



# Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 99, NO. 7

APRIL 2013



SPRING IS IN THE AIR!



NEXT MONTH REMINDER...

*Plan now to get involved  
in your community!*

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

**ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA****Fraternally Yours™**

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EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik

P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603

E-mail: [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net)

Phone (610) 373-2743 • Fax (610) 375-8333

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PA 15690. Residence: (724) 845-8078. Email:  
[LarryGolofski@windstream.net](mailto:LarryGolofski@windstream.net).Barbara Novotny Waller, 24950 Chagrin Boule-  
vard, Beachwood, OH 44122. Residence: (610) 207-  
0747. Email: [bnw1@entermail.net](mailto:bnw1@entermail.net).**SECRETARY:**Sue Ann M. Seich, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,  
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Email: [sueann@fcsla.com](mailto:sueann@fcsla.com).**TREASURER:**Stephen C. Hudak, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,  
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Email: [katie.esterle@gmail.com](mailto:katie.esterle@gmail.com).Barbara A. Sekerak, 6312 Elmdale Road,  
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[barb@epaymentnet.com](mailto:barb@epaymentnet.com).Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive, Monese-  
sen, PA 15062. Residence: (724) 684-8243. Email:  
[lenny5133@yahoo.com](mailto:lenny5133@yahoo.com).**EDITOR:**Carolyn M. Bazik, P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA  
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# Thoughts to Ponder ...

When I think about all the people I've known in my lifetime, I must ask myself who I admire the most. Think about it – we love to cheer for the successful ones, who no matter what the obstacle, find a way to win, to finish, to bring home the gold.

They say if you want to be successful, live with the winners, do what they do, copy what they say and work as hard as they work. It is good advice, yet at some point most of the winners I know were once failures that had the strength to start over again and again and maybe had a helping hand. Funny that that part of their story is rarely told.

Don't get me wrong I have among my family and friends many who are winners, and I am proud of them, yet I have always had a soft spot for the people society deems the losers, failures, those that try as they might seem to never win.

I enjoy hanging around the people no one wants to be around. Perhaps that is why I have always been drawn to volunteering with non-profit groups and used my MBA skills to manage an AIDS social service agency. I want to touch the untouchables. I want to ignore the world's labels, prejudices and class structure. I want to befriend the one no one even counts, the one often ignored or misunderstood the person the world sees as insignificant or often simply invisible. In many ways it is the same people that Jesus befriended during his earthly life.

I love the pride they have in the smallest things they possess or do. I love to fuss over the older woman dressed in obviously worn attire who you know by just looking at her has had a tough life. "How beautiful you look today!" Looking down and readjusting the fit, she suddenly feels like she matters, someone noticed her and she feels alive again. She is and always has been.

Give me the young man at the mall food court whose job it is to clean the tables. He picks up after the children of those who think they keep him employed by permitting their children to be slob in the food court. Think about that the next time you and your family grab a bite to eat at your local mall.

Introduce me to the man who polishes the chandelier in the foyer of the hotel I stayed in or the housekeeping employees who make my bed and provide fresh towels. I want them to know how important the work they do really is. How about the people who clean the hospital room your loved one is in. How often do you ignore them as though they were invisible or is it easier to walk by them without saying a word?

I want to place my hand on the hand of the beggar on the street corner so my few dollars dropped in his hand that day means more than just a cup of coffee. Touching him, holding his hand, maybe even connecting with him acknowledges his humanity and mine. We really aren't that different.

Yes, I'll continue to cheer the winner, the first and the exceptional. But I feel like I belong with those still struggling to find a way to begin, start over, or simply survive. It is where my heart is, and has always been. I am at home with those who have failed because I too have failed. After all they have the most to live for, the best reasons to try harder, and the least to lose.

*Dear friends, before you judge a person you think is a failure, remember that it is where winners are born. We are all children of the God that created us and that makes each of us a winner from our first breath to our last. Money, position, pride, and power seem so important – until they're not. What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom, and for what after you are gone. If you want a real reality check just think about what you want people to remember about you after you die and then live backwards.*

Until next month .... Warmly, **Carolyn**

**ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA**



# A FIFTY YEAR HISTORY: VATICAN II DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY, SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On 27 November 2011, the First Sunday of Advent, Roman Catholics in the United States were introduced to the newly approved English translation of the third edition of the *Roman Missal* (*Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia*). The inauguration of this *Roman Missal* in English was a hallmark as this new translation from the Latin into the English was the finale of years of research by and reviews and insights from many Latin/English translators around the world. The decree for the first edition of the *Roman Missal* was published on 26 March 1970. Changes were made from the first edition and on 27 March 1975, a decree was issued concerning the second typical edition of the *Roman Missal*. This third typical edition was first published in Latin and dated 20 April 2000. In actuality, a new English translation of the *Roman Missal* had been in process since the 1990's and thus one may see the extent of work that went into this third edition of the book that is utilized for the celebration of the Eucharist.

The latest edition of the *Roman Missal* was received with much preparation by diocesan and parish worship offices prior to its implementation on the First Sunday of Advent, 2011. Dioceses had informational and educational meetings for the laity, religious, and priests. These meetings assisted formational meetings for younger and older parishioners; educational staffs on the grade school and high school levels whether students were in Catholic and non-Catholic schools; and, to those whose roles were to prepare for and assist in the celebration of the Eucharist, e.g., ministers of music, liturgical and spiritual life councils, servers, readers, etc. There was a concerted effort to catechize everyone about the new language that would be employed in the Mass with the reasoning for the language change and the importance of retaining the universal meaning of the language.

Now that we have experienced the change of language in the liturgy for over one year, there has been mixed reviews about our "new" experience of the Mass. The onus of the changes, however, has been more on "my" side of the altar rather

than on "your" side. Before the new implementation of the language now in use, I had most of the Eucharistic prayers memorized and used the book only when I needed a "hint" word to keep me on tract. Today I am somewhat "glued" to the missal because of the amount of changes in grammar and vocabulary. The sentences are longer and it takes more preparation time to make sure that accents and punctuation are properly maintained. Some theologians believe that there has been a theological shift while others defend that the theological continuity is retained. Those on "your" side of the altar still do not know why the changes had to be employed, e.g., what is the difference to the response of "The Lord be with you" - "And with your spirit" versus "And also with you"? What really does "consubstantial" mean? "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,..." - what roof? There may be other questions that may be left unanswered and/or not verbalized, but all these should and must be explained in order to enter more fully into the mystery of the Eucharist.

Prior to the beginnings of change in the *Roman Missal* during the mid-twentieth century, the Mass was celebrated in Latin throughout the entire world from a missal that was approved by Pope Pius V in the mid-sixteenth century. Some of us "senior" Roman Catholics remember Mass being celebrated in Latin as youngsters and young adults. In the 1950's, the Church made some changes in the celebration of the Holy Week Services. When the Second Vatican Council was convoked in the 1960's, the Fathers of the Council saw the need to reform the celebrations of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. The Council Fathers stated, "In order that the Christian people may more securely derive an abundance of graces from the sacred liturgy, holy Mother Church desires to undertake with great care a general restoration of the liturgy itself. For the liturgy is made up of unchangeable elements divinely instituted, and elements subject to change. The latter not only may but ought to be changed with the passing of time if features have by chance crept

in which are less harmonious with the intimate nature of the liturgy, or if existing elements have grown less functional. In this restoration, both texts and rites should be drawn up so that they express more clearly the holy things which they signify. Christian people, as far as possible, should be able to understand them with ease and to take part in them fully, actively, and as befits a community" [*Sacrosanctum concilium*, paragraph 21].

Some of us do remember the transition from Mass being celebrated completely in Latin, then the gradual change for some of the parts celebrated in Latin and other parts in the vernacular (for us, English or Slovak!) and then completely into the vernacular. That was a huge transition from centuries in Latin through a very short time fully in the vernacular! That change brought us to a better understanding and capability to fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist. At the time, however, we may not have understood some of the changes but as time progressed, we were able to grasp what the Fathers had in mind when it came to seeing the needs of the times. The celebration of the Eucharist is the Eucharist handed down to us by Christ the Lord at the Last Supper through the centuries to the present day. "He [Jesus] did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross through the centuries until He should come again and so to entrust to His beloved spouse, the Church, a memorial of His death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us" [paragraph 47].

There may be changes we understand and others that we do not. However, the foundation of the celebration of the Eucharist will never change until He comes in His Second Glory. The 130 paragraphs of this constitution note the Mystery that is forever and the mystery of this world that is changeable to become better aware of the Mystery among us. It is through the celebration of Mass that we grow in our knowledge of the One who redeemed and unites us in God's love!

## Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



One of the most exciting responsibilities of National President is planning for and presiding at the meetings of the Association's board of directors and the Executive (Finance) Committee. From time to time, I would like to bring you, our members, information about the important role that the board plays in our organization, its duties and its process of decision making.

The delegates at our quadrennial conventions elect our national officers, who in turn comprise our board of directors. As such the board formally meets at least quarterly for the purpose of managing or overseeing the affairs of the Association. During the times between board meetings, various standing or strategic planning committees of the board will meet, either by phone or in person, to develop recommendations about specific matters which may require board attention or which are part of our strategic direction.

We are indeed fortunate to have a board whose members take their responsibilities very seriously and work hard to make appropriate collective decisions.

Over the last several years, there have been many discussions and deliberations about "governance"; when, in fact, we have primarily been discussing the process of selecting the leaders for our Association.

GOVERNANCE, on the other hand, is the process of decision making in an organization. Consistent, focused, clear decision making is only possible with effective governance.

The first step in effective governance is understanding and carrying out the proper role of the board of directors. Primarily, the role of the board is two fold: number 1, strategic, where the board works in concert with management to develop overall strategic direction for the organization; and

number 2, fiduciary, where the board exercises high level oversight of use of the Association's assets (stewardship).

By carrying out these duties in many ways, our managing officers and board strive to make positive decisions to move our Association forward for the benefit of our members and the communities in which our members live.

On another note, as we approach JOIN HANDS DAY, we hope each of you reaches out, either through the branches or individually, to work in our communities with grassroots community organizations, volunteering with them together in our neighborhoods. Let us know what you are doing.

May you have a blessed and joyful Easter Season!

### Estate and Legacy Planning Workshop Held

FCSLA Branch W016 held an informative seminar: Estate & Legacy Planning Workshop on February 28, 2013 in the Klein Center in Brainard, NE. Glen Riensche and Michael Hall of RHD Financial Services were the presenters. Ken Dolezal helped with the arrangements.

Pictured (below) are members of W016, guests and the presenters enjoying a break. Visiting after the workshop are Ken Dolezal, Tom Pesek, Clair Kriz, Glen Riensche, and Michael Hall.



### Spring Meeting for Eastern PA Frances Jakabcin District

The Eastern PA Frances Jakabcin District will hold its Spring Meeting **on Sunday, April 21, 2013** at the Northampton Memorial Community Center, 1601 Laubach Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067 at 1:30 p.m. Bethlehem Branch 89 will be the host branch. Mark your calendars and save the date for this important meeting. District branches should RSVP attendance to President Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 by April 10, 2013.





## Join Hands Day



Join Hands Day brings young people and adults together to make a difference not only in their communities, but also in each others lives. Join Hands Day is usually on the first Saturday in May. However, depending on what community project your branch or district chooses it may be held on any Saturday in May.

You are probably reading this and saying, but this is the April issue of the *Fraternally Yours* magazine. And you would be correct! I wanted to give you advance notice about Join Hands Day. Give your branch offices or district officers a call and ask if they have a Join Hands Day planned, and if they do when, where and what time.



There are so many great reasons to participate Join Hands Day.

- You will help improve your community.
- Benefit for youths – learning the value of volunteering and personally making a difference in their own community.
- You will build relationships with other FCSLA members. You just never know who you will meet or become friends with.
- Members of your community will learn about who FCSLA is and all the good we do.
- It's FUN & REWARDING!

So find out about your local Join Hands Day project, sign up and bring a friend. The reward is priceless and it will become an annual event for you.

**Remember Family + Friends = FCSLA's Future!**

## Indiana Slovak Day 2013

Mark your calendars for the Slovak Day Celebration in Northwest Indiana. On **July 21, 2013** we will celebrate mass, enjoy traditional Slovak dancing, eat and enjoy all things Slovak. For more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/SlovakDayCelebration>

## FCSLA Connects . . .

### The Fraternal Edge

#### WHAT DOES THE WORD "FRATERNAL" MEAN?

*Brotherhood; of or denoting an organization for people that have common interest or beliefs.*

#### WHAT IS A FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY?

Fraternal benefit societies are membership organizations that:

- ▲ From one of the nation's most effective and efficient volunteer networks, delivering billions of dollars of direct financial aid and community service to those who need it most.
- ▲ Unite individuals with a common bond.
- ▲ Provide individuals with the ability to secure their families' financial security through a variety of life insurance and investment products.

#### FCSLA IS A FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY!

In 1892 FCSLA was formed in Cleveland, OH by nine Slovak immigrant homemakers to serve the needs of Slovak immigrants struggling for financial security to protect their families. Today FCSLA has over 410 branches in 47 states and Washington, D.C.

FCSLA and its 85,000 members are actively involved in volunteering and community service. The impact FCSLA and its members have with volunteering and sponsoring matching funds projects is tremendous. There are no words to describe how grateful the people we help are. Helping people is what "it" is all about!

Over the past 121 years FCSLA has evolved into one of the more successful fraternal benefit societies in large part because of YOU — our dedicated members. We need to continue to educate others about our fraternal benefit society and the benefits of being a member. Encourage a family member or friend to become a member of the FCSLA because **Family + Friends = FCSLA's Future!**

## 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.

April is a good month to assess your personal important documents to make sure they are up to date. Do you have a will and is your executor or executrix of your estate still living? You may think this is an odd question. Many times wills are not updated and the person you entrusted to carry out your last wishes may not be able physically to handle it or may have passed on before you. When is the last time you updated your beneficiaries? If you do not update your beneficiaries and your contract lists a deceased beneficiary, our death claims or annuity departments will require a death certificate for the listed primary beneficiary. This will allow the contingent beneficiaries to receive the payment from your life insurance or annuity contract.

Our Home Office Staff is required to follow many laws to protect you our member. Many times a family member may call to find out information on a contract. We will not give out information over the phone. We will always ask for the request to be sent in writing to the Home Office. Once your identity has been confirmed the Home Office will respond to your question and send you any necessary information.

You, our member should feel comfortable knowing your information is safe with FCSLA. Our Home Office Staff is here to serve **you** as a member of our Association. How about enrolling a new member and watch FCSLA continue to grow . . .

Until next issue, may God keep you happy, healthy and loved!



## BABY HAT BRIGADE



Sr. Branch 519 Secretary Dorothy Szumski came up with an idea to help keep newborns heads warm at a local hospital.

Dorothy commandeered Caroline Studniarz – Home Office employee and expert crotchetier to help the idea come to life. Sr. Branch 519 provided the yarn and Caroline crocheted 44 mini hats all different colors and sizes for the babies at Lake West Hospital in Willoughby, OH.



## Slovak Picnic

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2013

Noon until 8 p.m.

ST. SAVA PICNIC GROUNDS

2151 Wallings Road, Broadview Heights, OH

SLOVAK FOOD AND PASTRIES

~ Music by John Pastirik ~

For more information call 440-886-4828;  
440-885-1994 or 440-845-0282

## United Slovak Society Scholarship Program

The United Slovak Societies of the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH announces their scholarship program for 2013.

The Society will grant scholarship awards to qualified graduating high school seniors who are entering college and meet eligibility rules.

Applicants must be a member in good standing for the past five years in St. Ann's Lodge, Branch 114 located in Lorain, OH.

Please contact Margaret Thomas for applications or if you have questions. Margaret can be reached online at [marcarl@centurytel.net](mailto:marcarl@centurytel.net) or by phone at 440-204-8356. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2013.



## ANNUAL VILIJA DINNER HELD

The title song, "Be Our Guest," from the musical "Beauty and the Beast," was on the invitation sent to Saint Elizabeth, Sr. Branch 161 members, living in a thirty mile radius of Youngstown, OH. The flyer showed a couple, dressed in Slovak kroj (costume), dancing. The invitation stated that Sr. Branch 161 members would have their \$20 dinner reservations paid by the branch. The event they would attend was the American Slovak Cultural Association (ASCA) annual Vilija Dinner to be held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, December 9, 2012.

President, Ginny DeLuca, and Financial Secretary, Bernie Demechko, received 44 reservations in response and arrangements were made to have the members sit together so they could reminisce and renew friendships.

Loretta Ekoniak, President of the ASCA, and the Senior Branch Auditor, welcomed the 248 people in attendance. She exemplified the purpose of the organization of perpetuating Slovak

heritage for she was dressed in a true Slovak-made kroj. It had been made for her (from undershirts to cepiec) by her cousin when Loretta, her husband Mike, and two sons Michael and Nathaniel, were in Slovakia last spring. Loretta explained the tradition of the Vilija (Christmas Eve) dinner which is still honored in most homes that cherish Slovak ancestry. This was the 40th anniversary of the dinner.

National Chaplain and Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Monsignor Peter Polando gave the Invocation and introduced two seminarians from Slovakia. Lucas Imrich, Presov, and Simon Mino, Stropkov gave grace before meals in Slovak. They also led the group in singing the Slovak and American national anthems.

Although the primary purpose of the ASCA has been to perpetuate Slovak heritage, it also sponsors a \$1,000 scholarship annually which is given to a college student of Slovak heritage. This year's winner was Gregory Erb,

Canfield, OH who is currently attending the University of Akron where he is pursuing a degree in Bio-chemistry with a goal of becoming an anesthesiologist. He thanked the ASCA and talked about his grandmother and special memories of her making delicious pirohi and kolach.

A special guest this year was Bernie Demechko, Secretary of the Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Group (YSC). She spoke of the 20th anniversary celebration in 2011 between the two cities mentioned all the work that has been done to help the areas of Spisska Nova Ves.

Last year YSC had a special fundraising drive and Jim and Kay Bench, tour guides, presented \$6,500 to Mayor Jan Volny to be used as a down payment of a sump pumper truck for the Volunteer Fire Department in Nova Ves. In commemoration of the anniversary, Nova Ves held a lavish dinner for the entire group of American tourists. This year Jim and Kay will be guiding the 16th annual heritage tour to Slovakia, July 9-23.



**S161 and J192 Officers L-R: Bernie Demechko, Virginia DeLuca, Melanie Leonard, Mille Kust, Nancy Clausen, Seated: Loretta Ekoniak.**



**L-R: Ann Hruska, Millie Kust, (unknown), Clem Clausen.**



**Left side: Mitchell Hamrock and Frank Fabiny; Right side: Fred DeLuca, Margaret Hamrock, Agatha Fabiny, and John Jerek.**



**Virginia Christopher, Mary Yurco, and Nancy Clausen.**



**Left: Mary Richnafsky, Ceil Schlosser, Sue Mraz.**



**Betty Zajac, Ann Kozar, and Kay Franko.**

## SR. BRANCH 81 MEMBERS CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS

The Whiting, IN Sr. Branch 81 held their annual members Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 12, 2012. A warm December without snow, did not stop the holiday festivities inside the Mural Room of St. John the Baptist School. Festive elves arranged by Gerri Tumildalsky adorned the tables as centerpieces and doubled as door prizes.

Father John Kalicky, the pastor of St. John Church, led the invocation before the meal. A family-style Slovak dinner was served, featuring holubky and kielbasa, prepared by member and banquet facilitator Carol Vargo, followed by roshky and ice cream. The cheerful atmosphere and delightful meal will become a fond

memory of the 2012 holiday season for all who attended.

Margaret Abildua, Sr. Branch 81 Treasurer gave an overview of the branches finances – declaring that the branch was “financially fit.” St. John the Baptist Church received two special gifts at the luncheon. FCSLA Sr. Branch 81 presented Pastor John Kalicky with a \$25,000 check and Jr. Branch 58 gave a \$1,250 check to help support the church. Father John was deeply appreciative of the support from the branches stating what a wonderful organization the FCSLA is. He said the donations would help to keep tuition as low as possible in our school and wished everyone a blessed, joyous Christmas.

Everyone attending was asked to bring voluntary donations on non-perishable food or a monetary gift for the Whiting Food Pantry, which services the Whiting/Robertsedale area. Thank you to all members who generously helped those less fortunate. In addition to a wonderful meal, all members in attendance received a 2013 date book compliments of the FCSLA Home Office. Door prizes donated by branch officers and 50/50 raffle finished off the celebration.



**John and Mary Danko**



**Dolores McCampbell and Donnie Sabol, secretary of Branch 81.**



**Dolores and Don Geffert with Adolph Biel.**



**Helen Bencur and Rose Lubek**



**Jr. Branch 58 and Sr. Branch 81 officers with Father John Kalicky.**



**Seated, L-R: Helen Samek, Betty Childalek, Theresa Bobos, Mary Ann Rokosz, Standing, L-R: Frank Stolarz, Norma and Steve Fusek.**



**L-R: Zita Tanskim, Laura Holman, Berdie Chiluski and Margaret Worley.**



**Judy and Margaret Uhrin, Margaret Abildua, Joyce and Jerry Springer and Frank Vargo.**



**The Markovich Families**



**The Bealieu family sits in front of the painting the Mural Room was named for.**



# ST. ISIDORE DISTRICT 11 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Approximately 200 members attended the St. Isidore District 11, Nebraska annual Christmas party on December 3, 2012 in Prague, NE. Everyone enjoyed the social, dinner and program.



Some of the attendees at the party.



Members signing in received a gift of chocolates.



Members signing in received a gift of chocolates.



The Ostry Family Singers entertained with a musical program called "Christmas Around the World", vocal renditions in Czech, Polish, Spanish and English.

## Scholarships Awarded by Branch W033

Branch W033 (Spillville, IA) awarded their annual branch scholarships during the annual Christmas party and meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2012.

The college recipients Josh and Cole Stiba sons of Elaine and Ronald Stiba were unable to attend so two \$250 checks were given to their father Ronald. Josh is a 2nd year student at St. Pius X Seminary in Dubuque, IA and Cole is attending St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA pursuing a career as a chiropractor.

The high school and grade school re-

cipients Matthew and Mitchell Helmkamp, sons of Tony and Carla Helmkamp were also unable to attend so two \$100 checks were presented to their grandmother Joanne Hagerman. Matthew is a sophomore at Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids, IA and Mitchell is a 5th grader at St. Pius X Elementary also in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Congratulations to the winners!



Jerry Kuhn presents two \$100 scholarship checks to Joanne Hagerman, grandmother of winners Matthew and Mitchell Helmkamp.



Branch W033 Vice President Jerry Kuhn presents two \$250 scholarship checks to Ronald Stiba father of winners Josh and Cole.

### Scholarship Winners



Mitchell Helmkamp



Matt Helmkamp



Josh Stika



Cole Stika



## MARCH FOR LIFE 2013

On Thursday, January 24, two buses left the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH around 11:30 p.m. to participate in the 40th March for Life in Washington D.C. on Friday, January 25.

There were approximately 106 students, clergy and members. Our National President Cynthia Maleski, along with current and past National Officers, made the trip. We arrived in D.C. around 6:30 a.m. at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center. At 12:00 noon our participants met with other fraternal leaders and members for a group photo.

Although the weather was cold and windy, it did not dampen the spirit of the estimated crowd of over 500,000 Marching for Life! The March for Life took us down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill.

A big "Thank You" to all who participated in the 40th Anniversary of March for Life. The buses were provided by the

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The lunch for the ride home was provided by the FCSLA Cleveland District with a contribution from Sr. Branches 221 and 301. The neon green scarves were provided by Sr. Branch 524.

I am very happy to report that the planning and executing my first March for Life trip was a success — I did not lose anyone nor leave anyone behind — always a good thing!

Next year the March for Life is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us!

It is an awesome experience that you will never forget.





## Vilija Supper in Vandergrift, Pennsylvania

Sr. Branch 262 (East Vandergrift, PA) held a Vilija Supper on Monday, December 17 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady Queen of Peace Social Hall in East Vandergrift, PA.



### Member Receives Gift through FCSLA Donation



Emily Olup with Carol Yurechko.

Emily Olup (J56 Glassport, PA) was the recipient of a Project Linus blanket. Project Linus provides blankets and afghans for children who are hospitalized or sick. The Project received a generous donation at the 40th National Convention in Baltimore, MD, and as evidenced by the photo is being used for a good cause. Emily is a big Garfield fan, and the heart accents made her quilt a perfect Valentine's Day blanket. Emily is the daughter of Dana and Ken Olup of Sr. Branch 200.

Victoria, her sister, is also a member of Jr. Branch 56. Carol Yurechko, one of Emily's nurses is a Sr. Branch 77 auditor and a member of the National Court of Appeals.

### FCSLA — All in the Family!

Mary Ralston (S88 Monessen, PA) has enrolled her seven great-nieces and nephews in Jr. Branch 157 in Monessen, PA. Top row, L-R: Kara Kane, Kylie Kane, Katelyn Kane. Bottom, L-R: Colin Kane, Michael Kuhar, and Mary Ralston holding Callie Kane and Ethan Kuhar.



### 10th Consular Tour to Slovakia August 24-September 3

We will visit three cities in Slovakia: Bratislava, the capital city; Kosice, the 2013 Cultural City in the European Union; and Presov, the sister city of Pittsburgh. We will also visit the historical manor houses, castles, as well as churches and shrines and also a spa, Trencianske Teplice. We will stay in first class hotels and travel in air conditioned buses with bathroom facilities with an experienced English speaking guide.

If you are interested, and want more information please contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 during office hours or 412/956-6000 after office hours or at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com).



# IN MEMORIAM

## **DOROTHY A. KRCMARIK** **Sr. Branch 451**

Dorothy A. Krcmarik, age 92, of New Lothrop, MI, passed away on August 21, 2012 at Living Joy Assisted Living in Flushing.

Dorothy was born on April 5, 1920 to the late James and Stella (Pechacek) Wanek of Wilson, KS. She married Joseph B. Krcmarik on June 5, 1943 in San Francisco, CA. He preceded her in death in 1982. They relocated to New Lothrop in 1945, and were members of St. Michael's Catholic Church of Maple Grove.

Dorothy clerked at the New Lothrop Post Office for 20 years, and then served as Post Master for 7 years, retiring in 1979.

Dorothy is survived by two daughters; Dottie Jo (Marty) Warnick of Frankenmuth, Millie (Don) Bishop of New Lothrop, two sons; J. Mark (June) Krcmarik of Connecticut, Kevin (Kiersten) Marek of Rhode Island; nine grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; sisters, Kate, Carol and Trish.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Joe, granddaughter; Allie, brother; Leo, sisters; Irene, Adeline, Betty and MaryAnn.

The family extends special thanks to the Woodhaven staff, Homestead Medical staff and lastly, Living Joy staff and McLaren Hospice personnel who cared for Dorothy over the past few years.

## **MARY A. STANKO** **Sr. Branch 408**



Mary A. Stanko (nee Frolo), a member of Sr. Branch 408, passed away on January 30, 2013 at the age of 93. She was born, October 16, 1919 in Lakewood, OH to Joseph and Mary Frolo (nee Utrata).

Mary attended St. Cyril and Methodius School and went on to attend Lakewood High School. She then attended cosmetology school which led her to own and operate Bunt's Beauty Shop for a short while. In 1941, she married the love of her

life, Paul Stanko, who preceded her in death in 2006 after 65 years of marriage. They settled in Lakewood and started raising their family with the birth of their son, Thomas. During World War II, Mary assumed the title of "Rosie the Riveter" inspecting torpedo detonators for Kinetic Mfg., a defense contractor, while Paul served in the U.S. Coast Guard. After the war, their daughter Barbara and son, Robert were born.

In 1951, they resettled in Cleveland, OH. During that time, Mary worked for Sears, St. Joseph Academy, eventually retiring from the Lakewood City School District.

In 1993, they moved to North Olmsted, OH to be closer to family where she resided until her death.

Mary is survived by her son Thomas (Janet), daughter, Barbara Suroski (James ) and son, Robert (Kimberly), grandchildren, Jim, Matt, Margie Waters, Julie Hamilton, Ryan and Megan, great-grandchildren Grant, Charlie, Kinsley, Addison and Baby Hamilton, brother, Thomas Frolo and sisters, Marge Hujo and Ruthanne Platek and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband Paul, she was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Joseph and Donald.

## **LOUIS VAVRIK** **Branch W051**



Louis John Vavrik, 84, Ventura, IA, died November 28, 2012, at the Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa in Mason City, IA.

Louis John Vavrik was born on January 27, 1928 the son of Frank and Anna (Tusha) Vavrik on the family farm near Duncan. He was baptized at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan, and attended rural school in Garfield Township. Louis was inducted into the Army on January 11, 1951 serving in the Korean Conflict. Louis served his country honorably and faithfully until his honorable discharge in October 1952, with the rank of SGT.

Louis was united in marriage to Marjorie Kirschbaum at St. James Catho-

lic Church in Forest City on June 25, 1953 and to this union was born a daughter, Jane and a son, Marvin.

Louis and Marjorie farmed west of Duncan until 1968, when they moved to an acreage north of Ventura. He then worked at Cashway Lumber Company in Mason City for 25 years.

Louis enjoyed gardening and wood-working and was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Clear Lake.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Marjorie Vavrik of Ventura; daughter, Jane (Wayne) Eckhoff of Alexander, IA; son, Marvin (Julie) Vavrik of Clear Lake; eight grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; 1 step great-grandson; brother-in-law, Eugene Kirschbaum; sister-in-law, Madonna Kirschbaum; as well as nieces, nephews, and many other extended family members and friends.

Louis was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Anna; sisters, Mamie Sucky, Rose Formanek, Lillian Malek; brothers, Frank Vavrik Jr., George Vavrik, William Vavrik and Robert Vavrik.

## **ROSE ELIZABETH** **(SPACK) SIPKO** **Sr. Branch 140**



Rose Elizabeth (Spack) Sipko, 99, passed away of natural causes on January 18, 2013, surrounded by her loved ones. She had hoped to make it to 100.

The daughter of John P. and Verna C. Spack, of Lansford,

PA. Rose was married to Stephen Michael Sipko, (Coaldale, PA), in 1932; they enjoyed 60 years together until Stephen passed away in late 1992. They lived in Flemington, NJ, near son, Stephen G. Sipko, and oldest daughter, Rosemarie Brower.

Rose then moved to New Hampshire to be close to her younger daughter, Beverly, her husband and grandson, Dennis and his family. Living in New Hampshire, she made many friends, was involved in church and senior activities, as well as gardening and cooking with her



daughter. As age and mobility declined, she moved into Pheasant Wood Nursing and Rehab Center. She was well-liked, and again added more friends among the residents and staff. She loved singing, telling stories and had a wonderful sense of humor, which brought smiles to many faces. She will be greatly missed.

She was predeceased by two sisters, and two brothers, and in 2004, by her daughter, Rosemarie.

She is survived by a sister, Tillie Smida, 94, of Pennsylvania; son Stephen (Jerry) of Pennsylvania and his wife, Carrie; granddaughter Cassandra of New Jersey and grandson, Brian; daughter Beverly Schaefer of New Hampshire and her husband, James Schaefer and grandson, Dennis Schaefer; granddaughter Jeanne Ellis of Tennessee; grandsons James and John of Tennessee; great-grandchildren, ElizGrace of Tennessee, Nicole and Amanda of New Hampshire and a great-great-grandson of Tennessee; a favorite niece Hope, nephew Joseph and grand-nieces Amy and Denise.

### **MARGARET TRECHA** **Sr. Branch 451**



Margaret Trecha, 86, of Owosso, MI, passed away October 27, 2012 at her residence.

Margaret was born in Owosso on August 28, 1926, the daughter of Vincent and Theresa (Kuban) Skriba. She was a graduate of Owosso High School.

Margaret married Thomas J. Trecha on April 17, 1958 at St. Joseph Catholic Church-Owosso; he preceded her in death on October 31, 1995.

She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, St. Paul Catholic Ladies of Service, St. Paul Nocturnal Adoration Society and the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

Margaret was a bookkeeper with State Savings Bank in Owosso for 20 years, St. Joseph Catholic Church and School for 40 years, plus co-owner of Trecha Brothers Supply Company-Swartz Creek and Capitol Bowl-Owosso. She also served as an officer for the First Catholic Slovak

Ladies Association (FCSLA), Local Lodge 451, for over 50 years.

