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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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MAY 2012

**On behalf of the
First Catholic
Slovak Ladies Association
Board of Directors,
we want to wish you a very joyous
Mother's Day!**

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Memorial Day
May 28

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Faternally Yours™



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ŽENSKA JEDNOTA,

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Our Treasures vs God's

The cheerful little girl with bouncy golden curls was almost five. Waiting with her mother at the checkout stand, she saw them, a circle of glistening white pearls in a pink foil box. "Oh please, Mommy. Can I have them? Please, Mommy, please?" Quickly the mother checked the back of the little foil box and then looked back into the pleading blue eyes of her little girl's upturned face. "A dollar ninety-five. That's almost \$2.00. If you really want them, I'll think of some extra chores for you and in no time you can save enough money to buy them for yourself. Your birthday's only a week away and you might get another crisp dollar bill from Grandma."

As soon as Jenny got home, she emptied her penny bank and counted out 17 pennies. After dinner, she did more than her share of chores and she went to the neighbor and asked Mrs. McJames if she could pick dandelions for ten cents. On her birthday, Grandma did give her another new dollar bill and at last she had enough money to buy the necklace. Jenny loved her pearls. They made her feel dressed up and grown up. She wore them everywhere, Sunday school, kindergarten, even to bed. The only time she took them off was when she went swimming or had a bubble bath. Mother said if they got wet, they might turn her neck green.

Jenny had a very loving daddy and every night when she was ready for bed, he would stop whatever he was doing and come upstairs to read her a story. One night as he finished the story, he asked Jenny, "Do you love me?" "Oh yes, daddy. You know that I love you." "Then give me your pearls." "Oh, daddy, not my pearls. But you can have Princess, the white horse from my collection, the one with the pink tail. Remember daddy? The one you gave me. She's my very favorite." "That's okay, Honey, daddy loves you. Good night." And he brushed her cheek with a kiss.

About a week later, after the story time, Jenny's daddy asked again, "Do you love me?" "Daddy, you know I love you." "Then give me your pearls." "Oh Daddy, not my pearls. But you can have my baby doll. The brand new one I got for my birthday. She is beautiful and you can have the yellow blanket that matches her sleeper." "That's okay. Sleep well. God bless you, little one. Daddy loves you." And as always, he brushed her cheek with a gentle kiss.

A few nights later when her daddy came in, Jenny was sitting on her bed with her legs crossed Indian-style. As he came close, he noticed her chin was trembling and one silent tear rolled down her cheek. "What is it, Jenny? What's the matter?" Jenny didn't say anything but lifted her little hand up to her daddy. And when she opened it, there was her little pearl necklace. With a little quiver, she finally said, "Here, daddy, this is for you." With tears gathering in his own eyes, Jenny's daddy reached out with one hand to take the dime-store necklace, and with the other hand he reached into his pocket and pulled out a blue velvet case with a strand of genuine pearls and gave them to Jenny. He had them all the time. He was just waiting for her to give up the dime-store stuff so he could give her the genuine treasure.

Dear Friends,

So it is with our Heavenly Father. He is waiting for us to give up the cheap things in our lives so that he can give us beautiful treasures. Isn't God good? Are you holding onto things that God wants you to let go of. Are you holding on to harmful or unnecessary friends, relationships, habits and activities that you have become so attached to that it seems impossible to let go? Sometimes it is so hard to see what is in the other hand but do believe this one thing . . . God will never take away something without giving you something better in its place.

THE GREATEST GIFTS HAPPEN WHEN YOU SHARE LOVE AND TOUCH OTHERS.
"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." — Leo Buscaglia



Until Next Month . . . Warmly, Carolyn

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

MORAL GUIDES FOR CATHOLICS – PRECEPTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During my first year of priestly ministry in the early 1980's, I was assigned as a parochial vicar to a parish in Massillon, Ohio – The Church of Saint Mary. It was a large parish with over 3500 families, a large school with two classes each from kindergarten through eighth grade with a large CCD and youth ministry programs. There were plenty of organizations and activities making nights rare when there was not something going on within the parish complex. The parish priests (there were three of us) had additional duties at the two local hospitals and a nearby prison that housed teenage boys who were convicted of serious crimes within the State of Ohio. There were more weddings and funerals that first year of my priesthood than I can remember. But one memory that I will never forget was my first Christmas Eve at Saint Mary. The senior parochial vicar, Father Michael Smar, advised me ahead of time what to expect. I thought he was exaggerating but I should have known better.

The pastor had the tradition of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Christmas Eve, beginning after the 8:15 AM Mass until there was no one left. All three priests were to celebrate Reconciliation individually (three communal celebrations were held the previous week at all three of the Catholic churches in the city). Low and behold as I was preparing to go over and celebrate Mass, I looked out the window of my room and thought I had skipped a day or two of the week and it was Sunday. The parking lot was almost full! I vividly remember thinking to myself, "Father Smar was telling me the truth and not joking!" As I entered the church for the celebration of Mass, people were in lines in the main and side aisles the length of the structure. The only word I could utter to myself was "wow"! When Mass ended, the three of us entered our reconciliation

rooms and began to celebrate the Rite of Penance. I stopped once in the morning to visit the nearby restroom and then continued until noon at which time the three of us went to the rectory for a bowl of soup and a sandwich. Both times that I left the reconciliation room, it looked as though no one had moved, that is how long the lines remained. The people stayed in the lines until we came back from lunch and we ceased hearing confessions at about 2:30 PM. I will never forget that experience of forgiveness and the Spirit of healing at work!

Paragraph 2042 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* declares: "The second precept [of the Church] ('You shall confess your sins at least once a year.') ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness." Many of us who are older remember going over to our parish churches from our classrooms on the Thursdays before the First Fridays of the month to go to confession with our classmates. For those in CCD programs, they would have their own times for the celebration of this Sacrament of Forgiveness. As I look back on those times, I believe that this once a month "cleansing" may have reinforced our moral structuring as we were being formed religiously and academically for our adult Catholic lives in the future. For some, they may have resented the fact that they were being "forced" to go to confession. But for the majority, it surely did not hurt us and only made us come to the realization that we were not perfect and that there was always room and need for improvement with our relationships with God and our neighbor.

The *Catechism* states that, "The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to

guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor" [paragraph 2041]. I note that the *Catechism* states that the precepts are the "indispensable minimum of prayer and moral effort". How much more we are able to do only brings about more saving graces in the life of the Catholic.

The Church asks of us to confess our sins at least once a year. As I have read the lives of various saints and even that of Blessed John Paul II, many of them confessed their sins within the Sacrament *daily!* They possessed a high level of moral standards in their relationships with God and the people that surrounded them.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to recognize that we do have the ability to sin and we do in fact sin. We are human desiring to become divine. In order to accomplish this fete, we must become selfless in our love just as Jesus was selfless in His love for all of humanity in every age. For us, this is an ongoing endeavor as we attempt to walk in the Lord's footsteps.

Personally, even though I am a priest, I am a human like you. One of the things that I do not like to admit is that I am a sinner and that I have failed in my love either by commission or omission. I do desire however to make my love more selfless – I have been attempting to do that for over fifty-eight years. When I am in my role as priest-confessor, I am humbled by the courage of the penitent to admit guilt to sin. In my role as penitent, I am humbled that God has forgiven me my sins of commission and omission. I enjoy being able to start afresh in the direction of selfless love. May we not look to the seasons of Lent and Advent as the only times to celebrate the Sacrament but let us take advantage of the grace and strength of the Sacrament more often.

FCSLA NATIONAL PRESIDENT CYNTHIA M. MALESKI HONORED

On March 7, 2012, FCSLA's National President Cynthia M. Maleski was honored at the 7th Annual Celebrate & Share Women of Achievement Awards benefiting Cribs for Kids Infant Safe Sleep Initiative. This initiative provides vital education to parents on ways to reduce the risk of injury and



death to infants due to unsafe sleeping environments and provides portable cribs to families who cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep. It began in Allegheny County, PA, where it is estimated to have saved about 50,000 infant lives,

and now is linked to 325 plus chapters and partners throughout the U.S.

Ms. Maleski was specifically nominated for her leadership in implementing CHIP while she was Insurance Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, her executive leadership service for a number of leading nonprofit organizations, her mentoring of young people in the community and her nationally known expertise in insurance law. She is a summa cum laude Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and has her Juris Doctor from Duquesne University School of Law. At the awards ceremony, she was cited for her recent election as FCSLA's National President.

Representing FCSLA at the awards ceremony were Monsignor Polando and his mother Mary, Larry and Maggie Golofski, Virginia and Jerry Holmes, Gerry and Monica LaFrankie and Dorothy and Chuck Urbanowicz. Cynthia's husband, Dr. Andrej Groch and daughter, Elizabeth, were



SAVE DATE — Chicago District

The Chicago District Join Hands Day event will be playing bingo with our Vets at Hines VA Hospital, 5000 South 5th Ave., Building 217, 1st floor Dining Room, Hines, IL on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For more information, see our website at <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/calendar.shtml> or contact Chicago District President, Mary Therese Tylus at 773-262-6621 or marytylus@comcast.net.



also in attendance to show support while she accepted this prestigious award.

FCSLA would like to commend Cynthia for her continued fraternal dedication and volunteer efforts. By promoting spiritual, cultural and charitable causes, she continues to exemplify our fraternal spirit.

70th Wedding Anniversary

Valentine F. and Ann D. Pal-ko Lesniak celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary with Mass at St. Benedict Church in Amherst, NY. Following Mass they were honored at a dinner hosted by their



children. In addition they celebrated with a catered dinner held for the residents of their Senior Apartment Complex in Tonawanda, NY.

At present, the couple still plans and escorts seniors on tours, to shows and to casinos. They also still enjoy playing pinochle, bridge and poker.

Val and Anna met at Balsamo's Market in McKeesport, PA and were married on February 8, 1942 in Holy Trinity Slovak Church.

Val retired as a foreman from Westinghouse Electric Corporation in August 1982. He was transferred from the East Pittsburgh Plant to the Cheektowaga, NY plant in 1947.

The couple has three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Anna is a member of Sr. Branch 2 in Yonkers, NY.

From the Desk of the
National Secretary

Sue Ann M. Seich

What a beautiful spring we have had so far. I hope all of you are enjoying the unusually warm weather we are experiencing in many states. We should remember our members who have experienced a tornado or flooding in recent weeks and assist them with a monetary contribution from your branch. I am sure your fraternal outreach will be greatly appreciated. Contact your local Red Cross or Catholic Charities and they will provide a local address where to send donations.



This month I would like to share with you what I have encountered in several phone conversations this past month. If you receive a check in the mail from FCSLA or from anyone for that matter what do you do with it? Do you put it in a safe place? Do you go to the bank to cash it or deposit it? I would like to share with you how important it is to either cash the check or deposit it as soon as possible. It is so easy for us to misplace the check and forget where we put it if we wait too long. If you call us to replace the check we have to wait a period of time before we can reissue the check for you. FCSLA's employees are instructed to call our bank and



stop payment on the original check, (which requires a fee) and then we can reissue the check. Our records at the Home Office indicate that there are many checks that are outstanding, (have not been cashed). We kindly ask you to please take care of cashing the check as quickly as possible. Thank you for considering this suggestion.

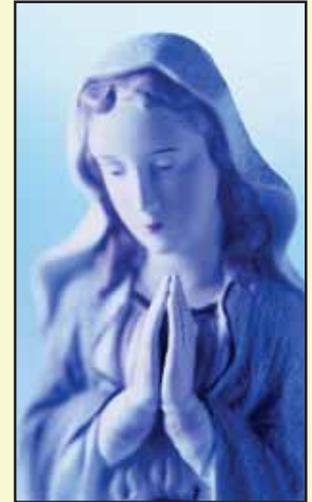
Until next issue, may God keep you happy, healthy and loved.

Attention: Chicago District

All Chicago, Indiana and Wisconsin FCSLA members are invited to the Chicago District's St. Anne's Celebration event on Thursday, July 26, 2012 with mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Linus Church, Oak Lawn, IL with a luncheon to follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Garden Chalet in Chicago Ridge, IL. For more information see our website at <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/calendar.shtml> or contact Jarmila Hlubocky at 773-776-2167.

May . . . the Month of Mary

May is the month when Catholics traditionally focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The practice dates back at least 700 years and is still observed around the world today. May is seen as the beginning of new life and the start of summer, which makes this a logical time for the celebrations of Mary, who brought life into the world.



May Devotions

This month of devotions in the church calendar is characterized by special hymns and the use of flowers, which bring nature into the church. There are several Marian feast days in May, including Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The celebration of May as a holy month for Mary has been ratified by several popes through the ages. Pope Benedict XV ordered a prayer for peace in 1915 during World War I and Pope Pius XII called for May devotions in 1939, at the start of World War II.

Memorare

Let us pray,

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that any one
who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins my Mother;
to thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful;
O Mother of thy Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy clemency hear and answer me.

Amen.

5 MILE RACE WON BY A PRIDE OF LIONS

Margaret Lyons '02, Branch Treasurer of St. Louis Sr. Branch 101 and Jr. Branch 11, and her husband Brian Lyons '04, were crowned as race winners for the prestigious St. Louis' St. Patrick Day's Race on March 17, ahead of 13,000 runners.

This was the second time each of these MOSO All-Americans were declared the winners — but this was the first time they each attained simultaneously, as a couple, the top rung of the race ladder.



Margaret easily outdistanced the females, but Brian was pursued by two former MOSO All-American runners from the past, the Galloping Karl Gilpin and the Flying Finn Magnus Holmstrom who were all stride-by-stride until the very end where Brian 'out-leaned' the pack at the finish line tape.

Brian reported, "I know the feeling of both being insanely excited and exhausted at the finish line. The pressure was on me to match Margaret's anticipated first place finish."

A Great Birthday Present!

FCSLA member Sally Novak wanted to do something special for her daughter's (Susan Byrnes) 50th birthday. Her idea was a gift that Susan could use to save for her retirement.

She met with FCSLA General Agent, Maryann Ruben to discuss her idea. **Maryann recommended an annuity with**

FCSLA, which would keep the money safe, pay a good interest rate, and which Susan could add to in the future. The initial deposit of \$10,000 falls within the federal gift tax limits!

Maryann brought champagne, balloons and Malley's Easter bunnies to help celebrate Susan's birthday and the new annuity. Susan (left) and Sally are shown with the champagne. Maryann is a FCSLA President's Club qualifier!



Branch W187 Presents Check from FCSLA

Monsignor Paul Witt, pastor of St. Mary and Joseph Church in Valparaiso, NE is pictured accepting a FCSLA Grant Program check from Branch W187 Secretary (left) Clarice Sabata and (right) Treasurer Robina Regnier. The funds will be used to renovate the choir loft.



90th Birthday Celebrated

Anna B. Thur (daughter of John and Anna Bobonick-deceased) celebrated her 90th birthday in Melbourne, FL with family and friends on Saturday, May 5, 2012. Anna is a long-time member of the FCSLA, Sr. Branch 555 in Cleveland, OH.

She married John A. Thur, Jr. (deceased) in 1941 at Nativity BVM Church in Cleveland and is retired from the Diocese of Cleveland Chancery Office. She is a benefactor of Benedictine St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland and a supporter of the students at Benedictine High School where her husband was an alumnus.



Branch 258 Member Takes Top Honors at Westminster Dog Show

Four-year-old Maya, of Limestone, IL isn't just any border terrier. She's the "Best" by Westminster Kennel Club standards; winning Best in Breed at the 2012 Westminster Kennel Club show in February of 2012 at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Maya is owned by Karen Fitzpatrick, Branch 258 in Chicago, IL. Karen is the daughter of former National Vice President Rosemary Mlinarich and the sister of Jeanette Palanca, current Court of Appeals member.

Maya is also No. 1 in the country by American Kennel Club standards. That's what earned her the invitation to compete at Westminster.



This photo appeared on the cover of "Dog News" Magazine, January 2012.



Westminster Kennel Club Show — Best of Breed!



Branch W045 Scholarship Winners Announced

Branch W045 of Cedar Rapids, IA proudly announces their scholarship winners for 2011-2012. Each year the branch awards \$300.00 scholarships – five winners are determined from applications that are submitted and one winner is based on need as determined by local Xavier High School Staff and the principal. The scholarship selected by the high school staff is in memory of former long-time pastor at St. Wenceslaus Church, Monsignor Anthony Chihak. This year the winners are:

Molly Charipar — Junior attending Iowa State University

Amber Jean Melchert — Freshman attending the University of Northern Iowa

Jade Johnston — Freshman attending Iowa State University

Chelsey McMahon — Freshman attending Iowa State University

Gregory Hunt — Freshman attending Kirkwood Community College

Hanna Walton — Freshman attending Kirkwood Community College



Molly Charipar



Amber Melchert



Jade Johnston



Chelsey McMahon



Gregory Hunt



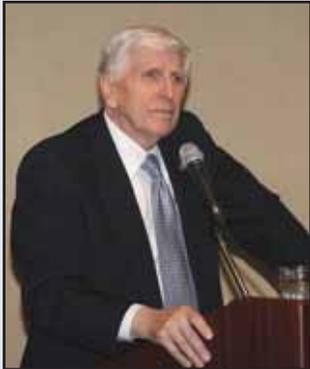
Hanna Walton



Father Furdek Lecture Series in Independence, Ohio

FCSLA was a lead co-sponsor of the first Father Furdek Lecture Series featuring former U.S. Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik on Monday, February 27, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza in Independence, OH.

With about 140 guests in attendance, Ambassador Obsitnik spoke about his experiences while serving as Ambassador, including the process of becoming the first Slovak-American to serve as an U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia. During his presentation he expressed his thoughts on the current state of affairs in Slovakia and Europe. He also shared with the audience his personal life experiences such as emigrating from Slovakia to the United States as a child.



Former U.S. Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik.

The event was also co-sponsored by a number of other leading Slovak-American organizations in Northeast Ohio: the American Slovak Club of Lorain, the American Zemplin Social Club, Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, the

First Catholic Slovak Union, Kent-Dudince Sister Cities, the Slovak Dramatic Club and Youngtown-Spisška Nová Ves Sister Cities.

FCSLA would like to sincerely thank all of our members who were able to attend this wonderful event. We hope in the future we have the opportunity to sponsor events that promote our Slovak Catholic values, traditions and cultures.



L-R: National Treasurer Stephen C. Hudak, National Vice President Irene Drotleff, Cleveland District President Joyce Lechman, Former National President Mary Ann S. Johaneck, National President Cynthia M. Maleski, Ambassador Obsitnik, Former National Vice President Bernie Demechko, and National Secretary Sue Ann M. Seich.



SPONSORS OF LECTURE SERIES — L-R: (standing) FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt, FCSLA President Cynthia M. Maleski, Former FCSLA President Mary Ann S. Johaneck, Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities President Robert Petruska, Ambassador Obsitnik, Kent-Dudince Sister Cities Rudolph Bachna, American Zemplin Social Club President George Carny, Slovak Dramatic Club President Johanna Oros, Fr. Furdek Lecture Series Program Coordinator Andrew P. Rajec, Slovak Radio Club President Henry Horvath, FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, Slovak Radio Hour Program Director Milan Kobulsky; (seated): FCSLA National Vice President Irene Drotleff, Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities President Marie Golias, American Slovak Club of Lorain Board of Directors Member Michele Mager, Slovak Radio First Vice President Joseph Oros, Slovak Dramatic Club Treasurer John Buydos.

Newly Elected District 11 Officers for 2012



District 11, St. Isidore of Nebraska recently elected new officers. Pictured are L-R, standing: Vice-President Bob Hladik and Treasurer Ron Paseka; L-R, seated: President Gene Sobota and Secretary Clarice Sabata.

Memorial Day Prayer

The FCSLA honors and thanks their members living and deceased who have served and those that continue to serve to protect our freedom!

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives.

May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

Amen.

On Monday, May 28, 2012 Americans across this nation and citizens located around the world will pause throughout the day to observe Memorial Day. Since its first official observation on May 5, 1868, when it was called Declaration Day, it has been a day of remembrance for those who sacrificed and died in our nation's service. And while it was originally dedicated to honor Civil War soldiers, we know it today as a celebration in memory of all who have fought for and defended our right to freedom.

In 1968 the observation of this day was established to be the last Monday in May. Today it remains a time of observation to honor and to respect those who fought to protect the liberties that our Founding Fathers proclaimed with certainty in the Declaration of Independence and that were thoughtfully and carefully framed in the Constitution of the United States. In his proclamation to set aside this day in 1868, General Logan instructed there to be thoughts to ". . . cherish tenderly the memories of our heroic dead who made their breast a barricade between our country and its foes".

To those who died securing peace and freedom; To those who served in conflict to protect our land, and



sacrificed their dreams of the day to preserve the hope of our nation keeping America the land of the free for over two centuries we owe our thanks and our honor. It is important to not only recognize their service, but to respect their devotion to duty and to ensure that the purpose for which they fought will never be forgotten.

So let us pause with respect and honor on this Memorial day to remember those who fought, for those who gave their life, and for those who willingly stand ready today to do the same, without question, when the defense of freedom calls on them. We owe each of them the highest regard, respect, and honor — and the assurance that their commitment to this Nation's freedom will never be forgotten.

Planting Seeds:

An Act Of Faith

Part of the Story of Maria Joseph Manor

On March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of Maria Joseph Manor in Danville.

The significance of this date as we reflect on what God has allowed us to do for the past fifty years is truly awe-inspiring. It reminds us of the parable Jesus once told: "A sower went out to sow some seed..." (Mt. 13:3)

Ever since the founding of the Congregation of Sisters in 1909, they have imitated their patrons who, in the ninth century, saw needs and met them. The need in 1909 was the education of the children; and the need in 1959 was to provide care for the parents of the children they had taught.

Ideas and inspirations are like seeds. We can plant them and allow them to be transformed into something else, or we can just leave them alone, denying them of the opportunity to grow and mature into something undreamed of.

In 1950, anticipating the necessity for trained personnel who could provide for the needs of the aging population, Mother M. Crescentia Bendik, General Superior at the time, sent Sisters to a variety of universities and nursing schools to study nursing, pharmacy, dietetics, and physical therapy. In 1957 she arranged for the purchase of land adjacent to the Congregation's original acreage. Thus, the seeds for what would become The Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community were planted.

The actual ground breaking and construction of Maria Joseph Manor became the responsibility of Mother Crescentia's successor, Rev. Mother M. Bernard Hudak. That began on August 11, 1960.

It was a great risk to plant the seeds of what would become Maria Joseph Manor. The project represented a significant financial outlay. The Sisters depended heavily upon donations from the parishes at which they were serving, the Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies, their family members, former students, and even the children, then currently in their schools, who were invited to "buy a brick" for a dollar.

Little by little the seed money began to grow and blossom. The fruit of the service provided by the Sisters, their employees, volunteers, and benefactors have continued to benefit thousands of residents and their families.

Investing an idea into the soil of God's Providence in

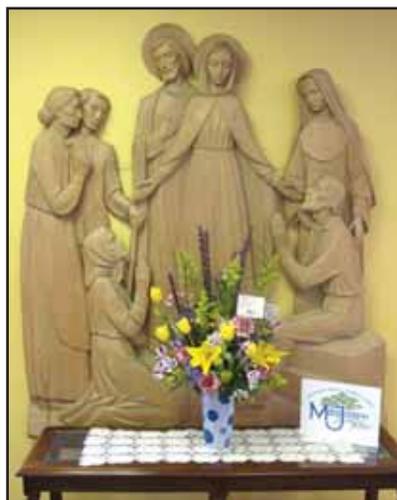


Concelebrating the Jubilee Mass left to right are: Rev. Gerard Heintzleman, Rev. Albert Oldfield, Rev. Dominic Azagbor, OP, Maria Joseph Chaplin, Rev. John Kilpatrick, and Deacon Tom Conlin.



Opened by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and dedicated in 1962, Maria Joseph Manor has served thousands of elderly residents and their families. This initial venture has expanded to become The Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community with the expansion to The Meadows as Maria Joseph Manor, The Emmanuel Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation and Nazareth Memory Center. Daily Mass and other services as well as interdenominational services are offered for the spiritual benefit of all the residents.

Danville has resulted in expanding the initial venture of Maria Joseph Manor to the varieties of services we now know as Maria



The entrance into Maria Joseph Manor is graced with an inspiring reminder of the purpose of the "home with a heart": Joseph, Mary, and a Sister protecting and comforting the residents.

Joseph Continuing Care Community. The outgrowth includes: The Meadows at Maria Joseph and its Community Center, Trinity Terrace, Emmanuel Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, and Nazareth Memory Center under the leadership of successive Major Superiors: Sisters M. John Vianney Vranak, Paracleta Amrich, Pamela Smith, and Linda Marie Bolinski.

While the Sisters risked investing in these inspirations, God seemed to have said: "Get started and I'll help you." May He continue to guard and protect what has been planted

so that our current and future staffs would guarantee its remaining "The Home with a Heart."

+ + + + +

The commemoration of the Fiftieth Year of Maria Joseph Manor began on the Feast of St. Joseph, Monday, March 19, and will continue throughout 2012 with a variety of events, such as:

• **Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3**

Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community which includes the Manor, Emmanuel, Nazareth and Meadows residents, staff, and families. All are invited to a festive, commemorative reception from 2-4 p.m. on June 2nd the Manor building; or on June 3rd at The Emmanuel Center.

• **Thursday, September 20**

A formal—*invitation only*—reception will be held at The

continued on page 11

An Act Of Faith

continued from page 10

Meadows Community Center for Clergy, Doctors, Board Members, Civic Leaders, and Business Associates.

• Sunday, October 21

The Golden Anniversary Festivities will conclude with a Mass in the Chapel of Maria Joseph Manor at 2:00 p.m. A Reception will follow in the Manor Social Hall.

+ + + + +

The seeds planted more than fifty years ago have not only grown and blossomed, they have also been fruitful in blessings. Residents have been blessed with security and the assurance of immediate care. The families have been blessed in knowing they have a facility for their loved one for whom they can no longer provide care. The staff has been blessed in having a place of employment where they are appreciated and their efforts are valued. The Sisters have been blessed in knowing that they are fulfilling the inspiration of their founder, Father Matthew Jankola, in ways he could never have dreamed to be possible.

For the abundance of blessings provided by our God, we bow our heads and offer our sincere praise and thanks. He, himself told us: "Without me you can do nothing."

It is very possible that among the readership are relatives, friends, and neighbors of former Manor residents who have moved away from their "homesteads" and would have no other means of knowing about the events mentioned in this article. We invite them to come to see how the Manor and its ministries have expanded. Another date to remember is Saturday, July 14, when the Sisters will host their annual Summer Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It would be a joy to reconnect with those whose paths have crossed ours.

Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M.

Fund Raising Event — A Family Affair

Pictured below are Richard and Susan Talpas, Officers of Jr. Branch 57 and Sr. Branch 221, Cleveland, OH presenting their grandsons, twin brothers Steve and Matt Avdey, with donation checks for a St. Baldrick Foundation Fund Raising Event.

Matt and Steve, along with their whole class at St. Christopher School in Rocky River, OH, had their heads shaved in support of the younger brother of one of their classmates, who was diagnosed with cancer two years ago.

The St. Baldrick Foundation is a national childhood cancer research organization. Hundreds gathered at The Rocky River Ohio Brewing Company to have their locks shorn and their heads shaved. This local event brought in nearly \$90,000. Nationally more than 1,000 fund raising events were held.

In addition, their older brother Michael and parents Walter and Laura Avdey are members of Sr. Branch 221 and were happy to participate.



Sisters Elizabeth Ann Matonak and Marguerite Hruby have reasons to rejoice and give thanks as they prepare to cut the jubilee cake. Sister Marguerite was one of the first Sisters on staff when the Manor opened fifty years ago... and has continued everyday of those fifty years. Sister Elizabeth Ann is a close runner-up with forty-eight consecutive years to her credit.

From APRIL 1 through JUNE 30, 2012,
older FCSLA annuities (issued prior to 2005)
with a guaranteed minimum rate of

4.50%

will earn a yield of 4.6025%.

NEWER FCSLA ANNUITIES

(issued 2005 and after)

with a guaranteed minimum rate of

3.50%

will earn a yield of 3.5618% while those with a
guaranteed minimum rate of

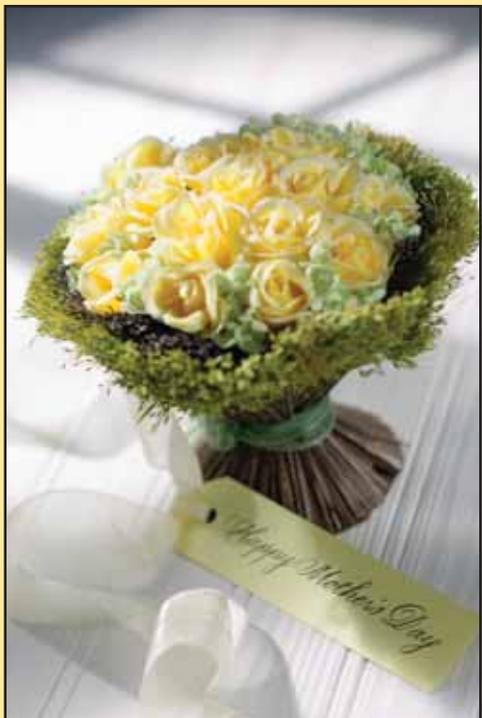
3.00%

will earn a yield of 3.0453%.

History of Mother's Day

Contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day was not conceived and fine-tuned in the boardroom of Hallmark. The earliest tributes to mothers date back to the annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to Rhea, the mother of many deities, and to the offerings ancient Romans made to their Great Mother of Gods, Cybele. Christians celebrated this festival on the fourth Sunday in Lent in honor of Mary, mother of Christ. In England this holiday was expanded to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday.

In the United States, Mother's Day started nearly 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day."



Fifteen years later, Julia Ward Howe, a Boston poet, pacifist, suffragist, and author of the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," organized a day encouraging mothers to rally for peace, since she believed they bore the loss of human life more harshly than anyone else.

In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen like John Wannamaker, and politicians including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, at her church in West Virginia, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation. Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday.

At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church, writing letters to their mothers, and eventually, by sending cards, presents, and flowers. With the increasing gift-giving activity associated with Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis became enraged. She believed that the day's sentiment was being sacrificed at the expense of greed and profit. In 1923 she filed a lawsuit to stop a Mother's Day festival, and was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a convention selling carnations for a war mother's group. Before her death in 1948, Jarvis is said to have confessed that she regretted ever starting the mother's day tradition.

Despite Jarvis's misgivings, Mother's Day has flourished in the United States. In fact, the second Sunday of May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express appreciation of their mothers.



God our Creator, we pray:

for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility;
for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;
for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;
for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;
for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;
for those who have children they do not want;
for those who raise children on their own;
for those who have lost a child;
for those who care for the children of others;
for those whose children have left home;
and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

We pray too for mothers who have died, that they are enjoying the rewards of everlasting life with you.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender, and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good, living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others.

Amen.





MADISON and **ABIGAIL WITULSKI** and **McKENZIE MARTENS** were confirmed recently. Madison and Abigail were confirmed by Bishop Bruskevicz in Nebraska and McKenzie by Bishop Callahan in Wisconsin. All three are members of Branch W187, in Valparaiso, NE. They are the granddaughters of Branch W187 and District 11 Secretary Clarice Sabata and her husband Ken.

Jr. Branch 46 to Host Christmas in July

Jr. Branch 46 of Lansford, PA, will host their annual "Christmas in July" event at Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA, on Thursday, July 19, 2012. Formal invitations will be sent this month.

Any other junior branches in the Eastern PA District that wish to participate should call Branch and District President Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 for more information.

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**

Eagle Scout Rank Achieved



Nathan Edward Beran (Branch W055, Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill, NE) achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in a Court of Honor ceremony in Omaha, NE on March 3, 2012. Nathan has been a member of Troop 99 in Omaha, NE for seven years. This rank is achieved by only two out of every 100 scouts. His project was constructing a life size stable/manger for the living nativity program at the Knowles Mercy Retreat Center.

Nathan is currently a sophomore at Skutt Catholic High School. He is shown above with his parents and brother, Steven, Amy and Zach Beran (also members of Branch W055). He attends St. Vincent de Paul Church in Omaha and is an active volunteer as an usher.



The 23rd Edition of Our **SLOVAK-AMERICAN COOK BOOK**

**No books are sold or delivered C.O.D.
ALL ARE SOLD FOR CASH**

The cost of each book is \$9.00.

A carton of 18 books is \$144 (\$8.00 per book).
Canada residents \$11.00 U.S. money order per book.

Send only money order or check payable to:

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Attention: Cook Book Department
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122

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of the Slovak-American Cook Book.



IN MEMORIAM

EMMA SIMKANICH Sr. Branch 177



Emma Simkanich passed away at home, in her daughter Kathy's arms, on Thursday, December 15, 2011. She was 100 years, one month, and 28 days old.

Born in Leisenring #3 (Monarch, PA), Emma was raised in Leisenring and Clairton, PA. She attended Clairton High School, class of 1930. During her lifetime, she worked as a nanny, counter clerk in an old-fashioned grocery store, high school cafeteria server, and department store sales associate. But mostly, she was a loving mother and excellent homemaker.

A resident of Levittown, PA for 58 years, Emma was one of the founding members of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, worked at St. Mike's annual fair for over 25 years, and participated in their Sodality and Block Rosary groups. She was also a lifetime member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (Sr. Branch 177, McKeesport), and was especially devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and praying the Rosary.

She was extremely proud of her Slovak Heritage and took great pleasure in keeping old family traditions alive, especially for Christmas Eve and Easter. Her stuffed cabbage and nut rolls were always in demand.

Emma was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, John Simkanich, her parents Joseph and Mary (Farkavosky) Frenock, brothers Steven, Joseph, and Andrew, sisters Mary Batura, Ann Drost, and Helen Bashinsky, and her niece Mary Arlene Carty.

She will be greatly missed by her three children: John Simkanich (wife Kim) of Newtown, PA, Patricia Alston (husband Ken) of Berlin, NJ, and Kathy

Simkanich (also Sr. Branch 177) of Levittown; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one brother, Edward Frenock (Jednota Lodge 454) and sister-in-law Dorothy, of Manheim, PA, and many devoted nephews and nieces.

MARY PAULINE HAYTAS Sr. Branch 525



Mary Pauline (Lash) Haytas was born August 5, 1913 in Cleveland, OH, the oldest child of Suzanne and Michael Lash, Slovak immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

As the oldest of six, Mary looked after her younger siblings and worked to help support the family. She attended Sts. Cyril & Methodius Elementary school in Lakewood, OH and graduated from St. Stephen's High School, where she acquired skills as a bookkeeper. She met her future husband, John Cyril Haytas, a teacher and chemist, at a Catholic Slovak young adult mixer. They married on August 29, 1936 at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church.

Mary was a proud and active member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. She served in various roles in FCSLA Branch 525 for more than 30 years, including terms as president and treasurer, and attended a number of national conventions.

She was a master seamstress, designing dresses, robes and other clothing for her children, grandchildren and other family members.

She spent a great deal of time around the Christmas and Easter holidays preparing paska bread, nut roll and poppy seed roll as gifts to friends and family. She prepared traditional Slovak meals for the holidays, and passed on her skills of making cirak, bobalky, pirohy and other Slovak dishes

— as well as a bit of family history — to members of her family. She was a deeply religious woman as well. Her gifts to her family were many.

She died January 18, 2012, joining her husband John, who passed away January 31, 1986, and siblings Michael Lash, Agnes Lash and Anne Glodick. She is survived by her sisters Suzanne Hudak and Dorothy Lash. Her life was honored in a funeral mass held January 23 at St. Ladislav Church in Westlake. Her legacy includes her children, Joan Kilbane (John), John "Jack," Jim (Ellen) and Joe (Yvonne), eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

FRANK VACA Branch W018



Frank Vaca died February 28, 2012 in Papillion, NE. He was born January 24, 1917 in Omaha, NE to Ferdinand and Barbara (Krivan) Vaca.

Frank was a World War II Army Veteran. He was an honorary member of the Omaha South High School Class of WWII. He retired from Union Pacific Railroad in 1977 as commissary employee with 36 years of service.

Frank won his future wife Edith, over with a smile and a dance at the Chermot Ballroom in Omaha in 1942. They married at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Verdigre, NE on July 17, 1943. He was a loving and devoted husband and father.

Frank took joy in life's everyday moments. He enjoyed tending to his yard and garden, sharing fresh tomatoes and zucchini with neighbors, grocery shopping, and playing pinochle and SkipBo with family. Frank never met a dessert he didn't like. He had a natural ear for music. Frank loved singing, polka music and dancing. He taught himself the harmonica at age 85. He

was a bingo caller at the Omaha Christie Heights Center, an usher for St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Omaha, and a former member of TCU Challenger Lodge #763 and the Union Pacific Railroad Old Timers Club.

Frank is survived by his wife of 68 years, Edith; son Jerry (Sharon), Duncanville, TX; daughters, Maxine Vaca, Omaha, and Margaret (Tom) Oldham, LaVista, NE; two granddaughters, two great-grandchildren; brother Ferdinand Vaca, Omaha; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by sisters, Mary, Elizabeth, Sophie, and Stella; and brother Joseph.

In lieu of flowers, memorials were suggested to Masses or a favorite charity.

**ANNA H. "ANN"
HORNACEK
Sr. Branch 445**



(Churka) Nisky, and had lived in this area since the 1950's.

Ann married Michael F. Hornacek on September 8, 1951 in Milwaukee, and he died in 1979. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and had managed Sacred Heart School's lunch program for many years, after working part time at Terri Lee Market in Muskegon Heights for several years. She also knit and crocheted for many years.

Her survivors include three sons: Michael S. (Claudia) Hornacek of Lake Zurich, IL, Paul J. (Barbara) Hornacek of Three Rivers, MI, and John W. Hornacek of Muskegon; six grandchildren: Dr. Deborah Ann Hornacek, Ens. Michael William Hornacek, USN, Tho-

mas Joseph Hornacek, Paul Joseph Hornacek, Norman Roger (Gillian) Cupp, and Theodore Ryan (Tabatha) Cupp; three great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Mikulas of Milwaukee. She was preceded in death by her husband and parents.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 150 E. Summit Ave., Muskegon Heights, MI 49444-2171.

**HELEN AGNES
BURESH UPAH
Branch W149**



Helen Agnes Buresh Upah, 95, of Tama, OH and formerly of Toledo, passed away, October 22, 2011, at Sunny Hill Care Center in Tama under the care of Iowa

River Hospice.

Helen was born on March 31, 1916, in Chelsea, IA, the daughter of Frank and Mary (Behounek) Kubu. She received her education at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Chelsea.

In 1936, she was united in marriage to William Buresh and they had two children, Robert and Janet. They were married until his passing 25 years later. Ten years later she married William Upah and they were married for 15 years. Helen was a homemaker. She lived in Willow Apartments for many years before moving into Sunny Hill Care Center in 2006.

Helen was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Tama. She was an

active participant in the church and was a member of KD Lodge. She enjoyed cooking, playing cards, word puzzles and spending time with her family.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her two husbands, William Buresh and William Upah; her daughter-in-law, Connie Buresh; her son-in-law, Joe Venneman; two brothers Leander and George Kubu; and three sisters Martha Dunning, Mary Shoemaker and Annie Kubu.

Survivors include two children, Robert (Mary) Buresh, Tama, and Janet Venneman, Luzerne; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Adeline Upah of Chelsea; sisters-in-law, Wilma Kubu, Marion and Violet Dvorak, Clutier; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial fund has been established.

**MARY KATHRYN DAVID
Sr. Branch 301**

Mary Kathryn David, age 101, passed away February 12, 2012 at St. Joseph Care Center in Louisville, OH.

Mary was born August 11, 1910 in Fayette City, PA and served as the Household Director for Rev. Msgr. Joseph Krispinsky for over 75 years.

Mary was preceded in death by parents John and Mary (Majernik) David; brothers John (Alice), Joseph (Julia), Stephen (Sophia), Edward (Fran), and Albert; sisters Kate and Helen David. Survivors include several nieces and nephews; great-nieces and great-nephews.

Mary was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery, Massillon, OH.

**15-DAY TOUR — SEPTEMBER 10-24, 2012: SLOVAKIA;
POLAND; VIENNA, AUSTRIA; CZECH REPUBLIC, PRAGUE**

Included in the tour will be two (2) meals daily: breakfast and dinner, an English-speaking guide, bus transportation with restroom and air conditioning, all admits to the sights, rooms in 3 or 4 star hotels, all with private bath. Air transportation as a group, this way we can give you a better price and save you the hassle. If you are interested call or write for a complete day-by-day itinerary and price. John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690. Call 724-567-7341 or 724-568-32 or call toll free 1-800-260-8687.

BRANCH W133 HOLDS SPRING MEETING

Branch W133, Timken, KS, held a meeting and lunch recently at the Timken Hill cafe. Over 30 members enjoyed a steak lunch, social time, and door prizes. Current officers were all re-elected. The next meeting for the group will be August 19 at 12:30 at the Timken Hill.

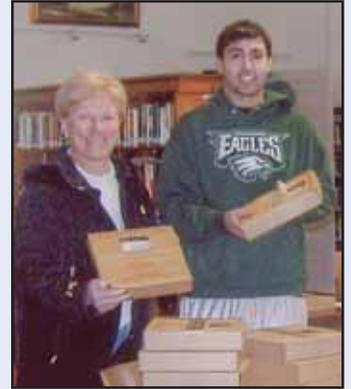


MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 55

Pie Sales and Delivery

Sr. Branch 55 in Mahanoy City, PA completed a matching funds project with the Mahanoy City Public Library. Profits of \$255 were matched by the FCSLA. Members helped sell, sort and deliver pies along with members of the library board.



Members met to sort and deliver the pies in the library.



Marylou Henninger presents check to Library board president, Joan Shimkus and librarian, Tom Sieberling.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

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 page 17 and mailing to the home office address. We ask that one magazine per household be sufficient.

BRANCH W137 HOLDS ANNUAL WINE TASTING



Branch W137, Cedar Rapids, IA held its annual adult only wine tasting on February 19, 2012. Thirty-five members enjoyed a variety of wines with snacks and door prizes.

The next branch activity will be a swim party on Sunday, April 29 from 4:15 until 7:15 p.m. at Bender Pool.



Branch 56 of Glassport, PA Holds Holiday Party

Branch 56 of Glassport, PA held their annual Christmas Party on December 3, 2011 to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Max and Odi's in Glassport, PA.

More than 30 children and their parents were delighted by a very entertaining Magic Show followed by a delicious luncheon complete with pizza, chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs and fries. A wonderful dessert of Christmas cupcakes and ice cream satisfied everyone's sweet tooth. The event ended on a happy note after Santa arrived with gifts for the children!



Officers of Branch 56 – Agnes Wozniak, Judy Feltz, Corrine Hopkins, Dolly Shinavski, and Anne Kula with Santa.



Sisters Alyssa and Lauren Miner with Santa.

Youngstown Sister Cities

~ July 10-24 Tour ~

Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities 15th Heritage Tour is set for July 10-24, 2012, with Jim and Kay Bench as tour guides. Tour will include churches, castles and historical sites in Bratislava, Piestany, Nitra, and more. Included is the raft ride on the Dunajec River, champagne breakfast at City Hall of our Sister City, Nova Ves, and performances at Slovak dance studios. Side trips to ancestral villages and relatives are available with advance notice. Approximately \$3,600 plus airline taxes.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench, 428 West 4th Avenue, Derry, PA 15627, phone (724) 694-5101 or cell (724) 858-5843 or email jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure International Travel, P.O. Box 770410, Lakewood, OH 44107 or phone (216) 228-7171 or toll free (800) 542-2487 or email paul@aits.webmail.com.

The branch's youngest member Aubrey Kate Jaskulski was happy to pet the bunny.



Ako kapor orla utopil

Rudo Moric

Za tichého večera sedeli sme pred verandou na tej istej lavičke, na ktorej som uja Bohdana prvý raz videl. Hviezdy i mesiac svietili naplno a z hory vanul čerstvý chlad. Ujo bafkal z fajočky, ktorá sa každú chvíľu ohnivo rozžarovala.

Rozprával, kde všade za svojho života pochodil. Veru videl už pekný kus sveta. Poľoval na medvede vo východných Poloninách a slúžil aj pri juhočeských rybníkoch.

— A odtiaľ neviete žiadnu príhodu? — prerušil som ho, aby som kul železo za horúca.

— Akože nie? Všade sa človeku všeličo zaujímavé pritrafí, — veť ujo. A hneď a zaraz aj začína:

— Nuž teda, keď som slúžil blízko tej Třebone, zažil som vám zaujímavú udalosť.

V rybníkoch bolo rýb ani dreva, no časom len badáme, že sa nám v brehoch rozplienili ondatry. A to vám je mor na ryby. Nuž začali sme ich kynožiť. Raz som sa aj ja vybral na ne. Vzal som si so sebou ľahkú pušku, že ich budem, koťuhy, strieľať.

Pristavil som sa pri rybníku, v ktorom boli samé staré kaprie matky. Držali sme ich na chov a boli veru už poriadne vypasené. Nejedna mala blízko desať kíľ.

Bolo sparno a dobre sa mi sedelo pri vode. Aj ryby vyšli na plynčtinu a vyhrievali sa. Chrbty s plutvami sa im matne lisli nad vodou.

Usalašil som sa na hrádzi pod starým dubom a oči mi stále sledili po brehoch. No ondatier nikde. Iste sýte vylihovali vo svojich podzemných brlohoch. Na lov vyjdú už podvečer.

Keď nebolo ondatier, začal som si všímať okolie. Kírdliky divých holubov sa každú chvíľu napájali v rybníku a potom si sadali do korún dubov. Nad vodou sa mihali priehľadné krídla vážok, ktoré akoby stáli na jednom mieste. V rákosí sa sem-tam ukázal vodný vták, to lyska, to roháč alebo divá kačica.

Ako tak pozorujem okolie, naraz len zazriem v modrých výšavách krúžiť dravca. Schytím ďalekohľad a hľadím. Niet pochyby – je to riečny orol. A aký krásny kus!

Orol krúžil bez mávnutia krídel, a keď sa otáčal, perie na hrudi i bruchu sa mu striebrišto ligotalo.

Pritlačil som sa ku drapľavému dubu, aby ma orlie bystré oči nezhladi, a pozorujem, čo bude robiť. Vybral sa len na nevinnú prechádzku, alebo na lov?

Keď už orol hodný čas krúžil, skúsil som napodobniť piskot lapeného zajaca, aby som mohutného vtáka privábil na dostrel. No orol bol vysoko a vábenie nepočul.

Ale vtom sa stalo niečo, čo som vôbec nečakal.

Orol prestal krúžiť, ešte viac rozťahol krídla a kľzavým letom sa zniesol rovno nad rybník. Zastavil sa v povetrí, potom zrazil krídla k telu a ako kameň strmhlav zletel nad vodu. Všetko toto sa odohralo v momente, ani pušku nebolo kedy chytiť.

A už vidím orla vo vode. Len teraz badám, aká to ozruta. Rozpíate krídla má dobre vyše pol druhu metra široké.

Ale čo to! Orol akoby sa prilepil na hladinu. Celou silou trepoce krídlami, bičuje vodu, až sa vlny s bielou penou čerí, no nie a nie vzlietnuť. Ba ešte naopak. Čoraz viac sa ponára. Už ho je len dopoly nad vodou, už mu len hlava zo zahnutým zobáčikom trčí. Zrazu sa nad ním zavrela hladina.

Bežím po hrádzi bližšie, no kým som dobehol, po orlovi ani stopy. Len mohutné kruhy sa rozchádzali na všetky strany od miesta, kde zmizol.

Ostal som stáť ako z kameňa. Ešte nikdy som nevidel, aby sa taký ozrutánsky vták z ničoho nič utopil! Aj sa mi to veriť nechcelo, ale vari ma len vlastné oči neklamali!

V ten deň som si už na ondatry nezmyslel. A potom ešte dlho mi príhoda s orlom neschádzala z mysle. Netrepežlivo som čakal na čas vypúšťania rybníkov. Nájdem tam orla, alebo nenájdem?!

A o dva mesiace rybníky vskutku vypustili.

Vzal som vysoké čižmy a zamieril k rybníku. Prebrodil som sa šachorinou a bahnom na miesto, kde sa odohrala spomínaná odalosť. A tu som našiel mŕtvolu veľkej ryby a orla, spoly už zanesené čiernym bahnom. Dravec mal pazúry ešte stále zaťaté do chrbtovej kosti kapra a perie už mal obalené jemným hlienom.

Bol som vtedy ešte mladý a neskúsený, nuž daromne som si lámal hlavu, ako sa to vlastne mohlo stať. Až starí rybári, čo už roky okolo rybníkov robili, mi to vysvetlili.

Nuž stalo sa to takto:

Každý dravec je samá útočnosť a náruživosť. A v tejto loveckej náruživosti, keď zatne pazúry do koristi, schytí ho kľč. V tom okamihu nemôže uvoľniť pazúry. Až po chvíli ho kľč prejde. A práve táto chvíľa sa stala orlovi osudnou. Keď kapor zacítil ostrú bolesť, v ľaku hľadal útočište v hĺbočine. Napál všetky sily, a kým orol mohol pazúry uvoľniť, stiahol ho pod vodu . . .

. . . Príhoda ma celkom vzrušila. Už som myslel na to, aká z nej bude zaujímavá poviedka. Hodnú chvíľu bolo pred verandou ticho, len od hory doliehalo neprestajné šumenie.

– No, poďme už dnu, – zdvihol sa ujo. – Začína byť chladno.

How a Carp Drowned an Eagle

Rudo Moric

During a quiet evening my uncle and I were sitting on a bench admiring the stars and a very bright moon. A cold wind was blowing from the forest. My uncle was enjoying himself as he smoked his pipe. He was talking about his many travels and the places he visited. He loved hunting and his job took him to many places.

“Do you have any stories from these travels?” — I was anxious to hear one.

“Of course, something interesting happens all the time” — uncle replied and started his story. “When I worked in Treboň, I had an unusual experience” — uncle continued.

Uncle was working in a fish hatchery. This hatchery had an abundance of fish. One day he noticed that a family of beavers made a home in the stream near the fish hatchery. The foresters had to do something because the beavers were eating all the fish. Uncle was going to check the fish hatchery where they kept the female carp — some of them very very big and fat (almost 10 KG). It was very hot and uncle was cooling himself off by the fish pond. Even the female carp were enjoying the warm weather swimming in shallow water.

Uncle did not see any beavers, they were probably enjoying the warm weather. Uncle was looking around, lots of wild pigeons were drinking from the fish pond and then flying to hide in the big oak tree. The dragon flies were hovering above the water, and on the edges of the fish pond were many water birds.

All of a sudden uncle saw an eagle circling above the pond. Uncle took his binoculars and saw a beautiful eagle above the pond. The eagle was flying very slowly around and around. Uncle hid behind a tree waiting to see what was



going to happen. Uncle was surprised by what happened next.

The eagle stopped circling and started to descend on the fish pond. The eagle stopped in the air, folded his wings close to his body and like a stone was falling in the pond. All of this happened very fast.

The eagle was in the water, he had his wings extended and they were almost a meter and a half across. But it looked like the eagle was glued to the water. The eagle was moving his wings but he could not fly away. He was sinking under the water. Uncle saw that something drowned the eagle. Uncle ran to the water's edge, but the eagle was gone. Only big circles of water whirlpool were on the water.

Uncle did not understand what happened, he never saw such a big bird going under the water. Uncle could not believe his eyes. Uncle did not think about the beavers any more, however the eagle drowning stayed on his mind. He was anxious to see what happened to the eagle when they emptied the fish hatchery. It took two months for the foresters to empty the pond. Uncle went to explore the pond, he went to the place where he saw the eagle disappear. He found the carcass of a big fish and an eagle. The eagle's talons were deep in the back of the carp. Uncle did not understand how it happened, but an old fisherman explained that all birds of prey have a spasm when they seize their prey. At that point the eagle could not release his talons. By the time the spasm had gone away, the eagle was deep under water. When the carp felt pain from the eagle's talons, it went deeper under water and drowned the eagle. I liked my uncle's interesting story and wanted to hear more. But the wind was quite cold and uncle and I had to go inside.

SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

Translate into Slovak and then vice versa:

This book is new. This picture is small. Good morning, Mr. Oravec. Good evening, Eve. Hello, John. What is this? This is a book. The classroom is not clean. Is John there? Is Eve here? No, Eve is not here. Who is here? Who is there? The wall is green. This boy is good. Where is the school? Where is the child? What is this boy like? What is this town like?

Táto kniha je nová. Tento obraz je malý. Dobré ráno, pán Oravec. Dobrý večer, Eva. Haló, Ján. Čo je toto? Toto je kniha. Trieda nie je čistá. Je Ján tam? Je Eva

tu? Nie, Eva nie je tu. Kto je tu? Kto je tam? Stena je zelená. Tento chlapec je dobrý. Kde je škola? Kde je dieťa? Aký je chlapec? Aké je to mesto?

VOCABULARY

aj – also, too, as well

áno – yes

asi – about, probably, approximately

auto – (motor-) car

autom – by car

continued on page 20

SLOVAK WORDS AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

continued from page 19

blízko – near
breh – river bank
byť – to be
cena – price, cost
cez – via, through
ďakujem – thank you
ďaleko – far
dostanete – you will get
ešte – still, more
hľadám – I am looking for
hlavný, á, é – main
hneď – at once, immediately
hospodársky, a, e – farming, economic
idete – you are going
iste – certainly, surely
jeden, jedna, jedno – one
jednoduchý, á, é – simple
keď – if, when
koniec – end (the end of the street)
ktorý, á, é – which, who, that
kvet – flower
len – only, just
mať – to have
na – on (on the table), at (at the station)
nejaký, á, é – some, any
nízky, a, e – low
obchod – shop
obráťte (niečo) – you turn
otázka – question
plot – fence
pomoc – help
posledný, á, é – last
potom – then, later
potrebujem – I need
poznáte, viete – you know
pravý, á, é – right
prejdete – you pass, cross
prepáčte – excuse me
priamo – direct (ly)
prosím – please
rieka – river
stále – always
stanica – station
stavba – building, construction
široký, á, e – wide
štyri minúty – four minutes
tak – so, thus
takmer – almost, nearly, practically
taký, á, á – such
ten, tá, to – that

tento, táto, toto – this
teraz – now
uvidíte – you will see
už – already
vec – matter, thing
veľmi – very
vidíte? – can you see?
voz – car, vehicle
vždy – always, ever
za – for, by; at, behind

USE THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND MAGAZINE CANCELLATIONS

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(for ID purposes)

Today's Date

CANCEL MAGAZINE

MAIL OR FAX TO:

**First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
FAX: (216) 464-9260**

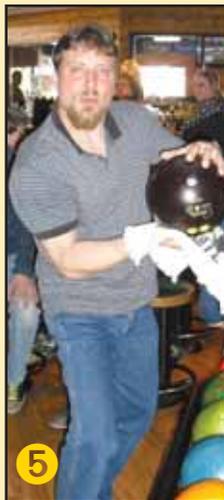
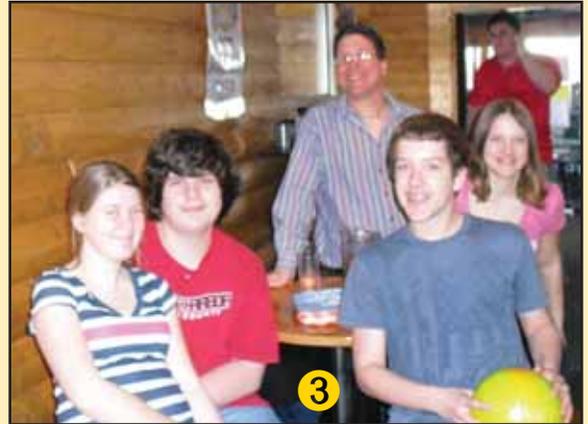
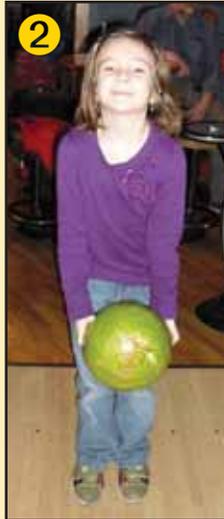
Lots of “Spare” Time for Fun for Branches 23 & 130

Pizza and bowling made a “strike-ing’ combination for a February 26 Branch 23-Milwaukee and Jr. Order 130 party. The many attendees filled the meeting room to overflowing at Alpine Avalanche Grill and Bowling Lanes in Muskego.

A short branch meeting followed the pizza lunch. Future events were discussed and an election of officers was held. Branch 23’s new President is Kathleen Mueller, Vice

President - Linda Dilger, Secretary-Katie Mueller, Treasurer-Martin Esterle and Junior Order Secretary-Luanne Coyne. Cindy Petrowski, who resigned from her position as Junior Order 130 Secretary, was presented with a gift for her years of service.

After the meeting the attendees spent the rest of the afternoon bowling compliments of Branch 23.



1. The Matheson family.
2. Ava Duelgeworks on her bowling form.
3. The Muffler family.
4. Katie Missiaen and family.
5. Matheson family member.
6. The Ray Muffler family.
7. Youngest members of Branch 23.
8. Missiaen family enjoying the event!
9. Past Secretary of Jr. Branch 130, Cindy Petrowsky receives a thank you gift from past Branch 23 President, Luanne Coyne.

REPORTS OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JANUARY 31, 2012

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 13,453,250.93
Bonds	640,854,459.81
Preferred Stock	5,998,660.16
Common Stock	984,996.19
Investment Income Due and Accrued	10,416,653.07
Promissory Notes	0.00
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,532,726.48
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,937,462.27
Other Assets	208,186.34
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 680,386,395.25
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 212,283,670.08
Annuity Reserves	365,874,359.46
Death Claims Payable	674,891.64
Unearned Premiums	594,750.00
Matured Endowments	317,909.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,184,075.00
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,817,504.40
Accrued Convention Donations	55,500.00
Provision for Future Conventions	39,000.00
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,011,910.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,300,161.00
Other Liabilities	2,248,562.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 595,402,293.23
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 84,984,102.02
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 84,984,102.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 680,386,395.25

INCOME STATEMENT

For the One Month Ending January 31, 2012

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,010,335.51
Annuity Premiums	2,996,370.05
Investment Income	3,069,266.89
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	7,372.00
Rental Income	32,169.00
Other Revenue	1,609.18
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 9,117,122.63
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 3,040,670.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	2,185,359.96
Insurance Benefits	313,579.98
Annuity Benefits	2,172,647.67
Commission Expense	355,287.95
Surrender Benefits	89,874.43
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	274.68
Matured Endowments	2,476.36
Donation Expenses	20,838.32
Convention Expenses	13,000.00
Dividends to Members	179,307.32
Post Mortem Benefits	80,383.21
Bonus to Branches	75,000.00
Fraternal Activities	9,880.95
Bank Service Charges	(5,802.92)
Data Processing Service Fees	20,395.97
Consulting Services	5,177.50
Official Publications	27,154.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	27,607.97
Fees — Directors	28,949.54
Salaries — Employees	112,994.08
Salaries — Officers	36,479.17
Interest Expense	17,787.09
Tax Expense	27,744.76
Depreciation Expense	24,603.00
Utility Expense	3,283.77
Postage and Printing	25,233.12
Advertising	6,859.19
Travel Expense	7,287.48
Insurance Department Fees	625.00
Sales Promotion	5,984.18
Rental Expense	32,169.00
Other Expense	30,903.43
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 8,974,016.16
NET INCOME	\$ 143,106.48

BALANCE SHEET AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 2012

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 20,631,172.42
Bonds	638,590,022.79
Preferred Stock	5,998,660.16
Common Stock	984,996.19
Investment Income Due and Accrued	9,855,250.68
Promissory Notes	0.00
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,510,326.48
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,950,575.88
Other Assets	198,914.12
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 684,719,918.72
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 215,693,022.08
Annuity Reserves	368,016,671.99
Death Claims Payable	679,259.64
Unearned Premiums	705,697.00
Matured Endowments	318,792.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,201,574.00
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,820,900.33
Accrued Convention Donations	74,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	52,000.00
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,130,719.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,292,777.00
Other Liabilities	1,224,110.89
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 600,209,523.93
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 84,510,394.80
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 84,510,394.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 684,719,918.72

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Two Months Ending February 29, 2012

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 6,436,082.48
Annuity Premiums	5,113,416.55
Investment Income	6,114,799.99
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	14,756.00
Rental Income	71,953.00
Other Revenue	2,834.18
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 17,753,842.20
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 6,450,022.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	4,327,672.49
Insurance Benefits	727,983.04
Annuity Benefits	3,410,499.17
Commission Expense	758,105.10
Surrender Benefits	521,605.12
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	6,759.89
Matured Endowments	2,857.36
Donation Expenses	42,598.32
Convention Expenses	26,000.00
Dividends to Members	358,854.40
Post Mortem Benefits	175,523.43
Bonus to Branches	150,000.00
Fraternal Activities	13,057.15
Bank Service Charges	(3,536.85)
Data Processing Service Fees	35,837.92
Accounting Fees	26,718.90
Actuarial Fees	31,469.00
Consulting Services	11,115.00
Official Publications	61,013.61
Scholarship Awards	625.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	57,150.16
Fees — Directors	39,464.24
Salaries — Employees	228,095.93
Salaries — Officers	72,958.34
Interest Expense	33,992.60
Tax Expense	56,094.30
Depreciation Expense	49,206.00
Utility Expense	11,716.81
Postage and Printing	41,507.52
Advertising	26,884.29
Travel Expense	17,073.25
Insurance Department Fees	32,122.88
Sales Promotion	16,676.96
Rental Expense	71,953.00
Other Expense	75,957.62
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 17,965,633.95
NET INCOME	\$ (211,791.75)



MEMORIAL DAY PICNICS

CHICKEN SALAD

- 4 cups chopped, cooked chicken
- 1 cup sliced celery
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste

Combine cooked chicken and celery. Mix together mayonnaise, sour cream, lemon juice and salt and pepper. Add dressing to chicken mixture and toss gently.

Optional: Add the following to above mixture and toss gently.

- ¾ cup slivered toasted almonds
- 1 cup seedless grapes

POTATO BEET SALAD

- 2 cups diced, cooked potatoes
- 2 cups diced, cooked beets
- ½ cup peas
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2-3 cups green onions

Dressing:

- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 6 tablespoons yogurt
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- Bit of oil
- Salt & pepper

Chill all vegetables. Combine all in bowl; mix dressing ingredients and add to vegetables. Mix well.

OVEN HAM CROQUETTES

- 2 cups cooked ham
- ½ cup grated Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup fresh bread crumbs
- ¼ cup grated onion
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1 cup cracker crumbs

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 10 x 6 x 1½ inch baking pan. In mixing bowl, combine ham, cheese, bread, crumbs, onion, salt and pepper and egg. Mix well. Divide into 12 parts; roll each into cone. Roll each into butter, coat with cracker crumbs. Arrange in pan. Bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with any gravy or sauce you prefer.

MEMORIAL DAY SOUFFLE

- ⅔ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup milk
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate
- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar

Butter and sugar a 1-quart souffle dish. Prepare souffle collar to help extend depth of the dish. Combine sugar, cornstarch, milk and unsweetened chocolate in saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and chocolate melts. Boil for 1 minute and remove from heat. Separate eggs. Beat egg yolks until thick and add to chocolate mixture; stir in butter and vanilla. Cool to room temperature.

In the meantime, beat egg whites with salt and cream of tartar until stiff peaks form. Fold in remaining egg whites. Pour into prepared souffle dish and bake 50 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Serve with whipped cream.

STUFFED CABBAGE CASSEROLE

- 1 pound ground beef
- ¾ cup rice
- 1 large onion chopped
- 2 cloves garlic
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 28 oz. can tomato sauce
- ¼ cup cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard
- 8 cups coarsely chopped cabbage

Brown meat, onion, garlic. Drain well, add rice, salt, pepper. In small bowl mix together tomato sauce, vinegar, brown sugar, dry mustard. Layer ⅓ of cabbage in 3-quart deep casserole. Arrange ½ beef mixture on top, cover with another ⅓ of cabbage. Top with remaining beef mixture and remaining cabbage. Pour tomato sauce mixture over the top, do not stir. Casserole will be quite full. Let it stand at room temperature for about 20 minutes.

Bake in 325 degrees oven for 2 hours without stirring.

SWISS CRAB PIE

- 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 unbaked pie shell
- 1 can crab meat
- 2 green onions
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup light cream
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon dry mustard
- ¼ cup almonds

Put 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese in unbaked pie shell. Layer crab meat, then chopped onions. Mix eggs, cream, salt, dry mustard, and pour over crab meat. Top with almonds. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes.

PICNIC CORN SQUARES

- 1 can creamed corn
 - 1 can corn, drained
 - 1 (8 oz.) carton sour cream
 - 1 stick butter, melted
 - 1 box Jiffy corn bread mix
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 cup sharp Cheddar cheese, grated
- Mix all ingredients except cheese until blended. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees in 9 x 13 inch pan. Top with cheese and bake 5 to 10 minutes more, just to melt cheese. Let cool slightly before cutting into squares. These are great for picnics as they serve like brownies.

COCONUT POUND CAKE TOPPED WITH RUM GLAZE

- 2 sticks butter
- ½ cup butter flavored Crisco
- 3 cups sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 cups all purpose flour, sifted with ¼ teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon each vanilla, coconut and rum extract
- 1 can Angel Flake Coconut

Set out butter and Crisco to reach room temperature. Cream shortening until smooth and creamy. Add sugar gradually, beating continually. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each one. Add sour cream, cream in. Add flour gradually. Beat well. Add extracts. Beat until well mixed. Fold coconut by hand until well mixed. Bake in tube pan at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Rum Glaze:

- ¾ cup sugar
- ¾ cup water
- ⅓ stick butter
- ½ cup dark rum

WHITE CHOCOLATE SNACK MIX

- 1 pound white chocolate
- 3 cups Rice Chex
- 3 cups Corn Chex
- 3 cups Cheerios
- 2 cups pretzels
- 2 cups dry roasted peanuts
- 12 oz. package M&M's®

Melt white chocolate slowly in double boiler. Stir dry ingredients together in large bowl. Pour chocolate over this and stir over to coat. Spread on wax paper to cool. Break into small chunks.

PERIODICAL

5/12

The FCSLA Mission Statement

Established in 1892, the FCSLA provides financial security to its members nationwide through its premier life insurance and annuity products. Sales of these products allow FCSLA to serve both its members and the community with fraternal and charitable opportunities that promote Catholic and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Vision is to:

- *Promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of the members through fraternal and charitable activities in our communities*
- *Promote our Slovak Catholic values and traditions and all Slavic cultures*
- *Be a premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits*