



Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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Alleluia!

He is Risen!

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,



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

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OFFICE HOURS — HOME OFFICE

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

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Youngstown, OH 44503. Residence: (330) 744-5233.
Email ppolando@youngstowndiocese.org

PRESIDENT:

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

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Irene J. Drotleff, 17807 Nottingham Road,
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Larry M. Golofski, 1114 Surrey Lane, Vandergrift,
PA 15690. Residence: (724) 845-8078. Email: LarryGolofski@windstream.net.

Barbara Novotny Waller, 24950 Chagrin Bou-
levard, Beachwood, OH 44122. Residence: (610)
207-0747. Email: bnw1@entermail.net.

SECRETARY:

Sue Ann M. Seich, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1012.
Email: sueann@fcsla.com.

TREASURER:

Stephen C. Hudak, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1016.
Email: steve@fcsla.com.

TRUSTEES:

John M. Janovec, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
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Virginia A. Holmes, 1625 Vermont Avenue, White
Oak, PA 15131. Residence: (412) 672-1565.

AUDITORS:

Katie A. Esterle, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. Residence: (262) 720-7190.
Email: katie.esterle@gmail.com.

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

Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive, Mones-
sen, PA 15062. Residence: (724) 684-8243. Email:
doty8613@gmail.com.

EDITOR:

Carolyn M. Bazik, P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA
19603 (610) 373-2743.

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What Does It Mean To Be On A Spiritual Path?

I recently read parts of a book by Jan Phillips, "Finding the On-Ramp to Your Spiritual Path: A Road Map to Joy and Rejuvenation". What follows are some excerpts and thoughts for the Easter Season . . .

- ◆ To be on a spiritual path means to live mindfully, paying attention to the signs along the road and being conscious of our body — the vehicle we are traveling in — and of the needs and safety of others on the journey.
- ◆ To be on a spiritual path means to look inward as often as outward, knowing that the externals of our lives are reflections of our thoughts and words, manifestations of that which we are imagining and energizing into being with the fuel of our passion.
- ◆ To be on a spiritual path means to use the rearview mirror to be sure that the path behind is clear of debris and that we do not obstruct another's journey with clutter of our own. It means making peace with our past, knowing our future contains it, and summoning the courage it takes to acknowledge, forgive, and release whatever we have clung to that impedes our movement.
- ◆ To be on a spiritual path is to take responsibility for creating our own creed, based on our commitments, and to respect the rights of others to do the same. It also means to reflect anew on our beliefs to be sure we live our faith in action not only in words — being compassionate and gentle with those we meet along our journey.
- ◆ To be on a spiritual path is to embrace the mystical paradox that while we are singular, physical beings on this journey, we are also profoundly connected to one another, created, animated and sustained by the same vast Spirit that abides in the heavens.
- ◆ To be on a spiritual path, it is necessary to forgive yourself and others for wrong turns, for failing to yield, for driving under the influence of others. These are minor and forgivable infractions. The more important rules of this road are to be attentive, to notice when you stray, to ask forgiveness and to get back on the path as soon as possible.

Dear Friends

As we celebrate the Easter Season and experience the death and resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, perhaps we could all use a road map for continuing the journey inward that occurred during the season of preparation, a guide away from the crowded thoroughfare to the quiet path of our own true calling; a reminder that it is not only the destination, but the journey, that is important. The fourteenth-century Italian saint Catherine of Siena once wrote, 'All the way to heaven is heaven.' Perhaps this is roadmap enough — this one stark line may be enough to keep us walking, reminding us that the wind we feel on the back of our necks is nothing less than the breath of God.

Happy Easter!

Until next Month
Warmly, Carolyn



The Conclusion of Lent, The Sacred Paschal Triduum, and Easter Joy

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you pick up this issue of *Fraternally Yours*, you and I are more than half way (if not almost the whole way) through our annual observance of the sacred season of Lent. How have you been fairing during these weeks that followed March 5, Ash Wednesday? What spiritual and corporal tasks that you committed to undertake during this season have you been successful in or have not been able to keep? And for those that have not been a success, did you attempt to “pick up the cross” again?

The spiritual and corporal tasks of Lent are somewhat different than the resolutions we tend to make on New Year’s Day insofar that the ones usually on New Year’s may or may not be obtainable. If we fail, we tend to give up on the resolution(s) and continue back to the regular routine of our lives. For example, my friend Tony Brudis sent me an email the other day entitled “Life Explained by Graphs and Pie Charts”. Generated by *GraphJam.com*, one graph was “Usage of a Home Gym” that noted the amount of days of the week a home gym was utilized by the new owner. Here is the outcome of the graph: Week one – seven days; week after – five days; week after that – three days; and month after – below zero. I know that I have been down that avenue!

Lent, though, is different. The forty days are the challenge that Christ set for us in His forty days in the desert. Satan challenged Jesus three times with things earthly – food, signs, and idolatry. But Jesus responds with the Word of God exemplifying for us that the things of this world are passing but God’s Word brings us to an awareness of eternal life. My Lenten offerings are: making myself more aware of the needs of the poor both prayerfully and physically; extra time in prayer; more fasting; and, taking time to read a book. Have I been faithful to them daily? I can honestly say that I have not. BUT, awareness of these challenges of

the Lenten season hit me head on each day so that I can examine myself to be more faithful to them. I try not to give up, but “pick up my crosses” each day to make the sufferings of Christ more a reality in my own life. On Ash Wednesday, I gave out stones (like the ones used in landscaping flower beds) to remind my parishioners of their Lenten resolutions. They could put it in their pockets, in their purses, on the bathroom sink, etc. to have a visual reminder of their Lenten commitment. Mine is in my pocket and it pokes me every now and then as my reminder!

At the end of these forty days brings us to the Church’s highpoint of the liturgical year, i.e. the Sacred Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter celebration. The Lenten sacrifices to which we committed ourselves are the remote spiritual purifications and preparations for this lasting gift of our salvation: the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. From the days that I was an altar server in my childhood to the present, I am profoundly moved by the celebrations of these days! These are *the* Holy Days of Christianity and I would hope that all Christians would gather together to participate in the services at our parish churches.

The Holy Thursday of the Lord’s Supper reminds us of the ultimate gift that Christ has left us as a memorial of His Life – His Body and Blood. It is in this liturgy that we recall of our need to be like Him, i.e., servants, as visualized in the priest washing the feet of his parishioners. As in every celebration of the Eucharist we are brought into communion with our God in selfless love as we partake of Christ in the Eucharist. At the end of the celebration, a procession takes place with the ciborium filled with Hosts that will be used for Good Friday and taken to an altar of repose where it is placed in the tabernacle and people are invited to pray, in some place, until midnight. The altar is stripped of its linens



and the crosses in the church are removed or covered in preparation for the next day.

The celebration of Friday of the Passion of the Lord is somber. It is made-up of three parts: the Liturgy of the Word with its solemn intercessions; the adoration of the Holy Cross; and, Holy Communion. The Liturgy of the Word consists of three readings from the Sacred Scriptures with the third reading being the Passion of the Lord according to the Gospel of John. The adoration of the Cross can be celebrated in different ways but always concentrating on the throne of Jesus, His Cross. The Communion Rite is somewhat abbreviated from what we are used to and only the Hosts are distributed at this service. All depart in silence.

On Holy Saturday, we keep the tradition of blessing of the first meal of Easter by taking our Easter baskets to be blessed in our churches. The Great Easter Vigil, the focal point of the liturgical year takes place in the dark of the night on Saturday evening with people being baptized, confirmed and receiving their First Holy Communion. We sing the Alleluias to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Risen, He is truly Risen and we recommit ourselves to our baptismal Faith in Him who died and rose for all of us. May you and your family reap the harvest of your Lenten tasks as you enter once again into the Paschal Mystery of Jesus!

Požehnanú Veľkú Noc!

HAPPY EASTER!

Message from our National President CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Greetings to all of you from the home office of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association!

At the end of April, we will be witness to the canonization of two of our Popes who lived in our time, Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. It is truly a historic moment for all of us. Both of these men continue to have a major impact on our Church and society through their teachings, their writings and their

leadership. Both of them are loved around the world for their courage, their compassion and their humanity.

Many of us feel a special kinship to them. Many of us have been praying for their elevation to this holy state and have worked for it, through collection of signatures in support of their cause for sainthood, or holding prayer gatherings.

Saints serve as role models for all of us and we can certainly point to many strong attributes that both Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II had in influencing us — openness to CHANGE and CONCILIATION with those of other faiths, while embracing a CULTURE of LIFE for everyone. We are especially honored to see Blessed John Paul II, the first Pope of the Slavic peoples, join the ranks of the saints throughout the ages.

