



Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

*Glory to
God
in the
Highest*

He is
Risen

Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,
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EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik
P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603
E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net
Phone (610) 373-2743 • Fax (610) 375-8333

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OFFICE HOURS — HOME OFFICE
Monday through Friday — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (216) 464-8015 • Toll Free: 800-464-4642
Fax: (216) 464-9260 • Website: www.fcsla.com

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Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando,
Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 W. Rayen Ave.,
Youngstown, OH 44503. Residence: (330) 744-5233.
Email: ppolando@youngstowndioocese.org.

PRESIDENT:

Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1011. Email: Cynthia@fcsla.com.

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Jeanette E. Palanca, 304 W. Exchange Street, Crete, IL 60417. Residence: (847) 770-3508. Email: jeanetteevee@outlook.com.

Sue Ann M. Seich, 1433 Saxony Circle, NW, Canton, OH 44708. (330) 478-2949. Email: sams330@aol.com.

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Virginia A. Holmes, 1625 Vermont Avenue, White Oak, PA 15131. Residence: (412) 672-1565. Email: Holmes7732@aol.com.

Barbara Novotny Waller, 413 Oley Street, Reading, PA 19601. Residence: (610) 372-5750. Email: bnnwaller@comcast.net.

NATIONAL AUDITORS:

Barbara A. Sekerak, 6312 Elmdale Road, Brook Park, OH 44142. (216) 676-9332. Email: bas7535@gmail.com.

Dennis L. Povondra, 102 South Janda Avenue, Tabor, SD 57063. Residence: (605) 463-2571. Email: povondra@hcinet.net.

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At the Foot of the Cross

At the foot of the cross, I lay it all down
Everything in my life, that's hidden deep inside
I give it away, for my Savior to heal
These fears that I have, that I've buried for years
At the feet of Jesus, my heart pours out tears
As I kneel and pray, my thoughts become clear
And I finally see what's so very dear

At the foot of the cross, I cry out in pain
Anguishing thoughts pour out like rain
But, amidst these tears, I find a peace so calm
As Jesus scurries in, the darkness fades away
My heart is freed, my mind once again sane
And the past torments I've had are forever washed away
My life burns brighter, like the dawning of a new day

At the foot of the cross, I'm loved and not lost
Where the Holy drops of blood, have paid off sin's costs
And the Savior was taken, now risen once more
Through the grace of God, the veil was torn
And the world was cast a new rope of hope
Dangling freely from Heaven, climbable by faith alone
To an eternal place, where sin is dead

At the foot of the cross, life can be found
On your knees draped in blood, on Calvary's sacred ground.

Dear Friends,

*This Easter I pray that the love of God is resurrected,
reborn, and renewed inside your heart.*

Happy Easter!

Until Next Month,
Warmly, Carolyn



GROUNDS FOR INVALIDITY OF MARRIAGE

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, D. Min., J.C.L., National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

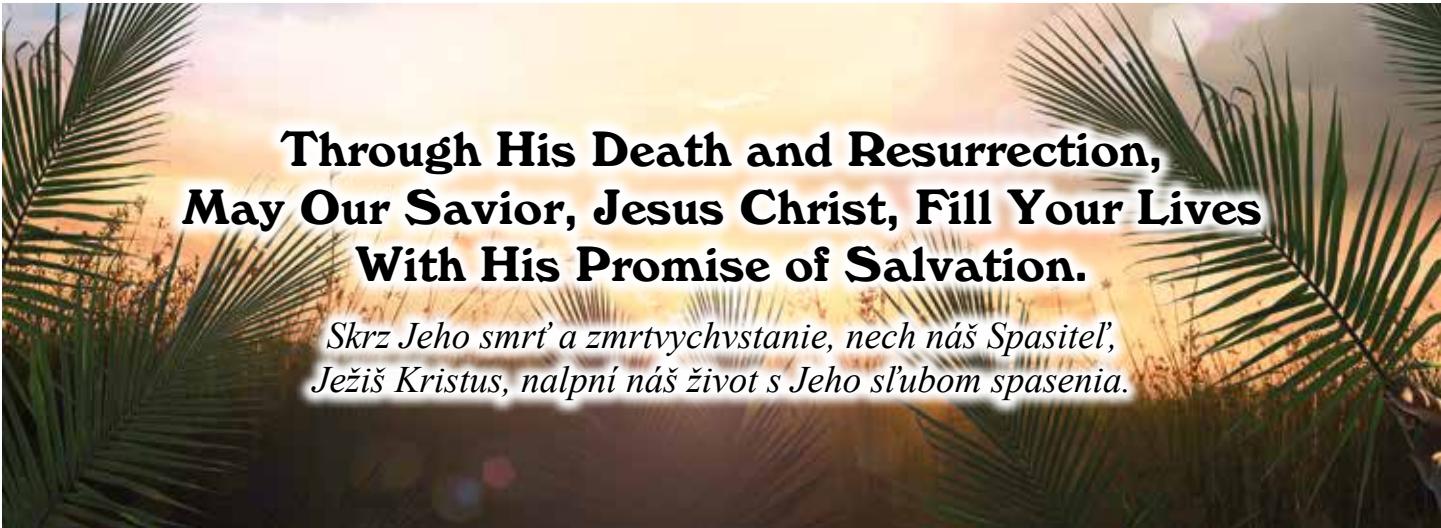
As I have explained in the first quarter of this year's articles, Marriage is a very sacred institution within the teachings of the Catholic Church. For Catholics who marry each other and, for a Catholic who marries a baptized non-Catholic, these are considered sacramental marriages. Marriages of other baptized non-Catholics and the non-baptized amongst themselves are considered valid marriages in the Catholic Church. And by definition, biblically and Catholic doctrine, marriage is contracted by a woman and a man. However, by biblical and Church tradition, there are instances when marriage is contracted but may have been invalidly. I attempt in this article to describe some of these instances; there are more but I will describe some that have been argued and are the grounds to prove that invalidity of marriage. These have been the more common ones that have crossed my desk over the years.

In order to prove that a marriage has been invalidly contracted, proof must be present at the time of consent, that is, proof of the ground being argued must have been present at the time when the vows were promised between the parties. The Catholic Church is empathetic to the facts that during the marriage, problems in the union may arise that may lead to the breakdown of the union. Some examples would be that one of the parties may have taken up an affair outside the union; became addicted to drugs, alcohol, pornography, to name a few; became abusive (verbally, emotionally, sexually, physically) to the spouse and/or other family members during the course of the union; or, some other change in personality or mindset. If these were present at the time of consent and the other party thought that these would change once the parties were married, then the person may have grounds that may lead to the annulment. As I prepare couples for the celebration of Marriage, I, as well as many priests, meet with the parties, utilize some sort of evaluation tool to compare personalities, and ultimately I state to them: "What you see now is what you are going to have in the future. Do not think that once you are

married, everything is going to change and your future spouse will change! You will not be able to change some things in the future". Once consent is given in the course of the Marriage ritual, it is a permanent commitment unless proven otherwise. The following are grounds that I have employed over the years when proving the invalidity of marriage. I will continue to explain these grounds in my next article and once again state that these are not a complete list of grounds to prove invalidity of Marriage as listed in the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* of the Roman Catholic Church.

- Canon 1095 states: *The following are incapable of contracting marriage: 1º those who lack the sufficient use of reason; 2º those who suffer from a grave defect of discretion of judgment concerning the essential matrimonial rights and duties mutually to be handed over and accepted; 3º those who are not able to assume the essential obligations of marriage for causes of a psychic nature.* Number 1º, is a person who basically does not understand the difference from right or wrong or causes of psychoneuroses is incapable of contracting marriage. Number 2º is a person who possesses an inability to seriously evaluate the duties, rights, obligations and responsibilities that are exchanged at the time of consent is incapable of contracting marriage. Number 3º is a person being incapable of contracting marriage who is not psychologically capable of assuming the obligations of marriage at the time of consent.
- Canon 1096 states: *§1 For matrimonial consent to exist, the contracting parties must be at least not ignorant that marriage is a permanent partnership between a man and a woman ordered to the procreation of offspring by means of some by means of some sexual cooperation. §2 This ignorance is not presumed after puberty.* I believe the canon is straightforward.

(To be continued)



Through His Death and Resurrection,
May Our Savior, Jesus Christ, Fill Your Lives
With His Promise of Salvation.

*Skrz Jeho smrt' a zmrtvychvstanie, nech náš Spasiteľ,
Ježiš Kristus, napní náš život s Jeho sľubom spasenia.*

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,

When this issue of the magazine reaches you, we will be in the midst of the joyous season of Easter. Yes, it is a time of joy, hope and new life!

This great celebration is preceded by Holy Thursday and Good Friday, part of the Sacred Triduum. Many of us whose families immigrated to the United States-Slovaks, Czechs, Poles, Rusyns, Croatians, Slovenes, Russians, Ukrainians, and others celebrate with several beautiful customs which are centuries old and demonstrate our joy in the Resurrection of Our Lord.

On Palm Sunday and throughout the Easter season, many weave handmade crosses from palms to wear and then place in our homes during the year. I remember my Dad making small simple handmade palm crosses for all of his children to wear on Palm Sunday. Many families decorate willows with flowers and ribbons to carry and display.

On Holy Saturday, small amounts of our most significant foods such as decorated eggs, bread, ham, kolbassi, horseradish, butter and salt are placed in a decorated basket, covered with a special bread cloth, and taken to church for a blessing.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate with the most important of celebrations, by attending and participating in the Mass of Resurrection. Our family especially loves the hymns at Easter, especially the lively "Christ is Risen From the Dead." We then sit down as a family to enjoy each other and lots of delicious homemade special foods.

On Easter Monday and Tuesday, some families continue the tradition of the "sprinkling of the water" which should bring good luck throughout the year. Many youngsters partake in this custom as well, as they joyfully play together.

Our primary attention continues in welcoming our new members from Polish Union of the United States of North America and Polish Women's Alliance of America and serving our current members and their families in their financial and spiritual needs. I always look forward to meeting new members and local leaders and their

families as we reach out to all with love and fraternal spirit so that we can strive to improve our members' lives and the communities where we live and work.

On April 27th, we celebrate the anniversary of the canonization Mass for Saints John XXIII and John Paul II. The canonization Mass was celebrated on April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday. Many of us are fortunate to have been touched by them when they served us as Popes during our own lives. May they intercede for us and our families.

On behalf of our board of directors and home office staff, I extend a Happy Easter to all of you and your families!

Cynthia Maleski
National President



On behalf of the entire Maleski Family, including children Cynthia, Richard M., Daniel R. and Mary Beth (deceased) and our beloved deceased mother Helen (Palovcak), and grandchildren Elizabeth, Richard J., Kathleen and Kristina, we thank all of you who shared in any way the sorrow of the passing away of our beloved Dad, Richard A. Maleski, by attending the funeral Mass or wake, by enrolling him in Mass societies, by sending flowers, donations, cards and most of all, prayers. Our Dad truly believed in our faith, sent us to Catholic school, and imparted wise words to us many times: "If you think you will find something better than our faith somewhere else, you will not. It is WHO WE ARE". We are grateful for your love and friendship and were honored by the celebration of the Mass by Rev. Aaron Kriss, Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, OSB and Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Polando, National Chaplain.



*May the Events of that
First Easter Morning
Fill Your Lives with Hope
& Your Hearts with Love,
Today and Always*

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Nech udalosť toho prvého Veľkonočného
rána naplní váš život nádejou a vaše
srdcia láskou dnes a navždy.

Culens' Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Stephen and Arlene (nee Miller) Culen celebrated their 60th anniversary on August 3, 2017. Arlene met Steve in 1955 at Railway Express Agency where they were both employed. They were married two years later, on August 3, 1957 at St. Joseph & St. Anne in Chicago, IL.

They have six children, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren all members of Branch 287, Oak Lawn, IL.

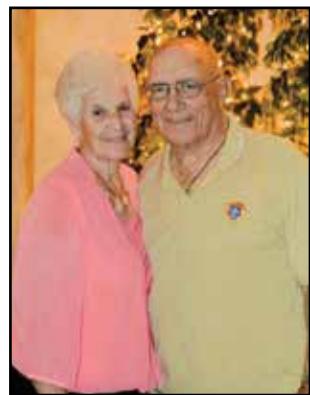
Steve retired in 1993 from the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employee where he was Executive Director and International Vice-president representing 90,000 public employees and retirees in the state of Illinois. Arlene was his devoted partner, mother and role model to the Culen clan.

After retirement the couple traveled extensively with a number of trips to the Culen ancestral home in Slovakia, many other European countries, including religious shrines, cruises and many locations in the U.S.

The couple celebrated their anniversary beginning with mass at St. Turibius Church on the Southwest side of Chicago, followed by dinner with family and friends.

100th Birthday Celebrated

Margaret T. Hasto, S292, Cleveland, OH, celebrated her 100th birthday on January 29, 2018. She was born and raised in Cleveland, OH and belonged to St. Andrew Parish. She and her late husband Cyril have one son and two daughters; also many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who love her very much. She now lives in Euclid, OH. God Bless her on this momentous occasion!



Wesnaks Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Slovak activist, Justine Wesnak and her husband, Andrew (Bucky) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 12, 2017. They were married 60 years ago at St. Anne's Basilica in Scranton, PA.

The couple has lived in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania since their marriage. Bucky; President of his graduating class of 1957 at Johnson College in Dickson City; was recruited to work at the Allentown Works of the Western Electric Company. During his 42 years of employment he also served in Public Relations, he chaired many Company events and nearly all of those for his department. Although the company changed names over the years he worked at the same location until his retirement from "Lucent Technologies" in 1999.

Justine, a nurse by profession, was educated in Scranton at Mercy Hospital and Marywood College. However, she spent most of her career as an elected National Officer of the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle serving until 1996 as its President/CEO and Editor. She then served as Director of Membership of the National Slovak Society for the next 7 years until her retirement in 2003. Justine is a life member of all Slovak Fraternal Organizations; she belongs to our Bethlehem, PA Branch S089.

She also served as an elected officer of the Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America, Slovak

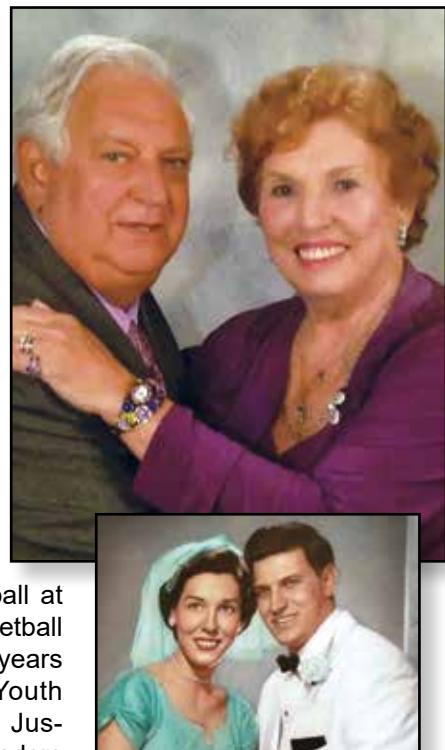
World Congress and President of the Slovak Garden in Winter Park, FL. She continues her Slovak affiliations and also serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Islander Beach Resort, New Smyrna Beach, FL.

The couple has devoted decades in volunteer work with Lehigh Valley youngsters. Bucky coached "Little League" football at Alton Park, and basketball and baseball for 20 years for the West End Youth Center. Meanwhile, Justine coached cheerleaders and organized 30 girls for 2 teams to play in the Allentown City Kickball Program for girls in 1970; the following year 120 girls signed up and she successfully recruited help for an inter mural Kickball Program.

Bucky and Justine have 3 sons, Drew, married to Sharon; Mike; and Paul, married to Sue. They have 11 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Their children hosted a quiet family dinner to honor the couple in celebration of this milestone anniversary.

Justine and Bucky had hoped to host a large party for their special day. Unfortunately, Bucky is still recuperating from a broken back and other injuries and complications he suffered as a result of a fall over a year ago on November 7, 2016. Bucky's family is grateful that he actually survived. Justine thanks God for answering a barrage of prayers, especially during the 6 weeks Bucky spent in critical condition in intensive care. She also credits their sons and their families for their unending, willing and exceptional help; performed with great love and enthusiasm during Bucky's trauma over the past 16 months.

With God's help Justine and Bucky will celebrate many more years of marriage in good health and happiness.



News from Branch W133

Branch W133, Timken, KS, gathered at the Timken Hill in Timken for their annual meeting and pre-lent party on February 4. Members enjoyed a steak lunch, door prizes for everyone, goodies for the kids, and social time. During the meeting, the current officers were re-elected. The club prayed for deceased members and voted to support Catholic Charities, the local food bank, and Sunflower Diversified, a non-profit dedicated to helping those with developmental difficulties. The next gathering for the organization, the annual picnic, will be Sunday, July 22, at the Timken Hill in Timken.



PRIVACY POLICY CHANGE

To be more responsive to our members, we recently made a change to our Privacy Policy. We will now be able to provide certain certificate information to certificate owners over the phone rather than only by mail. Members will receive a copy of the revised Privacy Policy by mail with their regularly scheduled certificate information mailings.

2018 FCSLA YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Youth of the Year Award is for Honoring the Spirit of Service by an individual youth within FCSLA.

There are countless young FCSLA members who participate in many service projects in their branch, church, school or community. They are individuals who stand out in a crowd because of their achievements and leadership. This is your opportunity to nominate an outstanding young member from your Junior or Senior Branch.

~ GUIDELINES ~

- ◆ Nominee must be an FCSLA member for at least three years.
- ◆ The nominee must be between the **ages of 6-22 years**. (Received date will determine the age eligibility.)
- ◆ All family members of the Home Office Staff and National Officers are eligible to be nominated.
- ◆ Previous recipients of this award will not be considered, but previous nominees who did not receive the award are eligible to be nominated.
- ◆ Service projects / volunteerism must be between June 1, 2017 and May 1, 2018.
- ◆ On a separate sheet of paper, **TYPED** or **PRINTED** describe in 500 words or less what the individual has done to deserve being nominated for this award. Such as his/her leadership and/or service to others in their branch, church, school and/or community.
- ◆ Include if they have pets, siblings or other activities they enjoy.
- ◆ Deadline for Entries is **May 4, 2018**.
- ◆ A head and shoulders photo of nominee should be included at time of entry.
- ◆ The winner receives a Star Award, \$100.00, will be featured in an issue of our *Fraternally Yours* Magazine and on our website and Facebook page.
- ◆ An independent committee will select the winner. Remember it is their quality of service that determines the winner not quantity of nominations sent in.
- ◆ You may print this form off of our website www.fcsla.org.
- ◆ If you have any questions please call Kelly at 1.800.464.4642 EXT 1051 or e-mail: kelly@fcsla.org.



2018 Youth of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT!

Nominee's Name: _____

FCSLA Branch #: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Name of School / College / University: _____

Parent (s) Name(s): _____

Phone #: _____ Parents E-Mail Address: _____

PLEASE PRINT!

Name of Nominator: _____ Branch #: _____ Phone #: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____ E-Mail: _____

Your Relation to Nominee: _____

**Mail to: Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director, FCSLA, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
OR E-mail to: kelly@fcsla.org**

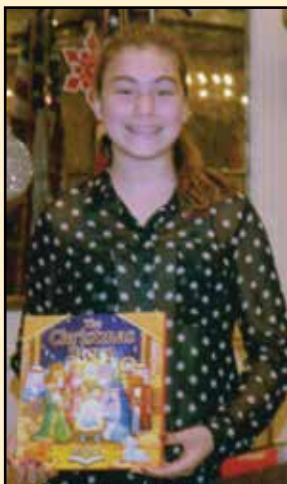
MAGDALEN I. ISKRA DISTRICT CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Magdalen I. Iskra District, Wilkes-Barre, PA celebrated Christmas with a Junior Branch Christmas Party held at Gennetti's Hotel on Sunday, December 3, 2017. The branches that participated in the celebration were J168 (JoAnn Klinesmith, President), J073 (Antoinette Kravitz, President), J362 (Martha Iskra, President) and J042 (Diane Gregor, President).

Invocation was by JoAnn Klinesmith, President J168. A buffet menu followed which consisted of a fresh fruit cup, chicken fingers, hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni and cheese, ziti marinara, mashed potatoes, corn, Italian bread with butter and dipping sauces, vanilla sundae and drinks.

The Christmas Story was read by Haley Mellas. The children enjoyed making crafts and playing games led by Linda Shemansky S172. Jingle Bells was sung by everyone as Santa (Joseph Flaherty S172) arrived bringing gifts for all the children.

A Holiday Raffle of 35 prizes was held to benefit the Osterhout Free Library. The raffle was a Matching Funds project.



Haley Mellas reads *The Christmas Story*.



Junior members from branches 362, 168, 073, and 042.



Pictured at the craft table are Caleb Ceklosky, Brody Ceklosky, Lauren Shemansky, Jordan Ceklosky, and Joann Kelly who is holding Mason Kelly.



L-R: Area branch officers Magdalen Iskra, Ann Dougher, Antoinette Kravitz, Martha Iskra, Theresa Ceklosky, and Barbara Ceklosky.



Children selecting winners for the raffle.



The Gregor family.



The Sabol family.

45th Annual March for Life 2018

The 45th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. took place Friday, January 19, 2018. Once again FCSLA and FCSU sponsored 2 buses. The buses filled with our members and a few local youth groups were part of the estimated 100,000 (there are no exact numbers) who marched for those that cannot speak for themselves. It is always nice to have some new faces as well as our annual faithfuls riding on the buses!



For the first time in a few years we did not have to worry about the weather. They had sun and temps in the high 40's! Some groups went to the Youth Rally & Mass prior to the March. There are always a few challenges while in D.C. Meeting up with everyone for the group photo and finding our buses after the March. God always guides and blesses us during this trip. We are able to find all our groups, buses and arrive safely home.

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 18, 2019.



MAGDALEN I. ISKRA DISTRICT



Theresa Ceklosky with her grandchildren Caleb Ceklosky, Lauren Shemansky and Brody Ceklosky.



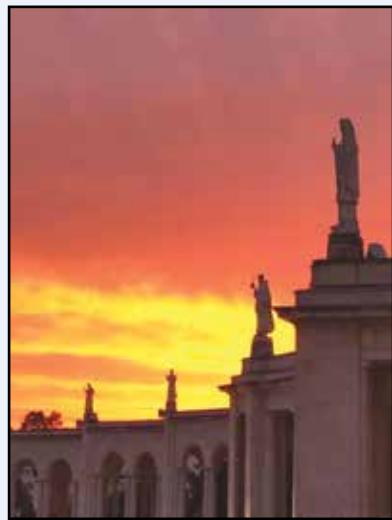
The Pehala Family.



Members Journey on a Fatima, Portugal Trip

Two of our members visited Fatima, Portugal for the 100 year anniversary of the Apparitions. Leslie Dyal and her mom, Ann Chaump both members of S172, Wilkes-Barre, PA, traveled with the Savio Boys Choir of Philadelphia in which Leslie's son, Jude, is a choir member. The choir and their families spent 10 days in Portugal where they visited and the choir sang at such places as the birthplace of St. Anthony in Lisbon, the towns of Sintra, Obidos, Coimbra, Santarem, Batahla, Alcobaca and Nazare, with the main destination being Fatima. In Fatima, the choir boys sang in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity.

They also visited the town of Ajustral where the three children to whom Mary appeared lived (they even went inside the house they lived in). They retraced the children's steps to the village where they lived. This started with the Via Sacra which is the Stations of the Cross. On the same path they visited Valinhos and the place of the Ángel. An apparition of Mary took place here after the children were let out of jail,



The grounds of the Basilica at sunset.

while the angel of Portugal appeared to the children in 1916, one year before they saw Mary in the Cova.

The boys also sang at the International Rosary, which is a candlelight procession. People from all over the world attend.

In addition, the boys sang in the Chapel of the Apparitions. The boys were only a few feet away from the actual spot where Mary appeared from May to October in 1917.

In Coimbra they visited the town's convent where Sister Lucia (the oldest of the Fatima children and the only one to survive childhood) became a Carmelite nun. The boys sang at the 11 a.m. Mass in the convent Chapel. Many apparitions of Mary took place in this convent, as well.

In Santarem, inside the church which was once called Saint Stephen's is home to an Eucharistic miracle that happened in the 13th century. Since that time the church has been renamed and called The Church of the Holy miracle. You can read about it here: <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/portugal/santarem-eucharistic-miracle>. The boys sang as they walked the tiny cobblestone streets and people were hanging out their apartment windows applauding them.

The last day, petitions were placed at the feet of Our Lady and then the group waved white handkerchiefs to say "adieu" farewell. In addition to performing, the boys played



Ann with her grandson, Oliver, age 6, on her 70th birthday. This was taken in Lisbon right outside the shrine which is the birthplace of St. Anthony.



The choir in their cassocks outside of the hotel.



The choir boys outside of The Church of the Holy Miracle.

Portugal Trip

soccer with the locals. The boys and their families enjoyed visiting the many museums of Fatima and just had a fun time being together.

Ann celebrated her 70th birthday while on the trip. Leslie, her husband, Steve, Jude (the choir boy) and their youngest son, Oliver, went on the trip as well. Please visit www.savioboychoir.org for more information about the Savio Boys choir. The choir is planning a trip to Avila, Spain for Holy Week in 2019.



The Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity. Candlelight processions happen outside of the Basilica every night for the International Rosary.



The Choir boys outside the house of where the three children lived in Ajustral.

Branch W013 Holds Annual Meeting and Breakfast

Branch W013 of Prague, NE, held its annual meeting and breakfast in January. Pictured are our many talented cooks who helped prepare breakfast for more than 80 members. The delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage, biscuits and gravy, fried potatoes, and kolaches were enjoyed by all.



Youngstown Sister Cities Tour of Slovakia

Join Kay and Jim Bench on the 20th Heritage Tour of Slovakia on July 10-24. We will visit UNESCO historical sites, go rafting on the Dunajec River, and see the largest ruined castle, Spisska Hrad. Participants will have a chance to meet and visit long lost relatives, tour castles, churches, caves, visit wine country and enjoy wine tasting, and take in folk performances.

We'll visit villages that will take you back in time, hear the beautiful love story of the Ondrassey family, enjoy a relaxing day at a spa, plus many other sites and activities too numerous to mention.

Travel arrangements are being made by Paul Hudak of Adventure International Travel Service Inc. Phone 216-228-7171 or 800-542-7171 or e-mail Paul@advintravel.com.

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench at 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 or e-mail them at jmbench@yahoo.com or skbench@gmail.com.

Total tour costs and land arrangements are \$3,473 pp from Toronto \$3,836 pp from Chicago \$3,986 per person from Newark \$4,179 per person from Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH AGREEMENT CELEBRATION PLANNED

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement with a commemorative program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The program, which will begin at 6 p.m., will feature presentations by various government officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as local officials. A reception will follow the formal program.

The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918, was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state after the First World War. The catalyst for drafting and signing of this agreement was the visit to Pittsburgh and Professor Thomas Masaryk, who later became the first President of Czechoslovakia. The agreement was also signed by leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations.

Admission for this memorable event is \$35.00 per person (NO tickets will be printed). Admission can be purchased from Carol Hochman at carolh1541@aol.com or from Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000. Make checks payable to WPSCA and mail to Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220. No admissions will be sold at the door. Admission must be purchased by May 15.

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. They will also be on sale at the reception. They can be purchased through the same contacts as above.

A poster (11x17) of the Pittsburgh Agreement (above right) will also be on sale at this event for \$10.00 or through the contacts listed above.

Special hotel accommodations have been made with the Hampton Inn across the street from the History Center and the Homewood Suites one block away. The group rate at the Hampton is \$169.00 a night plus tax. The Hampton can be contacted at 412-288-4350 or you can book online. The rate at the Homewood Suites is \$179.00 a night plus tax. Their phone number is 412-232-0200. At either hotel, just mention you are with the Pittsburgh Agreement group. Cutoff deadline is May 2, 2018.



Asymposium is planned for the afternoon of May 31st from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the University of Pittsburgh in Room 4130 of Posvar Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during years surrounding the signing of The Pittsburgh Agreement. The panelists will be Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague, Dr. Slavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University.

If you have any further questions, you can contact Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman at 412-855-6581 or Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.



Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Hymn Sing

The traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Hymn Sing sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania was held on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, 134 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The service began at 2:00 p.m. with congregational singing of Lenten hymns. The Stations of the Cross followed led by Rev. John Albosta, chaplain of the Society. Booklets were available for full participation in the service. The booklets included the English translations for all those in attendance.

Refreshments were served after the service.



Participants for the event, L-R: Magdalen Benish, Chairman; Elaine Palischak, Acolyte; Rev. John Albosta, Presider; and Anna Hudock, Acolyte.

Blessing of Easter Baskets

Tradition of Our Heritage

When our Slovak ancestors arrived in this country a century ago, they brought with them many beautiful and meaningful traditions. Among the most popular of these was the age old tradition of blessing Easter foods.

After a Lent of strict fasting and abstinence, specially prepared foods to be eaten on Easter morning would help the family celebrate the great feast of Jesus' Resurrection. The food, prepared in advance, were placed in a basket, covered with a special hand-crocheted cloth, often one which had been handed down for generations, and were taken to church to be blessed by the priest on Holy Saturday. The cloth often had an Easter emblem or Easter words such as "Christ is Risen," of course in Slovak, crocheted on it.

Only small portions of each food are placed in the basket. It is naturally known all ancient Slovak customs have specific meanings and so it is with the foods placed in this basket. Gratefully, many families and Slovak and Slavic churches in the United States and Canada continue to observe this custom of blessing a basket of Easter foods today.

EGGS — Brightly decorated hard boiled eggs are a symbol of new life, the life Jesus gave by rising from the dead.

PASCHA — This is a sweet, rich, yeast bread. It is usually a round loaf baked till it has a golden brown crust. Often a cross of dough is placed on the top circled by a plait. This symbolizes the crown of thorns encircling the cross. Other breads are nut and poppyseed rolls, known as "kolac" and "makovniky".

KLOBASSA and HAM — After a Lent of fasting and abstinence, this meat is well roasted or cooked and used as the main dish. It symbolizes the great joy of Easter and to Slovaks this dish of meat is a sign of abundance. Also, lamb or veal can be used.

CHEESE — The Easter cheese is known as "syrek" and has a rather bland taste. It is indicative of the moderation Christians should have in all things. Cream cheese may also be used.

HORSERADISH — This is a tall plant with a white, hot-tasting root. The root is ground and mixed with ground beets, a mixture then called "chren" (hren). The taste of chren is to remind us of how bitter life would be without Jesus, and also of the bitter drink given to Jesus on the cross.

BUTTER — This favorite dairy product is sometimes shaped into the figure of a lamb because Jesus is the Lamb of God.

SALT — Salt is blessed because it was used to preserve food just as Jesus preserves us to eternal life.

2018 FCSLA FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

The Fraternalist of the Year Award is an honor presented by FCSLA to recognize an individual within our organization who, through example and accomplishment, provide outstanding volunteer service to his or her FCSLA branch, church and community during the past year.



The winner will receive a check for \$100.00; will be featured in the *Fraternally Yours Magazine*, on our website and Facebook page.

GUIDELINES:

- ♦ All FCSLA members are eligible to submit a nominee for this award.
- ♦ The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA, age 23 and older and a history of fraternal and community service.
- ♦ National Officers, Home Office Employees and previous recipients of this award are not eligible.
- ♦ Include a head and shoulders photo of nominee.
- ♦ Nomination Form, additional sheet of paper and photo should be mailed to: FCSLA, Kelly M. Sheddlock, Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122 or email to: kelly@fcsla.org.
- ♦ If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Sheddlock via email at kelly@fcsla.org or at the home office 800.464.4642 EXT 1051.
- ♦ Please print form off our website www.fcsla.org.
- ♦ An independent committee will select the winner.

Deadline for Entries is May 4, 2018.

SPRING MASS & BRUNCH

Sr. Branch 81 Members

Sunday, May 27

MASS 10:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
1849 Lincoln Ave., Whiting, IN

BRUNCH — DYNASTY BANQUETS

4141 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN

12:30 P.M.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
PLEASE CALL

219-659-2109 or 219-659-4546

2018 CONSULAR TOUR OF SLOVAKIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has prepared a deluxe 15 day tour of Slovakia, Vienna, Poland and Hungary on August 13-26, 2018. The itinerary for Slovakia includes the historic towns of Bratislava, Svaty Jur, Devin, Bojnice, Tatras, Levoca, Kezmarok, Spisska Sobota, Spissky Hrhov, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kosice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Presov. Some of the highlights in Slovakia include six castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings and rafting. This is the only tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and by the Mayor of Presov.

Two nights in Poland and two nights in Hungary. While in Poland, we will visit the shrines of Blessed Faustina and the Black Madonna. We will also tour Pope John Paul II's birthplace, the famous Wieliczka salt mine and Auschwitz. Shopping in Zakopane, in Budapest visit the ancient architectural sites including the Royal Palace, Citadella fortress and Parliament.

The total price for this tour is just \$4,300 per person

PURDUE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Jacob Hallow graduated from Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN with a Materials Science Engineering Degree in May. Jake is living in Fort Wayne, IN and working for Bralin Laser. He is the son of Cindy and Dave Hallow of Valparaiso; grandson of the late Mary Lou Adam and great-grandson of the late Mary Benak. All are members of FCSLA, Branch 452.



Spelling Bee Champion

Roy Bauer, member of Branch W013 in Prague, NE, was recently named school Spelling Bee Champion at Holy Rosary-Wea in Bucyrus, KS where he attends 5th grade. This qualified him for the Johnson County, KS Regional Catholic Schools Spelling Bee where 17 schools and 34 students in grades 3rd-8th from across metro Kansas City competed and Roy received 2nd place. His great-grandparents are Robert and Arline Polacek of Wahoo, NE and members of Branch W013 in Prague, NE.



(double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare from either Pittsburgh or New York, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

Slovak Heritage Program

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association presents the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month, starting at 7 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228 (412-531-1912).

April 2, 2018 — Slovak Castles and Castle Ruins

Otilia Golias will show and discuss the famous Castles in Slovakia.

May 7, 2018 — Weddings in Slovakia

Back by numerous requests, Otilia Golis will repeat her presentation of a wedding in Slovakia.

June 4, 2018 — History of the Pittsburgh Agreement

Rich Kocur will give an in-depth presentation of the history of the Pittsburgh Agreement with some little known facts.

United Slovak Societies Scholarship Available to High School Seniors

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH, announces 2018 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five year members of our local lodges that include: National Slovak Society Assembly 160, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, First Catholic Slovak Union #228, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #114 and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union #77.

The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting www.americanslovakclub.com. Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA Spring District Meeting

The Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA Spring 2018 District Meeting will be hosted by Branch S319 of Allentown, PA. The meeting will be held Sunday, April 15th, 2018 at 1 p.m. at: DeSales University, McShea Student Center 2755 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA 18034. RSVP by calling District President Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 by April 7th.



IN MEMORIAM

Orville Ambrose Kuchinka, W003



Orville Ambrose Kuchinka, 84, of Montgomery, MN died on June 15, 2017. He was born on December 30, 1932 to Ambrose and Lillian Kuchinka. Orville attended school in Montgomery Township. Orville was united in marriage to Grace Ann (Malecha) Kuchinka on October 11, 1952. He left work on the dairy farm to join the Army and served four years during the Korean conflict. Orville took over the family farm after his father was involved in a disabling auto accident. During his farming years, Orville sold O's Gold Corn. He was later employed by Minnesota Valley Breeders and Chart Industries before his retirement in 1997. Orville was a 14-year esophageal cancer survivor. He became active with the Cancer Relay and was recognized for his successful journey at the 20th Annual St. Francis Foundation Gala. Orville was able to thank the staff for saving his life and share with them he was cancer free. He was an honor guard with the Knights of Columbus, an active member of the VFW, American Legion, and Pioneer Power, and volunteered time at the local food shelf. Orville is survived by his wife, Grace; six children, Bruce (Lynn) Kuchinka, Lynn (Dave) Wondra, John (Julie) Kuchinka, Tim (Nancy) Kuchinka, Mark (Lynette Fredrickson) Kuchinka, Danny Kuchinka; sister, Carroll (Ned) Delk; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, with another great-grandchild due later this year.

Mary Therese Belloto, S156



Mary Therese (Garchar) Belloto, 85, died on June 22, 2017. Mary was born in Struthers on October 18, 1931, the daughter of the late George M. and Mary (Bendzalla) Garchar. In November of 1949, she married her high school sweetheart, Robert J. Belloto. They spent the first three years of their marriage in Clarksville, TN, close to Fort Campbell, KY, where Bob was stationed. Mary was a 1949 graduate of Struthers High School, and a Fidelis Club and National Honor Society member. She worked for her husband at his accounting practice and subsequently worked at Youngstown State University for 20 years, where she earned an Associate Degree with honors and a Bachelor's Degree, cum laude, retiring in January of 1996. She was a member of the Holy Trinity Church, the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild, FCSLA, Youngstown State University Retirees Association, and an active participant with YSU Women Retirees. She also had been a 10-year member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. Mary leaves five daughters, Kathy Jean-Ronci of Boardman, Terri (Frank) Whitney of Ravenna, Marie Belloto (Randy McConnell) of Poland, Linda Belloto of Cary, IL, and Carol Vargo of Akron; five sons, Dr. Robert J. Belloto Jr. of Beavercreek, Mark Belloto of Atlanta, Timothy Belloto of Akron, Walter Belloto of Struthers, and James Belloto of Leetonia. She leaves 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; one brother, Stephen Garchar of Struthers and numerous nieces and nephews.

Robert M. Drosdak, S410

Robert Michael Drosdak, 77, of Nesquehoning, PA died June 27, 2017. He was the husband of Carol (Wisley) Drosdak. They

celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on May 20. Born in Coal-dale, PA he was a son of the late John and Rose (Rowan) Drosdak.

He was employed as a C&C machine operator for Blue Ridge Pressure Castings in Lehighton for 37 years until retiring. Robert was a United States Army Veteran. He was a member of the Nesquehoning VFW Post 8008 and the Nesquehoning Legion. He was a member of the former Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Nesquehoning. He was an avid Philadelphia Phillies and Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan. Robert loved playing numbers, rub offs, and going to the casino. Surviving, along with his wife, is a daughter Lori Staneck, and her husband Richard Sr., of Nesquehoning; a son Kevin of Allentown; a sister Romaine Karnish of Lansford; a brother John Ronald Drosdak, and his wife Mary, of Allentown; four grandchildren Joshua; and many nieces and nephews.

George W. Kocer, W093



George W. Kocer, age 98 of Tabor, SD passed away June 30, 2017 in Yankton, SD. George was born on May 30, 1919 to Joseph and Catherine (Plavec) Kocer on a farm north of Tabor, SD. On January 12, 1942, George was united in marriage to Agnes Carda. Their son, Dan, was born in November 1942. George and Agnes farmed in the Scotland and Tyndall areas for many years. In 1984, because of health reasons, they retired from farming and moved into Tabor. In October, 2014, they moved to Autumn Winds Assisted Living Facility in Yankton, SD. They recently celebrated their 75th anniversary on January 12, 2017. George was an active member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church his entire life. George enjoyed helping other farmers with farm work, especially, baling and building fences. In his younger years, he and Agnes enjoyed singing with the Tabor Troubadours and George also enjoyed playing ball with the Tabor Jets. Watching and listening to the Minnesota Twins was also one of his favorite activities. Grateful to have shared his life are his wife, Agnes of Yankton, SD; son, Dan (Pam) of Pequot Lakes, MN; three grandchildren: six great-grandchildren; 2 sisters-in-law, Irene Kocer and Anne Ulmer and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Pauline (Lexa) O'Brien, W001



Pauline (Lexa) O'Brien, age 89, of New Prague, MN passed away on July 2, 2017. She was born in New Prague on February 8, 1928 to Wencel and Rose (Bisek) Lexa. She graduated from NPHS in 1945 and married Raymond O'Brien on September 26, 1953 at St Wenceslaus Church in New Prague. Pauline worked as a waitress at the Park Ballroom, where she met her husband, at Star Café. She also worked at Catholic Workman for 36 years as a secretary. Pauline wrote a column in their monthly newspaper called *This and That*, then became the editor of the paper till her retirement. She also published a cookbook for Catholic Workman. She loved to write and draw but her greatest joy was raising her children. Pauline is survived by daughter, Mary O'Brien of New Prague; one granddaughter; 2 great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Wolf of New Prague; sister-in-law, Marge Lexa of New Prague; brother-in-law, Jerome (Cleo) O'Brien of Isle; a step-granddaughter; brother-in-laws, Leo Wolf, Bob and Harry O'Brien; sister-in-law, Eileen Doyle and husband, Francis.



IN MEMORIAM

Randy G. "RD" Dvorak, W45



Randy G. "RD" Dvorak, 64, of Marion, IA died May 6, 2017. Randy was born May 31, 1952 in Cedar Rapids and was a lifelong resident of the Cedar Rapids and Marion area. He attended Saint Wenceslaus School through the 8th grade and graduated from Regis High School in 1970. Randy attended the University of Iowa. He was employed by the Cedar Rapids Parks Department and retired as a supervisor of the Tuma Soccer Complex in 2011. Randy

was a lifelong member of Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church. Randy was a member of the Cedar Rapids Softball Hall of Fame as well as the Iowa Softball Hall of Fame. Randy is survived by his wife, Melinda; daughter, Theresa Dvorak and fiancé Michael Volk, Cedar Rapids; stepchildren, Brad (Jackie) Quimby, Hickman, NE, Matt Quimby, Lincoln, NE, Amy (Tim) Gustafson, Hanover Park, IL, Todd (Holly) Fulton, of Virginia and John (Kelly) Fulton, Cedar Rapids; mother, Angeline (Trenda) Dvorak, Cedar Rapids; sisters, Carla (Ed) Neuhaus and Gwen Dvorak, both of Cedar Rapids, June (Herman) Andalcio, Chicago and Cindy (Steve R. Jones) Dvorak, Henderson, NE; nephews, Eric Neuhaus, Kenneth and David Andalcio.

Gloria Jean Hlas, W149



Gloria Jean Hlas, 72, went to be with the Lord on January 29, 2017. Gloria was born on October 7, 1944, in Marshalltown, IA to George and Mayme (Riha) Strachota. She graduated from Tama High School in 1962. On June 4, 1966, Gloria married the "love of her life", Harry. Four blessings were born to this union. They made their home on the family farm where Harry grew up in rural Clutier where she enjoyed being a homemaker, but her greatest joy was being a

wife, mother and grandmother. Gloria always joked that she wasn't able to boil water when she was first married, but soon learned all she needed to know from her mother-in-law, Agnes, who later said that Gloria's dumplings were better than hers. She used her cooking expertise to start a catering business which later became Gloria's Czech Inn in Clutier. With the help of Harry, she operated the restaurant for 8½ years in the 1990's. She is survived by her devoted husband of 50 years, Harry; four loving children, Theresa (Brad) Proctor of Pocahontas, IA; Kristi (Bill) Staples of Fort Collins, CO; Janel (Mike) Hernandez of Olathe, KS; Joe (Shana) Hlas of Olathe, KS; and 9 grandchildren; and her brother, Jim (Diane) Strachota of Fort Collins, CO.

Marlys M. Cizek, W149



Marlys M. Cizek, 87, of Traer, IA passed away May 16, 2017. Marlys was born August 26, 1929, daughter of John and Mary (Pus-teoska) Wacha of Traer. She graduated from Dysart Consolidated High School in 1947. On April 6, 1948 she married Ellsworth Cizek at Holy Trinity Church in Vining, IA. They were married for 69 years and had four children. Marlys was a former beauty queen and high school cheer-

leader. Marlys and Ellsworth farmed southeast of Traer. In addition to helping on the farm, she was involved in church activities, especially creating banners, decorating the church and singing in the choir. She never turned down a chance to do a little winning at the casino. She was especially proud of her family and always enjoyed their visits. Survivors include her husband, Ellsworth of Traer; her children, Jacqueline (Louis) Winchip, Cedar Rapids, Joel (Connie) Cizek, Waterloo, Jeff (Lynn) Cizek, Traer and JoEllen (Ray) Kubik, Traer; 13 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; her sister, Margaret Pavelka, of Traer; and many nieces and nephews.

Cecilia Odziomek, U270

Cecilia M. Odziomek, 92, formerly of Chicago, passed away January 29 in Minneapolis, MN. Survived by nephew Thomas (Katherine) Batina; great-nephews Tom and Greg Batina; great-niece Marianne Batina. Her distinguished advertising career spanned four decades. Cecilia progressed from a secretary to become Vice President of Media Services with Compton Advertising and later VP General Manager of Draper Daniels Media Services, a subsidiary of Alberto Culver. Memorials to Queen of All Saints for masses preferred.

Gerald Thomas Andersh, W109



Gerald Thomas Andersh died on February 19, 2017 in Gilbert, AZ. He was born December 29, 1961 at Wagner, SD, the son of Richard and Dorothy (Swatek) Andersh. Gerald graduated from Wagner High School and Western Dakota Technical Institute in Rapid City, SD. In 1982, he married Sheri Meisenhoelder in Tripp, SD. He worked various lumber and construction jobs. Gerald was very proud to have built his first home for his family in Prescott Valley, AZ.

He was also a compliance officer for the Division of Occupational Safety and Health of Arizona. Gerald will be remembered for his love of hunting, 4 wheeling and the Denver Broncos. He loved playing board games and NEVER lost. His son claims he was the hardest working man he has ever known. Thankful for having shared his life are his two children, Nathan (Stephanie) Andersh of Ellensburg, WA and Leticia (Ryan) Clausen of Waverly, WA; two grandchildren; parents Richard and Dorothy Andersh of Wagner; two brothers: Ralph (Penny Walrath) of Avon and Mark (Staci) of Chino Valley, AZ; four sisters: Christine (Ronald) Kokesh of Wagner, Julie (Cletus) Wiechmann of Wagner, Terese (Jay) Wunder of Wagner and Dana (Eric) Thompson of Brandon; brother-in-law Keith Nace of Sioux Falls; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Leonard J. Zrostlik, W51



Leonard James Zrostlik died on April 6, 2017 in Mason City, IA. He was born the son of Joseph and Marie (Malek) Zrostlik on January 24, 1940. He graduated from Britt High School in 1958. Leonard helped on the family farm near Britt and for other farmers in the area before being drafted into the U.S. Army in November 1965. He served his country in France until his honorable discharge in 1967. In December

1968, he married Ruth Larson in Britt. They lived in Forest City where they raised their family. They later divorced. Leonard was employed at Winnebago Industries in the quality control department until his retirement in 2002. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, watching NASCAR and was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes and Minnesota Vikings fan. He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Clear Lake and was a third-degree Knight of Columbus. Leonard is survived by his two children, Tonia (Greg) Pierce of Norwalk and Matthew Zrostlik of Forest City; four grandsons; a brother, Ed (Annabelle) Zrostlik of La Mirada, CA; five sisters, Dorothy Hestness of Mason City, Regina Studer of Mason City, Marge Mostrom of Clearwater, FL, Rose Zrostlik of Mason City and Rita (Sam) Shipman of Grimes; two sisters-in-law, Cheryl Zrostlik of Forest City and Connie Zrostlik of Austin, TX; a brother-in-law, Jim Kroger of Lyons, NE; and many nieces and nephews.

Carolyn A. Stanislav, W013



Carolyn A. Stanislav, 67, of Prague, NE entered into eternal rest May 2, 2017 in Omaha, NE. She was born September 24, 1949 in Fremont, NE to Richard and Georgia (Musilek) Shimerka. Carolyn graduated from Prague High School in 1967. She worked as a Physical Therapist Assistant with Butler County Physical Therapy. In her earlier years she worked for the State of Nebraska Department of Revenue in Lincoln, managed bean walking crews and cleaned houses in the area. She also was an EMT for the Prague Volunteer Fire Department. She was a member of St. John the Baptist Church in Prague, Women's League and the Bubba Club. Carolyn's pride and joy was her granddaughter, Adyson and her love for life was gardening. She enjoyed antiquing, frequenting garage sales and craft fairs. She was a proud philanthropist and a huge supporter for the Pink Bandana Inc. She was known as Momma Stanislav to many. She was a true mom who loved her family and friends dearly. Carolyn is survived by her children, Jeremy Stanislav of Omaha, Danielle Stanislav of Prague, Justin (Mallorie) Stanislav of Wahoo; granddaughter, Adyson Kadlec; brother, Rick (Gail) Shimerka of Redmond, WA.



Margaret Lila Zrostlik, W51

Margaret "Lila" Zrostlik, 93, of Garner, IA died October 23, 2017. She was born the daughter of LeRoy and Margaret (King) Baker on February 11, 1924 at Waucoma, IA. She graduated from Waucoma High School in 1942. Lila attended Upper Iowa University in Fayette and Drake University in Des Moines where she received a B.S. Degree in Education. She taught in rural schools in Chickasaw County, Marble Rock Consolidated School, Clear Lake Community Schools and Kanawha Community Schools. Lila met Paul Zrostlik while attending a dance at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake. On June 11, 1962 they were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waucoma. Lila also worked at the extension office in Garner and continued teaching as a substitute in the Garner-Hayfield Schools. She enjoyed quilting, baking, polka dancing, traveling and attending her grandchildren's activities. Her great faith and gentle hardworking soul with a smile and quick wink will be missed by all. She was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic

Church in Duncan where she taught CCD classes and was active in bible studies. Lila is survived by her four children, Michael (Julie) Zrostlik and their two children, Anna and Nicholas of Garner, Jane Zrostlik of Garner, Steven Zrostlik of Ames and Marvin Zrostlik of Eldridge, IA; and many nieces and nephews.

Wilma Divoky, S10

Wilma M. Divoky, 91, of Chardon, OH, passed away April 7, 2017. Born April 4, 1926 in Chicago, IL to George and Mary (nee: Hollesh) Malinzak; she had been a longtime area resident. Wilma Malinzak married Joseph Divoky on November 26, 1949 in Euclid; he preceded her in death on March 31, 2012. Wilma worked and retired from the US Post Office in Chardon for over 20 years. After her retirement, Wilma worked for Regina Travel in Chardon. She was a longtime member of the Church of St. Mary in Chardon; being especially active in the bereavement ministry and St. Mary's Church and School functions. Along with her husband, she enjoyed traveling the world and dancing to their favorite polkas. She was a loving mother to Rosemary (John) Spiker of Brunswick, James (Jan) of Ravenna, Joan (Mike) Moran of Avon, Carol Ann (Roger) Koch of Oxford, OH and Marianne (Paul) Kaiser of Stoneham, CO; grandmother of 17; great-grandmother of 16; sister to Bob (Judith) Malinzak of Cincinnati, Doris (Gene) Delserone of Pittsburgh, Roger (Delores) Malinzak of Ravenna, Edward (Cheryl) Malinzak of Grand Rapids, MI, Thomas (Mitzi) Malinzak of Winston-Salem, NC and Betsy Wolf of Pittsburgh and sister-in-law Marianne Malinzak of Raleigh, NC; many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Maryann (Lipnick) Munjak, S211

Maryann (Lipnick) Munjak, 87, of Overland Park, KS, passed away April 20, 2017. Maryann was born June 7, 1929 in Kansas City, KS to Michael and Anna (Pavelko) Lipnick. She attended St. Cyril & Methodius grade school and graduated from Bishop Ward High School in 1947. She was employed at International Harvester as an administrative assistant for many years. Maryann was a longtime parishioner at Christ the King Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS, before moving to Overland Park becoming a member of Queen of the Holy Rosary. She was actively involved in groups and causes such as Sisters, Servants of Mary Guild, the 8 at 8 Club and the St. John's senior group. Maryann loved spending time at the lake with her family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed quilting, sewing, and gardening. She was blessed with many lifelong friends. She is survived by daughters: Kathleen and Dr. Kenneth Newman, Mary Jo and Eric Martincich and Claudia and Paul Gibson; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Aloysius M. Sverchek, S140

Aloysius M. Sverchek, 94, of Lansford, PA died on June 9, 2017. He was born to the late Nicholas and Katherine Sverchek, April 5, 1923 and resided in Lansford most of his life. As a decorated veteran of World War II, Al served in the 17th Airborne Division of the United States Army. As a Private First Class in the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment (GIR), he served his country through several major conflicts including: the Rhineland Campaign, Battle of the Ardennes and Battle of the Bulge. The GIR was an elite group of airborne infantry in which soldiers and their equipment were inserted into enemy-controlled territory using military gliders. The duty was



IN MEMORIAM

known for high casualty rates and Al was shot and wounded on two separate occasions earning the Purple Heart, Bronze Star for gallantry and numerous other commendations. After returning from the war he graduated from the Eckels College of Mortuary Science in 1947 and became the founder and owner of the Al M. Sverchek Funeral Home in Lansford. He was a key benefactor to the late St. Michael's Catholic Church and also served as a Eucharistic Minister and lector. He was also the former branch president and treasurer of the First Slovak Catholic Ladies Association. Al is survived by two children Al Sverchek, Jr. of Harleigh, and Judith McElroy of Austin, TX; one grandson, eight nephews and two nieces. The family requests that donations be made to St. Joseph's Parish of the Panther Valley.

Sandra L. Juhasz, S149

Sandra L. "Sandy" Juhasz, age 68, of Toledo, OH died on October 22, 2016. She was born on November 9, 1947, to Francis and Helen (Palenchar) Parrotta in Toledo. Sandy graduated from Cardinal Stritch High School in 1965. She was a legal secretary for Abe Haddad for several years, then went on to be a LPN for the Little Sisters of the Poor and then was a sales account representative for Custom Deco Inc. retiring in 2004. Sandy enjoyed traveling, antiquing, going to auctions, and spending time with her family and friends. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Sandy is survived by her loving sons, Christopher (Carla) and Kenneth (Khristy) Juhasz; two grandchildren, and sister, Antoinette (Ray) Gloyd. Those wishing to make memorial contributions are asked to consider Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Suzanne O'Connell, S102

Suzanne O'Connell (Miller), 47, passed away on March 4, 2017 in Santa Monica, CA. She was born on January 2, 1970, in Pueblo, CO, to Harlan and Betty Lou Miller. Suzanne grew up in Pueblo, CO and Boulder City, NV. She graduated from Boulder City High School in Boulder City, NV, in 1988. After high school she attended college at University of Nevada Las Vegas, in Las Vegas, NV, where she received two degrees in Human Resources and Management Information Systems. In December 1988, Suzanne began working as a student employee for United States Environmental Protection Agency, Human Resources Management Division. She served with unwavering dedication to Team Vegas EPA for 29 years and contributed her talents and time to numerous agency and HR initiatives. Suzanne married Richard O'Connell on May 10, 2003 in Boulder City, NV. For those that knew Suzanne, it was evident how close to her heart she held her unwavering faith, love for her family, friends, and EPA colleagues. Suzanne is survived by her spouse, Richard, of Henderson, NV, her parents, Harlan and Betty Lou Miller of Boulder City, NV, her brother, John, (Leanna), Miller of Boulder City, NV, and nephew, Stephen Miller of Norfolk, VA. The family requests memorial donations to be made to The National Stroke Association www.stroke.org.



