.C. A local bus provider stated that their company commits to transporting college teams to their destinations, therefore, anyone interested in chartering a bus should book their bus reservations as early as possible so that transportation will be available.

St Wendelin Branch 162 of the FCSU at St. Mary's Nativity Church in Uniontown, PA will be providing a charter bus to the Immaculate Conception Basilica in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023. A bus seat will cost \$50 per person and is non-refundable. Reservations will be confirmed when payment is made and will be on a first come first serve basis. The bus holds a maximum of 54 occupants. Snacks and water will be provided. The bus will stop for breakfast on the way to DC and for dinner on the return trip. Meals are at your own expense. Bus will depart from St. Mary's Church parking lot at 61 North Mt. Vernon Ave in Uniontown, PA at 6:00 AM and leave at 5:00 PM from DC. The trip and stops will take about 5 hours and a toilet will be available on the bus. Please save this date in your calendar and additional information will be available in the coming months. For reservations, please contact Nancy Blake at St. Mary Church by calling 724-437-4441. Payments and reservations must be completed by September 1, 2023.

Submitted by James Marmol, Region 4 Director

**Attention District 10 Members:
Food, Fun – & Minor League Baseball – At Mercy Health Care Stadium in Avon, OH on Saturday, August 26, 2023**



On Saturday, August 26, 2023, join other FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat, picnic-style dining followed by great seats for minor league ball as the Lake Erie Crushers take on the Washington Wild Things.

All branches in District 10 & their guests are invited to come. Tickets are \$34 for 11 and older; \$29 for children 10 and under.

Discounted tickets for District 10 members may be available through your local branch, Check with your branch officer* for details. Non-members are welcome at full ticket prices.

The all-you-can-eat choices, enjoyed picnic style, include:

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- Pulled Chicken
- Mac & Cheese
- Potato Salad
- Cookies
- Iced Tea/Lemonade/Water

Reserve Your Seats Today

Reservations must be made by **Monday, August 7, 2023**. Picnic seating is limited and subject to availability on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To reserve your tickets and for more information, please contact your local branch officer* or Ohio Regional Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

* Branch contact info can be found at:

<https://www.fcsu.com/branches/>

Highlights

- **Date:** Saturday, Aug 26, 2023
- **Place:** Mercy Health Care Stadium, Avon, OH
- **Includes:**
 - All-you-can-eat dining starting at 5:05PM will be enjoyed in the Corona Picnic Plaza on the third-base side.
 - Home box seat for Lake Erie Crushers v Washington Wild Things starting at 6:05PM
 - Ticket may be available through participating District 10 branches

Annual Toronto Slovak Open Golf Day

Sunday, September 17, 2023
Centennial Park Golf Centre
Etobicoke, Ontario

FIRST TEE OFF AT 1:00 PM

Golf, Food, Prizes and Fun!

(Includes 18 holes of golf, buffet dinner and prize table)

All members of the Jednota and guests are welcome.

For more information and to register:

John Tokarsky
Fraternal Activities Director
(416) 948-6606
jednota-sports-toronto@outlook.com



Sponsored by Toronto/Mississauga Jednota District and Branch



[//www.washingtonwildthings.com](http://www.washingtonwildthings.com)

On Aug 4, 2023, Branch 320 is hosting a night of fraternal Minor League baseball. All are welcome to attend the Washington Wildthings vs. the Gateway Grizzlies game in Washington PA.

THIS IS A FIREWORKS NIGHT....

Tickets are \$25 which includes a picnic style meal.

For tickets and information: Please contact Joseph Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 or tark918@gmail.com.

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

is HOSTING

SLOVAK PICNIC



Saturday AUGUST 19th

3 pm to 11 pm

Admission-\$5 (Kids 12 and under free)

ST.SAVA SERBIAN CHURCH PROPERTY

2151 W.Wallings Road, Broadview Heights

(Between State Rd and Broadview Rd)

Serving Traditional Slovak Food, Full Bar & Pastries,
Anthony Culkar Band & Dancing

Bake Sale



SPONSORED BY FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

UNITING FOR UKRAINE

WELCOME CIRCLES

JOIN OUR JOURNEY!

FCSU is backing Saint Joseph Parish and Holy Spirit Parish, both in Avon Lake, Ohio for a program called "Welcome Circles".

Promoted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), Welcome Circles is asking for parishes to form core groups to sponsor a family from Ukraine during their time in need. Each core group is in a two-year commitment, providing basic needs for refugees who have been vetted by the United States government.

Slovakia has supported Ukraine amidst these disruptive times, taking in over 280,000 refugees in March of 2022. Slovak Catholic charities have also dedicated their time to provide meals and necessities as well as collected donations for Ukraine.

FCSU has made a donation to the Saint Joseph Parish and Holy Spirit Parish Welcome Circles, of which Mary Ann Radachi Dzurec of Branch 228 is a member, for their support in sponsoring these families with things such as education, employment, healthcare and housing. Additional donations will help this Welcome Circle's Ukrainian family as they make a new start in Avon Lake, Ohio. Donations can be made by scanning the QR code below or visit the Saint Joseph and Holy Spirit Welcome Circle link at: tinyurl.com/circledonate

Scan to donate





(L-R) Fr. Martin Kertýs, Parochial Vicar; Olympia Marečková; Sebastian Majerčák; Renáta Knapíková, catechist; Allan Varga; Anna Sarnik; Layla Varga; Viktoria Matkovič; Marco Knapik; Fr. Štefan Chanas, pastor, and Fr. Jozef Kudla, CM

Na fotografii zľava: o. Martin Kertýs, kaplán; Olympia Marečková; Sebastian Majerčák; Renáta Knapíková, katechétk; Allan Varga; Anna Sarnik; Layla Varga; Viktoria Matkovič; Marco Knapik; o. Štefan Chanas, farár; a o. Jozef Kudla, CM



Children during the Holy Mass (Deti počas svätej omše).

First Holy Communion At St. John Nepomucene Church In NYC

On June 11th 2023, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), seven Slovak children received the First Holy Communion during the Slovak Mass at the St. John Nepomucene Church in NYC. It was a beautiful and memorable day for the children, their parents, families, and friends.

Submitted by Želmíra Becková- Kucharovic, Branch 45 Vice President

Prvé Sväté Prijímanie V Kostole Sv. Jána Nepomuckého V NYC

11. júna 2023, na Slávnosť Najsvätejšieho Kristovho Tela a Krvi (Corpus Cristi), sedem slovenských detí prijalo prvé sväté prijímanie počas slovenskej sv. omše v Kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Bol to krásny a pamätný deň pre prvoprijímajúce deti, ich rodičov, rodiny a priateľov.

Predkladá Želmíra Becková- Kucharovic, Viceprezident čísla 45



Congratulations to the Bury's of Branch 320



On June 24, 1972, Anna Marie Angel married William Bury in St. Anthony's R.C. Church in Monongahela, PA.

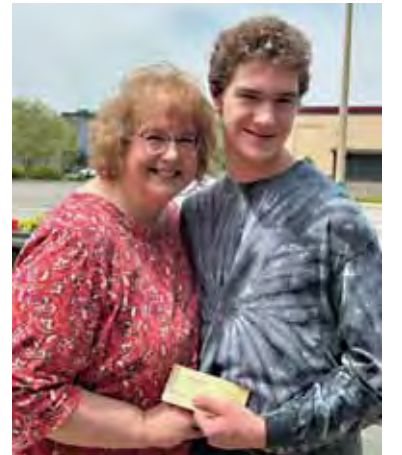
Branch 320 would like to wish God's continued blessings on this couple.

Submitted by: Frances Tarquinio, Branch 320 Financial Secretary

Congratulations to Stephen W. LaPay the 2023 Branch 181 Scholarship Recipient

The St. John the Baptist Society – Branch 181 of United PA is pleased to announce the one-time scholarship award of \$1000 to Stephen W. LaPay of Greensburg, PA. He is the son of Christopher and Darlene LaPay. Stephen is a graduate of Hempfield Area Senior High School. He plans to attend Harrisburg University of Science and Technology to pursue a career in eSports Management after completing his degree. Stephen's community service along with being a member of the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and Alpha Omega English Honor Society makes him a well-deserved scholarship recipient.

In Stephen's own words, "The pride of my Catholic and Slovak heritage is important to me." He participated in the local Štedrý Večer celebration as a "star spotter" when he was younger. As he got older, he helped in distributing Mass Programs and



Stephen and his mother, Darlene LaPay



Stephen W. LaPay

Jednota gifts. He hopes to keep Slovak traditions alive when he has his own family.

Stephen received his award at a lunch in his honor at Applebee's in Greensburg, PA. His mother, Darlene LaPay, attended along with Branch 181 officers President Darlene Patty, Treasurer-Financial Secretary Richard Mizikar, Recording Secretary Vicki Hricik, and Bill Patty.

We wish Stephen all the best in his academic pursuits!



Stephen receiving his award. (L-R) Vicki Hricik, Bill Patty, Stephen LaPay, Darlene Patty, and Richard Mizikar

Branch 199/Boy Scout Troop 472 Memorial Day Activities

Branch 199 member, John Pipak, who is also the Boy Scout leader of Troop 472 in Norvelt, PA, coordinated a joint program for Memorial Day weekend. Members of Branch 199 joined with Boy Scout Troop 472 for Memorial Day activities. The combined efforts included: identifying graves of veterans in four areas cemeteries: Saint Florian's, Saint Stanislaus, Forty Martyrs, and Saint Marys Byzantine. They placed flag holders and American flags at the gravesite of deceased FCSU members and veterans to remember and honor them for their service to God and Country. In addition, Branch 199 members and Boy Scouts participated in the Memorial Day parade in Norvelt.



Pipak grave

John Pipak leads members of Branch 199 and Scouts Troop 472 in the Memorial Day Parade



Getting ready for the parade



(L-R) Tom Pipak, Branch 199 president; John Pipak, scout leader; Hunter Mohan, Abby Mohan, and Bonnie Pipak, as they pay respects to deceased members of Branch 198: Frank and Sophie Pipak.

Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic Celebration

The Branch 181 of United PA 2023 Annual Family Picnic was held Sunday, June 25 at Mammoth Park in Mammoth PA. We were blessed with sunny skies and a very comfortable temperature to enjoy the company of our members and guests. Being able to celebrate the 128th Anniversary of Branch 181 was a memorable occasion!

The picnic lunch fare consisted of kohlbas, chicken, halupki, haluski, macaroni salad along with various delicious side dishes and desserts brought by attendees. Many door prizes were given away to members including a 50/50 drawing.

Special guests attending included our First Catholic Slovak Union President Ken Arendt and his wife, Theresa, FCSU Executive Secretary Kevin Collins and FCSU General Counsel Gary Matta and his wife, Larissa. Our FCSU Region 4 Director James Marmol and his wife, Patty, joined us as well. We are proud to have our very own branch members Supreme Court Member James Bench and his wife, Kay, and Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer in attendance. Former Director of Slovak Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Marcela Michalkova and her son, Alesh, were introduced as guests of James and Kay Bench. Dr. Michalkova lead attendees in saying a prayer before the picnic meal in Slovak.

Thanks to all the members and guests that attended! We look forward to 2024 for another amazing Branch 181 picnic!



Registration Table



Front row from left: Kay Bench, Patty Marmol, District 3 Sec. Linda Gonta, Br. 181 Pres. Darlene Patty, Br. 181 Rec. Sec. Vicki Hricik, Br. 181 V.P. Ed Mizikar, Barb Mizikar. Middle row from left: FCSU Supreme Court James Bench, FCSU President Ken Arendt, Theresa Arendt, FCSU Region 4 Director James Marmol, District 3 Pres. Bill Patty, Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer. Back row from left: FCSU General Counsel Gary Matta, Larissa Matta, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins.



In front from left: Virginia Vahaly and Paul Mondock. In back from left: Betty Mondock, Jean Kovalik and Ed Kovalik.



Betty and Joe Mizikar - Recently celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary



Our amazing food servers! From left: Ed Ungvarsky, Elaine Giron, Darlene Patty, Patty Marmol and Vicki Hricik



Ashley Taylor and Ryan Aland, 2018 Branch 181 Scholarship Recipient



Patti and Frank Sevcik



Chris and Rich Levay



Poster of all Branch 181 Scholarship recipients from 2018-2023



James and Marcella Novak



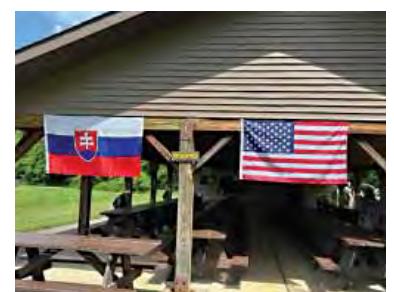
Dr. Marcela Michalkova and James Bench



Karen and Dave Uhrin



Cheryl Kolonosky and Vicki Hricik



Slovak and USA flags proudly displayed

NATIONAL PICNIC
Saturday, July 29, 2023
Wiegand Lake Park
9346 Kinsman Rd, Novelty, OH 44072



FREE Admission and FREE parking for all FCSU Members, Family and Guests from 11:00am –7:00pm.

With clean, beautiful grounds, there is plenty to do for everyone. You can enjoy paddle boats, playgrounds, softball, horseshoes, swimming, as well as lots of great food served all day long. Shuttle service available from parking lot to picnic grounds and to restrooms.

- Check in begins at 11:00am
- Free all you can eat food from 12:00pm – 6:00pm
- BINGO 1:00pm – 2:00pm
- MASS at 4:00pm celebrated by Fr. Tom Nasta
- Unlimited ice cream treats, hot and cold drinks, popcorn all day.

FREE ACTIVITIES

Corn hole, Sand Volleyball, Basketball, Horseshoes, Soccer field, Softball field, Playgrounds, Springfed Lake with paddleboats and swimming, Face Painting, Bingo. No alcohol or pets permitted on premises. Rain or shine event.

To register for the picnic, call the Home Office at 800 533 6682 ext. 110 or email events@fcsu.com



Branch #166
 ST. JOSEPH THE PROTECTOR

FAMILY PICNIC

When: Saturday, August 5th 2023

Time: 11 am – 4 pm

Where: Nathaniel Cole Park

1674 Colesville Road, Harpursville, NY

Pavilion # 3

Bring a dish to pass. **Hot dogs, hamburgers, cold drinks** and an ice cream truck all provided free to branch #166 members and their families. Non-Members \$10.00 to be donated to Catholic Charities

*Boat rentals available, swimming, fishing and games.
 Come for the whole day!*

RSVP
 MORGAN DENDLER
 607-231-0461
 NO LATER THAN JULY 14TH



Br. 731 Mary Ann Krispinsky offering Slovak bake goods at a past Youngstown Slovak Fest.

**Slovak Heritage Fest in
 Youngstown, Ohio**



On Sunday, August 13, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish will be hosting the annual Slovak Heritage Fest in Youngstown, Ohio. The event will take place at St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell St. in Youngstown. The day commences with a Slovak/English Mass at 10:30 am followed by the festival from 11:30am – 5pm.

Celebrate the Slovak tradition with great ethnic food, a basket raffle, Slovak vendors, a Slovak Heritage Display, and live music featuring the Del Sinchak Orchestra. Call 330-788-5082 for more information.



100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SLOVAK DAY AT KENNYWOOD July 20, 2023



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 12:30 pm** (Until sold out) Traditional Slovak Food featuring haluski, pirohy, kolbasy and more Children's program featuring the Pittsburgh Pirate Pierogi.
- 1:00-3:00pm** Slovak music by the George Batyi Gypsy Stringz Ensemble
- 2:00-3:00pm** Meet and Greet with Ambassador Radovan Javorcik
Music by Sokyra, for the Centennial Party at the Main Stage
Special Raffle of Slovak items and Centennial Birthday Cake
- 4:00pm** Slovak Liturgy celebrated by Bishop David Zubik, Bishop Larry Kulick and Fr. Tom Nasta
- 5:00pm** Slovak Folk Groups song and dance performances

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Committee will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Slovak Day at Kennywood by hosting a "Meet and Greet and Birthday Celebration" from 2-3 pm at the Main Stage (behind the Old Mill at Kennywood Park). Radovan Javorcik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America, and his wife will greet guests from 2-3 pm. The Embassy will provide information regarding travel, business and social life in Slovakia. Guests will be able to snap a selfie with the Ambassador. During the Meet and Greet, guests will be entertained by "Sokyra", a Carpatho-Rusyn/Slovak folk orchestra. Sokyra puts a modern twist on the rich folk music of Slovakia. The orchestra will provide a unique background for the festivities. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary, there will be a Birthday cake and a special raffle with Slovak items and other surprises for all visitors to the Main Stage between 2-3 pm. For 100 consecutive years the Slovaks of Western Pennsylvania have come together to celebrate Slovak Traditions, Family and Faith at Kennywood Park. It will be an exciting day for Americans of Slovak descent to celebrate with each other while enjoying colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak Dance performances, a sing-along, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities as well as foot-tapping music for dancing. All of these will combine to create memories that will be fondly remembered.

Special guests include the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Radovan Javorcik; His Excellency The Most Reverend Bishop David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, His Excellency Bishop Larry Kulick, Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg, and Father Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada.

Come celebrate the 100th anniversary of Slovak Day with us! FCSU will have a vendor table and would love for you to stop by to meet you! Remember, all FCSU members who pre-registered with the home office will receive a special gift and can claim it at the vendor table.

Professor Martin Javor Visited the FCSU and Other Slovak and Rusyn-American Sites

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

In June 2023, Professor Martin Javor visited some key Slovak and Rusyn sites in the USA. Dr. Javor is the director of Kasigarda, the Museum of Emigration from Slovakia to North America (Múzea vstáhovalectva z územia Slovenska do Severnej Ameriky) in the eastern Slovak village of Ťahyňa. He traveled to the USA, accompanied by his daughter Anna, to visit Slovak-American sites and check for resources for researching Slovak immigrants and to find materials for the museum.

One of the first places they visited was Perth

Amboy, New Jersey, which 60 years ago was center of Slovak immigrants on the east coast. His visit there included the home of his ancestors, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, the site of Holy Trinity Church (built in 1902 and demolished in the 1990s), and St. Nicholas cemeteries.

While in New Jersey, he collected 1400 kg of books and other materials on a pallet, which he sent to Slovakia for the museum. His cousin Milan Javor and his cousin's husband assisted in packing the materials, as he is striving to save the cultural heritage of Slovaks in America.

Next, he traveled to Wilkes-Barre, PA where he visited the Memorial room of Jozef Murgaš, the site of his Sacred Heart (closed), Slovak Lutheran church of St. Matthew Slovak Lutheran Church (closed), and the grave of Jozef Murgaš in the former Slovak Botanical Garden in Dallas, PA. Audrey Wagner Cunfer and Melinda Smith served as guides for his visits here.

Heading west, the Javors then stopped to visit the Sisters in Danville, PA, the former Slovak girls' school, St. Cyril Academy. Sister Loretta Marie, the Director of Jankola Library, accompanied them on a guided tour. Professor Javor was struck by the beauty of the Basilica of St. Cyril and Methodius. The colorful stained-glass windows are decorated with details and subjects from the history of immigration. They concluded their stop with a visit of the Jankola library with its rich collection of books from Slovakia.

The last stop of the Javors was in the Cleveland area where they visited the Slovak Institute at St. Andrew's Benedictine Abbey. Milan Kobulský, the director of the Slovak Institute, served as their guide. They then all went to the FCSU headquarters in Independence, OH for a working meeting with President Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary Kevin J. Collins, Beáta Begeniová - Fedoriouk, and Regional Director Tom Ivanec, and Terri Ivanec, the former Jednota editor. They all agreed to cooperate in saving the cultural heritage of Slovaks in America.

If you are traveling to Slovakia to visit the Museum, please contact Professor Martin Javor, to arrange a visit. The Kasigarda website is: <http://www.kasigarda.sk/en/kasigarda-2/>. There also is a Facebook site under title "Kasigarda. Múzeum vstáhovalectva z územia Slovenska do Severnej Ameriky".

Donations via Paypal and/or an in-person visit to the museum are very welcome. For Paypal, send donations to: javorisko@gmail.com or Martin.Javor@kasigarda. You may contact Professor Javor by e-mail at javorisko@gmail.com.



Dr. Martin Javor, founder of Kasigarda, the Museum of Emigration in Pavlovce nad Uhom-Ťahyňa, Slovakia, visited the FCSU Home Office on June 14, 2023. Pictured (L -R): Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Branch 450 Member Milan Kobulsky, Anna Javor, Martin Javor, National President Ken Arendt, Executive Assistant Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec, and Branch 24 Member Terri Ivanec, former Jednota editor. Photo and caption submitted by Tom Ivanec

WELCOME TO OUR JEDNOTA FAMILY!

First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 181 of United PA welcomes our newest member, Wells Robert Patty! He was born April 11, 2022, to proud parents, Robert and Lindsay Patty. Wells' older brother, Reid William Patty, joined the FCSU in 2019. Wells and Reid are the grandsons of Darlene and William Patty. Darlene is Branch 181 President and William is District 3 President.

Vitajte!



If you have a child or grandchild who recently became a member of the FCSU, please send us their photo to editor@fcsu.com so that we can feature them in an upcoming issue.

Branch 796 of District 8 in Egypt/Whitehall, PA Celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Northampton on Saturday, June 17, 2023

*4 P.M. Mass for the Rededication of a Church The Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown
Rev. Monsignor Thomas P. Koons Pastor Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Church Rev. Monsignor Stephen J. Radocha, V.F. Pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantel 5:30 P.M. Dinner at the Northampton Banquet & Event Center*

Parish History, 1922-2023

From 1880, Slovak immigrants settled in the Northampton area of northeastern Pennsylvania. They came to America mainly from the village of Slovenská Ves in northern Spiš county to work in the local Cement Mills. Their home parish in Slovakia was the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, now the parish of The Sacrifice of the Lord. Previous anniversary books list several of these families by name. They faced many hardships, including trudging to the church of SS Cyril and Methodius in Bethlehem to hear God's word in their native tongue.

But in 1902 their journey was somewhat shortened when St. Andrew's Church was erected in North Catasauqua, PA. As the number of Catholic Slovaks grew in the Northampton/Whitehall area, so did the desire to have their own church. Their first Catholic Mass was celebrated in Northampton in Laubach's Hall by Father Gaza, then pastor of St. Andrew's Church in an area near the current Cementon Bridge.

The desire to have their own church in Northampton motivated the growing number of Slovak Catholics to search for a suitable location and solicit funds to buy land with the intent of building. This was the foundation of establishing a parish under the patronage of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Soon after Cardinal Dennis Dougherty granted permission to establish a parish, land at 22nd Street and Washington Avenue was purchased for \$2000.00.

The first pastor, Reverend Andrew Fekety, came to Northampton from SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Bethlehem on June 19, 1922. This date marks the birth of the parish. Parish activities commenced immediately including sacramental preparations for the children of the first Holy Communion class. The laying and blessing of the cornerstone took place in 1923. The church basement was the setting for the first parish Confirmation.

After building a rectory in 1924, and purchasing land for a cemetery in 1926, the parish focused on funding to raise the upper church. In 1929 this was completed. Bishop Gerald O'Hara blessed the church, which was 100 feet long by 50 feet wide with a capacity of 350. The church cost just under \$56,000.00. A Major Celebration and Blessing was held in 1932 for three new bells in the Bell Tower.

Adorning the church as a house of God worthy of giving Him glory and honor was an arduous, expensive task for the parishioners. Pastoral leadership was passed onto Rev. Michael Begany in 1929. With his guidance and strong support from various societies within the parish, the church continued to grow. In 1939 the Parish built a new rectory and converted the existing rectory into a convent for the School Sisters of St. Francis of Bethlehem who taught our children in the newly opened Parish School.

Rev. Michael F. Messaros became our third pastor in 1962. For the 50th anniversary of the parish in 1972, he directed the renovation of the interior of the church and the installation of our Baut Studio Stained Glass Windows, installed Central Air Conditioning, and rebuilt the exterior front and rear steps.

When Monsignor Messaros retired to become pastor Emeritus in June of 1980, the Rev. Michael J. Stone, "the third pastor named Michael in a row," assumed his duties as the fourth pastor of Assumption BVM Church. Although the parish school consolidated with Our Lady of Hungary Regional School soon after, Father



Stained Glass Window of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The most admired and commented reaction of visitors to the parish are the stained-glass windows. They were designed, fabricated, and installed in 1971 by Baut Studios of Swoyersville, PA. They were commissioned by the Third pastor the Reverend Michael Messaros. Monsignor Messaros was emphatic that the design not be contemporary/abstract, but traditional. The left side windows of the church depict The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, and the right side of the Church depicts the Mary and her various titles and the saints

Stone continued to upgrade the classrooms in order to accommodate a burgeoning religious education program for the children. A Mausoleum, capable of holding 460 caskets, was built on the parish cemetery grounds. It was completed in 1990 and blessed by Bishop Thomas Welsh. As our Shepherd, Fr. Stone was an integral part in the parish, growing from 300 to 700 families. Fr. Stone purchased land from the Northampton Lumber Company and constructed a new parking lot for 75 cars. In 1987, Fr. Stone hired our current Director of Music Karen Glose and Adult Choir Director Mary LaBianca. Fr. Stone's time attending to the spiritual needs of the parish became increasingly challenging when Father Stone was also appointed pastor of St. Andrew's parish in Catasauqua. A spiritual connection begun eighty years before was now resumed between the two parishes.

Rev. Stephen J. Radocha became our fifth pastor in March of 1992. He continued the duties of serving the two parishes. Renovations to Assumption B.V.M. completed for our 75th Anniversary included an elevator, a cry room, an expanded choir loft, a renovation of the church social hall and the installation of the new Stained Glass front doors that depict the Founders of the Parish, their parish church in Slovakia, their new home in America, and BVM Parish.

Rev. Monsignor John S. Mráz served as the sixth pastor from 1997 until 2008, and Rev. Francis P. Straka became the seventh pastor in 2008 until his untimely passing in 2017.

In February 2017, the Rev. Monsignor Thomas Koons was named the eighth pastor of the Parish. Monsignor Koons led the parish through the Covid Pandemic with Facebook Live Streaming of the Daily Rosary and all the Masses. The parish takes great pride in the fact that Monsignor Koons has been so successful in the Diocesan Cooks for Collars Competition every year. In the 6 years Monsignor Koons has been pastor, many capital improvements have been made

The front doors depict the founding of the parish under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They were commissioned by the fifth pastor Rev. Monsignor Stephen Radocha in celebration of the parishes 75th Anniversary. To the right under the Slovak Flag is the Village of Slovenská Ves and the founders home parish of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary now named Parish of the Sacrifice of the Lord. To the left under the United States Flag depicts the Lehigh Valley and Cement Kilns where the founders found work in Northampton & Whitehall. In the center is the three-story Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish designed by Ruhe & Lange Architects. On either side of the people of God.



rectory. To mark the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Parish, Monsignor Koons has retained Bahret Studios to update the interior of the church with new lighting, new painting, an updated Ambo, Crucifix, and flooring.

On June 27, 2023, the Parish will welcome our ninth Pastor, the Rev. Patrick Lamb, who will also remain pastor of Queenship of Mary Parish also located in the Borough of Northampton. The Twinning of the two parishes will continue to maintain their separate Parish Identities and finances. Both Parishes have parishioners living in the Borough of Northampton, Whitehall, North Whitehall Townships in Lehigh County, Allen, East Allen, Hanover, Lehigh, and Moore Townships in Northampton County.

On the occasion of our 100th Anniversary Celebration, we Thank our eight pastors and their assistants that served as Shepherds of the flock. We thank the School Sisters of St. Francis, Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Catechists who nurtured our children in our Parish School and our Religious Education Program. We thank the overwhelming generous support of our Slovak ancestors that sacrificed to build this Parish. We thank the parish Members and Volunteers who make Assumption BVM the Parish a Welcoming Place that it is steeped in the Roman Catholic Faith.

Submitted by Edward D. Hozza Jr., Chair of the 100th Assumption BVM Anniversary Committee EdwardHozza@gmail.com

because of the exceptional generosity of BVM parishioners: a new church roof; a new church sound system; painting of the church stairwells, exteriors of the church and rectory, the Religious Education hallway and classrooms; new flooring in the Religious Education hall; security doors for Religious Education; security cameras for the church, rectory and cemetery; a new social hall refrigerator and freezer; renovation of the convent 1st floor apartment; moving of church office from the basement to the 1st floor of the

2023 Milwaukee Slovak-American Day

Our 91st Annual Slovak-American Day will take place on Sunday, July 30, at the Croatian Park in the Milwaukee area, starting with a Holy Mass at noon. At 2:30 pm, a cultural presentation will feature the Tatra Slovak Dancers and the Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers.

We are warmly inviting all the members of the Knights of SS. Mary and Joseph FCSU Branch 89 of Milwaukee.

Submitted by Kathy Valent, Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee



News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Zuzana Čaputová nebude opätovne kandidovať za prezidentku

Bratislava 20. júna (TASR) - Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová nebude opätovne kandidovať v budúročných voľbách na post hlavy štátu. Informovala o tom v utorok v Prezidentskom paláci.

"Neberte, prosím, moje rozhodnutie nekandidovať ako dôkaz toho, že so slušnosťou sa nedá uspieť. Dajú sa s ňou vyhrať voľby, vykonávať mandát a ostať pritom najdôveryhodnejším politikom," povedala Čaputová.

Vysvetlila, že sil na ďalší mandát by nebolo dost. Svoje rozhodnutie podľa vlastných slov poctivo zvažovala a dôvody preň sú silné. Svojím rozhodnutím nekandidovať sa nevzdáva ideálov ani dôvery v hodnoty, ktorým podriaďovala svoj doterajší profesijný aj osobný život. "Demokracii a spravodlivosti na Slovensku som sa snažila pomáhať pred prezidentským mandátom, počas neho a budem aj po ňom," poznamenala hlava štátu.

Tvrdí, že to, čo pred štyrmi rokmi slúbila, to pred dokončením svojho mandátu splní. Bude sa snažiť byť pilierom pokoja, slušnosti, vecnosti a ústavnosti. Osud Slovenska podľa Čaputovej nezávisí od jedného človeka. Múdri a empatickí ľudia s energiou kandidovali v komunálnych voľbách, kandidujú v parlamentných voľbách a nie je dôvod, aby tak nebolo aj v tých prezidentských.

"Slušnú a hodnotovú politiku porazí len to, keď jej prestaneme veriť. Ja v ňu stále verím. Moje rozhodnutie je rozhodnutím osobným, keďže dostatok sil je to, čo významne určuje kvalitu verejnej služby," poukázala.

Prezidentka bude svoju prácu naďalej robiť s ľudskosťou a empatiou, pretože je to práca pre ľudí. Počas uplynulých štyroch rokov sa podľa Čaputovej podarilo veľa dobrého.

Väčšina politických strán sa podľa vyjadrenia pre TASR kandidátom na prezidenta zatiaľ nezaobera. Aktuálnou prioritou sú pre ne septembrové predčasné parlamentné voľby. Niektoré strany čakali aj na rozhodnutie súčasnej hlavy štátu. Podporu Čaputovej deklarovala napríklad SaS, ktorá si však vie ako jej dôstojného nástupcu predstaviť exministra zahraničných vecí Ivana Korčoka.

Mandát prezidentky uplynie v roku 2024. Hlavu štátu volia občania Slovenskej republiky v priamych voľbách tajným hlasovaním na päť rokov. Kandidátov na prezidenta môže navrhnúť najmenej 15 poslancov Národnej rady SR alebo občania na základe petície najmenej s 15.000 podpismi oprávnených voličov.



Na snímke prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová oznamuje, že nebude opätovne kandidovať v budúročných voľbách na post hlavy štátu v Prezidentskom paláci v utorok 20. júna 2023. (In the photo, President Zuzana Čaputová announces that she will not run again in next year's elections for the post of head of state in the Presidential Palace on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.) Foto: TASR – Jaroslav Novák

Zuzana Čaputová Will Not Run for President Again

Bratislava, June 20 (TASR) - President Zuzana Čaputová will not run again in next year's elections for the post of head of state. She informed about it on Tuesday in the Presidential Palace.

"Please don't take my decision not to run as proof that you can't succeed with decency. You can win elections with it, carry out your mandate and remain the most trustworthy politician," said Čaputová.

She explained that there would not be enough power for another mandate. According to her own words, she considered her decision honestly and the reasons for it are strong. By deciding not to run, she is not giving up the ideals or trust in the values to which she has subordinated her professional and personal life up to now. "I tried to help democracy and justice in Slovakia before, during and after the presidential mandate," the head of state noted.

She claims that she will fulfill what she promised four years ago before the end of her mandate. She will try to be a pillar of peace, decency, matter-of-factness, and constitutionality. According to Čaputová, the fate of Slovakia does not depend on one person. Wise and empathetic people with energy ran in municipal elections, are running in parliamentary elections, and there is no reason why it should not be the same in presidential elections.

"A decent and valuable policy will only be defeated when we stop believing in it. I still believe in it. My decision is a personal decision, as sufficient forces is what significantly determines the quality of public service," she pointed out.

The President will continue to do her job with humanity and empathy, because it is a job for the people. According to Čaputová, a lot of good things have been achieved during the past four years.

According to TASR, the majority of political parties are not yet considering a presidential candidate. The current priority for them is the early parliamentary elections in September. Some parties were also waiting for the decision of the current head of state. SaS, for example, declared its support for Čaputová, but can imagine ex-minister of foreign affairs Ivan Korčok as her worthy successor.

The mandate of the president will expire in 2024. The head of state is elected by the citizens of the Slovak Republic in direct elections by secret ballot for five years. Candidates for the presidency can be proposed by at least 15 members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic or citizens based on a petition with at least 15,000 signatures of eligible voters.

Dočasná vláda nedokázala získať dôveru parlamentu

Bratislava 15. júna (TASR) - Dočasná vláda Ľudovíta Ódora nezískala dôveru parlamentu, keďže poslanci vo štvrtok odmietli jej programové vyhlásenie.

Zo 136 prítomných poslancov podporilo programové vyhlásenie len 34, 43 hlasovalo proti, 54 sa zdržalo hlasovania a piati sa na hlasovaní nezúčastnili.

V radoch tých, ktorí za program hlasovali, boli poslanci za SaS, nezávislí okolo expremiéra Eduarda Hegera a nezávislý poslanec Tomáš Valášek. Hlasovania sa medzitým zdržali Sme rodina, OĽaNO a nezávislí okolo Petra Pellegriniho. Proti hlasovali len poslanci Smeru-SD a viacerí nezávislí.

Počas rozpravy o programovom vyhlásení v parlamente Ódor požiadal poslancov o dôveru a predstavil hlavné priority programu. Vyhlásil, že jeho kabinet sa snaží upokojiť situáciu v krajine a priniesť kultivovaný politický diskurz. V súčasnosti je podľa neho potrebné zabezpečiť riadne riadenie štátu, pripraviť a realizovať opatrenia na pomoc verejnosti s infláciou a riešiť štátne financie.

Viaceri poslanci vyčítali, že programové vyhlásenie obsahuje len hŕstku konkrétnych riešení, pričom poslanci Smeru-SD nie sú spokojní ani s tým, že v programe nebolo zhodnotenie aktuálnej situácie v krajine.



Predseda dočasnej vlády Ľudovít Ódora (Caretaker Government Premier Ľudovít Ódor) Foto: TASR

Caretaker Government Fails to Win Parliament's Confidence

Bratislava, June 15 (TASR) - Ludovít Ódor's caretaker government has failed to win Parliament's confidence, as MPs turned down its manifesto in a vote on Thursday.

Of the 136 MPs present, only 34 supported the manifesto, while 43 voted against it, 54 abstained and five didn't take part in the vote.

The ranks of those who voted in favor of the manifesto included MPs from Freedom and Solidarity (SaS), the Independents centered around ex-premier Eduard Heger and Independent MP Tomáš Valášek. Meanwhile, We Are Family, OĽaNO, and the Independents centered around Peter Pellegrini abstained from voting. Only Smer-SD MPs and several Independents voted against it.

