



Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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HAPPY
2018

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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A CREED TO LIVE BY FOR THE NEW YEAR

**Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself to others.
It is because we are different that each of us is special.**

**Don't set your goals by what other people deem important.
Only you know what is best for you.**

**Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart.
Cling to them as you would your life, for without them life is meaningless.**

**Don't let life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future.
By living your life one day at a time, you live up all the days of your life.**

**Don't give up when you still have something left to give,
Nothing is really over . . . till the moment you stop trying.**

**Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect.
It is this fragile thread that binds us together.**

**Don't be afraid to encounter risks.
It is by taking chances, that we learn to be brave.**

**Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find.
The quickest way to receive love is to give love;
the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly;
and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.**

**Don't dismiss your dreams.
To be without dreams is to be without hope;
to be without hope is to be without purpose.**

**Don't run through life so fast
that you forget not only where you've been,
but where you are going.**

**Life is not a race,
but a journey to be savored every step of the way.**

Dear Friends,

*With each New Year we get a fresh, clean page to start over. Here's hoping
that life writes each of you a beautiful new chapter in your story this year. Happy
New Year!*

*Until Next Month,
Warmly,
Carolyn*

CANONICAL ISSUES — IRREGULAR MARRIAGES

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

Šťastný Nový Rok! Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family had a wonderful celebration of Christmas and the Holiday Season. May the joy that we shared during that special and holy time of the year enliven each of us to witness the gift that God the Father has bestowed upon us in the Incarnation of Christ Jesus our Lord. May Christ be our guide as we continue to live out the Good News He has entrusted to us so that our journey through this year may be grace-filled, charitable, and strengthening in the hope of His Resurrection.

During my terms as National Chaplain of the FCSLA, I have attempted to maintain a theme for my monthly articles within the calendar year, e.g., a saint's feast day, explanations of the Decalogue of Moses (Ten Commandments) and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, etc. By doing so, it enables me to keep focused, complies with my OCD (!), assists you in learning about our Faith, and allows me to review, renew, and meditate more about what I have learned about Catholic dogma. I have decided that during 2018, I will write about the various canonical issues that cross my desk as judicial vicar of my diocese. This will be an advantage for you, the reader, as you briefly learn about the *Code of Canon Law* of the Catholic Church and may

answer some questions that you may have had over the years of situations that you or a family member has encountered over the years yet may have had some unanswered questions about a the situation. Marriages that have taken place within or outside of the Catholic Church will be my first attempt this month and the following months. I encourage you to contact me by email or letter should you need more information from your diocese. Remember, these articles will be generic in structure and not in deep detail. Each situation is unique and you may need the advice of a canonist of your diocese.

Every October, my bishop, The Most Reverend George Murry, S.J., makes an annual appeal to those Catholics in the Diocese of Youngtown who are in irregular marriages (married outside the law of the Catholic Church) to consider the opportunity to reconcile their marriages within the Catholic Church. In 2009, the Presbyterial Council of the Diocese (the consulting body of priests who advise the Bishop about matters within the Diocese) suggested to the bishop that he make an annual effort to encourage couples married outside of the Church to reconcile their marriages and thus be within full communion with the Church. It is the hope of the Bishop and the priests that all Catholics have an access to the sacraments and share in the unity of the Catholic Church.

A Catholic who is in an irregular marriage should make an appointment with his/her pastor, deacon, or parish leader to discuss the various situations that have made the marriage irregular. For example, should the couple have been married outside the Church (e.g., in a civil ceremony, on a beach with a minister, in a non-denominational church, etc.) without the permission of the Catholic Church, but desire to be a practicing Catholic, they should contact the persons in charge of the local Catholic parish for further discussion. If a person was civilly divorced and attempted marriage for a second time or more, that person should contact the local church personnel to begin the annulment process. *(To be continued)*

FCSLA Sr. Branch 111 Christmas Party

The Sr. Branch 111 of Charleroi, PA, held their annual Christmas Party and meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017. Twenty-five guests were included. The party included appetizers, lunch and dessert. A gift from the FCSLA was presented to each member as well as door prizes. A short meeting was held and a video was taken to be presented to President Grace Popson who was unable to attend the event.



PLEASE NOTE!

Annual Branch Christmas Party articles and photos will be in the February – March 2018 issues. Any articles and photos received after February 10th, 2018 will be held for use only if space allows in futures issues of *Fraternally Yours*.

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members,
Happy New Year for 2018 and the beginning of our 126th year!

There will be lots to write to you about this year – from our branch and district gatherings, to the activities of our new members, showcasing the fine institutions we have served over many years, and to our joining together with other Slovak and

Czech organizations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 2018 where Czechs and Slovaks banded together to form the free, unified country of Czecho-Slovakia.

My first article will focus on YOU and happiness. There are many self-help guides published in paper form and on the internet for all of us to read about steps to happiness. The Middle English root word “hap” meant “good luck”, rather than a feeling of joy. Of course, the founding fathers wisely recognized that all people of our country would not be satisfied unless they were able to exercise their unalienable rights to...

“Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

There have been many theologians, religious writers and psychologists who have opined as to what it means to be happy. Our foremothers and forefathers certainly had it right when they strove to live by the tenets of our Church, prayed as much as they could, worked hard, enjoyed their families and friends, and did everything they could to make sure that their children and grandchildren progressed and moved forward in this new land, the United States of America. They were happy.

In this new age, let us continue to find ways to bring about meaning and happiness in our lives, through keeping close to God, walking through life with the Blessed Mother and using our God given gifts in helping our families and others around us in their honest needs with mutual respect and integrity. We will be happy and joyful in our pursuits!

Happy New Year and God bless all of us as we continue to direct our lives to develop ourselves, our families, our members and our Association!

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President

Sr. Branch 30 Members Enjoy Christmas Party with Maria E. Grega District

Members of Branch S30, Youngstown, OH are pictured enjoying a Christmas Party held in conjunction with the Maria E. Grega District on November 19, 2017 at St. Lucy's Catholic Church Palermo Center in Campbell, OH.





2018 FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES AND IMPORTANT DATES



I would like to welcome all our new members formerly of PUNA & PWAA to the FCSLA Family! We are very happy to have you as part of our family. We encourage you to keep up with your heritage within your branches.

I encourage all our members to participate in the fun activities your branches are planning this year. Get involved! If you have ideas, call your

branch officers and tell them, offer to help plan a branch activity, Join Hands Day or Matching Funds project, St. Ann's Day Celebration. It's a great way to make new friends and have fun at the same time!

I had a great response to all the contests last year! Thank you to everyone that sent in notes or called to tell me how much you like the contests. I am really glad I have found ones that you like.

Remember to visit our website FCSLA.ORG and LIKE us on Facebook.

Here's a sneak peak of the 2018 Contests and their **due dates** along with a few other important dates. It will be another busy and fun year.

Enjoy!

January 19 – March for Life, Washington D.C. – FCSLA is taking 2 buses – both are filled!

March 9 – Word Search Puzzles Due – “Secretariat” (All Ages)

April 6 – 65+ Word Searchers Club – special packet of puzzles due

May – Join Hands Day – check with your branch / district officers for your date

May 4 – Nominations for Fraternalist of the Year due

May 4 – Nominations for Youth of the Year due

July 26 – St. Anne's Day (Patroness of FCSLA)

August 3 – Art Contest Deadline – “Exploring Outer Space” – ages 15 & under

September 7 – Photo Contest Deadline – ages 16 & Older

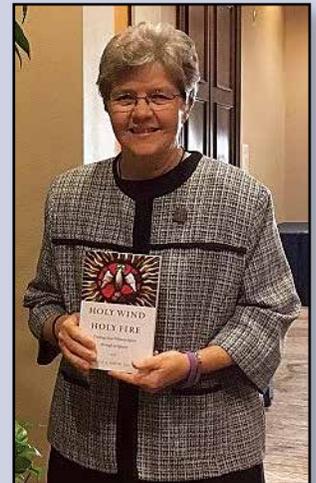
October 5 – Word Search Puzzle Due – International Space Station (All Ages)

*Wishing You a Happy
& Wonderful New Year!*

Holy Wind, Holy Fire

A Journey Through the Old and New Testaments

Sister Pamela Smith, SS.C.M. has written a new book; *Holy Wind, Holy Fire - Finding Your Vibrant Spirit through Scripture*. “We all want our lives to be brighter, more meaningful, and more sacred,” says Sister Pamela Smith. “We all need that get-up-and-go that gladdens us and makes sense of our lives.” We express this need in many different ways, but in each case what we



really want is the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. When this Spirit is with us and in us, we can expect to be living confidently, vibrantly, resolutely. But who is this Holy Spirit? How can we get to know and draw closer to this Third Person of the Holy Trinity, who has the power to transform us and give us a share in the very life of God? The best way to experience who the Spirit is by seeing what the Spirit does, and in this beautiful book Sister Pamela invites us into a wonderful journey through the Old and New Testaments to catch glimpses of the Spirit at work. Reading, reflecting, and praying with this book will help to re-energize and reawaken us to the energy and joy that only the Holy Spirit can give.

The book can be purchased through Twenty-Third Publications.

Celebrates Wedding Anniversary



Allan & Lisa (Krajnak) Nowak were married on November 5, 2016 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in South Euclid, OH.

The reception was held at Nighttown in Cleveland Heights, OH.

The couple recently celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary!

Lisa is a member of Sr. Branch 10.

Branch 88 Hold Christmas Luncheon

On a sunny December afternoon members of Sr. Branch 88 of Monessen gathered to celebrate with a Christmas luncheon. President, Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed members and Dr. Rev. Micah Kozoil gave the invocation. Following a delicious Veal Dinner the members held a brief meeting. Officers were introduced and co-chairs, Tom and Linda Oslick were recognized. Dorothy reminded members that the organization is celebrating their 125th anniversary. She noted that a celebration was held in Cleveland and that Na-

tional President, Cynthia Maleski was honored in Washington, DC. Members were reminded to keep beneficiaries and addresses up to date. She also noted that scholarship applications were available to those needing them. A Christmas poem "A Shining Light"

was read and members were wished a Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Dr. Rev. Micah Kozoil gave the Benediction following the distribution of numerous door prizes.



Seated, L-R: Cindy Pawelec, Auditor; Linda Oslick, Co chair. Standing: Rosemary Betza, Jr. Branch 157 Financial Secretary; Ruth Todd, Auditor; Flora Funtal, Recording Secretary; Rev. Micah Kozoil, Chaplain, Dorothy Urbanowicz, President & Sr. Branch 88 Financial Secretary, Tom Oslick, Co chair.



JANUARY 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Although New Year's Day is not celebrated by the Church, this day has been observed as a holy day of obligation since early times due to the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Each family and country has different traditional foods to eat on New Year's Day, with lentils being the main superstition: ill luck befalling those who do not eat lentils at the beginning of the year. New Year's is a day of traditional hospitality, visiting and good cheer, mostly with a secular view, but there is no reason that this day, too, could not be sanctified in Christ.

Branch W137 Christmas Party



On December 3rd, Branch W137, Cedar Rapids, IA, held its annual Christmas party at Happy Joe's Pizza Parlor. Everyone enjoyed pizza, pop, token games and bingo! All left with a Christmas bag of candy and FCSLA goodies.

Devin Samek, age 3, searches his bingo card for the number from caller, Denise Upah.



Members enjoy pizza, pop and bingo.

Slovak Heritage Program

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will once again present the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month, starting at 7 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228 (412-531-1912). It is free to both members and non-members. Here is the agenda for 2018:

January 8, 2018 — *History of Slovak Hockey*

Rich Kocur will highlight Slovakia's favorite sport including the players now in the U.S.

February 5, 2018 — *Interesting Sights in Slovakia*

Emma Moser, President of the Pitt Student Slovak Club will once again share her insights of her life in Slovakia.

March 5, 2018 — *Decorating Slovak honey cookies (Medovníky)*

Larry Kozlowski, a perennial presenter, will demonstrate and talk about the history of the popular decorated honey cookies of Slovakia. Decorate your own cookie to take home.

April 2, 2018 — *Slovak Castles and Castle Ruins*

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

May 7, 2018 — *Weddings in Slovakia*

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

June 4, 2018 — *History of the Pittsburgh Agreement*

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



January in the Church....

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3.

The first eight days of January fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas which is represented by the liturgical color white.

The remaining days of January are the beginning of Ordinary Time. The liturgical color changes to green — a symbol of the hope — of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

FCSLA
Annuity Rates
Rates for our Elite Annuities:
SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)
2.75% APY*
GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)
3.00% APY*
PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)
3.25% APY*

*This rate is in effect 1/1/2018 thru 3/31/2018.

The credited rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors and will never go below the minimum guaranteed rate. The guaranteed minimum rate for Elite Silver and Gold contracts issued in 2018 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Annually, Joseph Miklovic chairs the Veterans Committee's Activities at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in St. Louis which is the Home of the St. Louis FCSLA Branches S101 & J011.

During this past year the branches did research to Honor & Thank our Parish's WWII Veterans – four in their nineties (using the FCSLA Grant funds approved by Officers of the FCSLA) during our annual Veterans Day Brunch. Also securing Proclamations from Federal, State and City political leaders. We, also, realized that "Tomorrow may be too late" as quoted by our National President Cynthia Maleski in the November issue of *Fraternally Yours*.

Proclamation presented to these WW Heroes from our Branches appears below:

Whereas, World War II was a global conflict involving more than 30 countries which lasted from 1939 to 1945, with major battles across Europe, the Pacific Ocean, Africa, and the Middle East. World War II was the deadliest military conflict in history in absolute terms of total casualties. Over 60 million people were killed, which was about 3% of the 1940 world population – estimated at 2.3 billion; and

Whereas, in 1941, the U.S., seeking peaceful solutions to issues vital to U.S. National Security interests documented in the 'Fourteen Point Message' - a statement of principles for peace that was to be used for peace negotiations in order to end WWI - was engaged in diplomatic negotiations with envoys of the Empire of Japan to resolve these matters; and



Joshua & Jacob Miklovic USMC, S-101 Members.

Whereas, on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, while negotiations with the Empire of Japan were in progress, military forces of Japan executed a surprise attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, then a Territory of the United States. On that morning, George Allison Whiteman, an Army Air Corps second lieutenant originally from Pettis County, Missouri, ran to his P-40B Warhawk at Bellows Air Force Station in Waimanalo, Hawaii, as the island came under attack from the enemy's 353 aircraft. Whiteman's cockpit was hit by gunfire just moments after takeoff, and his plane crashed and burned at the edge of the runway. He was one of the first Americans killed in battle in World War II; and

Whereas, most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was at anchor at Pearl Harbor on that day and was the main target of the surprise attack, and, within less than two hours, Japanese warplanes sank or damaged eight battleships (including the USS Arizona), three light cruisers, four destroyers, five other naval vessels, destroyed/damaged over 338 aircraft, and killed more than 2,400 Americans; and

Whereas, this act of aggression prompted President Franklin D. Roosevelt to address the U.S. Congress on December 8th, 1941, to ask for a declaration of war and opened his remarks with these historic words: "Yesterday, December 7th, 1941, a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." This 'land of the rising sun' was about to meet its sunset; and

Whereas, on December 11th, 1941, in support of Japan's aggression, Italy & Germany declared war on the U.S. under the Tripartite Pact of September 27th, 1940; and



Francis Zulauf (95 years old & blind) USNAVY

Whereas, because of Japan's "unprovoked and dastardly attack" on a U.S. Territory and U.S. Forces and Nazi Germany's and Italy's declaration of war, the United States was thrust into fighting two major fronts across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans; and

Whereas, more than 16.1 million courageous Americans of the "greatest generation" served with honor, distinction, and patriotism, fighting in every theater of operation during WW II in decisive battles around the world, for the freedoms we enjoy today with more than 291,557 Dying in Battle, 113,842 Non-Theatre Deaths, and Non-Mortal Woundings totaling 670,846; and

Whereas, over 450,000 Missourians served in WW II, with a Summary of War Casualties as follows .. Death by Combat - 1,806 .. in Prison Camp - 44 .. Missing - 20 .. Wounded - 2,167 .. Released Prisoners – 167; Totaling 4,204; and

Whereas, on May 7th, 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally to the U.S. marking that date VE Day (Victory in Europe), leaving its ally, the Empire of Japan, to stand alone against the U.S. in the Pacific Theater – Italy having surrendered on September 8th, 1943 ; and

Whereas, on August 6th, 1945, an American B29 "Super Fortress" named "Enola Gay" dropped the world's first uranium 235 atomic bomb "Little Boy" on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, which was followed by a second plutonium 239 atomic bomb "Fat Man" mission on Nagasaki, Japan, three days later both events being 'ordered' by Missouri's only President & Commander in Chief – Harry S. Truman; and

Whereas, on August 14th, 1945, due largely to the effects of those atomic weapons, the Empire of Japan accepted the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration and agreed to an unconditional surrender marking that day as VJ Day (Victory in



Joseph Kuszaj (99 years old) USARMY & Wife Ann

Branch W001 Hosts Bowling Party

Branch W001 in New Prague, MN hosted a bowling party for all youth members and their families on Sunday, October 27th at Strike Force Bowl in New Prague.

Members enjoyed the afternoon of bowling and were treated to pizza and pop.



Japan); the surrender proceedings were ceremonially taken place, on September 2nd, 1945, on the Deck of the USS Missouri Battleship (BB-63 The "Mighty Mo" was a United States Navy lowa-class fast battleship - christened at her launching by Mary Margaret Truman) bringing an end to hostilities in the Pacific thus ending World War II and saving an estimated one million or more U.S. casualties had the war continued and the allies being forced to invade Japan's home islands; and

Whereas, 2017 marks the 72nd anniversary of the surrender of Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan and the end of World War II; and

Whereas, with less than one million World War II veterans alive today in the United States - with 1,100 dying daily - it is of necessity to take time to honor, remember and thank the men and women of "the greatest generation," who valiantly, and with great honor, defended our great Nation's freedoms against the forces of darkness and evil who would surely have denied us those freedoms; and

Whereas, the St. Mary Magdalen Parish in the City of St. Louis, the present home of the FCSLA Branches S-101 & J-011, presently has four parishioners of the less than the one million veterans who are still alive who were engaged in the great World War II conflict – Army Corporal Joseph T. Kuszaj, Army Serial Number 37625942, of the 6th Infantry Division serving under the leadership of General Walter S. Krueger, & Army Private William F. Yashuk, Army Serial Number 37865264, providing light truck conveyance, & Naval Motor Machinist 1st Class Robert L. Croak, Naval Serial Number 8727064, transporting Troops during the Normandy Invasion on Omaha & Utah Beaches, & Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Francis J. Zulauf, Naval Serial Number 3381105, serving in the Central Pacific & the Philippines aboard the USS Prometheus. 'Father Time' has put his mark on these four hero warriors. After the war was over, you came back and built the greatest country this world has ever known; and

Whereas, we realize that you four World War II patriots could be considered ancient and fatigued; we thank you for supporting our nation. This is our country you fought to defend and we appreciate what your fellow veteran colleagues, living and dead, did to preserve it for all of us. This proclamation is not only for you four survivors, but also for those who cannot be here to gratefully accept it, e.g., Stanley J. Kuszaj, Tech Sergeant 4th Grade U.S. Army, Army Corporal Joseph T. Kuszaj's older brother who was killed in action in Germany on December 20th, 1944. At VJ Day you had to get used to the idea of no longer living with a rifle as a constant companion. In the years that followed, many of you would continue to experience the effects of the war, including bouts of Malaria and flashbacks. Most of you would overcome these scars, repressing memories of the worst horrors of the War and learn to appreciate the simple joys of life. The world changed with the ordeal of your survival and the loss of so many of your friends who sacrificed their lives at the peak of their youth. We, as Americans, owe a debt of gratitude to you men and women who fought for this country in the War to end all wars. You are entitled to be known as "The Greatest Generation."

Now, therefore, be it resolved, with respect, by the St. Louis FCSLA Branches S-101 & J-011 who: Wishes to express its deepest and most heartfelt appreciation to the veterans of World War II and their families for their remarkable contributions and service to the people of Missouri, the United States of America, and the free world. We recognize the great personal sacrifices you made during your service to this great country during World War II, one of the most trying periods in the history of the world. You had to grapple with the problems imposed by vast distances, inhospitable terrain, unfavorable climate, and an indefatigable and dangerous enemy. We promise to never forget your sacrifices, and keep alive the legacy of your generation. Only through the dedication and heroism exhibited by you and your comrades do we remain a free country. You held high the torch of freedom and we will be ever mindful that the task of preserving that fragile freedom is now ours.

Your honored service to this country, in time of unparalleled need, shall never be forgotten.

Fifty-Ninth National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation

The Cathedral of Saint Columba of the Diocese of Youngstown was filled with the beautiful sound of the majestic pipe organ, numerous orchestral instruments and the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Daniel W. Laginya as Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB, Abbot of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland and numerous priests processed to the altar to begin the Mass marking the start of the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The assembled worshippers, who came from across



Marie Golias, Second Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation presents a reading the opening Mass for the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

the United States as well as the Youngstown and surrounding dioceses, filled the pews. The Mass was held on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Abbot Gary Hoover, the principal celebrant, was joined by 11 other priests, all of whom can claim at least some Slovak heritage. Sister Thomas More Dzurnak, of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA presented the reading from the Book of Sirach. Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB, of the Benedictine Abbey of Saint Andrew Svorad in Cleveland offered the reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB who serves as the Moder-

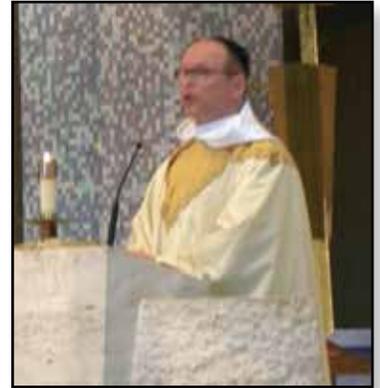
ator/Protector of the Slovak Catholic Federation proclaimed the Gospel. Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V. F., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Pastor of Epiphany Parish in Sayre, PA was the homilist. He spoke about God being the King and the servants being ourselves. It is important, Father Hvozdivic stressed, that no matter how many times we approach God for forgiveness, He is always there to forgive. God's heart is full of mercy and forgiveness, and so should we be to those who wrong us. Marie Golias, Second National Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation led the Universal Prayer. The Mass concluded with "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" sung in both English and Slovak.

A dinner, which was preceded by a cocktail hour, was held at the nearby social hall of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with close to 250 people sharing food, faith and fellowship. Many individuals took advantage of the opportunity to visit Saints Cyril and Methodius Church (now part of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish), which is a block away from the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Saints Cyril and Methodius has the distinction of being the oldest Slovak-ethnic Catholic church in Youngstown, having been built in 1896. It is considered the "Mother Church" of not only numerous other Slovak congregations, but also hosted various other ethnic groups as their presence grew in the area, but which had

not yet established their own worship sites.

The actual business component of the convention began on Monday, September 18th, with opening prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Slovakia. Following a roll call of officers and delegates, and review of the convention schedule, the convention addressed routine matters, such as the acceptance of the Minutes of the 58th National Convention in 2013, and reports of the National Officers and Local Chapters. Mass was held just prior to the lunch break. The various committees of the Federation, bolstered by additional delegates in attendance, met during lunch and for a period of time afterwards to establish goals and action plans to be implemented in the upcoming months and years.

The Nominating Committee created a slate of individuals to serve in the elected roles of the National Board of Directors. The entire slate was accepted by the delegates and consists of: Moderator/Protector, Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, O.S.B.; President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F.; Past President, Msgr. Peter Polando, J.C.L.; First Vice President, Rev. Thomas Nasta; Second Vice President, Ms. Marie Go-



Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, O.S.B. Abbot of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland and Moderator/Protector of the SCF was the principal celebrant of the opening Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Columba, shown as he proclaims the Gospel.



Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, O.S.B., (left) Abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland and Moderator/Protector of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Rev. Andrew Hvozdivic (far right), President of the SCF pose with the leadership of the Slovak fraternal organizations in attendance at the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation (L-R) Cynthia Maleski, Esq., National President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Michael Horvath, Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Theresa Kluchinski, National President of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.

Fifty-Ninth National Convention

(Continued from Page 11)

lias; Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Dolores Evanko; and Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Thomas Derzack.

After considering several operational and procedural issues the convention adjourned. The date established for the Spring Meeting of the National Board is April 30th and May 1st, in Danville, PA, with the session being held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The Fall Meeting will return to Youngstown on September 17th and 18th to accommodate the subsequent meeting of the Conference of Slovak Clergy.

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, J. C. L., a Past President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and Rector of Saint Columba Cathedral, organized the opening activities with the help of a dedicated, capable group of individuals. The Welcoming Committee consisted of Edie Babik, Carol Gonda, Glenn Kramer, Nancy Kropolinsky, and Joseph Scavina. The Banquet Committee had Dots Bolash, Barb Hosa, Grace Kavulic, and Nancy Scavina. Members of the Program Committee were Carol Dumez, Melanie Leonard and Dolores Sonoga. Rosemary Heald, Paul Ritz, Shelly Zura and Shirley Zura comprised the Tickets Committee. Finally, the Organizing Committee was made up of Jackie Bobby, Jim Bobby and Jim Jersek. The National Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the delegates to the convention were deeply grateful for and impressed by the results of the work done by the local group. The Mass, dinner and entire course of the convention was a joyful time filled with many memorable moments.



Delegates listen to the various proposals being submitted for consideration during the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Beginner Language Classes

The WPCSA will once again offer Slovak language classes for beginners. The class will be every Tuesday from February 20 to April 10 at 6:30-8:00 p.m. The classes will be held at the Brashear Association, 2005 Sarah Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. The tuition is free and the instructor is Bozena Hilko. To reserve your spot please contact Joe Senko at jtseonko@aol.com or (412) 956-6000.

BRANCH W093 EVENTS



Tabor Branch W093 sponsored a pizza party for all the religious education youth and teachers for the 2016-2017 year. Everyone enjoyed the pizza and fellowship to round out the year this spring.



Branch W093 Tabor held their annual Halloween party in conjunction with their meeting on October 29, 2017. Prizes were given away for best costume for adults and children. Everyone enjoyed the evening of food, fellowship and prizes.

Scranton's Saint Joseph's Center Holds Dedication



Celebrating the dedication and blessing of the Outdoor Recreation Area at Saint Joseph's Center Adult Day Services in Dunmore, PA are pictured L-R: Kris Holmes, President Saint Joseph's Center Board and FCSLA member; Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM, President/CEO Saint Joseph's Center; Father Jeff Walsh, Center Board member; Charlie Butler, FCSLA member; Ann Kwak, FCSLA Wilkes-Barre Chapter President; Jo Ann Verduce, Director of Development, Saint Joseph's Center and FCSLA member and Pete Kanton, Center Board member and FCSLA member. Saint Joseph's Center is very grateful for the continued support and generous grant for this project.

Servant Leadership Award

On October 29, 2017, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 31 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg PA, Scranton PA, Trenton NJ and Bridgeport, CT. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 15 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored over 990 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), Syracuse (NY), and Trenton (NJ) with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

Receiving the award were: Katherine Arway, Robert Beck, Samuel Bellis, Heather Beveridge, Sarah Castellan, Lawrence Czeponis III, Michaela Elsen, Erin Evans, Lydia Gould, Stephen Gresh, Elijah Hoffman, Phillip Hutnick-Kenenitz, Justin Ickowitz, Francesca Kalie, Aaron Keehan, John Kerris, Brooklyn Kuijpers, Katelynn Kuijpers, Benjamin McFadden, John Morris, Hannah Nolter, Joseph Ricco, Michele Schiano-di-Cola, Erika Serafin, Camilla Shreiner, Zack Smith, John Snyder, Colette Southerton, Lilly Strader, Katelynn Weidensaul, Alexa Willoughby.

Each teen was given the opportunity to select one person as a mentor who has encouraged them to generously use their time and talents as a follower of Jesus. The mentors selected were parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, scout leaders, Deacons, Sisters and Priests, who have been role models for the teens. Mentors recognized by the teens have made a difference in their lives by modeling servant leadership as a way of life in their family, parish, and community.

At the ceremony the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, elder care and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.



Receiving Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards from Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M. (left) General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; Rev. Gerard Heintzelman for evangelization, Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SS.C.M. for education, Dr. Magdalen Benish for ecumenism, and Dr. Greg Burke for elder care.

The 2017 Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards went to:

Evangelization — Rev. Gerard Heintzelman

Father Heintzelman was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Evangelization. Father Gerard Heintzelman has taken to heart Jesus' command to "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News." From the time of his ordination in 1959 to the present, Father Jerry never misses an opportunity to spread the Good News

of Jesus Christ. Father Heintzelman was the first full-time Catholic Chaplain at Geisinger Medical Center from 1964-1970, which began 42 years of service in the health care ministry. He also served as Chaplain at Hershey Medical Center, Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Care at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, CA, and currently serves as Chaplain at Maria Hall in Danville. Through all his service, Father Heintzelman always reaches out to welcome all, and was known for his spirit of acceptance and evangelization. In both his health care ministry and in the parishes in which he served, Father Heintzelman was well known for his outgoing manner and friendly outreach to people of all faiths, believing that addressing the spiritual needs of those he served was an appreciation of the entire person. Father Heintzelman clearly takes to heart the universal Christian mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Education — Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SS.C.M.

Sister Donna Marie was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Education. Sister Donna Marie has been an educator for



Student recipients of the 2017 Servant Leadership Award.

Fraternalist of the Year Reception Held for Sr. Branch 262

East Vandergrift PA, Sr Br 262, held a reception to congratulate Marilee Kessler, for being chosen FCSLA Fraternalist of the Year for 2017. Marilee is pictured with National President Cynthia Maleski, and PA State Representative Joseph Petrarca. They presented her with separate fraternalist awards from FCSLA and from the State of Pennsylvania.



more than sixty years, serving from preschool through high school. She served as Principal at Saint Cyril Academy in Danville, and for the past seventeen years served and continues to serve as Principal of Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten in Danville where she transforms education as she welcomes young children and their parents into a new world of learning. Sister Donna Marie has also served on numerous Boards in the Danville area. Besides being a teacher and administrator, through the years Sister has been a drama and musical director, and artist. Sister Donna Marie's faithfulness to the Gospel message of Jesus is enhanced by her lifetime love of learning and her desire to serve others. Through her ministry of education, Sister Donna Marie has opened a path for others so that they may see the beauty that surrounds them every day.

Ecumenism — Dr. Magdalen Benish (S172)

Dr. Magdalen Benish was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Ecumenism. Dr. Benish has been a lifetime volunteer. At her parish of Saint Andre' Bessette in Wilkes-Barre, she serves in a variety of capacities. She is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion both in her parish and at Geisinger Medical Center South as well a home visitor to the elderly. She is active in social concerns, and is active in many organizations. She was also instrumental in establishing a museum at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, honoring the scientific contributions of Rev. Joseph Murgas. To all, she brings her love of God and her desire to be a strong and visible woman of Faith in Action. Dr. Benish has spent her life on this journey, walking with people to open their minds and hearts to a greater understanding, respect, and acceptance of the differences in culture and belief in our very own communities. Her actions open the door for the Spirit of Christ to unite us in one mind according to God's divine plan. That is what ecumenism is all about.

Elder-care — Dr. Greg Burke

Dr. Burke was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Elder Care. Dr. Burke has been practicing medicine for 29 years and is Medical Director of Emmanuel Center in Danville, PA. He is a member of the Catholic Medical Association and authored a comprehensive examination of conscience for physicians, which he previously published, and about which he gave a presentation at the 2016 CMA annual conference in Washington, D.C. At Geisinger Medical Center, Dr. Burke is the lead patient experience director. His view of his patients is one of compassion. His overall involvement in the care of the elderly on all levels is a reminder to us of the Gospel message of Jesus who came to heal us all. Dr. Greg Burke's outstanding qualities are compassion and service as he becomes hands and heart of Christ for others. His overall involvement in the care of the elderly on many levels is a reminder of the Gospel message of Jesus who came to heal all.

Branch W137 Fall Harvest Hayride

On October 8th, FCSLA Branch W137, Cedar Rapids, IA, celebrated FCSLA's 125 years and the fall harvest with a hayride and wienie/s'mores roast at Bass Farm. All received a gift bag of candy and a pumpkin of each's choice.



W137 members enjoying a hayride at the fall harvest.

LUCINA SLOVAK FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE OF CLEVELAND IN SLOVAKIA

The Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland, OH, had the great honor of representing the United States for the fourth time at the 52nd Annual Folk Festival beneath Polana in Detva, Slovakia. Detva is one of the three largest folk festivals in Slovakia. It, along with Vychodna and Myjava, attracts thousands of attendees every year.

The festival's theme for 2017 was *Masky a Maskarovy* – Masks and Masquerades – and highlighted the many times Slovaks don colorful costumes and masks such as the pre-Lenten festivities of *fasiangy* and the ritual drowning of the witch Morena to usher in Spring.

On Sunday, July 9 in a program called “*Krajanska nedela*” – or the countrymen’s Sunday – Lucina took the center stage with 10 other Slovak ensembles from Hungary, France, Croatia, Serbia, Romania and Ukraine. They performed a dance together featuring the witch Morena. Lucina then commanded the stage with two of their own dances: a dance dedicated to St. Lucy called *Na Luciu*, where dancers emulated the Advent ritual of St. Lucy in white baptismal gowns lighting the way toward Christianity; and their well-known and ever-vibrant Gypsy dance. The show ended with all performers gathering on the main stage for a final dance, then singing and parading off down the main aisle. The dance festival concluded that evening with a gracious banquet provided by our hosts. Many Lucina members independently continued their stay in the Slovak Republic visiting family and friends.



Lucina commanded the stage on “*Krajanska nedela*” with two of their own dances, including their vibrant Gypsy dance.



The group began their trip by dancing in SNP Square in Bratislava on July 5 where they were joined by performers from England, Austria, Serbia, Hungary, and Australia in the capital city’s Cultural Summer and Bratislava Castle Celebrations on SS Cyril & Methodius Day, a national holiday in Slovakia.

Prior to performing at the festival in Detva, the group began their trip by dancing in SNP Square in Bratislava on July 5th. Lucina was joined by performers from England, Austria, Serbia, Hungary, and Australia in the capital city’s Cultural Summer and Bratislava Castle Celebrations on SS Cyril & Methodius Day, a national holiday in Slovakia.

The Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland wishes to thank our supporters, families and friends, and all who made the trip possible and who continue to support the group’s mission of promoting Slovak heritage. The ensemble is grateful for donations from the Okres Anna Hurban of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, as well as Branches S522, J453, S557, J485, S176, S141, S475, S423, S481, J374, S553, and J481.

Eleven of the 12 dancers who went on the trip are members of the FCSLA, as well as all three of the support personnel.

We appreciate your continued support of our Slovak-American youth!



Eleven of the 12 performers in the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland who danced at Detva are members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (L – R): Front Row: Victoria Oros, J481; Nadia Oros, S553; Veronica Montani, S141; Lexi Glova, J453; Anna Nosek, J453; Mary Chudy, S522; and Kristyna Nosek, S522. Back Row: Matthew Oros, J481; John Moynihan, S176; John Allen-McIntyre, J453; Adam Hornack, J374; and Vlad Sokol, S581. Not pictured: : Director Thomas Ivanec, S010, and Trip Coordinator Dana Glova, S522.

PHOTO REMINDER

Photos of poor quality or blurry, will not be published in *Fraternally Yours*. Recommended are photos that are emailed in a non-compressed or larger file size or crisp printed originals for publication.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branches S630 & J534

Golf Tournament

Members of Branches S630 and J534 in Buffalo, NY gathered at the Broadway Driving Range and Miniature Golf Course as part of their annual community fund-raising event. The mini golf, together with a golf tournament held earlier in the week at the Chestnut Hill Country Club, benefited Chesterton Academy of Buffalo, a high school in the Catholic tradition. John Gonsiorek, golf committee chairman, is the Regional Sales Manager for FCSLA.



Mark Franczyk assists his son Caiden, as daughter Kyla looks on.



Branch W013

Quilt Raffle

Branch W013, Prague, Nebraska held a Matching Funds Quilt Raffle. Pictured is the winner, Patti Sloup, of Prague, NE.



Jr. Branch 58

Spaghetti Dinner

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Jr. Branch 58 sponsored an all you can eat spaghetti dinner on Sunday, September 10, 2017 in the Panel Room of St. John School in Whiting, IN. Advance tickets were sold during the Ministry Fair and you could also purchase tickets at the door. Homemade baked goods, provided by FCSLA officers and youth parents were available for purchase. There was a



50/50 raffle and the generous person who won donated her winnings back to the youth. All proceeds will help to defray the costs of future youth programs. This was a FCSLA matching funds event,

therefore the money raised up to \$600 was matched by the FCSLA home office.



NEWS FROM BRANCH W080

Several projects this year kept our branch busy. In June we held our Sunday morning breakfast meeting following 10:30 Mass. This is an annual affair hosted by students and parents of St.



Rachael Rupprecht receiving congratulations on her scholarship from President Don Vrbicky.

John Neumann School — lots of good food and fellowship. We were proud to recognize our two FCSLA college scholarship winners: Jasmine Kriz and Rachael Rupprecht. Good job, girls!

President Don Vrbicky awarded those attaining 50 year membership status with certificates: Gwen Mach, Rodney Svehla, Patti Urbanek, Joan Chitty, Emilie Groene, Michael Stepanek, Phyllis Cada and Julie Schulze. The lucky door prize winners at the



Annual breakfast meeting.



50 year member Julie Schulze with President Vrbicky.



Scholarship winner Jasmine Kriz with her grandmother Monica Fisher.



Photos from our Country Store matching fund activity.



close of the meeting were Marlene Kabes, Jackie Sayers, Larry Prokopec and Bill Gall.

In September we sponsored the "Country Store" of homemade items and garden produce at our church's Fall Festival. This is a popular fundraiser for which we gratefully received matching funds from the home office.

Branch J207 Holds Toy Bingo

Branch J207 recently held a toy bingo to benefit St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA. In addition to playing bingo games, a basket raffle was available along with door prizes and ethnic refreshments.

There were four "special games" with a value of each in excess of \$500. All the prizes were donated by members of the parish, various businesses and with FCSLA support.



L-R: Patricia Baran, coordinator; Reverend Kenneth Seegar, pastor of St. Andre Bessette Church; Florence McCabe, branch secretary; and Rita Kcenich, branch president.



Standing in front of the bingo prizes are Florence McCabe, Jayden Davila, Manuel Baez and Aliyah Baez. Many children had their dreams come true that day.

FCSLA 2018-19 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) is pleased to announce its **2018-19 Scholarship Program**, which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. An eligible candidate for an FCSLA Fraternal Scholarship Award shall be a member of good standing for at least three years prior to date of application and hold a \$1,000 permanent life insurance certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or an annuity certificate (no minimum amount required). If applying for a Seminary or Deacon Scholarship, it is necessary to complete all documents.

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field, based on the following: Academic Standing – 40%; Church/Community Service Value – 30%; and School Involvement/Essay – 30%.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS - \$1,250 EACH

59 Freshmen • 28 Sophomores • 17 Juniors • 17 Seniors

GRADUATE AWARDS - \$1,750 EACH

19 Full-Time Graduate Awards

36 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS - \$1,000 EACH

9 Freshmen • 9 Sophomores • 9 Juniors • 9 Seniors

32 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH

8 for Grade 5 • 8 for Grade 6 • 8 for Grade 7 • 8 for Grade 8

32 EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH

8 for Grade 1 • 8 for Grade 2 • 8 for Grade 3 • 8 for Grade 4

Applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted to the Home Office and received no later than 4:30 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Applications received after that date and time will not be considered. Electronic copies (preferably PDF file) and faxed copies of application and supporting materials will be accepted.

Applications and further details for this program may be obtained by:

- Visit our website at www.fcsla.org
- E-mail us at Scholarship@FCSLA.org
- Call the National Headquarters at **800-464-4642, ext. 1054**
- Complete the form on this page and mail it to:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION
Scholarship Department • 24950 Chagrin Blvd • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

2018-2019 FCSLA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send a scholarship application form by: ____ US Postal Mail ____ Email

(PLEASE PRINT)

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- College Graduate High School Seminary or Deacon Grades 1-4 Grades 5-8

S114 Lorain, Ohio Participates in Cleveland District's 125th Anniversary Celebration

Sr. Branch 114, Lorain, OH participated in the Cleveland District's celebration of the FCSLA's 125th Anniversary on October 1, 2017. The District held their local event with a Mass and dinner at Tom's County Place in Avon, OH.

(At right) Edward Robertson, (S114) and FCSLA National President Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq.



L-R: S114 members: Bill Burkhardt, Georgine Burkhardt, and Marcie Downie.

Branch W016 Dinner Meeting

Branch W016 held a dinner/meeting party on November 12, 2017 in the Holy Trinity Klein Center for members and guests. Maria Pytlik, a Sophomore at Aquinas High School, and a \$1,000 scholarship winner was recognized. She entertained the group with a variety of trumpet solos. Guests also enjoyed Bob Ohnothka's accordian music during the social hour.

Treasurer Carolyn Dvorak, Vice President Joyce Rezac, and President/Secretary Mary Lou Meister were re-elected officers for 2018.

FCSLA representative Leonard Dvorak talked about the organization's benefits and programs.

Father Snitily was pleased to accept a donation of \$1,000 for the Holy Trinity Rectory renovation project.



Re-elected officers: Joyce Rezac, Carolyn Dvorak and Mary Lour Meister present Father Steven Snitily with a donation for Holy Trinity Rectory renovations.



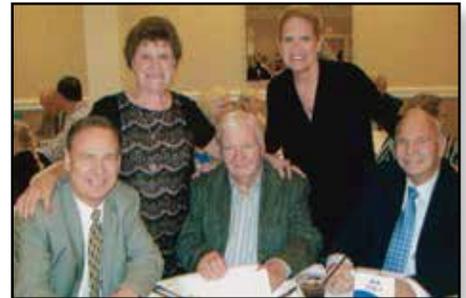
L-R: Officers of S114, Joanne Mrosko, Treasurer; Bernie Danevich, President; and member Sister Helen Scasny, SC.



Bob Ohnothka and Maria Pytlik prepare to entertain branch W016 guests.



Members assist with the clean up after the November 12th dinner party.



L-R: Members of S114: Edward Robertson, Marcie Downie, Karl Kalivoda, Karen Brady, and Edward Jaykel.



Guests enjoy a social hour and accordian music before the Branch W016 dinner party.



Ellen Butorac (S114)

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

SENKO FAMILY TOURS SLOVAKIA

Sixteen members of the Senko family toured Prague and various towns in Slovakia. The highlight of their tour was a visit to Slovenska Ves, the birthplace of Albina Senko. There, they met with 13 of her relatives. They also visited



The Senko family sightseeing Prague.

Chicagoland Groups Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Pictured (below) at the Annual Chicagoland Groups Annual Meeting and Luncheon held on October 21, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Sawa's Old Warsaw in Chicago are Joan and Tom Wisinski, Robyn Westfallen, Toni Storts, Helen and Karl Leja and Barbara Kowalski.

The meeting was used to discuss and plan the Annual Chicago Groups Children's Christmas Party which was held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 from 2-5 p.m.



The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Church where Albina was baptized, received her first communion and was confirmed. When in the Tatra mountains, they joined up with their relatives and Joe Senko's consular tour group for dinner at a koliba. All 53 of them enjoyed the Slovak food and the Roma musicians.



The Senko family visiting The Purification of the Virgin Church in Slovenska Ves.



The Senko family meeting Albina's relatives.





IN MEMORIAM

Josephine Kopchik, S289

Josephine Kopchik, age 95, passed away on January 26, 2017, in Crown Point, IN. She devoted herself to being a loving wife, mother, neighbor and friend. Kindness and a strong Catholic faith were at the center of her life. She is survived by four children: Charles Kopchik (Sandra) of Pfafftown, NC, Michael Kopchik (Augie) of Copperas Cove, TX, Stephanie Kopchik of Crown Point, IN, John Kopchik of Minneapolis, MN; two grandchildren, Texas; and one great-grandchild. Donations in her memory may be made to the Missionaries of Francis de Sales, 3474 Pate Drive, Snellville, GA 30078.

Gloria Wemhoff, W080



Gloria Wemhoff, 73, died February 16, 2017, in Lincoln, NE. Gloria Jean (Tichota) Wemhoff was born at home in rural Cuming County to Ruth (Bauman) and Bohumila "Bo" Tichota on May 25, 1943. She attended Clarkson High School, where she graduated in 1961. After graduating from high school, she worked at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. She began working at Becton Dickinson and remained there for 31 years. In 1971, Gloria met Carrol P. Wemhoff, and they married in 1973 at St. Isidore Catholic Church. They lived in Columbus, where they raised their eight children. Gloria was full of life! She loved bowling, dancing, cooking and traveling, and encouraged all to do the same. She had a love and passion for people accompanied by a great sense of humor. Gloria always wanted a large family and loved being a mom. Gloria left a legacy of love, family and laughter. Gloria cherished her family and spent as much time with them as possible. She is survived by her husband, Carrol; eight children, Scott of Utica, Theresa Steckel (Bob) of Edmond, OK, Wayne of Columbus, Lisa Dohring (Marcus) of Franklin, TN, Rhea Berglund (Kelly) of Austin, TX, Amy Wemhoff-Linder (Dan) of Corpus Christi, TX, Jeff (Heather) of Kearney and Sandra of Omaha; and 16 grandchildren.

Elizabeth "Betty" Zajac, S191



Elizabeth "Betty" Zajac, 88, was called to her heavenly home on March 3, 2017. Betty was born on November 5, 1928, in Whitney, PA, she was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Franko) Schlosser. As a child, she moved to Lansingville in Youngstown. On May 28, 1949, she married the love of her life, Eugene Zajac and spent 46 years with him until his passing in 1995. She had many jobs throughout her life, but her favorite and last job was with the records department at Youngstown State University. She retired in 1991, with fond and lasting memories of her time there. She loved her faith and went to daily Mass, oftentimes leading the rosary before Mass. She was a member of its Infant Jesus of Prague Guild, the Sacred Heart and Rosary Society and its senior group, The Golden Echoes. She was also a member and former officer of the local Branch 161 of The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and was very active in this organization. She will be so very sadly missed by her children, Mary Beth (Jack) White of Struthers, John (Cindy) Zajac of Youngstown and JoAnn (Jim)

Schuler of New Middletown; her daughter-in-law, Debi Zajac (Eugene) of Poland; her 14 grandchildren, their spouses and partners and her nine great-grandchildren. Feeling the loss of their beloved sister are, Anne Tokarsky (John) of Boardman, Ceil Schlosser of Boardman and John (Barb) Schlosser of Chicago. Also missing their aunt Betty, will be her many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Our Lady of Sorrows Parish or the Dorothy Day House, both in Youngstown.

Leonard Cimpl, W093



Leonard John Cimpl, age 92, of Tabor, SD died April 23, 2017. He was born on October 11, 1924 to Ladislav and Lillian (Hamberger) Cimpl in rural Tabor, SD. He attended and graduated from Wagner High School. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Leonard returned home and married Mildred A. Schuch on May 28, 1951 at St. Wenceslaus Church in Tabor, SD. He owned and operated Cimpl's Market and Cimpl Feed and Grain. Leonard's love for Tabor was shown through his many years as a Trustee and Chairman of the Tabor Town Board. He was active in many church and community organizations. His Czech heritage was an important part of his life. He and Mildred loved Czech Days and Leonard was chairperson of the annual event for several years. Leonard was also a member and officer in the Kortan-Hatwan American Legion Post #183. Leonard was a person who lived by his priorities; his love for his God, wife, family, Church, country and community. Leonard is survived by his two sons, Fr. Chuck Cimpl (Sioux Falls, SD) and Joe Cimpl (Tabor, SD); one daughter, Sue (Mike) Stoll (Yankton, SD); four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his two brothers, John A. Cimpl (Yankton, SD) and Donald (Joan) Cimpl, (Omaha, NE); two sisters-in-law, Mildred M. Cimpl (Columbus, NE) and Anne Shaw (Broomfield, CO) and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, Leonard and his family request that memorials be directed to St. Wenceslaus Church, 205 N. Lidice Street, Tabor, SD 57063 or to the Town of Tabor/Leonard Cimpl Field Upkeep Fund, PO Box 146, Tabor SD 57063.

Steffie D. Rhiel, S36



Steffie D. Rhiel, 86, a lifelong resident of Swoyersville, PA died unexpectedly on January 26, 2017. Her beloved husband was the late Wesley M. Rhiel, who died in 2010. Born on April 8, 1930, in Swoyersville, Steffie was the youngest of four daughters born to the late Stanley Kielan and Aniela V. "Nellie" (Potera) Kielan. A devoted homemaker most of her life, Steffie lovingly tended to the daily needs of her home and family. In her earlier years, she worked as a seamstress in the local garment industry. Steffie was a faithful Catholic and lifelong member of the former Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church, Swoyersville. Following the consolidation of her church, she became a member of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Parish, Swoyersville. The holidays were special to Steffie and she loved having her home filled with her loved ones. She enjoyed keeping her family's holiday traditions, most especially the traditional Polish Christmas Eve supper, Wigilia, and she proudly passed on the traditions to

her family. Steffie is survived by her children, Wesley Rhiel and his wife, Susan, Gahanna, OH; JoAnn Dombroski and her husband, Joe, New Kent, VA; Kenneth Rhiel and his wife, Diane, Luzerne; Mary Ann Pepsis and her husband, Robert, Swoyersville; Joseph Rhiel and his wife, Yasmyne, Suffolk, VA; her eleven grandchildren; her three great-grandchildren; as well as her nieces, nephews, and friends. Memorial contributions may be made in Steffie's memory to Erwine Home Health and Hospice Inc., 270 Pierce Street, Suite 101, Kingston, PA 18704.

Philip E. Cvach, Sr., W500



Philip E. Cvach, Sr., 89, a longtime Rose-dale, MD funeral director and World War II veteran, died January 26, 2017. The son of Jerome C.M. Cvach, a funeral director, and Anna E. Benda, a homemaker, Philip Edward Cvach Sr. was born and raised in East Baltimore. A graduate of Calvert Hall College High School, Mr. Cvach served in the Navy as a seaman third class aboard a destroyer escort in the Pacific during World War II. He was the fourth-generation member of his family to work as a funeral director. A 1949 from Eckels College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia, he became a licensed embalmer and funeral director. He married Mary Dolivka in 1948. In 1956, he and his wife, who was also a licensed funeral director, purchased what is now the Cvach-Rosedale Funeral Home on Chesaco Avenue. The Mercy Ridge resident had been president of the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association. Mr. Cvach had obtained a pilot's license and for years had been an active member of the Civil Air Patrol, where he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was a collector of coins and stamps and enjoyed writing poetry. In addition to his son Philip II, he is survived by two other sons, Jerry Cvach of Cockeysville and John J. Cvach, Sr. of Centreville, Queen Anne's County; a daughter, Phyllis A. Shand of Sykesville; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Minarek, S89



Mary H. Minarik, 90, of Bethlehem, PA died on January 27, 2017. She was born in Bethlehem, the daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (Repko) Harvilla. She was the devoted wife of 70 years to Frank L. Minarik who died on December 16, 2016. Mary graduated from Bethlehem Catholic High School. She worked as a seamstress for Laros Silk Mill and later Highland Fashions and was a member of the I.L.G.W.U. Mary was a parishioner of Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church and was a Past-President of their Senior Group. Mary was also a member of the Bethlehem Steel Club. She enjoyed dancing and traveling with her husband, playing cards and she especially adored spending time with her family. Survivors: She will be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Nancy Barnet and husband, Richard of Wilmington, NC; and Mary Frances Weaver and husband, Michael of Downingtown, PA; daughter-in-law, Lori Minarik of Salisbury Twp.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Contributions: In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church.

Victor A. "Vic" Pechanec, W133



Victor A. "Vic" Pechanec, 87, Timken, KS, died February 4, 2017, in Great Bend, KS. Mr. Pechanec was born November 5, 1929, in Great Bend, KS, the son of Henry J. and Rose T. (Vsetecka) Pechanec. A lifelong resident of Rush County, KS, he was a farmer/stockman. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Timken, KS and Knights of Columbus Council 2100, Olmitz, KS. He was a former member and secretary of the Timken Community Credit Union, Timken, KS. Through his love of flying, he became a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Great Bend, KS. On November 16, 1949, he married Agnes Oborny at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Timken, KS. She preceded him in death May 5, 1987. Survivors include: three sons, Dennis Pechanec (Kathy), Timken, KS, Steve Pechanec (Janet), Otis, KS, and Toby Pechanec, The Woodlands, TX; three daughters, Charlene Koochel (Mark) Albert, KS, Pam Lichter, Great Bend, KS, and Christy Kaus (Paul) Salina, KS; 19 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; two brothers, Stephen Pechanec, Timken, KS, and Ivan Pechanec, Wichita, KS; and his special friend, Betty Skillett, Hays, KS.

Paul Komar, S182



Paul J. Komar, 85, passed away on February 18, 2017 in Ballston Spa, NY. Paul, the youngest son of Mary Hudy Komar and John Komar was born in Windber, PA into a coal miner's family on January 23, 1932. Paul graduated from Windber High School where he starred as a wrestler and football center. He went on to Kutztown State Teacher's College to develop his God given artistic talents and to prepare for his career as an art teacher. He loved the Pittsburgh Steelers and Penn State Nittany Lions. At Kutztown he was an All-State Center and received awards for his abilities. After graduation from college, Paul entered the Marine Corp and served in Quantico, VA, Camp Le Jeune, NC as Platoon Leader 2nd Marine Division 6th Marines and at the Headquarters Dept. of Pacific in San Francisco, CA as staff officer, often accompanying the remains of fallen Marines back to their families. He returned to Penn State University to earn his Masters Degree in Art Education. After graduation from Penn State, he came to Ballston Spa, NY in 1961 to teach Art in the Junior and Senior High School. Paul served 37 years in Ballston Spa Schools and retired in 1997. He restored two Victorian homes in the village, circa 1883 and 1884. To cherish his memory, Paul is survived by his wife, Lorraine Ann, daughter, Maria Joanne Komar Kalinkewicz (John) of Malta, sons Paul James Komar, Jr., of Ballston Spa and Michael William Komar of Fort Lauderdale, FL, the love of his life his granddaughter, Hannah Lorraine Kalinkewicz, several nieces and nephews and sister-in-law Michelle Miller of Seymour, IN. Paul was a faithful devoted Catholic. He always put the needs of others before his own.

(Continued on page 22)

IN MEMORIAM

Jerry Vrba, W40

Jerry J. Vrba, 82, of Schuyler, NE died February 4, 2017. Jerry J. Vrba was born February 27, 1934, to Jerry and Ludmilla (Sedlacek) Vrba in Schuyler. Jerry farmed with his parents for several years before joining the Marines in 1956. He was stationed in San Diego, CA, before being transferred to Okinawa. He met his wife, Carolyn Kay (Houfek), in Fremont and they were married June 23, 1962. Jerry was a livestock and grain farmer. He served as a school board member of school District 5-R, and was also a member of the Wilson Cemetery Board for several years. In 1990, Jerry and Carolyn moved off the farm to a residence in Schuyler, where he continued to work for the City of Columbus. Jerry loved the outdoors and being outside. He enjoyed spending time with family. He and Carolyn drove many miles attending their children's and grandchildren's activities and sporting events. After retiring he enjoyed reading the paper and putting puzzles together. Jerry was a man of faith. He attended Wilson Catholic Church in rural Colfax County. He was also a member of St. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church of Clarkson and St. Mary's of Schuyler. Jerry is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughters, Cathy (Rich) Kuhr of Mead, Nancy (Don) Coufal of Howells, Laurie (Ken) Bos and Angie (Mark) Gall, all of Clarkson, and Diane Vrba of David City; son, Chris (Tracy) Vrba of Lincoln; 18 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Mark Allen Bohmer, S149



Mark Allen Bohmer, age 59, of Erie, MI passed away on February 9, 2017. He was born September 11, 1958, in Monroe, Michigan. Mark attended Mason High School and graduated with the Class of 1976. He continued his education at University of Toledo earning a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and later a Master's Degree.

For several years, Mark worked as a consultant at Mercy Memorial Hospital System. He was a devout member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Erie. Mark was very active in the church teaching catechism, served as a Eucharistic Minister, taught Sunday School, the Vice-Chair of the Monroe Vicariate Pastoral Counsel, Monroe Vicariate Peace and Justice Committee, member of the Christian Service Committee, and Knights of Columbus. He loved to work with handicapped youth and had helped guide numerous children in the right direction by running workshops at the Sunshine Children's Home in Maumee for over thirty-three years. He was a fine grill master and painstakingly maintained his garden and flowers making sure they were always well maintained. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends at gatherings and going on camping trips. To cherish his memory, Mark leaves his mother: Mary Ann Bohmer of Erie; a brother: Richard (Carol) Bohmer of Erie; a sister: Donna (Glen) Hutchinson of Ida; and several nieces and nephews.

Victoria J. Gudalis, S157

Victoria J. Gudalis, 69, of Silver Spring Township, PA passed away on February 22, 2017 at the Pinnacle Health West Shore Hospital. Born in Grassflat, PA, she was the daughter to the late Michael and Helen Fenush. She was a retired homemaker who had also worked at Big Lots, Boy Scouts of America, and Pamela's Flowers. She was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and the Parish Council of Catholic Women. Surviving is her husband, Joseph C. Gudalis; a brother Michael Fenush; and a sister, Deloris Williams.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

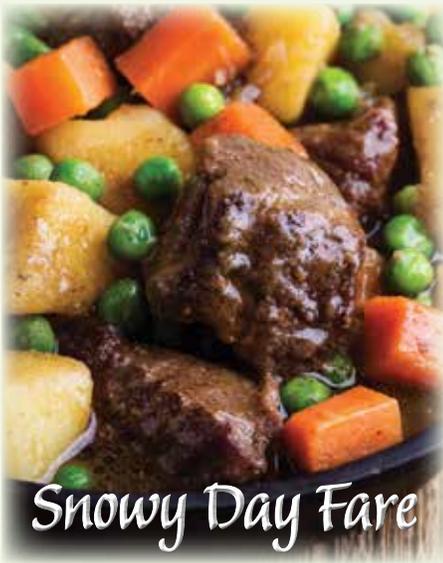
BALANCE SHEET AS OF AUGUST 31, 2017

ASSETS	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 28,750,828
Bonds	888,297,823
Preferred Stock	2,564,129
Common Stock	7,087,218
Investment Income Due & Accrued	13,351,131
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,262,260
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,733,247
Other Assets	1,822,471
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 949,869,108
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 297,417,638
Annuity Reserves	529,638,702
Death Claims Payable	2,220,504
Unearned Premiums	484,819
Matured Endowments	327,558
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,555,571
Accrued Convention Donations	462,000
Provision for Future Conventions	349,386
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,597,662
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,656,881
Other Liabilities	1,609,326
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 848,720,046
Surplus	\$ 101,149,062
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 949,869,108

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2017

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,893,798
Annuity Premiums	26,915,693
Investment Income	30,635,651
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	194,907
Rental Income	414,243
Other Revenue	20,036
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 61,074,329
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,398,599
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	20,652,684
Insurance Benefits	4,614,836
Annuity Benefits	20,110,371
Commission Expense	798,477
Surrender Benefits	2,692,211
Post Mortem Benefits	867,528
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	62,045
Matured Endowments	7,112
Donation Expenses	87,182
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	168,000
Convention Expenses	250,666
Bank Service Charges	69,169
Data Processing Service Fees	167,199
Accounting Fees	54,671
Actuarial Fees	215,789
Legal Fees	100,009
Consulting Fees	85,172
Bonus to Branches	552,200
Fraternal Activities	103,011
Official Publications	299,506
Scholarship Awards	208,664
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	309,639
Fees — Directors	116,355
Salaries — Employees	1,330,967
Salaries — Officers	383,005
Interest Expense	183,766
Tax Expense	235,698
Depreciation Expense	179,768
Utility Expense	84,771
Postage and Printing	136,834
Advertising	75,922
Travel Expense	74,205
Insurance Department Fees	197,223
Sales Promotion	149,010
Rental Expense	451,746
Other Expense	470,070
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 57,944,081
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 3,130,248
Dividends to Members	926,948
Subtotal Income (Loss)	\$ 2,203,300
Capital Gains (Loss)	(89,861)
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 2,113,439



WINTER CLASSIC BEEF STEW

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 lb. boneless beef chuck, tip or round roast, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 3 cups water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper
- 3 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 large unpeeled potato, cut into 1½-inch pieces
- 1 medium green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 medium stalk celery, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 dried bay leaf
- ½ cup cold water
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

In 12-inch skillet or 4-quart Dutch oven, heat oil over medium heat 1 to 2 minutes. Add beef; cook about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until brown on all sides.

Add water, ½ teaspoon salt and the pepper. Heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low. Cover; simmer 2 hours or until beef is almost tender.

Stir in remaining ingredients except cold water and flour. Cover; cook about 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove bay leaf.

In tightly covered jar or container, shake cold water and flour; gradually stir into beef mixture. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute until thickened.

Optional: add desired amount of frozen peas during the last 15 minutes of cooking.

POTATO CHEESE SOUP

- 1 pound favorite link sausage, thinly sliced to ⅛"
- 4 pounds peeled and diced russet potatoes
- 2 medium onions chopped
- 4 cloves garlic chopped

- 24 ounces deluxe American cheese
- 1 stick butter
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary, chopped
- 32 ounces milk
- Salt and pepper to taste

In 6- or 8-quart pan, melt butter on medium-low heat with onions. After onions are translucent, stir in garlic and rosemary.

Add sausage and cook another 2 or 3 minutes. Add potatoes and cover potatoes with water. Change heat to high and bring potatoes to a boil.

After potatoes become very tender, to the point of falling apart, reduce heat to low and add cheese a little at a time until all melted. Add milk, salt, and pepper and cover for 15 minutes.

FRENCH TOAST CASSEROLE

- 1 loaf stale bread (Italian, sourdough, cinnamon or sandwich white or wheat)
- 6 eggs
- 1¾ cups milk
- ½ cup half and half or cream
- ¾ cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 stick butter, cubed

Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9-inch x 13-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.

Tear the bread into chunks and place them in the greased pan. Mix together the eggs, milk, half and half or cream, sugar, and vanilla and pour the mixture evenly over the bread. In another bowl, mix together the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add the butter and mix until the batter comes somewhat together. Sprinkle the flour/sugar mixture evenly over the top of the bread mixture. Bake for 45-60 minutes, until golden brown. Store any leftovers in fridge, tightly covered.

MINI CHICKEN POT PIES

Chicken Mixture

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 medium onion, chopped (½ cup)
- ½ cup chicken broth
- 1 cup frozen peas and carrots
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon ground thyme
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (4 oz.)

Baking Mixture

- ½ cup Original Bisquick mix
- ½ cup milk
- 2 eggs

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Spray 12 regular-size muffin cups with cooking spray.

In 10-inch nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Cook chicken in oil 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until chicken is no longer pink in center. Add onion and chicken broth; heat to simmering. Add frozen vegetables and seasonings. Heat until hot, stirring occasionally until almost all liquid is absorbed. Cool 5 minutes; stir in cheese.

In medium bowl, stir baking mixture ingredients with whisk or fork until blended. Spoon 1 scant tablespoon baking mixture into each muffin cup. Top with about ¼ cup chicken mixture. Spoon 1 tablespoon baking mixture onto chicken mixture in each muffin cup.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes. With thin knife, loosen sides of pies from pan; remove from pan and place top sides up on cooling rack. Cool 10 minutes longer, and serve.

BUTTER CRUNCH CAKE

Cake

- 1 box Super Moist yellow cake mix
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 4 oz. (half of 8-oz. package) cream cheese, softened
- 2 eggs

Glaze Filling and Topping

- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1½ cups powdered sugar
- ¼ cup milk
- 1½ cups sliced almonds, toasted

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

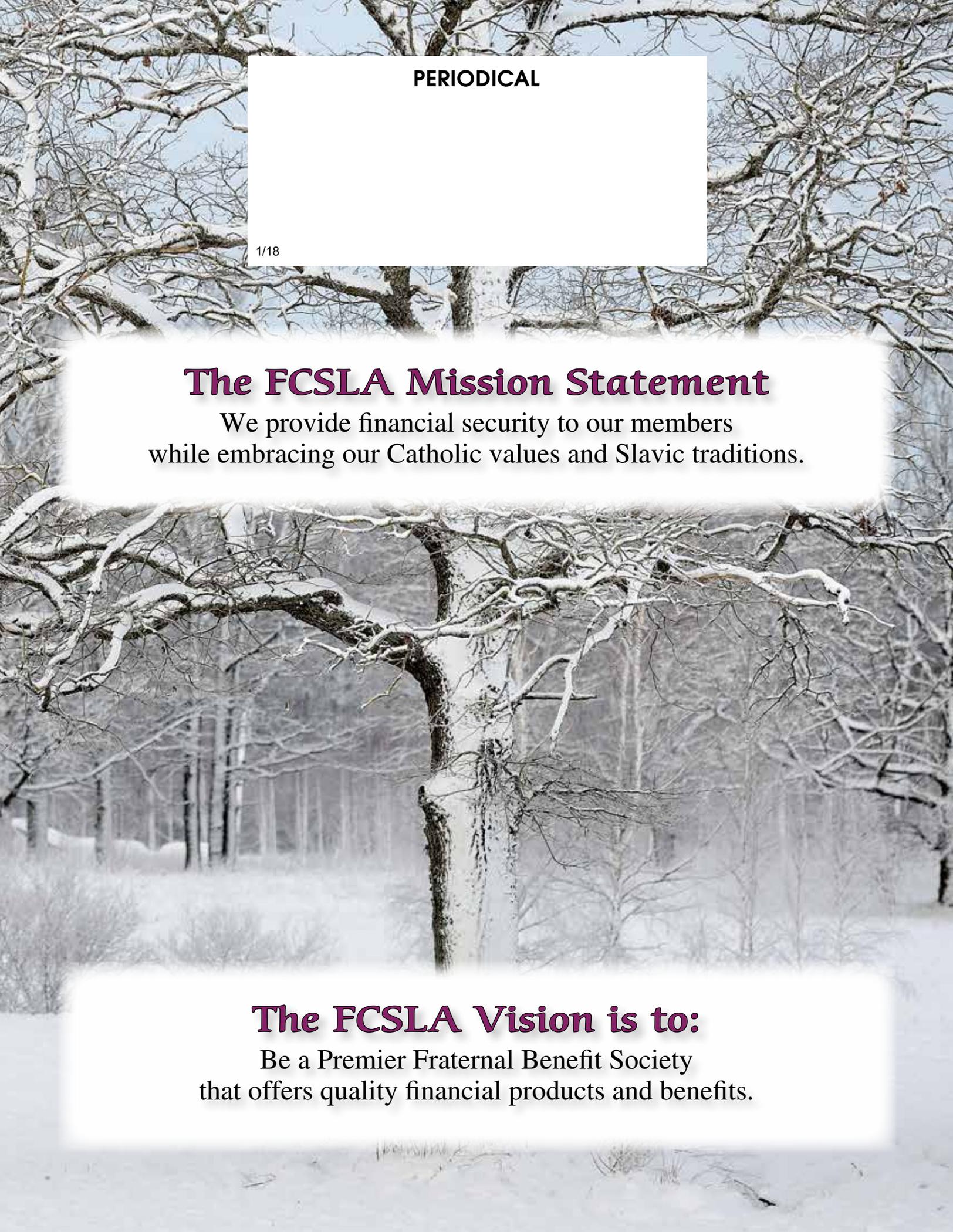
In large bowl, beat Cake ingredients with electric mixer on medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Pour in pan.

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

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

With tines of fork, poke holes almost to bottom of warm cake about every ½ inch. Pour 1 cup of the glaze mixture over warm cake. Let stand 10 minutes. Stir almonds into remaining mixture, and spread over top of cake.

Refrigerate 1 hour 30 minutes or until topping is set before serving. Store covered in refrigerator.



PERIODICAL

1/18

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.