Edward L. Zomick, S196

Edward L. Zomick, 82, of Levittown, PA, passed away on April 6, 2017. Ed was born and raised in Shenandoah, PA, to Edward J. Zomick and Veronica (Dudis) Zomick. He graduated from Shenandoah Catholic High School in 1952. He has been a Middletown Township resident for the past 57 years and a member of Queen of the Universe Parish. After graduating, Ed went on to study Metallurgical Engineering at Temple University. He worked at Thiokol Chemical Corporation and retired after many years from White Surface Engineering in Newtown, PA. Ed enjoyed fishing and crabbing, and spending time with his family and friends. He is survived by his devoted daughters, Linda Ecker and her husband, Thomas of Moorestown, NJ, and Carol Zomick with whom he resided; his granddaughter, Emily Grace Ecker; and his loving companion, Dorothy Stewart of Levittown, PA. Ed will also be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Ronald Gene Kauth, S007

Ronald Gene Kauth, 44, of Pekin, IL and formerly of Streator, IL passed away on May 6, 2017. He was born April 19, 1973 in Streator to Roseann Kauth. He was formerly married to Wilma Hasty. He is survived by daughters: Ashley Vice of Streator and Cici; a grandson Bentley Williams and another grandchild on the way; an aunt Marge Kauth of Streator and cousins, Judy Henson and Jamie Lurz and families. He graduated from St. Stephen's Grade School and Woodland High School. Ron was an E.M.T. having worked for Lee Ambulance, St. Mary's Ambulance and A.M.T. in Streator. He also served on the Schaeferville Volunteer Fire Department where had been Fire Chief. He was employed by the Paradise Riverboat Casino in East Peoria. He also served on the Streator E.S.D.A. Memorials may be directed to the family.

Rose M. Gochal, S322

Rose M. Gochal (nee Rapach) passed away on May 22, 2017 in New Jersey at age 93. Born in Perth Amboy, NJ she resided there before moving to Woodbridge in 1986. A graduate of Charles E. Gregory School of Nursing, class of 1944, Mrs. Gochal worked in nursing for many years and later became one of New Jersey's first Licensed Nursing Home Administrators. She was an Emergency Room and Floor Nurse at Perth Amboy General Hospital; Director of Nurses at Edgar Hill Nursing Home in Woodbridge; and Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and Director of Nurses at Amboy Care Center before her retirement in 1980. She was a communicant of Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Port Reading, where she belonged to the Altar-Rosary Society and worked bingo. Rose enjoyed crocheting, traveling, jigsaw puzzles and just sitting on her front porch watching the cars pass by. She often invited friends and neighbors in for cake and coffee. Surviving are her children, Janice Muller and her husband, Bob, of Claymont, DE, Douglas Gochal and his wife, Lori, of North Richland Hills, TX and Allan Gochal of DeBary, FL.

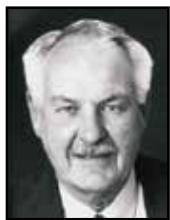


daughter-in-law, Edith Gochal, of DeBary, FL; six grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Saint Anthony of Padua Church Memorial Fund, 436 Port Reading Avenue, Port Reading, NJ 07064 in Rose's memory.

Frances Kastl, W017

Frances Kastl, 93, of David City, NE died May 13, 2017. Frances was born on December 19, 1923 at Prague, NE to Frank and Mary (Kubr) Belik. After high school graduation, she went on to receive her teacher's certificate and taught school for several years. She went to work at Henningsen's Egg Plant as a lab tech, working until she retired. She married Theodore F. Kastl on June 2, 1945. Frances was a member of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, Plasi and the Plasi Rosary Society. She moved to David City in the mid-1980's and became active in St. Mary's Church, the PCCW, had a holy hour for many years, and was a member of the Seminarian Club. She was a proud member of the Quilter's group at the David City Senior Center, a group, whose proceeds were donated to the Aquinas Guardian Angel Fund. She loved children, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her smile and warmth as well her often spoken phrase, "I do too, love you" will be missed by all. Frances is survived by her children: David (Kathy) Kastl of Wahoo, Ted (Kathy) Kastl of Lincoln, Ben (Jackie) Kastl of Weston, Valerie (Bill) Witzel of Dwight, and Tim Kastl of Bruno; 19 grandchildren and 41 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law: Lillian Belik of Omaha and many nieces and nephews. Memorials in care of the family.

John P. Kirby, ZJ0



John Patrick Kirby passed away on his birthday May 30, 2017, in David City, NE. He was born to Jerome and Edna (Oltman) Kirby in David City and graduated from St. Mary's High School. He earned a Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. John was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, teacher and coach. He was inducted into the Nebraska

High School Sports Hall of Fame as an Athlete in 2005. He earned a scholarship to play football at UNL where he earned his bachelor's degree in biological science and physical education. He then played professional football for seven years with the Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants. After his football career, he returned to Nebraska with his wife Mary Sue (Carlson) Kirby to raise their family while he taught at David City Aquinas High School and coached football and track. During this time, he returned to UNL and earned a master's Degree in education. John had also served in the National Guard and retired after 27 years with Vishay Dale Electronics in Columbus. He had a love for computers, science and reading — always non-fiction. He could teach you about the science behind today's latest technological developments, if he kept your attention long enough. John is survived by his wife, Mary Sue Kirby, children Kelly Kampschneider, Chris (Karol) Kirby, Kerry (Jamie) Sylvester, Tracy Kirby, eleven grandchildren; one brother Dennis (Carole) Kirby and a sister Cindy (Jeff) Souba.

Erwin and Mary Gloss, S234

Erwin Gloss and Mary Gloss (nee Kilianyova) both passed away on April 13, 2017 in Summit, NJ. Erwin was born in Newark, NJ on December 26, 1920. He was the son of Erwin Gloss and Julia Horway and the step-son of Mary Krakowski. Mary was born in Forbasy, Czechoslovakia on July 1, 1921. She was the daughter of Pavel Kilianyi and Victoria Totosova and the eldest of 5 children. Mary came to the United States in March of 1938 to live with her uncle in Ohio and then later moved to Manville, NJ. She worked as a nanny, housekeeper, and seamstress. Erwin served in the United States Army between June 1944 and June 1946. He was a translator and interpreter at German Prisoner of War camps at Fort Forrest and Tellico Plains, TN. He spoke English, German, Czech and Polish. He worked and retired at the Universal Chain company in Maplewood, NJ as a tool and die maker. He especially loved telling stories from his amazing 96 years of life. He was the caring companion and caretaker of his wife, Mary. He was a member of American Legion Post 433 in New Providence, NJ and participated in many functions at the VFW Post 6259 in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Once Mary's children were grown, she worked as a full-time nanny for many years. She sewed many of her own clothes, her daughter-in-law's wedding dress and traditional Slovak costumes for herself and her grandchildren. She loved to entertain and cook for her family and friends. Erwin and Mary loved good food, being with their friends and family, and dancing. They were loving and dedicated to each other for 76 years. Erwin and Mary are survived by their beloved sons Robert and Walter and their spouses Tracy and Lois, their grandchildren Garrett, Kirsten and her partner, Christian Hincapie, Scott and Ryan, their niece, Anna (Hanka) and her family, and their best furry friend, Buddy.

Virginia "Ginny" L. Fabiny DeLuca, S161

Virginia, "Ginny" DeLuca passed away June 15, 2017 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Virginia was born on October 19, 1961 in Youngstown, the daughter of Frank J. and Agatha (Hamrock) Fabiny. Virginia was a graduate of Cardinal Mooney Class of 1979, YSU with an Associate degree in dietetics, and YSU School of

Nursing with a BSN. She worked as a visiting nurse, a case manager at both Northside Hospital and most recently at Southwoods Surgical Hospital until her retirement due to health issues, shortly after purchasing her dream home in the North Carolina mountains. She was a life-long active member of Our Lady of Sorrows St. Matthias Church where she taught religious education classes. She was a member of Branch 731 First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Cultural Association. Virginia leaves her husband, Fred DeLuca, Jr., whom she married May 1, 1982; her parents; two sons, Daniel (Amie) DeLuca and Edward DeLuca; daughter, Lauren DeLuca; three grandchildren, and eagerly anticipated the July birth of her first grandson. She also leaves behind her siblings, Raymond, Marian (John) McCreery, Thomas (Lisbeth), and Barbara (Drew) Monitto; uncle, Michael Hamrock; father-in-law, Fred DeLuca, Sr., brothers-in-law, Anthony (Donna) DeLuca and Bill DeLuca; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and beloved friends. Ginny loved to travel, she loved everyone, and she was loved by so many. Her generous and vivacious spirit will be sorely missed.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branches J485 and S553

Bake Sale and Basket Raffle

The Annual Viliya was held on December 10, 2017 at St. Andrews Abbey & Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH. The Benedictine Monks and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club hosted the event.



Brother Gabriel and Fr. Gerard serve the soup.

A traditional Christmas Eve dinner was served which was prepared by the Radio Club officers. Mass was held at the Abbey and dinner was served in the high school cafeteria. Abbot Gary and the monks began the celebration with a gospel reading, prayers and hymns. The monks served the soup. The crowd was entertained by the Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble. Branch J485 held a bake sale as a matching funds project at the event. Donna Oros, President, Johanna Oros, Treasurer along with Joe Oros, president of Branch 553 baked and sold over 50 dozen kolachky. Proceeds went to the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club. The day ended with a fabulous raffle. Joe Oros, Branch 553 President, purchased and wrapped over 45 baskets and gifts for the raffle. The raffle proceeds went to St. Andrew Abbey.

Officers and members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club and members and officers of local FCSLA branches.



Officers and members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club and members and officers of local FCSLA branches.



Members of the FCSLA.



Sr. Branch 177

Cookie Sale and Basket Raffle

On December 17, 2017, Sr. Branch 177 sponsored a cookie sale and basket raffle at St. Isaac Jogues Church, Jefferson Hills, PA. This was a matching funds project.



Branch members and parishioners prepared items for the cookie sale table.



Some of the items available for the basket and gift raffle.

L-R: Brother Gabriel, Abbott Gary, Fr. Michael and Fr. Gerard.



Lucina Folk Ensemble.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Members of the senior branch and parishioners made delicious cookies and beautiful baskets and other items for the raffle. The bake sale and raffle netted a profit of \$741.00. Jerry LaFrankie, Sr. Branch 177 President, presented the matching funds check to Reverend Robert Miller.

Reverend Robert Miller and the members of St. Isaac Jogues parish would like to thank FCSLA for the matching funds check.



L-R: Jerry LaFrankie, S177 President; Reverend Robert Miller, Louise Biddle and Monica LaFrankie, S177 Financial Secretary.



Sr. Branch 409

Free Will Donation Drive for Tabor House

When Agnes Chervenak the President of Sr. Branch 409 in East Chicago, IN and member of the Okres Helen Kocan of Lake County, IN and Joliet, IL heard that the Tabor House was in need of furniture, she utilized her FCSLA Matching Funds to assist. Tabor House is a project of the new Diocese of Gary, Bishop Donald Hying, being built by the Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana and managed by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese. According to Bishop Hying, "Tabor is where Jesus was transfigured and people saw a new vision of what could be." "This home will be for transformation that a single-parent family will find the resources they need to achieve self-sufficiency and independence." Agnes with the assistance of Joann Skvarek Banvich, FCSLA National Director organized the Free Will Donation Drive during advent held at the Diocese Pastoral Center and the early Christmas Party Celebration of not only Sr. Branch 409, but also Sr. Branch 452 of Whiting, IN.



Members of both branches were happy to participate along with the Pastoral Center staff, which made them all eligible to win special raffle prizes. Agnes Chervenak, Joann Skvarek Banvich, Betty Ortiz, Sherry Anderson and her mother were all guests at a special Mass held at the Diocese of Gary along with a luncheon where proceeds of the fundraiser were given to Bishop Hying as seen in the pictures. Father Mark Pranatis, Executive Director of the Catholic Charities was given a set of FCSLA 125th Anniversary mugs donated by the Helen Kocan District to be placed in the kitchen of the new home. These mugs were provided by the District for its' members during their 125th Gala Celebration. The National Office of the FCSLA made this all possible through the Matching Funds Program and we all thank them.



Branch W013

Bake Sale and Country Store

Branch W013, Prague, NE, recently sponsored a Bake Sale and Country Store during the Annual St. John's Soup Dinner. This matching grant event will be used for the support of our parish expenses.



2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

The 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is progressing well. As many of you know, the funds raised in this annual Appeal are sent to the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries.

The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. If you have already made your donation to the 40th Annual Appeal, thank you. If not, please consider doing so by filling out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated. As of March 7, the 2018 Appeal has raised \$6,190. Again, thank you for your goodness and generosity to the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Donations received before November 30, 2018 will be credited toward the 2018 Appeal.

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 Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

40th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to

Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
120 Jefferson Street
Swedesburg, PA 19405

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017

ASSETS	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 26,162,265
Bonds	898,057,043
Preferred Stock	2,353,559
Common Stock	8,140,855
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,453,009
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,201,069
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,736,107
Other Assets	4,264,759
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 960,368,666
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 297,616,870
Annuity Reserves	537,297,738
Death Claims Payable	2,402,296
Unearned Premiums	484,142
Matured Endowments	351,513
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,588,693
Accrued Convention Donations	525,000
Provision for Future Conventions	399,387
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,968,532
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,549,260
Other Liabilities	1,848,351
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 857,431,782
Surplus	\$ 102,936,884
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 960,368,666

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2017

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,716,758
Annuity Premiums	35,224,876
Investment Income	42,504,197
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	257,404
Rental Income	537,887
Other Revenue	24,652
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 82,265,774
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,575,538
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	28,311,720
Insurance Benefits	6,324,998
Annuity Benefits	26,130,006
Commission Expense	1,054,562
Surrender Benefits	3,680,443
Post Mortem Benefits	1,237,890
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	82,250
Matured Endowments	32,023
Donation Expenses	122,661
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	231,000
Convention Expenses	183,337
Bank Service Charges	94,420
Data Processing Service Fees	229,833
Accounting Fees	79,696
Actuarial Fees	253,173
Legal Fees	105,944
Consulting Fees	116,711
Branch and District Funding	758,450
Fraternal Activities	136,515
Official Publications	424,503
Scholarship Awards	295,213
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	447,384
Fees — Directors	184,382
Salaries — Employees	1,867,538
Salaries — Officers	502,080
Interest Expense	275,305
Tax Expense	313,846
Depreciation Expense	240,842
Utility Expense	116,505
Postage and Printing	217,125
Advertising	93,775
Travel Expense	119,765
Insurance Department Fees	225,337
Sales Promotion	204,488
Rental Expense	601,215
Other Expense	775,507
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 77,645,982
Income (Loss) from Operations	
Dividends to Members	\$ 4,619,792
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 1,258,965
Capital Gains (Loss)	\$ 3,360,827
NET INCOME (Loss)	(69,141)
	\$ 3,291,686



New Easter Traditions

SLOW-COOKED ORANGE GLAZED HAM

1 (4- to 5-pound) semi-boneless ham
½ cup orange juice
½ cup honey
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
1 teaspoon dried rosemary
½ teaspoon ground cloves
Zest of 1 orange

In a 5-quart or larger slow cooker, place ham.

In a small bowl, combine remaining ingredients; spoon mixture over ham.

Cover and cook on low 3 to 3½ hours, or until heated through.

FRIED CABBAGE

¼ pound bacon
1 head cabbage, coarsely chopped
¼ cup (½ stick) butter
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper

In a large pot, cook bacon over medium-high heat until crisp. Remove bacon from pot and crumble; set aside.

Add remaining ingredients to pot. Reduce heat to low, cover, and cook 30 to 35 minutes, or until cabbage is tender, stirring frequently.

Sprinkle with crumbled bacon, toss, and serve.

SWEET POTATO PANCAKES

1½ pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and shredded
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 egg, beaten
½ cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon black pepper
Vegetable oil for frying

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except oil; mix well. Form into 12 pancakes.

In a deep skillet, heat about ¼ inch of oil over medium-high heat. Fry pancakes in batches 3 to 4 minutes per side, or until golden. (If you like them crisper, fry until they're flecked with brown.) Drain on a paper towel-lined platter and cover with foil. Repeat with remaining pancakes, and serve hot.

CHEDDAR POTATO CASSEROLE

3½ cups water
½ cup (1 stick) butter
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
3½ cups instant potato flakes
¼ cup finely chopped onion
1½ cups (6 ounces) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
½ cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8-inch square baking dish with cooking spray, set aside.

In a large saucepan over high heat, bring water, butter, salt, and pepper to a boil. Remove saucepan from heat and stir in potato flakes and onion; mix well.

Spoon mixture into baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and top with cream.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes, or until heated through and the edges are golden.

SOUR CREAM MUFFINS

1 cup sour cream
1 egg
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon butter, melted
1½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Coat a 6-cup muffin tin with cooking spray.

In a medium bowl, combine sour cream, egg, sugar, and butter; mix well. Stir in remaining ingredients until well combined.

Spoon equally into muffin cups and bake 12 to 15 minutes, or until light golden and a wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Serve warm.

CARROT CAKE WHOOPIE PIES

1 (21.41-ounce) package carrot cake mix
¼ cup vegetable oil
¼ cup water
3 large eggs
Cream Cheese Filling
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened

1 stick butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
5 cups confectioners' sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat baking sheets with cooking spray.

In a large bowl with an electric mixer, combine cake mix, oil, water, and eggs; beat well. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto baking sheets about 2 inches apart. (Since "cakes" will be baked in batches, refrigerate batter until ready to place on baking sheets.)

Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cakes cool slightly then remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

To make Cream Cheese filling, in a large bowl with an electric mixer, beat cream cheese, butter, and vanilla until fluffy. Beat in confectioners' sugar 1 cup at a time until smooth.

Turn half the cooled cakes over onto their rounded sides and spread a dollop of filling over them. Place the other half of the cakes on top of the filling, forming sandwiches. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

KENTUCKY BUTTER POKE CAKE

1 box SuperMoist yellow cake mix
1 cup buttermilk
4 oz. (half of 8-oz. package) cream cheese, softened
2 eggs
Filling and Topping
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
¼ cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla
1½ cups powdered sugar
¼ cup milk
1½ cups sliced almonds, toasted

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray bottom of 13x9-inch pan with cooking spray.

In large bowl, beat cake ingredients with electric mixer on medium speed for 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Pour in pan.

Bake 28 to 33 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Place pan on cooling rack.

Immediately, in medium microwavable bowl, beat 8 oz. cream cheese and the butter with electric mixer on medium-high speed until smooth. Beat in vanilla. On low speed, beat in powdered sugar until frosting is smooth and creamy. Beat in milk. Microwave uncovered on High 30 to 50 seconds or until smooth and thin enough to pour.

With tines of fork, poke holes almost to bottom of warm cake about every ½ inch. Pour 1 cup of the glaze mixture over warm cake. Let stand 10 minutes. Stir almonds into remaining mixture, and spread over top of cake. Refrigerate 1 hour 30 minutes or until topping is set before serving. Store covered in refrigerator.

The FCSLA Mission Statement

We provide financial security to our members while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Vision is to:

Be a Premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits.