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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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National Headquarters at 24950 Chagrin Blvd.,
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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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Always Appreciate the Little Things

Sometimes Gifts Are Hard To Recognize

A married lady was expecting a birthday gift from her husband. For many months she had admired a beautiful diamond ring in a showroom, and knowing her husband could afford it, she told him that was all she wanted.

As her birthday approached, this lady awaited signs that her husband had purchased the diamond ring.

Finally, on the morning of her birthday, her husband called her into his study room. Her husband told her how proud he was to have such a good wife, and told her how much he loved her. He handed her a beautiful wrapped gift box. Curious, the wife opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the wife's name embossed in gold.

Angrily, she raised her voice to her husband and said, "With all your money, you give me a Bible?" She then stormed out of the house, leaving her husband.

Many years passed and the lady was very successful in business. She managed to settle for a more beautiful house and a wonderful family, but realized her ex-husband was very old, and thought perhaps she should go to visit him. She had not seen him for many years.

But before she could make arrangements, she received a telegram telling her that her ex-husband had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to her. She needed to come back immediately and take care of things.

When she arrived at her ex-husband's house, sudden sadness and regret filled her heart. She began to search through her ex-husband's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as she had left it years before.

With tears, she opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. Her ex-husband had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, "And if you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father, who is in heaven, give to those who ask Him?"

As she read those words, a tiny package dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a diamond ring, with her name engraved on it — the same diamond ring which she saw at the showroom. On the tag was the date of her birth, and the words... 'LUV U ALWAYS'.

How many times do we miss God's blessings, because they are not packaged as we expected? Trust HIM always. HE knows what is good for you and may even ignore what you thought was good for you.

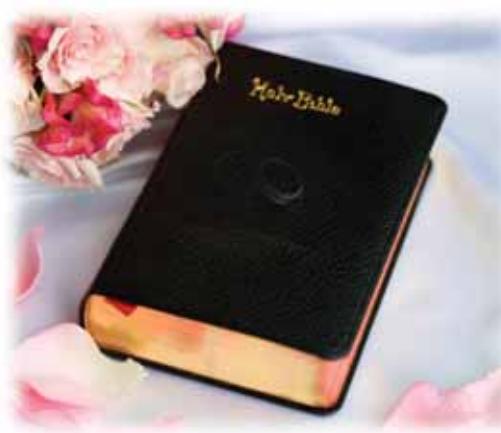
Do not spoil what you have, by desiring what you have not; but remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.

If your gift is not packaged the way you want it, it's because it is better packaged the way it is! Always appreciate little things; they usually lead you to bigger things!

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."



Carolyn Bazik



Paul, The Passionate Apostle

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Friends,

We have just completed the Year of Saint Paul that began on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul on 29 June 2008 and ended on the same solemnity this year. Saint Paul is one of the unique characters of the Christian Scriptures and was an influential disciple in the apostolic community. Prior to his conversion, he was a Pharisaic Jew who was present at the martyrdom of Saint Stephen as described in chapter seven of the *Acts of the Apostles* and consented to that martyr's execution. Although not a part of the original Twelve Apostles, Saint Paul is properly given the title "apostle" because of his personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Himself on the road to Damascus (*Acts*, chapter nine). After his conversion, "He stayed some days with the disciples in Damascus, and he began at once to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. All who heard him were astounded and said, 'Is not this the man who in Jerusalem ravaged those who call upon this name, and came here expressly to take them back in chains to the chief priests?' But Saul [Paul's Semitic name] grew all the stronger and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus, proving that this is the Messiah (*Acts* 9:19-22).

The word "passionate" sticks out in my mind when I think about the person of Saint Paul. He was passionate in his apostolic ministry in proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. After two visits to Jerusalem, Paul embarked on his first missionary journey that lasted between two to three years beginning at Antioch where he and Barnabas had hands laid on them. They went to Cyprus, Asia Minor, Perga, Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and then retraced their steps back to Antioch, sailing from Pamphylia. When entering a city, Paul first preached the Good News in synagogues to the Jews who either accepted his message or rejected

it. After addressing them, Paul would then preach to the Gentiles who, like the Jews, would either accept or reject the teachings. Hostility towards Paul began to fester among the Jews who felt that Paul was preaching contrary to Jewish doctrine. At one point, he was stoned during this journey.

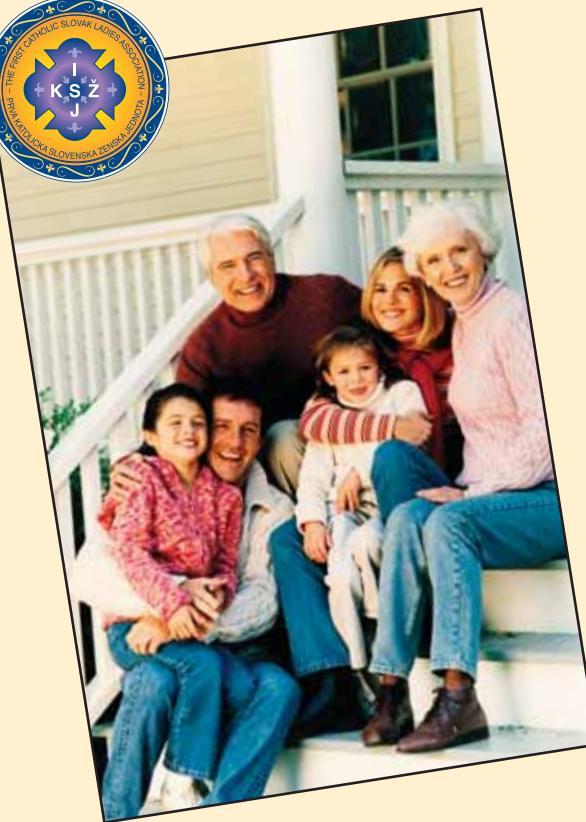
The first journey of Saint Paul was his shortest one but it was followed by two other major journeys. His second journey occurred between the years 49-52, AD when Paul once again traveled to Derbe and Lystra, then to Phrygia, Galatia, Troas, Philippi, Macedonia, Berea, Athens, Corinth and finally returning back to Jerusalem. The third journey commenced sometime in the year 52, AD and continued through 56, AD when he visited Galatia, Asia, Macedonia, Achaia, Ephesus, Caesarea, Myra, Crete, Malta, Puteoli, and finally to Rome where he would ultimately meet his death. Throughout these sojourns, Paul had a passionate resolve to proclaim Jesus as Lord. In his *Second Letter to the Corinthians*, Paul relates to his audience what he encountered in his ministry during these three journeys. "But what anyone dare to boast of (I am speaking in foolishness) I also dare. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I am talking like an insane person.) I am still more, with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, far worse beatings, and numerous brushes with death. Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many sleep-

less nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure" (11:23-27).

You and I have traveled frequently in our lives but we are also on *the* journey. We, as Christians, are on *the* life-long journey with our Lord Jesus — committed to Him by our conversions in Baptism, acknowledging His Presence in Word and Sacrament, building up the Kingdom of Heaven through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our journey may not be as adventurous and burdensome as those of Saint Paul, but like Saint Paul, there are many challenges that may hinder our relationship with Jesus that we must spurn. And there are the grace and joys that strengthen our bonds with Him. With Saint Paul as our example, may we never let the things of this world hinder our journey to the Kingdom. Like Saint Paul, may we encounter the good and the bad that may come along the way courageously and without fear, knowing that our destiny is in sight. Through the intercession of Saint Paul, may we bear witness to our families and communities the Good News of Jesus Christ in truth by our words, thoughts and actions directing all to the Kingdom.

May our words with one another during our journey be those of Saint Paul in his thanksgiving prayer for the Christian community at Rome in his *Letter to the Romans*. "First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because your faith is heralded throughout the world. God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in proclaiming the gospel of his Son, that I remember you constantly, always asking in my prayers that somehow by God's will, I may find my way clear to come to you" (1:8-10). Together may we find our journey clear to come to the Lord forever in the Kingdom of Heaven through the passionate apostle, Saint Paul.

Saint Paul, pray for us!



FCSLA 20 Year Level Term

The 20 Year Level Term Premium Life Insurance is an ideal policy for families. It offers a large amount of insurance at minimal cost. For example, it helps families cover the cost of high mortgage payments or children's college tuition in case of an unforeseen event.

- Term life insurance providing coverage for 20 years.
- Premium rates are guaranteed not to increase.
- Issue ages are 16 through 80.
- Minimum purchase amount is \$50,000.
- The certificate may be converted to any permanent plan offered by the Association for the same or less insurance coverage, without evidence of insurability before the end of 20 years, but not after age 75.
- The Return of Premium rider is an optional benefit at an extra premium. If the insured is still living at the end of the term period the sum of all premiums paid on the term plan, is returned to the insured. (This rider is not available in all states.)
- The certificate may not be renewed.
- No Dividends are anticipated.

For more information and premium rates for female and male smokers, please call 800-464-4642.