During the debate on the manifesto in Parliament, Ódor asked MPs for confidence and presented the main priorities of the program. He declared that his cabinet seeks to calm the situation in the country and bring a cultivated political discourse. Currently, he said, there is a need to ensure a proper governance of the state, prepare and implement measures to help the public with

inflation and address the state's finances.

Several MPs accused the manifesto of containing only a handful of specific solutions, with Smer-SD MPs discontent with the fact that the program didn't include an assessment of the current situation in the country, either.

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



Kentucky Derby Hat Competition

We are pleased to present the winners of the 2023 Kentucky Derby Hat competition. Thanks to all participants, and especially the time-honored Kentucky Derby Hat tradition with their creations. Winning entries were selected based solely on their creativity and design.

Note: Entries which included non-members were disqualified, in accordance with the contest rules.

Female Category Category: Female 40 - Older

Family Category First Place

First Place



Kelly Shedlock,
Branch 855

Second Place



Maureen Murphy,
Branch 831

Third Place



Dolores Marmol,
Branch 162



Lynne Mylet &
Colleen Mattey
Branch 5

Category: Female 16 -39

First Place



Victoria Oros,
Branch 24

Second Place



Rachel Fibbi,
Branch 587

Third Place



Rebecca Sutilla,
Branch 855

Category: Female 15 – younger

First Place



Lennon Manges,
Branch 162

Second Place



Garlow Marmol,
Branch 162

Third Place



Juliana Oost,
Branch 313



Contest Winners 2023



ally those who finished in first, second and third places. The winners truly embraced the theme of the contest, and represented their hats -- backgrounds, props and attire were not considered in the evaluations. Winners will receive cash prizes.

Category
Place

Male Category Category: Male 40 - Older



David, Jeanne,
Brent & Juliana
Oost
Branch 313

First Place



Joseph Rubino,
Branch 5

Second Place



Joe Oros, Branch 24

Third Place



James Fibbi,
Branch 587

Place

Category: Male 16 -39



First Place



Matthew Fibbi,
Branch 587

Second Place



Matthew Oros,
Branch 24

Place

Category: Male 15 – younger



Justin, Fran,
Henry, Eli and
Cora Strekal
Branch 24

First Place



Walter Instone,
Branch 24

Second Place



Ezra Marmol,
Branch 162

Third Place



Henry Strekal,
Branch 24



FCSU Bowlers Score Big at the National Bowling Tournament

Thirty-seven members of the FCSU braved the cold and rain in Buffalo, NY to bowl in our 2023 National Bowling Tournament, with fraternal brothers and sisters from the GCU, NSS and SCS, on May 17-18th at the Buffalo Airport Lanes.

The FCSU bowlers not only enjoyed the fun and fellowship of the tournament, with the chance to reconnect with their fellow bowlers, many finished in the prize money.

The FCSU was also well represented on the lanes by our Board Members/Executive Officers, with Father Tom Nasta, Kevin Collins, Greg Maurer, John Tokarsky, Damian Nasta, Dr. Richard Ungvarsky and Nicole Nasta joining in the competition. Ken and Theresa Arendt, Milos Mitro, Michael Kapitan and Joanne Fibbi represented the FCSU as non-bowlers. A wonderful time was had by all cheering on our bowlers, attending Mass together and enjoying a bountiful buffet on Saturday night.

Here's a quick recap of the FCSU's first, second and third place winners:

A complete list of results and prize winners will be posted on the FCSU website, and in an upcoming Jednota issue.

Men's Events

Jerry Hromada finished in first place in the Men's Singles/Scratch with John Tokarsky taking the top spot in Men's Singles/Handicap.

In Men's Doubles, John Grottenthaler and Tom Siley finished first in Scratch standings, with Luis Palos and Jerry Hromada taking second. John had an outstanding -- and heartbreaking -- single game score of 298. John and Tom also came in second in the Men's Doubles/Handicap.

Greg Grys captured first place in Men's All Events/Scratch. Congratulations to all our top men's winners.

Women's Events

The Lady Canucks team of Anne Mitro, Ruzena Kapitan, Nicole Zoldak and Christine Tokarsky from Canada, took first place in the Women's Teams/Handicap and placed third in the Women's Teams/Scratch category.

Then, Anne, Nicole and Christine went on to sweep first, second and third place finishes respectively in the Women's Singles/Handicap. Nicole finished second in Women's Singles/Scratch. Anne and Ruzena came in second place in Women's Doubles/Handicap and they finished third in the Women's Doubles/Scratch.

To top off a great tournament, Ruzena took home top honors in the Women's All



Mixed Doubles First Place: Carol Ungarvsky and Dr. Richard Ungarvsky, FCSU Medical Examiner.



Men's Doubles First Place: John Grottenthaler and Tom Siley



National Treasurer John Tokarsky and Greg Grys



Slovak Lanes Team: Luis Palos, FCSU Chairman of Auditors Greg Maurer, Jerry Hromada and Rusty Groner



The Lady Canucks:
Ruzena Kapitan,
Anne Mitro,
Nicole Zoldak,
Christine Tokarsky

Events/Handicap Category. That's the way to do it Lady Canucks!

Mixed Events

In Mixed Doubles/Scratch and Handicap, Rich and Carol Ungvarsky took the top spot. They were followed by Fred Berestecky and

Gwen Maximo in second place, with Milan and Nicole Zoldak finishing in third.

FCSU Bowling Tournament News for 2024!

2024 will mark the return of the bowling tournament sponsored solely by the FCSU.

Tentatively planned for April 19-21, 2024, the tournament will be open to FCSU members and their guests. Interested bowlers are encouraged to join the tournament committee, please contact Joanne Fibbi at jfibbi@fcsu.com. Watch for more details coming soon in the Jednota and on the website.

The Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, Ohio

On Friday, June 23rd and Saturday, June 24th the FCSU participated in the Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, Ohio.

FCSU had a vendor table set up, promoting our fraternal organization as well as our 6%, 8-year flex annuity and IRA.

Saturday evening, guests enjoyed a fabulous treat of hearing the awesome band known as "Harmonia". Some of you may know this band, since it features our own Beata Begeniova-Fedorouk along with her husband Alex and daughter Sofia. Not to be left out of this talented Branch 24 family, her son Artem led the dancing around the Vatra (bonfire) Lighting Ceremony.

It was great seeing all the FCSU members, and we hope to see more members attend this great event next year!





PLAY THE LOSER'S POOL

2023 with the FCSU

PRIZES:

1st Place - \$750

2nd Place - \$500

3rd Place - \$250

FCSU RULES

- 1) Must be an FCSU member in good standing, age 16 years or older, to play.
- 2) Each player picks one NFL Team they think will lose that week.
- 3) All picks are "Straight Up" and are not using any point spread.
- 4) If your pick (team) loses that week, you advance to the following week.
- 5) If your pick (team) wins, you are eliminated from the pool.
- 6) Pre-plan projections: You can only pick a team once to lose throughout season & playoffs.
- 7) Games ending in a tie will count as your team winning and you will be eliminated.
- 8) If you miss the deadline to enter your team for that week, you will be eliminated.
- 9) Deadline for submitting your team TBD each week based on start of the first NFL game.
- 10) Must use email address* from your submitted entry form.**
- 11) Email address* can only be used once. No exceptions.**
- 12) Check email address* and spam folders for an email from *contest@fcsu.com* to register.
- 13) After registering with FCSU—you will receive a link to enter your player information on the official Run Your Pool game site **before 5:00pm (EST) Tuesday, September 5, 2023.**



----- ENTRY FORM -----

Name: _____ Player Name: _____

Certificate Number: _____ Branch : _____ Email Address* _____
 (Must be your entry email)

Street Address: City, State, Zip: _____

_____ Phone Number: _____

Mail to: FCSU, Attention: Football Pool, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence OH, 44131

OR Email to: *contest@fcsu.com*

All entry forms must arrive by 5:00PM (EST) Thursday, August 31, 2023

2023 International Golf Tournament

A JOINT FRATERNAL EVENT
of the FCSU, GCU and SCS



**Entry form and details are in the June Jednota
and online at fcsu.com/events/golf-tournament/**

<p>Event Overview</p> <p>August 18-20, 2023 Friday - Sunday</p> <p>Locations</p> <p>Kennsington Golf Club 4171 Westford Place, Canfield OH 44406 330-533-8733</p> <p>Flying B Golf Course 13223 W. Middletown Rd. Salem OH 44460 330-337-8138 One day play per course.</p> <p>Flights/Handicaps Six flights including Senior's Women's and Callaway Handicaps based on two years/4 rounds of Tournament Play or a modified Callaway System</p> <p>Golf & Hospitality Package FCSU member cost \$190</p>	<p>Enter by Mail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry form is available online at FCSU.com/events/golf Print and complete form. Make check payable to FCSU (use golf in memo line.) <p>Mail to: Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane Pittsburgh, PA 15241</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Or use the entry form in the June edition of the <u>Jednota</u>. <p>Entry Deadline: July 18th</p> <p>••• ACCOMMODATIONS •••</p> <p>Book and pay hotel directly</p> <p>Courtyard by Marriott Canfield Call 330-533-6880 \$139 per night plus tax Slovak Golf Tournament Rate Includes breakfast Adjacent to Kennsington Golf Club</p> <p>Holiday Inn Boardman Call 330-726-1611 \$129 per night plus tax</p>	<p>Tournament Schedule</p> <p>Friday, August 18th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice Rounds Contact the club to reserve your tee time. Evening Hospitality 7:00 pm at the Waypoint Banquet Hall adjacent to the Courtyard. <p>Saturday, August 19th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tournament Round One 8:00 am Shotgun Start Mass 4:00 pm at Waypoint Banquet Hall. Celebrated by FCSU Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta Dinner Banquet 5:30 pm Waypoint Banquet Hall <p>Sunday, August 20th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tournament Round Two 8:00 am Shotgun Start
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2023 International Golf Tournament

Show your support with a
Hole Sponsorship!



\$50 for a 24" x 18" sign

Cheer on our golfers as they
compete on August 18-20th
Promote your branch, district, family or
business with a Hole Sponsorship sign.

Mail your sign information and check to:
Joanne Fibbi
1741 Hempstead Lane
Pittsburgh. PA 15241
Deadline: July 18th. Make check payable to the FCSU
(with "hole sponsor" on the memo line.)

Good Luck to our FCSU Members
and all golfers at
Kennsington Golf Club and Flying B Golf Course

FCSU MEMBER ENTRY FORM

2023 International Golf Tournament

A JOINT FRATERNAL EVENT PRESENTED BY THE FCSU, GCU AND SCS

August 18-20, 2023

Kennsington Golf Club, Canfield OH and Flying B Golf Course, Salem OH

U.S.G.A. 36 HOLES 6 FLIGHTS SHOTGUN START: 8:00 am

2023 International Golf Tournament

A JOINT FRATERNAL EVENT PRESENTED BY THE FCSU, GCU AND SCS

August 18-20, 2023

Kennsington Golf Club, Canfield OH and Flying B Golf Course, Salem OH

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ **BRANCH #:** _____

GOLFER SIGNATURE: _____

MY TWOSOME/FOURSOME NAMES: _____

_____ I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TWO PREVIOUS FCSU/JOINT FRATERNAL GOLF TOURNAMENTS

_____ I HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN TWO PREVIOUS FCSU/JOINT FRATERNAL GOLF TOURNAMENTS

_____ I AM A MALE GOLFER AGE 62+ AND WISH TO ENTER THE SENIOR FLIGHT. I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TWO PREVIOUS TOURNAMENTS.

_____ I AM A FEMALE GOLFER AND WISH TO ENTER THE WOMEN'S FLIGHT.

_____ **GOLF & HOSPITALITY PACKAGE ~~\$220~~ \$190** Includes: Entry Fee • Tournament Expense Fee • Practice Round • Two Day Tournament Play w/Cart • Friday Hospitality • Saturday Banquet. (FCSU covers the cost of the banquet for our golfing members.)

