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Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

MAY 2008

VOL. 94, NO. 8

*Happy
Mother's
Day*

*to all FCSLA Mothers, Grandmothers,
Sisters, Aunts, and all the special women
who played a role in our life.*

Fraternally Yours,

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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A Memorial Day Reflection!

On Monday, May 26, 2008, Americans across this nation will observe Memorial Day. Since the first official observation on May 5, 1868, when it was called Declaration Day, it has always been a day of remembrance for those who sacrificed and died in service to our nation. While it was originally dedicated to honor Civil War soldiers, we know it today as a celebration in memory of all who have fought for and defended our right to freedom. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday and the observation of this day was officially established to be the last Monday in May. Today, it remains a time of observation to honor and respect those who fought to protect the liberties that our Founding Fathers proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and thoughtfully framed in the Constitution of the United States.



Carolyn Bazik

In his proclamation to set aside this day in 1868, General Logan instructed there to be thoughts to

“...cherish tenderly the memories of our heroic dead who made their breast a barricade between our country and its foes.” To

those who died securing peace and freedom; to those who served in conflict to protect our land; to those who sacrificed their dreams to preserve the hope of our nation,

keeping America the land of the free for over two centuries, we owe our thanks and

our honor. It is important to not only recognize their service, but to respect their devotion to duty and ensure that the purpose for which they fought will never be forgotten. From the soldiers who fought bravely during the American Revolution, to the men

and women of today's Armed Forces America's fighting forces, have bravely risen to this nation's call to duty. Both on the battlefield, and in their assurance of readiness, members of the nation's military remain bound to their duty. For more than 200 years, America's Armed Forces have been the surest guarantee that Freedom will continue to ring across this land – **From Sea to Shining Sea!**

The men and women who fought in America's battles, and who served their country in support of our military, have made countless sacrifices in fighting for the freedom and liberty we often, take for granted today. Too often we fail to remember those who gave their life, or those whose lives have been forever changed because of that sacrifice and commitment. We should also pause to thank the families of those that serve. They also sacrifice so that we may enjoy our freedom – freedom that has been secured by their sacrifice of a son, daughter, husband, wife, or friend!

continued on page 7

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

The Ascension and Pentecost: God's Power Reigns Within Us Through The Spirit!

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My Dear Friends,

Now that we are coming to the closing days of our annual Easter celebration, our minds and hearts are directed to the final event of the Lord Jesus Christ's ministry here on this earth, i.e., his ascension into heaven. In his gospel, Saint Luke portrays the Lord's public ministry as beginning with Jesus going out into the desert for forty days. Throughout the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, the number "forty" has a significance which points to a sacred time. Luke not only begins the start of Christ's ministry in his gospel within this time span but also has Jesus appearing to his disciples within a forty day framework after his resurrection. The author of the gospel writes to his friend Theophilus in the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles about Jesus ". . . who presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). Before being taken up into heaven, Jesus answers the question of the apostles about the kingdom being restored to Israel. He notes that this was reserved to the Father but that the apostles would "receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (1:8).

The word *power* can bring to mind positive and sometimes negative connotations. In the sense that Jesus tells his apostles that they would receive *power*, it is used to the extent of being more than amply prepared to continue the work of Jesus here on earth, namely, as having the ability to advance the proclamation of the Kingdom as seen through the life, death and resurrection of the Lord. Through this *power* we proclaim Christ's presence here on this earth as well as him being seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. This *power* unites us with Christ here on earth and Christ with us in heaven. Saint Augustine in his sermon on the ascension wrote, "Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out



from above: *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?* and when he said: *I was hungry and you gave me no food.* Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity his *power* and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love [PLS 2, 494].

The challenge for us today is how adequately we utilize the *power* and love of the Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father and of the gifts of the Holy Spirit who gives us the grace, the power to continue Jesus' ministry here on this earth. All Christians, by baptismal promise and commitment, are called to consecrate him/herself to the Lord's *power* no matter how young or old. For the younger persons, it may be through learning more about our Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in catechetical processes and service projects. For those who are adults, there are a variety of ways to exhibit the *power* that we possess – daily prayer lives, participation in the sacramental life of the Church especially Sunday Mass, by promoting the our

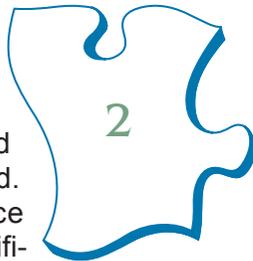
parish missions through our giving of our time, talents and treasures in the diverse ministries, societies, and organizations that are extensions of our parish. For those seniors in our communities who have come to the autumn time of our lives, there are ample situations to continue our commitments to the *power* and love of the Lord by examples to the younger generations in the trust, prayer, faith, and hope that has brought us through the good and struggling years. In our seniors, we see promises and hope fulfilled. The seniors see in those younger, the future yet to be revealed! And for us members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, our *power* and love in the ascended Lord is only strengthened when we fulfill the goals and expectations that are defined for each member by constitution, by-laws and convention. It is not an easy task but being a Christian is not an easy life. When we have the *power*, the love, and the grace of Jesus, all of us can move forward to the future, and ultimately that place where Christ sits at the right hand of the Father.

In the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen gentium*), promulgated by the Fathers of Vatican II Council in November 1964, we hear: "To carry out the will of the Father Christ inaugurated the kingdom of heaven on earth and revealed to us his mystery; by his obedience he brought about our redemption. The Church – that is, the kingdom of Christ already present in mystery – grows visibly through the *power* of God in the world. The origin and growth of the Church are symbolized by the blood and water which flowed from the open side of the crucified Jesus and are foretold in the words of the Lord referring to his death on the cross: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself. . . . All men are called to this union with Christ, who is the light of the world, from whom we go forth, through whom we live, and towards whom our whole life is directed" [LG, 3]. We have the *power* of the Resurrected and Ascended One. Let us proclaim it, let us use this *power* through the grace of the Holy Spirit in the sacred times of our lives!

FROM THE DESK OF THE FRATERNAL & YOUTH DIRECTOR

DO YOU LIKE CHALLENGES?

This is a challenge for all our members from age 0 to 21. Each month for the next four months, May to August, you will be given a challenge. The challenge has four parts that complete the puzzle. At the end of each month, you will complete the form provided that describes the challenge and submit it to the address provided. If you complete the four piece puzzle, you will be mailed a certificate and a special gift. The names of those who participated will be published in our magazine, in a fall issue, with your authorized permission. Remember, you must complete all four parts to the puzzle to be eligible for the gift.



Some of the challenges will have the youth working with the more experienced members. Each challenge level will be different depending on your age. Your first challenge is in this publication. You may want to make this a project for your branch meetings, a family affair, or work on your own. Hopefully, it will be fun and entertaining, especially during the summer months.

I will look forward to hearing from you. Good luck and enjoy!!

Fraternally,
Sue Ann M. Seich

See Page 9 In This Issue For The First Challenge!

Attends Fraternalist of the Year Banquet



Group attending the 2008 FSGP Fraternalist of the Year Testimonial Banquet in honor of Joseph T. Senko at the Radisson Hotel in Greentree on Saturday, April 5, 2008.



L-R: Irene Drotleff, National Secretary of the FCSLA; Andrew Rajec, President of the FCSU; Joseph Senko, Fraternalist of the Year Honoree; Mary Ann Johaneck, National President of the FCSLA; and Thomas Hricik, past President of the FCSU.

Pittsburgh Folk Festival to be Held this Month

The Pittsburgh Slovaks and Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks will represent the Slovaks at the 52nd Annual Pittsburgh International Folk Festival, May 16, 17, 18, to be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Throughout the weekend festival goers will have the opportunity to experience the foods, traditional music and dance, cultural exhibits, folk crafts, global marketplace and ethnic cooking demonstrations from more than thirty nationalities. The Pittsburgh Slovaks will perform Friday evening, May 16th, while the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks will participate in the Children's Matinee on Saturday, May 17th. In the global marketplace, shop for the finest Slovak crystal, glass and jewelry at LaBoheme, or stop by the Slovak folk crafts display and choose from an array of various handcrafted Slovak items.

The Slovak kitchen will be serving, chicken paprikaš, pork and sauerkraut, mushroom soup, haluški, and Palačinky with fruit fillings. Also an array of baked goods will be available. Festival times are: Friday 4-10 p.m.; Saturday 12 noon-10 p.m., and Sunday 12 noon-6 p.m.. Tickets are \$ 8.00 each if you order them in advance. Call (412) 421-1204 and reserve your tickets today. Admission price at the gate is \$10.00.

**President Mary Ann S. Johaneck
Announces 2008
Out-of-Town Meeting
Board of Directors Meeting**

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

National President Mary Ann S. Johaneck has released the following announcement regarding the 2008 annual out-of-town Meeting for the Board of Directors.

This meeting will take place June 29-30 and July 1, 2008 in Youngstown, Ohio. Requested to be present are the following National Officers: Chaplain, President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, two Trustees, three Auditors, and Editor.

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered Sunday June 29th, at 11:30 a.m. at Saint Matthias Slovak Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44502. Principal Celebrant will be Msgr. Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain.

Following the Liturgy, a dinner and program will take place at Mr. Anthony's Banquet Center, 7440 South Ave., Boardman, OH 44512.

Any member of the Association wishing to submit business for consideration at this meeting may do so by sending their request to President Mary Ann Johaneck, 24950 Chagrin Blvd. Beachwood, Ohio 44122 by June 1, 2008. All communication must bear the signature of a branch officer.

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has as its goal the promotion of the temporal and spiritual welfare of its members. With this in mind, we ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and for God's blessings on all deliberations.

Fraternally yours,
Mary Ann S. Johaneck
National President, FCSLA

**Prezidentka Mary Ann S. Johaneck
Oznamuje Podrobnosti
o Medzimestskej Schôdze
Rady Riaditeľov Roku 2008**

Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Ženská Spoločnosť

Národná Prezidentka Mary Ann S. Johaneck vydáva informácie, čo sa týkajú každoročnej medzimestskej schôdzy rady riaditeľov v roku 2008.

Táto schôdza sa bude konať 29-tého 30-tého júna a 1-vého júla 2008 v Youngstown, OH. Na schôdzi sa musia zúčastniť nasledujúci členovia: Farár, riaditeľ, traja zástupcovia riaditeľa, sekretárka, pokladník, dvaja tajomníci, traja revízori účtov a editor.

Omša vďaka sa bude slúžiť 29-tého júna o 11:30 ráno v Saint Matthias Slovenský kostol, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH 44502. Národný, farár Msgr. Peter M. Polando bude sláviť túto omšu.

Po omši nasleduje večera a program v Mr. Anthony's Banquet Center, 7440 South Ave., Boardman, OH 44512.

Ktorýkoľvek člen spoločnosti, ktorý by chcel predložiť nejakú vec na prejednanie na tejto schôdzi môže tak urobiť, že predloží svoju žiadosť do 1-vého júna Prezidentke Mary Ann Johaneck, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122. Všetka korešpondencia musí mať podpis zástupcu pobočky.

Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Ženská Spoločnosť má za účel podporovať dobré životné a duševné podmienky jej členov. S týmto na myslí prosíme svätého ducha za správny smer a Božie požehnanie na pomoc pre správne rozhodnutia.

Za spoločný účel
Mary Ann S. Johaneck
Národná Prezidentka



**PLEASE REMEMBER
OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS
MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008**

There's Still Time for Nominations!

2008 FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is once again announcing its Fraternalist of the Year program. The award is given to an outstanding volunteer on the local level, and for community involvement. The FCSLA winner will then be submitted as a nominee for the National Fraternal Congress Fraternalist Award.

All officers and members are eligible to submit a name for this award. The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA with a history of fraternal and community service. Submit name, branch, and a brief statement describing why you feel your nominee should be considered for Fraternalist of the Year. A Home Office committee will then select one from all nominations received and in turn submit that name to the National Fraternal Congress.

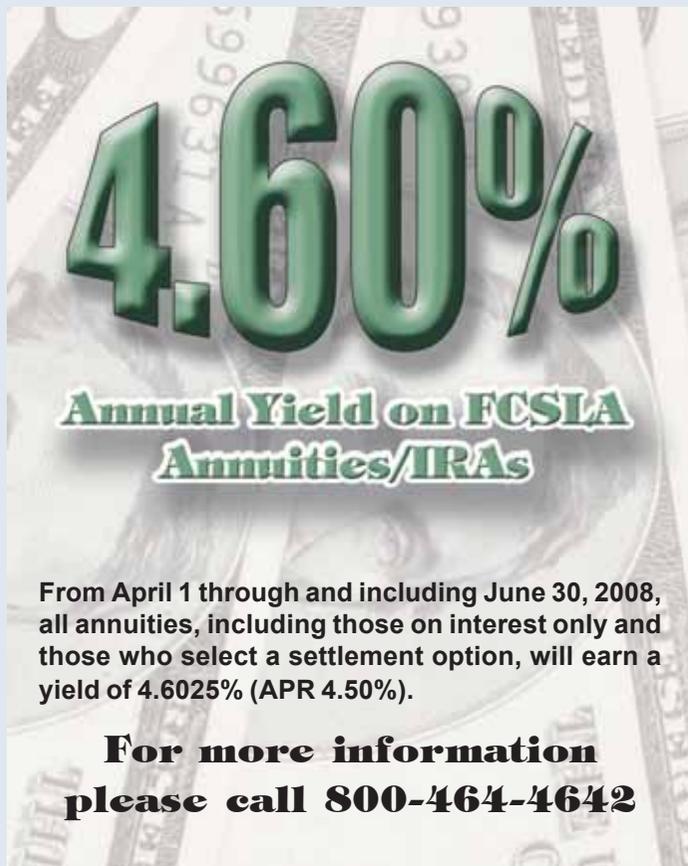
Deadline for entries is May 23, 2008.

All entries should be mailed to:

Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122

Again this year — only activities of the nominees within the past 12-month period will be considered.



4.60%
**Annual Yield on FCSLA
Annuities/IRAs**

From April 1 through and including June 30, 2008, all annuities, including those on interest only and those who select a settlement option, will earn a yield of 4.6025% (APR 4.50%).

**For more information
please call 800-464-4642**

GUIDELINES

for 2008 Fraternalist of the Year Award National Fraternal Congress of America

PURPOSE

The Fraternalist of the Year Award is an honor presented by the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) to recognize an individual within the fraternal benefit system who, through example and accomplishment, provided outstanding volunteer service to his or her chapter, society and community during the past year.

ELIGIBILITY

- The nominee must be a member in good standing of a local chapter of a NFCA member-society and must be living at the time of selection.
- Society Home Office staff and other individuals compensated by the Society as employees are not eligible to receive the award.
- Nominees of any age are eligible.
- The NFCA national award can be won only once by an individual. However, a society is eligible to nominate an individual nominated previously, but not selected as an NFCA Fraternalist of the Year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AWARD

- The 2008 Fraternalist of the Year award will be presented to the honoree at the 122nd NFCA Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC, September 4-6, 2008.
- The honoree will be invited to attend the NFCA Annual Meeting with travel, lodging and meal expenses for the honoree and one guest paid for by the NFCA.
- The NFCA will present a check for \$1,000 in the name of the Fraternalist of the Year to the charitable/nonprofit organization of the honoree's choice.
- One winner and four runners-up will be selected. There will be no ties.

BRANCH W008 CHICKEN DINNER TO BE HELD

The officers of FCSLA Branch W008 of Dodge, NE will be hosting a Chicken Dinner on Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 12:00 noon at the Bank-Quit located on Main Street in Dodge. All members and their spouses as well as children who are members are invited to attend. Please make reservations by calling either: Marcella Chudomilka (402) 693-2632 or Alice Maresh (402) 693-2600 by July 21, 2008.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

as of November 13, 2007

Memorial Day Reflection!

continued from page 2

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed, and the president signed into law, "The National Moment of Remembrance Act." P.L. 106-579, created the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity," by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause, wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. So, this Memorial Day, before you head out to the family picnic or settle down to watch your favorite movie or sporting event *pause a moment* to remember. Remember those who fought, those who gave their life, and those who willingly stand ready today to do the same, without question, when the defense of freedom calls on them to respond. We owe each of them our deepest respect and honor – and the assurance that their commitment to this Nation's freedom will never be forgotten.

Until Next Month – I want to leave you with some statistics to help you understand that each of these numbers – over 1.2 million – represents a life that was given in service to our country!

Americans Killed in Action: Revolutionary War – 25,324; War of 1812 – 2,260; Civil War North – 363,020;

Civil War South – 199,110; Spanish American War – 2,446; World War I – 116,516; World War II – 405,399;

Korean War – 36,574; Vietnam Conflict – 58,209; Persian Gulf War – 382; Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) – 486; Operation Iraqi Freedom – 4,028.

Always remember that freedom is never "free"!

Fraternally, **Carolyn**

State Officers To Host Picnic

The Nebraska State officers will once gain host a picnic on Sunday, July 13, 2008 at the North Bend City Park at 12:00 noon. Each family is requested to bring one meat dish as well as one side dish plus your own table service. All hot and cold drinks will be furnished, as well as swimming tickets for all youth members. Please plan to attend — it will be a good chance to see old friends and met some new ones!

State	Fraternal Limits
Arizona	\$100,000 Total Life/ 100 Individuals
California	No Fraternal Exemption —
Colorado	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Connecticut	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Florida	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Illinois	\$100,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Indiana	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Iowa	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Kansas	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Maryland	\$200,000 Total Life \$10,000 Whole Life per Person 25 Individuals
Massachusetts	\$200,000 Total Life \$10,000 Whole Life per Person \$50,000 Term Life per Person 25 Individuals
Michigan	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Minnesota	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals \$1,000 Commission
Missouri	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Montana	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Nebraska	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Nevada	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
New Jersey	\$200,000 Total Life \$10,000 Whole Life per Person \$50,000 Term Life per Person 25 Individuals
New York	\$200,000 Total Life \$10,000 Whole Life per Person \$50,000 Term Life per Person 25 Individuals
New Mexico	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
North Dakota	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Ohio	\$200,000 Total Life \$10,000 Whole Life per Person \$50,000 Term Life per Person 25 Individuals
Oklahoma	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Oregon	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
Pennsylvania	\$200,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals
South Dakota	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Texas	\$20,000 in Premiums \$35,000 Life Per Person 25 Individuals
Virginia	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
West Virginia	No Fraternal Exemption — Must be licensed
Wisconsin	\$50,000 Total Life/ 25 Individuals



Couple Celebrates 60th Wedding Anniversary



Marlys and Ellsworth Cizek of Traer, IA, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 6, 2008.

They were married in 1948 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Vining, IA. The couple farmed southeast of Traer and retired in 1991, and moved to Traer.

They are the parents of Jacque and Louis Winchip of Cedar Rapids, IA, Joel and Connie Cizek of Waterloo, Jeffrey and Lynn Cizek and Jo Ellen and Ray Kubik all of Traer.

They have 13 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

They are members of Branch W149.

Congratulations to the anniversary couple!

"A Celebration of Love and Appreciation"

By Sue Ann M. Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director

Was the second Sunday in May chosen to celebrate Mother's Day because it is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary? Was it chosen because May usually brings beautiful flowers from the April rain? I am not sure why, but I do know that we should celebrate the day with a grateful heart.

As a child you often don't appreciate the gift of being raised by a loving, caring Mother until you are older, you become a mother, or perhaps even a caregiver! My Mother has been deceased for 11 years now but the memories, our memories, will last a lifetime. She was an inspiration for my role as a Mother as well as my best friend!

In today's fast paced world, the "role" of Mother is often shared by many other individuals. Many times "Fathers" must fill the role of both parents. Often grandmothers, aunts, sisters, friends or caregivers step into the role of Mother because of death, illness, injury, or other life demands.

This Mother's Day celebrate those who nurture and care for "our future" each and every day by fulfilling the role of "Mother". Celebrate this very special gift that God gave us when he created "Mother."

Scholarship Program Applications Available

The American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH has applications available for their scholarship program. It is open to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and carry at least a 3.5 average. The student must be a member in good standing of St. Ann's Lodge, Branch 114 of FCSLA for the last five years. Complete rules and applications can be obtained from the branch by contacting Margaret Thomas, Financial Secretary. She can be reached by phone at 440-288-1492; by e-mail at marcarl@centurytel.net or by writing to 2235 East Erie Ave., Lorain, OH 44052. Deadline for applications is June 30, 2008.

NOTICE

Fraternally Yours is now also available on the website as a pdf file.

**Please log onto
www.fcsla.com**

and click on *Fraternally Yours Magazine* found under Fraternal Tab in the column on the left side of the home page.

Youth Challenge #1

VOLUNTEERING



A volunteer effort must be completed this month for the first piece to the puzzle. Depending on your age, you may need help from a parent, grandparent, family member, or care-giver. Several Join Hands Day Projects qualify for this piece of the puzzle. The older you are the more involved your project should be including the time it takes to prepare and complete it. If you need suggestions or have questions call Sue Ann at 1-800-464-4642, EXT. #1051 or Email her at: sueann@fcsla.org. After you complete your volunteer effort send in the form below. Happy Volunteering, I guarantee it will make you feel good to help someone!



NAME _____ AGE _____ BRANCH _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
VOLUNTEER PROJECT _____ HOURS _____
DID SOMEONE HELP YOU? _____
WILL YOU DO IT AGAIN? _____ IF YES, HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL? _____

Youth Challenge #1 VOLUNTEERING

Mail form to:

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

Deadline: JUNE 6, 2008



Branch & District Bits

Monica Anthony, President of **BRANCH 319 OF ALLENTOWN, PA** presented Msgr. Albert J. Byrne, Pastor of St. Mary's Church of the Annunciation B.V.M. in Catasauqua, PA, a \$1,000 donation from the branch for the parishes "Increased Offertory Program." Mr. William Fritchey, a member of the Parish Finance Committee is also pictured.



SR. BRANCH 380, TRENTON, NJ — Former members went on a Cousins Caribbean Cruise in February 2008. Front row, L-R: Former Branch 380 President Kathleen Briant, Rose Sova, Vi Kanda, Maia Borgognoni, Fran Mulryne, and Helen Hritz. Second row: Mary Jo Connors, Jean Williamson, Jessica Endrzejewski, Lisa Kanda, Theresa Samuelian. Third row: Anne Lipsett, Terri Smith and Mary Knierim. Top row: Rita Leary and Kathleen Perrier.



The Cousins Cruise brought together the Hritz sisters now living in five different states. Seated, L-R: Peggy Serkies from Florida, Jean Williamson from New Jersey and Helen Hritz from Arizona. Standing are Maryann Kreutzer from North Carolina and Kathleen Briant, former Sr. Branch 380 president who retired to Nevada.

Branch W045 Awards Elementary School Grant Winners

This is a new program that was initiated in 2008. Eligible for these grants are juvenile members of Branch W045 with either a life insurance policy or annuity certificate in force and are attending school from kindergarten through eighth grade. Three grants are awarded by a random drawing from all applications. In this first year of the grants we had a total of twenty-four applicants. The awards are for \$200 and may be used for any school needs.

The winners are: Shirley Daye, 4th grade, Grant Wood, Cedar Rapids, IA; Myles Ollinger, 6th grade, Lourdes Catholic, Davenport, IA; and Keela Uhlenkamp, 7th grade, Solon Middle, Solon, IA.



Shirley Daye



Myles Ollinger



Keela Uhlenkamp

TOUR OF SLOVAKIA

September 7-23, 2008

Our tour of Slovakia will visit Kosice, Bratislava, Modra, Pezinok, Nitra, Levoca, Banska Bystrica, Stary Smokovec, Martin, Cicmany, Presov, Slovak Bethlehem — a large carving that took 15 years to complete. Raft ride down the Dunajec River, a cultural performance in Krakovany with a folklore wedding enactment. A visit to Piestany — a spa town. See a number of Slovak Castles, churches and cathedrals such as St. Stephen's in Vienna, St. Martin in Bratislava, St. James in Levoca. See Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna. A visit to Krakow, Poland with a visit to Wadowice — the birthplace of Karol Wojtyla, the late Pope John Paul II, visit the Wielicyka Salt Mine. A visit to Auschwitz — the biggest Nazi concentration camp. Visit the Shrine of the Divine Mercy. In Kosice see Elizabeth's Cathedral, visit the folk village of Zdiar. We will have a visit to Slovakia's Little Rome — Trnava. Visit Prague Czech Republic and visit Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge, old Town Square and Vladeslav Hall.

Tour participants will have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to the cultural performances.

The tour cost also includes 15 nights lodging at first class hotels, air-conditioned bus for touring, an English speaking guide, two meals daily and air fare departing from Pittsburgh. Airfare from other cities is available.

John Mago along with the Slovak guide, will help make arrangements for transportation and translator for anyone wishing to contact relatives.

For a brochure and further information call or write: John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergriff, PA 15690. Phone (724) 567-7341 or 1-800-260-8687.

Nina Holy of Branch 235 Awarded High Honor of Pribinov kríž II at the Recommendation of the President of the Slovak Republic

Mrs. Nina Holy was born in New York and when she was two years old she moved to Slovakia with her family. She attended grammar school in Koseca, near Trenčín, and started middle school in Ilava. She then completed high school in New York when she returned to the U.S. alone at the age of 15 to live with distant relatives. Mrs. Holy graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in accounting, became a professional accountant and later an auditor. She was employed by the U.S. Army and later the U.S. Navy.

Mrs. Holy was determined to remain true to her Slovak roots and became active with many Slovak organizations and continues to uphold Slovak traditions. She was a founding member of the Slovak World Congress and the Slovak American Club in New York. For the past five years she has



served as general secretary for the Slovak League of America. She was a member of the Ethnic Advisory Council for Governor Whitman in the state of New Jersey for eight years. For almost thirty years she participated in the New Jersey Festival and has served as the Festival Co-Chairperson for ten years. She unceasingly continues to be actively involved in Slovak organizations and is determined to work for the betterment of the Slovak nation in Slovakia and in America.

The President of the Slovak Republic at the recommendation of the Slovak Republic's Parliament presented Mrs. Nina Holy the high honor of Pribinov kríž II for her significant contribution to the cultural enhancement of the Slovak Republic.

Slávnostný ceremoniál udeľovania štátnych vyznamenaní pri príležitosti Dňa vzniku SR v utorok 1. januára 2008

NINA HOLÁ

Pani Nina Holá sa narodila v Spojených štátoch amerických v New Yorku. Ako dvojročná, v roku 1934, prišla s rodičmi na Slovensko. Základnú školu vychodila v Košeci pri Trenčíne a strednú začala študovať v Ilave, dokončila ju však až na High school v New Yorku, kam sa vo februári 1948 vrátila spolu s rodinou. Profesionálne sa pani Holá venovala účtovníctvu, neskôr robila audítorku pre americkú armádu a námorníctvo. Svoju oddanosť slovenskému národu stále potvrdzuje ako dlhoročná funkcionárka slovenských spolkov v Amerike. Bola pri zakladaní Slovensko-amerického klubu, pri zakladaní Svetového kongresu Slovákov a už 5 rokov je tajomníčkou Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Osem rokov bola členkou Etnického poradného zboru pre guvernéra štátu New Jersey. Pani Holá neustále rozvíja americko-slovenský život a je oddaná slovenskému národu vo vlasti i v Amerike.



Prezident SR udeľuje na návrh vlády Slovenskej republiky pani Nine HOLEJ štátne vyznamenanie Pribinov kríž II. triedy za významné zásluhy o kultúrny rozvoj Slovenskej republiky.

Licensed Insurance Agents Needed

Do you know a licensed insurance agent in your area? Maybe he or she would be interested in selling for FCSLA, bringing new members to your branch. Why not recommend this person to the FCSLA Home Office to be contracted with the Association. Your recommendation will help build your branch membership and contribute to the success of FCSLA. We have a lot to offer professional agents and they have a lot to offer us. Please call Patrick Braun, National Sales Manager at 800-464-4642 ext.1018 with the name and phone number of your candidate. Patrick will do the rest. Thanks in advance for your help!!

WORTHY CAUSES RECEIVE FCSLA DONATIONS

President of the FCSLA Magdalen I. Iskra District presented a \$10,000 check to **KING'S COLLEGE IN WILKES-BARRE, PA**, which was approved by the FCSLA 39th National Convention in St. Louis, MO. The funds will be used to further King's College Ethnic Community Outreach, or ECO program which acknowledges volunteerism of ethnic communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.



L-R: The Reverend Patrick Sullivan, C.S.C, coordinator of the ECO program at King's; Martha Iskra, FCSLA district board member; the Reverend Thomas O'Hara, president of King's College; Magdalen I. Iskra, FCSLA district president; Magdalen Benish; FCSLA district member; and Frank J. Pasquini, vice president for institutional advancement at King's.



The 39th National Convention's Donation of \$10,000 was recently presented by Virginia Holmes, National Trustee, to Rev. Stephen Chervenak, pastor of **ST. ANGELA MERICI**, White Oak, PA after the Mass. Pictured, L-R: Claire Hildebrand, business manager of St. Agnes; Reverend Stephen Chervenak, Pastor; Virginia Holmes, National Trustee; and Lynda McFarland, principal of St. Angela School.



THE SACRED HEART WILKES-BARRE FOUNDATION, INC., has received the FCSLA donation of \$5,000 which was approved at the 39th National Convention in St. Louis, MO in October 2007. In keeping with the goals of the FCSLA to promote our Catholic faith and to preserve our Slovak tradi-

tions and aid its members spiritually, the Foundation requested the donation to preserve, maintain, and protect the structure, contents, and artifacts of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The members of the Foundation believe the Church to be of such significant, religious, cultural, historic, economic and social importance in the history of Wyoming Valley that it must remain for future generations. Its prominent place in the chronicles of the history of early 20th century American immigration and industrial revolution makes it one of the quintessential ecclesiastical structures in the nation.

The Foundation invites all interested parties, religious, artists, architects, historians, preservationists, and philanthropists to visit the recently launched website: www.shwbfoundation.com. Membership is open to any individual at least 18 years old who supports its mission. Currently the Foundation is recruiting new members and enrollment is available online. A large membership will help the Foundation as it moves forward with its efforts.



Front row, L-R: Michael Horvath, secretary; David Tarantini, treasurer, Magdalen I. Iskra, FCSLA District President; Noreen Foti, president; Mary Ann Petrenchak, vice president; and Anthony Foti, board member. Second row, L-R: Mary Jean Tarantini, board member; James Jerista, Mary Jerista, Mary Chupka, Bernadine Kondracki, Barbara Ceklosky, Mary Ann Usaitis, Theresa Chupka, Betsy Ungvarsky, Margaret Chupka, Joan Siecko, Susan Horvath, Ann Kollesar, Martha Iskra, board member; Nancy Balant, Pauline Dinis, and John Dinis. Many of the members pictured are FCSLA members.

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Magdalen I. Iskra District Participates in Warm Clothing Drive

Magdalen I. Iskra District in Wilkes-Barre, PA, joined with the 53-member Cub Scout Pack 102 of the Endless Mountain District and Martz Trailways in the Winter Coat and Blanket Drive. The collection of the gently used winter coats and blankets was hosted at the Martz Terminal in Wilkes-Barre. Pictured below, L-R: FCSLA District officers Martha Iskra, publicity; Anna Dougher, trustee; Magdalen I. Iskra, president; and Martz Ticket Agent Sharooz.



WORTHY CAUSES

continued from page 12

The 39th National Convention awarded a \$5,000 donation to fund the development of a children's section in the new state of the art Emergency Department waiting room at **ST. MARY & ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER**.

The mission in this new E.R. is to provide exceptional service to patients and their families. With an outstanding team of professionals, combined with the advanced technology available in this E.R., the hospital is ready to provide 21st century emergency care to those in need.

Sister Antonia Klausner, CSFN, RN is President of Chicago Branch 180.



L-R: Sister Antonia Klausner, CSFN, RN, Geri Kentgen, RN, Director, Emergency Department, Margaret McDermott, Chief Executive Officer.

For the Love of Theo



Jim and Kathy Green receiving checks from Rebecca Kuhn, W033 Secretary.

May 18, 2007, twenty-five weeks into their pregnancy, twins arrived for Tim and Kathy (Kuboushek) Green. They were a boy and girl named Theodore and Isabel. Tiny Isabel did not survive and is now an angel watching over her family.

Theodore William weighed only 1 lb. and 12 oz. and easily fit into the palm of your hand. He and his family have endured many ups and downs including a tough surgery at the tender age of two months and then a 143 day stay in the neonatal center at Rochester, MN. In and out of the hospital little Theo is now home and doing well.

On Sunday, February 24, 2008 a benefit was held in Ossian, IA called "For the Love of Theo". This benefit was organized by friends, neighbors and colleagues who were aware of the families mounting medical expenses. The community including churches, schools, and business organizations all wanted to help in some way.

Little Theo, now 9 lbs. 7 oz. has touched many hearts and it was an honor for Branch W033, Spillville, IA to present Jim and Kathy with two \$300 checks — one from the branch and the other from the FCSLA Board of Directors. Theo's Mom Kathy and maternal grandparents, Wesley and Judy Kuboushek are members of Branch W033.

May God Bless this special family as Theo grows and progresses!

Any articles, pictures and suggestions for the magazine should be sent to:

CAROLYN M. BAZIK

P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603

e-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net

Phone 610-373-2743 • Fax 610-375-8333

AMERICA'S FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES SALUTE SALES FORCE DURING FRATERNAL INSURANCE COUNSELLORS' MONTH

This May the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCFA) salutes the fraternal benefit system's professional sales force during Fraternal Insurance Counsellors' (FIC) Month.

"The fraternal benefit system is proud of its community service and fraternal programs, but one of the most important benefits to our members are the financial services provided by our professional member recruiters and sales agents," said Katharine E. Rounthwaite, NFCFA Chair of the Board. "While everyone who helps with member recruitment is integral, May is set aside each year to recognize the system's Fraternal Insurance Counsellors. FICs are talented and energetic fraternalists who have worked hard, studied and completed the required coursework to achieve their well-deserved designation."

FIC History

In 1949, the Fraternal Field Managers Association (FFMA), a special interest group or "section" within the NFCFA, developed its own educational program. The first course consisted of three books (a fourth was added later) to provide a self-study training program focusing on the history of fraternalism, basic life insurance concepts, recruitment techniques, individual and family needs, advanced market concepts, estate planning and ethics. The first 134 FICs were conferred in 1950, and the National Association of Fraternal Insurance Counsellors (NAFIC) was established.

NAFIC membership is open to individuals who have received their FIC education designation. There are approximately 7,000 accredited FICs, with 4,400 belonging to the NAFIC. The association consists of 38 state FIC chapters and one in Canada.

Most FICs are part of the fraternal member recruitment force, but some also are home office executives or sales managers. Today's FICs work closely with state fraternal congresses (SFC) and often play an organizing role in the SFC annual meetings, especially in those states without domiciled societies.

The FFMA later saw the need for education in advanced underwriting and developed a "Fellow" program consisting of additional training. Successful completion of this portion earns the designation FICF.

If you are a fraternal member recruiter/sales agent and would like to learn more about securing your FIC designa-

tion, please contact: Ms. Anna Maenner, Executive Secretary, National Association of Fraternal Insurance Counsellors (NAFIC), 211 Canal Road, Waterloo, WI 53594. Phone (866) 478-3880; E-mail: office@nafic.org; Web site: www.nafic.org.

Charitable, Fraternal and Recruitment Statistics

Combined, the NFCFA's member-societies maintain more than \$329 billion of life insurance-in-force and, in 2006 alone, contributed almost \$410 million to charitable and fraternal programs, and volunteered nearly 95 million hours for community-service projects. These statistics demonstrate the commitment that fraternalists make to those in need and exemplify the true meaning of the NFCFA signature phrase: *Joining Hands to Touch Lives*.

About the NFCFA

The 122-year-old NFCFA unites 73 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents 10 million fraternalists in 37,000 local chapters, making it one of America's largest member-volunteer networks. Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities. For more information, visit the NFCFA's Web site at www.nfcenet.org.

FCSLA ANNOUNCES TWO NEW EXCITING PRODUCTS

The FCSLA is pleased to announce two new exciting products that came about as the result of feedback from our producers and members!

THE 10 PAY LIFE CERTIFICATE can be issued from ages 0 to 85 and has a minimum face amount of only \$5,000. The certificate includes the Post Mortem Benefit and pays dividends. It is ideal for final expense planning in the senior market. It can also be used to accumulate cash values for education, emergencies and opportunities.

THE 20 YEAR LEVEL TERM certificate can be issued from ages 16 to 80 years of age. The minimum purchase amount is only \$50,000. The certificate is convertible to permanent insurance during the term (up to age 75). The premium rate is **guaranteed** for the entire term. A special **Return of Premium Rider** is available on this certificate for an additional premium.

In both cases the new certificates were actuarially computed on the 2001 mortality table which simply means you will find them very competitive.

Brochures with the premium rates and a more detailed description of the products are available through your branch officers, producers or the Home Office!

Graduations? Special Honors? 1st Holy Communion? Birthdays?

Please send us your junior members achievements for publication in *Fraternally Yours!*

Students Present Program on Slovak Traditions

Students at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, PA, presented a program on "Slovak Traditions" for their school history project. Since it was during the Holy Season of Lent, the traditional "blessing of the basket" was their theme.

The five students met with Magdalen Benish and Anna Hudock, members of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA and worked with them for their presentation.

Each student was attired in the traditional Slovak outfit, provided by several members of the Slovak Heritage Society. One of the students represented the priest for the blessing of the food. A beautiful basket was prepared and the students explained each item of food and what they represented. A flyer was also passed out for the students to follow. A collection of "Paska" covers was on display.

Sister Kate Morris, SSCM, Guidance Counselor at Holy Redeemer High School was also in attendance. At the closing of the program, Sister Kate, Anna Hudock and Magdalen Benish joined together to sing our beautiful Pan Ježiš Kristus Vstal Zmrtvých.

In true Slovak spirit, nut and poppy seed rolls were distributed to all in attendance.

Mr. James George, their history teacher, who requested this type of class, was impressed with their work. He stated, "Seek information from your family, that is where you will find your richest source of information." This is what the students did.

Kara Munley, (niece of Magdalen Benish), Anna Hudock, and Magdalen Benish are members of FCSLA Sr. Branch 172, Wilkes-Barre, PA.



L-R: Mr. George, Amanda Pawlowski, Emily Griswald, Samantha Federo, Kara Munley, Emily Hoolick, Anna Hudock, Magdalen Benish, Sister Kate Morris, SSCM.

Have A New Address?

If you belong to a household receiving two or more magazines or if you have recently moved and have a new address, you can alleviate both situations simply by using the form on page 24 and mailing to the home office address. We ask that one magazine per household be sufficient.

BRANCH W130 HOLDS ANNUAL BREAKFAST

FCSLA Branch W130 of Clutier, IA held their annual breakfast on Sunday, April 1, 2008 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Clutier Catholic Social Center.

Seventy-one members enjoyed a breakfast of scrambled eggs, ham, hash browns, fruit cups, cinnamon rolls, kolaches and kuchens.

Helping prepare the food were branch officers: Joe and Carole Svoboda, Paul and Barb Svoboda, Freddie and Shirley Kubik, Warren and Bev Colvin and Richard Linhart.



Members enjoy breakfast and good conversation at annual gathering.

Good News for Slovakia

Department of Homeland Security Signs Visa Waiver Agreement with Slovakia

On March 15, 2008, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff signed a Visa Waiver Program Memoranda of Understanding with Slovak Minister of the Interior Robert Kalinak. The security enhancement outlined in the agreement put Slovakia on track for visa-free travel to the U.S., and potential designations as a (VWP) Visa Waiver Program.

The Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said, "I applaud Slovakia for their leadership on these enhanced security measures, and I look forward to the day when their citizens can travel to the United States without a visa. We are fortunate to have strong ties with Slovakia. As we move forward with other aspiring allies toward visa free travel, we will also continue to collaborate with the European Union, especially in the areas where it has unique legal authority."



IN MEMORIAM

BETTY PAVLISH Branch W121

DICKINSON, ND—Betty J. Pavlish, 72, passed away peacefully with her husband and five children by her side on Friday, January 4, 2008, at St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck, ND.



Betty Ficek was born on October 2, 1935, in Dickinson to Albert and Lillian (Urbanec) Ficek. She grew up on the family farm north of Dickinson and attended Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in New Hradec. Betty then attended Dickinson Central High School and later Dickinson Teachers College and received her teaching degree. Betty taught at the Green River School District for three years until it closed. She then began working for Looney's Department Store in Dickinson. It was during this time that she met Ken Pavlish. The two married on September 1, 1958, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, New Hradec. Together they made their home in a stone house on her parent's farm for seven years. In 1965 Ken and Betty moved to the Joe Wolberg farm where they farmed and milked cows until 1978. It was at this time that they moved into a new house near her parents farm and have made their home there ever since.

Betty was a lifetime member of Sts. Peter and Paul Church during which she played the organ, sang in the choir, served as the treasurer of the rosary society, and taught CCD religious education classes for over 20 years. She was also a reporter for the Catholic Workman Newspaper for many years. Betty was proud of her Czech heritage and enjoyed researching her family's history as well as cooking many ethnic dishes. Betty loved spending time with her family, and especially loved any opportunity to spoil her grandchild-

dren. She was a special lady who will be missed by all that knew her.

Betty is survived by her husband, Ken; two sons, Kevin (Cheryl) Pavlish of Dickinson, Tim (Jane Petermeier) of Fargo, ND; three daughters, Melanie (Fiancé, Kurt Lesser) Dickinson; Patti (Robin) Zephier of Rapid City, SD and Cindy (Tom) Solberg of Bismarck; six grandchildren, Courtney and Garrett Hickel; Sam and Melissa Solberg; Landon and Heather Pavlish; a brother, Delmar Ficek of Dickinson; three sisters, Eileen Leiss of Dickinson; Donna (Tom) Binek of St. Louis, MO; Nancy Hanel (Special friend Justin Hoff) of Dickinson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one infant son and one brother in law, Roger Leiss.

Funeral Mass was held at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, New Hradec, ND, with Father Chris Kadrmaz celebrating. Burial was in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery. Stevenson Funeral Home, Dickinson, ND was in charge of arrangements.

PAUL J. GERBA Branch 522

HINCKLEY, OH—Paul J. Gerba, 86, died Sunday, March 2, 2008, peacefully at home.



Paul was born in 1921 in Cleveland, OH. He lived in Maple Hts., OH for 56 years before moving to Hinckley last year. He was married to Margaret Dancik Gerba.

Both held offices in the First Ladies Catholic Slovak Association branch as president, vice president, and treasurer for many years and Paul also served on the Court of Appeals. He was a member of St. Monica Church in Garfield Hts., OH since 1951 where he served as an usher at mass and was a member of the Holy Name Society. He was

also a member of the Amvets Post 80, Yankee Division Veterans Association, Catholic War Veterans Post 1812 where he was a Past Commander, the American Legion Post 309, and volunteered at the V.A. Hospital and Marymount Hospital.

Paul worked and retired from customer service from the East Ohio Gas Company. He enjoyed traveling, baseball, casino gaming, and being with family.

He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret. He is survived by his four children, Carol Consolo (David), Richard (Sandra), Paul (Theresa), and Ginger Summers (Mark); five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mass was offered at St. Monica Church in Garfield Hts., OH. Burial was at All Saints Cemetery in Northfield, OH.

FR. PAUL BEGLEY Branch W018

OMAHA, NE—Father Paul Begley, 82, who served as a priest for 53 years, died January 22 in Omaha.

Father Begley, who was born in 1925 in Omaha, studied for the priesthood at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and received a bachelor's degree from Conception Seminary in Conception, MO. He also received a degree from St. Lawrence Seminary in Mount Calvary, WI.

He was ordained in 1955. As a priest, he served several parishes in the archdiocese: St. Patrick (1955-61), St. Adalbert (1961) and St. Stanislaus (1961), all in Omaha; St. Mary, West Point (1962-64); St. Mary, Hubbard and St. Cornelius, Homer (1964-68); St. Mary, Wayne (1968-74); St. Mary, Bellevue (1974-78); and Assumption, Omaha (1978-95).

Father Begley, a veteran of World War II and a radio operator on the USS Nassau CVE16, was involved in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

He served as a contract chaplain for Veterans Hospital in Omaha for 20

years. He also was the chaplain for the 789th ACW Squadron of the Air Force and for the USS Nassau Survivors. He received the Governor's Award for his work with the 789th Squadron in the early 1960s.

Father Begley co-founded the Catholic Hispanic Ministry for the archdiocese. He also was co-founder and president of CLP Housing Rehabilitation, which provided housing for the needy.

He was a member of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and the Old Timers Baseball Association.

Father Begley retired in 1995, but remained active by helping at area churches.

He will be remembered for his strength and wit, said Mindy Begley, Father Begley's niece.

"He had the best sense of humor and he liked to lighten the mood and make people feel more at ease."

She said Father Begley cherished his friends, especially Msgr. Richard Wolbach and those from the Navy with whom he often met for lunch.

"He was always a joy to be around," Begley said. "We'll miss his presence."

Father Begley is survived by three brothers, two sisters, one brother-in-law and three sisters-in-law, as well as many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass at held at St. Bridget Church, Omaha. Interment was at St. John's Cemetery in Bellevue.

JOHN P. LASKO **Branch 185**

ISELIN, NJ—John Paul Lasko, 68, entered into eternal rest peacefully February 2, 2008.

John Paul was the eldest son of John J. Lasko and Anna Verba Lasko of Bound Brook. He relocated to Iselin in 1987 but frequently came to Bound Brook to visit his sister and family.

John graduated St. Mary's School, Bound Brook, Malvern Preparatory School, Malvern, PA and attended Villanova University.

He worked in the family Beverage Business as Vice-President of John Lasko & Son, Inc. until it's closing in 1973. He was employed by Stelton Coal & Feed Co., Edison, NJ until 1976. John had a knack for making friends with everyone he met and dedicated most of his time to community service organizations Catholic and Civic. He was a communicant of St. Cecelia's RC Church and a member of St. Cecilia's Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Iselin, NJ. In keeping with his love for people and service, John joined The Blood Center of New Jersey as a Donor Service Representative, retiring after 15 years. He continued work as a Customer Service Representative for Maier's Bakery and Prudential Financial, Mutual Fund Services, Iselin, NJ retiring from there in 2003. During retirement he worked part time at Suburban Transit/Coach USA and served on the Condo Board of the Gill Lane Apartments.

He held leadership roles in the Knights of Columbus, Bound Brook, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Somerville, the International Order of Alhambra Plainfield, and Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees). After his tenures with the Catholic service groups, he continued his leadership duties with the Jaycees receiving the title of JCI Senator in May 1975. He served as Assistant State Treasurer of the NJ Jaycees, Region 2 Vice President of the United States JCI Senate and President of the NJ JCI Senate 2004 -2005.

John never married, but shared a tight bond with his sister Mary-Ann L. Barranger (Richard) and their children: Terence "TJ" and wife Mandy(Wolin) of Maryland, Brendan USN stationed in Japan, Ian, Eric, Lauren and Edward of Bound Brook.

He also leaves his brother Lawrence W. Lasko and wife Barbara (Arway) and children Paul, Andrew, and Valerie all of Bound Brook.

Mass was held at St. Joseph's Church in Bound Brook. John was laid

to rest at Resurrection Cemetery in Piscataway.

AGNES M. VESELING **Branch 49**

SPRINGFIELD, IL—Agnes M. Veseling, 87, died Saturday, November 3, 2007 at Memorial Medical Center.



She was born to John G. and Elizabeth Tapocik Durako on July 15, 1920 in Riverton, IL. She lived in Springfield since 1922.

Agnes married Edward C. Vesling, Sr. on August 10, 1940.

She worked for the Illinois Department of Agriculture for 31 years, from 1954 until her retirement in 1984.

She was a member of the St. Cabrini Church, Altar Society, AFSME and AARP. She was involved with FCSLA Sr. Branch 368 and Jr. Branch 310. She was a secretary for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband in 1980, two sisters Mary Steil, and Anna Hardy, and one brother John Durako.

Survivors include four daughters: Edwina (Richard) Dolack of Williams-ville, Vicki Dike (deceased husband Dana) of Independence, MO, Darlene (Dave) Scheiris of Raymore, MO and Tammy (Bo) Farley of Springfield; four sons: Edward C. (Barbara) Veseling, Jr., Darrell L. (Patricia) Veseling, Vincent D. (Betty) Veseling and Tim P. Veseling all of Springfield; 17 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great grandchild.

She is also survived by one sister Edith (Anthony J.) Caruso of Springfield and one sister-in-law Betty Durako of Belleville, IL; also several nieces and nephews and cousins.

Funeral Mass was held at St. Cabrini Church with Monsignor John Ossola officiating.

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IN MEMORIAM

Staab Funeral Home, Springfield, IL was in charge of arrangements. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery.

VINCENT J. KOPACEK Branch W051

BRITT, IA—Vincent Joseph Kopacek, 96, of Britt, died Thursday, February 14, 2008, at Mercy Medical Center North Iowa in Mason City.

Vincent, the son of Frank and Elizabeth Kudej Kopacek, was born April 10, 1911 on the family farm near Britt. He attended country school at Liberty Township and helped on the family farm.

On January 31, 1933, Vincent was united in marriage with Rose Cecilia Rayhons at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. Following their marriage they lived on a farm west of Duncan. In 1939 they purchased a farm in Erin Township where they built a new home and raised their family.

In 1975, they moved into Britt. In their retirement Rose and Vince spent time helping on the farm, traveling and visiting their children.

Vince loved bowling and playing cards, especially his numerous games of 65 with Jim Ryburn, Clarence Seebeck, other friends and family, and 500 with the Senior Citizens. Vince had a great love for horses and had never missed a Britt Draft Horse Show in 26 years. He loved playing golf, which he didn't begin playing until age 65, his Minnesota Twins, ice cream and Rose's cooking and baking.

Vince was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the FCSLA. He was active in the community and for many years served as director of the country school in Erin Township which was on the corner of their farm. He was on the board of directors of the First State Bank of Britt for several years and also the Britt Farmers Coop Board.

Vincent is survived by eight children: Doris Hempt of Britt, Shirley (Dr. Thomas) Carson of Camarillo, CA, Donald (Kay) Kopacek of Britt, Roger (Mary)

Kopacek of Britt, Vincent, Jr. (Janice) Kopacek of Ankeny, Carl Kopacek of Portland, OR, Ted (Cindy) Kopacek of Maple Grove, MN, and Vicki (Tom) Bueker of Bettendorf; 27 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; two sisters: Vivian Formanek of Britt and Marie Brcka of Britt, numerous nieces and nephews, other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Rose on April 19, 2006; granddaughter, Liz Ann Hempt; grandson, Jeff Kopacek; two great-grandsons, Tate and McCoy Nedved; brothers Arnold and Francis and sisters Helen and Evelyn at young ages; brother Raymond and sisters Mildred Wellik, Lillian Chizek, Agnes Rayhons, and Blanche Paca.

Funeral services for Vincent J. Kopacek were held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Britt with the Rev. Brian Dellaert and the Rev. Jerry Kopacek officiating.

Burial was in St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Duncan. The Ewing Funeral Chapel, Britt, was in charge of arrangements.

MARIE A. SULZINSKI Branch 172

NORTH WILKES-BARRE, PA—Mrs. Marie A. (Gdovin) Sulzinski, 81, of North Wilkes-Barre, passed into Eternal Life on Sunday, February 24, at the Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre, following an illness.

Born May 3, 1926, in Wilkes-Barre, she was a daughter of the late John A. and Helen (Hudak) Gdovin. She was a graduate of the former Saint Nicholas High School, of Wilkes-Barre.

Mrs. Sulzinski was a lifetime member of the Catholic Community, of North Wilkes-Barre, where she held membership in the Sacred Heart Altar and Rosary Society. She was also a member of the Golden Years Social Club, of Exeter.

She and her husband, Mr. Leonard J. Sulzinski, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 7, 2007.

She was preceded in death by daughters Marie Hergert and Regina M. Bria; and a brother, Joseph Gdovin.

Surviving, in addition to her husband, Leonard, at home, are her daughter Barbara Lowe and her husband, Gary, of Wilkes-Barre; her son, Dr. Michael A. Sulzinski and his wife, Kim, of Scranton; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; her sisters, Mrs. Martha Lisofsky and her husband, Edward, Mrs. Helen Blizman and her husband, John; and a brother, John (Slimmer) Gdovin, all of Wilkes-Barre; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held from the John V. Morris Funeral Home, North Wilkes-Barre. A funeral Mass followed in Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, with the Rev. Monsignor John J. Sempa, pastor, officiating. Interment was in the parish cemetery, Dorchester Drive, Dallas.

MARIE E. ZUBER Branch 417

SUMMIT HILL, PA—Mrs. Marie E. "Mitzie" Zuber, 78, of 152 E. Fell Street, Summit Hill, died Sunday, February 17, 2008 in St. Lukes Hospital, Fountain Hill, with her loving family at her side.

She was the wife of the late Michael M. Zuber Sr., who died June 30, 2002.

Born in Coaldale, PA, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Katherine Kate (Buzik) Juracka.

Before retiring in 1978, she was the personnel director at Gnadon Huetten Memorial Hospital, Lehighton. She was a past member of the American Academy of Medical Administrators and the American Society for Hospital Personnel Administration of the American Hospital Association. She was a graduate of Coaldale High School, class of 1947. She was a member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, Coaldale, PA.

She is survived by her son with whom she resided, Michael Zuber Jr.; daughter, Catherine, (Thomas) Knepper, of Columbus, MS; brother, Frank Juracka

of Summit Hill; grandchildren, Greg Knepper of Kent, WA and Alexis Knepper of Pittsburgh, PA. She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Rose Mary Kintz.

Services were held in the Holmes-Griffiths Funeral Home Inc., Lansford, PA. Mass of Christian Burial was held with the Rev. John Pavlosky officiating. Interment was in SS. Cyril and Methodius Cemetery, Nesquehoning, PA.

HELEN E. SEKERAK **Branch 75**

BETHLEHEM, PA—Helen Elizabeth (Danko) Sekerak, 79, of Bethlehem, PA passed away on February 17, 2008 at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem after a brief period of illness.

She was born in Ebervale, near Hazelton, PA. She graduated from Hazle Township High School and was employed for many years by Bell of Pennsylvania. Helen retired from her position as a maintenance administrator in 1994.

Helen was the spouse of Joseph B. Sekerak who passed away in 2000.

She was a member of the Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary and the Telephone Pioneers.

Helen and her family were members for many years of SS. Simon and Jude Catholic Church in Bethlehem.

She had been a breast cancer survivor, but had been in declining health in recent years.

She is survived by her son, Gerald of Bethlehem, daughter, Barbara A. McOscar (Joseph) of Greenwich, NJ.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Good Shepherd Church in Drums, PA. Burial will be held at Calvary Cemetery Drums, PA.

MARGARET McLAUGHLIN **Branch 77**

McKEESPORT, PA—Margaret "Marge" McLaughlin, 76, of McKeesport, PA, died August 29, 2007, at her residence. Born November 11, 1930,

she was the daughter of Anna (Wargo) Baglos and the late George Baglos and wife of Rege McLaughlin.

Marge was a loving wife and mother. She was a member of St. Martin de Porres Church, the church's Rosary Society, and was a past employee of Gimbel's Department Store, McKeesport Candy Company and Cox's Department Store. She was an avid bingo player and a member of the Rainbow Seniors Club and McKeesport Friendship Club.

In addition to her mother and husband, Marge is survived by her beloved daughter, Deborah (Krivansky) (John J.) Bazzone, of Oldsmar, FL; grandchildren, Lindsey and Michael; sister, Dorothy (Nicholas) Ionadi of White Oak; brother, Robert (Rose Marie) Baglos of North Miami, FL; and several nieces and nephews.

LILLIAN E. SESTAK **Branch W093**

TABOR, SD—Lillian Evelyn Sestak, age 87, of Tabor, SD, passed away Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Tyndall Good Samaritan Center, Tyndall, SD.

Lillian was born on October 28, 1920 to Frank and Rose (Merkwan) Travnicek on the family farm east of Tyndall, SD and attended Vlasak School.

On May 23, 1944, she was united in marriage to Adolph Sestak at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor, SD.

Lillian was employed at C R Industries and the Human Services Center in Yankton, and for many years managed the Beseda Hall in Tabor.

She was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, St. Wenceslaus Altar and Rosary Society, which she was also a past president, Czech Heritage Society, and a past member of the Kortan-Hatwan American Legion Auxiliary.

Lillian enjoyed cooking and baking for her family. She loved to take care of and play with her grandchildren. She

attended many of her children and grandchildren's activities. Lillian was very proud to have attended 3 grandchildren's weddings, traveling to Alaska in 2002 and New Hampshire in 2007.

Her memory will always be cherished by her children: Patricia Garner of Ames, IA, Tom of Tabor, SD, Gary (Marilyn) of Tabor, SD, Karen (Martin) Luebke of Garretson, SD, and Terry (Eileen) of Tabor, SD; brother, Emil Travnicek of Yankton, SD and also survived by her 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Adolph in December 2002, infant son, Joseph, her parents, brother, Joseph, a son-in-law, Ken Garner, and three sisters-in-law: Gloria Travnicek, Lola Travnicek, and Beatrice Travnicek.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, SD, with Rev. Joe Puthenkulathil officiating. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Tabor, is in charge of arrangements.

EDWARD SENKO **Branch 127**

DONORA, PA—Edward Senko, 81, of Donora died Friday, February 15, 2008 in Havencrest Nursing Center.

Mr. Senko was born in Donora on June 15, 1926, a son of the late Stephen and Theresa Lewisky Senko.

He was retired from USX Corp having worked in the US Steel Building in Pittsburgh as an inside salesman. Mr. Senko was a U.S. Navy veteran serving during WWII, a graduate of Donora High School, a member of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church in Donora, Bishop Elko Council #1941 Knights of Columbus, BPOE #1265 of Donora, and the Seniors Golf League.

He was preceded in death by his son Larry J. Senko.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years

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NINTH CONSULAR TOUR TO SLOVAKIA

Honorary Slovak Consul Joseph Senko will be conducting his 9th Consular Tour to Slovakia and the Czech Republic from July 4, 2008 to July 19, 2008. Joe is including the best of his previous eight tours in this upcoming event. Some of the highlights include a wine tasting, a spa treatment, visit to a Christmas ornament factory, attending a folk wedding ceremony, rafting, a tour of the U.S. Steel plant and the annual folk craft festival in Kezmarok. In addition to a full day tour of Vienna and of Prague, the tour will also include visits to Trnava, Piešťany, Banská Bystrica, the High Tatras, Cicmany, Levoca, Bardejov, Presov and Kosice.

The tour includes all quality hotels, daily breakfast and dinner, air conditioned bus, English speaking guide and numerous musical folk entertainment. The price including airfare from New York is \$3,887 per person (double occupancy). If you are interested in obtaining a more detailed itinerary or if you have questions, call Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 or e-mail him at jtsenko@aol.com.

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association News

On May 9, 2008 the Kent-Dudince Sister City Association (KDSC) will host the nationally known musical group "Harmonia". The concert will be held at the Kent Stage located in downtown Kent. Advance tickets are \$15.00 per person. Many officers and members of KDSC have attended other concerts by Harmonia. Please join us for an evening of wonderful musical entertainment!

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association (KDSC) will sponsor a Heritage Tour to Europe on September 3-16, 2008. Visits to Sister City Dudince through Slovakia and to Budapest, then on to the Czech Republic and Poland are planned. President Rudy Bachna will be this year's tour escort.

For more information on these events please call 330/673-3255.

Popular Conversation Group Continues

The Slovak Conversation meetings continue on the first Monday of the month at the Mount Lebanon Public Library in Pennsylvania from 7:00-8:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome. No reservations required. The program features occasional Slovak guests and videos on history and culture of Slovakia. The group will not meet in the summer (July, August, September).

Slovak League of America to Offer Scholarship Grants in 2008

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, is pleased to announce that it will offer six, \$750 scholarship grants to deserving students for the fall semester of 2008. A student of Slovak ancestry, currently enrolled or who will be enrolled in the fall semester of 2008 in full time study at a college, university or professional school may apply for these grants. These grants are available to students who are on the undergraduate or graduate level of study.

Applicants are asked to write a study paper on some theme from Slovak history or culture of no less than six type-written double-spaced pages. The completed application along with the essay is to be returned by the deadline date of June 1, 2008. Grants will be paid to the individual student in August 2008.

For an application, write: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055, tel. daily, Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 973/472-8993.

The Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc., was established in 1972 as an affiliate of the Slovak League of America to assist students of Slovak ancestry in their quest for higher education. Since then, more than 100 students have benefited from this fund.

FCSLA ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective immediately, life insurance commission chargebacks will be initiated for both agents and recommender. A chargeback situation is one where the certificate is surrendered or lapsed within one (1) year of the issue date and all or part of the commission may need to be returned. A chargeback will be prorated based on how long the certificate is in effect. Any certificate cancelled within the free look period will have 100% of the commission charged back. A certificate cancelled after one (1) year from the date of issue will not be subject to commission chargeback. Any questions regarding life insurance commission chargebacks should be directed to Heather at the Home Office, Ext. 1037.

IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 19

Margaret A. Moravec Senko; a son Edward S. Senko of Mt. Pleasant; 3 grandsons, Stephen L., Ryan M., and Tyler J. Senko; 1 brother John (Patricia) Senko of Fayette City and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church with the Rev. Stephen J. Wahal as celebrant. Interment was in St. Michael's Cemetery, Donora.

“JUMP STARTING THEORY TO REALITY”

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of feature articles addressing the realm of genealogy. It is one specifically designed for Slovak descendants and is so structured to serve as an introductory course for the novice, meet the needs of the advanced researcher or, if nothing else, the curious.)

This writing somewhat departs from our general pattern of “how to” in tracing one’s Slovak ancestral past, shifting its focus to more of a “why not” approach.

It is an outgrowth of one of those lulls we have all experienced in our research, a span when seemingly there are no new discoveries or even a trace of information to piece together that elusive family historical portrait. Simply said, I was desperate for yet another jump start to a pastime we have all vowed to chronicle into writing.

I have often encouraged the need to bring a sense of life to one’s narrative, be it a detailed account of an ancestor’s place of employment and working conditions, a visit to the family cemetery plot, or a trek to the village of origin in Slovakia. Each is a rich source in constructing the chapters to a storied past.

On this particular occasion I began a personal and quiet weekend journey to such a site, one that would transform into a pilgrimage of sorts and one that was bound by a time capsule of virtually a century.

My destination was New York City and more specifically, a visit to Ellis Island. Through all these years of personal research it was a site that had eluded my travels, yet one of historical significance for the Plutko Family line. It was here a Janos Plutko connected a lifeline from the small village of Krasnovce in old Zemplin County to an eventual steel town of McKeesport in southwestern Pennsylvania.

I left my hotel lobby — located just two short blocks from “Ground Zero” of 9/11 reference — for a spirited 20-minute cold and blustery walk to Battery Park. As a sidebar, I strongly urge you select a month other than January for such a visit!

Upon reaching the Castle Garden departure point I purchased a \$6.50 roundtrip ticket on the CircleLine Ferry that makes regular-scheduled runs to both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. This is the same Castle Garden receiving station where immigrants were processed from 1855-1892 and again from 1897-1900, the latter years the result of a fire that destroyed the original wooden buildings of Ellis Island.

The ferry trek across the Narrows is a mere 20 minutes and provides the option of visiting both the Statue of Liberty grounds and Ellis Island. The two miniature landscapes are a mere one-quarter mile across the water from each other and it was at this point my “Epiphany” began. I sensed my grandfather offering a prayer of thanks for a safe voyage while being awestruck at the sight of *Lady Liberty* and the red brick buildings of Ellis Island just off to the right.

I visualized the ship docking to discharge it first and second class passengers, and my grandfather and others from the steerage class then transported by ferry to the often-called “Island of Hopes and Island of Tears,” similar to the one I was now

riding a century later. I “saw” my grandfather and others dragging their luggage into the vastness of the first-floor Reception Hall where he and his only worldly goods were initially inspected.

I then climbed the same stairwell — and possibly, just possibly, touched the identical spot on the hand-railing he once touched — to enter the large arena of the Registry Hall for processing. A few of the original wooden benches and three registry desk-podiums still remain, but the amusement park-like metal railings were gone. It was here that I wiped away the first of many tears on that day.

It was also here that my grandfather was assembled into a group of 30 for processing, still clutching an identification card that bore his name and ID number, matching an identical letter and number on the ship’s manifest sheet. Just imagine the atmosphere — guards shouting instructions, immigrants responding in a variety of languages, and children crying.

This group of 30 immigrants, Janos Plutko among them, was then channeled through a series of inspection stations in the “Great Hall.” There first was a medical area with two or three doctors looking for signs of illness that might dash the dreams of an individual. Anyone having symptoms that attracted the attention of medical examiners were sent to the hospital wing on Ellis Island where they were housed until cleared or denied clearance.

The Registry Interview Station was next and no doubt the most stressful for my grandfather and others. Each was asked a list of 29 questions and the language communication barriers were no doubt telling: Your name? How did you pay for your passage? Do you have promise of a job? Your occupation? What is your destination in the United States?

The entire process was a mere 45 minutes, yet one that no doubt seemed a lifetime. My grandfather received a card stamped “Admitted” and the lifeline was now a reality! He was cleared for a currency exchange, pay a head tax of \$2 and receive his prized ferry ticket to the mainland.

Later that Saturday afternoon, I completed my return trip on the CircleLine Ferry, my mind rushing a mile a minute with thoughts and feelings of what I had just experienced. The ferry was crowded, just as it must have been 100 years past. I took one last glance at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty in the background and then to the person standing next to me on the inner railing. Just for a moment, just for a fleeting moment, I had a strange sensation it was my grandfather standing there with me. We were both wiping away a tear . . .

Thank you for joining with me on my weekend trek and I trust that in the near future you too will have the occasion to bring life to your writings.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There is now available a completely revised and updated Slovak Genealogy Research Kit (from 18 to 52 pages, plus forms), one designed exclusively for those tracing their Slovak roots. The kit may be ordered for \$13, plus \$1.75 postage. Also available is a detailed historical summary and comprehensive area map for any village you specify in Slovakia at \$5 plus \$1 postage. Make check payable to Ray Plutko, 6862 Palmer Court, Chino, CA 91710-7343.)

If Jesus Came To Your House

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two —

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,

And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there —

That serving Him in your home is joy beyond compare.

But — when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door

With arms outstretched in welcome to your Heav'nly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder — if the Savior spent a day or two with you, Would you go right on doing the things you always do? Would you keep right on saying the things you always say?

Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace, And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read

And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,

Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,

Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on, Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.



REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JANUARY 31, 2008

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 18,998,197.55
Bonds	482,243,338.89
Preferred Stock	8,945,189.87
Common Stock	732,727.96
Investment Income Due and Accrued	7,944,194.22
Certificate Loans and Accrued Interest	1,226,301.36
Promissory Notes	110,240.85
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	8,748,027.59
Other Assets	279,839.76
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 529,228,058.05
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 154,458,801.08
Annuity Reserves	268,255,348.10
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	2,071,000.00
Death Claims Payable	599,212.83
Unearned Premiums	658,062.56
Matured Endowments	117,172.95
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,654,670.08
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,317,514.62
Accrued Convention Donations	120,000.00
Provision for Future Conventions	44,462.40
Asset Valuation Reserve	4,755,450.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,512,144.00
Other Liabilities	1,955,923.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 439,519,761.84
SURPLUS	
Surplus	\$ 89,708,296.21
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 89,708,296.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 529,228,058.05

INCOME STATEMENT

For the One Month Ended January 31, 2008

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 312,185.60
Annuity Premiums	1,306,346.82
Investment Income	2,625,859.70
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	5,688.00
Other Revenue	38,262.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 4,288,342.12
EXPENSES	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 347,801.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	642,348.00
Insurance Benefits	294,021.34
Annuity Benefits	1,779,301.43
Commission Expense	27,488.14
Surrender Benefits	79,571.53
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	7,559.22
Donation Expenses	103,589.95
Convention Expenses	15,000.00
Dividends to Members	123,133.11
Post Mortem Benefits	76,267.57
Bonus to Branches	126,339.00
Fraternal Activities	2,422.00
Bank Service Charges	2,843.29
Data Processing Service Fees	40,441.22
Accounting Fees	8,390.00
Actuarial Fees	8,570.00
Consulting Services	23,332.50
Official Publications	26,132.00
Scholarship Awards	(250.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	23,880.38
Fees — Directors	9,083.36
Salaries — Employees	80,655.26
Salaries — Officers	35,416.67
Interest Expense	16,354.75
Tax Expense	23,722.91
Depreciation Expense	36,203.00
Utility Expense	7,773.83
Postage and Printing	27,781.21
Advertising	7,101.13
Travel Expense	10,489.55
Other Expense	64,693.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,077,456.51
NET INCOME	\$ 210,885.61

EASY... But Good Enough For Company

STRAWBERRY CHICKEN SALAD

- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced (¼ cup)
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 12 ounces skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 4 cups spinach leaves
- 1 cup sliced fresh strawberries
- 1 (11-ounce) can mandarin oranges, drained

Dressing: Combine 2 tablespoons orange juice, the oil, and sugar in plastic container. Stir until sugar dissolves. Chill dressing until serving time. For marinade, combine soy sauce, green onions, 2 tablespoons orange juice, the lemon juice, and garlic. Place chicken in a plastic bag set into a shallow dish. Add marinade; seal bag. Turn chicken to coat well. Chill 2 to 4 hours, turning chicken occasionally. Remove chicken from bag, reserving marinade. Grill chicken on an uncovered grill over medium coals for 5 minutes. Brush with marinade; turn chicken and brush with marinade. Grill 7 to 10 minutes more or until chicken is tender and no longer pink. Cool slightly; slice chicken breast. Discard any remaining marinade. Line 4 individual plates with spinach leaves. Arrange strawberries, oranges, and chicken breast slices on spinach-lined plates. Stir dressing; drizzle over salads. Serves 4

EASY CORN CASSEROLE

- 1 egg, beaten
- 14 oz. can cream-style corn
- 15 oz. can whole kernel corn (drained)
- 8 oz. container sour cream
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 1 box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stir together wet ingredients in a medium bowl. Add muffin mix and stir until blended. Batter will be lumpy. Pour into a 9" x 9" greased baking pan. Bake about 45 minutes. Top will be slightly golden. Serves 6.

GRILLED BASS

- 2 (6-oz.) largemouth bass fillets, skin removed
- 1 tablespoon margarine or butter, softened
- 4 thin red onion slices

- 2 tablespoons sliced almonds
- ¼ cup sliced green onions
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon white or lemon pepper paprika

Prepare grill for medium-direct heat. Grease the center of a 20 x 18 inch sheet of heavy duty aluminum foil with margarine. Arrange 2 slices of red onion, 2 slices of lemon over the margarine. Sprinkle with one tablespoon of almonds and half of the green onions. Arrange the fillets in a single layer over the onions, lemon and almonds. Top with remaining red and green onions, lemon and almonds. Season lightly with salt, pepper and paprika. Fold the long sides of the foil together in locked folds. Fold and crimp short ends to seal tightly. Place the packet directly on the cooking grate. Grill, covered, for 11 to 15 minutes, or until the fish is firm and opaque, and just begins to flake. Serves 2.

FANCY COMPANY POTATOES

- 4 medium Yukon gold potatoes, peeled, halved lengthwise and fanned
- ½ cup bread crumbs
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon olive oil or melted butter
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- Salt to taste

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Oil a large glass baking dish. Place each half of potato cut side down on both sides and thinly slice across. Do not cut through the potato. Place crumbs, cheese, oil and seasons in shallow bowl and mix. Drizzle potatoes with more oil and bend to separate sections then roll in crumb mix. Place potatoes in dish, cover and bake 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake 15 more minutes. Serves 4.

EVERYONE LOVES TACO SALAD

- 1 head lettuce, shredded
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup black olives
- ¾ cup chopped green pepper
- 4 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 3 cups shredded cheddar or taco blend cheese
- 1½ pounds ground beef
- 1 (8-oz.) bag taco-flavored tortilla chips, coarsely crushed
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 (8-oz.) bottle Russian salad dressing
- 1 (8-oz.) jar mild taco sauce

Brown ground beef; stir in taco seasoning mix and taco sauce. Cool.

In a large salad bowl combine lettuce, onion, green pepper, olives, tomatoes, and celery. Add ground beef mixture, cheese, and chips. Pour salad dressing over salad and toss to coat. Serves 10.

SHOW-OFF ASPARAGUS

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup sliced purple onion
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Garlic powder to taste
- 16-20 spears fresh asparagus
- ¼ cup white wine
- 4 tablespoons Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons crushed whole wheat crackers

Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Mix in onion and garlic, and season with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Cook and stir until tender. Place asparagus in the skillet, and cook 8 minutes, turning occasionally to coat with seasonings. Sprinkle wine into the skillet, and scrape up any browned bits. Transfer asparagus to a shallow dish. Drizzle with remaining mixture in skillet, and dust evenly with Parmesan cheese and crushed whole wheat crackers. Serves 4



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