As these two men were visionary leaders, we need to strive to lead by example by striving for integrity, courage and compassion, as they did in their lives.

As we proceed through the season of Lent to the joyous celebration of new rebirth in the Easter season, we are so fortunate to be part of the heritage of faith and moral principles taught to us by our families and our church institutions! Please join with me in finding ways, old and new, to celebrate this historic time!

Fraternally Yours,
Cynthia M. Maleski

Just a Reminder . . .

PHOTO LIMITS

Branch activities will be limited to 4 pictures per story and District activities will be limited to 10. Additional photos (up to 50) can be sent to the Home Office for uploading to your District web page. If you do not have an active web page please contact the Home Office to find out how you may use this valuable tool to reach your members and share your good news!

In addition due to the volume of memorials received they will be limited to 150 words and a small photo.

At the discretion of the editor some exceptions may be made!

Sales Leaders Meet on Paradise Island

The top FCSLA Producers traveled to the Bahamas for the 2014 President's Club which was held at the beautiful Riu Palace Hotel February 10-16. National Sales Manager Patrick Braun welcomed the leaders at a dinner on February 11. The group convened for a special meeting on February 12, and was treated to a SKYPE presentation by FCSLA President Cynthia Maleski. This is the first time that SKYPE technology has been used by FCSLA.



Patrick Braun and FCSLA Producer of the Year, Milt Trnka.

A special monitor and speakers were brought in by a Bahamian IT company and President Maleski joined the meeting



The leaders watch Cynthia Maleski on the monitor.

from Beachwood, OH. Training on the new FCSLA annuity portfolio and the new FCSLA Funeral Trust was given by Patrick.

The attendees also discussed possible sites for the President's Club meetings in the future. There was general agreement that warm weather locations in the middle of winter provided the best reward for the leading Sales Producers!

Patrick took the group next door to the spectacular Atlantis Hotel for a special Valentine's Day dinner on Friday, February 14.



Attendees at the meeting included Dorothy and Charles (Chuck) Urbanowicz, Milton and Jean Trnka, Cliff Cross and Karen Schauf, John Gonsiorek and Lynn Zakowicz, and Karen and Wayne (Buzz) Ruby.

Leaders enjoy the reception dinner.

Have you checked out
the FCSLA website lately?
www.fcsla.org

Rejoice
in the Resurrection!
He is with you always.



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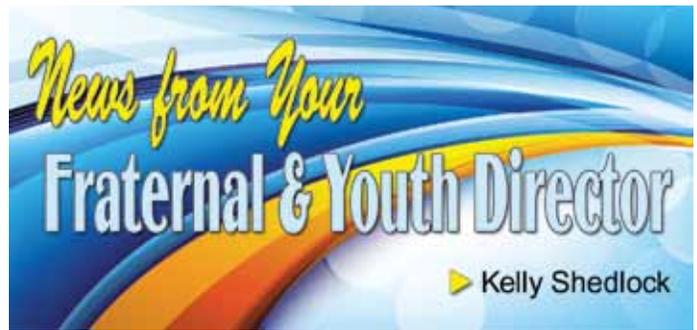
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*Radujte sa z jeho
Zmŕtvychvstania.
On je s vami navždy.*



*April Showers brings May flowers.
What do May flowers bring?*

In my world and FCSLA's world
SPRING & JOIN HANDS DAY!!!

(not the pilgrims)

(First Saturday in May,
but it can be any day in May)

Another GREAT way to get involved
with your community and make a difference!

Members, Branch Officers, District Officers (if you haven't already) it's time to start planning your "Join Hands Day" project. There are so many wonderful opportunities for you to make a difference. The opportunities are ENDLESS! It only takes a few hours of one day. It's an awesome way for families to spend a few hours of quality time together. It is a really good way to teach our youth about giving and the reward you receive is feeling GOOD that you helped someone. It should not be looked at as a chore to help others in need.



Maybe there is a nursing/assisted living facility that you drive by every day. You notice their flower beds look neglected. Stop in. Talk to the director, introduce yourself and FCSLA (take a brochure with you that tells them about us). Ask if they would like some eager FCSLA volunteers to *revitalize* (term from my March article) their flower beds. I bet they would LOVE the help. Clean out the weeds . . . ask members to donate perennials . . . maybe you can ask a local landscaper if they would be willing to donate some mulch . . . I bet your branch can buy some flowers and a few flower pots to put at the front entrance . . . maybe purchase a few bird feeders and bird seed. This could be the start of a BEAUTIFUL friendship. It will become an annual event.

Do you know what the residents and employees of that facility will say? They will come outside and thank you over and over and over again. The smiles on their faces are priceless!!!

So get out there and start planning a project! Let's have some fun and make a difference.

Win one for the Gipper! Oops sorry – we're not playing football.

But, "Join Hands Day" is a WIN, WIN for everyone!

2014 CAMPAIGNS ANNOUNCED



Patrick Braun

The FCSLA Sales Department is pleased to announce the following short campaigns which will be held during 2014:

February 1 through April 30: New Product Introduction Campaign

Each annuity application submitted between February 1 and April 30 with at least \$1,000 of initial premium will earn a \$25 bonus and 100 additional points toward Leaders Conference.

Each application for a life insurance application for use with the new FCSLA Funeral Trust will earn a \$25 bonus and 100 additional points toward Leaders Conference qualification. (Note: The FCSLA Funeral Trust can only be written by fully licensed FCSLA producers.)

May 1 through July 31: Spring into Summer Campaign

Every application on a new member received between May 1 and July 31 will earn a \$25 bonus and generate one entry into a special drawing for cash prizes. Two \$100 prizes and one \$300 prize will be awarded to the producers whose names are drawn. (Super Youth apps must be for \$50,000 and annuities must be accompanied by at least \$500 initial premium.)

August 1 through August 31: Founders Month

Every FCSLA producer is requested to submit at least one application on a new member during Founders Month. A special memento of the 2014 Founders Month will be sent to each participant. In addition, a \$25 bonus will be paid to producers on all new member applications received between August 1 and August 31. Also, as FCSLA is celebrating 122 years in business this year, we will have a special incentive to write new members during Founders month. Every application will generate an entry into a drawing for five \$122 cash prizes and one \$500 cash prize! (Super Youth Term applications must be for \$50,000 and annuity applications must be accompanied by at least \$500 initial premium.)

September 1 through September 30: Life Insurance Awareness Month

Every life insurance application submitted on a new member during September will earn a \$25 dollar cash bonus and Triple New Member Points toward Leaders Conference qualification. (Super Youth Term applications must be for \$50,000.)

MEETING NOTICE

The Eastern Pennsylvania (Francis Jakabcin District) will hold its spring meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at Macaluso's Lantern Restaurant, 1257 E Catawissa St., Nesquehoning, PA 18240 at 1 p.m. For reservations contact District President Veronica Bazik, 570-645-5253 by April 17th.

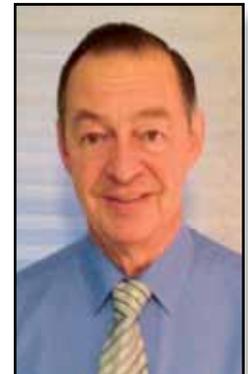
October 1 through December 19: Fourth Quarter and Goal to Go!!

The big game is often won in the fourth quarter! In 2014, FCSLA is offering a great final campaign! Every application for life or annuity will earn a \$25 cash bonus and generate an entry into a super year end drawing. Five names will be drawn for \$100 prizes and one name will be drawn for \$500! (Since a producer may have many entries, that producer may win more than one prize. The more applications submitted, the better the chance of winning one or more prizes!) (Super Youth Term applications must be for \$50,000 and annuity applications must be accompanied by at least \$500 initial premium.)

We hope that all of our producers will take full advantage of the short campaigns in 2014 and help FCSLA have a banner sales year!!

MILT TRNKA IS 2013 PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

FCSLA's top salesperson in 2013 has an insurance career spanning over 46 years! Milton (Milt) Trnka started with the Catholic Workman Fraternal Life Association in 1967. He was the claims and accounting manager at CW for his last 15 years but also became licensed to sell life insurance and annuities in 1982 on a part-time basis. When CW joined FCSLA, Milt became a contracted sales representative and later was promoted to general agent with FCSLA. He has been a Leaders Conference qualifier every year with FCSLA!



In 2013, Milt lead all other FCSLA producers in Leaders Conference points and total certificates (90), had 62 new members, and had over \$1,000,000 of annuity premiums.

Milt is a Vietnam veteran and a 48 year member of the Lonsdale, MN, American Legion Post 586. He has served the Post as Commander and has been the secretary-treasurer since 1972. He is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Lonsdale and serves as a lector, Extraordinary Minister, usher, and money counter of the weekend collections.

Milt has been married to his wife, Jean for 41 years, has three married children, Cheryl Kotek, Brian Trnka, and Jonathan Trnka. Milt and Jean have six grandchildren.

FCSLA congratulates Milt on his great sales year and thanks him for his many years of service to both the Catholic Workman and the FCSLA!

JOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD FOR EIGHT BRANCHES

The eight branches of the Youngstown, OH area (including Struthers, Campbell, Warren, OH and Farrell, PA) held a joint Christmas Party on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at the Magnuson Grand Hotel/Conference Center in Warren, OH. Branch officers were responsible for notifying their members of the event by flyers, phone calls, and or parish bulletin articles. Branches paid toward the reservations of their own members. Each branch was asked to bring a \$10 gift to be used for the special raffle. Headquarters provided the favors for the 130 people who attended. Branch 422 of Warren, OH was responsible for selecting the menu, centerpieces and party details. Newly elected Branch 422 President Sophie Piowarski welcomed the group. In addition to singing English and Slovak Christmas carols, a Christmas Slovak vinc was given by Marie Yurco, S161.

Doctor Mary Lou DiPillo, President of Branch 30, brought as her special guests, Reverend Richard Murphy and Doctor Linda Lucareli Miller. Father Murphy is President of Ursuline High School, Youngstown, OH. Linda is the religion teacher and liturgy coordinator at Ursuline High School. She has been a lifelong member of Branch 30.

Father Murphy informed the group of the new Hripko Scholarship Fund which will be awarded to Ursuline students of Slovak decent. Mary Lou presented a check for \$2,500, from branch 30 toward the Ursuline High School Hripko Scholarship.



Youngstown District President, Bernie Demechko visits with newly elected presidents. At left Sophie Piowarski, S422, Warren, Ohio and Nancy DeWitt, S202, Youngstown, Ohio.

District President Bernadette J. Demechko, also has national scholarship applications available as well as applications for the Maria E. Grega Scholarship and the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship.

Despite the snowy weather and icy roads, everyone agreed it was a wonderful event in which to usher in the Christmas season.



L-R: Bernadette Demechko (Maria E. Grega District President, FCSLA) Reverend Richard Murphy, and Dr. Linda Miller, Ursuline High School; Dr. Mary Lou Dutko DiPillo '67, YSU Faculty member, UHS Board of Directors and President of St. Ann's Branch 30, and Catherine Kovalchik, Treasurer of St. Ann's Branch and Auditor, District Board of Directors.

Branch W080 Christmas Party

Members of Branch W080 (Clarkson, NE) congregated on Saturday evening, December 7, for their annual Christmas party/meeting at the Brass Rail Party Room.

Father Rodney Kneifl graciously led the group in prayer; then, a delicious meal featuring a salad bar plus roast beef, fried chicken and all the trimmings was served.

Don Vrbicky presided at the meeting that followed. Secretary Sharon Bos read the minutes of the last meeting, and Treasurer Monica Fisher distributed annual financial reports to those attendance. Discussion centered on all the worthwhile projects the branch has donated to in the past year and plans for 2014. It was voted to retain all the present officers for the coming year, including Ron Bos as vice president and Julie Schulze as news reporter.



Monica and Eddie Fisher make a cute Christmas couple.

Prizes were won by persons whose "lucky" cards were called, and everyone voted for their favorite "crazy Christmas accessory." The winner was Eddie Fisher who sported a gyrating musical hat, while a "lit up" Ron Bos won honorable mention.



Branch W080 enjoys their annual get-together.

**~ SAVE THE DATE ~
June 19-21, 2014**

Branch W093, Tabor, SD reminds you to save the date for the 66th Annual Czech Days, Thursday – Sunday, June 19-21, 2014 in Tabor, SD.

For more information visit the event website at www.taborczechdays.com.

CHICAGO BRANCHES AND DISTRICT CO-HOST

"Bring A Friend - Tell A Friend" Event

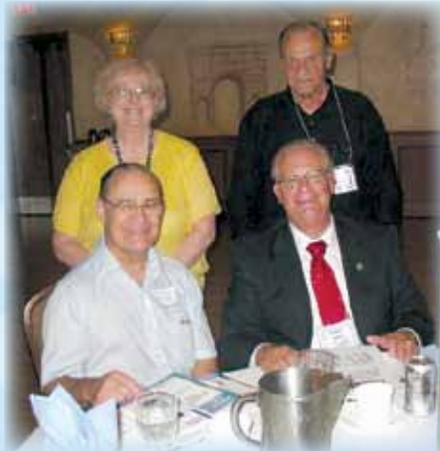
Saturday, October 5, 2013, the Anna Hurban Chicago Branches and District co-hosted a "Bring a Friend/Tell a Friend" event that included an FCSLA financial products presentation by our National Sales Manager, Patrick Braun. The event was the idea of Chicago's District Treasurer, Carol Rosenthal, who pitched the idea to both the District and Branch Officers to co-host an event that would potentially boost membership for the various Branches and District. The audience consisted of prospective new and existing members wanting to learn more about the benefits of membership but most impor-

tantly about the various products that we offer. The questions were numerous with enlightening answers and many "ah ha - I didn't know that" comments.

The group feasted on a delicious Slovak-laden luncheon consisting of stuffed cabbage, polish sausage and sauerkraut, breaded pork, mushroom soup, dumplings and koláčky. District President, Mary Therese Tylus, shared with the group the various Junior and Senior member social and fraternal activities that the District had held up to that point, while giving a great advertising pitch to the upcoming Junior Member St. Nick's and Combined

Senior Branch Christmas parties. She also reminded the existing members that District meetings are open for their attendance and to become Best-Friends-Forever (BFFs) with their Branch Officers and the District website for more details about future events.

Overall, for a **first-time-ever** event the Chicago District and its Branch Officers once again piloted a new idea and a way of reaching out to prospective and existing members. (To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



Sr. Branch 161 Holds Dinner

St. Elizabeth Society, Sr. Branch 161, Youngstown, OH, held a senior activity that was a triple win event. Flyers, containing invitations to attend the annual Villija dinner, held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall on December 8th were sent to Sr. Branch 161 members in a 30 mile radius of Youngstown, OH. President Ginny DeLuca and Financial Secretary Bernie Demechko took reservations for those wishing to attend. The dinner is sponsored annually by the American Slovak Cultural Association (ASCA). It was a win for the fifty members who had their \$20 admission paid by the branch; it was a win for the ASCA to boost its attendance – over 250 people attended this year – the largest to date; and it was a win in perpetuating Slovak traditions, including the Slovak songs and carols in which the audience participated.

At the event, the Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities group has always been included in the speaking program. This year, Bernie Demechko, secretary of YSC, informed the group of the unexpected death of their President, Bob Petruska, in August. Jim Bench volunteered to serve as President of the group. He and his wife Kay have been guides for YSC's annual tour for over a dozen tours. This year's 17th annual tour is scheduled for July 7-21 with twenty-five tourists signed up with deposits made.

Bernie introduced Ken Shrilla who will fill a vacant seat on the Board of Directors. He and Board member John Slanina (and his brother Dave) were instrumental in founding Simply Slavic Fest held annually in downtown Youngstown, OH in June (this year Saturday, June 21st). She pointed out that the "duty" of perpetuating our Slovak heritage is being passed on to the next generation.



Bernadette Demechko, Sr. Branch 161 Financial Secretary and Secretary of Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities is pictured addressing the group. Youngstown Diocese Vicar General, Reverend Monsignor Robert Siffrin, is at left and Loretta Ekoniak Sr. Branch 161 Auditor and President of the American Slovak Cultural Association is at right.

YSC SCHEDULES 2014 TOUR

Youngstown Sister Cities has set July 6-20, 2014, for its 17th Heritage Tour. For further information contact Jim and Kay Bench, tour guides, at (724) 858-5843 or Adventure International Travel, Paul Hudak, (800) 542-2487. Group will be flying from Washington Dulles Airport to Vienna, Austria.

FOR SALE

Embroidered Paska Basket Covers

Three types of paska basket covers available to bring your Easter Foods to the Church for blessing on Holy Saturday.

Each embroidered cover is \$30.00.

1. Slovak words "Kristus vstal z mrtvych" Christ is risen! Approx. 30" x 17"
2. Byzantine Slovak "Christos voskrese" Christ is risen! Approx. 30" x 17"
3. Alleluia cover with the English words "Christ is risen!" Approx. 36" x 14.5"



#1



#2



#3

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Make checks payable to Rev. Micah E. Kozoil or order by phone at 724-562-0782 or 724-277-4236.

ORDER FORM

- _____ Number of Covers Ordered
- _____ "Kristus vstal z mrtvych" \$30 each
- _____ "Christos voskrese" \$30 each
- _____ "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" \$30 each

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Kindly make checks payable to: Fr. Micah E. Kozoil

Send this order form and check to:

Fr. Micah E. Kozoil

St. Aloysius Church

459 Ranch Road, Dunbar, PA 15431

or call 724-277-4236 to order

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

Chicago Junior Branches and District Sponsors Christmas Party for its Area's Junior Members

FCSLA Jr. Branches 39, 96, 106, 174, 322, 339, 382, 427 and the Chicago District co-sponsored their third annual Junior Member Christmas Party at noon on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at St. Simon Slovak Parish's gymnasium. Approximately 45 children and 61 adults participated in snowman beanbag



Tylus (Chicago District President/J382/S485) for all their hard work and preparation in making this event another great success. A huge thank you to the Committee's elves: Colleen Kopeck (J382/S485), Agnes Meske (J322/S421), Candy Pac, Ricky Schultz (J174), and Cameron Palanca (J174) and all

the others whom we may have missed in this article for all their help in setting up, manning the activities tables, and clean-up. The children, their parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents had a wonderful time and all are looking forward to next year's party and another visit from Svätý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas)! (To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)

donate to the children attending the party.

A special thank you to the Jr. Christmas Party Committee members: Barbara Mlinarich Schultz (J174/S258), Jeanette Palanca (J174/S258), Rosemary Mlinarich (J174/S258) Cathleen Lehocky (S485), Fay and Jarmila Hlubocky (J39/S295), Helen Bendik Grygus (J427/S274), Mary Beth Satala-Pac (S427/S274), Lorraine Gibas (J322/S421), Lydia Berry (S485), and Mary Therese

Lydia Berry (S485), and Mary Therese

Coloring contest winners each won a \$25.00 Amazon gift card and were Gianna Barbaro-J339; Donna Jean Trumbull-J339; and Sarah Kuznetzow-J174. A raffle with four super-raffle prizes: a 24-inch flat screen TV won by Olivia and Jackson Satala, a Nook E-Reader won by Angela Bajek-J339, a \$50 Best Buy Gift Card won by Jonah Zwit-J382 and a Skateboard won by Jason Laba.

The raffle prizes were donated by Jr. Branches 174, 382, 339, Sr. Branch 287 and Kubina-Tybor Funeral Home. The Super-raffle Best Buy Gift Card was donated by Satala-Pac Funeral Home. A huge thank you to these branches and entities that donated the raffle and super-raffle prizes. The holiday pins presented by Svätý Mikuláš were blessed by Fr. Kristián Libant (resident priest from Slovakia at St. Simon Parish) and lovingly created by Patti Minelli (S287) who made them for J339/S287 to



MARCH FOR LIFE 2014

By Kelly Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director

The Zenska Jednota responded quickly to inclement weather and still fulfilled its Catholic Mission.

On Tuesday, January 21st two buses were supposed to leave the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH around 11:30 p.m. to participate in the 41st March for Life in Washington D.C. on the following day. We had been monitoring the weather all day and I had been in constant contact with my cousin who lives in Alexandria, VA. Unfortunately due to the snow storm and frigid temperatures the decision was made around 6:00 p.m. that we would cancel our bus trip. Safety was our priority! Luckily I took all the phone numbers home with me and the calls began. Although everyone was disappointed, all agreed it was the best decision.

Fr. Gerard Gonda of Benedictine High School and I arranged for him to bring his Youth Group to the FCSLA Home Office and celebrate a morning prayer service for



“LIFE”. Also in attendance were Current National President Cynthia M. Maleski, National Secretary Sue Ann M. Seich, National Treasurer Steve Hudak, FCSLA Past National President Mary Ann Johaneck, FCSLA Past Medical Director Dr. Debbie Brindza, FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec, and also from the FCSU Home Office Andrew P. Rajec. We were not able to be at the March in person, but we would certainly be there in spirit.

I would like to send a big “Thank You” to all who were to have participated in the 41st Anniversary of March for Life. The buses were provided by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The sandwiches, snacks, water, scarves and hand warmers were provided by the FCSLA Cleveland District, S114; S221; S301; S423; S475; S553; S578, Irene Drotleff, Barb and Jim Sekerak – Thank you! Nothing was wasted. We distributed the lunch bags to the Benedictine Youth Group and home office employees.

Next year the March for Life is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2015.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us! It is an awesome experience that you will never forget.



WPSCA Offers Summer Scholarship

For the 9th consecutive year, WPSCA is offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. WPSCA will award \$2,500 to cover transportation, tuition, room and board to the successful candidate.

For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990. Completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before April 15, 2014 at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our Elite Annuities Issued After 1/31/2014:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

3.00% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

3.25% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.50% APY*

5 Year Annuities issued prior to 2/1/2014 will earn their guaranteed minimum rate.

*This rate is in effect 2/1/2014 thru 12/31/2014.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 81

Sweet Treat of Matching Funds

The FCSLA Sr. Branch 81 of Whiting, IN partnered with the St. John H.S.A. and held a Fannie May Holiday Candy Sale. St. John parishioners and FCSLA members placed presale orders of candy. St. John's Pancake Breakfast with Santa was an opportunity for the FCSLA to sell candy on a cash and carry basis. Pancakes and sausages were abounding as were many vendors selling holiday gifts. The eighth grade students also held a sucker sale to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Chicago this spring. Members and parishioners enjoyed breakfast and shopping for Christmas gifts all in one stop.

This was a matching funds event for the purpose of generating extra money for the school. It will be used toward the purchase of a new computer and software for the lunchroom and help to modernize it. The matching funds program has enabled St. John School to update and expand their educational offerings over the years. St. John truly appreciates all that the FCSLA has done for them.



Makes Gift Donations to Children in Need

Officers of Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 recently purchased and packaged 26 gifts for needy children. The parish will distribute the gifts as needed through the Head Start program in Monessen, PA.

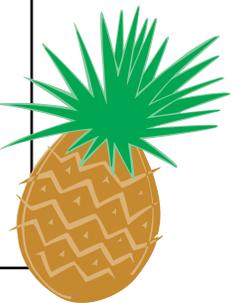
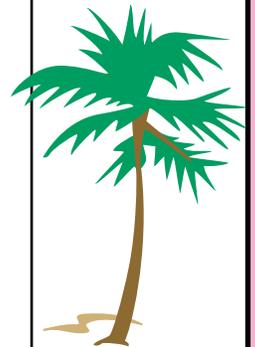
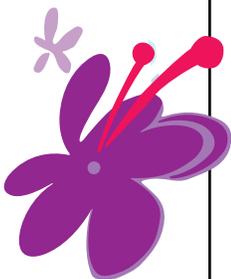
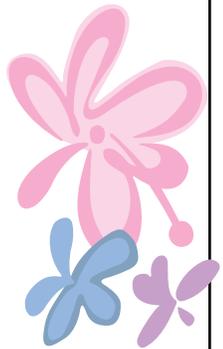
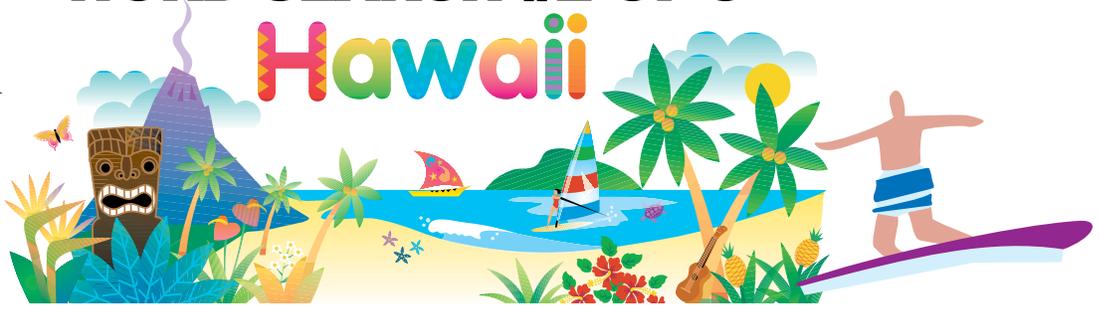


Pictured L-R are: Flora Funtal, Dorothy Urbanowicz, Alice Bialon and Rosemary Betza.

**AGES
23-64
ONLY!**

WORD SEARCH #2 OF 3

Hawaii



H O N O L U L U W A Q C Q N X H O R U M G D R U B
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 W R D B B K M T B G M N K E C J A R T D S A G N U
 A G O P P I N E A P P L E F S U L F O E E M P K G
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Words may be found up and down, side to side, diagonally or words may share letters.

ALOHA
 BEACHES
 CRUISE
 DIAMOND HEAD
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 FIFTIETH STATE

GOLFING
 HAWAII
 HAWAIIAN HIBISCUS
 LUAU
 HONOLULU
 ISLAND

KAUI
 KING KAMEHAMEHA
 MAUI
 MOLOKAI
 OAHU
 PACIFIC OCEAN

PEARL HARBOR
 PINEAPPLE
 POLYNESIAN
 TROPICAL
 VOLCANOES
 WHALES

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Branch: _____ Phone # _____

PLEASE MAIL ALL 3 PUZZLES IN AT THE SAME TIME. They must be in the Home Office by Friday, June 13, 2013!

Mail to: FCSLA Fraternal Department, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122

Holiday Dinner and Business Meeting Held for Branch 114

Members of Branch 114 Lorain, Ohio celebrated their annual Christmas Dinner and December business meeting on Sunday, December 15th, 2013 at the American Slovak Club. Bernie Danevich, president, welcomed all members present and opened the meeting with a prayer. Reports were then given of activities and finances for the past year. Election of officers followed with Bernie Danevich, president, Marge Kurta, Vice President, Cindy Sams, Secretary, Joanne Mrosko, treasurer, Margaret Thomas, Financial Secretary, Marcella Turton, Auditor, Regina Davies, Auditor and Betty Boone, Junior Branch Secretary being elected by members. The Oath of Office was administered by Marie Schweinberg.

After the business meeting, a delicious luncheon was served and monetary and poinsettia door prizes were given along with gifts from the Home Office. All enjoyed the fun and sharing time with fellow branch members. Members were reminded of the years coming social events held on

the 3rd Sunday of the month, July-scholarship luncheon, October-Bingo Social and the December annual meeting and Christmas Dinner. All members are welcome at all regular meetings.



Officers of Branch 114 and Santa — L-R: Marge Kurta, Vice-President; Margaret Thomas, Financial Secretary; Bernie Danevich, President; Joanne Mrosko, Treasurer; Marcella Turton, Auditor; Regina Davies, Auditor; Betty Boone, Junior Branch Secretary; Cindy Sams, Secretary and Santa, Michael Butorac.

Southwest Community Services, Inc. (Tinley Park II) Honors Its Supporters

Southwest Community Services, Inc. (SCS) in Tinley Park, IL held a thank you reception for its financial supporters at their facilities on Thursday, September 26, 2013. Mary Pat Ambrosino, Executive Director of SCS, gave the financial supporters in attendance a brief update on the events of the past year and thanked them once again for all their support. SCS provides adult services and programs that assist persons

with intellectual disabilities, mental illness, physical disabilities, hearing and vision impairments and learning disabilities in order to enable these individuals to achieve their highest degree of self-sufficiency through developmental training, social and recreational opportunities, psychological rehabilitation, community support, job development

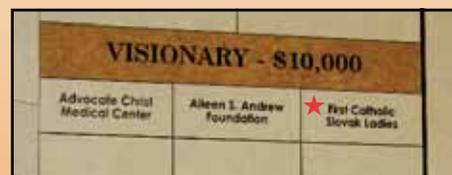
and community employment opportunities. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association had awarded at the 40th Convention in October 2011, the sum of \$15,000 for SCS to continue its good works in the Southwest Community. Representing the Home Office and the FCSLA at this function were: Mary Therese Tylus, Chicago District President, Jeanette Palanca, President S258, Rosemary Mlinarich, Secretary/Treasurer S258 and Dr. Joyce Nugent Hirschbeck, Vice-President S258. (To see additional photos from this event go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



Donor attendees at Thank You Reception.



L-R: Mary Therese Tylus (Chicago District President), Jeanette Palanca (S258 President), Rosemary Mlinarich (S258 Sec/Treasurer), Mary Pat Ambrosino, Executive Director of Southwest Community Services, and Dr. Joyce Nugent-Hirschbeck (S258 Vice-President).



Donor plaque listing First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Beatified by Pope Francis

Pope Francis has approved the attribution of a "miraculous healing" to the intercession of a New Jersey nun who died in 1927. The miracle was the restoration of a young boy's vision without any medical intervention.

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was born March 26, 1901 in Bayonne, NJ. The daughter of Ruthenian immigrants Alexander and Johanna (Suchy) Demjanovich, her parents came to the United States in 1884 from Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia.

Miriam Teresa longed to enter religious life and felt she was called to the Carmelite order prior to enrolling in college. However, after consulting with her family, they offered her the thought she should use her education to serve God in a teaching order. After much reflection and prayer, she decided to neglect her own will. After being advised to make a Novena in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary to give her guidance; she decided to enter the community of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth at Convent Station on February 11, 1925. Sister Miriam Teresa never received an official transfer of rite. She remained a Greek Rite Catholic while serving as a sister in a Roman Rite community. This was a perfect example of the well known statement in Ut Unum Sint, no. 54, by Blessed Pope John Paul II "The Church must breathe with her two lungs!" (i.e. East and West). However, one last test awaited her. Three days prior to leaving home for the convent, her father died. Miriam Teresa was given this trial before her entrance into religious life. After her father's funeral on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes,



Miriam Teresa entered the convent. As a postulant, she was given the name Sister Miriam Teresa. The name Miriam was in honor of the Blessed Mother and Teresa honored her Patron Saint, Teresa of Avila.

As a postulant and novice, she continued to teach, all the while living a deep spiritual life. In June 1926, her spiritual director asked her to write the conferences for the novitiate. She wrote 26 conferences which, after her death, were published in a book, titled Greater Perfection. She died in May 1927 at the age of 26 after falling gravely ill six months earlier and being operated on

for appendicitis.

According to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson, NJ, the miracle took place in 1963 when Sister of Charity Maria Augustine at St. Anashaisa School, Teaneck, led the school and parishioners in prayer for the 6-year-old boy through Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich's intercession. The boy had been diagnosed with bilateral macular degeneration, which cannot be healed completely. Following the prayer, he regained his sight without medical treatment, surgery or medications.

Since beatifications are no longer done in Rome but in the local church, more than likely the Beatification ceremony, the final step before Canonization, will take place in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, the metropolitan cathedral in the state of New Jersey.

We rejoice at the announcement of the Beatification of Sister Miriam Theresa Demjanovich, an heir of our Cyrillo-Methodian heritage of faith.

Sr. Branch 376 Honors 50-Year Members and Scholarship Winners

On September 14, 2013, Sr. Branch 376 held their Fall meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center. It was sadly announced that Fr. Louis Luljak passed away in August, and prayers were said for him and all sick and deceased members.

On a lighter note, Martha Kosir and Kathy Sager were honored as our 50-year members and thanked for their loyalty to the Branch, along with Lisa Anderson, who

could not attend the meeting. Taylor Price was on hand to receive our congratulations and a \$100 check from the Branch as our Sixth Grade Scholarship winner; and the Branch also sent a \$100 check and our congratulations to Joseph Zanoni, who received a First Grade Scholarship. We are so very proud of all of our members who submitted a Scholarship Form!



Joseph Zanoni, scholarship winner.

Betty Valent was honored and given flowers as the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association National Fraternalist of the Year for 2013! Kathy Bozek read her letter nominating Betty for the honor. Members then enjoyed a delicious lunch and time shared with friends.



Taylor Price, branch scholarship winner, her parents, brother, and grandparents.



Betty Valent, center, the Fraternalist of the Year.





IN MEMORIAM

DONALD J. SEVERA **Sr. Branch 295**



Donald J. Severa, age 65, of Janesville, died on November 29, 2013, at Beloit Health and Rehab. He was born in Chicago, IL on December 3, 1947, the son of Louis and Millie (Schima) Severa. He had a Bachelors Degree in Liberal Arts emphasis on History from Illinois Normal.

Don served his country in the U.S. Army as a Supply Sergeant during the Vietnam War and was also a member of the Wisconsin National Guard, Janesville unit. He worked for UW Whitewater as a custodian for many years and also for LaChance Cleaning Services until his retirement in 2008 due to health problems. He was a member of St. John Vianney Catholic Church.

He lived a simple life and was very proud of his granddaughter, Emily. He is survived by his daughter, Donea (Ervin Hartley) Severa of Janesville; granddaughter, Emily and another grandbaby due in February; ex-wife, Gina (Jeff) Hartmann of Janesville; 4 siblings: Lois, Helen, Joe and Lou; and Don's best friend, Roger Beck of Janesville.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and daughter, Kelly Ann Severa.

PAUL A. NEUPAUER **Sr. Branch 484**

Paul A. Neupauer, Sr., 87, of Whitehall, PA, passed away December 19 at home. He was married to Dolores E. Dolly (Hutnick) Neupauer for 57 years. Born in Whitehall, he was the son of the late Ignatz Neupauer and the late Susie (Novak) Neupauer Hudock. He was a naval veteran of



WWII. Retiring in 1987, he was a clerk for Mack Trucks, Inc., Allentown for 31 years. He was a bartender for the former Egypt Hotel and St. Nicholas Home Association, Northampton as well as an employee of the former 2 Guys, Whitehall. Paul was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Whitehall and a member of its choir for over 50 years.

Survivors: Wife; children, Paul Jr. and his wife Holly of Blandon; Anne Marie, wife of Bruce Bachman of Coplay; Michael of Harrisonburg, VA; John and his wife Wendy of St. Louis Park, MN, Susan wife of Robert Martucci of Allentown; eight grandchildren; brother, Andrew; sister, Elizabeth Rock. He was predeceased by siblings, William and Margaret Ziser.

DENNIS DUFFEK **Branch W093**



Dennis G. Duffek, 70, of Tabor, SD, passed away on January 3, 2014 after a short illness. Dennis was the only child born to George and Irene (Hale) Duffek on April 9, 1943 in Yankton, SD. He grew up in the Tabor area attending St. Wenceslaus Catholic grade school and graduating from Tabor High School in 1961. He married Dorothy Heirigs on July 6, 1963 at St. Columba Catholic Church at Mayfield, SD.

Dennis helped his parents run a trucking and corn shelling business in the Tabor area for many years. He also worked many years for the Bon Homme-Yankton Rural Electric Association as a lineman and operations manager. After his retirement he owned Perk's Pub in Tabor and most recently was employed by the Game, Fish and Parks at Lewis and Clark Lake. He was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy of Tabor, SD and his three children: Mike (Stephanie) Duffek of Tabor, SD, Mark

(Susan) Duffek of Sioux Falls, SD and Mary Ann (Colby) LaCompte of Winner, SD, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents George in 1982 and Irene in 2007.

REVEREND HARRY WINCA **Sr. Branch 119**



Reverend Harry Winca, 96, of Broadview Heights passed away peacefully on February 15 with family by his side. He was born on May 19, 1917 and ordained as a priest on May

26, 1945. Father Harry served the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for more than 68 years, having been Pastor Emeritus at St. Edward Church in Parkman and St. Lucy Mission in Middlefield since May 19, 2002, after retiring as Pastor of those parishes on his 85th birthday. He attended St. Procopius Benedictine University in Illinois and St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland. While in his 40s, he earned his master's degree from John Carroll University, writing his graduate thesis on school bus safety. Father Harry served as Pastor at St. Edward and St. Lucy from April 2, 1968 to May 19, 2002; Parochial Vicar at St. Leo the Great from June 14, 1962 to April 2, 1968; Parochial Vicar at St. Rita from Nov. 28, 1958 to June 14, 1962; Parochial Vicar at SS. Cyril & Methodius in Barberton from Jan. 7, 1955 to Nov. 28, 1958; Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist in Akron from May 19, 1950 to Jan. 7, 1955; and Parochial Vicar at St. Wendelin from June 14, 1945 to May 19, 1950. He also served as Dean of Lake and Geauga counties in the 1990s. While Pastor at St. Edward, Father Harry planned and oversaw the addition of a new social hall that opened in June 2000. Parish Council named the facility Rose Hall after Father Harry's mother. In 2011, upon a ceremony honoring the 65th anniversary of his ordination, Father Harry said he hoped

he was able to convey the message, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be handed to you."

RICHARD MARESH **Branch W008**

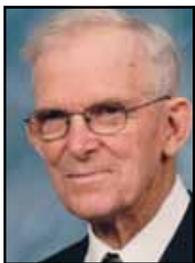
Richard Maresh passed away January 15, 2014 at St. Frances Memorial Hospital in West Point, NE.

He was born May 9, 1926 in Dodge to Emil and Anna (Voglance) Maresh. He attended St. Wenceslaus grade school and graduated from Dodge High School in 1944. Richard served in the U.S. Army from 1950-1952, serving in Korea. Following his military service, Richard returned to the family farm where he farmed his entire life. On May 22, 1955, Richard married Alice Wiese at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lindsay. He was a lifelong member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, FCSLA, and the Disabled American Veterans. Richard loved listening to polka music, dancing, reading and watching his grandchildren participate in their sporting events, especially basketball.

Richard is survived by his wife Alice, of Dodge, sons Kevin and Paul of Dodge, daughters Naomi (Terry) Thies of Sterling, NE, and Deb (Chris) Prantl of Colorado Springs, CO; seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Mary Ann Bohaboj, Rita Spenner and Audrey Ptacek, and granddaughter Emily Prantl.

HENRY BLECHA **Branch W086**



Henry Joseph Blecha was born into the Munden community July 3, 1915, the son of August and Christina (Horak) Blecha. For his entire life he lived within 5 miles of where he was born and was an active member of St. George Catholic Church

in Munden. He went to see his Lord on January 15, 2014, after a short illness, at the age of 98 years, 6 months and 10 days. Henry attended Munden School all 12 years and graduated in 1935 as valedictorian. He married his life partner Mildred Zach on November 8, 1941. Into this union four children were born.

Henry spent his life farming and had a grade A dairy farm nearly 30 years. The last 30 years, he and Mildred were owner-operators of Evergreen Acres Campground. He was a member of Liberty township board for many years, treasurer for the Munden Alumni Association and member and officer of the FCSLA (formerly the Catholic Workmen).

Henry was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Elizabeth Kuhlman, his brother Charles Blecha, and his daughter Rita (Blecha) Sulzen.

To mourn his passing he leaves his wife Mildred of the home; daughter Janice Keeley and husband Mark of Tahlequah, OK; son Donald Blecha and wife Margaret of Valley Center, KS; son Kelvin Blecha and wife Marcia of Chester, NE; and son-in-law Richard Sulzen of Shawnee, KS; 9 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

GEORGINE A. RILEY **Sr. Branch 9**



Georgine A. Riley (nee Medvetz), beloved wife of the late James Riley. Loving mother of Shawn (Chris), Kevin (Tracy), Timothy (Cyndi), Jimmy, Mary Therese Casa (Chuck) and Terrance (Michelle). Grandmother of Anne, Michael, Erin, Gabrielle, Colin, Elizabeth, Patrick, Isabella, Jacob, Julia, Katie, Will, Jack, Jimmy and Leah Riley and Charlie, Andrew and Sam Casa. Daughter of the late George Medvetz and Olga (nee Matava). Sister of Joseph (Bonnie), Richard (Teresa), Marilyn Cordell

(James), Christine McCarthy (Robert, deceased), George (Susan), Margaret Schaefer (Tom) and Mark. Dear aunt and great-aunt to many.

MARY ANN RALSTON **Sr. Branch 88**



Mary Ann passed away on January 1, 2014. She was born on February 2, 1934, in Monessen to August and Anna (Seykoski) Kuhar, who preceded her in death. On Feb-

ruary 2, 1955, she was married to her high school sweetheart, James Anan Ralston, who passed away on July 8, 1996. In the community, Mary was an active member of the Monessen Meals on Wheels, Friends of the Monessen Public Library, Monessen Croatian Social and Educational Society, Mon Valley Slovak Cultural Society and Mon Valley Hospital Auxiliary.

She was survived by her brother, Michael (Carolyn) Kuhar. Despite some disappointments, Mary enjoyed life with her many hometown friends and she was prepared to meet the Lord with spiritual uplifts through personal home visits, letters and telephone calls from retired priest Lawrence Hoppi. Mary experienced no pain from her medications and treatment for pancreatic cancer, voiced that she was ready to accept the call of eternal rest, but was sorry that she did not have the energy to answer the over 200 notes, cards and letters of support that she received since residing at Toledo, OH, for the last seven months of her life.

**Email your Wedding,
Anniversary
and Birthday
Announcements!
zjbazik@comcast.net**

Celebration of St. Anne's Day in Wisconsin

The celebration of St. Anne's Day in Milwaukee, WI was held on Thursday, July 25, 2013 hosted by the Louise M. Yash – Wisconsin District. The Mass was officiated by Reverend Monsignor Peter Polando at the Basilica of Saint Josaphat in Milwaukee. A special "Ave Maria" was played by Music Makers violin soloist and Jr. Branch 376 member Libby Peterson accompanied by the Basilica's organist. The Basilica's organ sounded like angels were carrying the music throughout the church. Everyone enjoyed the historical and hand-carved

marble architecture in this holy place of worship.

Following the Mass, a luncheon was held at the Clarion Hotel Banquet Center for over 100 members and guests from Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. The honorary guests from the Main Office included Rev. Msgr. Polando, National President Cynthia Maleski, and National Secretary Sue Ann Seich. During the luncheon, everybody was entertained by the Music Makers, which is a group of strolling musicians playing string instruments. They even ended

their program with the Slovak National Anthem, "Hej Slovaci".

District President Mary Jo Noyes thanked her Board of Directors for planning this event, giving special thanks to Treasurer Betty Novak and Secretary Kathy Valent. Treasurer Betty Novak made an extra effort on the centerpieces, showcasing the state of Wisconsin. Each centerpiece included a local Usinger's sausage, a Wisconsin shaped block of cheese, and a bottle of Door County wine.

The Louise M. Yash – Wisconsin District hopes that this St. Anne's Day Celebration left a special memory with every member and guest in attendance.



Standing: Kathy Valent (Yash Secretary), Bob Budjac (Yash Auditor), Betty Novak (Yash Treasurer), Fred Forrest (Yash Auditor), Msgr. Polando. **Seated:** Cynthia Maleski (National President), Mary Jo Noyes (Yash President), Sue Ann Seich (National Secretary).



YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT HOLDS SEMINAR

The Youngstown District held a Branch Model Seminar hosted by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in October at the Holiday Inn in Boardman, OH. District President, Bernadette Demechko, introduced the National Board of Director's presenters: Virginia Holmes, Trustee, and Dorothy Urbanowicz, Auditor. A special guest was our National President, Cynthia Maleski. She thanked the District for inviting her and spoke on the importance of keeping branches active for the benefit of the members. There were twenty-five officers in attendance. All eight branches were represented.

The Seminar, which is being held for all branch officers throughout the United States, highlighted the duties of branch officers regarding work done for members and headquarters. These include hand delivering or mailing beneficiary checks promptly; mailing premium dividend notices, keeping members' addresses current, notifying headquarters of returned mail so that an effort can be made by Headquarters to locate members, encouraging members to take out a loan on their policy instead of "cash surrendering" it, the importance of having current insurance pamphlets (copyright date is on reverse), etc.

Branches are urged to participate in Senior Activities, Junior Activities, and Matching Funds projects. These events not only provide volunteer hours to members involved, they are a source of income for branch treasuries.

Virginia and Dorothy provided some light-hearted moments with a few games. They were extremely helpful in answering questions that were posed to them.

Following the seminar, the group enjoyed lunch and spent more time visiting with one another.



L-R: Dorothy Urbanowicz, Bernadette Demechko, Cynthia Maleski, and Virginia Holmes.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AVAILABLE

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, OH will grant college scholarships to High School Seniors who are members in good standing in the following fraternals: First Catholic Slovak Ladies-Branch 114, Slovak Catholic Sokol-Wreath 111, First Catholic Slovak Union-Branch 228, National Slovak Society-Assembly 160, and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union-Branch 77. For rules and application, please contact Helene Virant, 440/282-3325. Deadline for submission is May 30, 2014.

11th Annual Consular Tour to Slovakia

AUGUST 10-24, 2014

Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko has visited Slovakia 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. His wife, Albina, was born and raised in Slovakia. With their experience, they have created a customized tour for 2014 which will take you across Slovakia from the West (Bratislava) to the East (Kosice), stopping each day to visit the numerous historic sites of Slovakia. Each night, accommodations will be at four star hotels. Over 270 people from the United States have enjoyed these tours with Joe and Albina. For a detailed itinerary, and more information contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. Cost for the trip is \$3,699 per person including airfare and taxes.

District Anna Hurban of Chicago Hosts Combined Sr. Branch Christmas Party

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, District Anna Hurban of Chicago, hosted its tenth annual combined Senior Branch Christmas Party at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, Illinois on Saturday, December 7, 2013 with a total of 371 senior branch members and guests in attendance. District members and their guests enjoyed many great conversations while catching up on the years' events before and during the luncheon. The new Chicago District Chaplain, Matus Boháčik, a Chicago Archdiocesan Seminarian from Slovakia said a prayer and blessing before the meal. Everyone feasted on a flavorful family style meal, which included the traditional Slovak roasted pork, beef, chicken, sauerkraut and dessert. Everything was deliciously prepared and scrumptious!

Our National President, Cynthia Maleski, attended the Chicago festivities for the second year in a row. Additional guests were the Indiana

District President, Margaret Abidula with her husband Tony and the Chicago Honorary Slovak Consular, Rosemary Wisnosky. During the program, Dr. Fay Hlubocky, the new District Auditor was introduced to the membership and the District Board and Cynthia then swore in the new Chicago District Chaplain, Matus Boháčik. Fay has a PhD. in Clinical Psychology and an MA in Healthcare Bioethics and is a clinical psychologist in oncology. Fay is a member of S295 and currently serves as their Branch Financial Secretary and has been involved as both a branch officer and member of the FCSLA for 35 years. Matus Boháčik comes to us from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, studying to become a Chicago Archdiocesan priest at the Archdiocese's major seminary, St. Mary of the Lake University, Mundelein and is our newest member to both S225 and the District. He looks forward to serving God's people and the many Slovaks living in Chicago as well

as ministering to our members within the District.

Later in the program, the District sponsored its annual raffle of many, many prizes and gift cards to various entities in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 and \$25. With a surprise visit from Santa, District Junior Members who were in attendance acted as prize runners to help distribute the gifts to the raffle winners who shouted "Kapusta, Koláčiky, Bingo" or another favorite Slovak word upon hearing their winning number. The wonderful event, started by Marge Krugley has been a favorite now for the entire District and surrounding areas. District President, Mary Therese Tylus stated, "Once again, everyone had a wonderful time renewing old friendships, making new ones and reminding everyone of the wonderful FCSLA products and upcoming District events! In fact, we saw many new faces at this event! Truly the room was electrified with folks meeting and greeting one another, renewing old friendships and acquaintances and forging new ones."

Continued on page 21



Sr. Branch 313 Christmas and Epiphany Party

On January 5, 2014, Sr. Branch 313, Natrona Hts., PA, held its annual Christmas Party at St. Joseph High School community center, where over 65 members enjoyed a hot lunch, prizes, a lottery tree raffle, caroling and entertainment. After Father Nicholas Spirko offered an invocation, everyone shared the oplatki and heard various entertainment and presentations.

A representative from our local food



One group of party participants including Sr. Lynn Szymkiewicz CSJ and Father Nicholas Spirko.

bank accepted numerous items which filled several long tables. Members appreciated a memorial service led by Deacon Al Heiles for members who passed away during the previous year, and a special bell ringing ceremony was held with a bell from the Tatra Mountains, borrowed from member Andrzej Groch.



Cynthia Maleski, National President presented pins to newly elected branch officers, including Barbara Gajdosik, Norene Yandura, Suzy Rapp, Kate Szymkiewicz, Cecilia Szymkiewicz. The afternoon concluded with everyone winning a specially wrapped door prize from the branch officers.

A BIG thank you goes out to Sr. Branch 313 Christmas Committee comprised of our officers, Tom and

Marcia Szymkiewicz, Patty Homick (hot food), clean up crew Frank Gajdosik, Mike Yandura and Andrzej Groch and members who donated an array of delicious desserts!



Christmas Committee L-R: Marcia Szymkiewicz, Suzy Rapp, Barbara Gajdosik, Cynthia Maleski, Tom Szymkiewicz, Norene Yandura.



OLMBS Choir Trio.



District Anna Hurban

Continued from page 20

A special thank you goes out to Marge Krugley, who continues to coordinate the festivities, the raffle prize shoppers Emily Minelli and Helen Bendik-Grygus, gift card purchaser Barbara Mugavero, Fay Hlubocky - "Santa", Jarmila and Fay Hlubocky centerpiece coordinators, as well as the entire District Board and Branch Officers for working so hard in making it such a memorable event.

So mark your calendar for next year's party on Saturday, December 6, 2014 – same time, same place! (To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



Wedding Vows Exchanged Recently



Theresa Rose Bonvissuto (S408) and Joseph Holland exchanged wedding vows on July 27, 2013 at St. Hilary Church, Fairlawn, OH. Presiding at the ceremony was Reverend Steve Brunovsky, pastor of St. Hilary Church. A wedding reception was held at Tanders Restaurant in Akron, OH. Theresa is a graduate of Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA and has been a college scholarship winner. Theresa is a professional dancer with NEOS located in

Mansfield, OH. Joseph is a project Manager at Babcock and Wilcox in Akron, OH. The couple honeymooned in New York City and resides in Akron, OH.

Theresa is the daughter of Charles and Donna Bonvissuto of Parma, OH and sister of Allison (S408) who was also a scholarship winner to Walsh Jesuit University. She is the granddaughter of Marianne Gerbura (S578) and a great-niece of Helen Gerbura (S408).

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association 11th ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014

Kent Elks Lodge Hall / Elks Lane-State Route 59
(behind Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59)

1:00 p.m. — Social House • 2:00 p.m. — Dinner
3:00 p.m. — Program

Music by Johnny Pastirik during Social Hour and Dinner

Dancing following the program

Pittsburgh Slovaks

Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, Directors

Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland

Nadia Oros, Choreography

Tom Ivanec, Director/Program Coordinator

Tickets \$20.00 per person

Catered by Tom's Country Place of Avon, Ohio

ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY

Deadline for purchasing tickets is May 9, 2014

Ticket orders with directions will be mailed.

Please include names of all guests.

Donation of baked goods would be appreciated.

TICKET ORDER FORM

KENT-DUDINCE SISTER CITY ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Name _____

Number of Tickets _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

List others attending (if known) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ticket orders with directions will be mailed.

Make checks payable to: Kent-Dudince Sister City Association

Mail to: Dr. George Wargo, Treasurer

858 Stonewater Drive, Kent, OH 44240

(330-677-9094)

Breakfast with Santa



Jr. Branch 138 held breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at Our Lady of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Natrona Heights, PA.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2013

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$	16,195,932
Bonds		710,273,815
Preferred Stock		3,630,553
Common Stock		4,983,380
Investment Income Due & Accrued		11,507,431
Property Plant & Equipment, Net		6,097,443
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest		2,617,509
Other Assets		159,784
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	755,465,847

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$	250,753,146
Annuity Reserves		395,229,765
Death Claims Payable		1,195,208
Unearned Premiums		540,707
Matured Endowments		334,098
Provision for Dividends Payable		1,398,488
Accumulated Dividends & Interest		4,016,413
Accrued Convention Donations		431,000
Provision for Future Conventions		391,000
Asset Valuation Reserve		7,725,095
Interest Maintenance Reserve		1,147,348
Other Liabilities		1,657,854
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	664,820,123

Surplus	\$	90,645,724
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$	755,465,847

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2013

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$	4,596,353
Annuity Premiums		20,488,152
Investment Income		35,454,961
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve		82,310
Rental Income		376,134
Other Revenue		14,054
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	61,011,965

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$	3,925,146
Increase in Reserves — Annuity		16,509,302
Insurance Benefits		4,932,862
Annuity Benefits		19,011,292
Commission Expense		733,718
Surrender Benefits		2,799,456
Post Mortem Benefits		1,118,298
Miscellaneous Member Benefits		70,468
Matured Endowments		3,891
Donation Expenses		270,394
Convention Expenses		209,000
Bank Service Charges		18,354
Data Processing Service Fees		294,161
Accounting Fees		76,423
Actuarial Fees		177,922
Legal Fees		45,527
Consulting Fees		102,149
Bonus to Branches		825,030
Fraternal Activities		134,551
Official Publications		430,692
Scholarship Awards		217,500
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits		354,612
Fees — Directors		117,975
Salaries — Employees		1,273,768
Salaries — Officers		409,296
Interest Expense		222,231
Tax Expense		236,343
Depreciation Expense		269,533
Utility Expense		92,003
Postage and Printing		162,297
Advertising		86,170
Travel Expense		115,617
Insurance Department Fees		96,405
Sales Promotion		137,299
Rental Expense		376,134
Other Expense		434,076
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	56,289,896

Income (Loss) from Operations	\$	4,722,069
Dividends to Members		1,253,442
Subtotal INCOME (LOSS)	\$	3,468,627
Capital Gains (Loss)		1,688,239
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$	5,156,866



NEW IDEAS FOR EASTER!

SLOVAK EASTER CHEESE (CIRAK)

- 4 cups milk
- 12 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt

Measure milk into a bowl, and set over a saucepan filled half way with simmering water. Heat until warm to the touch, then gradually start cracking eggs into the milk while stirring almost constantly. This will scorch very easily. Continue to stir slowly once all of the eggs are in, until the mixture resembles scrambled eggs.

Pour into a cheesecloth bag and tie tightly. Hang from the sink faucet or over a bowl and allow to drain for 1 to 2 hours. Place on a cooling rack set over a pan or bowl and set a heavy object on top to press out the liquid. A cool cast iron skillet weighted with heavy cans works well. Press for about 2 hours.

Carefully remove the weights and cheesecloth bag from the cheese. Refrigerate the cheese for several hours or overnight before slicing and serving.

BEEF HORSERADISH

- 2 (10-ounce) medium beets, peeled and finely shredded
- 1 fresh horseradish root (about 2½ ounces), trimmed, peeled, and finely shredded
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt

Combine beets and horseradish in a food processor, and pulse 20 times. Add vinegar, sugar, and salt; process 2 minutes or until pasty. Spoon into a bowl; cover and chill overnight.

Note: Use the grating disk of a food processor to shred the beets and horseradish finely before pulsing with the steel blade.

EASTER HAM

- 1 boneless fully cooked ham (about 6 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon whole cloves
- 1 can (20 ounces) sliced pineapple
- 1 cup apricot preserves
- 1 teaspoon ground mustard
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice
- Maraschino cherries

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place ham on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Score the surface of ham, making diamond shapes ½ inch deep; insert a clove in each diamond. Bake, uncovered, 1-1/2 hours.

Drain pineapple, reserving juice. In a small saucepan, combine pineapple juice, preserves, mustard and allspice. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 10 minutes or until slightly thickened.

Spoon half of the glaze over ham. Secure pineapple slices and cherries on top and sides of ham with toothpicks.

Bake 30-45 minutes or until a thermometer reads 140 degrees, basting twice with remaining glaze.

CREAMY ONIONS

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 onions, peeled and cut into wedges
- 1 (10¾-ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- ⅓ cup milk
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

In a medium skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat; saute onions 10 to 15 minutes, until onions soften and start to brown.

In a small bowl, combine remaining ingredients; mix well then add to skillet, reduce heat, and simmer 5 to 8 minutes. Serve warm.

Note: For a variation, substitute onions for (16-ounce) package frozen pearl onions, thawed and drained.

EASTER BOWTIES (FÁNKY)

- 2 cups flour
 - ½ teaspoon baking powder
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 1-2 yolks
 - 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
 - half a stick unsalted butter
 - 4 tablespoons cream
 - 2 tablespoons white wine (or rum)
 - ½ cup of milk
- Topping: powdered sugar

Combine flour, butter, sugar, yolks, cream, milk, baking powder, salt, and the wine. Mix together for 10 minutes until dough is smooth and elastic. Add more milk if needed. Form into a ball, dust with flour, and let rest in the fridge for an hour.

Cut the dough into two halves. Roll the dough out to thickness of about 1/6th of an inch. Using a dough cutting wheel or a knife, cut the dough into rectangles about 2x3 inches. Then cut two slots in each rectangle in direction parallel to the shorter edges. Loop one end piece through the slot closest to it.

Then repeat with the other end to make a dough bowtie.

Fry in oil that is low-medium hot. Fry on both sides until the dough turns light brown.

Scoop the fried fánky with a spatula onto a plate covered with paper towels. Use another paper towel to pat dry off the oil from the top. Then sprinkle the fried dough in powdered sugar.

GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

- 1 (16-ounce) bag frozen green beans, thawed
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1¾ cups milk
- 1 (8-ounce) package mushrooms, sliced
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese
- ½ cup French-fried onions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 2-quart baking dish with cooking spray. Place green beans in baking dish and set aside.

In a saucepan, whisk flour into milk over medium heat. Stir in mushrooms, salt, and pepper; bring to a simmer, and cook 4 to 5 minutes, or until sauce thickens, stirring frequently. Stir cheese into mixture then pour over green beans. Stir beans gently.

Bake 15 minutes. Remove from oven, sprinkle French-fried onions on top, and bake 10 to 15 more minutes, or until bubbly.

ALMOND COCONUT BARS

- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 package (7 ounces) flaked coconut
- 2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- ½ cup peanut butter
- 24 blanched almonds

In a small bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs and butter. Press into an ungreased 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Combine milk and coconut; carefully spread over the crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 18-20 minutes or until lightly browned.

In a microwave, combine the chocolate chips and peanut butter; stir until smooth. Microwave 30-60 seconds longer or until chips are melted; stir until smooth.

Spread over warm bars. Garnish with almonds. Refrigerate for 1 hour before cutting.

PERIODICAL

4/14

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.*