_____ I will attend the banquet _____ I will not attend the banquet

_____ **BANQUET GUEST \$30** Per Person _____ # attending

Banquet Guest Name(s): _____

AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Make check payable to FCSU and include "GOLF" on the memo line.
Mail check and entry to: Joanne Fibbi 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Questions: jfibbi@fcsu.com

Entry form and full payment must be received no later than July 18th

RULES and REGULATIONS

- Each participant must be a member of First Catholic Slovak Union in good standing, with a current annuity or life insurance policy.
- The tournament shall be conducted under prevailing U.S.G.A. rules.
- Tournament play is 36 holes, with 18-hole rounds played on Saturday, August 19th and Sunday August 20th. The shotgun start begins at 8:00 am.
- Practice rounds are Friday, August 18th. Golfers must contact the club directly to schedule practice rounds. **Kennsington at 330-533-8733 prompt #3 or Flying B at 330-337-8138**
- The tournament will consist of six (6) flights as listed below (prior to applying 75% of handicap)

• A Flight 0-12 handicap	• D Flight Callaway System
• B Flight 13 - 20 handicap	• S Flight Senior 62 years+
• C Flight 21 and over handicap	• W Flight Women Callaway System
- Only the FCSU/GCU/SCS handicap will be accepted for all flights.
- All handicaps are subject to review and possible re-rating by the Handicap Committee. In the case of ties, lowest handicap will be declared the flight winner.
- The maximum handicap per round: Men - 40 Women - 50
- Callaway flights will include golfers who do not have a Tournament handicap. (Tournament handicaps are based on two years or four rounds of Tournament play.) Following the Callaway Modified System, two blind holes from each round will be used to calculate a daily handicap.
- Women golfers will compete in a separate flight with a Modified Callaway System.
- Participants who want to designate their twosomes/foursomes, must include partners' names on the entry form. If not indicated, foursomes will be paired at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- The penalty for being tardy at the starting tee will be in accordance with U.S.G.A. rules, and will result in loss of position.
- Entry Fee is \$15.00 and Tournament Expense Fee is \$15.00. (Included in your Golf Package Price)
- There will be a Champion in each flight. Corresponding prize money will be awarded according to the number of golfers participating in each flight.
- A Tournament Banquet will be held Saturday evening, August 19th at the Waypoint Banquet Hall, 4180 Westford Place, Canfield, OH 44406
- Entries must be received no later than July 18, 2023.** Payment in full must accompany the entry form.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Make your reservations early. You will contact and pay the hotel directly.

Courtyard by Marriott Canfield - Call 330-533-6880 - 4173 Westford Place, Canfield
\$139 per night plus tax. Slovak Golf Tournament Rate. Includes breakfast. (Adjacent to Kennsington Golf Club)

Holiday Inn Boardman - Call 330-726-1611 - 7410 South Ave. Youngstown \$129 per night plus tax.

Make checks payable to: FCSU - with "Golf" on the memo line.
Mail checks and entry forms to:
Joanne Fibbi, Fraternal Activities Director, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The next meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on July 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Panera Bread, 19705 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH 44116. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by July 10, 2023. All members are welcome to attend.

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

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Stephens Society branch 6 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 22, 2023. The meeting will be at Gaetano's Vault, 202 E. Main St., Streator, Illinois at 11:30 am. The branch will be discussing a fraternal gathering for its members. All members are invited to attend the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851.

Submitted by **Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 is having a branch picnic at Walton Hills Lake Club, 7157 Rotary Dr, Walton Hills, OH, on Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 1 PM to 6 PM. We will begin with a brief meeting. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. The branch will provide hamburgers and hotdogs for the cookout as well as water and soft drinks. Alcohol is allowed but no glass bottles. The covered pavilion is near a manmade lake that is open for swimming with a lifeguard on duty. Beach volleyball and other activities are also available.

Please contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 before August 4 if you plan on attending. We hope to see many of you there.

Submitted by **John Moynihan, President**

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 encourages our branch members to attend the August 19, 2023, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic. This year, the picnic will be held at the outdoor pavilion on the grounds of St. Sava Church, 2151 West Wallings Road, Broadview Hts, OH. The picnic starts at 3PM. Admission is \$5. Admission is free for children 12 and under.

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

Submitted by **Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director**

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

On Saturday, August 26, 2023, please join our FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat dining followed by great seats for minor league baseball with the Lake Erie Crushers in Avon, Ohio. Tickets are \$34; children 10 and under are \$29. Discounted tickets are available for Branch 24 Members. Non-members are welcome at the full price per ticket. See District 10 flyer in Jednota for more details. All attendees must register in advance for this event. Contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 no later than August 7, 2022, for more information and to reserve your tickets.

Submitted by **John Moynihan, President**

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PA

St Michaels, Branch 35 will hold a semi-annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of upcoming events. Branch members who are interested in attending the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185.

Submitted by **Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, IL

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 16th at Chip-

per's Grill 1733 N. Bloomington St. Streator, IL at 2:00 PM. All members are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please RSVP by calling (815) 257-6142 (leave a message) by July 14th.

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

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Dear Members:
Please join us for our meeting on August 20, 2023

Time is 11:30 AM
Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal.

The cost is \$40.00 per person.
Location: Brisco County Wood Grill
N96W16865 Cumberland Court
Menomonee Falls, WI

That is at Highway 41 North and County Q exit.
Please call to make your reservation by 8/15/2023. You MUST CONFIRM. Please call the President of Branch 89, Mike Novak, at 414-445-5382.

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

Mail to Mike Novak - 3237 N. 93rd St - Milwaukee, WI 53222

On the meeting agenda: Donations and Activities. Fraternal Regards,

Submitted by **Michael Novak, President**

BRANCH 166 - BINGHAMTON, NY

Greetings Branch 166! As summer is quickly approaching, just a reminder to take advantage of this Branch 166 upcoming event!! On Saturday, August 5th come to our Branch Picnic at Nathaniel Cole Park Harpursville, NY Pavilion 3 from 11 am to 4 pm! "IMPORTANT" RSVP by July 14th to Morgan Dendler at 607 231 0461. Thank you! Have a wonderful July!

Submitted by **Judie Dendler Secretary**

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE PA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in northeast Pennsylvania, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at Norm's Restaurant, 275 N. Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, starting at 1 pm. General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, as will the insurance, annuities, and fraternal activities of the FCSU. Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy Ungvarsky, at (570) 403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Submitted by **Matthew Ungvarsky, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 181 – UNITED PA

All Branch 181 members are invited to join Branch 162 of Uniontown to attend the celebration of the 58th anniversary of the Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. on Saturday, September 23, 2023. A mass will be celebrated by The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg and the FCSU Protector.

A chartered bus provided by Branch 162 will take participants to the Basilica. A bus seat per person is \$50 and is non-refundable. Reservations will be confirmed when payment is made and will be on a first come, first served basis. The bus holds 54 occupants. Snacks and water will be provided. The bus will stop for breakfast on the way to D.C. and for dinner on the return trip. Meals are at your own expense. Bus will depart from St. Mary's Church parking lot at 61 North Mt. Vernon Ave. in Uniontown at 6:00 AM and leave at 5:00 PM from D.C. The trip and stops will take about 5 hours and bathroom facilities will be available on the bus. For reservations, please contact Nancy Blake at St. Mary Church by calling 724-437-4441. Payments and reservations must be completed by September 1, 2023.

Submitted by **Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge Br. 228 will hold their next meeting on September 18, 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.

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 254 -- PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at noon at Panera's restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include past, present, and future 2023 activities.

For reservations, contact Joe Senko - 2000 Cliff Mine Rd - Park West Two - Suite 210 - Pittsburgh, PA 15275 - Office (412) 531-2990 - Fax (412) 531-4793 - Cell (412) 956-6000 - Home (412) 343-5031 - email: jtsenko@aol.com.

Submitted by **Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

All Branch 320 members – Summer is HERE and events are happening in and around our area. Please come join us at one or more of these events. Would love to see you!!

PIRATES BASEBALL: All are welcome to a night of Pirates Baseball on July 17, 2023, as our Pirates will be facing the Cleveland Guardians! A fraternal block has been set up in Section 119. Please see this issue of Jednota for details. Please reach out to Joseph Tarquinio (District 12 – Vice President) at tark918@gmail.com

KENNYWOOD PARK: Branch 320 members interested in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Slovak Day at Kennywood Park, Thursday, July 20, please contact Frances Tarquinio at (724) 929-9788 by July 8. A ticket stipend may be available for eligible Branch 320 members.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: All are welcome to a night of fraternal minor league baseball hosted by Branch 320. The Washington WildThings vs. Gateway Grizzlies game is scheduled for August 4, 2023, in Washington PA. A ticket stipend may be available for eligible Branch 320 members. Please see the Jednota for details.

*** THIS IS A FIREWORKS NIGHT... ***

NATIONAL FRATERNAL EVENTS: Branch 320 members expressing interest in any fraternal events, National Slovak Society Museum Picnic (McMurray, PA), the FCSU National Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park (Elysburg, PA), please see this issue of Jednota for details.

MASS WASHINGTON DC: Branch 320 members expressing interest in attending Mass, on September 23, to be celebrated by Bishop Kulick, JCL (FCSU National Protector) at the National Shrine in Washington, DC, please RSVP ASAP. There is a limited numbers of seats available (Bus sponsored by Branch 162) from St Mary's Nativity Church (Uniontown, PA). Please see this issue of Jednota for details.

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

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PA

Saint Joseph Lodge 367, Fairchance, PA 15436 will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 1:00 PM at O'Gillies Restaurant, 200 East Askren Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. All members are welcome to attend. Anyone interested in helping with our lodge and planning to attend please con-

tact Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006.

Submitted by **Kathryn Baranek, Secretary**

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

Sts Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382 of Scranton PA, will hold its summer picnic on Saturday August 26, 2023, from noon to dusk. Branch members and guests will gather at the pavilion on the grounds of the Holy Family Social and Welfare Club in Covington Township, PA.

Planning committee members, Laura Christianson, Becky Czankner, and Michael J. Slovenkai Sr., cordially invite all Branch 382 members to join them for an afternoon of good food and friendly socializing in the beautiful outdoors of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The cost of the event for Branch 382 members is \$10.00 per person. The price for a guest is \$15.00 per person. A catered lunch will be served. Members and guests will enjoy beverages and snacks throughout the afternoon. A late afternoon cookout and corn roast will end the day.

To make reservations contact Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Branch President, at 570-344-3854. Messages can be left on voicemail. The deadline to make reservations is Friday, August 18, 2023.

Your check guarantees your reservation and should be received by August 23, 2023.

Checks are to be made payable to: FCSU Branch 382K and mailed to Elizabeth M. Slovenkai – 505 Emmett St – Scranton, PA 18505-1016.

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

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

Branch 393 will be holding their semi - annual meeting on Sunday August 20th at 4:00 PM at the New City Buffet 5142 US - Rt 30 Greensburg. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **John Nalevanko, President**

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

Looking forward to seeing our members at the following functions – mark your calendars now:

July 19 Wed Beef Tip and Noodles – served 4:30-6:30, Reservations REQUIRED call 330-786-9972 after 3 pm – Tuesday-Saturday

Monthly drawing 6:30 pm – make certain you are signed up

July 30 Sun Breakfast – Served 9:00 -11:45 am
Aug 2 Wed All You Can Eat Spaghetti – served 4:30 7:00 pm

Aug 16 Wed Baked Chicken Dinner – Served 4:30 – 6:30 pm, Reservations REQUIRED call 330-786-9972 after 3 pm Tuesday – Saturday

Aug 19 Sat Slovak Festival 2:00-7:00pm – Food, Music, Corn Hole Tournaments, Water Balloon toss and much more

Bowling Season is fast approaching. We have established leagues on Monday Evening, Tuesday Evening, Thursday Mornings and Every other Saturday Evening. If you are interested in bowling on one of these leagues call the club at 330+786-9972 after 3 pm – Tuesday thru Saturday. Someone will put you in contact with the Appropriate personnel. Hope to see you at the club. Have a Safe Labor Day Holiday.

Submitted by **Linda Hanko, Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 716- NEW YORK, NY

Branch 716 had its first semi-annual meeting on April 23rd, 2023, and the following information was discussed. Masses at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY, are offered for the intentions of all Branch 716 members living and deceased on the following dates: October 2nd, November 13th, and December 4th. The branch also plans to host a picnic event at St. John Nepomucene Church on July 9th. We invite all Branch 716 members, families, parishioners, and prospective Jednota members to our events. For additional information or questions, contact our branch president Eva Lysakova at (718)-223-0379.

Submitted by **Emily Lysaková, Recording Secretary**

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new BRANCH Announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com

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BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$20. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by August 5th if you plan on attending. See this issue of the Jednota for our flyer!

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

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: 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 853 - CHARLEROI, PA

Any Branch 853 member who is attending an event celebrating our Slovak heritage, including the following events, may be eligible for a Branch 853

travel stipend to help defray traveling costs. Restrictions apply.

- Any FCSU National Picnic - Knoebels in PA / Wiegand Park in OH

- 100th Slovak American Day at Kennywood Park, July 20

- Johnstown Slavic Festival, September 15-16

- Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception - September 23

Contact the branch president at FCSUB-ranch853@gmail.com for details.

Submitted by Monica Boone, President

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

FREE!!! Branch 855 invites all of our branch members to attend the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Picnic on the August 19, 2023. This year, the picnic will be held at the outdoor pavilion on the grounds of St. Sava Church, 2151 West Wallings Road, Broadview Hts, OH. The picnic opens at 3:00PM. Admission is \$5.00 for anyone 13 and older. Children 12 and under are free.

The Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will be serving authentic Slovak food, beer, and pastries for purchase; there also will be music by the Anthony Culkar Band for dancing and your listening pleasure. Branch 855 members 13 and older will receive FREE admission* and \$10.00 in food/beverage tickets. Branch 855 members 12 and under will receive \$5.00 in food/beverage. *Come visit the FCSU table once you arrive for your reimbursement

and tickets. For more information see the flyer in this issue of the Jednota or contact me at 440-864-4744. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, President

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

Free tickets!! On Saturday, August 26, 2023, please join our FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat dining followed by great seats for minor league baseball with the Lake Erie Crushers in Avon, Ohio. Tickets are \$34.00; children 10 and under are \$29.00. All Branch 855 members wishing to attend will receive one free ticket for themselves and one discounted ticket for their non-member guest. See District 10 flyer in this issue of the Jednota for more details. All attendees must register in advance for this event. Contact Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director Stephanie Sutilla at 440-409-9405 no later than August 7, 2023, for more information and to reserve your tickets.

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, President

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OH

All members are welcome to attend our branch meeting on August 22, 2023. The meeting will be held at 6:00pm at Simons Restaurant & Deli at 7770 Chippewa Rd in Brecksville. Dinner will be served during this meeting. All Branch 855 members are free. If you would like to bring a non-member guest the cost is \$20.00. Must RSVP by August 14 to

Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director Stephanie Sutilla at 440-409-9405 or fcsu855@gmail.com.

On the agenda will be a discussion of FCSU news and setting a date for our December election of officers meeting.

Submitted by Barbara Sutilla, President

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856 would like to invite all Jednota members and Slovaks to come to Washington D.C. to join the Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L. Bishop of Greensburg and FCSU Protector, in celebrating the 58th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 23, 2023. The rosary will be said at 1:00pm followed by mass at 1:30pm. A light lunch will be served. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-3856 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, President

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements should be sent to this email address: district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 1 - REVEREND MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT - CT, MA

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$20. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by August 5th if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary Br 746

DISTRICT 2 - REV JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT, IL/IN/WI

District 2 will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 1 at the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL.

Fraternal social will begin at 1:30 pm followed by a meeting at 2:00pm. At this meeting, we will have elections. A fraternal luncheon will follow.

Please reserve your place by calling Dorothy (708) 995 7378. Bring a raffle prize. Look forward to seeing you.

Submitted by John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 3- GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PA

The George Onda District will hold its Annual meeting on Saturday September 30, 2023, after the 5:00PM. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United. Pa. We will meet in the social hall to discuss plans for our upcoming Štedrý Večer and receive news from our branches. Food and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to me via email prior to September 23 at: mamaonnet@aol.com. We look forward to a great turnout.

Submitted by Linda L.Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR JOHN E RURA DISTRICT - NJ

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$20. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by August 5th if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary Br 746

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH PA

All members are welcome to attend a Cleveland-Pittsburgh baseball game on Monday, July 17. Branch 38 will host a tailgate prior to the game at 5:00pm. Seats are along the 3rd base line. Tickets are \$39 which includes a \$10.00 food voucher. RSVP to Brad Matta at bmatta41@gmail.com or Cathy Matta at 412-225-5087. Check this issue of Jednota for more details.

A bus trip is being planned for September 23 to attend mass at the Mother of Sorrows Chapel at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Contact Sue Ondrejco at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com for details.

Many national events are scheduled for the spring and summer: bowling, golf, several picnics. Check the Jednota for details.

The Fall Business Meeting will be hosted by Branch 60 at a time and place to be determined. We will discuss business matters and plan events for next year. Officers for 2024 will be elected.

Other announcements of local interest:

* Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 20 - Contact Sue Ondrejco for tickets.

* Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt - Sunday, November 5 - free admission.

* Slovak radio program - WPIT 96.5 FM or 730 AM.

As always members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as social events and contests. Be sure your beneficiaries are up to date. Insurance information and forms can be found at FCSU.com.

Submitted by Margaret A Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - OH

On Saturday, August 26, 2023, please join our FCSU members in District 10 for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat dining followed by great seats for minor league baseball with the Lake Erie Crushers in Avon, Ohio. Tickets are \$34; children 10 and under are \$29. Discounted tickets may be available through your branch. Non-members are welcome at the full price per ticket. See District 10 flyer in Jednota or the FCSU website for more details. All attendees must register in advance for this event by contacting your branch officer. Not sure who to contact? Call Barbara at the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 ext. 122 for assistance. MUST RSVP no later than August 7, 2023, to reserve your tickets.

Submitted by Tom Ivanec, Director Region 6

DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEPH TISO, PA

November 12, 2023 - the Annual District meeting for the election of officers will be held at Villa Blanca 2740 Leechburg Rd., Lower Burrell 15068.

Please plan to attend the district meetings as your opinion and ideas are important to us! Come share your thoughts and enjoy a meal with fellow members. God Bless and stay safe and healthy!

Submitted by Karen Greggs, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA, PA

July 17, 2023 - All are welcome to a night of Pirates/Guardians Baseball. July 17, 2023, our Pirates will be facing Cleveland. A fraternal block has been setup in Section 119. All attending are welcome to pre-game tailgate (Hosted by Branch 38). Please RSVP to: Brad Matta, Tom Ivanec or Joseph Tarquinio. See the Jednota for details.

August 4, 2023 - All are welcome to a night of fraternal baseball hosted by Branch 320. Minor league Washington WildThings vs. Gateway Grizzlies game is scheduled for August 4, 2023, in Washington PA. Please see the Jednota for details.

*** THIS IS A FIREWORKS NIGHT....***

Submitted by Joseph Tarquinio, Vice-President

DISTRICT 14, THE REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT - YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Family Picnic

When: Sunday, August 13th, 2023

Time: 1:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M.

Where: Mauthe Pavilion; Mauthe Park 156 Smithfield Street, Struthers, Ohio 44471

All members of Branches 259, 260, 682, 731, and 764 are invited. The Elderly and Grandpar-

continued on page 23

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Darlene A Sasz	162K	John M Sargent	484K	Theresa Anne Crispo	853K	Eugene R Scullion
002K	Anthony Hlister	162K	John Richnafsky	553K	Rev Ralph V Coletta	855K	Clemens Tausch
019K	Carole A Bogardus	166K	Thomas J Tokos	553K	Sandra L Unrue	855K	Herbert J Mc Taggart
019K	Thomas Lacko	173K	Thomas G Herstek	553K	Susan Marie Ross	855K	Rose Marie Breen
023K	Anna Mesaros	199K	David P Graham	670K	Joseph G Misanik	856K	Elizabeth J Tomey
023K	Susan Olchesky Strihan	200K	Samuel Borello	682K	Marlene Rock	857K	Cecilia T Tshudy
024K	Bernard J Weber	228K	James E Gillilan	731K	Matthew Stosic Jr	917K	Mary Ann Grelle
024K	Rosemary J Saus	254K	Bernard Ciganek	731K	Theresa A Boring	919K	Norbert A Kammerer II
040K	Jeannine Falk	312K	Richard J Repko	743K	Margaret Gasser	921K	David Johnson
045K	Martha B Pcola	367K	Veronica Watkins	743K	Margaret Pisarcik	924K	Helen I Fetzer
055K	Elizabeth J Cantafio	419K	Michael Shaute	746K	Maria Bandjlich	926K	Larry E Kirchman
089K	Robert J Budjac	484K	Joseph R Rura	746K	Michael G Rosko		
112K	Elizabeth Kakalecik	484K	Keith Frye	764K	Barbara M Hatosky		
112K	Joanne Jachimczyk	484K	Marie Fekete	780K	Kasey G Nelson		
162K	Ernest B Dodgson	484K	Mary Lamey	831K	Clement Kulik		

* Processed in the month of June 2023

Nekrológy – Obituaries

MARY C. BELECHAK, BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PA

Formerly of North Braddock, Mary Catherine Belechak (b. December 15, 1933) passed away peacefully at her Point Pleasant home in North Versailles with her family present on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at the age of 89. Mary was the beloved wife of Joseph W. Belechak for 69 years.

Mary was the loving mother of Aimee (Jesse) Campayno, Mary Jo (David) Caparosa, Diane (Joseph) Shaffo, Anita (Gary) Nixon, Joe (Michelle) Belechak, John (Johnette) Belechak and Jude (Ben Benack) Punturi. She was the devoted grandmother to 38 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. The sister of John (late Pat) DeLucia and Joseph DeLucia, Mary was preceded in death by her parents, John and Stella DeLucia and her brother, Robert DeLucia.

Mary loved, prayed and lived with an intensity that cannot be matched. She also formerly served as Treasurer for Branch 213.

Friends were welcomed at Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. in Turtle Creek.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place in St. John Fisher Church (St. Joseph the Worker Parish) on Monday at 10:00 am. She was laid to rest in Braddock Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Matthew J. Clark '12 Endowment Fund at www.centralcatholics.com/pages/give. Select "Endowment" followed by Matthew J. Clark '12 Endowment Fund, or mail checks payable to Central Catholic High School, 4720 Fifth Ave., Pgh., Pa 15213. Memorial donations may also be sent to Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining, NY 10562 or www.maryknollsociety.org.

Submitted by Anita Nixon,



ELIZABETH JANE CANTAFIO, BRANCH 55 - PHILADELPHIA, PA

It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected death of Elizabeth Jane Cantafio, 56, who was welcomed into eternal life on February 2, 2023. Elizabeth, the oldest of three children, was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, on January 11, 1967. She is preceded in death by her parents, the late Tito and Elizabeth Jane Cantafio (neé Sabol), and by her sister, Diana Interrante.

A graduate of Norristown Area High School's gifted program in 1984, Elizabeth went on to obtain a B.A. in Writing and Literature from Sarah Lawrence College in 1988. Her love of language led her next to Georgetown University, where she earned her Master of Arts degree in English in 1989.

After Georgetown, Elizabeth came back to Philadelphia. Her dream was to teach students who had not tested into college-level English classes. She discovered that the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education (GSE) had a doctoral program in Reading/Writing/Literacy, which began her 10-year journey to obtaining her PhD. While at GSE, Elizabeth met Dr. Susan Lytle who would become her teacher, dissertation chair, mentor, best friend, and ultimately family along with Susan's husband, Dr. James "Torch" Lytle.

In 1991, Elizabeth joined the faculty at Community College of Philadelphia where she was employed until her death. Her thirty years of teaching the very students she had always wanted to reach were joyful for her. She loved teaching and loved her students.

In 2007, Elizabeth met Allison Parks, who would become her partner and then wife on February 10, 2017. They built a life together filled with laughter, art, music, and especially undying love.

From her father, Elizabeth inherited a deep appreciation for music. Her younger brother, Tito, credits Elizabeth with his love of music and opening the world of music to him during his formative years.

Elizabeth is survived by her wife, Allison, her brother Tito (Cheryl), her dear friend Stephen Scally, and many cousins. She leaves behind a host of friends to mourn her death.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Elizabeth's memory can be made to Justice Rescue (<https://justice-rescue.com/pages/donate>).

Relatives and friends attended Elizabeth's Life Celebration on February 10, 2023 at Boyd-Horrox-Givnish Life Celebration Home of East Norriton. Her Funeral Service was followed by interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery of Phoenixville.

Submitted by Tito Cantafio



FLORENCE E. (NIN) HIRT, BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Florence Eleanor Hirt passed away peacefully on June 18, 2023, in the company of her family on June 18, 2023, one day before her 92nd birthday.

Born Florence Eleanor Tessari in Windber (Mine 40 Scalp Level), PA on June 19, 1931, Florence was one of eight children of Elisabetta (Menegatti) and Antonio Lelio Tessari. After her schooling in Windber, Florence began her working career as a seamstress. Eventually, her older brother Dino Aldo introduced her to his best friend, Andy Hirt, with whom she began a relationship that led to a lifetime commitment. Florence married Andrew J. Hirt on August 23, 1952.

Florence and Andy built a solid marriage and family while working to improve their lives. After building a home together on Lemoyne Ave. in Boardman they proceeded to increase their family and work together to establish a private company. Along the way Florence found time to care for family and those she befriended and for many years hosted her friends and family in her home when they faced difficult times. Finally, Florence enjoyed an active career as owner and CFO of the Florand Company (a manufacturer of steel strapping and seals for the packaging industry), from which she never retired. Her love of numbers and puzzle solving made her responsibility for the financial aspects of the company a joyful experience rather than a job. She was very active in the First Catholic Slovak Union Jednota Branch 682 (St. George Lodge). Florence and her husband Andy were frequent contributors to St. Matthias Church and the Diocese of Youngstown. Throughout the years, her favorite hobbies were solving puzzles, bowling, reading, watching old western movies and, like her husband, a good game of Dominoes.

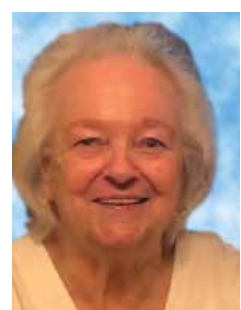
She leaves behind to cherish her memories her children Mary Beth Daugherty, Andrew M. (Carol Jean) Hirt, Thomas J. (Mary Kay) Hirt, Suzanne (Kevin) Carney, and Teresa (Michael) Aaron; foster-son Jesse Brandon (Lindy) Collins; her brothers Dino Aldo Tessari and Anthony L. (Janet) Tessari; sisters-in-law Diana (John) Tessari and Janet (Anthony) Tessari; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous in-laws, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew J. Hirt (April 13, 2016); her parents; her siblings Palmira, Attilio, Mary, John and Michael; in-laws Ann (Hirt) and Michael DiPrizio, John Hirt, Stanley (Palmira) Frederick, Helen Irene (Dino) Tessari and Lois Dianne (Michael) Tessari; and her son-in-law David Daugherty.

The family entrusted the care of Florence to the Cunningham-Becker Funeral Home on Main Street in Poland, OH where they received friends on June 21. Calling hours were held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish at St. Matthias Church on June 22, 2023, followed immediately by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Fr. John Jerek. Burial took place at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass of Christian Burial.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, material contributions be made to the charity of your choice in Florence's name. Please visit <https://www.beckerfuneralhomes.com/poland> to send the family condolences.

Submitted by Drew Hirt



EMILIA H. RAFAIDUS, BRANCH 888

Emilia H. "Millie" Rafaidus, age 90, entered Heaven on Saturday, April 8, 2023. Millie was born in Montreal, Canada to the late Mary and John Mazak. She retired from Holy Cross Hospital, Detroit, Michigan as a Licensed Practical Nurse. After her retirement she enjoyed travelling with her husband (George Rafaidus) throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe (especially Slovakia). Millie met her husband at a wedding reception held at the SS. Cyril and Methodius church in Windsor, Ontario and spoke several languages.

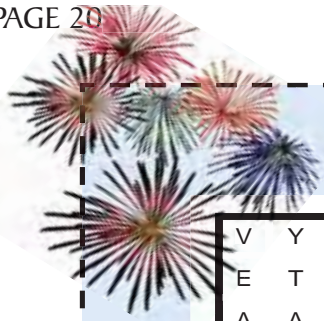
She was an active and proud member of the Slovak community in Michigan, Canada, and Florida; FCSU Branch 888, West Palm Beach, Florida; Daughters of Isabella and the SS. Cyril and Methodius Rosary Society (Sterling Heights, Michigan). When time permitted, she enjoyed crossword and word find puzzles.

As a young child and adult, she appeared in numerous Slovak stage performances. In her later years she performed in several movies with her son and daughter-in-law. In addition to being an excellent cook and entertainer, she made Slovak tea from the leaves of her Lipa/Linden tree located in her backyard. Millie enjoyed growing flowers and feeding squirrels, rabbits, and wildlife.

Millie was the loving mother of George (Charlene) Rafaidus, David (Miriam) Rafaidus and the late John Rafaidus (2001); dear Grandmother of Andrew Rafaidus and Elyse (David) Erickson; Great Grandmother of Emma, Ella and Trey. Sister of the late Edward Mazak; Sister-in-law of Lyl Mazak. She is also survived by a niece and four (4) nephews.

Submitted by David Rafaidus,





FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

"4th of July" Word List

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| STARS AND STRIPES | OHŇOSTROJ (Fireworks) |
| INDEPENDENCE | VLAJKA (Flag) |
| FIREWORKS | SLOBODA (Liberty) |
| BARBEQUE | REVOLÚCIA (Revolution) |
| FREEDOM | ŠTÁTY (States) |
| FOURTH | OSLAVA (Celebration) |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip code: _____
 Email: _____
 Branch #: _____ Phone: _____

Rules

All FCSU members are eligible to enter. **One entry per member!**
 Complete the word puzzle and email it along with your name,
 address, email and branch number to **contest@fcsu.com** or mail it to:

FCSU PUZZLE

6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Entries must be received by **August 28, 2023**.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

Each winner will receive \$50.

July Puzzle Contest

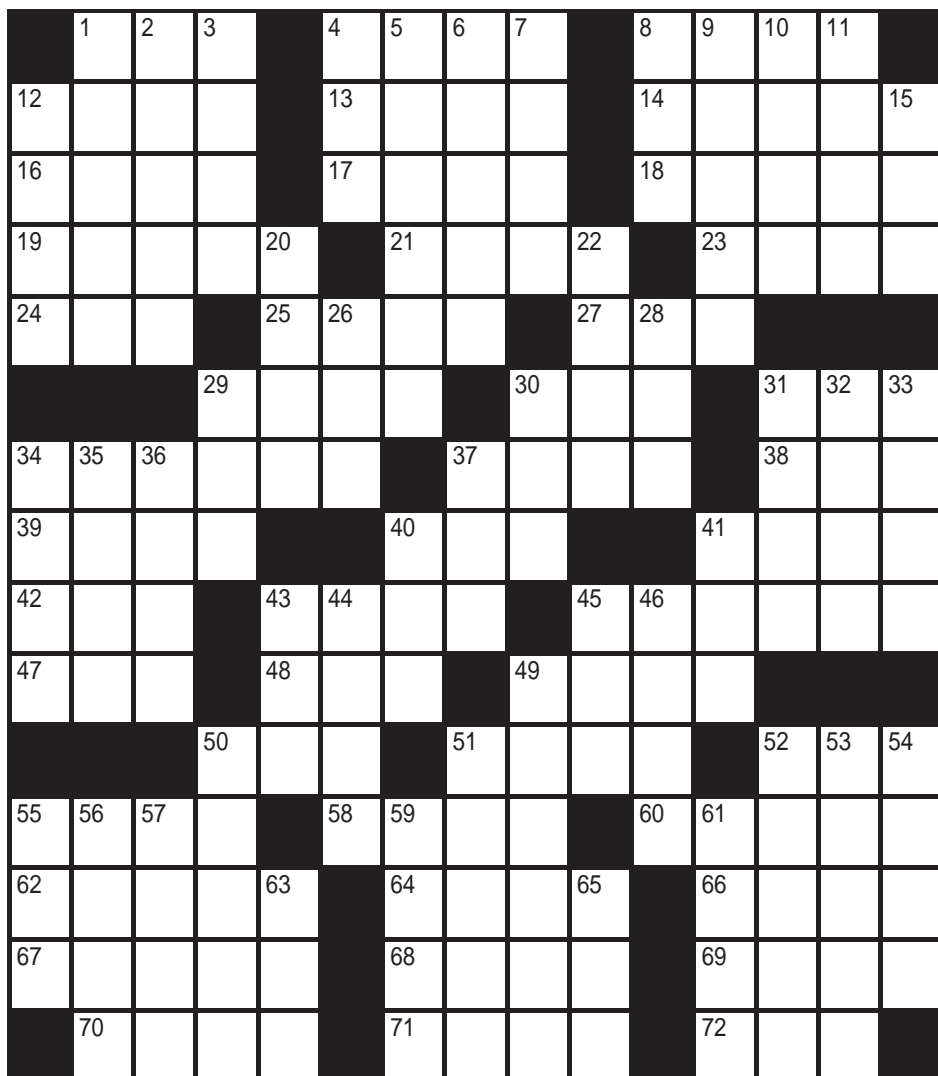
Each month 5 winners of the FCSU Puzzle Contest will be
 announced in this section.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAY CONTEST WINNERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jacqueline Hood Br 075K | Joan H Goodall Br 276K |
| Martin Szuck Br 153K | Theresa Hanley Br 580K |
| Pamela Gross Br 581 | |

KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 School org.
- 4 Mine entrance
- 8 Pitcher's faux pas
- 12 Student aid
- 13 City near Phoenix
- 14 Express a thought
- 16 Made a touchdown
- 17 Quarterback's option
- 18 Composer Copland
- 19 Tendon
- 21 Kind of storm
- 23 Be-boppers
- 24 Radioactive
- 25 Fencer's blade
- 27 Playwright Burrows
- 29 Noggin
- 30 Neighbor of Ida.
- 31 Lassie portrayer
- 34 Turbid
- 37 Glazier's unit
- 38 Frigid
- 39 Yearn
- 40 Freshly painted
- 41 Gusto
- 42 Missile's path
- 43 Kind of check
- 45 Irish capital
- 47 Diminutive
- 48 A billion years
- 49 Basil, e.g.
- 50 Erie Canal mule
- 51 No longer secret
- 52 Lettuce type
- 55 Rani's wear

- 58 Priest of the East
- 60 Eligible for Mensa
- 62 Overact
- 64 Broad
- 66 Diva's delivery
- 67 Emperor of Rome
- 68 Energy source
- 69 Old Roman road
- 70 Cabinet div.
- 71 Hankerings
- 72 Viña ___ Mar, Chile
- 36 ___ and for all
- 37 Treat like a dog?
- 40 Hit the jackpot
- 41 Outward flow
- 43 Mermaid's home
- 44 Opinion ___
- 45 Low grade
- 46 Garden decorations
- 49 A place to meet?
- 50 Exercise unit
- 51 Whack
- 52 Garcon's list
- 53 Bay window
- 54 Telephone button
- 55 Harden
- 56 Surrounded by
- 57 Learning method
- 59 On the road
- 61 Motel employee
- 63 Ultimate ending
- 65 Type widths

Down

- 1 Salk's conquest
- 2 Slangy denial
- 3 A chip, maybe
- 4 Rock blaster
- 5 Muffle
- 6 Matter of debate
- 7 Itar-___ news agency
- 8 Gaudy scarf
- 9 Without delay
- 10 Maltese cash
- 11 Shoelace problem
- 12 Mascara site
- 15 Nav. rank
- 20 Garden intruder
- 22 Mountain pool
- 26 Foot the bill
- 28 Honey maker
- 29 Badger
- 30 Cereal grain
- 31 Tablet
- 32 Super berry
- 33 Boston suburb
- 34 Scratch
- 35 Old stories

See Solution on Page 23

Minutes Of The Annual Meeting Of The Board Of Directors Of The First Catholic Slovak Union Of The Usa And Canada March 25, 2023 Home Office

OPEN MEETING:

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

President Kenneth Arendt called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Sabina Sabados to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Kevin Collins, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

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

READING OF THE CALL:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Arendt presented the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary, as he presents each item on the agenda with appropriate comments or recommendations. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2022:

A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Thomas Ivanec to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held December 10, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES:

The President appointed the following committees:

DONATION COMMITTEE
James Marmol
Rev. Thomas Nasta

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE
Timothy Graves
Gary Matta

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:

The President welcomed the Board of Directors to the 2023 Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

President Arendt presented his report as the past Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary's Annual Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

OUTSIDE AUDITORS REPORT:

Stephen Niedenberger, CPA, of the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, joined the meeting. Mr. Niedenberger presented his annual report to the Board. He indicated the scope of his work and found all FCSU financial reports in excellent order. Mr. Niedenberger answered all the Board's questions to its satisfaction.

ACTUARIAL REPORT:

Nick DePersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Inc., presented his Management's Discussion and Analysis Report and the actuarial report for 2022 from Edward Cowman of Miller & Newburg. Mr. Cowman was available to join the meeting and answer questions, if necessary. Mr. Nick DePersis stated that since each Board member received a copy of both reports, he will not read the entire report, but will just give the highlights. He gave a very extensive positive report for 2022. The FCSU continues to be a well-run profitable fraternal with outstanding financials as noted in our excellent RBC (Risk Based Capital) rating of 859.

A report prepared by Nick Depersis regarding the FCSU pension plan was distributed to the Board for any questions. The report indicated the plan is in compliance with federal regulations.

Our Actuary, Edward Cowman, recommended that a dividend be paid in 2023 using the same format as used in 2022. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Milos Mitro to pay the dividend. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, presented an extensive Investment Portfolio

Transaction Report to the Board of Directors by video conference. 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, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Mr. White provided an explanation of the new investment opportunities that FCSU will be considering and answered the Board's questions.

The President presented a new incentive annuity program to the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2022:

Executive Secretary's Report

President Arendt presented the financial summary report for the year ending 2022 and answered the Board's questions.

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 was found in order, and he answered the Board's questions.

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer led a review on the investments and transactions with the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and the Clutterbuck Fund.

Following the reports, the President and the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented a detailed Treasurer's Report for 2022 summarizing all the financial reports. The Treasurer's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors Gregory Maurer presented the 2022 Auditors' Annual Report and answered the Board's questions.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President recognized the Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, who presented his annual report as the past Vice President/Fraternal Activities Director to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions. The report covered membership and marketing, seminars, agent recruitment, and information for the proposers to assist them in obtaining their state licenses. The Executive Secretary stated we have active independent agents and we are continuing to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in.

Membership and Marketing

The Executive Secretary distributed a written report to the Board of Directors. The report contained a listing of the top proposers of insurance and annuity sales, a detailed report of sales production by districts, and a five-year comparison report broken down by districts.

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office is working with the marketing firm to develop online seminars or in person.

The Vice President's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Past Director of Fraternal Activities Kevin Collins and current Director Fraternal Activities Joanne Fibbi presented a summary of the 2022 activities to the Board of Directors.

The following activities were held in 2022: the Bowling Tournament was held on May 13-14, 2022, the Golf Tournament was held August 13-14, 2022, and two National Picnics were held: one at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, Ohio on June 12, 2022 and the other at Knoebles Amusement Resort and Golf Tournament in Elysburg, Pennsylvania on June 25, 2022.

The following contests were held during 2022: Kentucky Derby Hat Contest, FCSU NFL's Losers Pool, adult and child coloring contests, gingerbread decorating contest. Rev. Thomas Nasta also held an online Easter Basket blessing.

The President stated that the Home Office is working on getting more involved on social media.

The Director of Fraternal Activities Report will be posted on the fcsu website at <https://www.fcsu.com/>.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:

The Regional Directors and the National Chaplain presented their annual reports and answered the Board's questions.

All reports will be posted on the fcsu website at <https://www.fcsu.com/>.

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Minutes Of The Annual Meeting Of The Board Of Directors

continued from page 21

ACTUARIAL FIRM:

The President requested a motion to re-appoint Edward Cowman of Miller & Newberg as our Actuary. A motion was made by Sabina Sabados and seconded by Timothy Graves. Motion carried.

JEDNOTA INC.:

The President requested a motion to appoint Kevin Collins, James Marmol, Gary Matta and Damian Nasta to the Jednota, Inc. Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by Martha. Motion carried.

MIDDLETOWN MEMORIAL:

The President stated that he has been in contact with the landscapers for the Memorial in Middletown, Pennsylvania. They will work on planting new flowers, trim overgrown shrubs, and power wash the Memorial.

The President is looking into putting up a sign to recognize our Memorial.

BUDGET COMPARISON:

The President led a review of actual expenditures vs. what was budgeted for 2022 Everything was all inline as budgeted. He answered the Board's questions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BRANCH REVIEW:

The President asked each Regional Director to report on the Branches within their regions. This information will be used to better communicate with the Branches and help them qualify for their yearly stipend.

PRESENTATION OF THE 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 were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society's Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

Pension Committee

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the current FCSU Pension Plan which was passed out to the Board of Directors for review. He stated that we are in full compliance with all federal regulations and answered the Board's questions.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of three independent professionals led by Father Gerard Gonda, OSB. Applications for the current FCSU scholarship program are being received and they will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Secretary also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:

General Counsel Gary Matta gave his 2022 report and answered the Board's questions.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM FOR 2022

The President reviewed the Scholarship Program for the 2022 school year.

2022 CONVENTION COST:

The President distributed the 2022 Convention cost and answered the Board's questions. The President stated that the Bylaws have been printed and will be sent out to each Branch and District. Branch/District Officers should contact the Home Office if they would like additional copies of the Bylaws.

ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:

A motion was made by Timothy Graves and seconded by Nicole Nasta to accept all the reports presented. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with Mass.

Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
3501 University Blvd E
Hyattsville, MD 20783
(301) 985-7300

The *QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING* of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:00am Meeting

Mass will be at 4:30pm

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, September 15, 2023.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kevin J. Collins and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to September 15, 2023.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National President

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 11, 25-30 - Gospel Summary

This Sunday's gospel is brief but exceedingly rich in meaning. It has two distinct, though related, parts. In the first, Jesus expresses profound gratitude to the Father, source of all being and goodness, because he has freely chosen to take note of the little ones. He has done so by giving them a share in his divine wisdom, while withholding it from the "wise and learned." This certainly does not mean that God despises learning but rather that the learned are too often tempted to pride, and thus closed to God's gift.

When Jesus says that "these things" are revealed only to the humble and unassuming, he is referring to the revelation that he received from the Father and now offers to all of us. This revelation is nothing less than a message about the real meaning and purpose of our lives. And since it concerns how we love and serve and forgive, it is hidden from those who want to control life by means of their human knowledge, rather than to subordinate that knowledge to the higher wisdom of love and generosity. It is only in this way that one can come to know Jesus as the one who reveals the wisdom and the gift of the Father.

In the second segment, Jesus reminds us that accepting his wisdom of loving service will indeed mean submitting to the yoke of discipline and sacrifice. But it will be a sweet yoke, first of all because we bear it with Jesus, and then because it is a burden that has meaning since it is carried with love.

Life Implications

Those who devote their lives to scholarship have often taken a dim view of religion and in many cases have rejected faith altogether. They see religion as an enemy of real learning and useful only for those who have not yet been "liberated" by knowledge. Too often the children of deeply religious parents, when sent to secular universities, end up with no faith at all. Today's gospel speaks directly to this issue. Jesus is not condemning human learning, even at the highest level, but he is saying that human wisdom will always be trumped in the long run by divine wisdom. This is not a defeat for human wisdom because it was never meant to have the last word.

Jesus heard this "last word" from his Father, creator of all the things that scholars study. He has passed it on to us, by word and by deed, and it tells us that we are called to freedom and then to loving service. Human learning can co-exist quite easily with this wisdom; in fact, it will be greatly enhanced by discovering how much is beyond its comprehension, for this too is an important part of learning. For that reason, all colleges and universities should include a strong religious element in their curriculum. And it is for that reason also that Catholic institutions of higher learning should be supported because it is there that the claims of divine wisdom can be discussed at the graduate level and without prejudice.

And so the "little ones" in today's gospel are not those who are ignorant, much less anti-intellectual. Rather, they are those who are learned enough to know that human beings are not divine and therefore need to be open to the gift of God's wisdom. This liberation from a false ideal of knowledge without limits will help all of us to lighten our yoke when life turns mysterious, and the gift of God is all that really matters.

Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023, Videoconference

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Vice President Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Kenneth A. Arendt, National President
 Damian Nasta, National Vice President (videoconference)
 Kevin J. Collins, Executive Secretary
 John Tokarsky, Treasurer (videoconference)
 Nicole Nasta, Regional Director (by invitation of the President) (videoconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the April 28, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., prepared an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report for the Executive Committee Meeting. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Mr. White answered the Committee's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The President and 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 Clutterback Fund. The Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions.

Financial Report

The President and the Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2023 and answered the Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The President and 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. The President stated he will invite representatives from MAI, UBS and Clutterback to attend a future Executive Meeting to review our investment portfolios.

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The President and the Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of April 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 April:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	289,450.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	36,166.00
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.

The President led a review of our FHLB advances and their current rates for possible future advancements.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The Executive Committee reviewed the Treasurer's monthly written report and he answered the Committee's questions.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:
 The President led a discussion on the current annuity campaign that began May 1, 2023. There has been an excellent response to the program.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Executive Secretary 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 19-20 in Canfield, Ohio, and three picnics are planned for 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.

Executive Secretary Kevin Collins stated that he is working with Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi on upcoming fraternal events.

SALES AND MARKETING:

Executive Secretary Kevin Collins is reviewing our current ads and working with local radio stations. There is currently an ad running with the Cleveland Guardians and he is working on an ad to run with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Home Office is also working on rebranding the FCSU logo and a marketing program for our insurance and annuity products.

The President stated that he is working with our actuary consultants to develop an insurance campaign. Details will be published in the Jednota newspaper and posted on our website when finalized.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated that Barbara from the Home Office will be working closely with our Branches/Districts to increase fraternal activities. She will also work with Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi on new fraternal activities.

All Branch announcements should be sent to branch@fcsu.com.

All District announcements should be sent to district@fcsu.com.

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 Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt
 President

Kevin J. Collins
 Executive Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 18

ents are invited to bring their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Snacks, bottled water, and other Family Friendly drinks will be provided.

RSVP Vivian Sedlacko at 330.755.8316 or John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. (330) 549-3788 with the number of attendees.

Submitted by John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L KOSTIK DISTRICT – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Calendar Year District 14 Meeting Schedule

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2023.

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace. (Semi-annual meeting).

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024); Fireplace.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

*date changes possible due to unforeseen complications.

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

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced.

Submitted by John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NY

Branch 746 is hosting a Summer Picnic in the Park for Region 1. Join us on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Al Kalla Park (2801 Highland Avenue, Linden, NJ) to gather for food and fun. Branch scholarships will also be presented this afternoon. Food will be provided by Julie Rada Catering. Members are free. Non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal fee of \$20. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by August 5th if you plan on attending.

Submitted by Mary Kapitan, Secretary Br 746

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 20

	P	T	A		A	D	I	T		B	A	L	K	
L	O	A	N		M	E	S	A		O	P	I	N	E
A	L	I	T		P	A	S	S		A	A	R	O	N
S	I	N	E	W		D	U	S	T		C	A	T	S
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			B	E	A	N		O	R	E		P	A	L
C	L	O	U	D	Y		P	A	N	E		I	C	Y
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LIMITED TIME SPECIAL OFFER

for our existing members

IN-HOUSE TRANSFER

Your policy may qualify to receive our special offer. You can choose to transfer all funds from your policy into a new FCSU policy with the highest interest rate:

6% APY for 8 Year FPDA or IRA.



The rate is guaranteed for the 1st year. Year 2 through 8 based on 8 Year Flex rate – currently 4.50% APY. The FCSU guarantees that your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 2.80%. Withdrawal charges will be waived on the transferred funds.

If you are interested in this special offer and would like to get an interest of 6% APY, please fill out your information below and send back this flyer to: FCSU Financial, 6611 Rockside Rd. #300, Independence, OH 44131 or email the flyer to annuity@fcsu.com. We will mail you an application along with more information.

This special offer expires **October 31, 2023.**

FIRST AND LAST NAME:

ADDRESS:

POLICY NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

**MONEY
TRANSFER**



PHONE NUMBER:

SIGNATURE:
