

Catholic Fraternal Jednota

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NUMBER 6035



President's Message

On behalf of myself and the Home Office staff, we want to wish you a very Happy New Year! I am honored to enter another year as President of the FCSU and continue to grow our Society fraternally and financially.

I have had the privilege of having a fantastic group of people working at the FCSU Home Office. We were able to celebrate the holidays, and their hard work, with a group lunch outing. I am very appreciative for all the work they have accomplished in 2023.

I also am very grateful for all the Board of Directors, Officers and the newly elected who were dedicated to our Society last year. I am looking forward to continue working with the staff, Board and Officers in 2024, as I know they will continue to impress with their time and effort.

Every time we enter a new year, many of us like to compile a list of goals we want to accomplish within the next year. It could be trying new things, crossing off your bucket list or buying your dream home. Whatever the case may be, we all have something we want to accomplish in the new year. While

creating your list for 2024, I would like to suggest one resolution for our younger Members this year: plan ahead for your future education.

The FCSU believes our young Members hold bright futures and will accomplish great things. We want to support eager, young adults in their pursuit for a further education so that one day they can accomplish their career goals. One way we like to support our Members is through our generously funded scholarships.

Did you know the FCSU offers over \$162,000 in scholarships each year? As a fraternal, we love to give back to our Members and support the next generation of profound professionals. We know the financial burdens of school can be challenging and we would like to offer some financial relief to help eliminate stress. We also want to encourage and highlight those of Slovak de-



Kenneth A. Arendt
President

cent and Catholic faith, which is what our community has been built on.

The FCSU's goal for 2024 is to help young adults achieve their academic goals this year by supplying monetary support. Here is some information on the three scholarships the FCSU has to offer.

FCSU Scholarship

We currently have open applications for the 2024 FCSU Scholarship, dedicated to supporting our young FCSU Members. There are several different scholarship categories to apply for: Catholic grade school, Catholic high school, vocational/trade school, college and graduate school. This scholarship is dedicated for our Members only, in honor of their fraternalism. The deadline to apply is March 31st, 2024. For rules and regulations check out the 2024 FCSU Scholarship flyer

continued on page 4

January Reflection

Vesel' sa/Rejoice! Such a joyful call to rejoice! Why? A New Year is beginning – hopefully a time of peace and openness to our brothers and sisters in truth and in love. As long as we are humans there will always be power-hungry, controlling individuals. But they are not happy ones. We cannot control or change them. But there is a part of the world where we can help—our location—our own small world.

I was edified recently as I left the hospital clinic. On the inner sidewall hung a large “Team” poster. It stated how grateful the employees were to be there where they could encourage, support, and share the work of helping others. Their smiles, caring words, and offers to help were visible evidence of what they stated in their “Team” poster.

My reflection in the moment was to think, “What would Jesus do?” His message for us is, “Reach out, see, offer, encourage, help.” Yes, “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12). In Baptism we became a graced member of Christ’s Mystical Body –the Church. Let us radiate our joy as Team members in wherever and with whomever we interact in our 2024 world.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

(The New Year hymn, **Vesel' sa** can be found in the **Jednotný katolícký spevník** no. 107. To hear the children’s cartoon Christmas version (ZBOR-CHORUS only) see website: www.tinyurl.com/2p8mhc26).

VESEL' SA, LUDSKÉ STVORENIE, prišlo k nám naše spasenie!

ZBOR: Radujme sa, veselme sa v tomto novom roku!

2. Mesiáša narodenie – dosiahlo svoje splnenie.

ZBOR

3. Panna z rodu kráľovského – počala Syna Božieho.

ZBOR

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

ZBOR

VESEL' SA – Rejoice!

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

REFRAIN: Let us rejoice with song and cheer, in this blessed New Year.

2. Truly Messiahs’ birth revealed How prophecies are clearly fulfilled.

REFRAIN

3. Virgin renowned with royal blood, You bore for us the Son of God.

REFRAIN

4. Gift us, O Christ, that by your birth Grace is restored, we’re given great worth

REFRAIN

Message from the National Chaplain

Happy New Year. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with everything that is good.

We just finished celebrating the birth of our Savior at Christmas. Like every year, there are several people who wait until the very last minute to get themselves ready for the holiday. There are the last-minute shoppers, the last-minute greeting card senders, the last-minute decorators. There are even those who go to Confession at the last minute.

A similar approach is taken for Lent. A good number wait until the last minute to decide what they want to do as a spiritual exercise for Lent.

With Ash Wednesday shortly approaching (it is February 14 this year), here are some suggestions, some spiritual, some temporal, to help you get an early start in choosing what act or acts of penance you may wish to carry out this Lent.

Spiritual Exercises include:

- Attend daily Mass.
 - Pray the Rosary.
 - Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
 - Make a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
 - Pray the Stations of the Cross.
 - Make a pilgrimage to a religious shrine.
 - Pray for peace and the conversion of sinners.
 - Go to Confession.
 - Choose a saint, read his/her biography, and put into practice one aspect of that saint’s life.
- Temporal Exercises include:
- Reduce the time you spend on social media.
 - Perform a corporal work of mercy.
 - Reduce the size of your meal portions.
 - Make a donation to the Pontifical Mission Society.
 - Make a donation to church-based organizations that help people in recovery.

Please remember that Catholic adults between the ages of 18 and 59 are seriously bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and that Catholics 14 years of age and older are seriously bound to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.



Rev. Thomas Nasta
Chaplain

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta

SS. Cyril and Methodius January Appeal

Thank you everyone who supported last year’s Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. It is with great pleasure to announce that 204 donors gave \$25,725.51 last year. Here is a breakdown of donors and the amount given:

Parish Collections.....	6	\$ 4,309.51
Slovak Fraternal Organizations (including Home Office donations...)	63	\$ 9,010.00
Clergy and Religious of Slovak Heritage.....	27	\$ 3,890.00
Individual Donations.....	108	\$ 8,516.00

A direct mailing for the 2024 Appeal has been sent to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors. Your support is needed each year because money collected in the Appeal goes to help pay for the operating costs of the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome, the residence of priests from Slovakia selected by their bishops to undertake graduate studies.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2024 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and

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JEDNOTA

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

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY THE WEEK 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. All articles will be reviewed for possible publication.

Copy Date	Issue Date
Monday, February 5	Wednesday, February 14
Monday, March 4	Wednesday, March 13
Monday, April 1	Wednesday April 10

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
FAX: 216-642-4310



Home Office Holiday Hours

The Home Office will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024, in observance of Presidents' Day.

NEW THIS YEAR!

FCSU features Members in a new running article.

Check out the first installment of FCSU Untold Stories on page 11!

SS. Cyril and Methodius January Appeal

continued from page 2

mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2024 will be credited toward the 2025 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, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Penn del, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

46th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2024

- 1 Br 200 – Meeting in Ford City, PA
- 5 Br 853 – Egg Decorating Discussion in Pittsburgh, PA
- 7 Slovak J Club & Br 553 – Spaghetti Dinner in Akron, OH
- 14 **Ash Wednesday**
- 16 Slovak J Club & Br 553 – Fish Fry in Akron, OH
- 17 Br 5P – Meeting in Wyoming, PA
- 21 Slovak J Club & Br 553 – Pork Chop Dinner in Akron (RSVP)
- 25 Br 796 – Meeting in Egypt, PA

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

Insights and Viewpoints

The Baptism of the Lord

Gospel, Mark 1:7-11

The Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas Season. In a few short weeks we have gone from the baby in the manger to the thirty-year-old Jesus preparing to begin his ministry. At the time of Jesus there was what was known as the "baptism of repentance." This was an act in which the Israelites would take on God's judgment as a sign and act of their own desire for them individually and the people of Israel to repent of their offenses against the covenant. The Covenant of Moses took place in the Sinai desert, so it's no wonder that John the Baptist would be performing his ministry in the wilderness of Judea. Jesus comes to take part in this ritual as a sign that he would ultimately be the one who takes away the sins of the world. The Baptism that Jesus gives to us is not merely a sign, but it is the actual forgiveness of sin and adoption into God's family.

There are two important elements of the passage we hear today, the message of John the Baptist, and the manifestation of the Trinity at Jesus' Baptism by John. John's message is not only a call to repent; it is a call to get ready for the Messiah. He is preparing the way for the Lord and in humility announces that one mightier than he is coming. John had disciples as well as other followers. Human nature would tempt him to maintain his ministry and enjoy the attention and fame, but John did not give into this temptation, without hesitation he pointed his disciples and followers to Jesus. We are told elsewhere in Scripture that some did leave John in order to follow Jesus. John is for us a model of humility. The second element is that of the manifestation of the Trinity at Jesus' Baptism. We have Jesus, the Father's son and second person of the Trinity, standing in the Jordan while John Baptizes. As Jesus emerges from the water, we are told that, "the Spirit, (the third person of the Trinity) like a dove, descended upon him." Finally, there is the beautiful manifestation and revelation by the Father, the First person of the Trinity. The voice of the Father is heard speaking directly to Jesus and saying, "You are my beloved Son; with whom I am well pleased."

I imagine that our Heavenly Father says the same thing about everyone who is Baptized, for at the moment of our Baptism we become children of God. How could the Father not be pleased? Our challenge is to maintain that relationship so that as the Father continues to be pleased. How can we be pleasing to the Father? We can begin by following the example of John the Baptist and living lives of true humility. That is in acknowledging that we are not the Messiah or Lord, only Jesus is, and it is he who should be first in our lives. It is a humility in which we acknowledge the gifts and talents we have, and the particular vocation or call God has given us. John in his humility did not shy away from his call to be the prophet who announced the coming of the Messiah, and he did not hold back in using his preaching gift to proclaim this. The same should be true with us. If we begin to live truly humble lives, we will surely be beloved sons and daughters of the Father in whom he is well pleased.

Killian Loch, O.S.B.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

on page 13.

Stephen C. Matula Scholarship

Coming in March 2024, is the Stephen C. Matula Scholarships. In honor of the late Stephen C. Matula, this scholarship shines a light on persons of Slovak decent. This scholarship is for high school seniors and college students of Slovak heritage. Ten winners will be awarded \$4,000 towards their college tuition.

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc Scholarship

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc Scholarships are given out to ten students in awards of \$500. This scholarship is for students currently enrolled in college or a post-secondary educational institute. These awards honor students of Slovak decent and Catholic faith who have accomplished leadership skills, scholarship and service. Applicants who are previous recipients of this scholarship may apply yearly as well. Applications are open in August. Please see page 12 for the 2023 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc Scholarship winners.

As we go into the new year, please keep in mind anyone who may benefit applying to the scholarships we offer. Or encourage someone to take 2024 to prepare to apply for scholarships in 2025. If you would like to learn more about our scholarships, please visit our website at www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

Once again, I am thrilled to enter this new year with our dedicated Members and see what is in store for our Society! Please keep on the lookout for save the dates, such as the FCSU Bowling Tournament, and consider entering our current contest, the 2024 March Madness contest on page 12. Also, I encourage everyone to consider submitting an article, announcement or an achievement for possible publication in an upcoming Jednota issue. We would love to hear from you! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is looking forward to more celebrations, connection and fraternalism in 2024!

Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt

Executive Secretary's Message

Happy New Year to all Members! I hope your holiday season with family and friends was filled with joyous celebrations! I am looking forward to this new year and hoping for another fantastic year for the FCSU.



Kevin J. Collins
Executive Secretary

As we are entering 2024, I would like to remind all Branches of the upcoming deadline to submit reports to the Home Office in order to qualify for a stipend. By February 15th, 2024, an Annual Report must be sent to the Executive Secretary including: a Financial Report, Meeting Attendance Sheet, Branch Officer Directory, fraternal activities report and minutes of the meetings.

By the end of March 2024, the Home Office will pay each Branch \$7.00 per member per year, provided they have submitted the above reports and met the Bylaw requirements. Here is the Branch Stipend Checklist to refer to as a guide to make sure you qualify your stipend.

This is just a snapshot of requirements to qualify for your 2023 stipend. Please refer to the Bylaws effective January 1st, 2023, sections 4.05 and 14.01 for more detail. You can find the Bylaws online at: fcsu.com/bylaws. Please use the Branch Annual Report 2023 form that was mailed out. Or you can find them online at: fcsu.com/forms. If you have any questions regarding receiving your stipends or clarification of any Bylaws, please feel free to contact me at: 1-800-533-6682 ext. 120.

Kevin J. Collins

IMPORTANT NOTICE PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information – means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information – means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency – means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- Information you provide to us in an application or other form.
- Information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others.
- Information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, non-public information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us at the address shown above, to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.



Branch Stipend Checklist:

- Conduct at least 2 Branch meetings per year
(1 of the meetings must be announced as an election of officers)

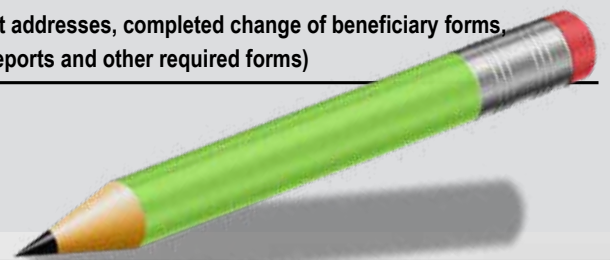
- Send meeting announcements 30-days prior to meeting to be published online and in newspaper

- Submit an Annual Report to the Executive Secretary by February 15th, 2024 (Include Financial Report, Meeting Attendance Sheet, Branch Officer Directory, fraternal activities report and minutes of the meetings)

- Send 1 Branch representative to attend at least 1 District meeting

- Be in good standing with your District by paying current fiscal and outstanding dues

- Provide the Home Office with current information about members (Current addresses, completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports and other required forms)



You can find the FCSU bylaws online at:
www.fcsu.com/bylaws



New Year... 2024 New Rates

**6 Year Fixed
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5.00% 

Other Annuity Products:

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CALL US AT 800-533-6682



District 16 Msgr. Stephen Krasula Annual Meeting in NYC

On October 22, 2023, District 16 held its annual meeting at the parish of the Slovak church of St. John Nepomucene in New York City. We were all looking forward to it and a large number of members attended. At our meeting we talked about plans for our future. The challenging discussion was followed by further light discussion and refreshments.



(L-R): Toastee Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic; Anton Kucharovic; Jozef Korcak-Trustee; from the left to right standing: Peter Gaspar-Vice President; Julie Ann Gurega Koval-President; Frederik Koval; Maria Zakovic; Renata Jurasiova-Vasil-Secretary/Treasurer; Anna Korcak.



(L-R): Peter Gaspar-Vice president; Fr. Stephen Chanas; Julie Ann Gurega Koval-President; Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic Toastee; Anton Kucharovic; Eva Lysakova President 716 and Toastee; Jan Lysak; Emily Lysakova; Jozef Korcak-Trustee; Frederik Koval; Anna Korcak; Fr. Martin Kertys.

Výročná členská schôdza Okresu č.16 Msgr. Štefana Krasulu v New Yorku.

Dňa 22. Oktobra 2023 sa konala výročná členská schôdza okresu c.16 Msgr. Stefana Krasulu na fare kostola sv. Jana Nepomuckeho po sv. omši. Táto schôdza sa týkala prerokovania výsledkov a udalosti, ktoré sa udiali za rok 2023. Zišli sme sa v hojnom počte a to členovia spolkov sv. Matuša c.45 a sv. Štefana c.716. Po diskusii nasledovalo občerstvenie a oslava členov výboru a spolku. Jednou z oslavenkyň bola aj bývala prezidentka okresu c.16 Želmira Beckova-Kucharovic. Ďalšou oslavenkyňou bola Eva Lysakova - prezidentka za spolok sv. Štefana c.716. Oslavenkyňiam srdečne blahoželáme k ich krásnemu životnému jubileu.

Submitted by Renáta Jurasiova-Vasil, Secretary



(L-R): Julie Ann Gurega Koval, President; Maria Bozekova, Trustee; Maria Zakovic; Anna Bilik; Emily, Eva and Jan Lysak; Jozef Korcak-Trustee; Frederik Koval; Anton Kucharovic; Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic; Anna Korcak; Peter Gaspar-Vice President; Renata Jurasiova-Vasil- Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Secretary Kevin Collins Officiates America's Game



On December 9th, 2023, the Army vs. Navy game took place at the Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, MA. The pictured people, along with Executive Secretary Kevin Collins, were selected to officiate this year's incredible game.

This year, the Army took home the win, with the final score 17-11. It was an amazing game and an honor to be selected to officiate!

Submitted by Kevin J. Collins, Executive Secretary



ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA JEDNOTA MEMBERS & FRIENDS



Hockey Night in Cleveland
Saturday, March 23, 2024
7:00pm



Monsters vs. Hershey Bears
Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse -Cleveland, OH

Special Offer Includes:

- Discounted Lower Goal End Tickets!!
- \$25 group rate per seat, with possible deeper discounts for MEMBERS ONLY through your branch

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

- Branch 1: Rochelle Popovich, 216-789-6390
- Branch 24: Fran Strekal, 216-308-1728
- Branch 228: Lisa Trifiletti-Palos 440-960-2111
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Linda Hanko, 330-706-0151
- Branch 855: Stephanie Sutilla, 440-409-9405



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

Deadline to order: Thursday, February 15, 2024
Seating is Limited: First Come, First Serve, So Don't Delay

TICKET DELIVERY:
From your branch officer or Ohio Regional Director Tom Ivanec

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

Branch 45 Hosts Annual Meeting and Celebrates Christmas

St. Matthew's Branch 45 held an annual meeting on December 3, 2023 at St. John Nepomucene Church in NYC with its committee.

Annually our branch gets together for a Christmas Dinner – "Vigilia" at St. John Nepomucene Church after the Slovak mass. As tradition continues, this year on December 10, 2023, together we said a prayer, sang traditional Slovak Carols, ate traditional Slovak food unique for "Vigilia", in a beautifully decorated hall full of attendees with an excellent Christmas atmosphere.

Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Sports Coordinator



Branch 45 Committee (L-R) Maria Zakovic – Secretary, Antonia Krajkovic – Trustee, Joseph Jurasi – President, Jozef Korcak – Sports Coordinator, Maria Jurasi – Financial Secretary, Anna Korcak – Trustee, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil – Cultural Officer, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic – Vice President, and Fr. Martin Kertys.



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



Janik Vasil and St. Nicholas



Branch 45 Committee – Sitting (L-R) Vladimir Nigrovic, Anton Kucharovic, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Maria Jurasi and Joseph Jurasi. Standing (L-R) Elena Nigrovic, Jozef Lukacovic, Viera Lukacovic, Magda Vanco, Fr. Stefan Chanas, Fr. Martin Kertys and Ladislav Korcek.

Branch 320 Elects Officers for 2024

Branch 320 welcomes elected Officers for the new year. May God Bless FCSU and all its members in 2024.

Submitted by Mary Anne Higginbotham, President



L-R Frances Tarquinio (Financial Secretary), Mary Anne Higginbotham (President), Joseph Tarquinio (Vice-President), Patricia Davies (Auditor).

Keep an eye out for
the FCSU
Christmas Coloring
Contest winners in
an upcoming issue
of Jednota!

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

The George Onda District Hosts 30th Annual Štedrý Večer

On Sunday, December 3, 2023, District 3 celebrated their annual Christmas Vilija (Štedrý Večer) at the Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Many FCSU Members and National Officers gathered to partake in Slovak traditions at this year's sold-out event.

The Štedrý Večer begun with Holy Mass celebrated by FCSU Protector Bishop Larry J. Kulick in the St. Joseph Chapel, assisted by Fr. Christopher Pujol. Choir and musical assistance were provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks, directed by Sue and Rudy Ondrejco.

Following Mass, the Pittsburgh Slovaks performed a Slovak pageant. The audience was wowed by beautiful traditional attire, dancing, singing, examples of Slovak traditions and a Christmas story spoken in Slovak.

All guests were then directed to the dining hall and asked to be seated as District 3 President William Patty welcomed and thanked all for attending. Bishop Kulick then led guests in prayer and spoke on the symbolism behind the meal. Dinner began when the first star was spotted by Robert Michael Patula III.

Attendees dined on a traditional Vilija dinner starting with homemade Oplatky wafers made by Edward and Barbara Mizikar, along with help from Bishop Kulick and Gary and Larissa Matta. Everyone was served mushroom and sauerkraut soup, followed by the main plate of fish, peas, pierogis, pagach and bobalki. Nuts, fruit, honey, garlic and dates were also passed around the table as well as apricot and nut kolache for dessert.

During dinner, District 3 Vice-President Darlene Patty passed out raffle prizes including gift cards and plenty of holiday décor. Martin Meyer entertained guests with his musical talents, playing the violin throughout the evening.

Special thanks to everyone who attended and organized this year's fantastic Štedrý Večer, celebrating the George Onda District's 30th year hosting. A wonderful time was had by all! We hope Members will continue coming together to celebrate this Slovak tradition!

Photos courtesy of Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Recording Secretary



Slovak Christmas Eve Vilija at St. Andrew Abbey 2023

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, hosted their annual Vilija on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Some 280 people attended the Vilija, including many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU). The following Branches in District 10 were represented: 1, 24, 450, 553, and 855. The event was graced by the presence of Bishop Emeritus of the Cleveland Diocese, the Most Reverend Bishop Roger Gries, OSB.



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



The luncheon began with prayers and songs in Slovak and English by the Benedictine monks, led by Abbot Gary Hoover, and including Vilija Emcee Fr. Michael Brunovsky, Brother Gabriel Balazovic, and Brother Gregory Coyne. The monks then brought the first course of mushroom soup to each table. The First Catholic Slovak Union donated funds toward the food which was prepared and plated by members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club who are also members of the FCSU. These included: Milka Anderko (Branch 855), Maria Cvicela (Branch 24), Vlad Cvicela (Branch 24), Joe Elias (Branch 1), Jana Horvath (Branch 1), Martin Kulik (Branch 1), Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450), Terezia Nosek (Branch 24), Dana Glova (Branch 24), Karin Scally (Branch 855 Vice President), and Tim Scally (Branch 855). The Radio Club is headed by President Henry Horvath (FCSU Supreme Court Member and Branch 855 Auditor).



After the meal, attendees were treated to a performance of authentic Slovak folk dances by the Lúčina Slovak Dance Ensemble, directed by Thomas Ivanec who also is FCSU Region 6 Director. Many of the dancers are members of the FCSU, including Branch 24 President and FCSU Supreme Court Member John Moynihan, Branch 1 Member Adam Hornack, and Branch 24 Members John Allen McIntyre, Lexi Glova, Kristyna Nosek, and Anna Nosek. Then, Fr. Michael pulled winning tickets for the 24 baskets of the Vilija Raffle sponsored by the FCSU, with help from Branch 24's Henry Strekal and Elias Strekal. The raffle was coordinated by Branch 855 President Barbara Sutilla, FCSU National Auditor and Branch 855 Treasurer Ann Sutilla, and Branch 24 Member Terri Ivanec. All raffle proceeds went directly to support the St. Andrew Abbey Monastery.



Ralph Szubski, the Accordion Man, provided music for dancing and listening pleasure throughout the day.



**Submitted by Thomas Ivanec,
Region 6 Director**

Branch 162 decorates Christmas Tree for WVU Medicine Hospital

For a community project, the officers and members of Branch 162 decorated a Christmas Tree in the Lobby of the WVU Medicine Hospital in Uniontown, PA. The tree was one of twenty-eight trees of various themes for the Festival of Trees, decorated by groups within the hospital and surrounding community.

The hospital volunteers hold this fund raiser annually. This year it was held November 27th until December 13th, 8,000 tickets at \$2.00 each were sold. This directly benefits volunteer patient projects such as campus shuttle service and comfort cart items. The theme of the tree was Winter Wonderland/Frosty Christmas. The winner receives the decorated tree, tree skirt and everything under the tree.

Submitted by Joanne Marmol, Branch 162 Vice President

Photos by Cathy Marmol, Branch Member



Branch 716 Christmas Dinner Event

On December 10, 2023, members of Branch 716 and Branch 45 under District 16 gathered for a Slovak Christmas dinner following Sunday Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church. The hall was decorated with colorful banners and Christmas trees for the holiday season, and festive music played as attendees sang along to popular Slovak Christmas carols. Father Stefan Chanas attended to lead the prayer, and guests enjoyed traditional Christmas foods such as bobalky, kapustnica, fried fish and potato salad prepared by branch members. We would like to thank everyone who attended the event, and we wish all a happy holiday and a happy New Year.

Submitted by Emily Lysáková, Recording Secretary



Father Stefan Chanas with Branch 716 & Branch 45 members at St. John Nepomucene Church

Branch 844 Celebrates Slovak Christmas Mass

After Slovak Christmas Mass was celebrated in Slovak American Center, L.A., Fr. Pavol Sochulak SVD posed with the Slovak musicians and choir, Branch 844 Members, for a picture.

The banner annotates "Radostné Vianočné Sviatky a Požehnaný Radostný Nový Rok" translated Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Submitted by Paul Skuben, President



(L-R) Fr. Pavol Sochulak SVD, Dr. Peter Skuben, Dr. Jane Skuben-Vadkerti, Sofia Vadkerti, Victoria Vadkerti, Elizabeth Vadkerti, C. Kvassay, John Dorusinec, Dr. Maria Cyprich and P. Dorusinec.

District 12 Hosts Annual Meeting and Elects 2024 Officers

On November 12, 2023 at the annual meeting of the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District, Members celebrated by reviewing the district adventures from their successful year. The branch representatives then planned events for the upcoming year. Members in attendance showed their confidence in the current officers by reelecting all the same officers for the 2024 year. Honoring their deceased Hlinka District members, District Secretary Monica R Boone presented the annual Memorial Service. Region 4 Director Jim Marmol swore in the officers in attendance. Congratulations to all Hlinka District members for another successful year.

Submitted by District Secretary Monica R Boone, Secretary



(L-R) Regional Director James Marmol, Auditor Michael Bertovich, President Cheryl Hyatt, Secretary Monica R Boone, Auditor Dorothy Rudinec, Treasurer Maureen Massafra and Auditor John Curcio.

Check out more FCSU fun at
www.fcsu.com/events

FCSU Untold Stories

Carrie Borah - "God gave us the answers we were looking for"

Carrie Borah, Member of the FCSU Branch 24 and owner of Making Memories at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, OH, said there are three things she would use to describe herself.

"I'm a person that's blessed to be an American, I am Catholic, first and foremost, above all, and my Slovak heritage, being 100% Slovak," Carrie said. "And it all comes from my family."

Carrie, the youngest of four, was taught how important her heritage, faith and family values were ever since she could remember.

Carrie's great grandparents and grandparents came by boat to America from Slovakia in the 1910's. Her great grandparents and grandmother came to the states and opened a boarding house. There her great grandmother and grandmother cooked their Slovak recipes for guests, interacted with visitors and served many different people coming to America. Carrie's grandmother met her grandfather at the boarding house and married. Together they instilled their traditions and values to Carrie's mother and 6 siblings.

Growing up Carrie's family kept their Slovak traditions close to their hearts and loved to share their heritage with others. Any event they were able to teach others of their Slovak heritage, or provide a home-cooked Slovak meal, they would.

"Through school, anytime we had to do a speech or any kind of presentation, my sibling and I would present on our Slovak heritage," Carrie said. "And we would bring foods like haluski or kolache."

Her family was even featured in a 1978 article for the Parma Sun Post about ethnic Christmases. They had the opportunity to share their family, Slovak traditions and the significance of the Christmas dinner.

Along with being Slovak, being Catholic has always been a strong part of Carrie's life. She remembers always dedicating Sundays to family and church. They would never miss a Sunday service and after Mass they would go over her Aunt's and Uncle's home to be together as a family, and listen to polka.

Carrie always knew she wanted to pass on those traditions and values to her children. She wanted to be a stay-at-home mom to teach her children about their heritage, faith and provide home-cooked meals every day, as her mother did. And in 1999, she married her husband Ken, who wanted the same things she did.

Carrie and Ken have three children together, Annie, Kyle and Joslyn, who were all taught at a young age those core values. Her family would practice the same old-school Slovak traditions and recipes that her grandmothers passed down, as well as to look to prayer for answers and know God will provide.

Blessed to be a stay-at-home mother, Carrie was very active when it came to school events, sports, church and the community. She was that hands on mom who always would cook for activities and organize or help out at events. She especially loved being part of a community or an event that shared her heritage and faith, such as the FCSU.



Carrie Borah with husband Ken and children Joslyn, Kyle and Annie

As her kids were growing older, and her youngest was about to enter high school, Carrie knew she wanted to enter back in the work force. Around the same time, she discovered Wiegand Lake Park in Ohio was for sale and became upset of losing the special place. It wasn't till a few months later that her husband brought up the idea of purchasing the park.

Carrie said this was a life changing decision, that she couldn't answer at the time. The whole family took the question to prayer, knowing God will give them the answer they are looking for.

At the time her and her youngest daughter, Joslyn, would go to the Chapel after school to pray and started a Novena. On the ninth day of the Novena, she said her daughter knew the answer to their prayers.

"It was October, she looked outside and there was this beautiful rose that bloomed," Carrie said. "And it was a perfect rose. Joslyn said, Mom, I got the answer. We're supposed to do this."

Her whole family was immediately at peace knowing this was the right decision. They were able to not only buy the park, but able to take care of it together as a family.

They all poured their hearts into working at the park and created an even stronger bond. Her family and employees take care of the grounds, make all the food, serve, and even help organize and assist at events. More importantly, she enjoys teaching not only just her children, but the next generation how to have a servant's heart and connect with people.

They all love helping people come together to create life-long memories, no matter what event, and hold special memories at each celebration.

"It's one of my greatest joys of being able to be at the park, is being able to meet people," Carrie said, "and be a part of whatever celebration is going on and help them find joy."

One event she said she loves doing is the FCSU National Picnic at Wiegand Lake Park as it is a time to celebrate her heritage and Catholic faith. She said her youngest daughter, Joslyn, loves to cook and makes all the traditional recipes for picnic guests. Her entire family looks forward to the music, people and the celebration.

Looking back on it, Carrie said all the work she had done being a stay-at-home mom has led her to this new career.

"I like to look at it as God was preparing me to be this event planner, to be able to plan these amazing parties and events for people," Carrie said.

Carrie believes she has been truly blessed with the life she's been given and that's the only way she can describe it. She is able to share her faith and heritage with all the people she meets and has her family with her every step of the way. She doesn't take credit for being fortunate but owes everything to what she was taught and believes at her core.

"I could say I made these decisions, but I didn't," Carrie said. "It's because of what my family has instilled in me, being able to be born here in America, and everything that my parents taught me about my Catholic faith and our heritage."

Making Memories at Wiegand Lake Park in Novelty, OH



The 1978 article in the Parma Sun Post featuring Carrie's family celebrating a Slovak Christmas

Carrie and family members enjoying the FCSU's National Picnic at the Park





March Madness 2024 at the FCSU

March Madness – one of the biggest, most exciting, fun events in all of sports – has once again come to the FCSU!

General March Madness Rules

The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament is a single-elimination tournament comprised of 68 teams that compete in seven rounds for the national championship. The final round is known as the Final Four, when only four teams are left.

The NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Committee selects seeds and brackets the field for the NCAA Tournament. Then on Selection Sunday, a Selection Committee reveals the full NCAA tournament bracket, including all teams and all seeds. In 2024, Selection Sunday is March 17th.

This is an online contest

FCSU March Madness Rules

Note: the contest will take place online

1. Each entrant **must be 16 years old**, have an active policy and be a Member in good standing.
2. One (1) Entry per person **ONLY**
3. **Each Player must HAVE AND USE THEIR OWN EMAIL ADDRESS.**
4. Each Player **MUST FILL OUT AN ENTRY FORM.**
5. After the office reviews your entry and you are ruled in good standing, an email will be sent to you to enter the pool. (The email will be sent to the email address you provide. Print Clearly).
(One email address may only be used once for the contest)
6. Please **CHECK YOUR EMAIL OFTEN. ALSO CHECK YOUR JUNK EMAIL.**
7. **Once you receive the email, follow the instructions to sign up on the game site.**
8. You must have your account set up by 5:00PM Thursday March 14, 2024.
9. Once you sign up on the contest site, your account will automatically be **FROZEN.**
10. Your account will **RE-OPEN** on Monday, March 18th, 2024, at 5:00PM EST.
11. All pool rules will be listed on the Official Contest Site.
12. Mail your entry form to the address on the entry form. Missing information is an automatic disqualification
13. Entry must be postmarked by March 1st, 2024
14. Entry must be received by March 8th, 2024

FCSU March Madness Prizes

1ST PLACE:	\$1000.00
2ND PLACE:	\$ 750.00
3RD PLACE:	\$ 500.00
4TH PLACE:	\$ 250.00
5TH PLACE:	\$ 50.00

Entry Form (PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY -All information must be filled in)

NAME _____
 BRANCH: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE NUMBER _____
 EMAIL: _____

(EMAIL CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE. No exceptions).

MISSING INFORMATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION

Mail entry form to:

Joanne Fibbi
 FCSU Fraternal Activities Director
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite #300
 Independence, OH 44131

(More than 1 entry form may be mailed in an envelope)

POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Friday, March 1, 2024

And be RECEIVED by Friday, March 8, 2024. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.

Congratulations

to the winners of the
Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarships

- 1) Dante Brunori
- 2) Calvin Gaspar
- 3) Alexandra Glova
- 4) Lindsey Gourash
- 5) Michael Hradesky
- 6) Rachel Mills
- 7) Katrina Mullen
- 8) Anna Nosek
- 9) Matthew Oros
- 10) Luke Smearchek



The FCSU Bowling Tournament

Returns
April 26-27, 2024

Save the Dates!

The Venue:

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes
 1601 Washington Rd.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15228

The Hotel:

The Crowne Plaza Hotel - Pittsburgh South
 164 Fort Couch Rd.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15241

The Tournament:

Sponsored solely by the First Catholic Slovak Union for our members. Watch for more details coming soon.



Join us for more FCSU fun for everyone.



FCSU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

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

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have: a minimum of \$5,000 of reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life), or minimum of \$25,000 JEP policy (on new policy); or minimum of \$1,000 of Juvenile Life Savings; or minimum of \$500 in an annuity or Coverdell IRA with the FCSU for at least three years prior to April 1st of the year in which they are applying.

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

All scholarship winners must maintain an active policy during their school years.

Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or www.fcsu.com and mail it to: Scholarship Program, FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131.

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

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

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

Applications must be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2024**
 For more info call us at 800-533-6682 ext.114

Christmas Performance at Lipka Academy

Christmas atmosphere, mysterious charm, customs and traditions of Christmas. On December 17, 2023, together with parents, members of FCSU Branch 746 and Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados and friends of Lipka Academy, we experienced the Christmas atmosphere.

Christmas messages that money cannot buy - the theme of the Lipka Academy Christmas program, which has traditionally brought a piece of home to our families for 20 years, memories of the customs and traditions of our Slovakia.

Everyone who attended the performance had opportunity to experience a peaceful and rich pre-Christmas atmosphere. Rich especially in the customs and traditions of our ancestors, which strengthened our ancestors and thanks to which we have come to the present day. The answers to the following questions were very interesting:

How did our great-grandparents protect stables and animals on Christmas Eve?

Why did they put an axe, hoe, spade, hammer and other iron tools under the table?

Thanks to them, we explained the reasons and essence of our customs and realized that the customs of our ancestors do not testify to their peasantry, but to the fact that at all times people thought and acted only at the level of the then valid laws and acquired knowledge.

The whole program was in the Slovak language, as Slovak is a living language even among the young generation living in the USA and it is thanks to the maintenance and work to preserve it that we owe to the members of Jednota, Branch 746 led by their Regional Director Sabina Sabados, who supported us financially again. Thanks to them, we have the opportunity to develop and improve the teaching of Slovak language. The performance was also attended by a local pastor Mariusz Luksza, who enjoyed the performance of children and the preservation of the Slovak language even among the youngest generation.

Love, health, happiness and traditions cannot be bought, but we can find it in each of us.

Vianočné vystúpenie v Lipke Academy

Vianočná atmosféra, tajuplné čaro, zvyky a tradície Vianoc. 17. decembra, 2023 sme spoločne s rodičmi, členmi FCSU Branch 746 a Regional Director Sabinou Sabados a priateľmi Lipky Academy zažili vianočnú atmosféru.

Vianočné posolstvá, ktoré sa nedajú kúpiť za peniaze - téma vianočného programu Lipky Academy, ktorá už tradične 20 rokov prináša do našich rodín kus domova, spomienky na zvyky a tradície nášho Slovenska.

Každý, kto sa zúčastnil vystúpenia mal možnosť zažiť pokojnú a bohatú predvianočnú atmosféru. Bohatú predovšetkým na zvyky a tradície našich predkov, ktoré našich predkov posilňovali a vďaka ktorým sme sa dostali až k dnešku. Veľmi zaujímavé boli odpovede na tieto otázky:

Ako naši prastarí rodičia ochraňovali na Štedrý deň maštale a zvieratá?

Prečo ukladali pod stôl sekeru, motyku, rýľ, kladivo a ďalšie železné nástroje?

Vďaka nim sme si vysvetlili dôvody a podstatu našich zvykov a uvedomili si, že zvyky našich predkov nesvedčia o ich sedliackosti, ale o tom, že v každom čase ľudia mysleli a konali len na úrovni vtedy platných zákonitostí a získaných vedomostí.

Celý program sa niesol v slovenskom jazyku, nakoľko slovenčina je živým jazykom aj u mladej generácie žijúcej v USA a práve udržiavaním a pracovaním na jej zachovaní vďaka aj členom Jednoty, Branch 746 na čele s ich regionálnou riaditeľkou Sabinou Sabados, ktorí nás finančne znovu podporili. Vďaka nim máme možnosť rozvíjať a skvalitňovať výučbu slovenského jazyka. Vystúpenia sa zúčastnil aj miestny farár Mariusz Luksza, ktorý sa tešil z vystúpenia detí a udržiavania slovenského jazyka aj u najmladšej generácie.

Lásku, zdravie, šťastie, tradície si za peniaze nekúpime, ale dokážeme ich nájsť v každom z nás.

Submitted by Marianna Fecova, Branch 746





FCSU PUZZLE CONTEST ENTRY

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

“January” Word List

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| WINTERTIME | JANUÁR (January) |
| RESOLUTION | NOVÝ ROK (New Year) |
| HIBERNATE | SNEHULIAK (Snowman) |
| SNOWBLOWER | ČIAPKA (Hat) |
| JACK FROST | RUKAVICE (Gloves) |
| HOCKEY | KORČUĽOVANIE (Ice skating) |

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 **February 29, 2024**.

Five winners will be drawn from all correct entries.

Each winner will receive \$50.

NOVEMBER WINNERS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Irene Dezelan 372K | Luke Petras 670K |
| Tom Rush 682K | Gloria Waldron 746K |
| Louise Joiner 785K | |

KEEP PUZZLING!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11					12			13		14			
15					16					17			
			18	19				20	21				
22	23	24		25			26	27		28	29	30	
31			32				33	34					
35						36					37		
			38		39			40		41	42		
43	44	45			46		47		48		49	50	51
52			53	54					55				
56							57	58			59		
			60					61			62		
63	64	65			66	67	68			69	70	71	72
73					74					75			
76						77				78			

Across

- 1 Egg on
- 5 Forest runner
- 8 Toothed tool
- 11 Choir attire
- 12 Caper
- 14 Foal's mother
- 15 Mayberry sot
- 16 Beat
- 17 Highest point
- 18 Like some threats
- 20 Decide
- 22 "A jealous mistress": Emerson
- 25 Boat propellers
- 27 Up-to-the-minute
- 31 Vandykes
- 33 Brunch order
- 35 Bit of parsley
- 36 Watering holes
- 37 Word of support
- 38 Start of something big?
- 40 Military award
- 43 Skater Babilonia
- 46 Hazard
- 48 Elbow
- 52 Risky venture
- 55 Expressing one's preference
- 56 Angel
- 57 Requirement
- 59 Domestic dog
- 60 Abate
- 61 No-win situations?
- 63 Assist in wrongdoing
- 66 Run ___ of

- 69 Sinuous dance
- 73 Corn bread
- 74 Power suppliers
- 75 Utah city
- 76 Bunion's place
- 77 Black and tan ingredient
- 78 Genesis grandson

Down

- 1 Maven
- 2 Deteriorate
- 3 ___-Wan Kenobi
- 4 He loved Lucy
- 5 Unkind look
- 6 20's dispenser
- 7 Lulu
- 8 Small pouch
- 9 Shirt part
- 10 Diminutive
- 12 World record?
- 13 Most wonderful?
- 14 Photo finish
- 19 Artful move
- 21 Lassie portrayer
- 22 Tummy muscles
- 23 Gym unit
- 24 La Brea goo
- 26 Drench
- 28 Greek letter
- 29 Shoa cote
- 30 Informal wear
- 32 Glass component
- 34 Conceal
- 36 Uttered
- 39 Smorgasbord
- 41 Battery part
- 42 Groove
- 43 Shamus
- 44 Cigarette's end
- 45 Rocks, to a bartender
- 47 Cambodian coin
- 49 Party bowlful
- 50 Animal with curved horns
- 51 Pudding ingredient
- 53 Sharp narrow ridge
- 54 Tavern
- 55 Head coverings
- 58 Opus
- 62 Loafer, e.g.
- 63 Quick-witted
- 64 Bleacher bum's shout
- 65 Compass dir.
- 67 Lobster ___ Diavolo
- 68 Painter's medium
- 70 Samovar
- 71 Sign of summer
- 72 Morning hrs.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BRANCH 1 - LAKEWOOD, OH

Branch 1 will be joining members of District 10 at the Monsters Hockey Game on Saturday evening (7:00 pm), March 23, 2024, at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland, OH. Non-member ticket price is \$25.00. Branch 1 Member ticket price is free. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Reservations are required and available by calling Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year filled with health and happiness.

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

BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 12:00 pm at Angelo's Restaurant and Pizza, in the Midway Shopping Center, 1000 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA. Pizza luncheon will be provided.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend the branch meeting should contact Marion Rubino, President, by February 12, 2024, at 570-693-0399.

Submitted by **Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 24 is providing special Branch 24 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7:00PM), March 23, 2024, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$25.00. A Branch 24 member ticket is \$10.00. Reservations are required and available by calling Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Fran Strekal, 216-308-1728. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Order now and join other FCSU members and guests from Branch 24 and other branches in District 10 for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted by **Fran Strekal, Fraternal Activities Director**

BRANCH 55 - PHILADELPHIA, PA

Please note that Saint Joseph Society (Weather Permitting) will meet on Sunday, January 7th, 2024, the Feast of the Epiphany, at the Slovak Church of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene, 319 Brown Streets in Philadelphia 19123, for the 9:30 AM Mass, after which we will have our Branch 55 Fraternal Activity at the Wesley Dining Room, 8401 Roosevelt Blvd. in Philadelphia 19152, for our combined traditional Vilija, Christmas Party, New Year's and Epiphany Celebration at 1:30 PM, and we invite all Slovaks and Guests in the area and able to attend Mass to please join us for a photo after Mass.

Attention: Please Note the Date Change for our Branch Meeting is now scheduled for Sunday, January 14th, 2024, at 2:00 PM, as a ZOOM Meeting. This will be our Annual Branch Meeting for 2023, for the purpose of Election of Officers for 2024, and the Election of Voting Delegates to the District 8 Semi-Annual Spring Meeting.

The Meeting Agenda will also include the reading of all Officer and Delegate Reports; Reports from those who attended any FCSU Events, Picnics, and Mass at the Shrine in DC for Our Mother of Sorrows Feast Day and the Festival at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Discussions will be held on Branch Business, Charitable Donations, review of 2023 Activities, and plans for 2024.

For information and to RSVP your attendance on January 7th, 2024, and likewise for the ZOOM on January 14, 2024, please e-mail John Gaydos, john@johngaydos.com, to request the ZOOM Invitation Link. If you plan to attend the Vilija or for any other questions you may call or text President

Erik Payne's Cell Phone, (215) 280- 1554, or call Helena Gaydos at (215) 613-8987.

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

Dakujem s pozdravom,

Submitted by **Helena T. Gaydos, Recording Secretary-Treasurer**

BRANCH 89 - MENOMONEE FALLS, WI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS MEETING:

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 162-UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 9:00a.m. at Shoney's Restaurant, 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA. All members of the branch are invited to attend by calling Secretary Dolores Marmol for reservations for yourself and your guest at 724-437-4983.

Officers' reports will be given and discussion will follow regarding branch activities, charitable; donations, and upcoming events for 2024. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the FCSU Scholarships being offered for Catholic Grade Schools and High Schools, vocational and trade schools, colleges and grad schools.

Wishing everyone a prosperous and blessed New Year.

Submitted by **Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PA

The Officers and Board of Directors want to wish all of our members and their families a very healthy, wealthy blessed "New Year".

We welcome all members to attend our meetings the 1st Thursday of each month except June & July. Call me @ 724-763-9229 or email me @ vschaub123@gmail.com for any details or suggestions of what you would like to see happen in 2024.

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

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OH

Branch 228 is participating in the District 10 fraternal event of attending a Cleveland Monsters Hockey game on Saturday March 23, 2024, 7:00 PM at Rocket Mortgage Field House in downtown Cleveland. Branch 228 members who participate will receive a free ticket for themselves and one (1) guest if they choose to do so. Reservations are required and MUST be made by Thursday February 15, 2024.

Please call Lisa at 440-773-1442 to make your reservation.

Submitted by **Thomas Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 254 - PITTSBURGH, PA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annu-

al meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 12:30pm at Panera's restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers, report of activities and the year-end financial report. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

Submitted by **Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. at 175 Harvey St., Struthers, Ohio.

We will conduct an Audit and discuss activities for 2024. The members are invited and encouraged to attend.

On behalf of all the officers WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Submitted by **Beverly Yurcisin, Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 260 - COITSVILLE, OH

On behalf of all the officers, we want to wish all of our members and their families a very healthy and happy new year! Our meetings for 2024 will be as follows: Thursday March 14th, Thursday September 12th, and Thursday December 5th (this will be our election of officers meeting and holiday celebration). All of our meetings begin at 5:00pm and are held at Belleria Restaurant in Struthers, Ohio. Hope to see all of you in the coming year and God Bless!

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

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will conduct its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2024, in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Auditors will meet at 12:30 P.M. to check the books. Officers and members will gather for the business session at 1:00 P.M.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and auditors. Members will also discuss future branch activities. Information from the home office will be disseminated.

A copy of the Annual Report to the Home Office will be presented.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend. Please contact Branch President Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570-334-3854 by Wednesday, February 28, to confirm your attendance and to allow for arrangements.

Other branch officers are 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 450 - CLEVELAND, OH

Branch 450 is providing special Branch 450 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7:00PM), March 23, 2024, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$25.00. A Branch 450 member ticket is \$5.00. Reservations are required and available by calling George Carny at 440-885-5702. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted by **George Carny, President**

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OH

Happy New Year - wishing you a year filled with God's continued blessings, health and family fun.

Mark your calendar for the following events:

Jan. 17 Wed. Meatloaf Dinner - RESERVA-

TIONS REQUIRED - by January 15 call 330-786-9972. Meal served from 4:30-6:30 pm Limited to 70 dinners

Jan. 28 Sun. Breakfast Buffet - served 9:00-11:45 am

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

Feb. 16 Fri. First Fish Fry of the Lenten Season - Served 4:30 - 7:00 pm (served every Friday thru Good Friday)

Feb. 21 Wed. Pork Chop Dinner - served 4:30 - 6.30 pm RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by Feb. 19 Limited to 70 dinners (330-786-9972)

Looking forward to sharing fellowship with you in 2024-bring your family and friends to enjoy our activities

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

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OH

Branch 553 is providing special Branch 553 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7:00PM), March 23, 2024, Monsters hockey game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$25.00. A Branch 553 member ticket is \$10.00. Reservations are required and available by calling Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Order now and join other FCSU District 10 members in this family-friendly event of fun and fraternalism.

Submitted by **Linda Hanko, Secretary**

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OH

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Friday, January 12th, 2024 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will include the assembly of the branch annual report.

Submitted by **Drew Hirt, President**

BRANCH 716- NEW YORK, NY

Happy New Year to all branch members! The St. Stephen Society Branch 716 will hold its first semi-annual meeting of the year 2024 on Sunday, March 17, 2024. 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 financial report updates and discussion of branch activities and any events for the new year. 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 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The Home Office and Branch 743 are unable to contact the following members because we do not have their current address:

John Bacha(a)
Louise M Cassar
Natalia Greslikova
Christine Harman
Elizabeth Harman
Judith Likavec
Judith Madar
Ann Moss
Diane F Rench
Daniel M Reszka
Joseph Tribosondi

(a) Passed away Sept. 8, 2006 survived by son John Jr, daughter Carolyn, addresses unknown.

If you have information, or know of someone who might help, please contact me @ 248-714-9620 or josephrimarcik@gmail.com

Submitted by **Joseph Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 10, 2024, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30am for all

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All new DISTRICT Announcements should be sent to district@fcsu.com

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT- PA

The George Onda District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2024, after the 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church at 4263 Route 981 in Mt Pleasant, PA. We will meet in the Social Hall to plan for the coming year and receive news from our branches. Food and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to me via email prior to March 27, 2024 at: HYPERLINK "mailto:vicki15@zoominternet.com"vicki15@zoominternet.com. We look forward to a great turnout!

Submitted by Darlene Patty, Vice President

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Shoney's at 285 McClellandtown Road, Uniontown, PA. The election of officers for will be held. Regional Director James Marmol will be informing the members of upcoming Jednota events.

Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, February 26, 2024, by contacting District President James Marmol at 724-970-7642. All members are urged to attend.

Submitted by Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA OKRES – CANADA

The Monsignor Michael Shuba District will hold their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall at 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga. Elections of Officers will take place and lunch is to be served.

We will review the past 6 months and what future events are to come to the end of the year. Please RSVP attendance to Mike Kapitan at 416-621 1354.

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 16

living and deceased members at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day.

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

Any member who has recently moved or requires a beneficiary update should contact the Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620 or email: josephrimarcik@gmail.com.

No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

Submitted by Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ON

Branch 785 Mississauga Canada will hold their Annual General Meeting on Sunday January 14, 2024 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga. There will be an Election of Officers and lunch is to be served.

We will review the past 6 months and what future events are to come to the end of the year. Please RSVP attendance to Milan Zoldak at 647 350 0604

Submitted by Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EQYPT, PA

Branch 796 will hold their semi-annual meeting February 25, 2024. Meeting will convene at 1:00pm, Holy Trinity Roman Catholic located at 4456 Main St. Whitehall, PA 18052.

We urge all members to attend. We would love to see some new faces and meet other members who regularly attend meetings.

Stay Safe! Stay Strong! God Bless!

Submitted by Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853K – CHARLEROI, PA

Attention Members of Branch 853: The branch is planning to attend the discussion of the Egg Decorating on February 5, 2024 at the Mt Lebanon Library, Mt Lebanon Pennsylvania. We will assemble at the library in Meeting Room A at 6:45pm. If you are planning to attend, please leave a message at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com so we will have an idea of attendance numbers.

Submitted by Monica R Boone, President

BRANCH 855 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 855 is providing special members-only pricing for all of our Branch 855 members who want to join us on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 7:00pm for a Monsters Hockey Game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in downtown Cleveland, OH. A Branch 855 member will receive a FREE ticket. Your guest ticket, should you like to bring one, will be \$10.00. Only one guest per member. Any additional non-branch member ticket will be \$25.00. Reservations are required and available by calling Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director Stephanie Sutilla at 440-409-9405 or by email at fcsu855@gmail.com. The deadline to order tickets is February 15, 2024. Order now as there are a limited number of tickets available. Can't wait to see you there!

Submitted by Stephanie Sutilla, Fraternal Activities Director



Branch 670 Announces 2024 Scholarship

Branch #670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2024 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 30, 2024

Submitted by Joe Matinko, President

Branch 844 Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form

Deadline For Nomination: April 1st

-Rules and Regulations-

Purpose:

Branch 844 Los Angeles, CA, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" at their December 2023 meeting in an effort to set incentives for the contributions of youth and to enhance Slovak Heritage awareness. The contest is open to all Branch 844 Members 18 years of age and under.

Rationale:

The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these three areas:

1. School work and sports
2. In their community or Branch
3. In their church

Nomination:

Youth Members can be nominated by an adult Branch Member. A document detailing the qualifications of the youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Branch 844 office along with a min. 500-word essay about "Why is your Slovak heritage important to you?". A youth Member may be nominated each year up to and including their eighteenth birthday. Nomination forms are available through the Branch 844 office: slovakamericancenter@gmail.com

Deadline:

Nominations must be sent to the Branch 844 office by April 1st of each year.

Judging:

An independent judge, appointed by Branch 844 President, will review all nominations and decide the winner. Branch 844 President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

Award:

The following awards will be given out to the top three nominees: \$500 First Place, \$300 Second Place, \$100 Third Place.

The following must be signed by the nominating Member:

I wish to nominate _____ to receive the Branch 844 "Youth Achievement Award" for outstanding service in their school work, community, church, local Branch, and min. 500-word essay about "Why is your Slovak heritage important to you?". I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Youth Achievement Award" due to their service in above categories.

FCSU Member or Branch Officer

Branch #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE BRANCH 844 OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winners of the "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified by the Branch 844 office.

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Joseph Novak	162K	Ruthann Zerecheck	367K	Evelyn A Hovanec	743K	Sharon Langlois
002K	Maria Rikk	162K	Ted Nypaver Sr	382K	John Moses	746K	Jeffrey A Tracy
005P	Helen Madar	166K	John J Semo	393K	Elizabeth S Cam	746K	Timothy Adametz
006K	Francis D Uhren	166K	William Misata	393K	Jacob Zachary Valego	796K	Anna H Bankos
006K	Mary E West	169P	Lois Fleming	401K	Edna Tuschak	831K	Andrew M Cingle
019K	Joan A Bisson	173K	Anthony J Kalmanowicz	402K	Mavis Minjares	855K	Dorothy A Janosik
024K	John F Janosik Jr	181K	Kenneth F Poklembo	587K	William Bubonic	855K	Rose T Ondo
024K	Norman G Birosh	181K	Marlene G Poklembo	618K	Lorraine Mihalcin	900K	Rose Ann Walsh
038K	Evelyn Marie Pasternak	198P	John G Fedorko	652K	Margaret Hendershot	924K	Andrew A Kachmar
045K	Anna Valazza	199K	Joseph L Sprock	652K	Sophie M Swartz-Soltis	926K	Darlene J Naze
045K	Darlene M Fata	200K	Michael W Carlson	706K	Karen A Rogers		
055K	Wilfred March	215K	Richele Vitek	731K	Thomas R Machingo Sr		
152K	Elizabeth Stanaitis	293K	Florence E Zaba	733K	Stephen Joseph Hurni		
157K	Dorothy Baer	320K	Agnes P Backner	735K	Jennie A Broyles		

* Processed in the month of December 2023

Nekrológy – Obituaries

WILFRED C. MARCH JR., BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

Wilfred C. March Jr., 64, passed away October 23, 2023 at the Abington Hospital. He was a son of Frances (Ondo) and the late Wilfred C. March Sr.

Wilfred enjoyed watching Nascar and fishing. He leaves behind his memories to be cherished by his loving mother.

Wilfred is predeceased by his father.

Submitted by Frances March

EVELYN MARIE PASTERNAK, BRANCH 38K – WHITE OAK, PA

Evelyn Marie Pasternak, age 90, of White Oak, died on Monday, November 20, 2023. She was born in Rankin on February 8, 1933 and was the daughter of the late Thomas and Marie Butcher Begg. She was the wife of the late John Stephen Pasternak, who died on November 26, 2019. Evelyn retired after 35 years from Koppers, Inc. as the office manager. She was a member of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Swissvale. Her favorite pastimes were reading, going on trips to various casinos, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her son, David Pasternak of White Oak; sisters, Mildred (the late Donald) Rendulic of Murrysville; Frances (the late Michael) Leschak of Baldwin; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

Submitted by David Pasternak

EDNA MAE (KELLY) TUSCHAK, BRANCH 401 - NORTH APOLLO, PA

Edna Mae (Kelly) Tuschak, 94, of New Kensington and Naples, FL, died Wednesday, November 1, 2023, on All Saints' Day.

Born January 4, 1929, in Pittsburgh, to the late Arthur J. and Josephine (Petrosky) Kelly, Edna Mae graduated from Ken-Hi in 1946.

Edna Mae worked as an Office Manager at Westmoreland County Data Center. She served on the Board of Trustees for the Westmoreland County Community College. Edna Mae had a keen interest for politics. She served as a Democratic Committee Woman in New Kensington and also as a State Democratic Committee Woman. She also attended two Democratic Presidential

Conventions as an alternate and a delegate and was a member of the League of Women Voters.

She was a lifelong member of St. Mary of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church of New Kensington. She enjoyed gardening, feeding the birds, playing cards, and like a true Pittsburgher, cheering on the Steelers and Penguins.

Edna Mae spent most winters in Naples, FL as a "snowbird" and enjoyed swimming in the pool and having a margarita on the lanai. She was the "Queen of Winterpark" and will be missed by her friends.

Her family will always remember her famous breaded pork chops and blueberry pancakes. Her favorite meal was spaghetti and meatballs, with the requirement that it was piping hot. She kept Dairy Queen® in business with her love for a Dilly Bar® in the evening.

She was overjoyed to be alive to see the births of her great-grandchildren. She had the most wonderful neighbors who were always there if she needed them.

A special thank you to her primary care physician, Dr. X. Helen Wang and the compassionate doctors and nurses at Forbes Regional Hospital who cared for her in her final days.

Surviving are her children, Frank J. (Kim) Tuschak Jr., of Dillsburg, Mary Ann Whalen, of Forty Fort, and Susan Burer (Jim Aungst), of Leeper; two grandchildren, Kate (Neal) Martin and Joe Kelly (Emily) Tuschak; three great-grandchildren, Cooper, Quinn and Brooks; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Frank J. Tuschak; a daughter in infancy, Lorraine Tuschak; and brothers Richard and Leonard.

Submitted by Susan Burer

THOMAS RICHARD MACHINGO SR., BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Thomas Richard Machingo Sr. passed away at 2:23 a.m. on November 8, 2023, after a long battle with congestive heart disease.

Thomas Sr. was born on June 21, 1933 in Youngstown, Ohio. One of 9 children born to Martin and Mary Machingo, he attended

Holy Cross School and upon leaving school took up the sheet metal trade. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, being honorably discharged in 1953.

He married his childhood sweetheart Alice Maletsky on June 9, 1956. It was a loving marriage that lasted 59 years before Alice passed away in 2015.

Thomas and Alice had 4 sons during that time – Thomas Richard Jr. (b. 1959), Ronald Andrew (b. 1960), Jeffrey David (b. 1964 – d. 2015), and Todd Anthony (b. 1969).

In 1963 the family relocated from Youngstown, Ohio to the Los Angeles area of Southern California, where he went to work for Meadows Sheet Metal, rising through the ranks of tin knockers to Fore-

man and retiring in 1990.

In 1987 Thomas and Alice relocated again to Murrieta, California, where they spent their remaining years.

He is survived by his sons Thomas Jr., Ronald and Todd, granddaughters Kelly, Jessie, Kayla and Fatima, brothers George Machingo of Norfolk, Virginia, Andrew Machingo of Buena Park, California, Steve Machingo of Youngstown, Ohio, and sister Finney Cayer of Hilmar, California, in addition to numerous nieces and nephews.

Thomas and Alice will be interred together at Laurel Cemetery in Murrieta, California on December 18, 2023 next to their son Jeffrey, who preceded them in death.

Submitted by Thomas Machingo Jr.

Are your FCSU Beneficiaries up to date?



Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at:

1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

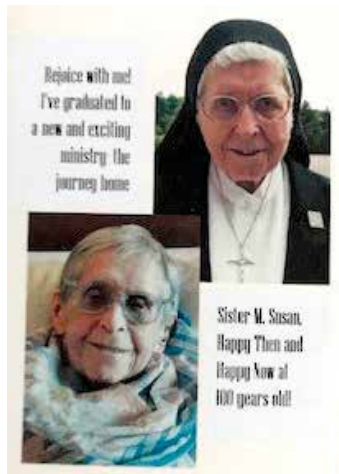
Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

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Sister M. Susan Polchin, SS.C.M.



"The Lord has done great things for me, and holy is God's name." Luke 1:49

We thought a Sister who is one hundred years old could have some good advice for any young girl willing to listen. Sister M. Susan, SS.C.M. says, "If you feel God is calling you, DARE TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW. It is a decision you will never regret."

Sister Susan has graciously told us about her life. It is long and full of wisdom which she has shared willingly because she wants to make sure we know God is good and loves us, his children, a great deal.

Sister Susan has told us she came from a large and loving family, the second youngest of nine children whose mom and dad were Susan and George Polchin. "I had five brothers, George, Joseph, Andrew, John, and Edward; three sisters, Margaret, Catherine and Emily. I was baptized Mary Margaret

in Holy Trinity Slovak, our parish church in Hazleton, PA."

"Our family's strong faith enabled us to deal with the hardships we endured over the years. When I was only eleven, my dad was killed in the mines. Later my mom at the age of 62 had a stroke and required constant care."

As a member of the Sodality at Holy Trinity, I got the idea it would be good to reward the sodalists who had perfect attendance at meetings with certificates. The information I needed was in the hands of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius who taught at St. Joseph School. Certainly, it was God's Providence that led me to the convent on Laurel Street where I met the superior, Sister Philip. Without any hesitation, Sister asked me if I had given any thought to becoming a Sister myself. She had no hesitation either in encouraging me to think about religious life. Later when I did apply and was accepted, Sister Festina was the Cyrilite who accompanied me to Geisinger in Danville for my physical examination. I still remember Sister Festina who was the "house Sister" at St. Joseph's Convent, who made delicious cookies, she was willing to share with a young prospective Sister.

I attended the local public schools for my elementary and secondary education. When I was a sophomore in 1939, I attended a Reception and Profession ceremony at Villa Sacred Heart, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. This ceremony marked a turning point in my life. I began to think seriously about becoming a Sister. After I had graduated from high school in 1941, I worked in a factory to help the family. Though at one time I had considered remaining at home and holding a job, my mother made it clear she was delighted with my choice of religious life and gave me her blessing.

In 1946, I became a postulant. When I made my first profession, my mother was there, but five months before my final profession, God called her to Himself. After I had professed the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, I was assigned to teach at St. Cyril Academy where I taught physical education and also gave violin lessons. My next assignment was at St. Mary's in Shamokin, PA. After three years the school closed and I went to St. Ann's in Binghamton, NY as teacher and principal. In 1974 while there I celebrated my Silver Jubilee. I remained in Binghamton but taught for four years at St. Cyril's. I experienced quite a change when I went to St. Andrew's in Waynesboro, PA where I spent six years as principal. In Binghamton there were many churches, seventeen elementary schools and two high schools. I did ultimately get accustomed to living in a small town with only one church and one Catholic school.

In 2008 I was delighted to return to Waynesboro to celebrate the centennial of St. Andrew's Church. I stayed in Pennsylvania at St. Catherine Laboure School in Harrisburg for three years before moving on to Holy Trinity School in Perth Amboy, New Jersey where I taught four years before the school closed.

When I returned to Broome County in New York, I became a computer teacher for grades K-3 at St. Joseph School in Endicott. I also took on the role of parish minister at St. Ann's in Binghamton and visited the homebound and parishioners in nursing homes and hospitals. A few volunteers from the Altar Rosary Society and I started a bereavement group to help parishioners plan their loved ones' funeral liturgies. In June 2004, the three churches in Binghamton, St. Stanislaus, St. Ann, and St. Joseph, merged. Two Sisters visited nursing homes and I visited shut-ins and hospital patients. We also had a Sister who devoted herself to liturgical and youth ministry as well as Adult Education/RCIA. Besides my other parish activities, I took care of the altars, changed the vigil and votive lights, and cleaned the sanctuary. During my active ministry I was always edified by the parishioners' faith in God and their patience in illness. I was sustained in my ministry by my participation in the Eucharist.

When I went to live at Maria Hall, I took my turn as receptionist. Through phone ministry I was able to keep in touch with the people I had once ministered to in Binghamton.

We have all heard the expression "The family that prays together stays together." We as a congregation can take that saying to heart. Praying together as a religious congregation gives us hope for the future of religious life.

For relaxation I enjoy watching a good game of football, basketball, or baseball on the sports channel. At one time it was also a pleasure to have a pinochle game with the Sisters. When I had the opportunity to visit home, I played pinochle with my sisters, Margaret, Emily, and Catherine. When the Dominican Sisters took up residence at Maria Hall, I asked Sister Anne Renee and her sister to teach me how to play canasta. While the Dominicans lived at Maria Hall, I gave up watching TV and joined them for a game of canasta.

Since I have a talent for music, I can still recall the many times I spent playing the violin for liturgies, prayer services, socials, and Sisters' jubilee celebrations. I also joined other Sisters who went caroling to the homes of parishioners and to the local hospital. When I needed a break from more serious duties, I played the harmonica.

Let me close by sharing with you my two favorite quotations: "You have not chosen me, I have chosen you," and "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in Me." These quotations are a mainstay in my endeavor to lead a holy life, one that directs all my thoughts and actions to following the good Lord.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

The Seed Planted in St. Paul's Heart

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

January 25th is the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, when we commemorate a monumental event in the life of the early Christian Church. Occurring in the years immediately following Christ's death and resurrection, Paul's conversion happened abruptly, but its effects have remained with us ever since, resounding throughout the centuries and speaking to humanity of the astounding power of God to intervene in our lives.

It happened on the Road to Damascus, where Paul was on his way to capture Christians and bring them to Jerusalem for punishment. Just before entering the city to terrorize the followers of Christ, Paul was met with a flash of light and fell from his horse. Jesus then spoke to him, saying, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Paul was blind for three days after that miraculous encounter, until Jesus appeared in a dream to one of the Christians of Damascus telling him to go to Paul. The man went and laid his hands on Paul, who was healed in the name of Jesus. He was baptized, became part of the Christian community, and went on to become the greatest evangelist of his time.

It's interesting to note that Saint Stephen's martyrdom laid the groundwork for Paul's conversion because something happened at that event to plant a seed in Paul's heart, a seed just waiting to grow once he discovered Christ. Paul was present at the stoning of Saint Stephen, when the great apostle gave witness to the depths of his faith by forgiving his attackers even as they put him to death. As a figure in authority, Paul may have ordered the execution or was overseeing it in some manner, and one can only imagine the lingering effect Stephen's act of forgiveness would have had on Paul and others involved.

Looking at these key points in time bracketing the conversion of Saint Paul—from the seed of forgiveness planted in his heart at Saint Stephen's stoning, and culminating with the healing intervention of a follower of Christ—we see a dynamic that has played out repeatedly ever since the Holy Spirit was given to the Church after the Resurrection. This dynamic that comes to life so vividly in the story of Paul's conversion is rooted in the reality that God desires to work through each one of us. This is why Christ came into the world, to enter the struggle of humanity in the most intimate and sacrificial way.

In working through us, Christ calls us to witness to each other, like Saint Stephen's witness of forgiveness. And He calls us to go to each other on healing missions in the way His follower from Damascus went to Paul. These witnesses were joined to the miraculous intervention of Christ on the Road to Damascus to help inspire Paul to spend the rest of his life providing witness to others through preaching so exquisite, it is handed down to us as part of Sacred Scripture itself.

Paul witnessed to us in the way he lived after his conversion and right up to the way he died, following in the footsteps of Saint Stephen as a holy martyr of the Church, giving up his life to join with the other martyrs and Christ Himself in becoming the seed that produces good and lasting fruits. May Saint Paul intercede for us and inspire us daily to take up our cross and follow Christ.

Jednota Publication Schedule for 2024

Copy Deadline Date:

Issue Date:

Monday, Feb. 5

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Monday, March 4

Wednesday, March 13

Monday, April 1

Wednesday, April 10

Monday, April 29

Wednesday, May 8

Monday, June 3

Wednesday, June 12

Monday, July 1

Wednesday, July 10

Monday, Aug. 5

Wednesday, Aug. 14

Tuesday, Sept. 3

Wednesday, Sept. 11

Monday, Sept. 30

Wednesday, Oct. 9

Monday, Nov. 4

Wednesday, Nov. 13

Monday, Dec. 2

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Nová publikácia Matice slovenskej venovaná životu a dielu Mons. Františka Jozefa Fugu

V roku 2023 sa v jubileách krajanského kalendára skvelo najmä meno Františka Jozefa Fugu (pôvodným menom Fugu). Významný rodák z Vinného (okr. Michalovce) je časti slovenskej verejnosti známy najmä ako kňaz, neúnavný vydavateľ, editor, redaktor, tlačiar a agitátor slovenského života na severoamerickom kontinente, autor návrhu jednej z podôb slovenskej zástavy a tretí predseda Zahraničnej Matice slovenskej. I napriek obrovským pronárodným zásluhám, Slováci tohto exulanta takmer nepoznajú.

Matica slovenská si ho cielene pripomína už takmer tri desaťročia, od čias keď nadviazala prvé kontakty so Zahraničnou Maticou slovenskou. Pri príležitosti stého výročia jeho narodenia, 7. júna 2023, si Matica slovenská sprítomnila jeho život a dielo vedeckým podujatím vo svojom ústredí v Martine. V týchto dňoch zo seminára vydala zborníkové dielo.

Úvodným príspevkom je príhovor jeho zostavovateľky, Zuzany Pavelcovej, ktorá približuje dôvody konania pripomenky života a diela Fugu a vzniku zborníka. Zaoberá sa priebehom vedeckého seminára, z ktorého toto dielo vzniklo a sumarizuje aktivity Matice slovenskej venované tejto osobnosti. Prvý príhovor patrí predsedovi Matice slovenskej, Mariánovi Gešperovi, ktorý čitateľa upriamuje na cyrilo-metodské súvislosti v paralelách života a diela Františka J. Fugu, historicky tretieho a v jeho hodnotení najúspešnejšieho predsedu Zahraničnej Matice slovenskej.

Osobná spomienka Jozefa Rydla je memoárom zachytávajúcím súkromné prepojenia autora príspevku a osobnosťou Fugu. Autor spomína na počiatkové kontakty s Fugovým dielom, ktoré viedli až k prvým spoločným stretnutiam. Príspevok synovca Františka Jozefa Fugu, Františka Cupáka, prináša Fugov podrobný životopis vystavaný nielen na archívnych a knižných dokumentoch, ale i na osobných spomienkach, ktoré získal pri svojej návšteve kanadského Hamiltonu. Zaoberá sa jeho rodinnou genézou, obdobím detstva, štúdiami, odchodom do emigrácie, kňazským a pracovným poslaním i životnými osudmi. Osobitne sa venuje jeho návrhu slovenskej zástavy. Zuzana Pavelcová vo svojom príspevku prináša ďalšie doplnenie životných osudov F. J. Fugu. Zameriava sa na jeho vydavateľskú činnosť, históriu a aktivity Zahraničnej Matice slovenskej pod jeho vedením súvisiace. Približuje aktivity Matice slovenskej a občanov obce Vinné v oblasti zachovania Fugovej trvalej pamiatky. Štúdia Beáty Katrebovej Blehovej sa orientuje na dva rozmery vzťahov Františka Jozefa Fugu s vtedajšou najvýznamnejšou exilovou organizáciou – Svetovým kongresom Slovákov (SKS). V prvej línii sa zaoberá sa jeho individuálnym vkladom a jeho osobnými funkciami v orgánoch SKS. V ďalšej časti hodnotí zmysel členstva Zahraničnej Matice slovenskej pod vedením F. J. Fugu.

Pôsobenie F. J. Fugu medzi gréckokatolíckimi v Kanade mapuje príspevok Daniela Černého. Autor sa venuje najmä jeho činnosti po kňazskej vysviacke a jeho náboženským aktivitám. Nazerá na jeho činnosť komplexne s dôrazom na duchovnú a vydavateľskú činnosť. Časť príspevku je venovaná i chrámu v Hamiltone.

Dielo recenzovali ThLic. Viliam Komora, PhD. a Mgr. Jaroslav Durec, PhD. Vzniklo v spolupráci s PhDr. Evou Čulenovou, PhD. z Vydavateľstva SIGNIS, ktorá zabezpečila jazykovú korektúru a grafický dizajn publikácie. O preklad resumé sa postaral Mgr. Peter Schvantner. Z posudku J. Dureca vyberáme: „Zborník príspevkov o živote a diele Františka Jozefa Fugu je momentálne žiadaným dielom, nakoľko sa dnes jedná o pomerne už neznámu osobnosť národných dejín. Po prečítaní zborníka získajú čitatelia cenné informácie o osobnosti Františka Jozefa Fugu a v spojitosti s jeho životom a dielom taktiež o spoločensko-politickom kontexte, v ktorom žil a pracoval. Aj z toho dôvodu odporúčame zborník všetkým záujemcom, ktorí sa zameriavajú na problematiku Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a chcú sa o tom dozvedieť, čo najviac.“

V prípade záujmu o objednanie publikácie nám napíšte na: periodika@matica.sk

Zuzana Pavelcová

New Publication of Matica Slovenská Dedicated to the Life and Work of Mons. Franz Joseph Fuga

In 2023, the name of Frantisek Jozef Fuga (original name Fugu) especially became known in the jubilees of the compatriot calendar. A prominent native of Vinné (district of Michalovce), he is known to the Slovak public mainly as a priest, tireless publisher, editor and agitator of Slovak life on the North American continent, author of the design of one of the forms of the Slovak flag and third chairman of Foreign Matica slovenská. Despite his enormous pro-national merits, Slovaks hardly know this exiles.

Matica slovenská has been purposefully commemorating him for almost three decades, since the time when it established its first contacts with Foreign Matica slovenska. On the occasion of the centenary of his birth, on June 7, 2023, Matica slovenská presented his life and work with a scientific event at its headquarters in Martin. These days she published a collection of proceedings from the seminary.

The introductory speech is a speech by its composer, Zuzana Pavelcová, who explains the reasons for holding a reminder of the life and work of Fuga and the creation of the proceedings. It deals with the course of the scientific seminar from which this work originated and summarizes the activities of Matica slovenská dedicated to this personality. The first speech belongs to the chairman of Matica slovenská, Marián Gešper, who draws the reader's attention to the Cyrillo-Methodian context in parallels between the life and work of František J. Fuga, historically the third and in his evaluation of the most successful chairman of Foreign Matica slovenská.

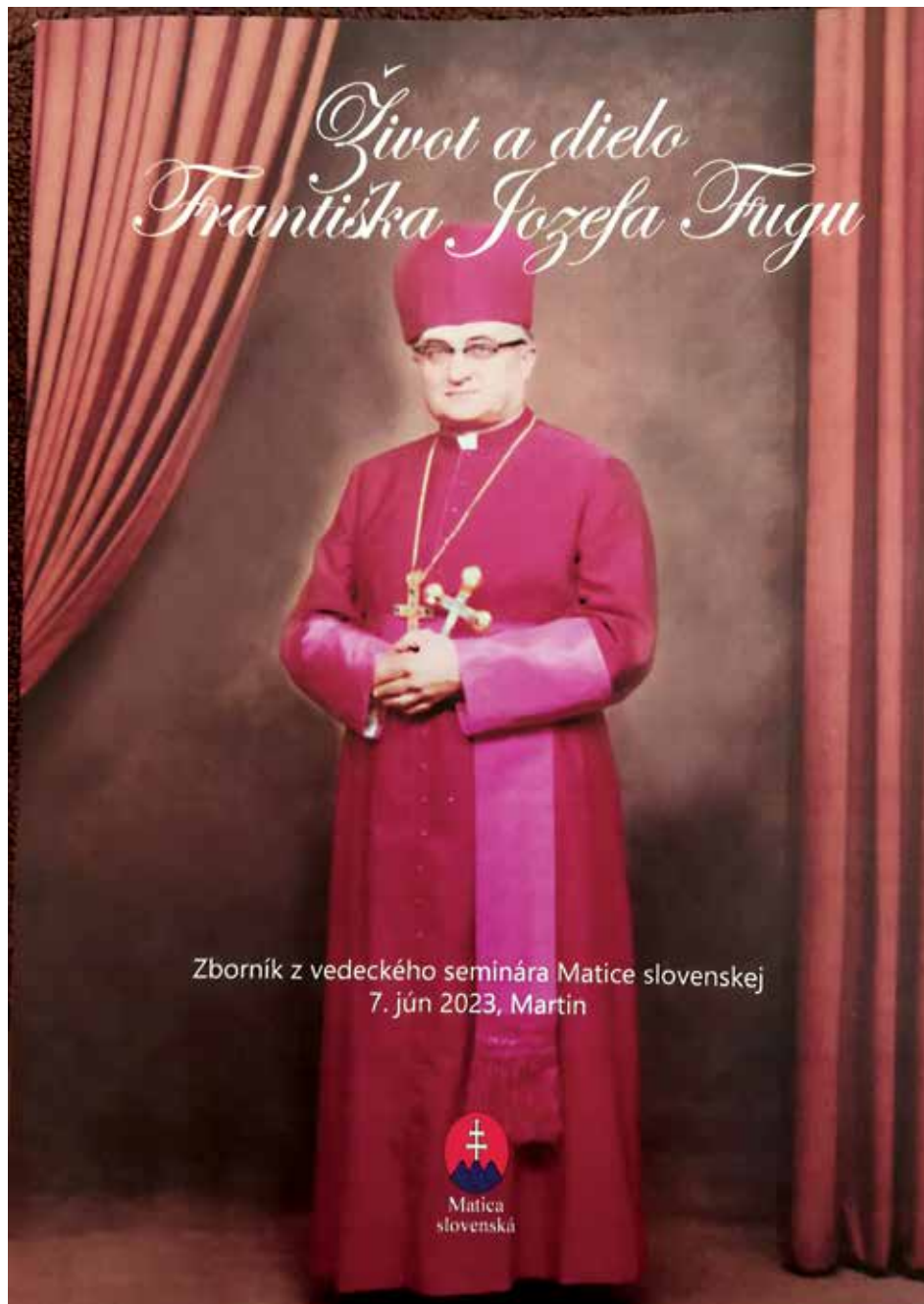
The personal memoir of Jozef Rydla is a memoir capturing the private connections of the author of the paper and the personality of Fuga. The author recalls the initial contacts with Fuga's work, which led to the first joint meetings. The contribution of Frantisek Jozef Fuga's nephew, František Cupák, brings Fuga's detailed biography based not only on archival and book documents, but also on personal memories he gained during his visit to Hamilton, Canada. It deals with his family genesis, the period of childhood, studies, emigration, priestly and professional missions and life destinies. He is particularly concerned with his design of the Slovak flag. In her contribution, Zuzana Pavelcová brings further addition to the life fates of F. J. Fuga. It focuses on his publishing activities, history and related activities of Foreign Matica slovenská under his leadership. Explains the activities of the Matica slovenska and citizens of the village of Vinné in the area of preservation of Fuga's permanent monument. Beáta Katrebová Blehová's study focuses on two dimensions of František Jozef Fuga's relations with the then most important organization in exile – the World Congress of Slovaks (SKS). On the front line, it deals with his individual input and his personal functions in the bodies of the JCG. In the next part, he evaluates the meaning of membership of Foreign Matica slovenská under the leadership of F. J. Fuga.

The activity of F. J. Fuga among Greek Catholics in Canada is mapped by the contribution of Daniel Černý. The author focuses mainly on his activities after his ordination to the priesthood and his religious activities. It views its activities comprehensively with an emphasis on spiritual and publishing activities. Part of the paper is also devoted to the Hamilton Temple. The work was reviewed by ThLic. Viliam Komora, PhD. and Mgr. Jaroslav Durec, PhD. It was created in cooperation with PhDr. Eva Čulenová, PhD. from the SIGNIS Publishing House, who provided the language proofreading and graphic design of the publication. The summary was translated by Mgr. Peter Schvantner. From the testimonial of J. Durec we select: "The collection of contributions on the life and work of Franz Jozef Fuga is currently a sought-after work, as today he is a relatively unknown figure in national history. After reading the proceedings, readers will gain valuable information about the personality of František Jozef Fuga and, in connection with his life and work, also about the socio-political context in which he lived and worked. For this reason, we recommend the proceedings to all those who focus on the issue of Slovaks living abroad and want to learn as much as possible about it."

The work was reviewed by ThLic. Viliam Komora, PhD. and Mgr. Jaroslav Durec, PhD. It was created in cooperation with PhDr. Eva Čulenová, PhD. from the SIGNIS Publishing House, who provided the language proofreading and graphic design of the publication. The summary was translated by Mgr. Peter Schvantner. From the testimonial of J. Durec we select: "The collection of contributions on the life and work of Franz Jozef Fuga is currently a sought-after work, as today he is a relatively unknown figure in national history. After reading the proceedings, readers will gain valuable information about the personality of František Jozef Fuga and, in connection with his life and work, also about the socio-political context in which he lived and worked. For this reason, we recommend the proceedings to all those who focus on the issue of Slovaks living abroad and want to learn as much as possible about it."

If you are interested in ordering a publication, please write to us at: periodika@matica.sk

Zuzana Pavelcová



News from Slovakia - Správy zo Slovenska

Prezidentka vymenovala za rektora Akadémie ozbrojených síl A. Sabóa

Bratislava 18. decembra (TASR) - Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová vymenovala v pondelok za nového rektora Akadémie ozbrojených síl generála M. R. Štefánika v Liptovskom Mikuláši Aurela Sabóa. Novému rektorovi zaželala úspešné pôsobenie na čele elitnej školy.

“Realita na východ od našich hraníc potvrdzuje, že mier a bezpečnosť nie sú samozrejmosťou. Sú to hodnoty, ktoré treba chrániť. Okrem iného odbornou pripravenosťou, dostatočným finančným či personálnym zabezpečením a v neposlednom rade aj úsilím jednotlivcov a inštitúcií. Akadémia ozbrojených síl v tomto zohráva životne dôležitú úlohu, a to kladie veľké nároky a zodpovednosť aj na vás osobne,” uviedla v príhovore prezidentka.

Akadémia sa za 50 rokov svojej existencie podľa prezidentky vyprofilovala na špičkovú vysokoškolskú vzdelávaciu inštitúciu, ktorá vychováva budúcich ochrancov bezpečnosti. “Preto je mimoriadne dôležité, že vaši poslucháči získavajú nielen nové vedomosti, ale formujú aj svoj charakter, oddanosť k demokratickým hodnotám a vlastenectvo,” vyhlásila hlava štátu.

Ako skonštatovala prezidentka, vzácnu súhrnu odborných aj ľudských kvalít potvrdzuje aj osobný príbeh nového rektora, ktorý podľa nej dokázal skĺbiť vojenský výcvik s vedeckou prácou. Vyzdvihla, že sa venuje komunikačným a informačným systémom. Hovorí o kľúčovej oblasti pre obranyschopnosť ozbrojených síl v 21. storočí.

Vo funkcii rektora dosiaľ pôsobil Jozef Puttera.



Na snímke vľavo nový rektor Akadémie ozbrojených síl generála M. R. Štefánika v Liptovskom Mikuláši Aurel Sabó počas jeho menovania prezidentkou SR Zuzanou Čaputovou (vpravo) v Prezidentskom paláci 18. decembra 2023 v Bratislave. Foto: TASR

The President appointed A. Sabó as Rector of the Academy of the Armed Forces

Bratislava, December 18 (TASR) - President Zuzana Čaputová on Monday appointed Aurel Sabó as the new rector of the Academy of the Armed Forces in Liptovský Mikuláš. She wished the new rector a successful tenure at the head of the elite school.

“The reality east of our borders confirms that peace and security are not a given. These are values that must be protected. Among other things, training, sufficient financial and personnel resources and, last but not least, the efforts of individuals and institutions. The Armed Forces Academy plays a vital role in this, and this places great demands and responsibility on you personally,” the president said in her address.

According to the president, in the 50 years of its existence, the academy has profiled itself as a top higher educational institution that educates future security defenders. “Therefore, it is extremely important that your listeners not only acquire new knowledge, but also shape their character, commitment to democratic values and patriotism,” the head of state declared.

As stated by the president, the rare interplay of professional and human qualities is also confirmed by the personal story of the new rector, who, according to her, was able to combine military training with scientific work. She emphasized that she is dedicated to communication and information systems. It speaks of a key area for the defense capabilities of the armed forces in the 21st century.

Until now, Jozef Puttera has served as rector.

Hasiči majú 7 nových zásahových vozidiel do ťažko dostupného terénu

Bratislava/Malacky 4. decembra (TASR) - Hasiči majú sedem nových zásahových vozidiel. Určené sú na zdoľovanie a likvidáciu lesných požiarov v ťažko dostupnom teréne naprieč celým Slovenskom. Novú hasičskú techniku odovzdala v pondelok v Malackách prvá štátna tajomníčka Ministerstva vnútra (MV) SR Lucia Kurilovská a prezident Hasičského a záchranného zboru (HaZZ) Pavol Mikulášek.

“Je to náhradná generácia obdobných vozidiel, ktoré dnes už majú viac ako dvadsať rokov, a preto v najvyššom čase a najvyššej potrebe ich dostávame do výkonu služby,” skonštatoval Mikulášek.

Novú hasičskú techniku si prevzali zástupcovia z Krajského riaditeľstva HaZZ v Trnave, ďalšie boli prerozdelené medzi skupiny západ, stred a východ modulu GFFF-V (Modul pozemného hasenia lesných požiarov).

Tým budú vozidlá strategicky rozmiestnené po celom Slovensku. Cisternová automo-

bilová striekačka je výnimočná vysokým podvozkom a priechodnosťou v teréne, čím je predurčená najmä na zásahy v ťažkom teréne. Typ vozidla sa osvedčil aj pri poskytovaní medzinárodnej pomoci krajinám zasiahnutých rozsiahlymi lesnými požiarmi.

Projekt Posilnenie intervenčných kapacít HaZZ sa realizuje vďaka podpore z Európskeho fondu regionálneho rozvoja v rámci Operačného programu Kvalita životného prostredia. Cena jedného vozidla je 407.160 eur s DPH.



The new MB Unimog fire trucks are pictured during a handover ceremony at the HaZZ Rescue Brigade in Malacky on Monday, December 4, 2023. Photo: TASR

Firefighters have 7 new emergency vehicles for hard-to-reach terrain

Bratislava/Malacky, December 4 (TASR) - Firefighters have seven new emergency vehicles. They are designed to fight and extinguish forest fires in hard-to-reach terrain across Slovakia. The new firefighting equipment was handed over on Monday in Malacky by the First State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior (MV) of the Slovak Republic Lucia Kurilovská and the President of the Fire and Rescue Corps (HaZZ) Pavol Mikulášek.

“It is a replacement generation of similar vehicles, which are now more than twenty years old, and therefore at the highest time and the highest need we get them into service,” said Mikulášek.

The new firefighting equipment was taken over by representatives from the Regional Directorate of HaZZ in Trnava, others were redistributed among the west, central and east groups of the GFFF-V module (Module of Ground Forest Firefighting).

This will place the vehicles strategically throughout Slovakia. The tanker car syringe is exceptional for its high chassis and off-road capability, which makes it ideal especially for interventions in difficult terrain. The type of vehicle has also proven itself in providing international assistance to countries affected by large-scale forest fires.

The project Strengthening the intervention capacities of the HaZZ is implemented thanks to the support from the European Regional Development Fund under the Operational Program Quality of the Environment. The price of one vehicle is 407,160 euros including VAT.

Predsedičkou školského výboru sa stala P. Puškárová

Bratislava 6. decembra (TASR) - Za predsedníčku Výboru Národnej rady (NR) SR pre vzdelávanie, vedu, mládež a šport zvolili poslanci v stredajšom hlasovaní Paulu Puškárovú (Hlas-SD).

Výsledok oznámil v pléne predseda NR SR Peter Pellegrini (Hlas-SD). Zo 130 poslancov za ňu hlasovalo 118.



Pictured, Paula Puškárová (HLAS-SD) takes the oath of office during the 2nd session of parliament in Bratislava on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. Photo: TASR

P. Puškárová became the chairwoman of the school committee

Bratislava, December 6 (TASR) - MEPs elected Paula Puškárová (Hlas-SD) as chair of the National Council's Committee on Education, Science, Youth and Sport in a vote on Wednesday.

The result was announced in plenary by the President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini (Hlas-SD). Out of 130 MEPs, 118 voted in favor.

Minutes Of The Quarterly Meeting Of The Board Of Directors Of The First Catholic Slovak Union Of The USA And Canada September 23, 2023, College Park Marriott

The meeting is being held in College Park Marriott in conjunction with the 58th Anniversary Mass of the dedication of the Our Mother of Sorrows chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

OPEN MEETING:

President Kenneth Arendt called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

READING OF THE CALL:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING JUNE 10, 2023:

A motion was made by Bradley Matta and seconded by Timothy Graves to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting held June 10, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2023:

Executive Secretary's Report
 President Arendt presented the financial summary report for the second 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.

FRATERNAL COMPARISON REPORT:

Rev. Thomas Nasta presented a detailed report to the Board derived from information received from the report given to the Board at the March 2023 meeting from Ed Depersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, LLC. Rev. Nasta's report consisted of comparing the FCSU's assets, surplus, premium income and liabilities with several other fraternal benefit societies.

STATE LICENSING:

The President stated that we are in the process of expanding our marketing base in 10 other states. A study is being conducted to find the states with the largest Slovak population. Once this is finished, we will complete the necessary applications to get licensed in those other states. The Board agreed with this project.

JEDNOTA EDITOR:

The President led a discussion regarding his appointment of the new Jednota Editor, Lucy Connolly. Lucy will work also on increasing our presence on social media, be involved in our rebranding, and updating our website. A motion was made by Thomas Ivanec and seconded by James Marmol to approve the President's appointment. Motion carried.

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 stated that the National Bowling Tournament is being scheduled for the 3rd weekend in April 2024 and the Golf Tournament is being scheduled for the 2nd weekend in July. She is also working on a family golf outing to be held in the Pittsburgh area.

Ms. Fibbi presented suggestions for future fraternal activities; all details will be published in the Jednota.

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.

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

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 he is currently working on advertising with Fox TV and on the radio.

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

REMODELING UPDATE:

The President stated that the Home Office remodeling project is going well but is behind schedule due to lack of materials, cubicles, lights and wallpaper. The project is expected to be completed mid-January. The President asked the Board to approve additional funds needed to complete the project. A motion was made by Bradley Matta and seconded by Gregory Maurer to add additional funds to the budget. Motion carried.

DONATIONS:

All donations were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth A. Arendt
 President

Kevin J. Collins
 Executive Secretary

Minutes Of The Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, November 17, 2023

VIDEOCONFERENCE

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the October 20, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by John Tokarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

Monthly Disbursements

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

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 274,417.00
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 60,568.00
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:

Treasurer John Tokarsky presented his monthly written Treasurer's report and answered the Committee's questions.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The President reviewed the current annuity rates. A motion was made by John Tokarsky and second by Damian Nasta to increase the current annuity rates. Motion carried. The new rates will be in effect January 1, 2024.

8 Year FPDA	4.75%
6 Year FPDA	4.50%
6 Year Fixed	5.00%
Park 2 Annuity	4.50%

OFFICE REMODEL:

The President updated the committee on the Home Office renovations. He will update the committee at the next meeting.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The President stated that our in house marketing team is working with Visia Marketing on rebranding the FCSU logo, updating our website and the Jednota newspaper.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated that the FCSU filed IRS Form 990 for 2022. A copy was sent to the Board of Directors for review.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by John Tokarsky to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Damian Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 President

 Kevin J. Collins
 Executive Secretary

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 15

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

Leave On a Good Note...



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CREATE

- Go to www.fcsu.com
- Click MEMBER LOGIN
- Click **Create Account**
- Enter the required information
- Create your username & password
- Click Create User



VERIFY

- Verify your phone number and click TEXT
- Enter the 4 digit code and click OK
- Congratulations! You've created your account!

LOG IN

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OPTION 2

CREDIT CARD



LOG IN TO YOUR MEMBER PORTAL AND CLICK ON PAY NOW OR DEPOSIT TO PAY/DEPOSIT MONEY TO YOUR POLICY BY CREDIT CARD

QUICK
 SAFE
 EASY

For assistance call us at **1-800-533-6682 ext. 129**