Female Non-Smoker Single Premium Rates

(per \$1,000 FACE Amount)

Issue Age	Band 1 \$50,000	Band 2 \$100,000	Band 3 \$250,000 & Over	Optional Return of Premium Rider	Issue Age	Band 1 \$50,000	Band 2 \$100,000	Band 3 \$250,000 & Over	Optional Return of Premium Rider
16-20	1.19	0.89	0.74	1.67	51	3.61	3.31	3.16	5.05
21	1.21	0.91	0.76	1.69	52	4.08	3.78	3.63	5.71
22	1.23	0.93	0.78	1.72	53	4.61	4.31	4.16	6.45
23	1.25	0.95	0.80	1.75	54	5.21	4.91	4.76	7.29
24	1.28	0.98	0.83	1.79	55	5.87	5.57	5.42	8.22
25	1.31	1.01	0.86	1.83	56	6.60	6.30	6.15	9.24
26	1.33	1.03	0.88	1.86	57	7.40	7.10	6.95	10.36
27	1.36	1.06	0.91	1.90	58	8.28	7.98	7.83	11.59
28	1.38	1.08	0.93	1.93	59	9.22	8.92	8.77	12.91
29	1.41	1.11	0.96	1.97	60	10.25	9.95	9.80	14.35
30	1.43	1.13	0.98	2.00	61	11.36	11.06	10.91	15.90
31	1.45	1.15	1.00	2.03	62	12.55	12.25	12.10	17.57
32	1.47	1.17	1.02	2.06	63	13.82	13.52	13.37	19.35
33	1.48	1.18	1.03	2.07	64	15.18	14.88	14.73	21.25
34	1.49	1.19	1.04	2.09	65	16.63	16.33	16.18	23.28
35	1.49	1.19	1.04	2.09	66	18.17	17.87	17.72	25.44
36	1.50	1.20	1.05	2.10	67	19.82	19.52	19.37	27.75
37	1.51	1.21	1.06	2.11	68	21.60	21.30	21.15	30.24
38	1.52	1.22	1.07	2.13	69	23.51	23.21	23.06	32.91
39	1.53	1.23	1.08	2.14	70	25.57	25.27	25.12	35.80
40	1.54	1.24	1.09	2.16	71	27.80	27.50	27.35	38.92
41	1.55	1.25	1.10	2.17	72	30.21	29.91	29.76	42.29
42	1.59	1.29	1.14	2.23	73	32.82	32.52	32.37	45.95
43	1.67	1.37	1.22	2.34	74	35.65	35.35	35.20	49.91
44	1.77	1.47	1.32	2.48	75	38.70	38.40	38.25	54.18
45	1.91	1.61	1.46	2.67	76	41.99	41.69	41.54	58.79
46	2.08	1.78	1.63	2.91	77	45.55	45.25	45.10	63.77
47	2.29	1.99	1.84	3.21	78	49.38	49.08	48.93	69.13
48	2.54	2.24	2.09	3.56	79	53.50	53.20	53.05	74.90
49	2.84	2.54	2.39	3.98	80	57.92	57.62	57.47	81.09

Male Non-Smoker Annual Premium Rates

(per \$1,000 FACE Amount)

Issue Age	Band 1 \$50,000	Band 2 \$100,000	Band 3 \$250,000 & Over	Optional Return of Premium Rider	Issue Age	Band 1 \$50,000	Band 2 \$100,000	Band 3 \$250,000 & Over	Optional Return of Premium Rider
16-20	1.30	1.00	0.85	1.82	51	5.61	5.31	5.16	7.85
21	1.30	1.00	0.85	1.82	52	6.17	5.87	5.72	8.64
22	1.31	1.01	0.86	1.83	53	6.78	6.48	6.33	9.49
23	1.31	1.01	0.86	1.83	54	7.46	7.16	7.01	10.44
24	1.32	1.02	0.87	1.85	55	8.21	7.91	7.76	11.49
25	1.33	1.03	0.88	1.86	56	9.03	8.73	8.58	12.64
26	1.35	1.05	0.90	1.89	57	9.93	9.63	9.48	13.90
27	1.37	1.07	0.92	1.92	58	10.92	10.62	10.47	15.29
28	1.39	1.09	0.94	1.95	59	11.99	11.69	11.54	16.79
29	1.42	1.12	0.97	1.99	60	13.16	12.86	12.71	18.42
30	1.45	1.15	1.00	2.03	61	14.43	14.13	13.98	20.20
31	1.48	1.18	1.03	2.07	62	15.80	15.50	15.35	22.12
32	1.53	1.23	1.08	2.14	63	17.28	16.98	16.83	24.19
33	1.58	1.28	1.13	2.21	64	18.88	18.58	18.43	26.43
34	1.64	1.34	1.19	2.30	65	20.60	20.30	20.15	28.84
35	1.70	1.40	1.25	2.38	66	22.45	22.15	22.00	31.43
36	1.77	1.47	1.32	2.48	67	24.43	24.13	23.98	34.20
37	1.86	1.56	1.41	2.60	68	26.55	26.25	26.10	37.17
38	1.95	1.65	1.50	2.73	69	28.81	28.51	28.36	40.33
39	2.07	1.77	1.62	2.90	70	31.24	30.94	30.79	43.74
40	2.20	1.90	1.75	3.08	71	33.82	33.52	33.37	47.35
41	2.35	2.05	1.90	3.29	72	36.58	36.28	36.13	51.21
42	2.53	2.23	2.08	3.54	73	39.51	39.21	39.06	55.31
43	2.73	2.43	2.28	3.82	74	42.63	42.33	42.18	59.68
44	2.96	2.66	2.51	4.14	75	45.93	45.63	45.48	64.30
45	3.22	2.92	2.77	4.51	76	49.44	49.14	48.99	69.22
46	3.52	3.22	3.07	4.93	77	53.15	52.85	52.70	74.41
47	3.85	3.55	3.40	5.39	78	57.08	56.78	56.63	79.91
48	4.23	3.93	3.78	5.92	79	61.23	60.93	60.78	85.72
49	4.64	4.34	4.19	6.50	80	65.60	65.30	65.15	91.84
50	5.10	4.80	4.65	7.14					

"DAILY DOSE OF READING" RECEIVES DONATION



The nonprofit Daily Dose of Reading, a group that works to use the pediatrician's office as a place to encourage reading received a donation from our last convention held in St. Louis, MO. The photos show story time, recently held in Dr. Debbie Brindza's office (our National Medical Examiner), reading and telling stories. Every child happily left with a book and the group is already planning another story time next month. The group provides children's books, and lists for parents on age appropriate books to get at the library in doctor's offices in the greater Cleveland area.



From the Desk of . . .

Our Fraternal & Youth Director

Sue Ann M. Seich

Rag Dolls 2 Love, Inc.

Leona Cupka, of Branch 289 in Hobart, IN doesn't let any grass grow under her feet. During the year and especially during the cold winter months, Leona makes ragdolls. . . She has 40 made so far this year.

She donates them to Rag Dolls 2 Love, Inc. This organization sends them to children affected by war, HIV/AIDS or natural disasters. Some of the areas where they are sent include: South Africa, Sri Lanka, Gaza, Uganda, Jerusalem and Iraq.

Leona was one of our First Place winners in the ornament contest. Thank you, Leona for sharing this story with us.



We are so proud of you and pleased that you are a member of our FCSLA Family.

If you would like the pattern to make the dolls or help with the donations needed, you may go to their website, www.ragdolls@love.org and you will find all the information you will need.

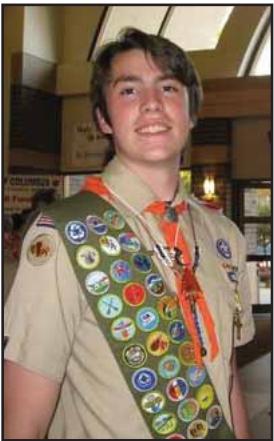


Presents Donation



SR. BRANCH 88 AND JR. BRANCH 157 OF MONESSEN present donation to Monessen Meals on Wheels. L-R: Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor; Angela Daniele, Monessen Meals on Wheels; Ruth Bielawski, Jr. Branch 157 Financial Secretary; and Veronica Bellicini, Auditor.

Michael Scahill Earns Eagle Scout Ranking



Michael Edward Scahill (Br. 107, West Mifflin PA) of Lenexa, KS earned the rank of Eagle Scout in August 2008. He is the son of Mike and Ann Marie (Krupinsky) Scahill (Br. 107) and the grandson of the late Martin and Helen Krupinsky (Br. 107) of Duquesne, PA.

Michael's scouting career began in 1997 and he earned his Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei awards for Catholic Scouts. He enjoyed Pack 3181's diverse activities including bike riding in the

Lenexa parades, summer camps at Camp Naish and all the Pinewood Derby Races. In 2001, he crossed over from Cubs to Boy Scouts, joining Troop 181 of Holy Trinity Church, Lenexa, KS, earning the Ad Altari Dei Catholic Scout award and taking another big step on his Trail to Eagle.

Michael earned a total of 31 merit badges along his journey. Some of his favorite merit badges were the Snow/Ski Sports merit badge and shooting sports merit badges: Archery, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting. He served in multiple leadership positions in his troop, such as Patrol Leader, Librarian, Troop Guide, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Michael attended camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation in Missouri for five summers and he is an Ordeal Member of the international camping society: Order of the Arrow. Michael is a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, holding the rank of Brave, and answering to the name of *Majestic Nighthawk*.

As a Life Scout, Michael was a member of two separate High Adventure crews: Northern Tier Canadian Boundary Waters High Adventure, canoeing for ten days, and Florida Seabase at the Charles L. Sommers Base sailing the Florida Keys for eight days. One of his favorite memories is being on night watch at 3:30 a.m. when one of the trawling lines hooked a 5 ½ foot nurse shark.

Michael's Eagle Project involved distributing free gun locks at Lenexa festivals to over 700 area residents in conjunction with Operation ChildSafe, the Lenexa Police Department and the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Department. While there is no way to measure the actual effect the project had, Adult Advisor Master Police Officer David Lewis-Jones stated that if 'the project put just one lock on an unlocked gun, then the project was an overwhelming success'.

Michael graduated cum laude from Rockhurst High School, Kansas City, MO in May 2009 and received a full Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship. He will use this scholarship to attend Kansas State University and will enlist in the U.S. Military following college. Rockhurst is a Catholic Jesuit high school.

When he was honored at a Court of Honor in August of 2008, Michael said: "I would like to thank my parents for all their help and support; they deserve this Eagle award just as much as I do."

FRATERNAL DIRECTOR CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

The Home Office staff (below) helped Sue Ann Seich, FCSLA's Fraternal Director, celebrate her 60th birthday on March 30th.



Sue Ann (center) with family members.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEE

Kimberly Latzy was recently inducted into the National Honor Society at West Mifflin High School, West Mifflin, PA. She has a 4.5 grade point average and is a "Silk" in the High School Band. She also gives of her time and talent doing many volunteer jobs.

Her parents are Dave and Virginia Latzy; Grandmother is Dorothy Latzy and her cousin is Dolores Ragan, President of Branch 11 and former National Auditor. The family all belong to Branch 11 of the FCSLA.



HOSTING SUMMER PICNIC

The Nebraska state officers will once again be hosting a picnic for all members and their families on Sunday, July 12, 2009 at the North Bend City Park at noon. Each family is requested to bring one meat dish and one side dish, as well as their own table service. All drinks will be furnished and there will be swimming tickets for the youngsters.

Please plan to attend. It will be a good chance to see your old friends and hopefully meet some new ones too!

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 124: Walk for Autism

Sr. Branch 124 from Throop, PA held a fundraiser to raise money for the Parents Loving Children through Autism Organization. The branch hosted an Autism Walk on April 18, 2009 at the Nay Aug Park in Scranton, PA. Through newspapers, posters and the internet, the branch recruited around 1,500 people who donated money to the cause. The branch raised over \$3,800.



Sr. Branch 519: Maple Heights Food Pantry Fundraiser

The Maple Heights Senior Center and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association's Sr. Branch 519 raised \$715 for the Maple Heights Food Pantry. Members of the FCSLA and the community went on a bus trip. All funds raised were donated for the food pantry.



Ann Scahill Attends Mom Prom with Two Sons

Ann Marie (Kruinsky) Scahill was proud to be escorted to Rockhurst Catholic High School's Mom Prom by her sons, Patrick Martin, 16 (left) and Michael Edward Jr., 18 (right). Patrick is a sophomore football player and holds a First Degree Black Belt in TaeKwonDo. Michael is a senior, president of the Model UN club and holds a Third Degree Black Belt. Ann Marie is formerly of Duquesne, PA. The Scahills reside in Lenexa, KS and all are members of Br. 107, West Mifflin PA.



Have You Signed Up A New Member This Month?

JOIN HANDS DAY EVENT FOR BRANCH 140

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS ACADEMY AND FCSLA JOIN IN 'OPERATION HELPING HANDS'



Each spring students at Our Lady of the Angels Academy, Lansford, PA, team up with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association to support a project for a needy cause. This year the team effort was extended to help Father James Sandy and his St. Mary's Orphanage and School in Sierra Leone, West Africa, by collecting much needed clothing and school supplies for the children of St. Mary's. The collected items will be sent to St. Mary's in August through the efforts of the "One Love Foundation", based in Summit Hill.

The "One Love Foundation" supports St. Mary's Orphanage, St. Theresa's and St. Peter's schools in Gerihun, Sierra Leone, West Africa, and the more than 300 children displaced by years of Civil War. The village of Gerihun has

no running water or electricity, and the area is infested with mosquitoes which transmit malaria. The children are the most vulnerable.

"One Love" ships 40 ft. cargo containers to Father Sandy's Orphanage that are filled to the brim with donated items. The total cost to ship these containers from the eastern U.S. to the final destination exceeds \$8000. FCSLA Lansford Branches #140 and #46, Coaldale Branches #417 and #318, and Nesquehoning Branches #410 and #321 provided a generous monetary donation to help defray the high cost of container shipping.

For more information about the "One Love Foundation", see their website at <http://www.1lovefoundation.org/index.html>



L-R: Louise Dunstan, Mary Ciganek, Maria Stianchie and Veronica Bazik.



Front row, L-R: FCSLA participants and members Samantha McCarthy, Anthony Stianchie, Adam Gilbert, Brayden Webb, Rachel Chuma, Taylor Paton, and Ethan Vermillion. Back row, L-R: Louise Dunstan (Financial Secretary/Treasurer, FCSLA #140), Mary Ciganek (Vice President, FCSLA #140) Maria Stianchie (One Love Foundation), Veronica Bazik (President, FCSLA #140), and Sister Regina Elinich, IHM (Principal, OLOAA).



Maria Kollar Okres Supports Fundraisers for Join Hands Day

For Join Hands Day, members of Maria Kollar Okres of Scranton, PA chose to support fundraisers to benefit Shawn Donagy, a Mid Valley teenager who was diagnosed with brain cancer earlier this year. They attended a spaghetti dinner in April sponsored by the Boy Scouts, and also a community picnic in May sponsored by the teachers and staff of Mid Valley High School where Shawn is a freshman. A donation was also made to his fund.



L-R: John and Catherine Stedina, Shawn, Barbara Zilla, and Elizabeth Chimock, Secretary.

St. Anne's Day Celebration

A St. Anne's Day Celebration will be celebrated by the Anna Hurban District of Chicago on Tuesday, July 28. Coffee and danish will be served at 9:30 a.m. at Orland Chateau, 14500 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park, IL. Mass will be held at St. Michael Church, 14327 Highland Ave., Orland Park at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon will follow at Orland Chateau.

Reservations will be accepted no later than July 10. Cost is \$18.00 per person. RSVP to Jarmila Hlubocky, 2760 W. 86th Place, Chicago, IL 60652 or phone 773/776-2167.

Louise M. Yash District Luncheon Held

FORMER PRESIDENT MARY KEBISEK HONORED

On April 4th, a sunny and cool spring Saturday afternoon, the first luncheon of the year of the Louise M. Yash District was held at Alioto's Restaurant. The new President Mary Jo Noyes in keeping with the traditions of the former President Mary Kebisek welcomed the members and guests to her first meeting with a humorous story. Prayers were said for the deceased and sick members. A big thank you was given to Pat Braun and his agents for their hard work in keeping Wisconsin strong in policy sales.

Members were reminded to mark their calendars for upcoming events:

Join Hands Day – May 16th at the Notre Dame Motherhouse

St. Ann's Day – July 28th in Illinois

Christmas Luncheon – December 5th at Alioto's.

The meeting was also an opportunity to honor former President Mary Kebisek. She was truly surprised as she was presented with two dozen roses, a gift certificate, and a picture scrapbook commemorating accomplishments of her 18 years as President. Members were able to write their thoughts and thank you in the book. Mary was also surprised that her three daughters came to town to join in the celebration. Happy retirement Mariska!



L-R: Mary Jo Noyes, Mary Kebisek, and Katherine Valent.



OKRES ANNA HURBAN CLEVELAND DISTRICT EVENT

Monday, July 27, 2009

Okres Anna Hurban, Cleveland, OH Annual Day of Recollection to St. Anne. Location: Shrine of Our Lady of Levocha, 1160 Broadway Avenue, Bedford, OH. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by Bishop Roger Gries, OSB. The day will close at 2:00 p.m. with the recitation of the holy rosary and benediction officiated by Fr. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B. Reservations are required for the luncheon. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Deadline for ordering tickets is July 15, 2009. Call Barbara Sekerak at 216.676.9332 for tickets.

JOIN HANDS DAY

CLEVELAND DISTRICT HOLDS THREE JOIN HANDS DAY EVENTS

The Cleveland District of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association held three Join Hands Day events this year.

Our first event was held April 25th at the Catholic Worker Community a home in urban Cleveland. The ten volunteers provided a breakfast to the homeless and indigent who come to Catholic Worker Community home for assistance. Our members solicited friends and business associates for both monetary and in kind donations prior to the event. They received over \$200 in monetary donations and the paper products for the breakfast. The Cleveland District matched the monetary donations thus enabling the group to present to Catholic Worker Community a \$200 plus check for the community's future use. While the ten volunteers were busy serving breakfast, another group of volunteers were at Light of Hearts Villa making and baking Join Hands Day cookies for the next two JHD events. The residents of Light of Hearts joined in the cookie baking and were glad to help out for the Join Hands Day events.



Our second event was held May 2nd at Light of Hearts Villa, Bedford, OH. The American Red Cross conducted a blood drive while our volunteers welcomed and thanked the blood donors, made and baked more JHD cookies, and collected clothing for Joseph's Home, a home for men in transition in urban Cleveland. We had 32 blood donors which exceeded the goal the Red Cross set for the event. The clothing drive brought in more than three van loads of men's clothing. Both the Red Cross and Joseph's Home were in awe at the volunteerism and compassion our volunteers demonstrated.

Our third event was held May 16th at Light of Hearts Villa, Bedford, OH. 60 plus volunteers - consisting of FCSLA junior and senior members, friends, and the residents, family members, and staff at Light of Hearts joined in the Spring Cleaning of the grounds. Raking up winter's debris, planting new flowers, playing bingo, conversing with the residents, decorating JHD cookies, bringing food donations for Seton Safety Net, imprinting a flag with our hand



prints and signatures, conducting a prayer service and concluding the day's event with a "Thank You" pizza lunch was the agenda for the day. The flag was flown below the American flag at Light of Hearts and will be preserved for future Join Hands Day events.

The events were a tremendous success due to the collaborative efforts of the staff at Light of Hearts Villa and the members of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. All participants are looking forward to next year's project(s).





Jasurda Honored as Citizen of the Year in Wisconsin

Frank Jasurda of Phillips, WI was honored as Citizen of the Year during the annual Phillips Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) banquet held on Sunday, April 19, 2009. Frank is a member of the Home Office Branch SZJO.

Frank is a lifelong resident of Phillips and a well known dairy farmer who retired a number of years ago. Sara Shuett, PACC President noted that Frank was active in various agricultural-related organizations and, until recently often helped out at United Pride Dairy, LLC, the largest dairy farm in Price County, which is owned by his son Ed, Jon Pesko and their families.

"Frank has accomplished many things, starting in high school by participating in Badger Boys State and being President of Future Farmers of America," Shuett stated. He married Donna Peissig 56 years ago and they are the parents of six children.

She noted that Frank served nine years on the Phillips School Board and during that time a new high school was constructed.

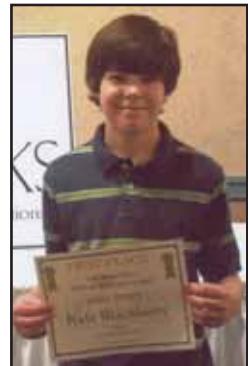
He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Czech/Slovak Festival, a position he has held for many years, and two years ago helped to form the Squeeze Box Jamboree.

The Jasurdas were chosen in 1994 as recipients of the Wisconsin Master Agriculturist Award and in 2008 Frank was elected President of that organization. Locally, he has been very active with St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church where he is presently chairman of the finance committee.

Congratulations Frank!

— CORRECTION —

An article about Kyle Blackburn that appeared on page 11 in the June issue of *Fraternally Yours* contained incorrect information. The paragraph below is the corrected version. The editor apologizes for the typographical error.



Kyle is a life-long member of Jr. Branch 57. He is the son of Jane and Dennis Blackburn and the grandson of Richard and Susan Talpas, officers of Sr. Branch 221 located in Cleveland, OH.

FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST

The Ornament Contest last year brought us many wonderful handmade creations. The Christmas tree at our Home Office will display the beautiful ornaments for many years. This year we will have a different contest open to all members of all ages. The contest will begin September 1, 2009. The deadline will be October 31, 2009. Members of all ages are encouraged to use their artistic talents and submit a handmade article for the contest. Please make sure you read over the guidelines entirely. If you have questions please contact Sue Ann, our Fraternal & Youth Director, by calling 1-800-464-4642, Ext 1051 or email her at sueann@fcsla.org.



FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. Contest is open to FCSLA members of all ages.
2. Item entered must be handmade between September 1, 2009 - October 31st, 2009.
3. The item should not be too large. (Remember it has to be mailed to the Home Office.)
4. Entry is limited to one item per member.
5. The entered item may be painted, sewn, knitted, crocheted, carved, etc. you may decide. (If you have a question about your item qualifying, please call or email Sue Ann.)
6. **ITEM WILL NOT BE RETURNED.** They will be donated to a nursing home, assisted living facility, or the area hospitals during the Christmas season.
7. There will be three cash prizes in each age category of: 1st Prize \$50.00; 2nd Prize \$25.00; 3rd Prize \$10.00.
8. Items must be mailed to the Home Office, postmarked date November 5th, 2009. (Please note: Items received at the home office postmarked after November 5th, 2009 will not be entered in the contest and will not be returned. FCSLA is not responsible if items are received broken or damaged.)

AGE GROUPS

Group one - Ages 0-5
Group five - Ages 26-39

Group two - Ages 6-10
Group six - Ages 40-59

Group three - Ages 11-17
Group seven - Ages 60-75

Group four - Ages 18-25
Group eight - 76 Plus

Please select your group number according to your age.

You will need to use the Group Number on the entry form you submit with your item.

FCSLA CREATIVE CONTEST

ENTRY GROUP NUMBER (According to Guidelines) _____

Name (please print) _____ Branch _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

Did you have help? _____ If yes, who helped? _____

How many hours/days did you spend creating your item? _____

Where did you get the idea/plans for your item? _____

Describe your entry:

Comments: _____

Mail this completed form along with your handmade creation to:

Sue Ann M. Seich, FCSLA Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
PLEASE NOTE: ITEM WILL NOT BE RETURNED — The deadline for entries is November 5th, 2009 (postmarked).

FCSLA IS FEELING FINE IN 2009

With Deborah Brindza, M.D., National Medical Examiner
and Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director

Men's Health Care Month

The focus this month is on men's health care. If a woman asks the man/men in her life, "What is the name of your doctor"? If they hesitate or can't remember, it is probably a good indication they are overdue in their preventive care evaluations. In many circumstances men are known to avoid the doctor until they have uncomfortable symptoms. Unfortunately, by the time some problems have symptoms, they are more serious and harder to treat.

Everyone should know their body mass index (BMI). This number gives doctors an idea of the risk of diseases based on obesity. After age 35, everyone should know their cholesterol level. Blood pressure should be checked every two years, more often if there is a problem. After age 50, there should be testing for colorectal cancer. Diabetes testing should be done regularly, especially if your BMI is above 30. Men should talk with their health care provider about risks and needs for sexually transmitted infection testing. All men should talk with their doctor about screening for prostate cancer and those men over 65 who have smoked (100 or more cigarettes) should be screened for abdominal aortic aneurysm.

When should men have physical examinations? If he cannot remember his last physical, he is due for one! Exam frequencies change with age and health conditions. A husband/wife, brother/sister, father/child, uncle/nephew may want to schedule appointments together. Consider having lunch, dinner or plan a special fun activity after the appointment!

Please share this information with your loved ones. Care to share your success story? Did you help a loved one improve their health?

This is my story _____.

Mail to: Sue Ann M. Seich, FCSLA
Fraternal & Youth Director
24950 Chagrin Blvd.
Beachwood, OH 44122



Wreath Laying Ceremony Held in Dallas, PA

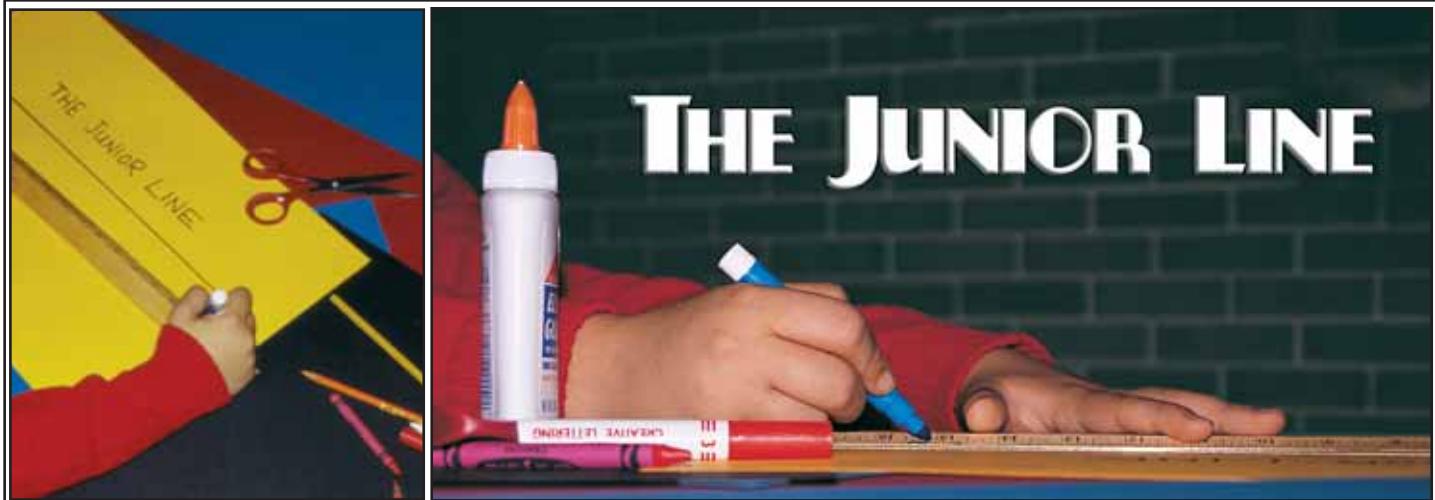


A Commemorative Ceremony and Wreath placement was held on May 11, 2009 by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern PA on the occasion of the 80th Death Anniversary of Rev. Jozef Murgas, Slovak scientist, inventor, artist and priest.

The Wreath Laying Ceremony was in Scared Heart of Jesus Cemetery, Dallas, PA and co-sponsored by the State Scientific Library in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. A litany was offered by Rev. David Betts, parochial vicar, Catholic Community of North Wilkes-Barre, PA with prayers for Rev Murgas and other faithfully departed souls.

Remarks were given by Igor Pokojny, Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, praising the radio telegraphic achievement of Rev Murgas, stating his primary concern was the local Slovaks. "Rev. Murgas took care of Slovak immigrants," he said, "he built a new church, library, cemetery, several schools, a gymnasium and playgrounds, all still being used today by American Slovaks." The program concluded with singing, "Hej, Slovaci" and "God Bless America" by the over 50 people in attendance.

Shown placing the wreath (above) at left is Philip R. Tuhy (S350), Wilkes-Barre, Chair of the Slovak Society of NE PA and at right Igor Pokojny, Consul General, Slovak Republic in New York. In the background holding the flags of Slovakia and America are Joseph and Anna Biros (S615), residents of Bratislava, Slovakia and Middletown, PA.



JULIA MARIE SEEMAN daughter of Mary Ann (Doyle) and Christopher Seeman received her First Communion at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church on April 25, 2009. Julia is a second grade student at St. Anthony's Catholic School along with her brothers CJ and Brendan. Julia is the granddaughter of Robert and Mary Doyle of Wheeling, WV. Julia's great grandmother Anna Maderic (deceased) was the Secretary of Junior Order 158 for over 60 years. The family belongs to Branch 230 in Catasauqua, PA



FAITH KATHRYN SOLTIS SCHMITT is the daughter of Timothy and Maurita Soltis Schmitt of Arlington, VA. She was born on October 16, 2008.

Faith Kathryn's maternal grandparents are George and Maurita Hardiman Soltis of Wilkes-Barre, PA. Her paternal grandparents are Joan Forsythe Schmitt and the late J. Gary Schmitt of Havre de Grace, MD.

Faith Kathryn's great-grandparents are the late George and Mary Stavischak Soltis.

Faith Ann was baptized on December 13, 2008 at the Church of the Epiphany, R.C., Georgetown, Washington, DC by Msgr. Francis Beeda, STL. She is a member of Jr. Branch 362.

STUDENTS RECEIVE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, 16 students received First Holy Communion in the newly formed parish of St. Katharine Drexel in Lansford, PA. The students

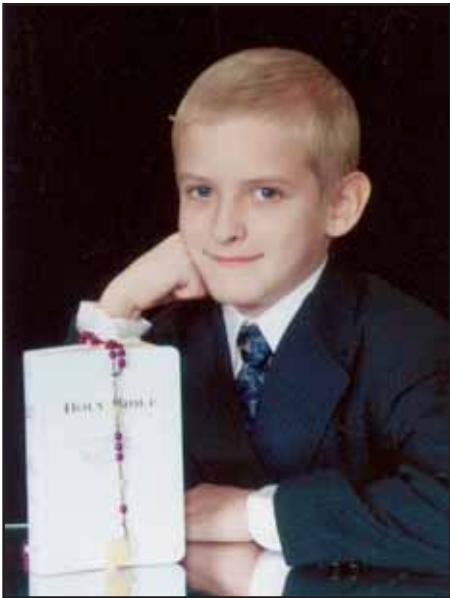
extended a heartfelt thanks to the FCSLA Branches 140 and 46 for providing them with their First Holy Communion Sets which included prayers books, rosaries, scapulars and pins. The students wrote in a thank you that, "We were blessed by your generosity. These gifts will help us draw closer to Jesus and remain strong in our Catholic Faith."



Pictured with four of the Communicants after Mass are Branch officers Louise Dunstan, Mary Ciganek and Veronica Bazik.



MADISON WITULSKI a member of St. Mary and Joseph's Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE, made her First Holy Communion on April 19, 2009. Madison is a member of St. Joseph's Church, Beatrice, NE.



On April 25, 2009, **TRENTON THOMAS** made his First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Church in Strongsville, OH.

Trenton is the son of Denise and Tom Thomas (Sr. Branch 557). Trenton, his brother Justin and sister Alexis are all members of Jr. Branch 485.

Trenton's grandmother Norma Ruttley is also a member of Sr. Branch 557.

JULY 2009



ZACHARY GERALD KOVAL was born on April 4, 2009. His parents are Gregory and Cheryl Koval of Wilkes-Barre, PA. Grandparents are Jerry and Linda Koval and Bob Borish. Zachary was baptized in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wilkes-Barre by Reverend Andrew Hvozdovic, cousin of Zachary. Zachary is a member of Jr. Branch 362.



LEO JACOB PUHALLA received his First Holy Communion on May 2, 2009 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Austintown, OH. He is a member of Branch 192 in Youngstown, OH. Leo is a second grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School and plays soccer for his school in the Catholic Youth Soccer League. Leo also enjoys playing flag football and is involved in Cub Scouts. Leo is the son of Leo and Nicole Puhalla and has a sister, Olivia.



LEAH MAE SIMENDINGER was confirmed and received her First Holy Communion on April 26, 2009, at Mount Saint Peter's Church, New Kensington, PA. She is the daughter of Timothy and Diane Aiken Simendinger. Leah is in the first grade and is a member of Jr. Branch 56, along with her sister, Jesse.



MIKALYA DAVID (Jr. Branch 58) was baptized and made her First Holy Communion on April 11, 2009 at Redeemer Catholic Church in Kissimmee, FL. Her crown and veil were worn by her mother for when she made her First Communion.

Mikalya's mother is Danielle Sabo and her grandmother is Mindy Mikulski of Dyer, IN who was blessed to be able to attend this important event. Her great-grandparents are Joyce and Stan Szynalik of Hurley, WI. The family all belong to Sr. Branch 81, Whiting, IN.



IN MEMORIAM

MARY A. FRYDEL BRANCH 269



Mary A. Frydel, 97, formerly of Cohoes, NY, passed away peacefully on Good Friday, April 10, 2009 at the home of her youngest daughter in Scotia, NY.

She was secretary/treasurer for over 60 years for FCSLA Jr. Branch 269.

Mary was born in East Hampton, MA and was the daughter of the late Jacob and Catherine (Pavelcak) Landor and wife of her late husband, Sylvester. She was predeceased by her daughter, Cynthia Van Bunschoten, granddaughter, Kelly Van Bunschoten, grandson, Christopher Charoensook and great grandson, Matthew Bliss.

Mary loved tending her gardens and collecting dolls. She was the pillar of her family and enjoyed all the times she spent with them. Her 95th birthday was a big surprise with all her family and friends which she thoroughly loved. Everyone attended Mass followed by a birthday party and buffet luncheon.

She is survived by her 4 children, Sylvester (Rose) Frydel Jr., Joyce Linen, Christine Charoensook, and Rosemary (Jim) D'Allaird. Mary was devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Blessed Mother.

Her memory will be forever in the hearts of her family. Mom, we know you will be looking over us just as you always did when you were here.

MARY R. HORENCI Branch 150

Mary R. (Natisky) Horenci, 96 wife of the late John P. Horenci Sr. of Phoenixville, PA passed away on Tuesday May 19, 2009, in Atria Woodbridge Place, Kimberton, PA.

Mary was born in Phoenixville, the daughter of the late Joseph and Alberta Natisky.

She was a lifelong member of Sacred

Heart Catholic Church, a member of the Phoenixville Senior Center and Jednota and served as past President of Holy Rosary Sr. Branch 150 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

She is survived by three daughters; Mary Frances, Veronica and Gloria; one son, John Jr.; fourteen grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and sister, Josephine, and brother, Steve.

ANNA KUZMA Branch 289

Anna Kuzma "Baba," age 96, a life-long Gary, IN resident passed away Monday, April 20, 2009.

She is survived by three children: Mary Ann (J. Phillip) Oresik of Merrillville, Daniel Kuzma of Merrillville, Lillian (John) Zaborske of Schererville; five grandchildren: Dr. Alicia Oresik, Philip (Kelli) Oresik, Cynthia Oresik, John and Joseph Zaborske; great grandchildren: Matthew and Cole Oresik. She was preceded in death by husband George; parents George and Mary Cecak; brothers and sisters.

Anna was a member of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church located in Gary, IN and formerly of Holy Trinity Church. She was a member of the Rosary and Altar Society, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 289.

Anna's daughters and granddaughter are officers of Branches 289 and 184 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in Gary, IN.

RUTH BARTOS Branch 161 President

Ruth Bartos, President and Senior Order Secretary, Branch 161, Youngstown, OH, passed away after a brief illness. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at Saint Matthias Slovak Church by the pastor and FCSLA Chaplain, Monsignor Peter M. Polando.

Ruth was employed for 32 years as the secretary at Saint Matthias School. She currently held office in many parish organizations.

Ruth's husband, Frank, whom she married in 1954, passed away in 1986. She is survived by her daughter Dianne Passmore (Dave), Newton Falls; sons Marty of Glendale, AZ, and Jim (Dee) of Kenbridge, VA; her brother, Doctor Raymond (Pat), Kosiba of Rockledge, FL, and six grandchildren.

She worked tirelessly for the FCSLA annually planning "Join Hands Day," the "Matching Funds Project," and Senior and Junior Branch activities. She will be missed by everyone who ever knew her and worked with her.

LUDMILLA "MOLLY" SOLTESZ "LILLIAN ANN" (MALLINAK) Branch Sr. Branch 10

Ludmilla (Lillian Ann) "Molly" Soltesz (nee Mallinak), age 91, died May 31, 2009, after a brief illness. She was surrounded by loved ones at the home of her grandchildren when she went to meet the Lord.

Beloved wife of the late Gaspar; dear mother of Thomas, and the late Mary Jo Corrigan (husband Daniel O.) and Raymond (wife Carrie); grandmother of Daniel P. Corrigan (wife Diana), Mary Beth Corrigan Bell (husband Ken), Rosie Krsacok (husband Charles), Michael Corrigan, Matt Corrigan, Christopher Corrigan (wife Heather), Melissa Janosik (husband Joseph), Raymond Jr. and Katie Soltesz; great-grandmother of seven; sister of Mae Lang, Bernice Ronay, Rosemary Saus, James Mallinak, and the following deceased: Stephen, Edward, William, Robert, Theresa Sabol and Dorothy Vanek; aunt of many.

She enjoyed cooking, crocheting and was famous for her nut roll, kolachy cookies and afghans and she has left a legacy for her great-grandchildren to follow.

The family suggests memorial gifts to: Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185th St., Cleveland, 44119.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE SCF HELD



Jozef Cardinal Tomko is shown blessing the congregation upon entering the church. He was named recently by Pope Benedict XVI as a Papal Envoy and to participate in activities to close the current Pauline Year. Cardinal Tomko was assigned to travel to Athens, Greece. He will also visit Thessalonica, the birthplace of SS. Cyril and Methodius and will celebrate Liturgy in the church dedicated to the Apostles of the Slavs.

Cardinal Tomko as principal celebrant and homilist.

FCSLA members from the Magdalen I. Iskra District and officers and members of the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation attended the Liturgy and were guests at the reception and dinner honoring Cardinal Tomko.

Delegates to the SCF Convention included Monsignor Peter M. Polando, D. Min., J.C.L. SCF Board Member and FCSLA National Chaplain; Mary Polando, mother of Monsignor Polando; Irene Drotleff, SCF Board Member and National Secretary of the FCSLA; Magdalen I. Iskra, FCSLA District President and Martha Iskra, FCSLA District Treasurer.

Delegates to the Slovak Catholic Federation — Seated, L-R: Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Mary Polando, Irene Drotleff. Standing, Magdalen I. Iskra, Martha A. Iskra (S172).

The 5th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF) was held in the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Bethlehem, PA on April 27th thru April 28th. Reverend Philip A. Altavilla, National President of the SCF, was Chair for the convention. Reverend Altavilla is a member of Branch 172 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

The convention was opened with a Liturgy in St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown, PA, on Sunday, April 26, with His Eminence Jozef



Guests pictured with Cardinal Tomko, first row: Noreen Foti, President of Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation; Magdalen I. Iskra; Monica Anthony, FCSLA Court of Appeals Member; Irene J. Drotleff, National Secretary; Jozef Cardinal Tomko; Mary Polando; Cecilia Gaughan, LPSCU Fraternal Activities Director. Second row: Anthony Foti, Foundation Vice President; Brother de Porres Stilp, MM (Hidden in Photo); David Tarantini, Foundation Treasurer; Barbara Ceklosky, FCSLA Jr. 362 Treasurer; Msgr. Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain; Martha A. Iskra.



Magdalen I. Iskra pictured at the Main Altar of St. John the Baptist Slovak Church, Allentown, PA. The beautiful Gothic-style brick church was dedicated in 1913. The three wooden altars, hand carved on Oberammergau, Germany, capture the elegance of natural marble.



Joseph and Anna Biros (S615), members of the FCSLA Magdalen I. Iskra District, welcomed the Cardinal with the traditional Slavic greeting of bread and salt. Pictured are Martha A. Iskra, Joseph and Anna Biros, attired in traditional Slovak kroj, and Anna Yevich, FCSLA members.

307 million

The nation's population
on this July Fourth.

[www.census.gov/main/www/
popclock/html](http://www.census.gov/main/www/popclock/html)

Missionary Sisters Commemorates Missionary Journey

On August 11, 1908, the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (MSC) arrived in the United States from Germany with the mission of spreading the love of the Sacred Heart to the Slovak immigrants residing in the coal regions of Pennsylvania. Their first convent/motherhouse was in St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Lansford, PA. Later in 1928, the Missionary Sisters began their teaching ministry in SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Coaldale, PA. Over the span of 93 years in this coal region, serving the needs of the parishioners, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart were blessed by the love and generosity of these devoted people. Many vocations to the priesthood and to religious life were nurtured in the homes of these faith-filled families.

Commemorating "The 100 years of our Missionary Journey throughout the U.S.A.," the MSC Sisters, planned a Mass of Thanksgiving at the birthplace of the American Province – now the newly consolidated Parish of St. Katharine Drexel, in Lansford.

Rev. Monsignor Thomas A. Derzack (S140), former pastor of St. Michael's and former student of the MSC Sisters at SS Cyril and Methodius Parish School, Coaldale, PA, was the celebrant and homilist at the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy on April 26, 2009. In attendance at the Mass were eighteen MSC Sisters, several of whom had served in the parishes throughout the years.

MSC Sisters who are also branch



FCSLA Branch 140 and 46 President Veronica Bazik presents Sister Lorraine Molchanow, MSC, Provincial Superior of the American Province of the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus a monetary gift in honor of the "100 Years of their Missionary Journey throughout the USA." L-R Mary Ciganek, Branch Vice-President, Sister Marie Raymond Gazo, MSC, Sister Barbara Daniels, MSC, Sister Lorraine Molchanow, MSC, Provincial Superior, Veronica Bazik, Branch President, Rev. Monsignor Thomas Derzack, Michel Bazik and Louise Dunstan, Branch Financial Secretary/Treasurer.

members of the FCSLA in either Lansford or Coaldale joined in this joyous occasion: Sister Virginia Marie Chnapko, MSC (S140), Sister Barbara Daniels, MSC (S417) and Sister Marie Raymond Gazo, MSC.

At the social following the Mass, Sister Lorraine Molchanow, MSC, Provin-

cial Superior of the American Province of the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus was presented with a monetary gift from Mrs. Veronica Bazik, President of Branches #140 and #46 of the FCSLA, to commemorate the centennial year of the Sisters. It was with sincere gratitude that this gift, and the many expressions of love and support shown to the Sisters over the last 93 years, was acknowledged by the Sisters.



FCSLA Executive Finance Committee Meeting

4TH QUARTERLY MEETING — DECEMBER 3, 2008

0100.00 Call to Order/Prayer

President Johanek called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Home Office, Beachwood, OH. Msgr. Peter M. Polando was asked to open the meeting with prayer.

0200.00 Opening Business

0200.01 Roll Call

Secretary Irene J. Drotleff called the roll. Members present were:

Msgr. Peter M. Polando

Mary Ann S. Johanek

Irene J. Drotleff

John M. Janovec

Rosemary A. Mlinarich

Cynthia M. Maleski

Virginia A. Holmes

Chaplain

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Vice President

Trustee

Trustee

0200.02 Approval of Agenda

Rosemary A. Mlinarich moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda with an addition in reference to a letter from Msgr. Sermancik to be discussed under New Business.

MOTION ADOPTED

0200.03 Approval of Minutes of 12/3/08

Msgr. Peter M. Polando moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of 12/3/08 as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED

0300.00 Report of National Treasurer

Treasurer John M. Janovec gave a financial report through the third quarter of 2008. Report can be found as Supplement #1.

0400.01 Investments

Members of the Executive Finance Committee reviewed the investment purchases made through September 2008. Supplement #2

Treasurer John M. Janovec reviewed the accounting concept of impairment, specifically as it related to FCSLA's investment portfolio.

0400.00 Old / New Business — (Discussion taken out of sequence)

0400.01 Annual Annuity Yield — January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009

Virginia A. Holmes moved and it was seconded to recommend to the Board of Directors that the annual yield of 5% remain the same on open accounts; 4.75% annual yield on permanent settlement option payout, and 4.6025% annual yield on interest only payout, effective January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009.

MOTION ADOPTED

0400.02 Annuity Study

Irene J. Drotleff moved and it was seconded to ask the FCSLA's actuary, Mr. Bob Bruce, to provide us with an esti-

mate for a study of our annuity product for some potential enhancements.

MOTION ADOPTED

0500.00 President's Comments

0500.01 ProLife March

The FCSLA reserved two buses for the ProLife march on January 21-22, 2009. This is a partial shared expense with the First Catholic Slovak Union. With the cooperation of area High Schools, FCSLA members, the FCSU, and Baldwin Wallace University ProLife Group, we may be able to fill two buses.

0500.02 Msgr. Semancik's Request

Msgr. Semancik from Sacred Heart Parish is requesting the donation awarded to him at a previous convention and returned to the FCSLA. The funds would be used for the purpose that was stated in his original request which is to preserve and display Bishop Grutka's memorabilia. This request will be presented to the full Board of Directors with a suggestion that more information is needed.

Continuation of Old / New Business

0400.03 Donations

Donations were reviewed and the list will be presented to the Board of Directors for further discussion.

0600.00 Meeting Dates

The meeting dates will be determined at the Board of Directors Meeting.

0700.00 Adjourn

Virginia A. Holmes moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Mary Ann S. Johanek, National President

Irene J. Drotleff, National Secretary

ATTEST:

Msgr. Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

Rosemary A. Mlinarich, Vice President

John M. Janovec, National Treasurer

Cynthia M. Maleski, National Trustee

Virginia A. Holmes, National Trustee

MOVING?

If you belong to a household receiving two or more magazines or if you have recently moved and have a new address, you can alleviate both situations simply by using the form on the back cover and mailing it to the home office address. We ask that one magazine per household be sufficient.

Bratislavské levy

Mária Ďuričková

(Please enjoy the English translation of this Slovak fable on Page 21)

Tam, kde sa dnes rozkladá hlavné a najživšie bratislavské námestie, námestie Slovenského národného povstania, trošku poniže od dojímavého povstaleckého pamätníka, stála kedysi Obelisková studňa. Štíhy drieck štvorbokého kamenného stĺpu čnel k oblohe z prostriedku kresanej nádrže, do ktorej prúdila voda cez štyri kamenné levské hlavy.

O Obeliskovej studni sa zachovala medzi ľudom takáto povest.

Za dávnych čias nebolo na tom priestore námestie, ale iba veľká trávnatá rovina pred opevneným mestom.

Raz sa vraj stalo, že sa na tejto rovine stretli dve vojská. Už dlhší čas si šli v stopách, striehli jedno na druhé – a teraz odrazu stáli oproti sebe. Istotne sa tu zajtra rozpúta boj.

Utáborili sa vojská, jedno na čele s domácim kráľom, druhé pod velením nepriateľského kráľa. Trepotali sa vo vetre vojenské praporce, pukotali vatry, zunela chlapská vrava.

Prechádza sa domáci kráľ po tábore, po svojom vojsku hľadí: je plné života, hlučné a veselé, akoby ho ani nečakala krvavá bitka. Prejde deň, a koľkí tu budú ležať s vyhasnutým okom! Namiesto veselej vravy sa bude ozývať stenanie ranených. A veď bývalo kedysi zvykom, že o boji rozhodlo niekoľko vybraných bojovníkov . . .

Zaviazla táto myšlienka v kráľovej hlave, bzučala mu v nej ani zlatý čmeľ.

A zavčas rána namiesto bojového signálu oznamoval kráľovský roh do nepriateľského tábora:

„Vyzývame veliteľa na rozhovor!“

Stretli sa dvaja králi, hlavy dvoch veľkých vojsk. Obaja mocní, obaja hrdí a smelí.

„Chceme vám čosi navrhnuť, Veličenstvo,“ hovorí domáci kráľ. „Veríme, že náš návrh nebude pokladať za prejav strachu či zbabelosti, veď naše vojsko sa čo do sily a udatnosti vášmu prinajmenšom vyrovná. Je nám však ľuto tých stoviek, ba tišícok mladých životov, ktoré by padli na vašej i našej strane pri bojovom stretnutí. Preto navrhujeme, aby o víťazstve rozhodli, podľa pradávnej obyčaje, vybraní bojovníci: dvaja z vášho a dvaja z nášho vojska.“

Zamyslel sa nepriateľský kráľ.

„Uznávame, Veličenstvo, že je váš návrh aj múdry, aj ušľachtilý,“ riekol po chvíli, „a preto ho prijímame.“

Vypochoďovali na lúku medzi tábormi štyria

bojovníci, dve bojové dvojice, siláci na pohľadanie. Nastal boj chlapa proti chlapovi.

Vojská sa priblížili a spravili okolo zápasiacich živú ohradu. Hurhaj a krik, povzbudzovanie svojich, dychčanie bojovníkov. Jeden z nepriateľskej strany už leží na zemi pod nohou víťaza.

Druhá dvojica je vyrovnanejšia, zapolí zo všetkých súl. Kde sa noha zaprie, tam pod ňou zem puká. Naveľanavela padol aj druhý nepriateľský bojovník. Zadunela zem pri tom páde, akoby sa jej v útrobách čosi odtrhlo, a odrazu z nej vyrasil prúd vody. Vystrekol dovysoka a zaligotal sa v slnci ako strieborná stuha.

Kráľ nepriateľského vojska prijal porážku a dal zatrúbiť na odchod. Čoskoro se jeho mohutné voje stratili z dohľadu.

A víťazný kráľ dal na pamiatku tejto udalosti postaviť na mieste boja studiu: vysoký štíhy drieck kamenného obelisku uprostred kresanej nádrže, do ktorej prúdi voda cez štyri kamenné levské hlavy. Štyri levy na studni spodobovali oných štyroch bojovníkov, ktorí na tomto mieste bojovali udatne ako levy a svojím bojom, rozhodli veľkú bitku a zachránili mnoho životov.

9th Slovak Film Festival in Fall

For the past eight years, WPSCA has presented several popular Slovak films with English subtitles. Admission is free to all of the films. The date of films and locations are as follows:

Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m.

University of Pittsburgh, Posvar Hall, 230 S. Bouquet Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

The Garden — Jakub's life has arrived at a dead-end. He leaves his job and gets into conflict with his father. Breaking away, Jakub realizes the pleasures of the countryside in his grandfather's old garden. He falls in love with angelic Tereza, has unusual visitors and is not planning to go back to town any time soon.

Saturday, October 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Mt. Lebanon Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., (412) 531-1912

Copper Tower — Story of adventure and romance set against background of the High Tatras. The tragic story lightened up by funny comments.

Saturday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m.

South Side Library, 2205 E. Carson Street, (412) 431-0505

If I Had a Gun — This is a tragicomic story about boys who face the grim events of war and everyday village life.

Bratislava's Lions

Mária Ďuričková

The center of modern day Bratislava is the busy town square. It is identified by the Slovenske nardone povstanie monument. However, the ancient city's early town square contained a slender, four sided stone obelisk. The square also contained the town water reservoir, dispensing water through the mouths of four stone lions.

This square has changed through the centuries, but a story of the ancient space remains to this day. When Bratislava was a walled city, two armies were positioned to fight on this grassy plain. The armies were positioning and readying themselves for the fight that would undoubtedly occur the next morning.

The armies were led by kings, the local king and the foreign king. The armies had established their camps on opposite ends of the grassy field. Their tents were set in straight lines, flags were fluttering in the wind, and the young soldiers were anticipating tomorrow's battle with excitement.

The local king was inspecting his troops and their preparedness as he walked through their camp. He saw his young soldiers, so full of life, so rowdy, so happy, their thoughts so removed from the blood and gore that tomorrow's battle would bring. The king knows that in a day many of his soldiers will be dead. Today's happy talk would be replaced tomorrow by cries of pain and death. This weighed heavily on the king's conscience. As he agonized over how this could be avoided, he recalled childhood stories of how armies were represented by their best warriors, and only these men would fight. The outcome of their fight would decide which army was the victor and which was the vanquished.

The king struggled with these thoughts, as he wanted to avoid death and destruction associated with the coming battle, but he was concerned that should he approach his counterpart with this proposal, he might be considered weak and cowardly, and possibly put his army at a disadvantage.

Early the next morning, after a night of restless sleep, the king sent a messenger to the enemy king requesting a meeting. The enemy king accepted, and the kings — both strong, proud, and brave, met in the open field between their camps.

"I want to propose something to you," said the local king. I trust that you will not take this proposal as a sign of weakness or cowardice, as my army is equal to yours. However, I look at these brave, young men on both sides of this field, and I do not want to waste thousands, or even hundreds of the lives, both sides would lose.

My proposal, based on an ancient custom, is that you and I both choose two of our best warriors to fight, and the victors would determine the outcome of our battle. The enemy king said nothing for some minutes, but finally spoke these words: "I grant you that this is a wise plan, and it is also a fair one. Therefore, I accept."

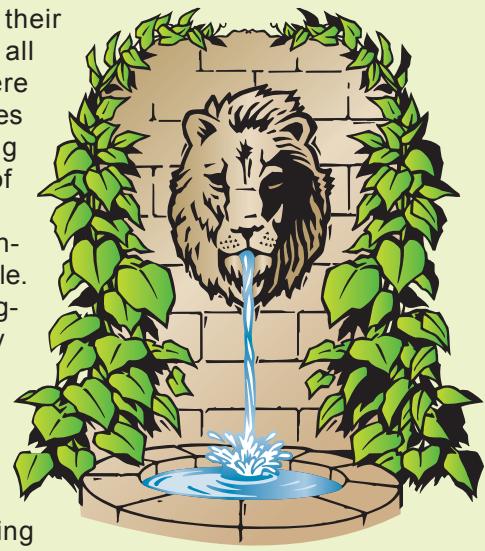
Both kings returned to their armies, advising them of their agreement, and then set about to identify the two best sol-

diers to represent their armies. Finally, all preparations were made, and both armies lined up on opposing sides of the place of battle.

The four men entered their field of battle. They realized the significance of what they were about to do, and how important it was that they succeed. They faced each other, man against man, and the fighting began — groans, strains, heavy breathing, screams . . . a cry of death and one man falls. The fighting continues, the soldiers are equally strong and skilled, but soon the other enemy soldier is overwhelmed. As he falls, the earth seems to cry out, and from the spot on the ground where he fell, a stream of water appeared and shot high into the air.

The enemy king accepted the outcome of this fight, and prepared to leave the area with his defeated army. Soon they were gone.

The victorious king was thankful for the victory and that the lives of many in both armies were spared. The king commissioned a monument to be built on the spot of this battle. The monument contained a stone obelisk, a reservoir to store the water collected from the fountain that marked the spot where the soldier fell, and four stone lions. Water was dispensed to the towns people from the mouths of four stone lions. The four lions represent the four brave soldiers that fought valiantly, decided the outcome of the battle, and prevented the deaths of many, many of their comrades.



POLICY CHANGE FOR PUBLISHED OBITUARIES

ALL OBITUARIES PUBLISHED IN FRATERNALLY YOURS WILL BE LIMITED TO 250 WORDS OR LESS. A small photo (digital in jpeg format or hard copy) may still be submitted for publication with the death notice. Honoring our members that have entered into eternal rest is an important part of our publication; however, due to the volume of death notices received it is becoming more difficult to publish them in a timely manner. When submitting your death notices please edit the entry to no more than 250 words. Any notices that exceed the word limit will be edited to comply with this change.

FOURTH ANNUAL MAHONING VALLEY SLOVAKFEST

Summer is in full force and everyone is looking for fun things to do with their time. Well, for the last three years, Ohio's Mahoning Valley Slovaks have been providing just that. This August 16th, the 4th annual Mahoning Valley SlovakFest will be held on the grounds of St. Mathias Church in Youngstown, OH from 11:30 a.m. to about 8 p.m. It was begun in 2006 by a group of people who remembered the great Slovak picnics of their youth, usually held by the area's Slovak parishes or organizations. They wanted to carry on this summer activity and share their love of their Slovak heritage with everyone in this Valley. And of course, you can't get more than 3 Slovaks together without there being food and music!

The SlovakFest kicks off with a wonderful Polka Mass at St. Mathias Church, on Youngstown's Southside, an area where many Slovak families settled in the early 1900s. This joyful Mass will be offered at 11:30 a.m. with the music provided by the Eddie Vallus Band. After the celebration of Mass, the festivities will move to the church parking lot and the former school, in the Father Snock Center at 2800 Shady Run Rd., Youngstown, OH 44502.

Inside the hall, dinners will be served from noon till 3 with a choice of Lamb, Chicken or Halubky (stuffed cabbage). Outside you will find halušky, klobassi, lamb, pirohy and more throughout the day. There will also be wonderful Slovak baked goods available!

Starting at 4 p.m., the Grammy nominated Del Sinchak polka band will be playing for those who love to polka or those who just want to sit and listen. The Pittsburgh Slovaks, under the direction of Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, will also sing and dance in their colorful Slovak folk costumes. As they say on their website, it has been said, "kde je Slovak, tam je spev." — "where there is a Slovak, there is singing." And there will be plenty of music and singing at the Mahoning Valley SlovakFest.

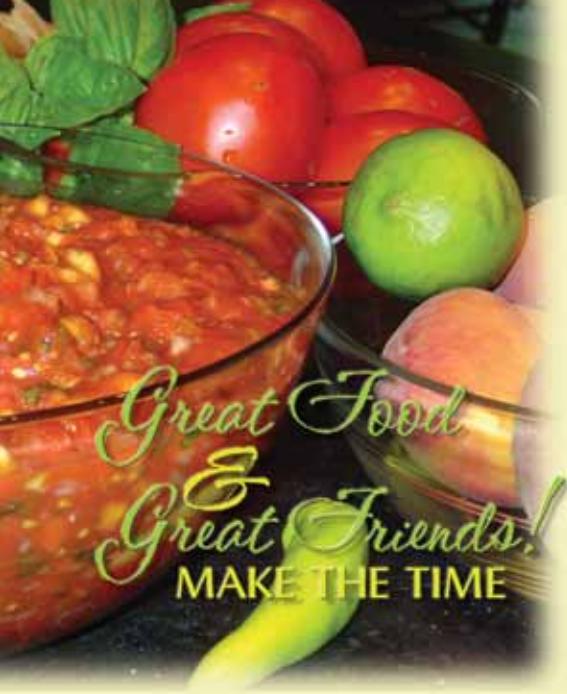
The SlovakFest also has many Slovak items on display or for sale. There will be a silent auction of baskets filled with all sorts of items, and a raffle of \$2000 worth of Get Go/Giant Eagle gift cards for gasoline or food! There will be children's games, clowns and other activities throughout the day. Admission is free, so if you remember the Slovak picnics of your childhood, or if you don't, but would like to make some new memories, plug us into your GPS, jump in your car, and join us on August 16th for a wonderful time at the 4th Annual Mahoning Valley SlovakFest!

At a time when financial rating firms have downgraded the ratings of many fraternal benefit societies due to the serious financial losses suffered in 2008, A.M. Best has affirmed the "A-"(Excellent) "with a stable outlook" rating for the FCSLA. We are pleased that A.M. Best has shown such confidence in our society.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2009

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 31,786,766.23
Bonds	489,442,157.34
Preferred Stock	8,374,825.87
Common Stock	690,119.91
Investment Income Due and Accrued	8,285,117.64
Promissory Notes	67,556.74
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,856,017.39
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,300,490.01
Other Assets	209,301.47
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 549,012,352.60
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 160,292,963.08
Annuity Reserves	286,905,365.10
Death Claims Payable	747,889.83
Unearned Premiums	527,623.00
Matured Endowments	118,691.63
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,763,215.70
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,428,157.81
Accrued Convention Donations	30,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	240,000.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,590,249.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,491,152.00
Other Liabilities	1,327,444.78
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,078,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 463,540,752.33
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 85,471,600.27
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 85,471,600.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 549,012,352.60
INCOME STATEMENT	
For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2009	
REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 922,593.98
Annuity Premiums	3,793,467.60
Investment Income	5,285,742.47
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	11,567.00
Other Revenue	88,765.19
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 10,102,136.24
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 927,963.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	3,502,365.00
Insurance Benefits	690,171.39
Annuity Benefits	2,639,837.14
Commission Expense	108,441.06
Surrender Benefits	153,934.39
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	7,186.04
Matured Endowments	1,000.00
Donation Expenses	30,490.85
Convention Expenses	30,000.00
Dividends to Members	299,905.61
Post Mortem Benefits	178,845.36
Bonus to Branches	181,774.00
Fraternal Activities	55,981.15
Bank Service Charges	10,164.98
Data Processing Service Fees	54,935.51
Accounting Fees	12,853.00
Actuarial Fees	20,777.00
Legal Fees	8,213.73
Consulting Services	31,802.50
Official Publications	63,906.00
Scholarship Awards	(1,875.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	59,518.36
Fees — Directors	16,711.72
Salaries — Employees	180,169.52
Salaries — Officers	72,958.34
Interest Expense	44,115.74
Tax Expense	55,586.89
Depreciation Expense	68,606.00
Utility Expense	13,152.62
Postage and Printing	50,611.30
Advertising	26,228.50
Travel Expense	20,788.76
Other Expense	192,009.77
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 9,809,130.23
NET INCOME	\$ 293,006.01



FRESH PEACH SALSA

2 cups chopped, peeled fresh peaches
 ¼ cup chopped sweet onion
 3 tablespoons lime juice
 2 to 3 tablespoons finely chopped, seeded fresh jalapeno pepper
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 tablespoon fresh basil, chopped
 1 tablespoon snipped fresh cilantro
 ½ teaspoon sugar

In a medium mixing bowl stir together peaches, onion, lime juice, peppers, garlic, basil, cilantro, and sugar. Cover and chill for 1 to 2 hours. Makes 2 cups.

BROCCOLI SALAD

2 heads fresh broccoli
 1 red onion
 ½ pound bacon
 ¾ cup raisins
 ¾ cup sliced almonds
 1 cup mayonnaise
 ½ cup white sugar
 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar

Place bacon in a deep skillet and cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Cool and crumble.

Cut the broccoli into bite-size pieces and cut the onion into thin bite-size slices. Combine with the bacon, raisins, your favorite nuts and mix well.

To prepare the dressing, mix the mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar together until smooth. Stir into the salad, let chill and serve.

MOUTH-WATERING STUFFED MUSHROOMS

12 whole fresh mushrooms
 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
 1 tablespoon minced garlic
 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened

¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
 ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
 ¼ teaspoon onion powder
 ¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. Clean mushrooms with a damp paper towel. Carefully break off stems. Chop stems extremely fine, discarding tough end of stems.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and chopped mushroom stems to the skillet. Fry until any moisture has disappeared, taking care not to burn garlic. Set aside to cool.

When garlic and mushroom mixture is no longer hot, stir in cream cheese, Parmesan cheese, black pepper, onion powder and cayenne pepper. Mixture should be very thick. Using a little spoon, fill each mushroom cap with a generous amount of stuffing. Arrange the mushroom caps on prepared cookie sheet.

Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the mushrooms are piping hot and liquid starts to form under caps.

SLOW COOKER BBQ PORK FOR SANDWICHES

1 (14 oz.) can beef broth
 3 pounds boneless pork ribs
 1 (18 oz.) bottle barbecue sauce

Pour can of beef broth into slow cooker, and add boneless pork ribs. Cook on High heat for 4 hours, or until meat shreds easily. Remove meat, and shred with two forks. It will seem that it's not working right away, but it will.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Transfer the shredded pork to a Dutch oven or iron skillet, and stir in barbecue sauce.

Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until heated through.

STRAWBERRY PRETZEL SALAD

2 cups crushed pretzels
 ¾ cup butter, melted
 3 tablespoons white sugar
 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened
 1 cup white sugar
 1 (8 oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
 2 (3 oz.) packages strawberry flavored gelatin
 2 cups boiling water
 2 (10 oz.) packages frozen strawberries

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Stir together crushed pretzels, melted butter and 3 tablespoons sugar; mix well and press mixture into the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, until set. Set aside to cool.

In a large mixing bowl cream together cream cheese and 1 cup sugar. Fold in whipped topping. Spread mixture onto cooled crust.

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in still frozen strawberries and allow to set briefly. When mixture is about the consistency of egg whites, pour and spread over cream cheese layer. Refrigerate until set.

CHEWY BUTTER BARS

1 package Butter cake mix
 ½ cup butter, melted
 4 eggs
 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
 ¾ cup powdered sugar
 1 tsp. each vanilla and lemon flavoring

In a large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, melted margarine, and 2 beaten eggs. Pour into a greased and floured 13 x 9 cake pan. Please note the cake mix mixture will have the consistency of a dough more so than a cake, so it will be thick. Use a spatula to spread.

In a blender or food processor, combine softened cream cheese, powdered sugar, 2 beaten eggs; vanilla and lemon flavorings. Pour over the cake mixture. Bake 40 to 45 minutes. Cut into small squares and serve.

ROAST BEEF ROLL-UPS

8 oz. cream cheese spread
 3-4 tsp prepared horseradish
 8 flour tortillas
 6 plum tomatoes, thinly sliced
 1 small cucumber, thinly sliced
 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
 ½ lb. thinly sliced deli roast beef
 (8 slices)

Combine cream cheese spread and horseradish in a small mixing bowl; mix well. For each roll-up, spread tortilla evenly with 2 tbsp of the cream cheese mixture. Top with tomatoes, cucumber, onion and roast beef. Roll up tortilla tightly.

Wrap filled tortillas individually in plastic wrap. Refrigerate, seam side down, 30 minutes. Cut each roll-up crosswise into thirds and serve on platter.

REUBEN DIP CROCK POT APPETIZER

1 lb. corned beef, chopped
 2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
 1 (8 oz.) can sauerkraut, drained
 ½ cup mayonnaise
 ½ cup Thousand Island dressing

Mix, put in a crockpot. Heat until the cheese is melted. Serve on rye bread.

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