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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 101, NO. 9

JUNE 2015

FLAG DAY

JUNE 14

**FATHER'S
DAY**

JUNE 21

2015

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own Fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

~Amen

Happy
Father's Day!

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Mercedes.

He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Mercedes side door!

He slammed on the brakes and backed his damaged car back to the spot where the brick had been thrown.

The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, “What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That’s a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?”

The young boy was apologetic.

“Please, mister... please, I’m sorry but I didn’t know what else to do,” He pleaded. “I threw the brick because no one else would stop... “ With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car.

“It’s my brother,” he said. “He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can’t lift him up.”

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, “Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He’s hurt and he’s too heavy for me.”

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts.

A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

“Thank you and may God bless you,” the grateful child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Mercedes.

The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of the lesson he had learned.

Dear Friends,

Don’t go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention! God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don’t have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It’s our choice to listen or not. I hope this month you will take some time to listen!

Until next month,
Warmly, Carolyn



REACHING THE MILE POSTS TO EVERLASTING LIFE

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

Last month, there was a several day spree of unusually warmer days of spring. How welcomed they were after the harsh, cold days of winter that we experienced here in northeastern Ohio. They were days, however, of getting a few weeks ahead of the planting season and in the week to follow, we had to cover some of the plants because of predicted frost. But I did not care! I am looking forward so much to a hot summer. What I always say to people, “You do not have to shovel the heat and humidity”!

Also during the month of May, I started the annual “reaching the mile posts of life” of the yearly cycle. For me, once we get out of the depths of winter and enter into spring, the season invigorates me to jump into the newness of life goals and experience them in the lives of other people, both spiritually and socially. The initial event for me is the celebration of First Holy Communion.

I love First Holy Communion Sunday. The young people have been in preparation for this day for what seems to be an eternity to them. No longer will they remain seated in the pews while the rest of their family goes up for communion or will they go forward not able to receive but receive a blessing from the priest or deacon. Finally, they will be able to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus and continue to do so with their family and parish family as well. Here at the Cathedral in Youngstown, we had seven young people make their First Holy Communion – six boys and one girl. In my homily with the children, I told the young lady that she was a privileged person – not only to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time, but to do so surrounded not only by her family and friends but also with six handsome men. “Enjoy the moment” I told her!

Another mile post that we celebrate in this late part of the spring season is graduation. When I was growing up, I experienced graduation from high school. Today there are graduations from kindergarten, eighth grade, and high school not to mention also college and graduate schools. I graduated from high school in 1972 and from college in 1976.

From whatever school the young person is being graduated, it is a mile post not only for the young person but for all who are involved in that person’s formation – parents, family members, friends, classmates, teachers, administrators, etc. The graduate has reached a goal, spending years of life in obtaining the goal, and once the goal has been met, there starts a new beginning.

The season of spring and the month of June bring about a new chapter for me through the celebrations of the Sacrament of Marriage. Here at the Cathedral, there will be thirty plus weddings celebrated from this month through December. I will not be the presider at all of the weddings but I will be for most of them. For the ones I am not, I will still have to assist in doing the preparation for marriage sessions and be there to make sure all is in place for the celebrations themselves. The couple preparing for the wedding ritual is reaching another mile post in their individual and soon to be wedded lives. The couple is excited about the wedding day. There are many preparations that take place: all that is necessary for the sacramental ritual, the place of the reception, the menus, the honeymoon, the bridal shower, the groom’s party, the bridal dress and tuxedos, etc. The rehearsal for the wedding is important to me but I attempt to keep it as short as possible. After thirty-five years of celebrating weddings, I believe I have the ceremony down pat. Usually I have them practice coming down the aisle, then have them taking their places in the sanctuary for the marriage rite and finally practice them leaving the cathedral. One may ask, “Why only these elements of the wedding?” I usually respond, “You will be nervous tomorrow and forget everything we have done tonight. All you have to do tomorrow is listen to me and I will get you through the ceremony. What you (the bride and the groom) have to be nervous about is the next twenty-five years!” After months and also years of preparation for “the big day”, this mile post comes and goes quickly.

Ah, the mile posts that begin in this spring season! Planting the garden,

sprucing up the yard and house, the above celebrations, the picnics, the vacations and I can go on and on. Think of those mile posts that you have accomplished in the past. Even after all these years, I remember quite vividly my First Confession, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, graduation from high school and college, ordination day (in this month!) and other particular events that have made me grow, be nurtured, and obtain a better knowledge of life with family, friends, and those who may not have a good relationship with me. These mile posts, once accomplished, have given me the ability to work towards the other challenges that lie ahead of me, the next mile posts.

No matter how many mile posts we have passed in this life and no matter how many more yet have to be passed, it is important that every one of us has *the* mile post ahead of us, especially the constant and most important mile post, *Life in Jesus Christ*. And His Mile Post is what He tells us in the *Gospel of Saint John*, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and live in his love. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as slaves, for a slave does not know what the master is about. Instead, I call you friends, since I have made known to you all that I heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear much fruit. Your fruit must endure so that all you ask the Father in my name he will give you. The command I give you is this, that you love one another” [15:9-17].

Hopefully, we will pass many more mile posts in this life. And when we pass the last one, may it be the one we have passed each day of our lives as disciples of the Master, that we have loved one another!

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow Members,

I have many good things to share with you in this June issue of our magazine. On April 30, 2015, we hosted the 14th Annual District Presidents' meeting in the home office, where our district presidents or their representatives from many parts of our nation gathered together to hear about our 2015 sales campaign, our financial health, our fraternal programs and to share ideas for our upcoming

Quadrennial Campaign scheduled for October 5-8, 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Upon the opening of the meeting, we held a dedication ceremony for a new U.S. Flag we acquired, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Our National Chaplain Msgr. Peter Polando celebrated Mass for us and for home office employees, and after lunch in our lunch room, we held a May Crowning of our Blessed Mother and her mother, St. Ann, after we

recited the Litany of Loreto and sang a Marian hymn. We are always so fortunate to have a spiritual dimension to our meetings!

After reports of the Managing Officers, morning presentations included a report of our incoming National Sales Manager, Mr. Albert Heiles and employees who have new roles, including Mary Ann Ruben, Marketing/Regional Sales Manager; Melody Boston, Agent Administrator; Geralyn Radevich, Promotions and Communications' Coordinator and Ruth Ann Havasi, Annuities.

Our afternoon sessions included an excellent presentation by Kelly Shedlock, National Fraternal and Youth Director, about our national fraternal activities, such as openings of new branches, branch activity reports, the record number of Matching Funds projects held around the country, and our new fraternal page on Facebook.

Magdalen Iskra, President of the Magdalen I. Iskra District, presided over the District Presidents' Roundtable, where she led a lively discussion of timely topics and questions from those assembled.

I enthusiastically thanked everyone for the excellent response that we received from districts, branches and individuals for our 2014 National President's Annual Appeal "To

Protect the Children" and to remind everyone of our Appeal this year "FCSLA Unites to Fight Hunger One Day at a Time".

We are in the middle of our Quadrennial Convention Sales Campaign. We invite you to call your branch officers or the New Business Department of the Home Office to purchase additional life insurance for yourself or members of your family. We are proud that we are a 123 year-old fraternal benefit society doing business across the United States offering unique and competitive products and an entire array of rich fraternal benefits, including scholarships, newborn infant benefits, post mortem benefits and valuable fellowship opportunities in branches across our country.

My husband and I travelled to McAdoo, Pennsylvania, on a beautiful spring weekend for a productive district meeting and luncheon sponsored by the Frances Jakabcin District (thank you, Mrs. Veronica Bazik and all district officers!). The following weekend National Secretary Sue Ann Seich

and I traveled to Washington, D.C., for special U.S. Capitol Hill visits. We reported on the valuable, long-standing services our members and society provide in many communities across the nation. As a constituent member of the American Frater-



Attendees of the 14th Annual District Presidents' Meeting

nal Alliance, our assignment was to visit several members of the Ohio delegation. We were positively received by U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown and Ron Portman and U.S. Member of Congress Tibori (Columbus, Ohio) and others. We were honored to serve as ambassadors for First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in the hallowed halls of the U.S. Capitol.

As we celebrate Flag Day on June 14, let us not forget to display "Old Glory" in a special place in your yard or hall. On June 21st, we will have the opportunity to specially honor and remember our fathers and those who acted as fathers to us in a special way!

With God's Blessings to you and yours,

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President



Find us on
Facebook

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

FCSLA: Life Insurance and Annuity Contracts That Offer Many Choices



Albert Heiles

Insurance companies come in many sizes and shapes. Some are large international companies that offer insurance products along with a host of other non-insurance products. Some companies specialize in certain markets that offer very limited and defined insurance products. Some companies are represented by full time employed insurance sales associates while others market products through independent agents.

Many insurance companies are newly established or recently reorganized or renamed.

FCSLA is different from most companies in the market today for many reasons.

FCSLA is first and foremost a fraternal benefit society. We are made up of our membership. Our benefits are membership driven and our objectives are clear. We want to provide excellent insurance and annuity products to our members. Our name has remained the same for over 123 years. Our history is long and our reputation is unquestioned.

Our life insurance products include a very attractive Single Premium Whole Life policy that has offered dividends for many years. We offer a 10 Pay Life, a 20 Pay Life, and a Life Paid Up at 85 policies. We also offer a 20 Year level Term policy that can be purchased by members aged 16 to 80 (very unique in the term insurance market). Lastly we have the Super Youth Term policy that offers coverage ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 of term coverage for a very competitive premium for members aged 0 to 24.

Our deferred annuity products are also excellent and provide a choice of duration and interest rates. The Silver Elite annuity has a 5 year early withdrawal penalty, the Gold Elite has a 7 year early withdrawal penalty, and the Platinum Elite has a 10 year withdrawal penalty. All of the annuities are very good tax deferred options. FCSLA's crediting rates are reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors.

FCSLA has one of the most attractive Single Premium Immediate Annuity (SPIA) products offered today. For those individuals who are looking for certainty in an uncertain world, this immediate annuity is an option to consider. The SPIA provides a return of both principal and interest and seven (7) different settlement options.

The benefits of being a member of FCSLA do not end with our insurance products. Membership offers so much more. Our fraternal benefits and commitment to our values, community, and members are all reasons to look to FCSLA.

We welcome your questions and interest.

For more information on any of the products offered by FCSLA, please feel free to contact the Home Office Sales Department or a fully licensed FCSLA agent in your area.

Fraternally,

Albert E. Heiles, CLU, ChFC, CRC, AEP, LUTCF
National Sales Manager
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

3.00% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

3.25% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.50% APY*

*This rate is in effect 1/1/2015 thru 12/31/2015.

Additionally the guaranteed minimum rate for Elite Silver and Gold contracts issued in 2015 will be increased to 2%.

Patrick Braun Honored at Retirement Dinner



National President Cynthia Maleski and members of the Board of Directors honored Patrick Braun on his retirement as FCSLA National Sales Manager at a March 19th Dinner held at the Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse in Beachwood, OH.

ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL IN DANVILLE

The 42nd annual Summer Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA will be held on Saturday, July 11. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m.

The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store, and Religious and Slovak articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as Holubky and Halusky, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like ponies, a "Bounce House", raffles, and bingo.

The Summer Festival has been a blessed opportunity for the Sisters to keep in touch with former students, their parents, and family members; to reconnect with friends they've made over the years, and to make new friends. The day never seems long enough for visiting with friends old and new.

Bus parking is available. The Festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with a Mass at 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please call Sister Barbara Sable at 570-275-3581, Ext. 302.



L-R: Sisters Kate Morris, Madonna, a volunteer and John Vianey greet friends and prepare tickets for the Festival.



L-R: Sisters Brigid, Joanne Marie, Carol Ann and Denise Marie pack homemade kolacky for sale at the Festival.

41st NATIONAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE: Anyone wishing to aspire to National Office must return an intent form, available from Sue Ann Seich, National Secretary, along with resume and non-refundable registration fee to the Home Office. All materials must be postmarked, delivery service or electronic media dated by August 2, 2015. Please review the requirements for National Office, including Court of Appeals, contained in the newly revised bylaws, Section III, Leadership & Governance Structure, starting on page 9 of the new Bylaw book.

GUESTS: Please note that guests are allowed to attend the convention, but are responsible for all their expenses (travel, room, and food). More information will be forthcoming.

USE THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND MAGAZINE CANCELLATIONS

CHANGE THE ADDRESS ON ALL FCSLA
POLICIES AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR:

INDIVIDUAL — NAME

ENTIRE FAMILY — LIST NAMES

Old Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

New Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Signature Required (Insured, Annuitant, Owner)

Date of Birth _____

(for ID purposes)

Today's Date

CANCEL MAGAZINE

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Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA District Spring Meeting

Approximately 50 members of the Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA District gathered together on Sunday, April 12th, 2015 at Capriottis' in McAdoo, PA for their Spring Meeting hosted by Hazleton Sr. Branch 45. In addition to their regular meeting, the group also received branch leadership training presented by National Trustee Virginia Holmes and National Auditor Barb Sekerak. The district was honored to have National President Cynthia Maleski and her husband Andrzej also in attendance. District President Veronica Bazik conducted an abbreviated meeting and then turned the program over to the National officers for the branch leadership training which was well-received by those in attendance.

The District will have a delegate meeting in June, hosted by Branch 319 in Allentown, PA and the Fall Meeting will be hosted by Branch 417 of Coaldale, PA on October 25th after the Quadrennial Convention in Louisville, KY.



District President Veronica Bazik giving a brief report to members in attendance.



District Vice-President and National Vice-President Barbara Waller (right) along with District Auditor Karen Kukol manning the raffle ticket table prior to the meeting.



Seated, L-R: Karen Kukol, District Auditor; Veronica Bazik, District President. Standing, L-R: Monica Anthony, former National Auditor; Carolyn Bazik, National Editor and District Auditor; Louise Dunstan, District Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Cynthia Maleski, National President; Barb Sekerak, National Auditor; Barbara Waller, District Vice-President/National Vice-President; and Virginia Holmes, National Trustee.



Members listening to the branch training.



Officers of host Branch S045, Hazleton, PA along with National President Cynthia Maleski.



Always June 14th Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation . . . Happy Flag Day . . .

2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour

September 11-20, 2015

Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village visits available.

For more information visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

Branch W045 Awards Scholarships for 2014-15 School Year

Branch W045, Cedar Rapids, IA, awarded eight scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year. Each recipient received \$300. The winners for this year are:

Mikayla Cummings, Freshman attending Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

Jordan Hoffman, Junior attending St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA.

Meagan Hoffman, Sophomore attending University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.

Jade Johnston, Senior attending Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, IA.

Shane Herder, Sophomore attending Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA.

McKenna Kilburg, Freshman attending Central College, Pella, IA.

Andrew Holladay, Freshman attending Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Austin Himes, Freshman attending Kirkwood Community College Cedar Rapids, IA.

In addition they awarded three elementary school winners for \$200 each in the name of Wayne Krotz a departed long-time branch secretary. The winners are:

Charles Herder, 6th Grade attending Our Lady of the Lake in Mound, MN.

Kevin Trcka, 7th Grade attending Chaska Middle School, Chaska, MN.

Paighton Zemola, 3rd Grade attending Notre Dame in Cresco, IA.



Mikayla Cummings



Jade Johnston



Shane Herder



McKenna Kilburg



Andrew Holladay



Austin Himes



Charles Herder



Kevin Trcka



Paighton Zemola

Ryan Holzman Statewide Essay Winner

Ryan Holzman (S150), a sophomore at Boyertown High School, Boyertown, PA, submitted an essay to *The Mercury*, in Pottstown, PA which hosted the local contest in collaboration with the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and AT&T. The contest asked high school students to write



editorials that encouraged readers to take a pledge to never text while driving. Holzman's essay was selected to represent *The Mercury's* coverage area in the statewide competition and ran in as a guest editorial in the March 2 edition of *The Mercury*. It was recently announced that Holzman was the statewide winner of the contest. Along with a cash prize of \$500, he was recognized at the April 1 PNA Student Keystone Press Awards luncheon in Hershey. Ryan plans to use the money towards a high school orchestra and choir trip to the Czech Republic this spring. While all the entries received were impressive and often impassioned, Holzman most effectively persuaded the reader to act and take the pledge. Congratulations Ryan!

St. Ann's Sr. Branch 114 Annual Luncheon and Meeting

St. Ann's Sr. Branch 114 will hold their annual luncheon and meeting to honor our scholarship winners on Sunday, July 19. It will start at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway in Lorain, OH. Please make your reservations no later than Tuesday, July 14 by calling Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605 or Marge Thomas at 440-288-1492. All members are invited to attend.



Branches 408 & 141 – Cleveland, OH

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, for the seventh straight year, as a “Join Hands Day” project, the Cleveland Okres Branch 408 and Branch 141 “joined hands” with The Cleveland Catholic Worker Community and provided a breakfast for about 80 homeless and needy people.

The breakfast consisted of cereal, milk, toast, juice, fruit, donuts and hard boiled eggs. In addition to the breakfast items, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower soap, laundry and dish detergent, bleach, toilet paper, paper towels and napkins, and trash bags were provided. A local McDonalds Restaurant donated plastic products and condiments.

Also, \$605 was presented to the Community to assist them in their ministry. The smiles and words of appreciation by the recipients were most rewarding. This experience is an example of what we can accomplish by “Joining Hands”.

Branches 88 & 157 – Monessen, PA



Members of Monessen Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 recently participated in a car wash with the Leo Club of Monessen High School.



L-R: The happy smiling faces belong to Mike Phillips, Jr., Helen Gebura, Cindy Bacisin, Dan Phillips, Barb Phillips, Pat Phillips and Mike Phillips.

FCSLA CELEBRATES PALM SUNDAY

A nice crowd of 63 members enjoyed the annual FCSLA Palm Sunday Brunch that was held at the Clutier Legion Hall on Sunday, March 29. Pictured below are families enjoying their breakfast of egg casserole, fruit cups, kolaches, and cinnamon rolls. Preparing the breakfast were the FCSLA officers. The lodge will be hosting a trip to the Amana’s for lunch and the theater on Sunday, June 14. For reservations, please contact Bev Colvin.



L-R: Mike Phillips, Dan Phillips and Helen Gebura presenting the check to Peter Quilligan of The Cleveland Catholic Workers Community.

Donation Financed by Community College Class

Omaha, NE Branch W018 President Bob Hladik has enjoyed a long career in pre-school through junior high Catholic education. However, for the past decade he has been teaching communication classes at two Omaha area community colleges.

A recent round of speeches at Metropolitan Community College prompted the class to dig deep and reach out to hospitalized kids at Children's Hospital.

Student D.J. Smith, an officer in the Sons of the American Legion, as well as, a construction superintendant, told the class of a voluntary program to provide patients with a large stuffed toy Lab puppy named Josh and a book written to make the young patients' hospital stay more enjoyable.

Smith asked the group to finance a Josh Kit and help him deliver it to Children's Hospital. Amazingly, the class responded and financed **FOUR** kits.

Hladik said he heard many students' appeals including blood donations, STOP texting while driving, and earn a CPR certificate, but never a Josh Dog talk.



A giving class at Metro Community College's (MCC) Sarpy County Campus, D.J. Smith is on the far left and Professor Hladik is on the far right.

VISIT SLOVAKIA

Remember how your parents and grandparents referred to their birthplace as "The Old Country?" Now is the time for you to visit their ancestral homeland. Youngstown-Spisaska Nova Ves Sister Cities has scheduled its 18th annual tour for July 13-27, 2015. Tour guides, Jim and Kay bench, have again scheduled interesting events which include musical folk groups, dinner at koliba (shepherds' hut), rafting on the Dunajec River, viewing decorated homes at Cicmany, visiting Tichy Potec, (the Slovak Williamsburg with towns replicating an old Slovak village), and relaxing in the thermal waters of the spa in Sliac. You can visit your relatives and you will also enjoy a luncheon reception with the Mayor of our Sister City, Jan Volny.

For more information contact:

Jim Bench (cell phone) 724-858-5843;

email: jbench@yahoo.com

Kay Bench (cell phone) 724-771-7900

Travel arrangements through Adventure International Travel

(Paul Hudak) 1-800-542-2487

Email: Paul@adventuretravel.com

42nd Annual Slovak Day Celebration in Merrillville, IN

Come and celebrate the 42nd Annual Slovak Day on Sunday, July 19, 2015. The celebration starts with a 10:30 a.m. Catholic mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, Merrillville, IN. The mass will be followed by ethnic food, drink, a cash raffle and dancing. This year traditional Slovak dances are showcased. Cash raffle tickets will be available.



Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine is located at 5755 Pennsylvania St. (Broadway), Merrillville, IN. For more information visit www.facebook.com/SlovakDayCelebration or contact Betty Yurechko at 219-795-1518.

The 42 year history started in 1973 at the Seven Dolores Shrine in Valparaiso which the Slovak Franciscan Fathers called home. Father Joseph Viater, along with Betty and Carl Yurechko (who chaired it for 39 years), started a group to get Slovak people together for a day of Slovak culture.

Volunteer committees were from the various Slovak Churches: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Indiana Harbor, Sacred Heart from East Chicago, Holy Trinity from Gary, Immaculate Conception and St. John the Baptist, both from Whiting.

For many years Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, Bishop of the Gary Diocese, was the main celebrant for the Slovak Mass. Dinners were prepared and sold by the Slovak women. Over the years, Slovak dancers from Milwaukee, WI, Chicago, IL, and Sterling, MI, entertained us with ethnic dances.

Due to the increase in attendance, the event was moved to Merrillville, at the Salvatorian Fathers, Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine. This year during Slovak Day, the Salvatorian Fathers will be showing the PANORAMA on Christianity to the Slavic Nation. During the years, many bishops came to concelebrate, such as Bishop Sokol from Slovakia, local bishops: Bishop Andrew G. Grutka and Bishop Dale J. Melczek, as well as, Bishop Adamec of Pennsylvania and local Slovak priests.

Slovak Day was meant to be a day of Slovak culture, starting with Mass, good ethnic foods, Slovak dancers, as well as, music for dancing.

Sr. Branch 88 Food Bank Donation

Fr. Micah E. Kozoil, Chaplain of Branch 88, is shown presenting a check to Mary Nagy, director of St. Vincent De Paul Society at Saint Aloysius Church for the food bank from Sr. Branch 88, Monessen, PA at Sunday Mass in March, 2015. The donation was given to provide assistance to Food Banks and Food Pantries in the Branch 88 area. Fr. Kozoil is pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish Church, Dunbar, PA, Diocese of Greensburg.



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

On March 21, 2015, McKeesport Branch 77 was a proud sponsor of Serra Catholic High School's Cabaret Show. The cabaret show was held by members of Serra Catholic's Tri-M Music Honor Society. Tri-M, or Modern Music Masters, is a national honor society with specific criteria for membership. Tri-M members planned the event, worked backstage, and took care of snacks and desserts. All of the proceeds from the cabaret show went toward the Serra Catholic Music Department to help the Marching Band, Concert Band and Eagle Choir obtain new equipment and music.

We were treated to an evening of fine entertainment, including rock and roll, instrumentals, dance and songs from popular musicals.

Cassandra Lynn Fedor, member of Branch 77 (granddaughter of Irene Fedor, Branch 77 Vice President and niece of Judy Fedor, Branch 77 Recording Secretary and Pittsburgh District President) is Serra Catholic's Tri-M President. The Tri-M officers were instrumental in planning the program along with Ms. Elizabeth Hazlett, Chapter Advisor and head of the Music Department. Cassie recognized the FCSLA for our sponsorship and provided a special table for our officers and members. We are proud to sponsor such a fine group of talented students.



Ms. Hazlett, Tri-M Members, FCSLA Officers and Branch Members.



Serra Catholic Tri-M officers: Jazmine Kennedy, Vice President; Alexandra Astle, Historian; Cassie Fedor, President; Clarissa Moore, Secretary; Lydia Fennesy, Treasurer; Ms. Elizabeth Hazlett, Chapter Advisor.



Cassie Fedor



St. Anne's Day Celebration in Illinois

Chicago/IN-Joliet/WI Members – St. Anne's Day Celebration on Monday, July 27, 2015 at St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, 10621 S. Kedvale, Oak Lawn, IL.

Coffee and rolls will be served at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall with Mass at 11:00 a.m. and the luncheon at Garden Chalet at 12:30 p.m. at 11000 S. Ridgeland, Chicago Ridge, IL.

The cost is \$25 per person. Contact your respective Branch Officer for more details. RSVPs due no later than Monday, July 17, 2015 to Branch Officers.

Clarkson Branch W080 Honors 50-Year Members

Branch W080, Clarkson, NE held a breakfast meeting at St. John Neumann School and honored their 50-year members. Door prizes were given away and members spent time socializing with one another.



50 year member Renee C. Brabec, center, was honored at the breakfast. To her left is Sharon M. Bos, W080 Secretary and to her right, Don Vrbicky, W080 President.



Members, guests and others enjoying breakfast.

Annual Spring Sausage Supper

Branch W006, located at Holy Trinity Parish Heun in rural Clarkson, NE, held their annual spring sausage supper following the 5 p.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Leo Rigatuso. Following the delicious meal prepared by the Holy Trinity Altar Society, Branch President Gene



Roland Svec, Branch W006 Secretary presenting Howells Community Catholic Schools President Delwin Hegemann a monetary donation.

Sobata reviewed the past year after which Branch Secretary Roland Svec presented a check to Delwin Hegemann, president of the Howells Community Catholic Schools Board of Education in appreciation for the community's Catholic education. Mr. Hegemann, in his remarks while accepting the check, said that the donation is greatly appreciated and thanked Branch W006 for their continued support and stated that the money will go toward upgrading the schools technology capability. Liz Faltys and David Yosten were the recipients of two fruit baskets given as door prizes courtesy of the branch.



W006 Spring attendees enjoying the sausage supper.

Strikes All Around!

Matt and Billy Hibbard, third and fourth generation members of Branch 376 in Milwaukee, WI recently each bowled an 800 series in a three-week window. Matt rolled an 814 at Jay's Lanes in Mukwonago on December 20, 2014. Then brother Billy recorded his first 800 series, an 821 on January 10, 2015 and became the first of the brothers to record a 300 game. Their father, Mukwonago High School bowling coach Ralph Hibbard, shot a 300 of his own on December 10, one of 12 in his career to accompany five 800 series. Their mom, Danielle, is in the Milwaukee City Women's Bowling Hall of Fame and is the daughter of Darold Dobs, the former executive director of the American Bowling Congress. Any way you slice it, the First Family of Bowling in Mukwonago has been on a hot streak. Billy and Matt followed in their parents' footsteps right into the bowling alley. Their grandmother Carol Hibbard is also a member of Branch 376. Congratulations to all!



Billy (left) and Matt Hibbard (right), members of the Mukwonago High School bowling team, both rolled an 800 series in a three-week window. Their dad, Ralph (center), is the coach of the MHS bowling team.

National Honor Society Induction

Charlene Joy Westfall (J1, Cleveland, OH), daughter of Bryan and Donna Westfall (S522), was inducted into the National Honor Society at Aurora High School in Aurora, OH. She also recently received the title of Miss Teen Ohio for Captivating Pageants. Charlene will attend the national Miss Teen Captivating pageant in Columbus, OH in September. A 5th generation member, she is the granddaughter of Joseph (S522) and Charmaine (S1) Mandula. Congratulations Charlene!



Brothers Perform in Living Stations of the Cross

Alex (13), Ryan (10) and Kyle (6) Grabowski members of J202 all recently performed in the Living Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensburg, PA with their Uncle Patsy Zello.



FCSLA is Made PROUD!

Irving Berlin wrote "Sisters, Sisters there were never such devoted sisters." What better way to describe the 'service' provided by the Miklovic sisters of St. Louis Branch S101. Ann, Vice President of S101, was married last fall and presently works as a teacher's aid for the St. Louis Public School District. Leah who earned her Post Graduate Degree last fall in Environmental Management is presently married to a sailor in the US Navy aboard the USS Gary patrolling in Central America. Margaret, Treasurer of S101, was inducted last fall into the Missouri Southern College University Athletic Hall of Fame. Margaret works for the Kirkwood Missouri School District. Each daughter of Joseph Miklovic, Secretary of S101, has been a multi-recipient of a FCSLA scholarship!





IN MEMORIAM

ELIZABETH NERI, S281

Elizabeth A. "Betty" Neri, 88, of Torrington, CT, died December 26, 2014. She was the beloved wife of the late Americo "Ted" Neri. Mrs. Neri was born in Torrington on June 11, 1926, daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (Koval) Tomala and had been a lifelong Torrington resident. She was an active lifelong communicant of Sacred Heart Church, serving as a trustee of the Church, a member of the Altar Society, choir, and volunteer at many Church functions. She also enjoyed cooking and baking for family and friends. Survivors include three sons, Philip J. Neri and his wife, Helen Tyczenski of Hopkinton, MA, Mark D. Neri and his wife, Karen, and Barry F. Neri, all of Torrington; a sister, Mary T. Tomala of Torrington; two granddaughters, two step-granddaughters; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart Church, c/o The Pastoral Center, 160 Main St., Torrington, CT 06790.

ROBERT F. McARDLE, SZJO



Robert F. McArdle, age 93, of Colfax Twp. near Elkton, MI, died February 2, 2015. He was born December 20, 1921 at the home of his parents, the late Joseph and Louise (Roestel) McArdle in Chandler Twp. Bob grew up on the family farm and graduated from the Maxwell Country School. He worked as a mechanic at several garages and then took a job at Active Industries, Elkton as a truck driver, retiring in 1982. On February 8, 1947, he was united in

marriage to Dorothy Leckenby at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and they made their home on a farm in Colfax Twp. While at Active Industries, Bob continued farming and always considered himself a farmer. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Bad Axe Knights of Columbus. Surviving are his wife of 68 years, Dorothy; a daughter, Linda (Dale) Oeschger of Bay Port; daughter-in-law, Marla McArdle of Holt; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, and three sisters. Preceding him in death was his son, Dennis; four brothers and two sisters. Memorial gifts may be directed to his church or Relay for Life.

ANN F. SULEK, W500



Ann F. Sulek, 95, passed away on February 7, 2015 in Owosso, MI. Ann was born August 11, 1919 in Owosso to Anton and Marie (Janicek) Ozvalda. Ann was a member of Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in St. Charles, the Altar Society and Saginaw County League of Catholic Women. She worked at Redmond's in Owosso in her younger years and retired from Saginaw Steering Gear. She married Eugene

A. Sulek on July 3, 1943. He was killed in World War II. She then married Leonard B. Sulek on May 1, 1948 at St. Joseph Church in Owosso. Leonard preceded her in April 2005. Surviving are a daughter, Candace L. Sulek of Corunna; a sister, Marie Panik of East Lansing, a brother, Joseph (Kathleen) Ozvalda of Corunna; several loving nieces, nephews, their families and several friends. She was also preceded by three sisters and two brothers, and twin infant sons, Robert and Richard in 1949. Memorials may

be made to Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Hartley Outdoor Education Center, The Polka Palace - WOES Radio or your favorite charity.

SHIRLEY W. TKACH, S414

Mrs. Shirley W. Tkach, 80, formerly of Lehighton, PA passed away February 8. She was the widow of George F. Tkach Jr., who passed away on August 27, 2014. Prior to retiring, she was a cafeteria worker for over 25 years for the Lehighton Area School District. Born in Lehighton, she was a daughter of the late Harry and Irene (Brown) Walck. She was a member of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Lehighton. In her spare time, she enjoyed, baking, crossword puzzles, reading and trips to the shore. She cherished her loving family and grandchildren and enjoyed attending many of their sporting events. Surviving are two sons, Bernard M., and his wife, Deborah G., and Timothy M., and his wife, Jane S., both of Lehighton; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. She was also predeceased by two sisters and three brothers. Contributions in her name may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, Dept. 3, 322 Eighth Ave., Seventh Floor, New York, NY 10001, or to a charity of one's choice.

VICTOR KREHLIK, W121

Victor R. Krehlik, Sr., 81, died February 8, 2015, in Minot, ND. He was born December 18, 1933, a son of Joseph and Victoria (Kostelecky) Krehlik on the family farm near South Heart. In 1954, Victor enlisted into the United States Army and served his country in Stuttgart, Germany, prior to his honorable discharge in 1956. On October 5, 1959, Victor was united in marriage to the love of his life, Stephanie Ann Schwindt, Killdeer. The couple lived in Fargo, New England and Dickinson, before moving to Minot in 1966. He worked at the Minot Air Force Base retiring in 1998. Victor was a member of Our Lady of Grace, where he served as an usher, money counter and was active with the food pantry. He was also a Fourth Degree Knight. Victor is survived by his son, Victor (Sandra) Krehlik Jr., Riverdale; two daughters, Karen (Jim) Johnson, Minot, and Cindy Bader, Minot; his 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Victor was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife, Stephanie. Memorials may be given in Victor's honor to the Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry.

MARGARET BOROWSKI, S283



Margaret Voytko Borowski, 94, formerly of Taylor, PA, died February 13, 2015. She was the widow of Joseph J. Borowski, who died February 23, 1998. Born in Taylor on April 25, 1920, she was the daughter of the late Stephen and Susan Migash Voytko. Before retiring, she was employed at Hy-Grade Pants, Taylor. Margaret was a parishioner of Divine Mercy Parish and St. John the Baptist Church, Taylor, before its closing, Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union,

the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the YMS Club of Taylor. Surviving are a son, Joseph P. and daughter-in-law, Donna, Dupont; cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Scranton, PA 18505.

STEPHEN EUGENE DURSA, S141



Stephen Eugene Dursa, age 67, beloved son of Victoria (nee Uhlik) and Michael Dursa (both deceased) died on December 24, 2014 under Hospice at the Broadview Multi-Care Facility in Parma, OH, where he was a ten year resident.

He is survived by his brother Raymond (Bernice). He was a dear uncle of Christopher (Nicole) and Lynn Bandsuh (James). He was a loving great-uncle of Donovan, Jake and Luke Bandsuh. Stephen was a life member of Knight of Columbus Garfield Heights Council and a member of the Holy Name Church, Cleveland, OH. Previously he was a long-time member of the BVM Church on Aetna Road in Cleveland, OH. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial contributions to Continuum Care Hospice, 12380 Plaza Dr., Suite 102, Parma, OH.

ERNEST BRODECKY, W006



Ernest Brodecky, 91, of Howells, NE, died December 30, 2014. He attended Howells High School. Ernie enlisted in the United States Army, serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II with the Red Star Division in the Philippines, China and Korea. On August 27, 1947, he and Marguerite Casey were united in marriage at St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Schuyler. They

lived and farmed the Brodecky Homestead, which was the only place Ernie ever lived.

Ernie was a lifetime member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Heun where he ushered for many years and served as a trustee. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marguerite Brodecky of Howells; three daughters, Mary Claire (Larry) Cerny of Clarkson, Janice (Jerry) Walton of Lincoln and Marguerite Ann "Marty" (Rich) Coufal Jr. of Howells; daughter-in-law, Ann (Lonnie) Brodecky-Seybold of North Bend; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Ernie Francis Brodecky (2002); and three sisters, Blanche Bacal, Alice Tully and Helen Brodecky.

ANNA M. GANTERT, SZJO

Anna M. Gantert, 87, of Sandy Hook, CT cherished wife of 64 years to the late Harold E. Gantert, died peacefully on January 29, 2015. She was born in Danbury on October 1, 1927, daughter of the late Peter J. and Anna (Travoska) Burns. She was a graduate of Danbury High School, and became a Registered Nurse through St. Vincent's Hospital. Anna retired from Pediatric Associates and also enjoyed working in the Danbury Hospital OR and for Glen Hill. A loving homemaker, Anna was happiest spending time with her family, and being active with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Anna will be sadly missed by her two sons, Joseph E. Gantert and his wife, Patricia of Sandy Hook, and Harold D. Gantert and his wife, Amy of New Milford; her three grandchildren, Amanda Beers and her husband, Tim, Lianne Jacob and her husband, Scott, Joseph E. Gantert, Jr. and his wife, Stacy; her two great-grandchildren, Morgan and Alexa. She is also survived by her brother, Joseph J. Burns and his wife, Midge.

PATRICIA ANN OURS, S278



Patricia Ann Ours, 59, of Buckhannon, WV died January 4, 2015, in St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon. She was born November 19, 1955, in Pittsburgh, PA, a daughter of the late Johnathan and Pauline Konkol Stibrik. On October 6, 2001, she married Ronald E. Ours, who survives. In addition to her husband, she was survived

by three sons, Brad Ours of Elkins, Christopher Tatrai of Munhall, PA, and Kevin Ours and wife, Ashley, of French Creek; seven daughters, Kerri Ours of Elkins, Melissa Bayati and husband, Mike, and Holly Tatrai, all of Munhall, PA, Amanda Walsh of Buckhannon, Stephanie Walter and husband, Denver, of Snowshoe, Jessica Crowell and husband, Anthony, of Buckhannon and Cara Belgrade of Snowshoe; nine grandchildren; two brothers, Johnathan and Jimmy; and three sisters, Franny, Marie and Jeanne.

BERNARD BLASKO, S111



Bernard "Ben" Blasko died peacefully on January 6, 2015, at the age of 63. Ben is survived by his daughter, Keely (Kasey) McIntyre; sister, Bernice Blasko (William Schmidt); brother, Robert (Barb) Blasko Jr.; and three grandsons. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Sr. and Ellen (Yetsconish) Blasko of Charleroi. Ben was born on November 14, 1951,

in Charleroi to Bob and Ellen Blasko. He graduated from Charleroi Area High School in 1969 and California University of Pennsylvania in 1973. He taught industrial arts for several years before pursuing his career as a kitchen designer and sales manager. Loved ones remember Ben as a kindhearted inspiration who radiated love and indomitable optimism. He encouraged others to live life fully, and he led by example. Ben was an avid fan of Pittsburgh Penguins hockey, Penn State football, and his grandsons' soccer endeavors.

DELORES RICE, S376



Delores "Toni" Rice, age 84, of Clintonville, WI passed away on January 11, 2015. The former Delores Eleanor Blazek was born on October 7, 1930 to Antone and Lucille (Phillips) Blazek. She graduated from Oconto Falls High School and then went on to Teacher's College in Marinette. Toni was united in marriage on November 10, 1950 to Eugene J. Rice in Milwaukee. The couple settled in Clintonville in 1964 where they raised eight children. She drove bus

for the Clintonville School District for 17 years, but she was most proud of being a homemaker. She was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church and the Clintonville Community Players. Her biggest role was starring as Aunt Eller in the musical Oklahoma. Survivors include her husband of 64 years, Gene, and eight children, Sue (Dale) Stoltman of Camdenton, MO, Bill (Debra) Rice of Appleton, Patrick (Connie) Rice of Shiocton, Yvonne (Joel) Riesenbergh of Symco, Michael (Linda) Rice of Waukesha, Dion (Sharon) Rice of Twin Lakes, Kathy (Dave) Young of New London, and Dorothy

Continued on Page 16



IN MEMORIAM

(Kevin) Young of Black Creek. There are 21 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Toni is preceded in death by her parents, a teenage daughter, Colleen, a sister, Shirley Oleck, and one great granddaughter.

HELEN A. LAKOTA, S53

Helen A. Lakota (nee Trizna), age 97, passed away on December 16, 2014. Helen was born on November 12, 1917, in Joliet, IL to the late Joseph and Anna Trizna. Adored by her four children, Lou (Mary Fran), Jerry (Marge), Barb (Mike) Ludwick, Karen (Paul) McDermott; sadly missed by 16 grandchildren; 23 precious great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild. Waiting joyfully for her in heaven is her beloved husband, Louis J. Lakota (1984); parents, Joseph and Anna (nee Smego) Trizna; one daughter in infancy, Mary; brothers, Joseph (Cecilia) Trizna, Anton (Josephine) Trizna, Rudolph (Helen) (Rose) Trizna, Raymond Trizna; one granddaughter, Cheryl Thomas; and one great-granddaughter, Hannah Ludwick. She supported her husband in his business at Lakota Jewelers for 35 years. Helen was a member of the choir, Altar and Rosary Society, Medical Mission, Joanites, and Mothers Club at St. Mary Nativity; as well as a member of the Seniors Club of Joliet, an Auxiliary at Northwest Recreation Club and an Auxiliary at Our Lady of Angels Nursing Home.

CATHERINE KOVAL VASKO, SZJO

Catherine Koval Vasko, 97, passed away at Ellis Hospital, on January 7, 2015. Born in North Tarrytown, NY, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Anna Varga Koval. A graduate of North Tarrytown High School, she was employed as a secretary at Schenectady County Community College. She was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and a past member of Sts. Cyril and Methodious Church where she served on the Altar Rosary Society. She was predeceased by her husband, Ferdinand P. Vasko, of 40 years, whom she married on July 20, 1946; brothers, Michael, Joseph, Charles, John, George, William, Edward, Walter, and Joseph Koval; sisters, Anna and Agnes Koval, Mary Handzo, Helen DeMilia, and Dorothy Capossela. Catherine is survived by her sons, William (Phyllis DiMeo) Vasko of Rotterdam, Robert (Nadine) Vasko of Niskayuna; and daughter, Kathleen Vasko of Niskayuna; grandchildren, Sara and Katherine Vasko; special friends, Carrie and Karen; and several nieces and nephews. Those who wish to remember Catherine in a special way may make a contribution to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 1255 Pleasant St., Schenectady, NY 12303.

SAMANTHA "SAMMIE" ENGLERT, S90



Samantha "Sammie" Englert, age 23, passed away on January 12, 2015, at her residence. Loving daughter of Joseph and Amy (Staats) Englert; dear sister of Kyle and Drew Englert; granddaughter of Wayne M. Staats, and the late Judy Staats, Carl and Patricia Englert; she is also survived by many other loving family members. Sammie was a member of Trinity Towers United Methodist Church in Penn Hills and enjoyed working at Milestone Centers Inc., where she will be deeply missed by her many friends she made at work. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Milestone Centers, Inc., 600 Ross Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

ELMA GARBIER, SZJO



Elma Garbier, 95 of Carroll, IA died January 19, 2015. Born on June 11, 1919 at Alcester, SD, Elma was the daughter of Arlo and Lenna (Young) Swanson. She graduated from Alcester High School and later from Yankton College in Yankton, SD. On May 27, 1942 she was united in marriage to Stephen Andrew Garbier at Yankton, SD. Both Elma and Steve were employed at Kuemper Catholic High School for many years, retiring together in 1980. During her retirement years, Mrs. Garbier was involved in many organizations volunteering and also active with St. Lawrence Parish as a Eucharistic Minister and Ladies Guild.

Elma is survived by her children: Elma Heidemann and her husband Gus of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Anne Lofboom and her husband Tom of Stillwater, MN, Mary Chapman and her husband Art of Eagle Grove, Nancy True and her husband Steve of Wauwatosa, WI, and Steve Garbier and his wife Jean of Boston, MA; her 14 grandchildren; her three step-grandchildren; and her six great-grandchildren. Her parents, and her husband Stephen, preceded her in death.

LEROY HORINEK, W074

LeRoy Joseph Horinek was born on May 6, 1934, in Atwood, KS. He passed away on January 24, 2015, in Oberlin, KS. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anton and Henrietta (Kacirek) Horinek and sister, Doretta Sappenfield. He leaves behind his wife of 35 years, LaRue (Fikan) of Atwood and two brothers, Ramon and Anthony Horinek; four children, Deborah Horinek Kompus and husband, Al, Douglas Horinek and wife, Deanna, Dianne Horinek Kugler and husband, Mike and David (Wiener) Horinek. LeRoy had 11 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to St. John's Church in care of Brian Kopriva in LeRoy's name.

PATRICIA "PATTY" REMIAS, S161



Patricia "Patty" Remias, 60, died February 1, 2015 following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Patty was born July 18, 1954, in Youngstown, to Edward and Theresa (Gombida) Oravec. She was a graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School and began her career as a machine operator for General Electric. Patty worked for the City of Canfield as a police dispatcher for 27 years until retiring in May of 2014. Patty was a member of St. Michael Church, a Eucharistic minister and a secretary for the Canfield Junior Women's League.

Patty is survived by her husband, Howard Remias, whom she married on December 18, 1980; her son, Jason (Sara) Bennett of Columbus; a stepdaughter, Julie (John) Raad of Orlando; a stepson, Mark (Jennifer) Remias of Debary, FL; a brother, Jeffrey E. (Terry) Oravec of Woodstock, GA; a beloved aunt, Florence Luginbill of Poland; and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents. Material tributes may take the form of donations to St. Michael Church, 350 N. Broad St., Canfield, OH 44406, or to the family.

Eagle Scout Tyler Ray Bailey of Branch 56, Glassport, PA

Tyler Ray Bailey, of Branch 56, Glassport, PA, received the highest rank in Boy Scouts and became an Eagle Scout on October 27, 2014. On March 29, 2014, Tyler's family and friends assembled at a National Court of Honor to present him with his Eagle Award. Tyler was born



on December 4, 1996 and began his scouting career with Cub Scout Pack 316 sponsored by the Rock Branch Independent Church in Rock Branch, WV. He advanced from Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and 1st Year Webelos, where he attended many Camporees along the way. He joined Poca's Pack 162, sponsored by the Poca Methodist Church where he advanced to a 2nd Year Webelos and crossed over to become a Boy Scout with Troop 236, sponsored by Forrest Burdette United Methodist Church in Hurricane, WV. Tyler has been with Troop 236 since that time and advanced through the ranks of Tenderfoot, First Class, Second Class, Star, Life, and now the highest position of Eagle Scout. He held leadership positions as a Troop Patrol Leader, Quartermaster and Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster. Tyler's Eagle Scout project consisted of planning, designing, and constructing a memorial walkway in the front entrance of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, in Bancroft, WV. As an Eagle Scout, Tyler has assumed a solemn obligation to do his duty to God, to country, and to his fellow Scouts for the common good of society.

Tyler is an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Bancroft, WV, where he has assisted to complete upgrade projects for the church under the direction of Father Joseph Tuscan. Tyler is the son of Terry and Lisa Bailey, of Poca, WV, and his grandparents are Edward and Joan Mauritz, of Glassport, PA. Tyler takes great pride in his toys — his truck and Jeep, and he enjoys hunting, fishing, riding his four wheeler, playing guitar, and working with his dad in the lawn and landscaping business during the summer. Tyler is a member of the National Honor Society, WV State Championship Show Choir-Stage Crew Manager, and Link Crew at his High School. Tyler plans to pursue a career in Civil Engineering this Fall.

Slovak Heritage Group Meetings Schedule for 2015

The WPSCA will present the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228; phone (412) 531-1912. It's free for both members and non-members. The agenda is as follows:

➤ **October 5 — SUMMER SCHOOL IN SLOVAKIA:** Bethany Kaylor, the 2014 WPSCA Scholarship winner, will tell us about her experiences attending the summer language and culture classes at Comenius University in Bratislava. Since Bethany is still a student at the University of Oregon, she has prepared a video of her experiences.

➤ **November 2 — SLOVAK MUSIC AND SONGS:** Jerry Jumba, the famous Slovak musician, will be back to present his translation of Slovak songs. His previous presentation in February 2013, was cut short by a snow storm.

Easter Bunny Visits Residents

Brittany Hickman, member of Branch 111, Charleroi, PA as the "Easter Bunny" made a visit to the residents of a Mental Health Home. The residents were happy to see the "Easter Bunny" as they were entertained and each member received a special Easter Bag filled with goodies and gifts made by Jan Hickman a Sr. Branch 111 member. A good time was had by all.



Attention!

If you would like to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email instead of through the mail please return this form to the attention of Marie Golias at the Home Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

You will begin to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email as soon as the changes can be made.

The Best Spas



What Slovakia came to be known for in the world even in the past was its mineral springs and thermal water. More and more foreign guests are coming to our healing spas in search of health and beauty. The offer of health-restoring and recreational stays or “wellness treatment” is really wide.

The Slovak spa town best known in the world is Piešťany. This, the sunniest spa in Slovakia is situated in a wide valley on the left bank of the River Váh, on the Spa Island. The first written mention of warm waters bubbling up on the bank of the river and their curative effects dates from 1549, but it is said, and we believe it to be true, that as long as two thousand years ago Roman soldiers from the nearby camp in Trenčín took advantage of the beneficial effects of Piešťany’s water. Several decades later people already knew of the healing effect of mud on sciatica. Periods of stay for the purpose of curative treatment took place here only after the construction of the brick Classical building with tub baths in 1822. This is now called Napoleonské kúpele. Piešťany earned its reputation as an international spa town only in the 20th century, when a luxury Art Nouveau hotel was built — Thermia Palace, with the Irma baths and the Pro Patria thermal treatment complex. Piešťany was granted the statute of a spa town in 1965. Subsequently a modern spa complex known as the Balnea Centre was built on the Spa Island. The symbol of the spa is a man breaking a crutch, which indicates that the spa focuses on the treatment of motor system diseases, arthritis, inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system, treatment after injuries and orthopaedic operations. The thermal water here is taken from 12 springs. It is hot, hypotonic water with a medium mineral content, which gushes up from faults in the Earth’s crust at a depth of about 2000 metres. The temperature of the water in the spring is 67-69 degrees C. Piešťany’s sulphur mud is one of the best quality peloids in the world.

The oldest spa in Slovakia is Bardejovské Kúpele. A written record that has survived from 1247 already mentions Bardejov’s curative water and from 1505 we know that 6 bathing cubicles were erected beside the mineral springs. The oldest spa building we know of was built in 1777 and Bardejov can pride itself on having the oldest spa park, covering 300 hectares, whose picturesque nooks merge into wooded parkland and forests mainly of pine trees. In

spite of the fact that the spa did not have hot springs, it was visited by monarchs and members of the aristocracy. The emperor’s daughter, Mária Luisa, was here for treatment in 1821, also the Russian tsar Alexander and empress Elizabeth, wife of Francis Joseph I, who spent a whole month in Bardejov in 1895. We are reminded of her visit not only by the spring named after her, but also by a statue in front of the sanatorium bearing her name. In the second half of the 19th century Bardejov is mentioned as the most climatic spa with mineral water. In the same period they also built the largest spa hotel, the neo-Classical Astoria with its rich Art Nouveau decoration and 60 rooms. Modernization and new buildings came to Bardejov spa in the 1960s, when the monumental colonnade, balneotherapy centre with a polyclinic and an indoor pool, new sanatoriums and hotels appeared. Ten cold hypotonic healing springs are used for drinking cures, inhalations, compresses and hydrotherapy to cure disorders of the digestive system, metabolism, glands with internal secretion, kidneys and urinary tract.

The youngest spa town in Slovakia is Dudince. In the southern part of central Slovakia, at the bottom of the Krupinská kotlina basin, it is one of the warmest parts of the country. Although reports from 1549 of the amazing waters in the Hungarian kingdom already mention Dudince, and written documents from the period describe the place where the springs are to be found as a meadow quite covered with mineral water rising from travertine heaps, Dudince’s acidulous water was first used more for drinking than for bathing cures. The first sanatorium with tub baths was built here in 1951. Since 1983, when Dudince was granted its statute as a spa, it has begun to operate at full capacity in two complex balneo-centres, Rubín and Smaragd, while these were later joined by Krištál’ and Diamant and the reconstructed spa guest house Achát. Cold and lukewarm mineral water with a temperature of up to 30 degrees C is used in Dudince for the treatment of diseases of the motor system, rheumatic diseases, Bekhterev’s disease, nervous disorders and diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Experts compare the unique chemical composition of Dudince’s water and its beneficial effects on people’s health to those to be found in the French spa of Vichy.

“Out of This Furnace” Our Immigrant Story

By Loretta Ekoniak

As is noted in the summary of our First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association's history, our organization was started in the 1890's to make provisions for the frequent deaths and injuries resulting from the hazards and toll of industrial labor especially in the mines and steel mills where so many of those first Slovak immigrants labored. Many of our older members have worked in the steel mills or had family members who did. But for many of our younger members these are just stories they might have heard from their grandparents or even great-grandparents. That is why I, as Branch 161's auditor and president of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley, wanted to do something to let the younger generations see what those immigrant generations and their descendents went through to provide them with the life they now have. In 2008 while studying Slovak at the University of Pittsburgh's Summer Language Institute I had the opportunity to see a performance of Andy Wolk's play, *Out of This Furnace*, which had not been performed since it was written in the 1970's.

The play is based on the book of the same name by Thomas Bell which was written in 1941. It is the story of three generations of an immigrant Slovak and Rusyn family, the Dobrejčáks and spans almost 40 years from 1881 to the mid 1930s. The play's main action centers on their work in the Braddock and Homestead steel mills in Pennsylvania but is truly the story of all the immigrant families who struggled to survive in the often dangerous and unforgiving steel industry before there were unions or safety measures and when the work week could be 7 days and 96 hours long for a pay of 13 dollars.

I felt like I was sitting at my grandparent's kitchen table listening to them talk about the “old days” and wanted very much to see this play produced in Youngstown. It was almost 7 years before this dream came true. From February 26th to March 1st of this year the Theater Department of Youngstown State University saw the culmination of almost two years of work to bring this play to the stage. With the hard work of Dr. Scott Ireland, department chair, who jumped in to make this production a reality, Lori Factor, Assistant Director of the Performing Art Series, Nancy Wolfgang, the director, so many

others who worked on sets, lighting, costuming, research, and most especially the wonderfully talented Y.S.U. students who put their hearts and souls into this production, *Out of This Furnace* played to large and very enthusiastic audiences who gave the cast standing ovations after each performance.

FCSLA Branch 161 and Branch 422 along with other Slovak groups helped to underwrite the production of the play. Branch 161 and the American Slovak Cultural Association and the Carpatho Rusyn Society of Youngstown also created a marvelous display that greeted theater goers as they entered Bliss Hall and these three groups provided two dozen nut kolače for the theater students to sell with coffee during intermission to carry out the Slovak “flavor” of the performances! Branch 161 also had the thrill of seeing Treasurer Melanie Leonard's daughter Theresa play the role of Dorta Dubik! Teresa is a junior at Y.S.U. majoring in Theater. Theresa is also the great-niece of Branch 161's Financial Secretary Bernie Demechko. The play was dedicated to the memory of Susan J. Summers, the co-author of *Slovaks of the Greater Mahoning Valley* which also helped underwrite this production.

Watching *Out of This Furnace* truly reminded us of the kind of events that led to the founding of the First Catholic Ladies Association so many years ago.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION HELD

On a bright December day, members of Sr. Branch 88 of Monessen gathered for their annual Christmas Party. President Dorothy Urbanowicz greeted members as they arrived and checked in with party co-chairperson Linda Oslick. Members deposited donations of non-

perishable food items to be distributed by the Holy Name Society of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Holiday food baskets.

Brother Bonaventure of St. Vincent's gave the invocation which was followed by a delicious dinner. Following dinner, President Dorothy introduced officers, Rev. Micah Kozoil, Chaplain; Alice Bialon, Recording Secretary; Rosemary Betza, Jr. Fin. Secretary and Flora Funtal and Cindy Pawelec, Auditors. A brief meeting followed and members were updated on the recent bylaw changes and were reminded to keep their beneficiaries and addresses up to

date. Branch chaplain, Rev. Micah Kozoil gave a brief reminder of the Advent Season. He also gave the benediction, which followed with the awarding of numerous door prizes.

On behalf of the officers of Branch 88, Dorothy wished all attending and their families a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



Branch 88 Officers: Rev. Micah Kozoil, Chaplain; Tom Oslick, Party Chair; Linda Oslick, Co-chair; Dorothy Urbanowicz, President; Flora Funtal, Auditor; Alice Bialon, Rec. Sec.; Cindy Pawelec, Auditor and Rosemary Betza, Jr. Fin. Sec.



11th Consular Tour to Slovakia August 23-September 2, 2015

The Senkos have created a customized tour for 2015 which will take participants across Slovakia with stays in first class hotels each night. In addition to touring many historic towns in Slovakia, famous historic sites in neighboring Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary will also be visited. The Senkos' tour of Slovakia will take participants from west to east through Bratislava, the Slovak capital; Trnava, known as the "Little Rome" of the country; Modra, where guests will see a demonstration at a ceramics factory; the world famous spa town of Piestany, historic Banska Bystrica, the High Tatras, the famous town of Levoca; Bardejov, which is included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites; Presov, and Kosice, the second largest city in Slovakia.

Unique to this tour is: receiving a spa treatment; attending a mock Slovak wedding; rafting on the Dunajec River; several wine tastings; and meeting with several Slovak dignitaries. Arrangements can also be made for participants to visit relatives or family towns and villages. (This is at an additional cost.) For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. Also contact Joe for a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule, and restrictions.

Branch W080 Annual Buffet Dinner

Branch W080, Clarkson, NE gathered for their annual Christmas Buffet dinner. The past year activities were reviewed and plans were made for the coming year. Judging by the happy faces in the photo everyone had a wonderful time.



The Best . . . Castles and Manors

Historical sources state that in the past Slovakia had about 300 castles. Nowadays 168 are marked on modern maps of the country, of which 109 are registered as national cultural monuments. Our castles and castle ruins offer visitors not only forgotten, yet interesting history, but also attractive programs -- festivals, various games, competitions, knightly contests, fairs, night tours, theatre performances and concerts, as well as romantic wedding ceremonies.



One of the largest castle complexes in Slovakia is Trenčín Castle. It is the dominant landmark of the town of Trenčín and the whole of the River Váh Valley. It was built in the 11th century on the

site of a Great Moravian hill fort. It acquired its characteristic silhouette in the 13th century, during the reign of Matúš Čák, known as "the Lord of the Váh and the Tatras." In 1790 a fire spread through the town, which also engulfed the castle. After the fire the buildings in the lower castle were partially rebuilt, but extensive reconstruction and conservation works were begun on the castle only at the end of the 1950s. The grounds of the castle contain a group of palaces (Zápoľský's, Barbora's, Ľudovít's) and a striking tower 39 metres high, known as Matúšova veža, whose ground plan covers 12x12m and the thickness of the wall at the foundations is as much as 4 metres. An interesting feature of the castle is the Roman inscription from 179 AD, cut into the rock on which the castle stands. It states that the troops of the 11nd Roman legion spent the winter here. The visitors' attention is also drawn to the castle well, which according to the legend, was dug out by a young Turk, in order that the lord of Trenčín would free his beloved one. The castle houses exhibitions of Trenčín Museum and there is an interesting family gallery of the Illéházy family, former owners of the castle.

Gigantic underground spaces, their size and architecture making them unique in central Europe, are the attraction of one of the best-preserved Renaissance fortified buildings in Slovakia, Červený Kameň. The largest of them is 70m long and 9m high and it could be divided into several floors! Shaped like an irregular quadrangle, the castle stands out in the picturesque hills of the Little Carpathians beyond Častá and above the village of Píla (northeast of Bratislava). The most important period for the castle was in the 16th century, when it passed into the hands of the Thurzo family and later the Fuggers, who rebuilt it as a Renaissance fortress with gigantic underground storerooms. In 1588 it became the property of the Pálffy family. Thanks to them, Červený Kameň took on the form of a modern Renaissance and Baroque residence. A rarity to be found in the monumental castle is a 17th century pharmacy called Zlatý orol (Golden Eagle), which was in use until the 19th century, and a picture gallery with portraits of Maria Theresa, Francis of Lorraine and other members of renowned aristocratic families. What is untraditional is the positioning of a beautiful *salla terrena* dated 1656 facing the inner courtyard and not opening into the park. After demanding and costly repairs the castle is now once more open to the public. Its interiors house several interesting thematic exhibitions which belong to the Slovak National Museum, a rare collection of historical furniture, pictures, oriental carpets, ceramics, porcelain, faience and arms.

The greatest tourist attraction in Orava is Orava Castle (Oravský

hrad). Overlooking the town of Oravský Podzámok, it is situated in north-west Slovakia on the important long-distance route from Poland through Slovakia to Austria and Hungary. This masterpiece by medieval builders is amazingly perched on a steep rocky limestone cliff rising almost vertically for 112 metres above the River Orava. The castle was built on the high terraces of the castle rock from the top downwards from the middle of the 13th to the beginning of the 17th century, but the main construction work was begun in the mid-16th century by the Thurzo family. They reconstructed the neglected upper castle and built what is known as the Thurzo Renaissance palace onto the west bastion of the medieval castle. In 1800 the castle was gutted by fire. It took on its present appearance at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, when Count Jozef Pálffy had it reconstructed in a romantic style. The extensive alterations to the castle that took place between 1953-1968 have partially continued to the present day. Orava Castle is visited by as many as 200 thousand tourists a year. Exhibitions of the Orava Museum, one of the oldest museums in Slovakia, established in 1868, guide visitors through the history of the castle and the Orava region.

The Slovak castle with the largest number of visitors is Bojnický zámok. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful of the Slovak castles.



Every year 215 thousand people pass through the gates of this national cultural monument. The castle's fairy tale silhouette of steep roofed towers and palaces is the crown of the upper Nitra Valley. The present impressive romantic castle

stands on the site of a 12th century medieval castle. In 1889-1910 its last aristocratic owner, a great art lover and collector of antiques, Count Ján František Pálffy, had it reconstructed as a splendid romantic residence on the model of the French Gothic chateaux in the valley of the River Loire. He did not live to see the work completed.

The ceiling in the castle's Golden Salon (a copy of the ceiling in the Academia di Belle Ate in Venice) is magnificent, as are the Turkish leather wall coverings in the Oriental Salon and the castle chapel with its beautiful stucco vaulting and frescoes from 1662. There are also an attractive underground cave and a mysterious sarcophagus of the last count. One of the most precious items at the castle is the Bojnice altar by the Italian master Nardo di Cione from the mid 14th century, which has only recently been returned from abroad to its original site.

One of the best-preserved medieval castles in Slovakia is to be found above the village of Krásnohorské Podhradie. A noble family, the Bebeks, began to build it around 1320. In the 16th century it took on the appearance of a Renaissance fortress. After a devastating fire in 1817 it was partially repaired by the Andrassy family and a family museum was installed here, which was opened to the public in 1906. The restoration of the castle was completed in 1992. In 1961 Krásna Hôrka was classified as part of Slovakia's national cultural heritage. Interesting features of the museum are the interior of the castle's kitchens, a collection of arms and above all the glass coffin of mummified Žofia Serédy, the wife of one of those who inherited the castle. The large bronze cannons in front of the castle gateway also belong to the original inventory.

Sr. Branch 156 Holds Annual Party

Branch S156, Struthers, OH held their annual branch Christmas party at Bruno's on December 13, 2014. Branch President Pat Granchay welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation.



Sr. Branch 153 Holds Holiday Celebration

Sr. Branch 153 of Farrell, PA held their annual branch Christmas party on Sunday, November 9, 2014, held early to beat "Old Man Winter". All members present enjoyed a sit down dinner. Bingo with prizes followed along with individual branch gifts to each member. Door prizes and gifts from the Home Office were also given out. To conclude the afternoon English and Slovak Christmas carols were sung and everyone left looking forward to next year.



REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JANUARY 31, 2015

ASSETS	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 21,593,096
Bonds	734,956,863
Preferred Stock	2,105,553
Common Stock	5,418,333
Investment Income Due & Accrued	11,724,510
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,815,630
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	3,131,741
Other Assets	161,938
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 784,907,665
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 250,792,658
Annuity Reserves	419,645,020
Death Claims Payable	2,259,507
Unearned Premiums	530,757
Matured Endowments	337,909
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,599,151
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,185,334
Accrued Convention Donations	744,917
Provision for Future Conventions	512,568
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,390,284
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,009,478
Other Liabilities	1,678,521
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 691,686,103
Surplus	\$ 93,221,562
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 784,907,665

INCOME STATEMENT

For the One Month Ending January 31, 2015

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 544,736
Annuity Premiums	3,623,893
Investment Income	3,257,513
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	7,508
Rental Income	28,542
Other Revenue	1,644
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 7,463,837
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ (82,342)
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	3,394,583
Insurance Benefits	643,485
Annuity Benefits	1,551,145
Commission Expense	80,165
Surrender Benefits	487,094
Post Mortem Benefits	161,575
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	505
Matured Endowments	1,756
Donation Expenses	300
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	20,372
Convention Expenses	13,000
Data Processing Service Fees	5,652
Consulting Fees	12,398
Bonus to Branches	70,833
Fraternal Activities	196
Official Publications	34,380
Scholarship Awards	21,667
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	32,689
Fees — Directors	11,158
Salaries — Employees	112,673
Salaries — Officers	38,712
Interest Expense	23,756
Tax Expense	23,481
Depreciation Expense	21,411
Utility Expense	5,781
Postage and Printing	10,862
Advertising	430
Travel Expense	4,662
Insurance Department Fees	2,973
Sales Promotion	33,666
Rental Expense	28,542
Other Expense	18,928
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 6,786,488
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 677,349
Dividends to Members	234,765
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 442,584



FATHER'S DAY FAVORITES

DAD'S FAVORITE CHOCOLATE-ORANGE PANCAKES

- 2 cups flour
- ¾ cup Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chunks
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 2 tsp. butter or margarine, melted
- zest from 1 orange
- ½ tsp. oil

Combine first 5 ingredients in large bowl. Whisk remaining ingredients until well blended. Add to flour mixture; mix well.

Ladle batter onto hot griddle or into hot skillet sprayed with cooking spray, using ¼ cup batter for each pancake; cook until bubbles form on tops, then turn to brown other sides.

POP-POP'S OLD-FASHIONED MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 3 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 package (8 oz.) Shredded Sharp Cheddar Cheese, divided
- 2 cups elbow macaroni, cooked

Heat oven to 350°F. Melt butter in large saucepan on low heat. Stir in flour; cook and stir 2 min. or until bubbly. Gradually stir in milk; bring to boil on medium heat, stirring constantly. Simmer on low heat 3 to 5 minutes or until thickened, stirring constantly. Add 1½ cups cheese; cook and stir 2 to 3 minutes or until melted. Stir in macaroni.

Spoon into 1½-qt. casserole sprayed with cooking spray; sprinkle with the remaining cheese. Bake 20 minutes or until heated through.

PAP'S CHICKEN-RANCH MONKEY BREAD

- 1½ cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1 package (1 oz.) ranch dressing and seasoning mix (milk recipe)
- 2 cans (7.5 oz. each) Country Style refrigerated biscuits
- ⅓ cup cubed mozzarella cheese
- 4 slices bacon, cooked, crumbled
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese (4 oz.)
- ½ cup ranch dressing for dipping

Heat oven to 375°F. Lightly spray 12-cup fluted tube cake pan with cooking spray.

In medium bowl, toss chicken with 2 tablespoons of the dry ranch seasoning mix; set aside.

Separate each can of dough into 10 biscuits. Cut 4 biscuits into quarters to make a total of 16 pieces. With hands, press and stretch each piece slightly to make dough round. Place 1 cheese cube in center of each round; bring sides up and over, pinching dough to enclose cheese.

Press and stretch remaining 16 biscuits into larger rounds. Place 1 heaping tablespoon chicken in center of each biscuit; bring sides up and over, pinching dough to enclose chicken.

Sprinkle half of the crumbled bacon in bottom of tube cake pan. In small bowl, mix remaining dry ranch seasoning mix with melted butter. Dip each dough ball into butter mixture, rolling ball around to coat. Layer half of the dough balls in pan; sprinkle with shredded cheese and remaining bacon. Top with remaining dough balls.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until tops are golden brown and biscuit dough is completely baked. Cool slightly. Place serving plate upside down over pan; carefully turn plate and pan over. Remove pan. Serve bread with ranch dressing for dipping.

GRAND DAD'S VEGGIE AND SAUSAGE SKILLET PIZZA

- ½ lb. bulk Italian turkey sausage
- 1½ cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 2 medium plum (Roma) tomatoes, chopped
- ½ cup pizza sauce
- 1 can (13.8 oz.) refrigerated pizza crust
- 2 cups shredded reduced-fat mozzarella cheese (8 oz.)
- Chopped green onions, if desired

Heat oven to 400°F. In 6-inch nonstick skillet, cook sausage over medium-high heat 4 to 6 minutes, stirring frequently, until no longer pink. Stir in mushrooms, tomatoes and pizza sauce. Remove from heat; cover to keep warm.

Spray bottom and side of 12-inch cast-iron skillet or other ovenproof skillet with cooking spray. Unroll dough in skillet; press in bottom

and at least halfway up side. Bake 5 minutes. Sprinkle 1¼ cups of the cheese over dough. Spoon sausage and vegetable mixture over cheese; top with remaining ¼ cup cheese.

Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Sprinkle with green onions. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting. To serve, cut into 6 wedges.

GRAMPS SLOW-COOKER CRANBERRY-ORANGE PORK ROAST

- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 1 flat boneless pork loin roast (4 lb.)
- 1 can (14 oz.) whole berry cranberry sauce
- ½ cup classic Catalina dressing
- 1 Tbsp. less-sodium soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 tsp. zest and ¼ cup juice from 1 orange

Heat oil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add meat; cook 4 to 5 min. on each side or until browned on both sides. Transfer meat to slow cooker.

Mix cranberry sauce, dressing and soy sauce; pour over meat. Cover with lid.

Cook on low for 4 to 5 hours. Remove meat from slow cooker, reserving liquid in slow cooker. Cover meat to keep warm. Whisk remaining ingredients in small bowl until blended; stir into liquid in slow cooker. Cook, covered, on high 10 min. or until thickened. Slice meat; place on platter. Drizzle lightly with sauce. Serve with remaining sauce.

FATHER'S #1 FROZEN PEANUT BUTTER/OREO DESSERT

- 20 oreo cookies, divided
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup peanut butter
- 1½ cups powdered sugar, divided
- 1 carton (16 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided
- 15 miniature peanut butter cups, chopped
- 1 cup cold milk
- 1 package (3.9 oz.) instant chocolate fudge pudding mix

Crush 16 oreo cookies until coarse. Add the melted butter and press into the bottom of a 9x9 inch pan.

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, peanut butter and 1 cup powdered sugar until smooth. Fold in half of the whipped topping and spread over the oreo crust layer. Sprinkle with the chopped peanut butter cups but reserving some to sprinkle on the top.

In another bowl, beat the milk, pudding mix, and remaining ½ cup powdered sugar on low for about 2 minutes. Let stand for two minutes. Fold in the remaining whipped topping. Spread on top of the peanut butter cups. Sprinkle the top with remaining crushed oreos and peanut butter cups. Cover and chill for 3 hours before serving.

PERIODICAL

6/15

The FCSLA Mission Statement

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

The FCSLA Vision is to:

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