



Jednota

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President's Message

Fall is officially here! Let the cool weather, changing leaves and pumpkin patches begin! I hope you all are enjoying this new season and are starting to plan your holiday activities within your Branches.

Speaking of changes, the FCSU is starting to plan out some changes of our own and the goals we look forward to accomplish in the new year. We want to continue making our fraternal stronger than ever and bring forth the values our Members love.

First, I'd like to mention our goal for these

last few months of the year, which is to ensure all Branches will receive their stipends for 2023. We are working hard on communicating with Branches and making sure all questions are answered regarding qualifying for stipends. Please continue referring to the FCSU Bylaws section 4.05 and 14.01 for information about qualifying. You can find the Bylaws online at fcsu.com/bylaws. Also, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins put a message and checklist together which Branches can refer to about stipends. You can find the article in the September 13th, 2023 issue on page 4. If anyone has any questions regarding the stipends, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara at the Home Office at 216-642-9406 ext. 122.



Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Next, I want to address a new change regarding our Jednota newspaper. Effective with this issue, we have a new editor. Our previous editor, Michael Kopanic, has served in the position for the past few years and has contributed countless Slovak articles and history for our Members. He is a truly gifted writer and will continue to contribute his knowledge for the Jednota. We all wish him nothing but the best and are excited to see what ventures and articles he will do next!

Now, I would like to introduce the new editor of Jednota, Lucy Connolly. Lucy graduated from Kent State University with a degree in Journalism. In addition to her duties as

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October Reflection

October is uniquely Mary's month as we honor her as "Queen of the Rosary." One of our favorite Slovak hymns is "Ó Mária Ružencová," (Oh, Mary of the Rosary), the hymn for this month's prayerful reflection. This hymn to Mary may bring fond memories to Jednota readers or elderly family members from earlier Slovak-based parishes. I like to recall my own acceptance, as a First Holy Communicant, into the Rosary Society of Holy Trinity Parish in Gary, Indiana.

In the opening verse we call on Mary as Mother of Jesus and our Mother to hear and grant us the gifts of God's love and mercy. We go on to recall how through Saint Dominic we received this gift of the rosary, like a fragrant garland of roses. Even as a gift of flowers can cause us to smile, the joy they bring is like a tender hug. As we pray the rosary we connect on different days of the week with Mary as we reflect on the different mysteries of the life of her Son Jesus—joyful, sorrowful, glorious, and luminous—tinged at times with Mary's direct involvement in the mystery.

Ultimately, our hope and desire is that Mary teaches us how to live in union with her Son Jesus. We ask and trust Mary to guide and support us with her maternal love and kindness as we journey home—to heaven. In this way the rosary can serve as Mary's "lift" to elevate us—body, mind, and spirit to the eternal joy of living in the Trinitarian bliss of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Let us pray for each other in the spirit of Mary as she leads us to the fullness of God's eternal Life, Love, Peace, and Joy.

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

Ó MÁRIA RUŽENCOVÁ

1. Ó Mária ružencová, naša patrónka!
My sa k tebe utiekame, čistá Panenka.
Tys' Matka dobrotivá, patrónka ružencová:
prímlúvaj sa vždycky za nás u svojho Syna.
2. Ten tvoj svätý ruženeček, ktorým nám dala,
skrz svätého Dominika nám ho poslala,
je z krásnych rúž pletený, v nebesiach zostavený,
aby hriešnik bol na zemi ním potešený.
3. Tie ruže nad všetky kvety sú spanilejšie
a v ruženci tam spojené sú najvonnejšie;
krásna víňa je jeho pre kresťana každého;
veď Mária nám ho dala z trónu svojeho.
4. Na tom svete nechcem iné mať potešenie,
ani perly, striebro, zlato, drahé kamenie;
moje drahoceny je ruženec jediný
a s ním Ježiš, ten Baránok Boží nevinný.

MARY OF THE ROSARY (Ó MÁRIA RUŽENCOVÁ)

1. Mary of the Rosary, protect us tenderly!
We your trusting, needy children, seek you lovingly.
You are Mother merciful, virgin pure and powerful.
Take our hope and intercessions to your
gracious Son.
2. This most precious rosary, with which you gifted us,
shared by holy Dominic who taught this prayer to us.
Finest roses form this prayer, woven by celestia
I hands
so that sinners, weak and troubled, may be
comforted.
3. Roses of remembrance are sweet fragrance to us all;
placed within the rosary where Mary we recall.
Rose graces are a gift to us, filled with healing
joy and love,
sent to us by Mother Mary from her throne above.
4. In this world I want no greater gift of peace and joy,
neither pearls nor gold nor silver—nor
expensive stones.
Valuable for me will be my most precious rosary,
where with Jesus, Lamb of God, I learn His love
for me.

To listen to Ó, Mária bolestivá, go to the following website: <https://tinyurl.com/26bmps4f>.

Message from the National Chaplain

The Universal Church soon will be remembering all the men, women, and children who are enjoying the bliss of the heavenly kingdom for all eternity. All Saints Day, November 1, is a day we recall their lives of heroic virtue and are reminded of their intercessory power.

For centuries, the faithful have called upon individual saints for their help with a particular need. Who of us has not prayed to Saint Anthony to help find something that was lost? What law enforcement officer has not prayed to Saint Michael the Archangel for protection while performing their duty?

It seems that for every possible occupation, state of life, or need, there is a saint to whom we can pray. Here is a sampling:

- Saint Apollonia – toothaches
- Saint Augustine – bartenders and beer makers
- Saint Catherine of Sweden - miscarriages
- Saint Cajetan – bankers, gamblers, job seekers, the unemployed
- Saint Clare of Assisi – television
- Saint Dymphna – Alzheimer's disease
- Saint Francis de Sales – hearing loss
- Saint Hubert – hunters
- Saint Lucy – vision impairment
- Saint Jerome – uncontrollable anger, temper
- Saint Joseph of Cupertino – aviation, astronauts, students, test takers
- Saint Martin de Porres – barbers
- Saint Maximilian Kolbe – addition sufferers
- Saint Pantaleon – crying children, lottery winners, physicians and midwives
- Saint Rita of Cascia – impossible causes, marital problems, abuse, infertility
- Saint Sebastian – victims of war
- Saint Teresa of Avila - headaches
- Saint Vincent – winemakers

Yes, there appears that for every possible occasion imaginable, there is a saint to whom we can turn to for heavenly help. And so we look up to the saints and call upon their help with the hopes that one day we will join them in giving God eternal glory and praise.



**Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain**

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

SS. Cyril and Methodius October 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.

As of September 30, the 2023 Appeal has received \$23,458.51 from 191 donors. Among the 57 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 1, Branch 3, Branch 19, Branch 35, Branch 40, 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 \$4,000. Donations to date have also been received from 6 parishes, 27 clergy and religious, and 101 individuals. On behalf of 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 mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply ap-

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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. Any article that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

Copy Date	Issue Date
Monday, October 30	Wednesday, November 8
Monday, December 4	Wednesday, December 13

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:
Lucy Connolly, Editor; editor@fcsu.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
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President's Message

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editor of the Jednota, Lucy is also responsible for our social media presence. We are excited have her in person at the Home Office and look forward to providing our Members with more content. Please remember to send all articles for review and possible printing to Lucy at editor@fcsu.com.

Finally, in September I had the honor of attending the 58th anniversary Mass of the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, located in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The Mass in the Crypt Church was celebrated by FCSU Protector Bishop Larry Kulick of Greensburg, PA, with beautiful hymns and readings both in Slovak and English. It was truly an incredible Mass to attend and I appreciate everyone who came to Washington, D.C to celebrate this special anniversary.

After the Mass, the Board of Directors and I, along with a few guests, were given a private tour of the Chapel and the Basilica. Our National Chaplain, Fr. Thomas Nasta then led us in a beautiful private Mass. I thank him for his time in leading us and celebrating this joyous occasion.

I would like to thank a few people who contributed in making this anniversary special. A big thank you to Bishop Larry Kulick for celebrating the Mass as well as Fr. Nasta for concelebrating. I deeply appreciate their time and dedication for the FCSU. Thank you to Rudy Ondrejco, Region 4 Director James Marmol and FCSU Vice President Damian Nasta for partaking in the readings. Also, thank you to Susan Ondrejco for leading the wonderful music. Finally, thank you to Branch 856 President Katherine Nowatkoski, who did an amazing job organizing and inviting Members to join.

I truly enjoyed seeing all our Members joined together in worship and celebrating such a special time for the FCSU. I encourage anyone who has not seen our Chapel to visit the Basilica at Washington, D.C

Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt

SS. Cyril and Methodius October Appeal

continued from page 2

preciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2023 will be credited toward 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, Pennel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

45th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

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Amount \$ _____

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2023

- 1 Akron Slovak J Club – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH
- 2 All Souls Day
Br 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA (nominations of officers)
- 3 Br 746 – Mass in Linden, NJ
National Pumpkin Carving Contest Deadline
- 4 Br 200 – Soup/Bakery/Craft Sale in Ford City, PA
- 5 Br 166 – Meeting in Binghamton, NY (elections)
Br 382 – Meeting in Dunmore, PA (elections)
Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt
- 7 Br 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA (elections)
Dist 14 – Meeting in Poland, OH (elections)
- 11 Br 450 – Meeting in Parma, OH (elections)(RSVP)
- 12 Br 19 – Mass/Meeting in Bridgeport, CT (elections)
Br 23 – Meeting in Johnstown, PA (elections)
Br 276 – Meeting in North Versailles, PA (elections)
Br 670 – Meeting in Canonsburg, PA (elections)
Br 731 – Meeting in Boardman, OH (elections)
Br 796 – Meeting in Egypt, PA (elections)
Dist 11 – Meeting in Lower Burrell, PA (elections)
Dist 12 – Meeting in Canonsburg, PA (elections)
- 13 Br 716 – Mass in New York, NY
- 15 Akron Slovak JClub – Swiss Steak Dinner in Akron, OH
- 16 Br 367 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA (elections)
Br 764 – Meeting in Warren, OH (elections)
- 17 Br 1 – Meeting in Rock River, OH (elections)(RSVP 11/1)
- 19 Br 162 – Meeting in Uniontown, PA (elections) (RSVP 11/13)
Br 553 – Meeting in Akron, OH (elections)
Dist 6 – Meeting in West Mifflin, PA (elections)
- 20 Br 228 – Meeting in Lorain, OH
- 22 Akron Slovak JClub – Scotch Doubles in Akron, OH
- 23 Home Office closed
- 24 Home Office closed
- 25 Akron Slovak JClub – Ohio State/Michigan Game in Akron, OH
- 26 Akron Slovak JClub – Breakfast Buffet in Akron, OH
- 28 Br 853 – Meeting in Belle Vernon, PA (elections)(RSVP)

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



Home Office Holiday Hours

The Home Office will be close on Thursday, November 23, 2023 and Friday, November 24, 2023, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Branch 716 September Events

September has been a packed month for Branch 716, with many events and celebrations. First and foremost, we would like to wish a happy 80th birthday to our Vice President Jan Skrkon, who we celebrated with in late August before he went on his vacation to Slovakia. We wish him good health and much joy on his special day.

On Sept 17th, the current president of the Slovak Republic, Zuzana Čaputova during her visit to New York attended Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church and spoke with many local Slovak parishioners in the main hall. President Čaputova also met with teachers from all Slovak Language schools in New York & New Jersey to thank them for their hard work and dedication to teaching the next generation. Branch 716 members aided in providing refreshments for her visit and for the attending guests. On September 23rd, Branch 716 hosted another visit and this time from the Slovak Folk dance ensemble "Šarišan". Fr. Martin Kertys had a special Mass and branch 716 member and District 16 Vice President, Peter Gašpar, along with others provided refreshments and general hospitality to the dance ensemble.

Finally, on Sept 25th, Branch 716 members and many others of Jednota attended the 45th Slovak Heritage Festival in Middlesex County, NJ. Branch President Eva Lysakova, her family, and branch member Maria Božekova had a stand selling traditional Slovak foods, such as Bryndzove Halušky and Pirohy. Even in the harsh rain, many Slovaks came to meet, eat, and watch traditional Slovak performances. Thank you to all Jednota members and Slovak parishioners who came to all of these events and supporting our community.

Submitted by Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary



Slovak Folk Ensemble "Šarišan" visiting St. John Nepomucene



(L-R) President Zuzana Čaputova & Fr. Stefan Chanas



(L-R) Maria Božekova, Emily Lysakova, Jan Lysak, Kristina Mlynarova, UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director Michal Mlynar, Ludmila Hlinkova, Eva Lysakova, and Iveta Hetesova at the Slovak Heritage Festival



Jan Skrkon with Rev. Michal Mišina and Branch 716 members celebrating his 80th birthday.

33rd Annual Pittsburgh Slovak Heritage Festival

On Sunday, November 5, 2023, from 12 PM to 4 PM, the Slovak Studies Program with the help of our generous sponsors will host the 33rd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus, Oakland. We are excited to be back again for a joyous day of Slovak culture, music, history, food and education. As in the past, we are looking for the support of the community as we strive to continue the tradition and make the festival bigger and better than ever. The Slavic Languages and Literatures Department at the University of Pittsburgh is proud to be the home of the only permanent Slovak Studies Program in the United States. Our goal is to encourage young people to learn more about Slovakia and the role of Slovaks in America, and to promote and preserve Slovak heritage, language, and culture. There is no better place to do it than right here in Pittsburgh! We hope to see you at the 33rd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival at Pitt! Questions about this year's festival may be directed to slavic@pitt.edu.

Nov. 5, 2023
12 p.m.-4 p.m. Cathedral of Learning Commons Room
University of Pittsburgh (Oakland)

- Ethnic Food (Bryndzove Halušky, Halušky, Pirohy, Pastries & Cookies)
- Cultural Displays & Lectures Shop
- Slovak and East European Import Vendors (Gifts, Food & More!)
- Musical and Folk Dance Performances

facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival
youtube.com/SlovakHeritageFestival

Annual Slovak Heritage Society Pig Roast 2023

The Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland held its annual Pig Roast on September 9, 2023, at the Slovak Sokol Campground in Broadview Heights, OH. Some 114 people attended, 59 of which were from Branches 1, 24, 450 and 855. Everyone enjoyed a delicious all you-can-eat meal featuring a roasted pig that was prepared by Tim Scally, Slovak Heritage Society Auditor and Branch 855 member, with help from Mark Cvicela, Heritage Society and Branch 24 member. Mike Anderko, who is a member of the Heritage Society and also Branch 450, prepared the traditional Slovak side dish živánska, while Slovak Heritage Society and Branch 855 Member Milka Anderko prepared another traditional side of sauerkraut that all enjoyed. Children 10 and under had available kids' meals hot dog, chips, and juice box. In addition to plenty of sides, every meal included choices among tasty desserts baked and plated by Branch 24 Treasurer and Slovak Heritage Society First Vice President Joe Oros. Karin Scally, Slovak Heritage Society Corresponding Secretary and Branch 855 Vice President, ran the kitchen and was helped by Joe Oros, Branch 450 member, Adriana Scally, and Branch 24's Lily Halley, Jana Chuba, Jessica Chuba, and Terri Ivanec. Bartenders included Branch 24's Justin and Fran Strekal, and Branch 450's Tom and Adriana Scally. FCSU Branches 24 and 855 once again offered discounted tickets to their members who attended, which was a total of 38 members this year.

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

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



45th Slovak Heritage Festival in New Jersey

Despite Tropical Storm #16 with the monsoon rains and +20mph winds, the Slovak American community came out in full force showcasing their resilience and defying the weather on Sunday, September 24, 2023 for the 45th Slovak Heritage Festival, the largest Slovak festival in the US, which took place at Middlesex County Fair Grounds in East Brunswick, New Jersey. The annual event commenced with a Roman Catholic mass with the main celebrant, Fr. Roman Palecka from the Oratory of St. Filip Neri in Nyack, New York.

The program, moderated by Katarina Vizina, commenced with an introduction of the President of the Slovak Heritage Festival, Marek Soltis, and Co-Chair Jane Konzelmann (Branch 716). Joining the festivities and addressing the attendees was Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Milan Vrbovsky. In attendance was also Michal Mlynar the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat. Members of First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 746 (Linden), 716 (New York City), and 45 (New York City) were in attendance to support the event including FCSU Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, Director of the Slovak Institute in Cleveland and the Program Director of the Slovak Radio Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450) and FCSU Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados (Branch 746).

The colorful program began with the beautifully choreographed performances by Limboracik, Children's Folklore group from New York. Special guests from Slovakia included the Litmanivky, a woman's folklore group performing traditional Rusyn songs including the wedding ritual. Next up was the folklore ensemble Šarišan from Prešov with their hour-long performance mesmerizing and energizing the crowd several of whom had been members of the ensemble back in Slovakia. The crowd dances late into the evening with a performance by David Koller with Martin Valihora on the drums and Lash & Grey topping out the incredible program!

Galoshes and raincoats were the attire of the day but that didn't stop attendees from singing and dancing well into the evening hours. The Slovak Heritage Festival was also an opportunity for vendors to share unique Slovak and Czech made products and taste delicious home-made cuisine such as traditional brynzove halusky, grilled kolbasa, nut rolls and poppy seed rolls, and so much more!

Congratulations to the entire Slovak Heritage Festival Committee for another successful event. The 45th Slovak Heritage Festival was made possible by the support of Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (USZZ) and private donations. Visit the website at: www.slovakfest.org and [facebook.com/slovakfestival](https://www.facebook.com/slovakfestival) to see more photos of the event!

Photos feature Jednota members in attendance.

Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



A Day At The National Shrine Of Our Lady Of Czestochowa

What a wonderful day it was on Saturday, September 2, 2023, for a family group who happen to be Members of FCSU Branch 55 and are the descendants of John and Mary Gaydos. (John Gaydos was the longtime President of Branch 55.) They had a delightful day at the Annual Polish Festival at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Thanks to Elyssa Abate Barneski, who had just that week moved to New Jersey from Georgia and upon seeing the Shoutout Flyer that her Cousin Cathie had texted the family, she rounded up as many relatives available – Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, and of course the kids – and she organized a caravan ride to the Festival.

They had a marvelous time on the rides and enjoyed all the games and good homemade food, after which they were given a grand tour, with a visit and prayer at the Shrine, by their cousin Cathie Gajdos Litwinowicz, VP of Branch 55, who is the Vendor of the Polish & Slavic Village where she demonstrates making Pysanky and Dyes using several methods: Polish, Slovak, and Ukrainian styles. She also makes Aprons, Costumes, Pillows, Children's Toys.

Cathie, who is from Quakertown - born in Canada - established the Polish & Slavic Village at the Festival in 1977 when she was then a Member of the Shrine Choir. When her sons, Tony, John-Paul, and Peter were old enough, they became Altar Servers at the Shrine and daughter, Kasia, was the May Queen. Cathie's beautiful artistic Pysanky has been featured on the front page of the Intelligencer Doylestown Newspaper of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The Shrine is also very special to us Gaydos/Gajdos girls: Josephine Gerba, Mary Golden, Annarose Payne, and Helena Gaydos, along with our Cousin Cathie and her family, as we frequently made the trip to the Shrine to attend the Annual Rosary Procession on October 7th, the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary, where we would process outdoors with Candles along with the Bishop and Priests while reciting the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary in many languages. Our Mom said that it reminded her of the outdoor candlelight processions in Koskovce, her hometown in Slovakia.

Whenever we visit the Shrine, we make a visit to the Icon Chapel to light votive candles for our intentions, especially for our dear beloved Uncle and Aunt, Cathie's Parents, Stefan and Veronica Andrzejewska Gajdos, who are buried in the Cemetery on the grounds at the Shrine.



Left to Right: Back Row: Laurie Payne, Jessica Hack, Jayden Adiletto, Bobbi-Michele Hack, Tristan Hack, Front Row: Cathie Gajdos Litwinowicz, Lilianna Rose Payne, Colin Barneski, Remington Grey Davis, Declan Barneski, Liam Tyler Gross, Kurt Payne, Elyssa Barneski, and Chloe Barneski

Polish and Slavic Village at National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa:
Left to Right: John-Paul, Joy, Cathie, and Peter Litwinowicz



Main Altar at Shrine

The Shrine is situated on Beacon Hill, the highest elevation in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The Ave Maria Retreat House with Conference Halls is located on the grounds. And this year the Philadelphia Eucharistic Congress was held at the Shrine on Saturday, September 30th, 2023.

Submitted By Helena Gaydos, Branch 55 Secretary-Treasurer



Left to Right: Tristan Hack, Colin Barneski, Cathie Litwinowicz, Declan Barneski, Lilianna Payne

A Welcome Circles Success: Ukrainian Refugee Family Arrived Safely

The Ukrainian family has arrived safely and now is living in Avon Lake, Ohio. We are working towards getting them oriented to life in the USA. They have gone to church last Sunday at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox in Lorain and they planned to attend the Ukrainian Festival in Parma in August. Their son Dobrynia is enrolled in Avon Lake schools. They seem to be adjusting pretty well given the circumstances. Thank you again for the FCSU support in assisting them.

Submitted by Mary Ann Dzurec, Branch 228



Region 3 Branches Enjoy a Close Win and Fireworks at a Yankees Minor League Game

Twenty-one members and guests of Region 3 branches attended a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders baseball game on Friday August 11th. The region had arranged for a suite, and it included a ballpark buffet for attendees to enjoy.

The RailRiders beat the Syracuse Mets 8-7 in a thrilling walk-off extra-innings win. The game started out close until the 8th inning where Syracuse went ahead 5-2, but the Railriders were able to tie it up. Syracuse went ahead again in the top of the 10th, but the Railriders came roaring back in the bottom of the inning scoring three more runs to win 8-7.

The beautiful summer evening was capped off with a victory firework show.

Branches 05P and 173K members had a chance to attend and socialize. This was a popular fraternal event, and plans for next year may increase the size of the suite to allow additional members.

Submitted by Martha Zavada, Region 3 Director



Nomination Ceremony in California for the Košice Marathon on October 1, 2023

District 15 President Paul Skuben, PE., invited a special guest, Consul General of the Slovak Republic Ferko Hudák (retired), to the nomination ceremony of Dr. Porazik, who will represent the "Slovak American Center" at the Košice Marathon on October 1, 2023.

The attached photo shows Dr. Peter Porazik (on the left with a T-shirt), and he will represent the "Slovak American Center" in the 70+ category. In the photo with a T-shirt on the right is the Consul General of the Slovak Republic Ferko Hudák, who also attended the nomination ceremony with his wife Danka. My wife Alicka and I are in the middle, and Consul's wife Danka is standing next to Dr. Porazik and his wife Elenka stand by the Consul. The nomination ceremony was held at the Resort Hotel Miracle Springs, Palm Springs.

Dr. Porazik has many racing successes, he trains hard and we are keeping our fingers crossed for him to give a good performance in Košice as well.

We wish good luck to Dr. Peter and lots of strength in every vein.

Submitted by Paul Skuben, President, Prince Pribina District 15

Nominačná ceremónia Košického maratónu v Kalifornii 1.10.2023

District 15 President Paul Skuben, PE., pozval vzácneho hosťa, Konzula Generala Slovenskej Republiky Ferka Hudáka (retired), na nominačnú ceremóniu Dr. Porazika, ktorý bude reprezentovať "Slovak American Center" na Košickom maratóne 1.10.2023.

Na pripojenej fotografii je Dr. Peter Porazik (vľavo), ktorý bude reprezentovať "Slovak American Center" v kategórii 70+. Na fotke s tričkom v pravo je Konzul General Slovenskej Republiky Ferko Hudák, ktorý sa zúčastnil nominačnej ceremónie aj s manželkou Dankou. Ja aj s manželkou Alickou sme v prostriedku a Konzulova manželka Danka stojí pri Dr. Porazikovi a jeho manželka Elenka stojí pri Konzulovi. Nominačná ceremónia sa uskutočnila v Resort Hotel Miracle Springs, Palm Springs.

Dr. Porazik má za sebou množstvo pretekárskych úspechov na ktoré usilovne trénuje. My mu držíme palce, aby aj v Košiciach podal dobrý výkon.

Prajeme Dr. Petrovi veľa šťastia a hodne sily do každej žily.

Predkladá predseda Paul Skuben, okres knieža Pribina 15



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Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

Professor Stanislav Kirschbaum Awarded Daniel Rapant Prize

On 20 September 2023, on a Zoom link with Slovakia, Emeritus Professor Stanislav Kirschbaum

of the Department of International Studies at Glendon College was awarded the Daniel Rapant Prize at the conclusion of an academic conference organized in Bratislava by Matica Slovenská. Matica Slovenská is an historic Slovak cultural institution founded in 1863, which, since 1995, awards this medal to persons recognised for their contributions to the development of the historical sciences and their efforts to make Slovak history and the life of Slovaks known at home and abroad. It is named after Daniel Rapant, a professor at Slovak (now Comenius) University in Bratislava who was the most outstanding Slovak historian of the twentieth century; he is considered generally to be the father of Slovak history.

Professor Kirschbaum, who taught at Glendon College from 1970 to 2022, is recognised internationally as a leading expert on Slovak politics and history. His History of Slovakia. The Struggle for Survival (2nd edition, 2005) is the first comprehensive history of the Slovak people not just in English but in any non-Slovak language, as is his Historical Dictionary of Slovakia (3d edition, 2014). In addition, he has published 60 scholarly articles in English, French, German, and Slovak on various aspects of Slovak history and politics. For his overall scholarship in international studies, Professor Kirschbaum was made a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques de France in 1994, promoted to the rank of Officier in 2015, and elected Fellow of Royal Society of Canada in 2002. The Daniel Rapant Prize is considered one of the most prestigious awards in Slovakia.

Submitted by Stanislav Kirschbaum, Branch 785

"THIS IS MY WORLD" POETRY & MUSIC EVENING

DEPECHE MODE SONGS ON THE HARP

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 AT 1 P.M.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE CHURCH
MANHATTAN, NY - DONATIONS WELCOME

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2023 AT 6 P.M.

EMBASSY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
WASHINGTON D.C. - FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH
NYACK, NY - DONATIONS WELCOME

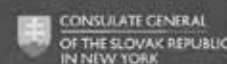
Poetry of the lyrics

Marek
ajeský

Music (harp)

Michal
atejčík

PARTNERS:



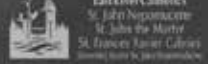
SLOVAK AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER



Saint Ann's Roman Catholic Church



SLOVAKPRO



East River Catholics
St. John Nepomucene
St. John the Baptist
St. Francis Xavier Church



slagency

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Now you can fill out the FCSU forms online at <https://www.fcsu.com/forms>

Fill them out, print, sign and mail them to the Home Office.

Take advantage of our Faster, More Readable and Time Saving Feature.

District 10 at 2023 Lake Erie Crusher's Game

On the evening of Saturday, August 26, 2023, District 10 gathered for a minor league baseball game at Mercy Health Care Stadium in Avon, OH. Among the officers in attendance were National President Kenneth A. Arendt, District 10 President Gregory Petrasek, Branch 1 President Richard Golias, Branch 228 President Luis Palos, Branch 450 President George Carny, and Branch 855 President and Home Office Branch Liaison Barbara Sutilla. All in all, 61 members and guests from all six branches of the district -- 1, 24, 228, 450, 553, and 855 -- were represented. The event kicked off at 5:05PM when everyone enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet at the stadium's open-air picnic pavilion, followed by a matchup between Lake Erie Crushers and the Washington Wild Things.

Submitted by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director



News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

V Ríme oslávili 60. výročie požehnania Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Slovenskí kňazi a rehoľné sestry satmárky dnes ráno v Kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme slávili sv. omšu, pri ktorej ďakovali Pánu Bohu a spomenuli aj na dobrodincov či už živých alebo zosnulých. Takto si slávnostne pripomenuli, že v dnešný deň pred 60 rokmi kardinál Tisserant posvätil Kostol sv. Cyrila a Metoda a požehnal budovu Ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda, kde dodnes sídli Pápežský slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda.

Sv. omša bola obetovaná za všetkých členov komunity domu ako aj za živých a zosnulých dobrodincov ústavu. Koncelebrovali kňazi košickej arcidiecézy dp. Jozef Bujňák a dp. Peter Labanc, ktorý bol zároveň slávnostným kazateľom. Vo svojej homílii sa zameril na miesto bolesti v živote Panny Márie a každého kresťana. Oslavy 60. výročia s väčšou účasťou veriacich sa uskutočnia v novembri. Informoval o tom vicerektor Viliam Zemančík.



Mozaika v Kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme (Mosaic in the Church of St. Cyril and Methodius in Rome)

The 60th anniversary of the blessing of the Slovak Institute of St. Cyril and Methodius was celebrated in Rome

Slovak priests and Satmár religious sisters celebrated mass in the Church of St. Cyril and Methodius in Rome. There they thanked God and remembered benefactors, whether living or deceased. This is how they solemnly remembered this day 60 years ago. Cardinal Tisserant consecrated the Church of St. Cyril and Methodius and blessed the building of the Pontifical Slovak Institute of St. Cyril and Methodius.

Mass was offered for all members of the community of the order as well as for the living and deceased benefactors of the institute. The priests of the Archdiocese of Košice Jozef Bujňák and dp. Peter Labanc concelebrated the mass. In his homily, Labanc focused on the place of suffering in the life of the Virgin Mary and every Christian. Celebrations of the 60th anniversary with a larger number of believers will take place in November. Vice-Rector Viliam Zemančík stated.

The Slovak Catholic Federation National Board of Directors met in Independence, Ohio for their fall board meeting on September 18th. In attendance were FCSU Officers, National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta, National President Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary Kevin Collins and other Members.



Prezidentka Slovenska sa v New Yorku stretla s krajanmi

New York 17. septembra (TASR) - Slovenská prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová začala v nedeľu predpoludním newyorského času svoju pracovnú cestu v USA stretnutím s krajanmi žijúcimi v New Yorku. Zúčastnila sa na slovenskej omši v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Manhattane, ktorú slúžil farár Štefan Chanas. TASR o tom informoval hovorca prezidentky Martin Stržinec.

Po skončení omše sa prezidentka SR na miestnej fare stretla aj s talentovanými slovenskými študentmi špičkových tamojších univerzít a učiteľkami víkendových škôl slovenčiny v New Yorku a New Jersey. Ako uviedla, uprostred Manhattanu dnes našla kúsok Slovenska.

V nedeľu večer newyorského času (v pondelok cca o 01.00 h SELČ) sa prezidentka Čaputová stretne s generálnym tajomníkom OSN Antóniom Guterresom pred začiatkom Valného zhromaždenia OSN, na ktorom vystúpila 20. septembra.



Zdroj: Facebook.com/Zuzana Čaputová (Source: Facebook.com/Zuzana Čaputová)

The President of Slovakia Met with Compatriots in New York

New York, September 17 (TASR) - Slovak President Zuzana Čaputová started her working trip in the USA on Sunday morning New York time by meeting with compatriots living in New York. She participated in the Slovak mass in the church of St. John Nepomucene in Manhattan, which was served by parish priest Štefan Chanas. TASR was informed about this by the president's spokesperson Martin Stržinec.

After the Mass, the President of the Slovak Republic also met talented Slovak students from top local universities and teachers of Slovak language weekend schools in New York and New Jersey at the local parish. As she stated, today she found a part of Slovakia in the middle of Manhattan.

On Sunday evening New York time (Monday at approximately 01:00 CEST), President Čaputová met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres before the start of the UN General Assembly, at which she will spoke on September 20.

Translated and Edited by Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr.



THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2023 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is accepting applications for its
2023 Scholarship Program.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO **TEN (10) \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS**
TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

Applicants, even those who are previous recipients of this scholarship, may apply yearly.

Jednota Benevolent Foundation Award Criteria:

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

For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com – Website: <http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

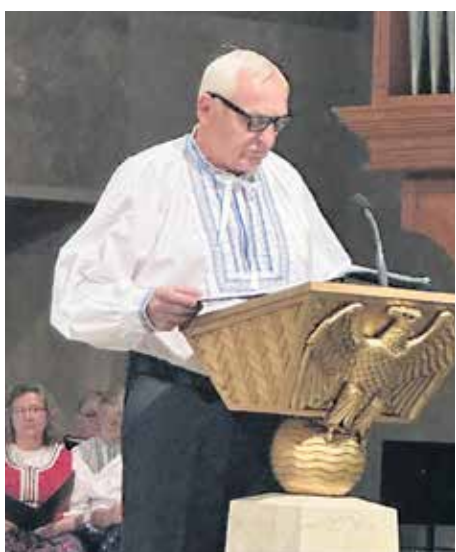
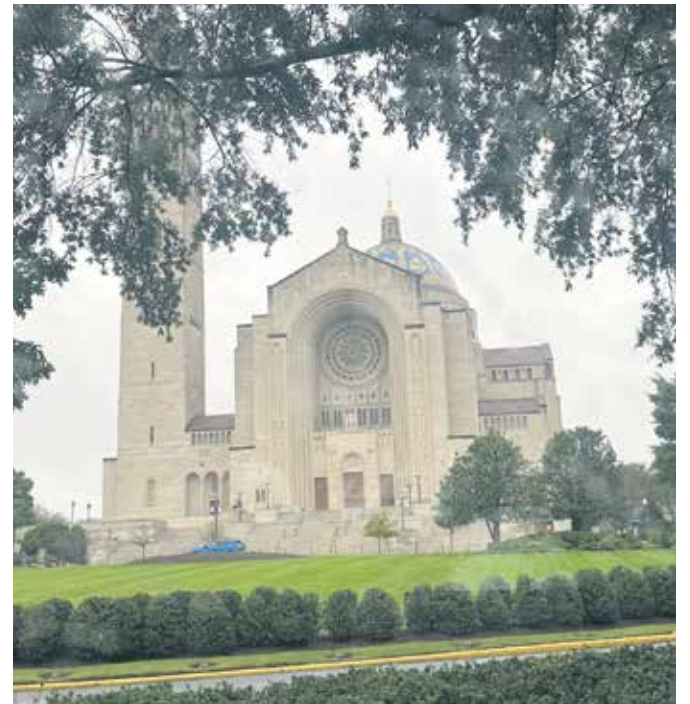
APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 31, 2023

58th Anniversary of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel

The officers of Branch 856 would like to thank the people who braved the Tropical Storm Ophelia to attend the 58th Anniversary mass in honor of our Slovak Chapel Our Mother of Sorrows at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The mass began with the Rosary in English and Slovak. Sister Viannea from the Sisters of Divine Redeemers serving in Elizabeth, PA. Doing the Slovak decades and Katherine Nowatkoski the English decades. Singing the hymns for the mass were the Pittsburgh Slovaks doing them in Slovak. In attendance were Members of the Board of Directors of the FCSU and their families. Braving the weather Slovaks living in area and employees of the Slovak Embassy attended. We thank Bishop Larry J. Kulick Bishop of

Greensburg as the main celebrant, assisting him were Father Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain for the FCSU, Father Stefan Chanas pastor at Saint John Neumann in Manhattan, New York, and Father Robert Seeman from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Readings were by Rudy Ondrejco, James Marmol, and Damian Nasta. Carrying the gift baskets were Kara and Diana Zelman from Falls Church, Virginia grandchildren of Rudy and Sue Ondrejco from Pittsburgh, Ken Arendt, National President of FCSU, and Katherine Nowatkoski, President of Branch 856 carried the gift for communion. Once again, I thank everyone who attended this celebration.

Katherine Nowatkoski Branch 856 President



Photos Courtesy of Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

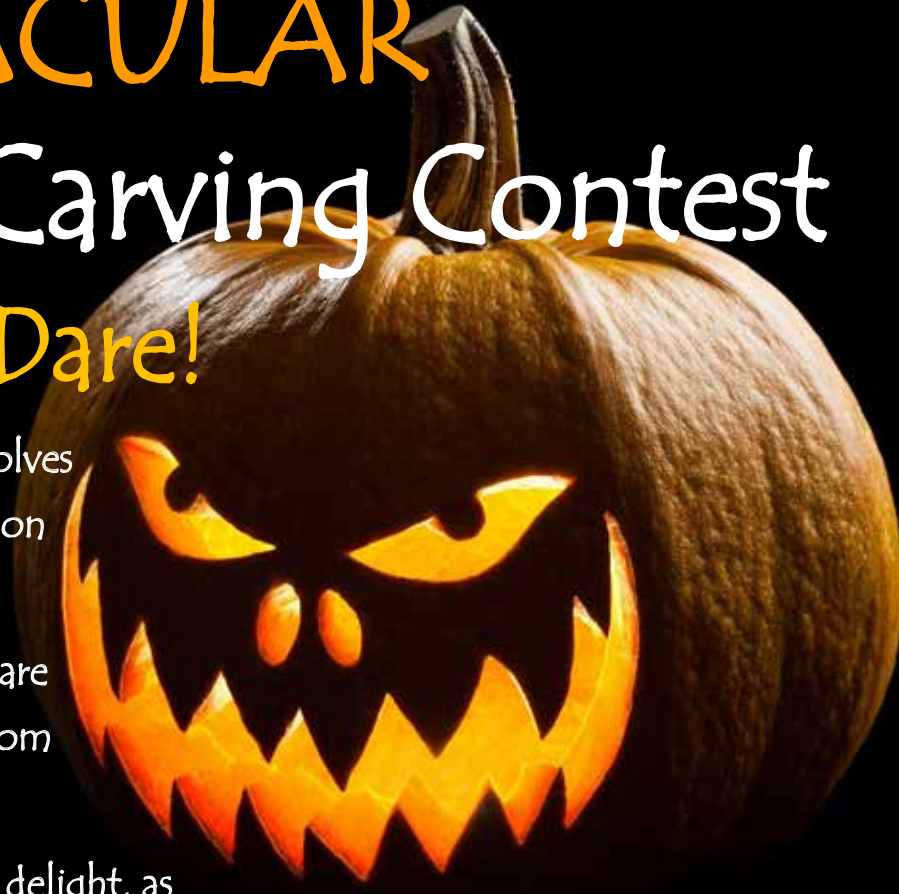
SPOOKTACULAR Pumpkin Carving Contest

Enter if You Dare!

Monsters are prowling and werewolves are howling, as witches take flight on their brooms.

Zombies are moaning and ghosts are out roaming, as mummies arise from their tombs.

Jack-O-Lanterns glare in frightful delight, as they glow in the dark on Halloween night.



“More Fraternal Fun from the FCSU”

Carve your
SCARIEST
FUNNIEST
MOST
ARTISTIC
or
*MOST
REALISTIC*
pumpkin
for your chance
to win \$100!

CONTEST RULES:

- Your entry may be a real pumpkin or gourd of any color. Craft or foam pumpkins/gourds are not permitted.
- Pumpkins must be carved and/or shaved. Paints or markers may also be used in the design.
- Props may be attached to the pumpkin as part of the design. Additional backdrops/scenery is not allowed.
- Craft machine die cuts or pre-cut decals, stickers, etc. are not permitted as part of the final design.
- Carved pumpkins should be illuminated with non-flammable candles or other battery-operated lights.
- Family category must include a minimum of two pumpkins. All participants must be FCSU members.
- FCSU Members may enter once per category, but cannot enter the same pumpkin in multiple categories.
- A minimum of two entries per category/age group must be received for prize to be awarded.

ENTRY DEADLINE: November 3, 2023

SUBMIT: Three photos of your pumpkin (only the pumpkin) with the official entry form. **1.** Photo of your pumpkin prior to carving. **2.** Photo of your fully carved pumpkin in daylight. **3.** Photo of your carved pumpkin illuminated at night.

WINNERS: One winner will be selected in each of the four categories per age group. Total of **20** winners.

PRIZES: **\$100** will be awarded to individual winners, and **\$150** to the family/group winners.

-----**ENTRY FORM**-----

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **Branch #** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Category: Scary Funny Artistic *Realistic* **Subject:** _____

Age Group: 8-12 13-19 20-49 50+ Family or Group

Email your photos (jpeg) and entry form to: Contest@FCSU.com Please use "Pumpkin Contest Entry in the subject line. Or mail your entry form and photos to: Joanne Fibbi, 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Entries must be received no later than November 3, 2023

*** Most Realistic depiction of an animal, fictional/movie character or real person (living or dead.) ***

Please identify the subject of your design on the line above.



FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

“October” Word List

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| PUMPKIN | LES (Forest) |
| SCARECROW | OKTÓBER (October) |
| SEASON | SVETER (Sweater) |
| CHESTNUTS | POČASIE (Weather) |
| HALLOWEEN | PRŠIPLÁŠT (Raincoat) |
| HAYRIDE | FARBA (Color) |

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 **November 27, 2023**.
 Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

Each winner will receive \$50.

October Puzzle Contest

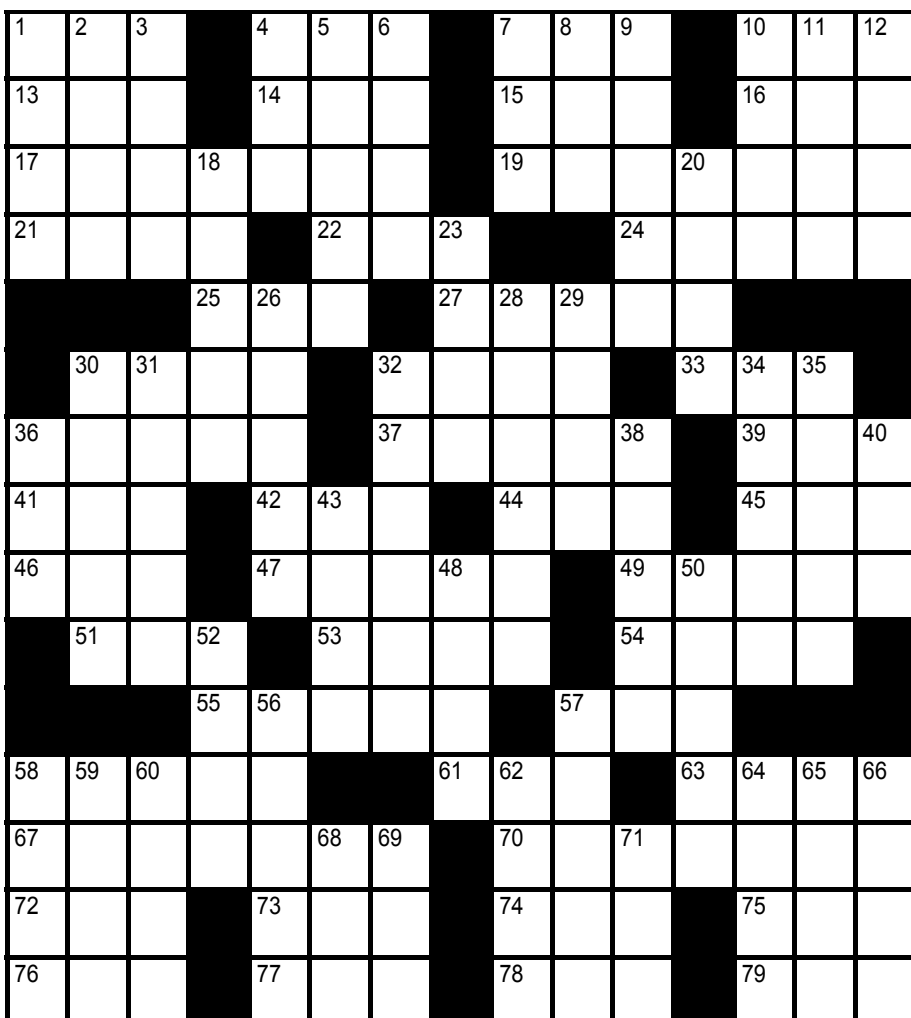
Each month 5 winners of the FCSU Puzzle Contest will be announced in this section.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AUGUST CONTEST WINNERS

- Joseph G. Bishop, Br 001K Regis Pacek, Br 199K
 Edward M. Sopko, Br 40K Deborah Fennell, Br 200K
 Madelyn Sivak, Br 831K

KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 “I do,” for one
- 4 Calligrapher’s purchase
- 7 Once around the track
- 10 ___ canto
- 13 In times past
- 14 Slip into
- 15 Dvorák’s Symphony No. 9 ___ minor
- 16 Spawn
- 17 Annoying
- 19 Preserved
- 21 Twiggy digs
- 22 Leatherworker’s tool
- 24 Impatient
- 25 Elderly
- 27 Thunderstorm product
- 30 St. Louis landmark
- 32 Orange Free State settler
- 33 Abate
- 36 Honshu city
- 37 Motivate
- 39 Met display
- 41 Greek letter
- 42 Took a load off
- 44 Ground breaker
- 45 Behold
- 46 Salon offering
- 47 In a fitting way
- 49 Quiet
- 51 Forty winks

- 53 Scorch
- 54 Played for a sap
- 55 Lifeless
- 57 French vineyard
- 58 Glide
- 61 Keen perception
- 63 Regrets
- 67 Rye bread seed
- 70 Music genre
- 72 Sailor’s assent
- 73 ___ out a living
- 74 Genetics lab study
- 75 Blockhead
- 76 Vamp’s accessory
- 77 Bar topic
- 78 Common Market inits.
- 79 Weirdo

Down

- 1 Conceited
- 2 Fairy tale villain
- 3 Stir-fry pans
- 4 Wedding declaration
- 5 Bedouin
- 6 Understood
- 7 Mustache site
- 8 Blackbird
- 9 Ice cream flavor
- 10 Lock part
- 11 Party times
- 12 Lord’s mate
- 18 Soup starter
- 20 Patella’s place
- 23 Weaver’s apparatus
- 26 ___ apso (dog)
- 28 Gentle breeze
- 29 Black-and-white cookie
- 30 Pale with fright
- 31 Side dish in India
- 32 Acerbic
- 34 Butter up?
- 35 Kennel club classification
- 36 Wife of Saturn
- 38 Foxy-faced primate
- 40 “First Blood” director Kotcheff
- 43 Church nook
- 48 Missing a deadline
- 50 Loan shark’s interest rate
- 52 Falafel bread
- 56 Staircase post
- 57 Construction site sight
- 58 Sign of healing
- 59 Knock cold
- 60 Calculus calculation
- 62 Land unit
- 64 “Once ___ a time...”
- 65 Son of Rebekah
- 66 Delicate
- 68 Wanted-poster letters
- 69 Bow wood
- 71 Fond du ___, Wis.

See Solution on Page 23

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The members of branch 1 are participating in a matching funds event at Transfiguration Parish (Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church) 12608 Madison Ave in Lakewood Ohio. A pork chop dinner will be served on October 22, 2023. We will be selling tickets and helping in various ways. If you would like to donate a basket or prize for the raffle we would be very grateful. For more information about the event or how you can lend a hand the day of the event, please contact Mary Dubber at 216-228-0654.

Submitted by **Mary Dubber, Treasurer**

BRANCH 1 – LAKEWOOD, OH

The next meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held November 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm. at the Burntwood Tavern, 19304 Detroit Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116.

This will be our annual Christmas party and also the election of officers meeting.

Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by November 1, 2023. All members are welcome to attend.

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

BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, IL

The St Stephen Society, Branch 6, will hold its Annual meeting and Election of officers for 2024, Saturday at 11 :30am on December 16, 2023 at Gaetano's Vault - 202 E. Main St - Streator, Illinois.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Following the meeting, the branch will sponsor a fraternal activity Saturday December 16, 2023 at 2:00pm at the Engle Lane Theatre - 1012 Coumbus Rd - Streator, Illinois. The play: "The Meanest Man in the World" will begin at 2:00pm. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting and fraternal activity. All attending should call 815-822-8851.

Submitted By **Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. A mass will be offered for our deceased members at 8:30 a.m. on November 12 at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

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

At the December meeting, the recipients of the John A. Zahor Scholarship are invited to join us via Zoom. The college freshmen who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Emma Hackett, Brendan McMullan and Juliette Nichols.

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

In addition, the recipients of the Andrew J. Imbro Grant are invited to join us via Zoom. The following college juniors who are eligible to receive the award this year are: Jenna Cichowski, Maxwell Novak, Lauren Serdy, Elizabeth Zahor and Joseph Zahor.

This grant was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Imbro served as financial secretary of the St. Joseph Society and his commitment to the financial support of its young members.

Since we are unable to award the checks in person, they will be mailed to the eligible recipients.

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

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

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PA

We will hold our second annual meeting on Sunday Nov. 12, 2023, at 1:30 PM. The meeting place will be Denny's Family Restaurant on Theater Dr. in Richland, Johnstown PA. All members of Branch 23 are welcome. There will be an election of officers at this meeting.

Submitted by **Theresa Cassat, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 22, 2023, starting at 1PM. Branch 24 members will meet in the Walton Hills Village Hall, 7595 Walton

Rd, Walton Hills, OH (corner of Alexander and Walton Rds; the parking lot is off of Alexander Road). Lunch will be served directly after the meeting. All members who plan to attend must call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 by October 18, 2023. On the agenda: election of officers, general branch business and fraternal activities. All members are welcome.

Submitted by **John Moynihan, President**

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PA

St Michael, Branch 35, will hold their annual meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. The agenda will include officers' reports, branch business, upcoming events, and election of officers. Branch members who would like to attend the meeting are asked to call Janet Sullivan at (412) 824-4185.

Submitted by **Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold a virtual branch meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Any member interested in attending this meeting should contact Logan Haselhoff, Branch President, by calling 412-956-9411 or emailing LHASELHOFF@gmail.com, to set up the virtual meeting invitation and details. Attendees of this meeting will discuss 2023 Branch activities and plan for 2024. Our goal is to create a more unified environment. Additionally, Branch 38 officers will be elected at this meeting. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend. Thank you for your continued support of Branch 38.

Logan Haselhoff, President of Branch 38 and Brittany Kowalski, Vice-President of Branch 38

Submitted by **Cathy Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, the election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Submitted by **Maria Juras, Financial Secretary**

ROČNA SCHÔDZA SV. MATÚŠA ČÍSLO 45 1KSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 1KSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 3. decembra 2023 o 13:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančnej správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Dakujem s pozdravom, **Mária Jurási, pokladníčka**

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WI

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Dear Members of Branch 89 - Please join us for our Christmas party on December 8nd 2023.

Time is 6:00 PM

Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal.

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 Mike Novak President Branch 89 at 414.445.5382 to make your reservation by 12/1/2023. You MUST CONFIRM

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

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

Submitted by **Mike Novak, President**

BRANCH 89 – MENOMONEE FALLS, WI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS MEETING:

Dear members of Branch 89 - Please join us for our meeting for The Election of Officers for 2024

Date: Sunday January 28, 2024

Time is 11:30 AM

Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own meal.

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 Mike Novak, President Branch 89, at 414-445-5382 to make your reservation by 1/22/2024. You MUST CONFIRM

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

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

Issues: 2024 Election of Officers - Donations and Activities for 2024

Submitted by **Mike Novak, President**

BRANCH 112 - MAHANAOY CITY, PA

All members of St. John the Baptist, Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA are invited to attend our annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at noon.

The meeting will be held at Palermo's Restaurant in Pottsville, PA.

The agenda will include officers reports, old business (charitable donations), new business and election of officers.

Lunch will be served after the meeting.

If you are interested in attending please contact karenenglesterling@hotmail.com by November 26, 2023.

Submitted by **Matthew Sterling Secretary**

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, IL

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence, Harwood Heights, IL. Election of officers and Charitable Donations are on the agenda. Luncheon will follow. Reserve your place by October 15 with Dorothy (708) 995 7378.

Submitted by **John Jurcenko, President**

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its branch meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the Shoney Restaurant, Uniontown, PA. Breakfast will be served following the meeting. On the agenda: Officers' Reports will be given and branch activities will be discussed and the Election of Officers for 2024 will take place. Please call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 before November 13, 2023, for reservations for you and your guest to attend the meeting.

Branch members are invited to participate in the WVU Medicine Uniontown Hospital Volunteer Services Annual Festival of Trees to be held November 29 thru December 13, 2023. The trees will be located in the main corridor off the hospital lobby. Tickets will be sold at \$2 each which are deposited at the trees of your choice. Drawing for winners will be held at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. All winners will be notified if not present. Winners will receive the decorated tree and tree skirt. Proceeds from this event will be used in support of Volunteer Patient Projects. Branch 162 members will decorate the 7ft slim tree with decorations provided by the branch with this years' theme being "Winter Wonderland/Frosty Christmas". All members are welcome to decorate on Friday, November 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby corridor. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

Submitted by **Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

BRANCH 166- BINGHAMTON, NY

Happy Fall Members! I hope you are well and enjoying this beautiful autumn weather!

Our semi-annual meeting will be on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at 2:00 PM. We will have this meeting at The Spot Diner 1065 Front Street Binghamton, NY. This meeting is for the election of officers, as well as other business. A Birthday party for our members will also be celebrated which includes

your meal at no cost to you. Your attendance is greatly encouraged!

For information on the November 5th meeting or any other concern, contact Morgan Dendler 607-206-7243 or email us at catholicfcsu@gmail.com.

Submitted by **Judie Dendler, Secretary**

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PA

Branch 181 members are invited to the dinner meeting at Aroma Italiano at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The restaurant is located at 220 Ligonier St, Latrobe, PA 15650. BYOB if desired. Reservations are required so please RSVP by Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Walk-ins without a reservation will not be served dinner.

RSVP to Vicki at 724-547-0803 or Darlene at 724-493-8712. The meeting agenda will include Election of Officers.

Submitted by **Vicki Hricik, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PA

Branch 200 wants to remind our members, we meet the 1st Thursday of each month except June and July at 910 6th Avenue, Ford City. On November 2, 2023 we will have Nomination of Officers. On December 7, 2023 Election of Officers will be held. Board meets at 7:00pm and the members meet shortly after. We look forward for your ideas and suggestions. All members are welcomed to attend.

After a rainy, hot summer, we can now cool down and enjoy the Fall. Many love the autumn season and wish it were year round me included. Some like it because it's football season. Take a drive and enjoy the sites around us as the leaves change. As they say, "Stop and smell the roses".

On Saturday, November 4, 2023 a wedding soup and bake sale will be held. Crafters have been invited to set up a table for their goods at this event. If you want to set up a table, please call 724-859-9810. All are welcome to attend.

Submitted by **Vicki Schaub, Sec/Treasurer**

BRANCH 213 - PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 1:00 pm. It will take place at 306 Barclay Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting may also be accessed via phone. Contact information: weaz1958@aol.com.

The agenda will include: Officer's Reports, Election of officers for 2024, Branch business, and an overview of this year's activities and charitable donations. We will also discuss new business, any upcoming activities, and ways to increase membership.

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

Submitted by **Anita Nixon, President**

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OH

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on October 16, 2023 at 7 P.M. IN-PERSON (NOT virtual for this meeting due to last minute cancellation of the September meeting) at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. 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. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings will begin at 7 P.M. regardless of a virtual or in-person format. 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 for 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 pray to our dear Lord God to bless us with His love, peace and mercy. May he tame the storms of the Earth and unite the world leaders to strive for peace

continued on page 17

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

continued from page 16

among all the nations.

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

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OH

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259 will hold their Annual Meeting at Donavito's, 139 S. Bridge St., Struthers, OH on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2024 followed by a luncheon. Reservations are to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

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

Submitted by **Beverly Yurcisin**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OH

Please join us for our meeting and election of officers on Friday, Dec. 8th at 5:00pm. the location of the meeting will be Belleria Pizza in Struthers, Ohio. All branch members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone. God Bless!

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

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT PA

Our next branch meeting will be held Sunday, November 12 at 1 PM at Eat & Park Restaurant on Route 30, North Versailles PA, across from the post office and Great Valley Shopping Center. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial secretary and will discuss upcoming district events. Officers for 2024 will be elected. Meeting dates for next year will be selected.

Submitted by **Margaret A Nasta**,
President,

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, IL

Happy Autumn, Jednota Members! Branch 313 will be holding its 2nd semi-annual meeting for the year 2023, on the date of October 24th at 11:30am. The meeting will be held at Fox's on Wolf at the location of 11247 W 187th St, Mokena, IL 60448. This meeting will include the "Election of Officers". And will be followed by a complimentary fraternal luncheon. Please R.S.V.P. to Financial Secretary Jennifer Carlton at 708-475-8042 by October 21st, 2023. Branch members are encouraged to attend! We hope to see you there! God Bless!

Submitted by **Jennifer Carlton**,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, PA

All Branch 320 members – Fall is here and Christmas is around the corner. Would love to see you!!

ELECTION of OFFICERS: All Branch 320 members are invited to attend the second meeting of 2023. Along with normal branch business, election of officers will be held. This meeting will be held at 11:00 am on December 10, 2023, at LaEda's in Monessen PA.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: All Branch 320 members are invited to attend the 2023 Christmas Luncheon. Immediately following Branch 320 meeting, we will be celebrating the birth of our Savior with prayer and a meal. Please RSVP to Frances Tarquinio at 724.929.9788 by Dec 1. Branch 320 would like to wish all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL EVENTS: Branch 320 members expressing interest in any fraternal events, please see this issue of Jednota for details.

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

BRANCH 367, FAIRCHANCE, PA

St Joseph Branch 367, Fairchance, PA 15436 meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023. The meeting will take place at Bob Evans, 681 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 12:30 PM. Officers for 2024 will be elected and all suggestions for Christmas donations will be decided on. Christmas letters for our 16 and under members will be mailed around the first of December. If your child did not receive one last year or this year please call Patty Speshock 724-564-5764. If planning on attending please call Kathryn Baranek 724-569-1006.

Submitted by **Kathryn Baranek**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PA

Branch 382K Schedules Fall Meeting and Election of Officers

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K of Scranton, PA, will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2023. Officers and members will gather at 12:30 P.M. in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

The agenda will include a report by the Branch officers and the representatives to the District 17 meeting.

A report of the August 26 Branch Picnic will be presented.

Members will also discuss future branch activities, donations, and the Annual Report for 2023. Information from the home office will be disseminated.

Election of officers for 2023-24 will be held.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend.

Officers of the Branch are: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, President; Michael J. Czankner, Vice President; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Treasurer; Laura Christianson, Recording Secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary.

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

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PA

Inviting all family members of the Saint Joseph Society Branch 393 to the dinner meeting on Sunday December 10, 2023. The meeting will be held at 6:00 PM followed by dinner. The location is Giannilli's II Restaurant, 4816 Rt. 30, Greensburg PA 15601. All members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Eileen at 724-539-2764 by November 20, 2023. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by **Eileen Myers**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the 2023 Semi-Annual Meeting which will be held on Saturday, October 28, at 4:30. This meeting will be held at Anna's Cucina Rustica restaurant located at 118 Carolina St. Vandergrift, PA 15690. Members are encouraged to attend as upcoming activities will be discussed and 2024 officers will be elected.

Submitted by **Kathy Froncek**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OH

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 11, 2023. The meeting will be held at 11:00am at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH 44129.

On the agenda will be officers' reports, discussion of branch activities for members and other business pertaining to the branch. The election of branch officers for 2024 will take place at this meeting.

All branch members are welcome and urged to attend. Please call George Carny at (440) 885-5702 if planning to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Submitted by **George Carny**, President

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PA

St. Joseph Society Br. 484 KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023, 2:00 P.M., at Eat'n Park, 2301 Rt. 286 So., Indiana, Pa. The agenda will include: election of officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, membership, district meeting information and schedule, as well as general branch and business issues.

We wish our members, families and friends a beautiful Fall Season, a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Submitted by **Monica Rura**,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OH

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 invites you to the following:

Nov 1 Spaghetti Dinner served 4:30-7:00 pm
Adults \$10 Children \$8.00

Nov 15 Swiss Steak Dinner served 4:30-6:30 pm
\$15.00

Reservations required call 330-786- 9972

Daily after 3 pm – reservation must be made by Tuesday, Nov. 14th

Nov 19 Lodge Meeting – Election of officers at 1:00 pm. Dinner to follow

Nov 22 Scotch Doubles - \$10.00 per person, bring your favorite covered dish to share

Nov 25 Ohio State vs. Michigan – Tailgating starts at 9:00am, game at noon, Bloody Mary's \$2.00 until game time

Nov 26 Breakfast Buffet – 9:00 am-11:45 am \$12.00

Join us for The Ohio State and Cleveland Browns football game on Saturday and Sundays, respectively.

Submitted by **Linda Hanko**,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PA

Branch 670 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 11:30 AM at Kings Restaurant, 580 McClelland Rd, Canonsburg, PA. This meeting will include the election of officers for 2024. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting will also be held via Zoom. Any branch member wanting to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact branch670secretary@gmail.com, a day in advance, for the Zoom link. All Branch 670 members are invited to attend the meeting.

Submitted by **Maureen Massafra**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 716- NEW YORK, NY

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: November 13th, and December 4th. 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 Lysáková**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NY

The St. Stephen Society Branch 716 will hold its second semiannual meeting of the year 2023 on Sunday, October 22nd, 2023. The meeting will be held in person at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY following the conclusion of the Slovak Mass at 12:30 pm. The agenda will include the year 2023 financial report updates, as well as the election for Branch Officers for the year 2024. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting and all members of Branch 716 are highly encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Emily Lysáková**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

Jednota Branch 721 will have their winter meeting of Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the Remenar Home located at 8977 South Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be held. All members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **Joseph Beno**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

A Mass for deceased members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will be held on November 4, 2023, at 4:00 pm, Saturday, at The Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio.

We will have an election of branch officers for 2024 on November 12, 2023, at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be at Café 422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio.

Submitted by **Maura Blumer**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743--- STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, 2023 financial report, approval of the 2024 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The election of 2024 Branch Officers will also take place.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall at 1:30.

Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

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

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

Submitted by **Joseph C Rimarcik**, President &
Financial 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 on November 3, 2023, and December 1, 2023.

The mass on October 6, 2023, is offered for blessings on Branch 746 on the occasion of its 101st Anniversary.

Submitted by **Mary Kapitan**, Secretary BRANCH

764 – WARREN, OH

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on November 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread on Elm Road in Warren, Ohio. Election of officers for 2024 will be held. All branch members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Submitted by **William Hrusovsky**, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA

Branch 796 will hold their annual meeting on November 12, 2023. Meeting will convene at 1:00 pm at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the basement. Location is 4456 Main St., Egypt.

Election of officers for 2024 will take place at this meeting.

We would enjoy seeing some new faces at our meetings. We encourage members to join us as we need to encourage new and younger members to participate.

Concluding our meeting we will have a luncheon with our fellow Fraternal Sokol members.

Branch 796 wishes everyone a safe Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas Season. We will continue to pray for an Improved and Happy New Year. May God bless us all and keep us safe.

Submitted by **Monica Fabian**,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PA

Branch 853, St. Pio, will hold its Annual meeting on November 28, 2023, at 11:30 am at Speers Street Grill in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The meeting will discuss the review of the 2023 activities, plan activities for the 2024 year as well as hold the election of officers for 2024. Branch members attending will be treated to lunch. If you want to attend by zoom link, leave a message and in a return call, information will be given on how to attend. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or 412-341- 1577 with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and non-branch members will be attending.

Submitted by **Monica Boone**,
Branch 853 President

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856 will hold their next meeting November 11, 2023 on ZOOM at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be financial report, officers report, and any activities any member attended. There will also be the election of officers for the coming year 2024. To get the link to join into the meeting, members are asked to contact Marion Mistrik by calling 301-654-3856 or Katherine Nowatkoski by calling 919-651-0363.

Submitted by **Katherine Nowatkoski**, President

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im 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
001P	James McDermott	162K	Bernadette Marie Hamborsky	484K	Barbara Lasinsky	746K	John J Yavor
002K	Margaret Patsilevas	162K	Edward Dancho	553K	Emily Monica Begallie	746K	Roy Herman
003P	Miriam J Murman	181K	Jerry J Suman	553K	Lois Misanko	756K	Rita Clare Gregoricka
019K	Cecelia A Williams	181K	Joseph Lesko	553K	Rosemary Capotosto	796K	Stephen Skrovanek
019K	Fred Y Millsbaugh	200K	Dorothy D Grandey	553K	Victor Klaco	831K	Lawrence Galcik
023K	Leonard Kuzbel	228K	Ronald Kutting	584K	Linda Fesko	855K	Bernard Shenal
035K	Joseph Toth	321P	Regina M Narehood	595K	Douglas R Zuidema	857K	Margaret F Nasta
038K	Frances V Bindas	330K	Deborah L Genschorck	628K	John R Bost	900K	Dennis J Wolk
038K	Marilyn Kiger	348K	Joseph A Rymasz	670K	John D Krasonic Sr	900K	Edith Mrofchak
040K	Jack Hert	367K	Holly E Sanders	670K	Lynda M Petroske	916K	Sharon E Pyszka
040K	Raymond Salz	382K	Mary Ann Wanas	721K	Lawrence Novak	921K	Darrell D Leiser
096K	Ann Helen Gavalor	401K	William Malone	731K	John M Janosik	926K	Steven A Weiss

* Processed in the month of September 2023

Nekrológy – Obituaries

MARY POLLAK, BRANCH 785 - MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO



It is with heavy hearts we announce the peaceful passing of our Mom, Mary, in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 5, 2023, at the Holy Family Nursing Home.

She is predeceased by her husband Thomas (2015); parents, William and Sophie; sister Anne; and brothers, Peter and Michael. She is survived by her children, Diane, Sharon (Al), Ernest (Amanda), Pauline (Fred), Paul (Ev), Donna (Al); 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Also left to mourn her passing are numerous nieces and nephews born in Canada and Slovakia, our Dad's home country.

Mom was born on October 3, 1931, in Stuartburn, MB where she lived on a farm that is now tall grass prairie land where so many fond memories were made, and we go back to visit and have a picnic every year.

She was a supportive and loving wife, mother, and Baba who passed on her gifts of family, strength, traditions, love, and laughter. She had the opportunity to travel with Dad to Slovakia, Hawaii, Las Vegas, and Mexico. One of Mary's jobs that she was most proud of was her time working at the Holy Family Nursing Home as a Health Care Aide for over 20 years. Mom was also a member of the Catholic Women's League for over 45 years.

The family would like to thank the staff and Doctors A. and T. Babick of 2A at the Holy Family Nursing Home for their compassionate care during her time there.

Submitted by Pauline Bauer

SISTER RITA POLCHIN, SS.C.M., BRANCH 1P - BEAVER MEADOWS, PA



Sister Rita Polchin died at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA, on September 7, 2023. She was the daughter of Joseph and

Anna (Fedor) Polchin, who had been married by Father Matthew Jankola, Founder of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Rita Patricia Polchin was born in Coxeville, PA, on August 31, 1929, the youngest of 10 children.

After graduating from Hazle Township High School, and working in a factory for two years, she entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from Holy Trinity Parish in Hazleton, PA on September 8, 1949, and was professed on Aug. 13, 1952. Sister Rita frequently said that she was drawn to Religious Life through the deep faith of her parents, who daily demonstrated that God was very much a part of their lives.

Sister Rita served in the ministry of education for most of her Religious Life, as a teacher in Charleston, SC; in Waynesboro, Bloomsburg, Nanticoke and Lebanon, PA; in Bridgeport CT; in Endicott and Yonkers, NY; and as a principal in Waynesboro, PA and Charleston, SC. She received her Bachelor's in Education from Marywood University in Scranton, PA, and a Masters in Educational Administration from Fairfield University in CT. When Sister Rita retired from her very active ministry, she was engaged in the Ministry of Prayer and Hospitality at Maria Hall in Danville.

On her 25th Anniversary as a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Sister Rita shared these words of wisdom: "Develop a deep spiritual life of prayer and a deep faith in all that God permits in your life. And another indispensable ingredient for happiness and holiness is a sense of humor." Anyone who knew Sister Rita knew that she also took these words to heart, being a woman of deep faith, prayer and good humor. Sister Rita's life of faith and service was rooted in the Gospel, summed up in one of her favorite quotes, "Be not afraid, I am with you."

Sister Rita was preceded in death by her parents and her 9 brothers and sisters. Sister is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable,
SS.C.M.

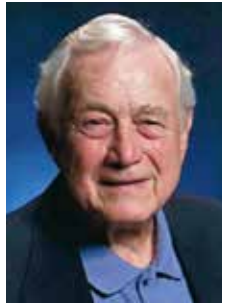
FRANCES V. BINDAS, BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PA

Frances "Cookie" V. Bindas, age 80 of Clairton, passed away on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 in Jefferson Hospital. Born March 8, 1943 in Clairton, she was a daughter of the late John F. and Barbara L. (Dem-

chak) Popchak. A member of Triumph of the Holy Cross Parish, St. Clare of Assisi Church, Frances was a elementary school teacher at St. Clare Elementary, an assistant teacher at Mt. Lebanon Montessori, and opened and retired from the St. Clare Montessori. She was also a CCD teacher and director of religious education at the former St. Joseph's Parish. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Michael "Mickey" Bindas, who passed away on February 5, 1998, and her sisters Rose Marie Wilkerson and Sr. Barbara Popchak. Frances is survived by her children Frank Bindas of Clairton, Jennifer (Gary, Jr.) Massaro of Elizabeth, Nathan (Megan) Bindas of Jefferson Hills, and Julie (Brian) Lindley of Eighty Four; her grandchildren Kevin Massaro, Alayna and Landon Bindas, Ava, Eli, Mya and Leo Lindley; her brother Robert J. Popchak; her brothers-in-law William Humanic and John Bindas; her close friend and cousin Aggie Bednarofsky; and also nieces and nephews. Friends will be received in the A.J. Bekavac Funeral Home, Clairton, on Monday, August 21, 2023 from 2 PM to 4 PM and 6 PM to 8 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 10 AM in Triumph of the Holy Cross Parish, St. Clare of Assisi Church. Memorial contributions in Frances's name should be made to Fur All Kittys, 1824 Homeville Rd., West Mifflin, PA 15122.

Submitted by Julie Lindley

JOSEPH L. TOTH ("LARRY"), BRANCH 35 - PITTSBURGH, PA



Age 95 of Penn Hills, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, July 30, 2023. Beloved husband of Janet (Shubert) Toth; and loving father of Jan, Susanne (Lee), Diane (Craig), and Amy (Dave). Preceded in death by son, Jimmy; and granddaughter, Elizabeth. Adored grandfather of Brenna, Lee III, Vanessa, Alexandra, Max and Devon; and six great-grandchildren. Larry was a veteran of WWII, serving as a Sergeant in the Army in Guam. He began his career at Westinghouse R&D before moving his family to Michigan to work at Bendix. There, Larry's team designed and built equipment used by NASA astronauts during the Apollo 11 lunar landing and subsequent missions. He eventually returned to Pittsburgh and continued his career at Westinghouse, where he worked until retirement. While there, he was part of a team that was awarded a patent. Larry spent 71 years married to the love of his life. He was an avid golfer and Steelers fan. There was nothing he couldn't do or fix. He loved nothing more than when everyone was home and the chaos that came with it. There is a hole in our hearts that will never be filled. He will be greatly missed and always lovingly remembered.

Submitted by Janet Toth

Prayer through application to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads, so that I can attain my goal. You who give the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. C.J.

Submitted by Christine Jankowski,
Branch 553



DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT, PA

District 3 will be sponsoring a Stedry Vecer, a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner, on Sunday December 3, 2023 at Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, PA.

2:00 pm - Mass

3:00 pm - Advent & Christmas Pageant provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks

4:30 pm - Dinner

Cost \$35.00 ages 12 and up

10.00 ages 6 to 11

Children 5 and under free

Limited number of tickets available. Do not delay ordering your tickets. Reservations taken on a first come first served basis and MUST be made by November 1, 2023 by calling Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712.

Submitted by Darlene Patty, Vice-President

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH PA

The Fall Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Holy Trinity Church Hall at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extn, West Mifflin PA. Branch 60 will host and the meeting starts at 1 PM. We will discuss business matters and plan events for next year. Officers for 2024 will be elected.

Other announcements of local interest:

- WPSCA: meets at 7 PM first Mondays at the Mount Lebanon Public Library. October 2: Study and Travel in Slovakia; November 6: Spirit of the Lake; December 4: Show & Tell.

- Slovak Film Fest: Pitt-Frick Fine Arts Building, October 22 at 2 PM: Cellar (2018); November 26 at 2 PM: Lonely Runners (2019).

- WPSCA sponsors scholarships and hosts various events such as wine tastings. Consider joining the organization and get the newsletter.

- Slovak language classes started September 11 at the Greentree Public Library.

- Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt - Sunday, November 5 - 1 to 5 PM - performers, vendors, food - free admission.

- Slovak Radio Program - WPIT 96.5 FM / 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. FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.FCSU.com.

Submitted by Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 7 - REV JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT, PA

District 7 will hold its Second Annual Meeting on Sunday Oct. 22, 2023. The meeting will be held at St. Bartholomew's Church Hall 185 Church Hill Rd, Portage, PA 15946. We hope to start the meeting at 1:30pm.

Ladies of the church will be cooking the delicious Slovak Food for this meeting. If you come to the meeting, you will enjoy it.

Election for Officers will take place at this meeting. If you are a member of a Branch in this District, please attend. Any questions please call Theresa at 814 254 2532.

Submitted by Theresa Cassat, Vice President

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Dairy Queen Grill and Chill at 575 West Main Street Uniontown, PA.

District President and Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

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 DISTRICT, PA

The Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District will hold the annual meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 1:00pm. The election of officers for 2024 will take place at this meeting.

The meeting will be held at Kings Family Restaurant – 580 McClelland Rd – Canonsburg, PA. A Zoom link will be sent to all Hlinka District members who attended the March 2023 meeting. Any district member wanting to attend the Annual Meeting via Zoom can contact District Secretary Monica Boone at hlinkadistrictsecretary@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Hlinka District members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Monica Boone, Recording Secretary

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

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2023: We will have a meeting at 6:00pm at The Fireplace at 2075 E Western Reserve Rd in Poland Ohio 44514 on Tuesday November 7, 2023. This will be our annual meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2023: Attention all District 14 members – the Rev. Joseph Kostik District will be holding its Annual Christmas Dinner after a short meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Rachel's Restaurant, 54 Westchester Drive in Austintown, OH. The cost is \$27.00 for those 10 and up; \$17.00 for children 9 and under. Reservations are required and must be paid by December 2, 2023. Contact Tom Krispinsky at (330) 716-8169. Mail payments to Tom Krispinsky to be received by December 2, 2023 at 1300 St Andrews Ave. NE, OH 44484. Make checks payable to Rev. Joseph Kostik District. Include your Branch number, number of persons attending, and the gender and ages of any children who will be attending. If you have any questions you can contact John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. at 330-559-5981. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with all our members.

Submitted by John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President

DISTRICT 16 -- MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA, NEW YORK CITY, NY

The annual meeting District 16 of Msgr. Stephen Krasula in New York City will be held on Sunday October 22, 2023, at 1 pm at the rectory of the St. John Nepomucene Church.

The agenda will include discussion of upcoming activities for the year 2024.

After the meeting, refreshments will be served. We are kindly asking all officers and members to come.

Submitted by Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Financial Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – SS CYRIL & METHODIOUS DISTRICT – NY, PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. Branch members will gather at Colarusso's Coal-Fired Pizza, 208 Main Street, Dickson City, Pennsylvania.

District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. noted that the agenda will include reports from the officers and the Regional Director, future activities, and donations.

Election of officers for 2023-2024 will take place.

A luncheon buffet and socializing will follow. All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting to meet one of their stipend qualifications.

Branches must contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570-342-7562 to confirm attendance by Tuesday, October 24, 2023 to provide the restaurant with an accurate count for the meal.

Colarusso's is easily accessed from Interstate 81. From Interstate 81 South, take Exit 190; at the light at the end of the ramp, turn right onto Main Street and go .3 (3/10) mile. From Interstate 81 North, take Exit 190; at the light at the end of the ramp, turn right onto Main Street and go approximately 1 block. The restaurant will be on your right. Parking is available in front of the restaurant and also in the lot across the street.

Submitted by Michael J Slovenkai, Sr., President





41st ANNUAL CARPATHO-RUSYN CELEBRATION




ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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SUNDAY OCTOBER 29th, 2023 12 NOON TO 5PM



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*****DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:30 AM with SPECIAL
GUEST HOMILIST FATHER MITCH PACWA OF EWTN*****

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<http://www.stjohnbaptist-byzcath-uniontown.org/>
www.facebook.com/StJohnByzUniontown



Book Corner



Slovak News and Book Reviews

By Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB

- This summer marked the 100th anniversary of "Slovak Day" at Kennywood amusement park near Pittsburgh.
- Slovak Heritage Tours in Deerfield, Massachusetts has seen an increase in Polish-Americans interested in visiting Slovakia because the language and culture are so similar to their Polish experiences.
- Bishop Larry Kulick of Greensburg, Pennsylvania visited Slovakia in July and celebrated Mass in honor of his ancestors in the towns of Nova Bystrica and Stara Bystrica.
- U.S. actress Ema Horvath, 29, was born and raised in the United States by her parents who were Slovak immigrants. Since 2022, she has played Earlen, in the Amazon Prime fantasy television series, "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power."
- Catholic actor Jim Caviezel, who had the starring role in movies: The Passion of the Christ and, more recently, The Sound of Freedom – has Slovak blood through his paternal grandmother.
- The United States Embassy in Slovakia created a traveling exhibit of 30 Notable Slovak-Americans that was displayed first in Bratislava in April, 2023 and then traveled to other cities in Slovakia. Some of figures included U.S. Air Force Colonel Eva Strelka Jenkins, a native of Bratislava, who commands thousands of troops in the U.S. military and Steve Ditko, a comic book artist who helped to create the character of Spiderman.
- You can find a very interesting 10-minute video called "10 Things That Shock Tourists When Visiting Slovakia" produced by Wolter's World, a You Tube video travel series. The narrator gives Slovakia higher points in several categories over neighboring countries.

Book Review: Arcadia Publishing

You may be familiar with one or another of the interesting, compact, paperback books of the "Images of America" series of Arcadia Publishing which operates out of Charleston, South Carolina; Chicago, Illinois; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and San Francisco, California. This series allows you to learn the history of your hometown written by local authors. You can often find them in your local drugstore.

However, if you go on the website - <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/collections/images-of-america>, you will be surprised to find a number of books related to Slovak-Americans in different locations of the United States (search "Slovak"). Some of these volumes are written by local Slovak fraternalists like John T. Sabol (Cleveland, Ohio) and Loretta Ekoniak (Youngstown, Ohio). Each book covers about 127 pages of mostly historical photographs with informative captions. As such, they are very effective in bringing memories to surface that have been forgotten with the passage of time.

The website lists the following Slovak-related volumes, each selling for \$21.99. I came across the following:

- "Slovaks of Chicagoland" – by Robert Fasiang and Robert Magruder
- "Slovaks of the Greater Mahoning Valley" – by Loretta Ekoniak
(Loretta is willing to offer a small discount – Loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com if you order through her.)
- "Slovak Pittsburgh" – by Lisa Alto
- "A Race to Freedom – the Mira Slovak Story" – by David Williams (about a young airline pilot, born in Cifer, Slovakia, who escaped communism in 1953 by hijacking his own commercial flight and later became a hydroplane racing champion and a stunt flyer and who died in 2014.)
- "The Anthracite Coal Region's Slavic Community" by Brian Ardan
- "Cleveland Slovaks" by John T. Sabol and Lisa Alto
- "Cleveland's Buckeye Neighborhood" by John T. Sabol.

Also, if you search under "Catholic" you will find volumes about the historic Catholic churches in cities like Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Detroit, as well as histories of some religious orders like the Chardon and Covington Provinces of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

2023 dates for Jednota publication

Copy date
Monday, Oct 30
Monday Dec 4

Issue date
Wednesday, Nov 8
Wednesday, Dec 13

The Eldred WW2 Museum

On June 30, 2023, Charles Boone of Dormont, the originator of the one and only exhibit to honor the Slovak immigrant who served in World War II, officially dedicated, and opened the exhibit at the Eldred WW2 Museum in Eldred, Pennsylvania.

Father Thomas Brown, from St Raphael's Parish in Eldred, blessed the Slovak American Exhibit and all of the Slovak American veterans who were called to serve to keep our Nation free.

Rod Beihler of Eldred worked with the museum in making the plaque and donated his services honoring our Slovak American veterans.

The Eldred Museum designed the exhibit from a life story submitted to the museum about the late WW2 veteran Private Henry Harchar previously from Bentleyville, PA. Private Harchar's family immigrated through Ellis Island from Zdoba, Czechoslovakia over 100 years ago. Private Henry, like other teenage immigrants, dropped out of school and worked to help their family during the Depression. Many of the life stories included situations of how the immigrants overcame the language barrier. Harchar was then drafted and served his Country overseas. While fighting in Germany, Private Harchar's feet were frozen fighting from a foxhole. Several life stories detailed that during the war the serviceman would send money home to help their families. Like many others, after the War, Private Harchar came back to resume his normal life. This 'Greatest Generation' of soldiers rarely shared their war stories at that time.

The Eldred WW2 Museum's emphasis is on the individual's experience in the war. They have thousands of stories of what the WW2 veterans experienced. We are proud that our new Slovak American Exhibit is near the library of these stories.

If you have a WW2 life experience story of your Veteran, you can still send it to the Eldred WW2 Museum. The documents you will send to the museum will not be returned so please send copies. In sending the documents, ask them to put the information with the Slovak American Exhibit. Any questions about the exhibit can be directed to Charles at SlovakAmericanWW2exhibit@gmail.com.

Our exhibit depicts a typical Slovak immigrant who was drafted to serve their new country and was a Private in the Army Infantry. It preserves the memory of the brave immigrants serving their new nation.

For the display, the soldier is a sentinel.

He passes the names and heroic acts of bravery to all so the visitors will remember their important contributions to history.



Charles Boone is an active young adult member of Branch 853. He is a recent Magna Cum Laude graduate of Liberty University and is a Certified Aviation Flight Instructor at Western Michigan University. He is also an active member of the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District. Charles is the son of Ronald and Monica Boone of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dedication ceremony of the Slovak-American WWII Exhibit - (L-R) Fr Brown, Ronald Boone (Branch 853), Charles Boone (853), Monica Boone (853) and Jesse Case, Executive Director of the Museum.



Charles with Display - Charles Boone stands near the Slovak American Exhibit which holds the plaque with names of the Slovak Americans who served in WW2. Charles is holding one of the life-story binders. The binder's shows the war-bond bomber purchase named "The American-Slovak".

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Be a Blessing from the Lord

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

Jesus told us that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbor. In today's world, we often seem to fall short on both counts. It's almost as if we need daily reminders to get in touch with the "better angels of our nature," to use Abraham Lincoln's term. While there are various ways to do this, I'd like to add one more to the mix: Volume 58 of The Christophers' annual "Three Minutes a Day" book, which features stories, Scripture verses, and short prayers for each day of the year.

What kinds of stories are featured in the book? Here is one example: In 2021, Gean LeVar of Glendale, Arizona, lost her husband of 58 years when he passed away in their home. To make matters worse, the police—after entering the house and seeing how unlivable the conditions were—had no choice but to condemn it. Gean lost her husband and home all in the same day, and she had no family members to help her.

That's when her neighbor, Carmen Silva—who barely knew Gean at the time—stepped in. As reported by CBS News, Carmen told Gean, "Don't worry... We're going to fix it." Carmen invited Gean to live in her home. Although Carmen's small, three-bedroom house with eight children was already full, the family eagerly made room for one more, treating Gean like an "adopted grandmother." Carmen explained, "I've always taught my kids to take care of their elders."

In another expression of neighborly kindness, the nonprofit group Operation Enduring Gratitude, which helps Arizona veterans and their families, heard Gean's story and rebuilt her house, making it livable once more. Gean now plans to share her new home with her adopted family. The Scripture verse that goes along with this story is the obvious choice: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The actions of Carmen toward Gean reflect a divine selflessness that each of us can choose as well. Or, we can emulate the generosity of someone like the subject of this other "Three Minutes a Day" story: For approximately 10 years, on the first of every month, Alabama farmer Hody Childress secretly performed a good deed. He would walk into Geraldine Drugs, a pharmacy in his DeKalb County community, and give a folded up \$100 bill to owner Brooke Walker. His instructions? Use the money to help people who couldn't afford their prescriptions. And if anyone asked where the money came from, he told her to say, "It's a blessing from the Lord."

When Childress began experiencing medical problems, he sent a relative to deliver the money to Walker, never telling the relative what exactly it was meant for. His acts of kindness were only revealed after Childress passed away at age 80 in 2023. Walker told AL.com that she used the money "to help children needing Epi-Pens for allergic reactions, families in between insurance coverages, and people just leaving the hospital." Childress's family and friends are working to establish a fund in his name to continue the practice.

Each of us can be "a blessing from the Lord" for others. Of course, sometimes we need blessings ourselves, and "Three Minutes a Day" also contains numerous stories about people dealing with the challenges and tragedies of life with help from their faith. So, consider buying copies of "Three Minutes a Day: Volume 58" as a Christmas gift for yourself and others for \$10. Call 1-212-759-4050, ext. 241—or visit us online at www.christophers.org.

Flying Over Slovakia



Enjoy a journey through beautiful nature, mountains and staple buildings in Slovakia. This three-hour long video posted by Wildlife Relaxation will give you a taste of Slovakia wherever you're at! Immerse yourself and let the serene nature and music take you away. You can watch the video at: tinyurl.com/flyingoverslovakia

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION of the "JEDNOTA"

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If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/11/20 issue of this publication.

Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

 Date: 9/27/2023

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Your Phone Call Is Important to Us!

At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we take every phone call very seriously. Our goal is to deliver the best customer service possible – even in these challenging times.

Please take the following steps when you get our voice mail so that we can provide you with the level of service and attention you deserve.

1. Leave a brief reason for your call.
2. Be sure to state your full name, and spell your last name.
3. Along with your phone number, let us know the best time to contact you between the hours of 8:00AM and 4:30PM, M- F.
4. Remember that we can only discuss a contract or certificate with the owner or with permission from



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Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, August 28, 2023 Videoconference

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth A. Arendt opened the meeting at 5:30 PM and asked Vice President Damian Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the July 25, 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., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The 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 Clutterbuck 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 second 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 Clutterbuck 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 July for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of July:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	487,751.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	37,721.00
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 review of the current 6% annuity campaign that began May 1, 2023. There has been an excellent response to the program. The program will be reviewed next month to decide if the deadline will be extended.

The Executive Committee decided the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The President led a discussion on rebranding the FCSU logo and a marketing program for our insurance and annuity products. The marketing team is also working on new letterhead, business cards, updating our promotional material, ads and our newspaper. We are also working on updating our website and our presence on social media.

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

The Executive Secretary is reviewing our current ads and working with local radio stations. There

is currently an ad running with the Cleveland Guardians and he is finalizing an ad to run with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

The President stated that our Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi submitted the results of the International Golf tournament that was held August 19-20, 2023 in Canfield, Ohio. They will be published in the Jednota and on our website.

The President stated that the FCSU Loser's Pool entries are due September 5, 2023.

The Fraternal Activities Director Joanne Fibbi is working on a new Pumpkin Carving Contest. The details will be published in the Jednota and on our website. She is also looking for new sites for our Bowling and Golf Tournaments for 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated that a Mass will be celebrated September 23, 2023 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. and encourages all branch/district members to attend. The details will be published in the Jednota and our website.

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 John Tokarsky and seconded by Kevin J. Collins to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

John Tokarsky closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN NYC

SLOVAK DANCE THEATRE
BY RDS ART GROUP

"AMAZING"
Toronto Guardian

"BREATH-TAKING"
Londondance, UK

"STRIKE OF A KNIFE OF EMOTIONS DEEP INTO THE HEART"
China Daily, Beijing, China

PRESENTS WORLD-FAMOUS MODERN BALLET PRODUCTION

CARMEN
BY JÁN ĎUROVČÍK

Manhattan Movement & Arts Center Theater
October 21, 8.00 PM Tickets: \$ 70

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www.eventbrite.com

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Minutes Of The Quarterly Meeting Of The Board Of Directors Of The First Catholic Slovak Union Of The Usa And Canada June 10, 2023 Video Conference

OPEN MEETING:

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

READING OF THE CALL:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Arendt presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol 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 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MARCH 25, 2023:

A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting held March 25, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White and Byron 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 and Byron White answered questions from the Board.

After a lengthy discussion, the President asked for the Board's permission to discontinue our contract with Parkway Advisors. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Damian Nasta.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2023:

Executive Secretary's Report

President Arendt presented the financial summary report for the first quarter of 2023 and answered the Board's questions.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The President and 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 update on the investments for the first half of 2023 and answered the Board's questions. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Director of Fraternal Activities Joanne Fibbi presented a report of the fraternal activities that were held in December 2022 which included the Christmas Coloring Contest and the Gingerbread House Contest. All the winners were published in the Jednota.

Ms. Fibbi provided a recap of the 2023 March Madness, Kentucky Derby Hat Contest, and the National Bowling Tournament held May 19-20 in Buffalo, NY.

Ms. Fibbi encouraged the board to attend the upcoming National picnics at Knoebels Amusement Resort and Wiegand Lake Park. She also asked for participation in the International Golf Tournament and Slovak Day at Kennywood.

Ms. Fibbi presented suggestions for future fraternal activities.

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.

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. Secretary Collins stated that the scholarship committee met and picked the winners of the 2023 scholarship program. The winners will be published in the Jednota and on our website.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Executive Secretary stated that we are currently advertising on the radio during the Cleveland Guardians games. He is also working on advertising during the Pittsburgh Steelers games and looking into advertising with other radio stations.

Our in-house marketing team along with Visia marketing are working on rebranding our society, increasing our presence on social media, and redesigning our website and Jednota newspaper.

DONATIONS:

All donations were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 15

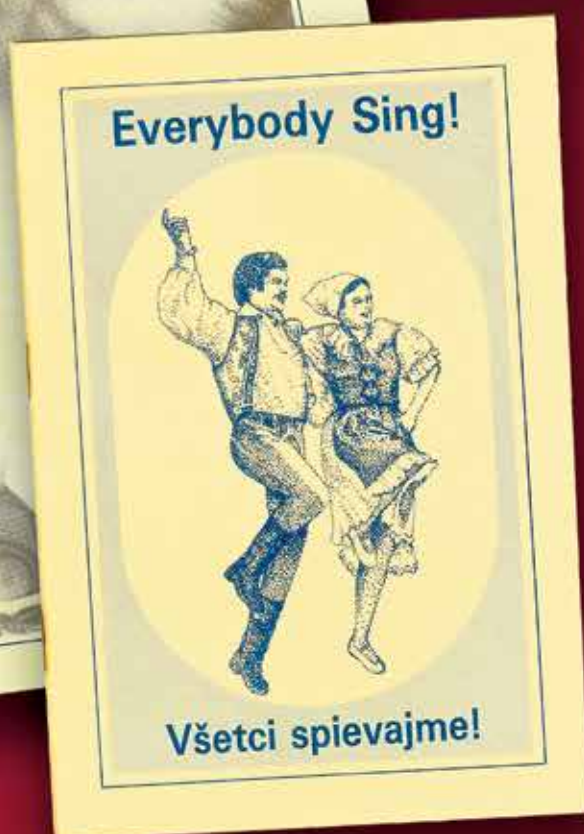
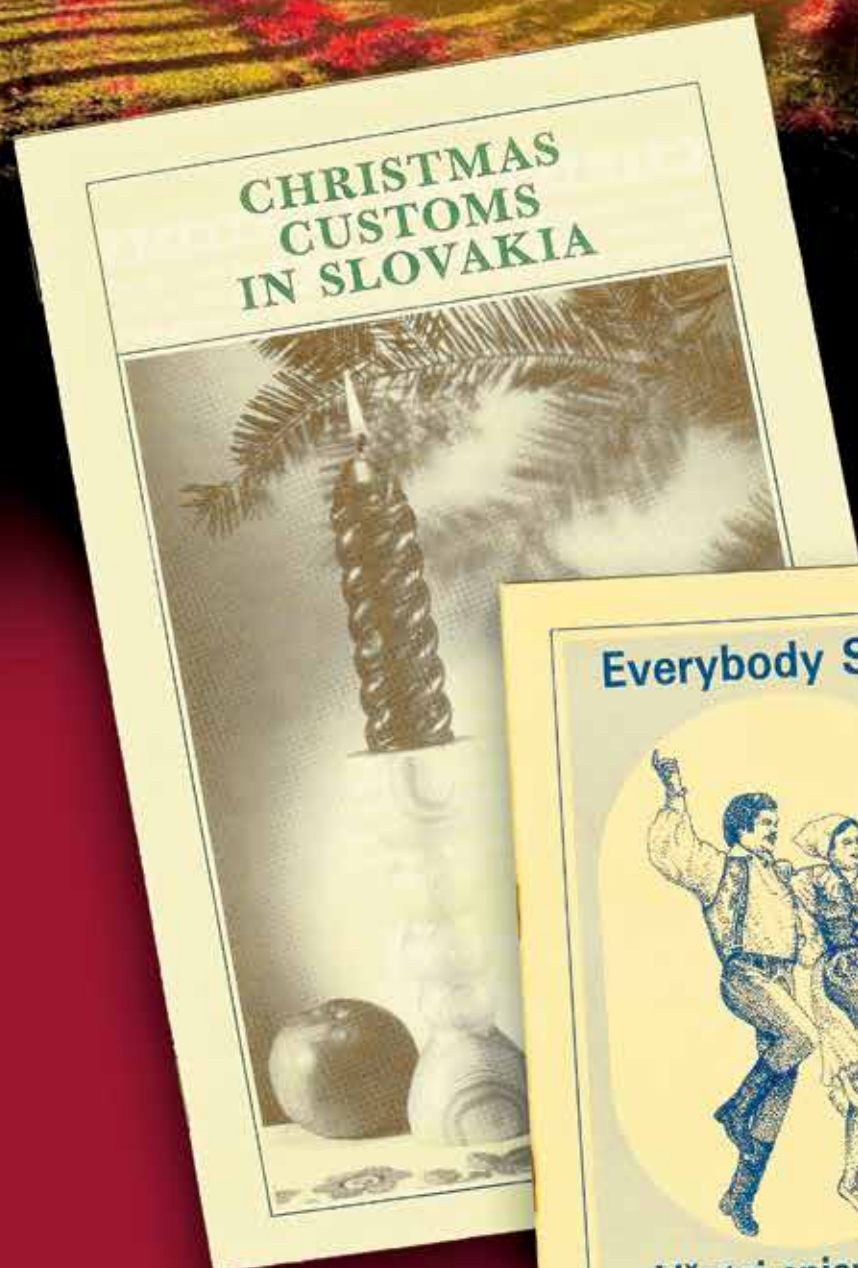
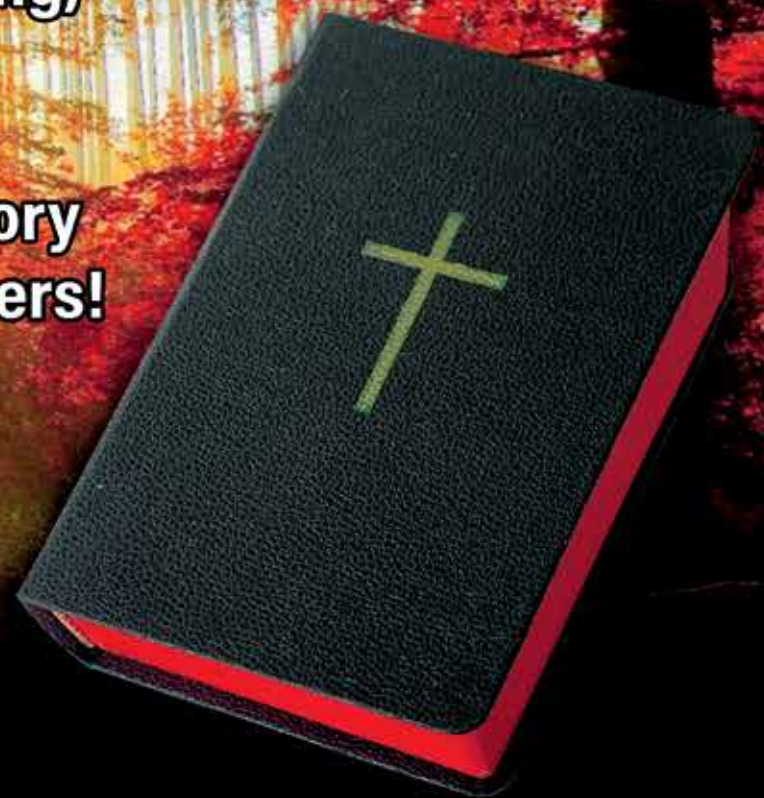
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Kenneth A. Arendt
President

Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

Get Ready for the Holiday Season

With the holidays quickly approaching, the FCSU wants to offer you early Christmas presents! Read about the joyful Slovak customs, songs and story of Christmas with your fellow Members!



**The following gifts
are available to you:**

'Christmas Customs in Slovakia' booklet written by Father Ander V. Pier

A mini-Bible in Slovak

'Everybody Sing!' booklet with songs in Slovak and English

Quantities are limited and once they're gone, they're gone! Act quickly and get your hands on these timeless Christmas treasures!

If you would like to request any on the items listed above, please call the home office at 1-800-533-6682.