



Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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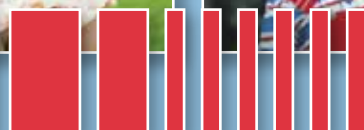
dependable INSPIRATION guidance *caring*
Grandfather HUSBAND loving
LOVE courageous Dad
Fun HERO FAMILY
remembered BROTHER
supportive

Happy
Father's Day

JUNE 15



FLAG DAY



JUNE 14

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,



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To Touch the Face of God

THANK YOU FOR HANDS

An old man, probably some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the park bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was ok.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was ok. He raised his head and looked at me and smiled.

"Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking", he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, sir, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were ok", I explained to him.



"Have you ever looked at your hands", he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making.

Then he smiled and related this story:

Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler, I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life. They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went off to war.

They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.

They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

They wrote the letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle. Yet, they were strong and sure when I dug my buddy out of a foxhole and lifted a plow off of my best friend's foot.

They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.

They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And He won't care about where these hands have been or what they have done. What He will care about is to whom these hands belong and how much He loves these hands. And with these hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ.

Dear Friends,

No doubt I will never look at my hands the same again. I never saw the old man again after I left the park that day, but I will never forget him and the words he spoke.

When my hands are tired and sore or when I touch the hands of my loved ones, I always think of the man in the park.

I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel his hands upon my face. This month thank God, for your hands and that hands of those you love.

Until next month . . .
Warmly, Carolyn

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

A FIFTY YEAR HISTORY: VATICAN II

Decree on Ecumenism: *Unitatis Redintegratio*

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I grow older, I am noticing that my memory escapes me at times. When I encounter former students that I taught at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio, during my tenure in the 1980's, I know their names and/or even the years they graduated. However, I might not be able to recall everything that I ate at dinner last Saturday evening or forget a meeting that I was supposed to participate in that day (maybe this last one was conveniently forgotten!) Some of my contemporaries both lay people and clergy admit to the same "condition". They attempt to relieve my anxiety by stating that we have so many: A. events to attend; B. people that we inter-relate with each day; C. social forms of media that we utilize; and, D. etc., that our brains just can only retain so much. I would like to take comfort with these explanations but I know that a lot of it has to do with the aging process.

One of my fondest early, childhood memories was our father's weekly Sunday visits to my grandparents' homes. My father's mother and father passed away when I was six and eight years old respectively while my mother's father died before I was born and I was twelve years of age when my mother's mother died. We visited with my father's parents in the afternoons and spent the evenings with my maternal Baba. I remember their homes, the furniture in the various rooms, the pictures on the walls, and the foods that we ate – some of which were the same in both homes while others unique because of the various villages of their families of origins in Slovakia.

The neighborhood in which my father grew up in was integrated with a variety of ethnicities – an Italian family (the Maluso's) who lived on the property that abutted them in the backyard; Polish, Hispanics, Slovaks, Hungarians, and Lithuanians all of whom lived on their street; and my grandparent's next door neighbors who were Black Americans. These next door neighbors were Mr.

and Mrs. Root, the nicest neighbors any one could have. They had a colorfully painted house, the best trimmed lawn and flower beds on the street, and could not do enough for all their neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Root's Baptist church was my grandparent's next door neighbor on the other side of their home, Gethsemane Baptist Church. The music that came from their church on Sunday afternoons, especially on warm ones with the church windows open as well all the windows of the homes in the neighborhood was a wonderful expression and harmonious melody of Faith. But I did not understand why the members of the congregation stayed in church a good part of Sunday mornings and afternoons, while we went to Mass on Sunday mornings for about an hour. What was the difference? It was explained to me something like this: "There are different types of Christians in the world. We are Catholic, Mr. and Mrs. Root are Baptists, and there are other different kinds of Christians that believe in Jesus through their understanding of how Jesus is preached. We are on different roads to Jesus. Hopefully, we will all be with Him in Heaven."

Catholics of my generation and older experienced first-handedly the sharp divisions existing among the Christians denominations. The separation between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches was strained up until the Second Vatican Council. The Catholic Church excommunicated those members of the Orthodox Church in the year of 1054 A.D., and thus created disunity because of theological differences. Fraternal meetings between the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople, Athenagoras, and Venerable Pope Paul VI led the latter to lift that excommunication of the Eastern Churches and His Holiness referred to the Orthodox Churches as "Sister Churches" of the Catholic Church, thus bringing the two Churches into a closer unity with each other.

In addition, the Churches and Ecclesial Communities (sixteenth century Churches of the Reformation and more

commonly known to us as *Protestants*) and the Catholic Church were openly acknowledged by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council in its document entitled, Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*. The bishops of the Council desired that Christians around the world unite as a corporate body as intended by Jesus Christ and His Apostolic Successors. The Fathers wrote in their Decree, "Before the whole world, let all Christians profess their faith in God, one and three, in the incarnate Son of God, our Redeemer and Lord. United in their efforts, and with mutual respect, let them bear witness to our common hope, which does not play us false. Since in our times cooperation in social matters is very widely practiced, all men without exception are summoned to united effort. Those who believe in God have a stronger summons, but the strongest claims are laid on Christians, since they have been sealed with the name of Jesus" [Paragraph 12].

The Bishops concluded this Decree, promulgated on 21 November 1964, by declaring, "This most sacred Synod urges the faithful to abstain from any superficiality or imprudent zeal, for these can cause harm to true progress towards unity. Their ecumenical activity must not be other than fully and sincerely Catholic, that is, loyal to the truth we have received from the apostles and the Fathers, and in harmony with the faith which the Catholic Church has always professed, and at the same time tending towards that fullness with which our Lord wants His body to be endowed in the course of time" [Paragraph 24].

What do you think as faithful Catholics, ladies and gentlemen? We adhere to our Faith in the Catholic Church. We know that there is a separation within Christianity – Orthodoxy and Protestantism. What are you doing to bring about *the* unity of Christianity? And just importantly, does the diversity in your family, neighborhood, community, and world reflect the Word of God, unified in His Body and Blood bring you to unity? I pray so!

Message from our National President CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear sister and brother fraternalists:

Time is flying by! It was already a year ago in June 2012 that the Iowa District hosted the members of our board of directors for its quarterly meeting. It was certainly a beautiful event and we thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality displayed by the members of the Iowa District at all of the gatherings. We can still hear the beautiful music at Mass at St. Wencelaus Church and the

taste the delicious homemade kolache provided by members of St. Monica's Guild. When we travel to visit our members in branches and district gatherings, we are reminded again of the strength and vitality of the roots of our Association in so many places across our nation.

As we approach Flag Day (June 14th) and Independence Day (July 4th), we must never forget the important role that our Association has played in the life of the Slovak and Slavic American community throughout the years in the United States. We have certainly helped to deepen our awareness of our Slovak and Slavic Catholic heritage and in enabling our children and grandchildren to enter into the mainstream of American society.

As a fraternal benefit society, we also continue to strongly support the longstanding American tradition to recognize God in our public discourse and documents. In 1952, the National Fraternal Congress of America (now American Fraternal Alliance) adopted a resolution to include the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America. A few years later, the U.S. Congress adopted this language and it has been included ever since.

Together, let us celebrate the freedom we have in this United States of America to freely join an association such as ours, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and enjoy its benefits for many generations to come!

May God bless you and your family as we enjoy the carefree days of summer!

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President



Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

20th-Century Popes Become Saints



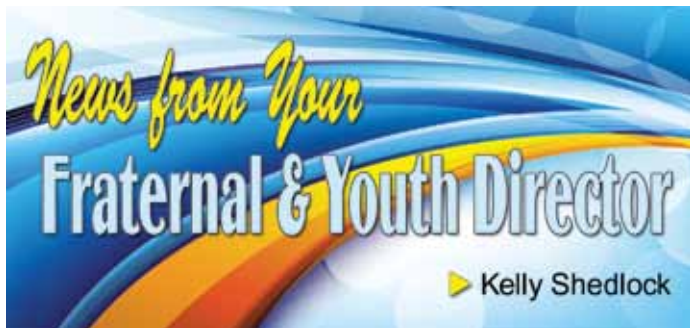
Two 20th-century popes who changed the course of the Catholic Church became saints on April 27th, Divine Mercy Sunday, as Pope Francis honored John XXIII and John Paul II. Retired Pope Benedict XVI joined Pope Francis on the altar, the first time a reigning and retired pope have celebrated Mass together in public in the 2,000-year history of the church.

John reigned from 1958-1963 and is a hero to liberal Catholics for having convened the Second Vatican Council. The meetings brought the church into the modern era by allowing Mass to be celebrated in local languages rather than Latin and encouraged greater dialogue with people of other faiths, particularly Jews. During his globe-trotting, quarter-century papacy, John Paul II helped topple communism and invigorated a new generation of Catholics, while his defense of core church teaching on abortion, marriage and other hot-button issues heartened conservatives after the turbulent 1960s.

FSGP FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR



FCSLA National Officers congratulate Ed DePersis on his receipt of the FSGP Fraternalist of the Year Award in Pittsburgh, PA on March 22, 2014. L-R: Steve Hudak, Sue Ann Seich, Ed DePersis, Cynthia Maleski and Larry Golofski.



I was recently at the Mid-Year American Fraternal Alliance Fraternal and Communications Meeting. It was great to see some familiar faces from last year and to meet some new ones this year. This meeting is a great way for me to talk to other fraternal directors, see if they have the same concerns I do, share some ideas, and come up with new ideas to get new members involved

with volunteering and how to revitalize some of our existing members volunteering.

I would like to quote one of the speakers we had - Harald Borrmann. He said there are seven words we should never say "We have always done it that way." I agree 100% with that statement. Please don't get me wrong. What FCSLA has done over the past 120+ years has gotten us where we are today. I get that! But what I also get is that we need change if we are going to be around *another* 120+ years.

Change can be difficult. Many people don't like change. But it is a part of life and a part of fraternal organizations. Change is not always bad. Change gives us Hope for the future, new Creative Idea's, new Generations getting involved, Mentorship. We need to embrace changes that come along. Keep an open mind. Think outside the box (but within reason). Instead of saying "we have always done it that way" – let us ask "how can we continue to give Hope for the Future"?

ST. ANNE'S DAY CELEBRATION

**Helen Kocan District Will Host
An Annual Three State Celebration**

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

St. Michael the Archangel Church, Schererville, IN

Meet & Greet Coffee — 10:00 A.M.

Mass — 11:00 A.M.

Luncheon — 12:30 P.M.

*Members of the Chicago, Milwaukee,
Lake County, IN and Joliet:*

*Please Contact your Branch President
for Reservations*

CLEVELAND DISTRICT HOLDS MEETING

Everyone was a little Irish at the Cleveland District Meeting on March 15th. A "green" themed menu was served. Special guests in attendance were National President Cynthia Maleski and her husband Andrezej Groch. An update was given on the progression of the bylaws by Cleveland District representative, Mary Ann Johaneck. The meeting ended with a raffle which is always the highlight of the meeting.

We hope members from the Cleveland area will join us at our June 21st meeting – we will be featuring Regional Sales manager Al Heiles – Product Seminar – with lots of good food, raffles and fun!

For more photos, please go to - <http://www.fcscla.org/district/cleveland-news/>



Attention!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

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

FCSLA's Platinum Elite Annuity-Perfect for 401K Rollovers



Patrick Braun

The recent revision of the FCSLA annuity portfolio has brought the advantages of the Platinum Elite Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity (FPDA) as an outstanding vehicle for 401K Rollovers into sharp focus!

The Platinum Elite FPDA was created as the perfect investment vehicle for conservative, long-term investors. These are people that have built a substantial nest egg and don't want to take any chances on losing it. They are the

people who want to wake up in the morning knowing that their account grew larger while they were sleeping on a guaranteed basis!

First of all, what is a 401K Rollover and how does one accomplish it? 401K accounts have proliferated in the past several decades as a means of saving money through a tax-deferred savings account set up by a person's employer. Most financial advisors recommend that their clients take advantage of the opportunity to save money in these accounts because the money will grow faster without income taxes being assessed against it. Money is withheld from the employee's earned income before income taxes, thus reducing the income subject to tax. The amount of the contribution to the 401K is limited by law and the plan itself. In many cases the employer matches the amount that the employee contributes up to a certain percentage, helping the amount grow even larger and faster.

When an employee retires or leaves his/her employment, the law allows a tax-free rollover to an individual IRA. The employee can then transfer his/her 401K money to the IRA by means of the 401K Rollover. This is where the Platinum Elite FPDA comes in.

The Platinum Elite FPDA has a **lifetime guarantee of 3% interest**. In other words, **from the date that FCSLA issues the annuity, the member's interest rate can never fall below 3%!** The Platinum Elite FPDA also has a "current rate". The current rate may rise or fall, depending on market conditions and the interest rate FCSLA can earn. The current rate through 2014 is 3.5% APY. Because FCSLA invests long-term, the Platinum Elite FPDA has an early withdrawal charge in the first ten years. That charge is 9% in the first two years and it decreases 1% per year over the ten year period. Once the ten years are over, there is no further penalty, even on new deposits. However, despite the penalty, the contract

BRANCH 114 LUNCHEON/MEETING SCHEDULED

St. Ann's Lodge Branch 114 has scheduled its luncheon and meeting to honor our scholarship winners. It will be held on Sunday, July 20th starting at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway in Lorain. Please make your reservations by calling Bernie Danevich at 960-2605 or Margaret Thomas at 288-1492. Deadline for reservations is July 15th. All members are invited to attend.

does provide liquidity. The member may withdraw up to 10% of the value in the annuity with no withdrawal charge, once per contract year. (Withdrawals from IRA's are discouraged before retirement because they are fully taxable and withdrawals before 59½ are also penalized!)

Rolling a 401K into the Platinum Elite FPDA is quite easy. A licensed FCSLA Producer simply fills out an annuity application and a form which gives FCSLA the right to accept funds from the company which has been managing the 401K. When FCSLA receives the funds, the Platinum Elite FPDA is issued and is used to fund the member's Traditional IRA. (Although the 401K funds could be transferred into a Roth IRA, this is usually not done because it would not be a tax-free exchange.)

One of the most important reasons to choose the Platinum Elite FPDA is the outstanding financial condition of FCSLA! The last thing members want to worry about is the financial health of the company they trust to manage their retirement money. FCSLA consistently earns an A- (Excellent) rating from the A.M. Best Company, the major insurance rating company. The Association has \$91,400,000 of unassigned surplus, and a solvency ratio of 113.7%, (assets vs. liabilities) which is one of the highest ratios among all the fraternal societies! The FCSLA investment strategy has always been to provide the best protection possible for the money of its members.

So, if you or someone you know has experienced a change in employment. Please contact a licensed FCSLA Producer or call the FCSLA Home Office Sales Dept. about a 401K Rollover into the new Platinum Elite Retirement Deferred Annuity!

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.

Eastern PA Francis Jakabcin District Holds Spring Meeting

The Eastern PA Francis Jakabcin District held its Spring 2014 Meeting, hosted by Branch S410 and S414 on Sunday, April 27th at Macaluso's Restaurant in Nesquehoning, PA. After a delicious buffet luncheon Monsignor Tom Derzack, District Chaplain held a memorial service to remember Betty Vincent S417 and Paul Neupauer, S484 who had passed away since our last meeting. Jean Bruker and Helen Stianchie welcomed everyone on behalf of their hosting branches.

President Veronica Bazik gave a report on the District sales performance and then asked National Editor Carolyn Bazik to give her report. After her report which covered the financial position of the FCSLA, Editor Bazik then turned the floor over to National Vice Presi-



Dorothy Cusatis, Marie Kokinda, S45 and Virginia Makarczyk, S196 waiting for the meeting to begin.

dent Barbara Waller who discussed the bylaw revisions to date and fielded questions from members. District transportation to the Special Convention was discussed and all branches were advised to return the delegate forms to the Home Office certified mail, return receipt requested by May 1st. The importance of alternate delegates was stressed.

Christmas in July is Thursday, July 10th at Knoebels Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. Members and their children will gather in Pavilion D beginning at 11 a.m.

Next district meeting will be held Sunday, September 21, 2014 at 1 p.m. at Macaluso's in Nesquehoning, PA hosted by S140.

Monsignor Derzack closed the meeting with prayer.



Members enjoying a delicious lunch before the meeting.



Rose Mikulski (S410) and Dr. Amy DePuy (S417) enjoy the meeting.



Former National Auditor Monica Anthony, S319 and her husband John.



District President Veronica Bazik standing far right meets and greets members before dinner.



National Vice-President Barbara Waller, S140 discusses the bylaw revisions with members.



WANTED: CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS ITEMS!

MISSALS, PRAYER BOOKS,
SCAPULARS, MEDALS,
HOLY CARDS, STATUES,
CRUCIFIXES, AND ROSARIES

If you are considering "cleaning out" please do not throw these Catholic items away! Help send them to Catholic Missions in Third World countries that they may be used once again and spread the Holy Catholic faith.

Please send to Peter Gaidos, P.O. Box 494333, Garland, TX 75049-4333.

Do not send old Christmas Cards or Mass Enrollment Cards.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Jr. Branch 339

Annual French Toast Breakfast and Raffle

Chicago's Jr. Branch 339 sponsored a matching funds event "All-You-Can-Eat Annual French Toast Breakfast and Raffle" for St. Bruno Parish's Boy Scout Troop 42 on Sunday, February 22, 2014, to assist in raising funds that will promote the troops' various events and summer camp activities. The cold wintery weather did not hinder the event. The Branch collected \$1,444 through its breakfast and raffle ticket sales. Jr. Branch 339 received donations from local vendors and retailers, which provided the 300 attendees the chance to win one of 95 raffle prizes, composed of basketballs, books, kids action toys, white castle coffee mugs, Silver serving tray, crystal vases and sports collectibles, etc. Jr. Branch 339 Vice-President, Joyce Kelly was greatly pleased with the wonderful turnout and most importantly, the hard work of the boy scouts who cooked and served breakfast to the attendees.



L-R: Jr. Branch 339 Officers (back row): Sherry Ebenau (J339 President), Judy Tybor-Knizner (J339 Treasurer) and Joyce Kelly (J339 Vice-President); (front row) Scout Master and Scouts from St. Bruno Parish's Boy Scout Troop 42 and members of Jr. Branch 339.



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Jr. Branch 58

St. John Winter Festival Bake Sale

On Saturday, March 1, 2014 the Whiting, Indiana Jr. Branch 58 participated in the St. John Winter Festival by staffing the bake sale booth. Over two dozen members and officers baked traditional Slovak baked goods, along with parishioners and parents bringing their favorite ethnic treats too. Nut rolls and nut cups, roshky, homemade breads and candies, strudels, pizzelles, gourmet cupcakes, and an assortment of cakes and cookies were sold for the benefit of the school. In addition to parishioners and members of FCSLA

many people came from other parishes to purchase the homemade delicacies. The ethnic baked goods sold out very quickly. There were also five baskets donated by officers that were raffled off at the end of the day. Over \$1200 was raised with all proceeds being used for technology and computers for the students of St. John the Baptist School. This was a matching funds project, so in addition to the funds raised at the bake sale, another \$600 was given to the school from the Home Office. Thank you to everyone who helped us to keep our Catholic school going strong!

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Sr. Branch 88

Church Festival

Branch 88 Monessen recently conducted a Matching Funds event at Epiphany of Our Lord Church Festival and netted \$2,348 in half the take.



• • •

Branch W033

Breakfast and Raffle

Branch W033 held their annual Matching Fund Grant Breakfast and Raffle on Sunday, March 2 and donated \$1,000 along with the \$600 from the Home Office program. Secretary Rebecca Kuhn of Branch W033, Spillville, IA presented two checks to Reverend Father Donald Hawes toward replacement of two balcony church floors in St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. The members anxiously await the completion of the flooring project which will add the finishing touch to the 150 year old refurbished church!



66th Annual Czech Days

Friday – Saturday, June 20-21, 2014 in Tabor, SD

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

Holly Hovanec Conducts Fox Research on UW-Madison Campus



When most students talk about the wild life at the UW-Madison, they talk about State St., Camp Randall and the Badgers. When Holly Hovanec (S81) talks about wild life on campus, she talks about State St., Camp Randall and the foxes. The wild canids have been spotted in both of those locations and in a long and growing list of other spots on or near campus.

Hovanec, a senior majoring in forest and wildlife ecology, is conducting a capstone research project looking at the home range, activity patterns, and general health of fox and coyotes on the UW-Madison campus.

Hovanec, who will be entering veterinary school in the fall, has been working closely with David Drake, associate professor of forest and wildlife ecology and Extension wildlife specialist.

Drake got involved in canid research in the preserve after being contacted by Cathie Bruner, the Lakeshore Preserve's field manager. Bruner was looking for someone to study coyotes in the Preserve, after receiving more frequent reports of the animals from visitors.

In spring 2013, Drake worked with another wildlife ecology student, junior Lucas Rapisarda to study the habitat preferences and activity patterns of coyotes in the Preserve. Using walking transects and camera traps, they determined that coyotes were most abundant in the Bill's Woods area of the Preserve.

The next logical step, Hovanec says, was to radio-collar and monitor the coyotes to further evaluate their movements and activity. She and Drake decided to include fox as well, since there had been frequent sightings of a pair on campus. In fact, there's a lot of speculation that the foxes are moving to the more peopled parts of campus to avoid the coyotes. Coyotes kill foxes.

The veterinary component was accomplished with the help of UW veterinarian Mike Maroney. He was on hand each time a fox or coyote was captured and collared, showing Hovanec how to give the animal a physical exam and take blood and fecal samples to evaluate its health. Tests on three animals, notes Hovanec, revealed they carry common intestinal parasites; were exposed to parvovirus in the past (but aren't necessarily active carriers of the virus); and are free of tick-borne diseases. All in all, they don't appear to pose a risk to local pets or other wild animals.

Hovanec hopes her research will yield information benefiting the safety and health of Preserve users, their pets, and the wild canids. It is possible that the information she gathers could be used to draft plans of management or conflict avoidance, should an issue arise in the future.

Brianna Lucas Awarded FCSLA Graduate Award Scholarship



Brianna Lucas, a member of St. Ann's Branch 66 in Streator, IL was awarded the Graduate Award Scholarship. Brianna is the daughter of Greg and Susie Lucas of Streator and the granddaughter of Richard and Dorothy Lucas of Streator, Sandy Neyers of Dana, and the late Darrell McMullen of Marseilles.

Brianna finished her undergraduate studies at Bradley University in Peoria, IL and graduated May 18, 2013. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science from the College of Education and Health Science with a minor in Business Administration from the Foster College of Business. Brianna graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors. She made the Dean's List for academic honors all but two of her eight semesters at Bradley.

During her four years at Bradley, Brianna was a member of the Bravettes Dance Team and was co-captain during her senior year. She was also a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success as well as the Health Science Organization. She also did volunteering at OSF Saint Francis in Peoria during her undergrad studies.

Brianna is currently continuing her education at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, attending graduate school to pursue her Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree.

Michael Haburay II Presented with Eagle Scout Ranking



Michael with Rev. Carl Uhler, Pastor Emeritus of St. Stephen's Catholic Church.

Michael W. Haburay II (S009) was presented with the rank of Eagle Scout during the Court of Honor Ceremony at Stephen's Catholic Church in West Salem, OH, on Sunday, March 2, 2014. Michael is a member of Boy Scout Troop 452. He is 18 years old. His aunt, Evelyn Zachowski (S009), and active volunteer for FCSLA, was one

of approximately 65 people in attendance for the ceremony and reception.

Francis and Patricia Korchnak Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Francis and Patricia (Morowczynski) Korchnak (S028) of Romney, IN celebrated their 50th anniversary on February 16, 2013. They were married at St. Turibius Catholic Church in Chicago, IL.

They celebrated the day with a special mass celebrated by Dr. Dan Gartland a good friend at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. It was followed by a luncheon attended by family and friends. During the Mass they were presented with a Papal Blessing that had been requested by Pat's sister Sr. Rosemarie Morowczynski, SSJ-TOSF. Francis is retired from NCR Corporation and the Boy Scouts of America. Pat is a semi-retired school bus driver.

It was decided to have a year-long celebration. In August, their children hosted an open house for all their family and friends from across the country including most of their



wedding party. The celebration continued with an Alaskan cruise with a stopover in Vancouver, British Columbia. To finish off the year, they enjoyed a trip to Disneyland in California, where the couple had their second date.

Both Francis and Pat are U.S. Air Force veterans and met when they were stationed at March AFB, CA.

The couple has three children: Christine Paumer (Joel), Marianne Kromkowski (Christopher), and Eric Korchnak (Kristy). They have six grandchildren of whom they are very proud!

Martin Bolinger Receives Degree

On June 2, 2103, in Erie, PA, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine conferred degrees on the first graduating class of the Seton Hill campus of LECOM. Among the graduates receiving the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine was Martin D. Bolinger (Branch 5).

Dr. Bolinger is a past recipient of both an FCSLA Scholarship and a Theresa Sajan Scholarship.

He received the "Dedication to Primary Care Award" given to the member of the graduating class who has upheld the ideals of the osteopathic profession and demonstrated desire and ability to become a primary care physician as exemplified by an interest in internal medicine.

Dr. Bolinger graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a BS in Biology and from Duquesne University with a Masters Degree as a Physician Assistant. He worked at Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, FL and West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA as a PA in Osteopathic Surgery.

Dr. Bolinger is a Resident Physician at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown, PA, where he resides with his wife Meghan (Janisko) and their children. He is the son of Placida Bolinger of Blairsville, PA and M. Dale Bolinger, Calvin, PA. He is the grandson of Mary Wisz who served as Branch 5 Secretary for over 25 years and currently lives in Virginia.



L-R: Christine Leonard (sister) holding daughter Allison; Mother, Placida Bolinger; wife Meghan, holding daughter Ava and Dr. Bolinger holding son Brody.

Channing and Kathleen Reuschenberg Celebrate 40th Wedding Anniversary

On March 4th, Kathleen and Channing Reuschenberg (S422 - Warren, OH) celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They wed May 4th, 1974 at their home in Suffern, New York. A celebration at their home in Katonah is planned for later in the month.

The couple have two children and two grandchildren, with two more grandchildren on the way. They are enjoying retirement and continue to actively pursue their hobbies, which include hiking, swimming, aerobics, preparing (and eating) fine cuisine and spending time with their family and friends. They enjoy travel and the theater, and frequently visit their children in Boston and Baltimore.

Their daughters, Emily Ann Smith of Boston and Elise Reuschenberg Lambert of Baltimore, are grateful for the excellent examples of love, commitment and enjoyment of a marriage that the Reuschenbergs have set for the past 40 years.



Chicago District Hosts "A Day of Recollection 2014"

with Fr. Timothy Guthridge, CPPS

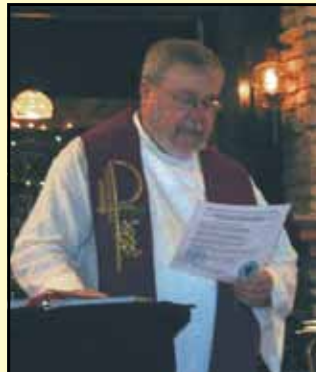
The Chicago District hosted its fourth "Day of Recollection" with Fr. Timothy Guthridge, CPPS, on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the Garden Chalet in Chicago Ridge, IL. Fr. Guthridge shared with the approximately 43 members from various senior branches within the District, the development and history of the rosary. The day began with the group saying the rosary and reflecting on the Marian Mysteries. Fr. Tim then shared with the group the roots of the rosary that date back to the 8th Century Benedictine and Irish monasteries. The monks chanted in Latin all 150 Psalms during a two-week cycle and known as the choir monks. Father then gave the history of the lay monks who worked the fields of the monasteries who did not pray the Office but used pebbles or knotted chords to pray their "Our Fathers" and "Hail Mary's" which are the root of the Rosary. Lay people who lived on the monastic property soon followed the prayer practices of the lay monks and began to pray the 150 praises of Jesus or Mary, which became the Rosaria (bouquet) with 50 praises of Mary. By 1365, Cathusian monastery monks, a community of hermits, prayed in a similar fashion and would gather to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. It was Henry of Kulkar who grouped the rosary as we know it today into the decades of the Hail Mary, broken by the Our Father. In 1470, Alan de Rupe founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary and attached thoughts about the life and death of Jesus. The 16th century attached a phrase to each Hail Mary and during the 18th century, St. Louis de Montfort invented the rosary as we know and pray it today. So from the 14th century and well into the 19th century, religious orders, groups and lay people used this as a form of prayer and were continuously reinventing it to make it

more relevant to the folks who prayed it. Not until the 19th century did the rosary evolve around the parish and become the backbone of lay people's spirituality. During the 19th century it became more popular to recite the rosary before mass and Fr. Tim recounted again how the rosary is rooted in the liturgy of hours with the purpose of the rosary being to place ourselves in the presence of God and to be open to the presence of God while praying the rosary with our heart open to the grace of God. He pointed out that when saying the rosary it is another way for us to be able to share and participate in the divine life of Jesus. The Our Fathers, Hail Mary's and Glory Be's help us to focus our hearts and minds on God and being in the presence of God. The rosary is **not** about getting it done, but about **praying and meditating** on the mysteries. He reminded us that praying and meditating on the rosary mysteries is God's time **not** ours! Father ended by reminding the group that God is the creation of the universe and that there is more than one way to pray the rosary as long as the objective is to place oneself in the presence of God – which is the only way to pray the rosary! Afterwards, Fr. Tim answered questions from the group who were thankful and grateful for the insight into praying the rosary in a more meaningful way.

Fr. Tim also brought various forms of the rosary and showed the group the Hindus mantra that contains 108 beads, the Eastern Rite churches that pray the Jesus prayer and showed us examples of the Eastern and Western Orthodox rosaries, as well as the Islamic prayer or worry beads.

Fr. Tim is a native of the Chicago area having grown up in the areas of the Near North Side of Chicago, Chicago Ridge and finally Orland Park, IL. He is a Kansas City Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood having been ordained in 1997. Over the years he has had various parish assignments in Texas, Iowa, and Missouri. He specializes in giving retreats on Precious Blood Spirituality, Ignatian Spirituality and contemplative prayer. He is currently the Director of Formation for the Precious Blood Order in Chicago and is responsible for the Pre-Theology Precious Blood seminars at Chicago Theological Union in Chicago.

The day ended with the celebration of a Marian Mass as the group began to head into the beginning of the Lenten Season. (To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcscla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



FCSLA EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Fourth Quarterly Meeting — November 6, 2013

CALL TO ORDER/PRAYER

President Cynthia M. Maleski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Home Office, Beachwood, OH. Chaplain Msgr. Peter M. Polando opened the meeting with prayer.

OPENING BUSINESS

Roll Call

Secretary Sue Ann M. Seich was asked to call the roll.

Members present were:

Msgr. Peter M. Polando	Chaplain
Cynthia M. Maleski	President
Irene J. Drotleff	Vice President
Sue Ann M. Seich	Secretary
Stephen C. Hudak	Treasurer
John M. Janovec	Trustee
Virginia A. Holmes	Trustee

Approval of Agenda

Vice President Irene J. Drotleff moved and it was seconded by Msgr. Polando to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes

August 27, 2013

Msgr. Polando moved and Treasurer Stephen C. Hudak seconded to approve the minutes of August 27, 2013.

MOTION ADOPTED

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Right to Life March

President Maleski reported that the FCSLA along with the FCSU (First Catholic Slovak Union) will sponsor two buses to Washington, DC for the Right to Life March on January 22, 2014. Kelly Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director is in charge of arrangements. Copies of the schedule and information are available from Kelly. Cleveland District is providing the food for the return trip home.

Strategic Planning Process

The Board of Directors is involved in updating the Strategic Plan from 2008. President Maleski thanked board members present and other members of the board for taking their time to engage in this process. Surveys have been distributed to board members, sales managers, agents, employees, and branch leaders. Board members will advance the process by drafting overarching goals. These goals are an essential element in the planning process which will lead us into 2014 and in completing the process. A thank you is in order to Carolyn Bazik for acting as facilitator for this process.

Post Mortem Benefit

President Maleski opened discussion for the Post Mortem Benefit for 2014. The Board of Directors will adopt a resolution for this benefit at the December, fourth quarter meeting. The committee members discussed the resolution passed at the December 2012 meeting.

Bylaws Revision Committee

President Maleski reported on the progress of the Bylaws Revision Committee and communications to be shared. EFC members discussed how and when communications will be shared.

Disaster Relief Fund

President Maleski reported on the overwhelming positive response to the Disaster Relief Fund for West, TX. There will be an article in the magazine acknowledging the donations. The Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee met to discuss the distribution of funds collected. Members of the committee developed a formula to distribute the funds to assist the members. President Maleski also has asked the members of that committee to discuss other causes FCSLA may wish to support in the future.

A short recess was taken for Mass and lunch.

SECOND SESSION – NOVEMBER 6, 2013

President Maleski reconvened the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

New Annuities Status

Treasurer Hudak reported on the status of the two new annuities. All states under the IIPRC (Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission) have been approved. States we are waiting for approval as of today are: CT, DE and NY.

The committee discussed how and when to proceed with the roll out of the two new annuities. Items to consider include announcements, brochures, illustrations, marketing, and sales training. The committee decided that we will have more information at the board meeting in December to make a decision.

Commission rates were discussed and the committee was in agreement to recommend to the Board of Directors an increase in our commission rate.

Third Quarter Financial Reports

Treasurer Hudak presented a draft of the detailed Financial Statement Overview, Income Statement Analysis, Balance Sheet Analysis and Investments for the third quarter of 2013. He went over in detail all pages of the reports. The committee members asked questions and discussed items on the reports.

Supplement #1

Third Quarter Budget vs. Actual 2013

Treasurer Hudak presented a detailed financial overview of the third quarter of 2013 budget vs. actual. He discussed and explained several budgeted line items and gave detailed answers to questions presented.

Supplement #2

Peer Group Comparison

A financial comparative report with statistics and ratios from our peer fraternal societies was presented and discussed.

EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Continued from Page 12

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Revised 2014 Budget

Treasurer Hudak went over the 2014 Budget and several line items. The committee discussed some possible changes.

Supplement #3

President Maleski explored with committee members the concept of hiring a captive agent who would work out of the home office. Committee members voiced their opinions.

The committee discussed how a new commission rate for our new annuities would affect our budget.

Interest Yield – January 1, 2014 – March 31, 2014

Vice President Drotleff moved and Monsignor Polando seconded that the Executive Finance Committee recommend to the Board of Directors that the annuity annual yield remain at each contract's minimum guaranteed rate effective January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014, until our new annuity products are introduced.

MOTION ADOPTED

NEW BUSINESS

Donations

The Executive Finance Committee recommends to the Board of Directors the donations as presented in the donation supplement.

Supplement #4

MOTION ADOPTED

Villa Sancta Anna Home for the Aged, Inc.

President Maleski reported that all of the remaining boxes of items and records from the closing of the villa were recently examined. Stored information that we are no longer required to maintain will be shredded. The expenses to close this account will be paid and the remainder of the funds will be divided among original recipients who were previously approved by Board of Trustees for the Villa Sancta Anna Home for the Aged, Inc.

MEETING DATES FOR 2014

1st Quarterly Meeting – February 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Msgr. Polando moved and it was seconded by Treasurer Hudak to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned with a prayer.

MOTION ADOPTED

ATTEST:

Cynthia M. Maleski, President
Sue Ann M. Seich, Secretary
Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Chaplain
Stephen C. Hudak, Treasurer
Irene J. Drotleff, Vice President
John M. Janovec, Trustee
Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee

St. Cyril Academy Class of 1967

St. Cyril Academy Class of 1967 is together again. First connecting at their 25th reunion in Danville, PA, the group has stayed in touch meeting in Las Vegas, Arlington, Atlantic City and now most recently on a cruise leaving from Miami to Key West and Cozumel. The ship ended up in Nassau after rescuing Cuban refugees from their sinking ship. That experience only added human interest to the fabulous get away where old friendships were renewed.



L-R: St. Cyril '67 — Kathy Hritz Briant (S088), Eileen Kusbel Schneider (S452), Elaine Kopecky Sweeney, Ellen Kerr Ryan, Grace Zaretti Conti, Margaret Mary Baran; Carol Kessler DeSilva.



L-R: Carol Kessler DeSilva, Emily DeSilva, Bette Ryan, Ellen Kerr Ryan, Grace Zaretti Conti, Kathy Hritz Briant (S088) and Margaret Mary Baran.

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!

Scranton District Host Branch Leadership Training Seminar

On March 23 a Branch Leadership Training seminar was held at the Hilton in Scranton, PA. Facilitators for the training were Trustee Virginia Holmes and Auditor Dorothy Urbanowicz. They were greeted at the Hilton by Scranton District President Rita Wentline, and attended a Mass at Saint Peter's Cathedral with President Wentline and members of the District.

Trustee Virginia Holmes introduced President Cynthia Maleski who joined the 20 attendees for lunch, and led the group in the grace before meals. After the luncheon, President Maleski welcomed the members and expressed

her gratitude to them for their dedication to the mission and vision of the Association. She spoke about the key role that branches play in the Association, and emphasized the need for the branches to reach out to their communities with fraternal and charitable activities. She then turned the meeting over to the facilitators.

Trustee Virginia and Auditor Dorothy presented an informative yet fun presentation on the history of the Association as well as the structure, meetings and fraternal outreach programs of branches. A question and answer session followed the presentation. Virginia

and Dorothy concluded with a "Thank You" to all who participated, and FC-SLA is very privileged to have them as branch officers.



ATTENTION CLEVELAND DISTRICT BRANCHES

**Mark your calendars for our
2014 District Meetings and Events!**

Meetings are held at Light of Hearts Villa (LOHV)
283 Union St., Bedford at 12:00 Noon

**~ DISTRICT MEETINGS ~
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS.**

- ❖ Saturday, June 21 – Regional Manager Al Heiles
— Product & Sales Seminar
- ❖ Saturday, August 16
- ❖ Saturday, September 13

~ 2014 EVENTS ~

- ❖ July 25 – St. Anne's Day at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Euclid
- ❖ August 3 – The Fest at Borromeo Seminary, Willowick
- ❖ August 31 – Slovak Fest at Padua High School Parma
- ❖ October 18 – Ohio Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting, TBD

Please check the Cleveland District Webpage
www.fcsla.org for more details on each event.

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WORD SEARCH #1 OF 5

Words may be found up and down, side to side, diagonally or words may share letters.



M*A*S*H

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ALAN ALDA
ARMY
BJ HUNNICUTT
CHARLES WINCHESTER
COMEDY
CORPORAL
DOCTORS
FATHER MULCHAY
FOURTEEN EMMYS
FRANK BURNS

HAWKEYE
HELICOPTERS
HENRY BLAKE
HOSPITAL
HOT LIPS HOULIHAN
KOREAN WAR
LT COLONEL
MAJOR
MASH
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MEDICAL DRAMA
MOBILE
NURSES
RADAR OREILLY
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SOUTH KOREA
SURGICAL
TENTS
TRAPPER

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Address: _____

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Branch: _____ Phone # _____

PLEASE MAIL ALL 5 PUZZLES IN AT THE SAME TIME. They must be delivered to the Home Office by Friday, Nov. 14, 2014!

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



IN MEMORIAM

JAMES DUBINA **Sr. Branch 424**



James Dubina, age 82, of South Park, died at home January 19, 2014. He was born December 1, 1931, in Homestead, PA, the son of the late John and Susan (Borsch) Dubina.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Dorothy (Anlauf) Dubina; two sons, James (Debra), of Canonsburg, PA, and Edward of West Mifflin; daughter, Debora (Wade) Saville of Bethel Park; five grandchildren, Jason (Kirsten) Dubina of Wrightsville, PA, Nadine Dubina of Fresno, CA, Desiree Dubina of Canonsburg, PA, Bradley and Wesley Saville of Bethel Park.

He was preceded in death by his brother, John Dubina of West Covina, CA. He was an Army veteran, Cub and Boy Scout Master, and officer of the FCSLA in Homestead, Branch 424. James retired as owner of Dubina's Pizza & Soft Serve of Upper St. Clair.

ANDREW M. CHUBA **Sr. Branch 172**

On May 12, the Good Lord took our dad's hand from ours and re-united it with his loving wife of 62 years, the former Dorothy Friedman, our mom ... a woman of whom he was forever faithful to and anxious to be with once again. Very well known and respected by many Andrew was known to entertain often with his accordion and his harmonica in many social settings. He will be missed immensely by his family and those who knew and loved him.

Born October 30, 1923 in North Braddock, PA, he was a son of the late Michael S. and Elizabeth (Chovancek)



Chuba. He was educated in the local schools, graduating from the James M. Coughlin High School, Wilkes-Barre.

Until his retirement, he was employed as a postal clerk for the U.S. Post Office, in Wilkes-Barre. He proudly served our country during the Second World War with the U.S. Navy as a Motor Machinist's Mate Third Class and was honorably discharged in February of 1946 from active service. He previously attended the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, North Wilkes-Barre. Recently, he held membership in Holy Assumption of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre.

In addition to his beloved wife, Dorothy, he was preceded in death by brothers, Emil and John Chuba. Surviving are his children, Thomas and his wife, Laura, of Dauphin, PA; Mary Ann Krapsho and her husband, Tom; Andrea Kealey and her husband, Jay, all of Harrisburg, and Michele Banaszek of Wilkes-Barre; grandchildren, Laura Krapsho, Kelly (Krapsho) Griffin, Michael Chuba, Cheryl Chuba, Elizabeth Kealey, Zachary Banaszek and Jason Banaszek; great-granddaughter, Natalie Griffin; sisters, Cecelia Koneski of Ashley and Helen Troiani of New Jersey; several nieces and nephews.

MARIE T. BRENNAN **Sr. Branch 172**



Marie Teresa Brennan went to be with the Lord on February 26, 2014 at Burnt Tavern Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, leaving behind

her family and friends who will miss her deeply.

Born in Wilkes Barre, PA on August 14, 1927, she was the daughter of the late John and Mary (Galdun) Lesko. Marie graduated Hillside High School in 1945 and married James Brennan on May 13, 1950 at Christ the King Church in Hillside, NJ. He predeceased her on

February 28, 2007. They lived in Scotch Plains, NJ for over 30 years before moving to Brick, NJ in 1983.

Surviving to cherish her memory are her children, Michael (Linda) Brennan, Eileen (Michael) Goldman, and Diann (Michael) Petix, her grandchildren, Lawrence Schaefer, Matthew Schaefer, Andrew (Allison) Goldman and Elizabeth Goldman and many nieces and nephews.

The oldest of four siblings, Marie was preceded in death by her two sisters and one brother.

JOANN LESKO **Sr. Branch 55**

JoAnn Hope Neddo Lesko, of Baltimore, MD, died January 15, 2014. Born in Mahanoy City, she was a daughter of the late Joe and Jean Neddo, Mahanoy City.

She was the devoted wife of Eugene Lesko; beloved mother of Jennifer Quinton and her husband, Jeff, Kathleen Lesko and Joseph Lesko and his wife, Christina; cherished sister of Gena Williamson and her husband, Donald; loving aunt of the Rev. John Williamson and Christina Lackner and her husband, Michael; dear Nana to Marissa Lesko, Courtney Lesko and Josephine Quinton. She is also survived by cousins, nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Lymphoma Cancer Research via St. Joseph Fullerton Athletic Association, 8420 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21236.

IRENE THERESA **GIORDANO** **Sr. Branch S89**

Irene Theresa Giordano, 89, of Hellertown, PA, died March 4, 2014 at Saucon Valley Manor, Hellertown, PA. She is the wife of the late Angelo J. Giordano who passed away November 17, 2006.

She was born in Bethlehem on December 18, 1924 to the late John and Mary (Oris) Pavlinsky.

Irene is a member of Church of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown, where she was a soprano vocalist in the adult and volunteer choirs and a member of its Senior Citizens Group. She volunteered at the former New Beginnings Thrift Shop. She was proud of her Slovak heritage and a life-long member of the FCSLA, where in her early years she was captain of the drill team. She worked as a supervisor at the former RK Laros Co. and in the later years at the former Chickadee Dress Co. serving as the pricing committee and senior machine operator. She designed and made all the draperies which decorated her home as well as making apparel for herself, her husband and son.

Survivors include loving son, Fred L. and his wife Kathleen R. of Hellertown; sister, Helen Vogel of Hellertown. Predeceased by brothers, John, Michael, Joseph; sisters, Margaret Macik and Mary.

FRANCIS A. TUMA **Branch W056**



Francis A. Tuma, age 89 of Lonsdale, MN died on December 14, 2013 in Lonsdale, Minnesota.

He was born on November 7, 1924 on his family farm in Webster Township, Rice County, MN to Albert J. and Anna (Simek) Tuma. At age 13 he moved with his family to a farm at Union Lake. After college he worked for Kraft Foods in Minneapolis.

On May 17, 1949, Francis married Marion Koldin at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Lonsdale. They lived in Minneapolis, later moving to Montgomery where he managed the Cities Service Gas Station and also worked at Green Giant as a timekeeper. In 1955 they moved to their new home in Lonsdale.

Francis was employed at the Webster Co-Op Dairy at Webster, MN as a bookkeeper and later as Manager until

Webster merged with AMPI at New Prague, MN, where he worked until his retirement.

His family was his pride and joy. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, 6 children – Dwayne (Sandy) Tuma, Dianne Miller, all of Lonsdale. Jeff (JoAnn) Tuma of Alexandria, Dan (Darlene) Tuma of LeCenter, Laurie (Larry) Rumpza of Rosemount, Amy (Randy) Smisek of New Prague; 10 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Albert, John and Charlie.

ROSE MARIE **(JANOUSEK) FAIMON** **Branch W074**



Rose Marie (Janousek) Faimon, age 88, of North Platte, KS, passed away January 30, 2014.

Rose was born in rural Atwood, KS, to Joseph and Rosie (Kacirek, Vrbas) Janousek. She grew up on a farm in rural Kansas. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in Omaha, NE, in 1944 and attended nurse's training, working in the hospital in Stratton and North Platte as a nurse's aide. Rose married Rudy Faimon at St. John's Nepomucene Church, near Atwood, KS, on August 12, 1946.

Rose was a humble woman with a tender servant's heart ready to serve wherever needed. She was persevering, strong and a good friend to many. Her deep faith was the foundation of her life. Guided by her faith, she offered compassionate kindness with a great sense of humor. Her legacy of faith and love live on in her family.

Rose is survived by her sister, Beatrice Kanak of Atwood; her four children, Jim (Mary) Faimon of Stratton, Rita (Don) Otis of Omaha, Leonard (Mona) Faimon of Colorado Springs, CO and Donna (Jeff) Fromm of St. Jo-

seph, MN; 15 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren with one on the way; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and Rudy, her husband of 61 years. Memorials may be sent to North Platte Catholic Schools.

MICHAEL J. KALMAN **Sr. Branch 156**



Michael J. Kalman, 85, died January 23, 2014, at Sharon Regional Hospital of a heart ailment. He was born January 24, 1929, in Ontario, Canada, a son of John and Mary

Sopko Kalman. He came to the United States in 1930 and his family settled in Campbell, OH.

Michael graduated from Campbell Memorial High School in 1948 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was chosen to train as a motion picture technician in Guam. He was put in charge of the film archives for the V.I.P.'s that visited the island. After an honorable discharge, he returned to the states to marry the love of his life, Pauline Knapik on September 16, 1950.

He was a pharmaceutical salesman for Averback Drug Company for 30 years. He, along with his wife, Pauline, was an avid Polka fan. He was an active member of St. Patrick Parish, serving as an usher for many years and was a dedicated member of the FCSLA.

He leaves his children, Mickey (Jeanette) Kalman of Boardman and Mary Kay (Dr. David) DelliQuadri of Poland; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Pauline Knapik Kalman, who died August 21, 2012.

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



We Want to Hear From You!

- Did your children, grandchildren receive special awards or achievements in school?
- Baptisms? Confirmations? New Members?
- Participated in Volunteer and Community Projects?

*If they are members of the FCSLA
please send us a photo and short article
about their special achievements!*



ANDREW J. DROTTLEFF, age 11, son of Andrew and Tami Drotleff, won the Gold Medal in the Disease Detectives category for the 2014 Georgia Elementary Science Olympiad competition held on March 22, 2014. He is a member of Jr. Branch 386 and the grandson of First Vice President, Irene J. Drotleff.



Branch W056 Presents Donation

The FCSLA Branch W056 of Lonsdale, MN held their Annual Membership Appreciation Party on February 24th. A check for \$1,000 was presented at this gathering to the **ASHLEY KES** family to help defray some of the medical expenses the family incurred since Ashley was diagnosed with a Medulloblastoma brain tumor in September, 2011.

Ashley spent many weeks in the hospital and had 30 rounds of Proton treatments. She is now working hard at therapy to get her strength back. Shown at right presenting the check to Ashley are FCSLA W056 officers: Milton Trnka, Paul Jirik and John Jirik.

Branch W056 also presented five \$200 Catholic School tuition awards to the following students: Megan Callahan, Michael Sticha, Carter Pavek, Trevor Malecha and Jacob Malecha.



AMANDA BONCHIK of Whiting Branch 348 was confirmed on April 29, 2014 by Bishop Dale J. Melczek at St. John the Baptist Church in Whiting, IN. Her sponsor was her cousin, Ashley Johnson, also of Branch 348. Amanda is the daughter of Brian (Branch 452) and Kris Bonchik and the granddaughter of Bob and Betty (Branch 452) Bonchik and David and Priscilla Williams. Amanda chose Cecilia as her confirmation name, which was also the middle name of two of her great-grandmothers. A small gathering of family to celebrate this event was held after the ceremony.



LUCY FURIAK (J58 - Whiting, IN) was recently confirmed at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood by Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne.

She is an 8th grader at OLG and will be attending Roncalli High School in the fall. Following the confirmation, Lucy was blessed to be a Eucharistic minister in the church. Her mother Laura was able to be the first person to receive communion from her daughter. Lucy is the daughter of Laura Stieneker and Nicolas Furiak and is pictured with her Mother and Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne.



Branches 23/130 Attends Fish Fry and Bowling Party

Always trying to “strike” up a good time for its members, Sr. Branch 23 and Jr. Branch 130 invited their members to attend a Fish Fry and Bowling Party on March 21 at Serb Hall in Milwaukee. Serb Hall is very well known in the area for its fantastic Friday Fish Fries. This one was served as an all-you-can eat family-style Fish Fry, so no one could leave hungry. Members of all ages “spared” no time in enjoying a couple of games of bowling after the meal.



On April 14th, 2013 **THERESA MARIE KISH** (J334) made her First Holy Communion at St. Teresa of Avila Church in Perrysville, PA, located in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. Her parents, Robert and Maria Kish, and her sister,

Helen, helped her celebrate her special day. This was also two days after her eighth-year birthday!

Theresa has attended school at St. Teresa of Avila School from Pre-K 4 through second grade. She enjoys singing, dancing, and playing the piano. Her older sister Helen has also attended St. Teresa of Avila School, where she sings in the chorus. Both Helen and Theresa have played the piano for the school's talent show.

Theresa and Helen have also been members of American Heritage Girls, a Christian scouting group that promotes service to God, family, community and country. Theresa has done a number of different service projects, including visiting the Southwestern Veteran's Center, making pierohis at St. Andrew Byzantine Catholic Church, and volunteering at the St. Teresa of Avila craft show. She has also received the *Family of God* Catholic religious award.

USE THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND MAGAZINE CANCELLATIONS

CHANGE THE ADDRESS ON ALL FCSLA
POLICIES AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR:

☐ INDIVIDUAL — NAME

☐ ENTIRE FAMILY — LIST NAMES

Old Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

New Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Signature Required (Insured, Annuitant, Owner)

Date of Birth _____

(for ID purposes)

Today's Date _____

☐ CANCEL MAGAZINE

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

O žuvačkovom ježkovi

Krista Bendova

Please enjoy the English translation of this story on page 21

Bola raz veľmi krásna hora, horička voňavá. Žili v nej rôzne zvieratká a medzi nimi, samozrejme, ježko. Tak ako všetci jeho ježací predkovia mal aj on dlhé ostré pichliače, ktoré boli veľmi praktické. Nielenže sa nimi ježko chránil, ale napichol si na ne i jabĺčka alebo hrušky, ktoré rástli pod horou. A vôbec všetko, čo potreboval odniesť do svojej domácnosti.

Ježko bol dobrý, ale neskúsený. Myslel si, že všetko, čo leží na zemi a je guľaté, môže byť pre neho užitočné. Ježkovi predkovia nevedeli, a teda ani nemohli ježkovi porozprávať, že hora je hora, ale za horou je mesto a v tom veľkom meste býva chlapec Matejko, ktorý strašne rád žuje žuvačku. Ježko ani nevedel, čo je to žuvačka. Odkiaľ by to vedel, keď bol iba obyčajný lesný ježko?

Tak sa stalo, že jedného dňa šli z toho mesta do tej hory na výlet deti. Aj Matejko. Ako vždy žuval žuvačku. A ako vždy – nie jednu, ale odrazu až päť. Deti pochodovali, spievali, len Matejko nemohol spievať, lebo mu zavádzala tá veľikánska žuvačková guľa v ústach. Tak Matejko len pochodoval a žul žuvačkovú guľu. Potom prišli deti na rúbanisko a uvideli, že tam rastie plno jahôd. Deti prestali spievať a povedali: „Zastaviť stáť, idú sa jesť jahody!“ A hneď sa aj na ne vrhli. Aj Matejko sa na ne vrhol, ale odrazu zistil, že nemôže jesť jahody, lebo má plné ústa žuvačky.

Matejko vybral žuvačkovú guľu, položil si ju k jednému pníku, aby sa mu nestratila, a tiež sa pustil do jahôd. Boli sladké ako med. Deti sa najedli, aj Matejko sa najedol, a keď sa poberali preč – pánajána! Nemohol nájsť žuvačku. Jeden pníček ako druhý a Matejko raz nevedel nájsť ten svoj. Nedalo sa nič robiť, oželel Matejko žuvačku a bežal za deťmi, aby sa mu nestratili a aby v tej hore neostal sám.

V ten istý deň vybral sa na výlet aj náš ježko. „Niečo si niekde nájdem,“ povedal si. „Pomaly treba myslieť na zimné zásoby.“

Kotúfa sa ježko, kotúfa, a nič súceho nevidí. A keď sa už dokotúfal až na rúbanisko, zhíkol: „Aha, to je čosi pre mňa! To bude asi jabĺčko. Nie je síce červené, ale možno ešte nie je zrelé. . . Aj vonia akosi čudne,“ ňuchol ježko k veľkej guli pri jednom pníku. „Vonia čudne-prečudesne, ale možno je to také extra exportné jablko!“ A hneď aj pich! – a už si ho niesol na chrbte domov.

„Ježiatka,“ zavolať doma na deti, „priniesol som vám dobrotu! Exportné jabĺčko nevídanej farby aj vône!“

Stará ježica aj malé ježiatka boli hneď pri ježkovi a všetci sa zahryzli do tej gule. Hrôza! Zahryzli sa – a nemohli sa odhryznúť! Guľa sa im nechcela odlepiť od zúbkov, ani ježkovi od pichliačov. A tak naťahovali každý kus tej gule, utekali do druhého kúta a z tej gule sa len vyťahovali za nimi akési nekonečné gumené špagáty.

Ježko stál uprostred izby, ježica a ježiatka každé v inom kúte, žuli a žuli, chceli vypľuť to zlé naťahovacie jablko, lebo

im vôbec nechutilo – no nemohli. Zuby už mali polepené, a len žuli a žuli a od každého ježiata i od ježice sa ťahala dlhá gumená cverna k tej veľkej guli na ježkovom chrbte. Celá rodina žula a žula a plakala: „Čo my len teraz budeme robiť? Kto nás oslobodí od tohto zlého naťahovacieho jablka?“

„Ide sa von!“ povedal ježko. „Vonku máme kamarátov, tí nám pomôžu!“

Vyšli všetci, popredku ježko s guľou na chrbte a za ním ako na špagátoch priviazané plačúce a žuvajúce ježiata a ježica.

Uvidel ich zajko Pobehajko.

„Pomôž, ak si kamarát!“ zabadákal ježko. „Pozri, celá rodina sa na mňa prilepila následkom škodlivého jablka!“

„Som kamarát a pomôžem. Zuby mám vybrúsené na kapuste,“ povedal zajko Pobehajko a zahryzol do gule. Beda! Uteká zajko od ježka, uteká, ale za ním sa ťahá žuvačkový špagát a zajko nijako nemôže rozlepiť zuby. Plače ježko, ježica, plače aj zajko, lebo už aj on žuje, žuje a žuje.

Postretli ich tri mladé líštičky: „Líštičky-sestričky, pomôžte, vy máte zubiská ako nožiská. Odhryznite to prekliate jablko z môjho chrbta, aj od mojej ženy, aj od mojich detí, aj od zajka Pobehajka . . .“ narieka ježko.

Tri mladé líštičky urobili hryz . . . a čo vám mám vraviť! Už v tom boli aj ony. Žuli a žuli a plakali a nemohli sa oslobodiť od ježka, lebo ten gumový špagát sa naťahoval, naťahoval a naťahoval.

Tak už išli: ježacia rodina, zajko aj tri líštičky, a žuli a plakali. Letel nad nimi skalný orol, mocný vták. „Orol, orol,“ zavolať zúfalý ježko. „Ty máš zobák až strach, ale buď dnes dobrý a oslobod' nás od tohto jablka!“

Orol poľutoval plačúce zvieratá, dobol do tej gule – a šlus! Bol v tom tiež. Odrazu nemohol rozlepiť zobák. Vyletel pod oblaky, potom až nad oblaky a za ním sa len ťahala gumená šnúra. Mocný orol bol vlastne priviazaný k malému ježkovi a len lietal a lietal, žul a žul a strašne nariekal.

Do večera bol v lese poplach. K ježkovej guli bola už nalepená aj myška, aj medveď s medvedicou, aj štyri sojky a jedno malé sŕňatko. A všetci len žuli a žuli a nariekali, lebo guľa už bola síce celkom maličká, ale ešte stále nechcela nikoho pustiť zo svojho lepkavého zajatia.

Nakoniec, keď už bola noc, došla do gule aj stará múdra sova. Z gule už neostalo načisto nič, sova sa nalepila na posledný kúšтик. A vtedy to všetko urobilo báb! – odpadlo od ježka a všetci boli oslobodení. Samozrejme, nie nacelkom. Ešte tri týždne chodili všetci a žuli to, čo mali v papuľkách a v zobákoch. Ale už aspoň mohli chodiť a lietať, kade chceli. No žuli vo dne v noci, žuli a žuli a žuli a za tri týždne tie Matejkove žuvky vyžuli.

Keby ste, deti, rozumeli zvieracej reči tak ako ja a prišli do tej hory tiež tak ako ja, každý by vám vyrozprával, aká to bola pohroma, keď našiel ježko na rúbanisku žuvačkové jablko.

The Hedgehog and Gum

Krista Bendova

There was once a beautiful forest full of lots of different animals. Among these animals are hedgehogs. Like porcupines, hedgehogs are covered with sharp needles. However, hedgehogs are much smaller than porcupines. These needles are part of the hedgehogs defense against predators, but they are also used to carry food, like apples or pears, to the hedgehogs home.

Jesko was a young inexperienced hedgehog. He thought that everything that was round and laying on the ground could be useful for something. Jesko did not know about a little boy named Matej. This boy loved gum and was chewing it most all of the day.

One bright, sunny day, Matej's school had a field trip to the forest. The children were happily singing as they walked through the forest. Matej was chewing gum, of course, but he was not singing as he was chewing not one piece of gum, but five pieces. As the children walked further into the forest, they came across a field of wild strawberries. They quickly stopped singing and started eating strawberries. Matej also wanted to eat strawberries, so he took the gum from his mouth and put it near a tree stump so he could find it when he had eaten his fill of strawberries. The strawberries were as sweet as honey and were delicious.

After the children had eaten their fill, they were ready to continue their walk. Matej was ready to leave, but he could not find his big wad of gum. He looked and looked, but could not find it. He finally gave up and ran to catch up with his friends as he did not want to be alone in the forest.

Later that same day, Jesko the hedgehog, passed by the strawberry field as he was searching for food to store for the coming winter. He was looking and looking but could not find anything that would keep until winter. As he searched, he came across the big wad of gum. "Ahah, at last" he said as he spotted the gum. "There is something for me." Never having seen gum before, he thought, maybe it was an apple. It is not red, but maybe it is not yet ripe." Jesko then smelled the wad of gum, but it did not smell like an apple. It smelled different, but sweet, so he thought that maybe it was a new kind of apple. He decided to take it, so he stuck it on the needles of his back and carried it home.

Jesko called to his children, "Little hedgehogs, I brought you something good to eat. It is a new kind of apple with a different color and a new smell." Jesko's wife and children quickly started to eat this "new kind of apple." They bit into the gum and started to chew. Almost immediately, they were struck with terror as the gum stuck to their teeth. The harder they tried to get free of the gum, the more it stretched until it looked like spaghetti.

Jesko stood in the middle of the room puzzled as to what was going on. His wife and children, in the corners of the room, chewed and chewed, trying to free themselves from

the gum. The more they tried to free themselves from the gum, the worse it became. Long lines of gum stretched from their teeth to the "apple" on Jesko's back. The whole family was crying as they chewed, shouting, "What are we going to do, who will save us". Jesko said, "Let's go outside — we have friends, they will help us". Jesko was first, followed by his wife, then the children — all were crying.

The first animal that came by was a rabbit. "Help us if you are our friend", said Jesko, "Look, the whole family is stuck to this 'new apple'. "I am a friend so I will help", said the rabbit. "My teeth are sharp because I chew cabbage," said the rabbit. He bit into the gum, and horror of horrors, he also became stuck to the gum. The frightened rabbit runs, but his teeth are stuck together and the gum stretches and keeps him connected to Jesko. All the hedgehogs are crying, and the rabbit is crying also. Three little foxes passing by meet this unhappy group. Jesko cries out, "My fox friends, help us. I am begging you. You have sharp teeth. Bite through this bad apple and get it off of my back. Help my wife and children, and my rabbit friend." The three little foxes bit into the gooey mess, but nothing good happened. They chewed and chewed, but they also got stuck and could not break away.

What a scene — Jesko in the middle with strings of gum connecting him to his family, the rabbit, and the foxes, and all of them crying as they tried to free themselves from the gum. At this point an eagle was flying overhead and Jesko cried out, "Eagle, eagle you have a strong beak, take pity on us and free us from this "bad apple." The eagle took pity on these crying animals and tried to free them with his beak. Soon he was so tangled in the gum that he could not open his beak. Frightened, he flew high into the air and wherever he flew, the gum thread went with him. The eagle was not trapped with the animals on the ground.

The eagle and the animals tried and tried to free themselves, but to no avail. As evening fell, the forest was a mess — gum threads and the sound of weeping were everywhere. In addition, the gum threads caught a mouse, two bears, four birds, and six grasshoppers. As they struggled to free themselves, the gum ball on Jesko's back became smaller, but the gum was still very sticky.

During the night, the wise, old owl came across the problem on the ground. Wanting to help the creatures of the forest, without getting trapped himself, he studied the situation carefully. Several hours later, he quickly bit through the gum bands and freed all of the forest creatures. How did he do it — he waited until the cool night air, dried and stiffened the gum and made it less sticky. Imagine the joy of the creatures when they realized that they were free! What lesson did they learn? It took Jesko and the creatures almost three weeks to clear the gum from their bodies. Lots of time to learn the value of caution.

Holiday Party Held

Branch 56 of Glassport, PA held their annual Christmas Party on December 7th, 2013 at Max and Odi's in Glassport, PA to celebrate the Birth of the Infant Jesus. An honored guest, Richard M. Crawley was present. A member of Branch 56 since birth and now a member of Branch 200 gave an inspiring talk on how he received a scholarship from FCSLA and is now a Senior at Full Sail University in Winter Park, FL. Also all of the Crawley family are members of Branch 200.

All of the children enjoyed Cindy Speck, a ventriloquist, who put on a great show with her "guests."

Everyone enjoyed a delicious luncheon and then Santa arrived bringing presents and a monetary gift to the delight of all in attendance.



Honored guest Richard M. Crawley, Branch 200, his mother Patricia, and Corrine Hopkins, Secretary of Br. 56.



Santa and his helpers Mary Giannandrea, Judy Feltz and Corrine Hopkins.



Officers of Branch 56.



Cindy Speck, Ventriloquist, her special guest, and members of Branch 56 in attendance.

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JANUARY 31, 2014

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 17,130,978
Bonds	712,308,187
Preferred Stock	3,130,553
Common Stock	4,756,694
Investment Income Due & Accrued	11,362,216
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	6,048,548
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,693,931
Other Assets	177,010

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 757,608,117

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 248,985,484
Annuity Reserves	398,042,847
Death Claims Payable	1,187,429
Unearned Premiums	554,514
Matured Endowments	331,747
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,384,029
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,057,162
Accrued Convention Donations	512,000
Provision for Future Conventions	429,000
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,498,319
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,132,376
Other Liabilities	1,501,337

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 665,616,244

Surplus

\$ 91,991,874

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 757,608,117

INCOME STATEMENT

For the One Month Ending January 31, 2014

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 423,160
Annuity Premiums	3,385,229
Investment Income	3,241,640
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	7,489
Rental Income	29,635
Other Revenue	2,058
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 7,089,210

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ (1,103,516)
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	2,159,847
Insurance Benefits	288,651
Annuity Benefits	2,677,305
Commission Expense	81,912
Surrender Benefits	1,582,313
Post Mortem Benefits	54,397
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	1,063
Matured Endowments	(1,409)
Donation Expenses	3,108
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	19,000
Convention Expenses	19,000
Bank Service Charges	461
Data Processing Service Fees	15,491
Accounting Fees	245
Consulting Fees	5,035
Bonus to Branches	70,985
Fraternal Activities	0
Official Publications	34,522
Scholarship Awards	17,417
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	51,612
Fees — Directors	10,939
Salaries — Employees	109,205
Salaries — Officers	37,953
Interest Expense	24,117
Tax Expense	23,363
Depreciation Expense	23,503
Utility Expense	3,681
Postage and Printing	6,018
Advertising	841
Travel Expense	3,327
Insurance Department Fees	2,926
Sales Promotion	5,476
Rental Expense	29,635
Other Expense	35,400
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 6,293,821

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 795,389

Dividends to Members

133,336

NET INCOME (Loss)

\$ 662,053



New Summer Favorites

TACO SALAD

- 1 package (1¼ ounces) taco seasoning
- 1 medium head lettuce, shredded
- 2 medium tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1 cup bottled Catalina dressing
- 4 to 5 cups corn chips, crushed
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese

In a skillet, brown ground beef; drain well. Stir in taco seasoning. Combine beef, lettuce, tomatoes, dressing, corn chips and cheese in a large serving bowl; toss well to mix. Serve immediately. Yield: 6-8 servings.

GOURMET PORK BURGERS

- 2 cups dry red wine
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 10 ounces dried figs, quartered
- 2 cups white wine
- ¾ cup chopped walnuts
- ⅓ cup dry bread crumbs
- 6 fresh sage leaves, thinly sliced
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1½ pounds ground pork
- ¾ cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese
- 6 hard rolls, split
- 2 cups fresh arugula or baby spinach

In a large saucepan, bring red wine and onion to a boil; cook until liquid is reduced to 2 tablespoons, about 20 minutes. Set aside to cool.

In another large saucepan, bring figs and

white wine to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes or until figs are plumped and tender. Cool slightly. Transfer to a food processor; cover and process until blended. Stir in walnuts.

In a large bowl, combine the bread crumbs, sage, salt, pepper and red wine mixture. Crumble pork over mixture and mix well. Shape into six patties.

Grill burgers, covered, over medium heat or broil 4 in. from heat for 4-5 minutes on each side or until a thermometer reads 160 degrees. Top with Gorgonzola cheese; cover and grill 1-2 minutes longer or until cheese is melted.

Grill rolls, cut side down, on medium heat for 30-60 seconds or until toasted. Spread each roll with 1 tablespoon fig mixture; top with a burger and arugula. (Save remaining fig mixture for another use.) 6 servings.

SAUSAGE BISCUIT BITES

- 1 tube (7½ ounces) refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 4½ teaspoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 package (8 ounces) frozen fully cooked breakfast sausage links, thawed

On a lightly floured surface, roll out each biscuit into a 4-in. circle; brush with butter. Combine Parmesan cheese and oregano; sprinkle over butter. Place a sausage link in the center of each roll; roll up.

Cut each widthwise into four pieces; insert a toothpick into each. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 40 appetizers.

CHOCOLATE CHEESE LAYERED BARS

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 ounce unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ cup chopped pecans

CHEESE LAYER:

- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 3 cups miniature marshmallows

TOPPING:

- ¼ cup butter
- 2 ounces cream cheese, softened

- 1 ounce unsweetened chocolate
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 3 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs. Beat in chocolate and vanilla until well blended. Combine flour and baking powder; stir into chocolate mixture. Fold in pecans. Pour into a greased 13-in. x 9-in. baking pan.

In another large bowl, combine cream cheese and butter. Beat in the sugar, egg, flour and vanilla until well combined. Fold in pecans. Spread over the chocolate layer; sprinkle with chips.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until edges pull away from sides of pan. Sprinkle with marshmallow; bake 2 minutes longer or until puffed. Spread evenly over cream cheese layer. Cool on a wire rack.

In a large saucepan, combine first four topping ingredients. Cook and stir over low heat until smooth. Transfer to a large bowl. Add the confectioners' sugar and vanilla; beat until smooth. Spread over cooled bars. Store in the refrigerator. Makes 2 dozen.

CHICKEN PASTA SALAD WITH GRAPES & POPPY SEED DRESSING

- 1 box pasta salad mix
- ½ cup refrigerated poppy seed dressing
- 1½ cups cut-up cooked chicken
- ¾ cup halved red grapes
- ½ cup thinly sliced celery
- ¼ cup slivered almonds, toasted

Empty pasta mix into 3-quart saucepan ⅔ full of boiling water. Gently boil uncovered 12 minutes, stirring occasionally. (Or follow instructions on box).

Drain pasta; rinse with cold water. Shake to drain well.

In large bowl, stir together seasoning mix and dressing. Add pasta and remaining ingredients; toss to combine. Serve immediately, or refrigerate.

TEXAS COLESLAW

- 1 bag (16 ounces) coleslaw mix
- ½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 cans (11 ounces each) whole kernel corn with red and green peppers, drained
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons lime or lemon juice
- ¾ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon salt

Toss coleslaw mix, cilantro and corn in very large (4-quart) bowl. Place oil, lime juice, cumin and salt in tightly covered container; shake well. Pour over coleslaw mixture; toss.

Cover and refrigerate 1 to 2 hours to blend flavors.



PERIODICAL

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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.*