Those who cherish her memory include: daughter, Theresa Trecha of Cincinnati; son, Thomas and wife Diane Trecha of Owosso; grandson, Thomas of Owosso; nephew, Jim (Marylou) Scriba of Owosso; close cousin, Terrie Lloyd of Tinley Park, IL; several other nieces, nephews and cousins. Margaret also leaves many long-time close friends she met from childhood through her adult life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Thomas; brothers, Tony and Joe Scriba; sisters, Anne and Hazel Skriba; and nephew, Tom Scriba.

Memorials are suggested to St. Paul Catholic Church; Memorial Healthcare Friends of Hospice; or the Diocese of Lansing - Outreach Mass.

### **PATRICIA WACHA** **Branch W080**



Patricia J. Wacha, 81, of Clarkson, NE died October 25, 2012. Pat was born on January 1, 1931, in Omaha to John and Norma (Conway) Hefti.

She attended school in Omaha and graduated from North High School. Pat graduated from Omaha University with a teaching degree for high school English and journalism.

She taught in Omaha for several years, and met Fred Wacha at a teachers' convention. They were married on July 8, 1961, at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Omaha. They moved to Pilger for three years before settling in Clarkson where they both taught school.

As their family grew, Pat stayed at home to raise their children. She did freelance journalism and had articles printed in the *Schuyler Sun*, *Colfax County Press*, *Norfolk Daily News*, *The Catholic Voice* and several magazines. She was very active with the Clarkson Museum, Clarkson Library, Czech Days, Boy Scouts, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and Clarkson Women's Club. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading, doing genealogy work, music and traveling.

Survivors include son John (Monica)

Wacha of Richmond Hill, GA, and grandchildren Joseph and Jacob and step-great-grandson Carson; daughter Theresa (Ben) Gokey of Omaha; son Jim (Kim) Wacha of Lincoln and granddaughter Heaven of Burlington Junction, MO, grandsons Alex and Cody and great-grandson Julian; daughter Annette Wacha of Buffalo, NY; and brother Joe (Rosemary) Hefti of Florida.

She was preceded in death by husband Fred Wacha; parents John and Norma Hefti; three brothers, John, Jim and Neal Hefti; and sister Theresa Groh.

### **EMMA JANE JARRES** **Sr. Branch 233**

Emma Jane Jarres, 97, of Zelienople, PA entered into eternal rest on December 31, 2012, at St. John's Specialty Care Center, Mars, PA. She was born December 5, 1915, in Pittsburgh, the daughter of the late Joseph and the late Veronica Siska, and the sister of Julia, Mary, Ann, Rose and Steve Siska.

Emma was known for her love of family and her kindness and generosity toward them.

She married Albert Anthony Jarres, and they lived together happily for many years, until his untimely passing in 1998. Together they raised two daughters, and Emma became a proud grandmother of five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In her spare time, she loved to shop and was an avid gardener of flowers and vegetables. Above all, Emma had a strong faith in God and attended the St. Gregory Catholic Church for 16 years.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory, her daughters, Linda Davis and her husband, Dan, of Cranberry Township and Charlotte Leber and her husband, Jack, of Mandeville, LA; her 5 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

### **SISTER CITIES TRIP**

Youngstown Sister Cities has scheduled its 16th Slovak Heritage Tour to Slovakia for July 9-July 23, 2013. Details will be given in future articles.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench: jmbench@yahoo.com or cell phone (724) 858-5843.

## New Branch 628 Opens in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

On February 7, as the East Coast prepared for the Blizzard of 2013, FCSLA's newest branch Sr. Branch 628 celebrated its official opening in Pittsburgh, PA!

Members arrived at the restaurant Bravo! in Robinson Township and were greeted by Agent Bob Lauro and Office Manager Geno Polis. FCSLA was represented by National Sales Manager Patrick Braun, Regional Sales Manager Al Heiles and Fraternal & Youth Director Kelly Shedlock. There were 30 attendees for the inaugural festivities.

The evening began with prayer led by Deacon Heiles.

After dinner, Kelly Shedlock presented an informative yet fun presentation. It included a Power Point Video showing photos, facts and the vision and mission of

FCSLA. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

District Vice President Jerry LaFrankie and his wife Monica were also in attendance to welcome the new members. Jerry spoke to those in attendance about the Pittsburgh District and how it is beneficial for the branch and its members to become part of the district.

Patrick Braun and Al Heiles each said a few words welcoming the newest FCSLA members.

Bea and Ed Kuchta were nominated as the first branch officers of Sr. Branch 628. The attendees accepted the nomination.

Congratulations and "Thank You" to Bea and Ed! FCSLA and Sr. Branch 628 are very lucky to have you as branch officers.

The evening concluded with a raffle of various prizes.

Welcome to the FCSLA Family Sr. Branch 628!



## Sr. Branch 376 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Honors 50-Year Member and Scholarship Winners

On Saturday, September 15th, members of Sr. Branch 376 in Milwaukee, WI held their Fall Meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center. Fifty-year member Chris Jurik was honored, as well as this year's scholarship winners. Hannah Szabo received a \$1,250 College Freshman scholarship and is attending Denver University. Hannah Braun (pictured with President Kathy Dorfner and Jr. Br. Secretary Laura Skubal) received a \$750 Sixth-Grade scholarship and attends Aquinas Academy. Peyton Hart received a \$750 Sixth-Grade scholarship and attends St. Anthony on the Lake Catholic School, plays AAA Hockey for the Milwaukee Jr. Admirals and baseball for Thundercat Baseball Club, and loves to hunt and play with his friends. Patrick Zanoni received a \$750 Third-Grade scholarship and attends St. Margaret School in Narberth, PA.





## Guest Speaker at Sister City Meeting

Bernie Demechko (Sr. Branch 161), Secretary of Youngstown-Spisaska Nova Ves Sister Cities (YSC) was the guest speaker at the October meeting of the Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities organization. Marie Golias (Sr. Branch 490), President of the Cleveland-Bratislava Group (BSBC) and Bernie had served on the National Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation and plan to work together with the two organizations in projects involving Slovakia.



**Bernie Demechko, Secretary Youngstown Sister Cities, Inc., with Marie Golias, President of Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities.**

She stated that in 1991 when the Nova Ves Mayor was asked what were his most urgent needs with which Youngstown could assist Nova Ves, he replied, "Teachers of English." He explained he wanted English taught in all schools of Nova Ves so the young people could work comfortably internationally. YSC sponsored 42 teachers of English from 1991-1998 but textbooks and workbooks were also needed. Bernie, who has been YSC secretary since 1991, was able to contact fellow Vincentian Academy alumnae who collected 5,000 used textbooks from the Pittsburgh District schools. Cleveland and Youngstown Sister Cities paid for the original shipment but soon transferred transportation of all items to the United States military. The United States Denton Program allowed shipment of humanitarian supplies, word-wide, in any partially empty military transport plane. Planes from Youngstown Reserve Military Base soon transported medical equipment, computers, printers and sports equipment to Hamburg, Germany where truck drivers from Nova Ves picked them up and transported them to Nova Ves for distribution by specially appointed liaison personnel.

In the early 1990's Pittsburgh-Presov Sister Cities was already involved in sponsoring folk song and dance groups from Slovakia so CBSC and YSC joined them in presenting performances in their cities.

Youngstown Sister Cities also contacted the International Rotary and became involved in their high school student exchange program. Today, many of the 25 "graduates" of this program serve as interpreters and chauffeurs when YSC has a tour in their area of Slovakia. To date, 277 tourists have visited Slovakia through YSC Heritage tours. This year YSC is sponsoring its 16th tour to Slovakia. The tour will be going to Slovakia July 9-23 with Jim and Kay Bench as tour guides. In appreciation of the support Youngstown has given Nova Ves, the Mayor of Nova Ves has a champagne breakfast with musical presentation for the American tourists.

Cleveland Bratislava continues to perpetuate its heritage by holding monthly meetings for its 300 members. Every month a speaker addresses the group on some area of Slovakia; experiences of their family in Slovakia, and Slovak customs and traditions. At the meetings, flyers are distributed by various area groups that are sponsoring St. Nicholas Day parties, Vilija dinners. Festivals and other events that help perpetuate the Slovak heritage.

## FCSLA'S YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is announcing its annual Youth Recognition Award. There are countless young FCSLA members who participate in many service projects in their branch, church, school or community. This year we are once again asking for your assistance in recognizing a young individual for his/her volunteer activities. In all our branches there are individuals who stand out in a crowd because of their achievements. This is your opportunity to nominate an outstanding young member from your Senior or Junior Branch.

### FCSLA'S YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD GUIDELINES

1. Nominee must be an FCSLA member for at least three years.
2. All family members of the Home Office Staff and National Officers are eligible to be nominated.
3. Previous recipients of this award will not be considered, but previous nominees who did not receive the award are eligible to be nominated.
4. A nominee must be between the ages of 6-22 years. (Received date will determine the age eligibility.)
5. Service projects/volunteerism must be between June 1, 2012 through May 1, 2013.
6. A paragraph of 250 words or less should describe what the individual has done to deserve being nominated for this award.
7. The entry form must be completed entirely and be at the Home Office by May 24, 2013.
8. The winner will be featured in our magazine and awarded a \$100.00 prize.
9. An independent committee will select the winner.

### 2013 FCSLA'S Youth Recognition Award

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

School/College/University \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet of paper please describe in 250 words or less, all the volunteer efforts of your nominee and why he/she deserves this award.

Questions please call Kelly at 1-800-464-4642, Ext. 1051 or email [kelly@fcsla.org](mailto:kelly@fcsla.org)

**Mail to: Kelly M Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director  
24950 Chagrin Blvd. Beachwood, OH 44122**

**Entry deadline is May 24th, 2013.**



## 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!



**ANNA MICHELLE SAKO**, (J39, Chicago, IL), daughter of Anna (Pravdik) and Peter Sako, Justice, IL; granddaughter of Anna and the late Rudolph F. Pravdik, Justice, IL and Paulina and Pavel Sako, Velke Rovne, Slovakia; goddaughter of Dorothy and Rudolph H. Pravdik received her First Holy Communion on May 12, 2012 at St. Fabian Church in Bridgeview, IL.



Sr. Branch 230, Catasauqua, PA, congratulates Jr. Branch 158 member **MATTHEW LEE MCNEILL**, for receiving a FCSLA 2nd Grade Scholarship Award. Matthew attends St. John's Academy in McLean, VA. He is the grandchild of Margaret A. Buss (member of Sr. Branch 230, Catasauqua, PA). Matthew is pictured from L-R with Dr. Suzanne Strohl and his mother Mrs. Valerie McNeill.



**ALEXIS DANIELLE FLEMING** (J32, McKeesport, PA) celebrated her First Holy Communion May 6, 2012 at Immaculate Conception Church, Connellsville, PA. She received her communion from Father Robert Lubic, Pastor. Her parents, Cindy and David along with her grandparents Robert and Joan Christner are members of Sr. Branch 77 also in McKeesport, PA.

## Jr. Branch 66 Gives Back to Members During Holiday Season

For the second year in a row Jr. Branch 66 of Struthers, OH sent members a Christmas card with a monetary gift enclosed. Pictured at right is the card along with some of the thank-you notes already received by the Branch. Branch president Patricia Granchay said that sending the gift and cards is a great way to keep in touch with parents and let them know that the FCSLA cares about its members.





## COMBINED HOLIDAY DINNER FOR BRANCHES 410 AND 411

Branch 410, Nesquehoning, PA and Branch 411, Hauto, PA enjoyed a joint Christmas Dinner at Lengyl's in December 2012.



Jean and George Bruker



L-R: Fr. Pat Schoenauer, Rose Mikulski, Lea Paulck, Stan Zabo.



L-R: Catherine Bakrosh, Diane McCauley, Terry Koomar.



L-R: Roberta Meckes, Francis Krajcir, Ceilia Krajcir and Margaret Dolena.

## BRANCH W013 OF PRAGUE, NEBRASKA HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Branch W013 (Prague, NE) held their annual meeting January 13, 2013. The meeting was opened with a prayer. The current officers were retained for another year. Reports of various events and projects that occurred during the year were given. The meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed the breakfast brunch that was prepared by members of the Branch. Fr. Kosch ended the meeting the way it began, with prayer.



## BRANCH 56 HOLIDAY PARTY

Branch 56 of Glassport, PA held their annual Christmas Party on December 1, 2012 to celebrate the birth of the Infant Jesus at Max and Odi's in Glassport, PA.

The party entertained 30 children and their parents. They all enjoyed a magic show and were invited by the magician to help with the tricks. A delicious lunch was served to all which included pizza, chicken nuggets, hot dogs, and macaroni and cheese. Ice cream and Christmas cupcakes were enjoyed for dessert. Santa Claus arrived bringing gifts to the delight of everyone in attendance.



Jonathon Jaskulski (9 months), Kaylee Minda (2 months), Kaylee's mother Chris Minda and Branch 56 Secretary Corrine Hopkins.



Emily Olup with the Magician.



Aubrey Jaskulski

## BRANCHES 169 AND 231 PRESENTS DONATIONS

During this past Christmas season, a time of giving and sharing, Sr. Branch 169 and Jr. Branch 231 (Youngstown, OH) presented donations to Our Lady of Sorrow Parish – Holy Name of Jesus Church, Hospice of the Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank, and The St. Vincent DePaul Society. The officers and members of the branches wanted to help their church and community organizations that offer assistance to those in need.



Making the presentation to Monsignor Peter M. Polando, Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church, National Chaplain and Sr. Branch 169 member are Dolores Sonoga, President of Sr. Branch 169 and Carol Dumez, Secretary of Jr. Branch 231.

## ATTENTION CLEVELAND DISTRICT

IT'S TIME  
FOR OUR  
ANNUAL  
JUNIOR  
BRANCH  
EVENT



~ **Mark your calendars!** ~  
Friday June 21, 2013 • 7:05 PM

**YOUR CLEVELAND INDIANS  
VS. MINNESOTA TWINS**

*It's Dollar Dog Night & Post Game Fireworks  
Be on the lookout for your invitation in the mail  
and all the details!*

Questions please call  
Gianna Picciano @ 216-468-1021

## Branch W013 Holds Advent Party

Branch W013 (Prague, NE) held their Advent Party on Sunday, December 3, 2012 catered by Mark Nemec. The afternoon was spent eating the delicious meal and socializing with everyone. Door prizes were also given. Later games were played by the children. Santa also dropped in for a visit making sure that everyone in attendance had a wonderful time!



**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP  
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**



# 2013 WORD SEARCH CHALLENGE #1

First **Catholic** Slovak  
Ladies **Association**

Find words associated with FCSLA.  
Words may be found up and down,  
side to side or diagonally.

N	S	N	A	V	F	W	C	T	T	R	L	R	X	T	L	J	A	Q	Y
Q	N	U	G	I	E	J	C	Z	R	S	R	E	K	A	M	E	M	O	H
V	O	F	F	S	E	I	T	I	U	N	N	A	F	Y	S	O	P	C	C
F	J	R	T	R	Y	K	N	Y	S	S	G	I	R	V	T	S	L	A	J
K	Q	A	N	Q	F	G	S	Z	F	Z	F	W	A	J	A	B	T	T	B
H	J	T	X	O	Z	U	H	Y	A	H	U	X	T	U	T	I	Q	H	A
H	F	E	F	E	I	K	R	H	W	F	L	S	E	N	E	M	G	O	N
Z	P	R	K	O	J	T	K	D	H	S	D	B	R	I	S	M	S	L	N
U	X	N	E	F	N	Q	N	O	E	H	O	Q	N	O	S	I	M	I	A
E	I	A	X	D	B	B	Q	E	O	K	C	M	A	R	M	G	M	C	H
A	X	L	I	Y	E	H	S	J	V	B	X	C	L	E	F	R	T	O	U
K	Q	L	N	D	A	V	M	G	N	N	K	Y	N	B	C	A	X	S	R
V	S	Y	S	T	C	M	K	T	P	D	O	O	O	J	I	N	V	A	B
E	A	Y	U	R	H	M	L	B	R	T	V	C	O	J	E	T	U	S	A
N	I	O	R	O	W	U	T	H	F	F	C	S	K	C	U	K	E	P	N
I	F	U	A	I	O	Y	T	E	I	C	O	S	T	I	F	E	N	E	B
N	S	R	N	N	O	M	Q	D	H	N	S	E	H	C	N	A	R	B	O
X	F	S	C	E	D	S	L	A	V	I	C	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	K
R	N	E	E	S	E	J	L	Y	F	C	T	U	R	Y	L	B	J	O	B
H	E	J	Y	S	A	G	E	N	T	S	F	H	B	F	U	A	O	O	Q

AGENTS  
ANNA HURBAN  
ANNUITIES  
BEACHWOOD  
(fraternal) BENEFIT SOCIETY  
BRANCHES  
CATHOLIC

CONVENTION  
COOKBOOK  
FRATERNAL  
FRATERNALLY YOURS  
FR FURDEK  
HOMEMAKERS  
IMMIGRANT

INSURANCE  
JUNIOR  
NINE  
SENIOR  
SLAVIC CULTURE  
STATES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**All 6 Puzzles must be in the Home Office by Friday, October 18, 2013!**

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

## Jr. Branch W018 Christmas Party Also Assists "Toys for Tots" Donations

On December 2, Branch W018 gathered for its annual Junior Christmas party. This year, the Branch again tried something different – unplanned and planned. We met at the Millard Social Hall for lunch catered by Eddie's while awaiting the visit from the Jolly Old Elf.

As we have done for the past several years, the Branch members attending each brought a new toy to donate to the Toys for Tots program. Over one hundred toys were donated. In addition, President Bob Hladik presented the three Marine Corps officers who were representing the Toys for Tots Program with a check from the Branch to assist their good work in providing Christmas toys to children in need.

As we arrived, we met our unplanned entertainment. The previous evening the Social Hall was the site of a fundraiser and some of the auction items included long-horned Sheep and rhinos (yes, they had visited a taxidermist), but their new owners had not yet taken them home. Even though the adults seemed a bit intimidated, the junior members LOVED seeing these animals up close and personal.



Preparing the bubble solution.

Planned entertainment included a musical serenade of Christmas carols during dinner by James Wagner, and after dinner, the junior members benefited from educational entertainment before Santa's visit. The Omaha Children's Museum presented their *Amazing Bubble Show* for us. The children – young and old alike – were active participants in the show, learning how bubbles were made and then making bubbles. The highlight of this educational show was being part of the bubbles! Each junior member stepped into a hoop and was enclosed in a bubble! Not to be left out, the adult members also stepped up for the experience.

Finally, the moment all had anticipated – Santa's arrival! He was greeted by very enthusiastic junior members and listened patiently to what they wanted for Christmas, posed for pictures with children and families, and presented each child with a Christmas stocking filled with goodies.



A very large bubble has swallowed a junior member!!

After the final picture was taken, Santa hurried on his way to supervise the elves and plan his long journey on Christmas Eve.



Santa and the Bubble Lady with fans from the Christmas party.

## Barley Sausage Breakfast in New Hradec, ND

Branch W121 held its 27 annual Barley Sausage breakfast at the Catholic Workman Hall in New Hradec, ND in January serving over 180 people. Many volunteers helped make the sausage 2 days before the breakfast. Along with the breakfast they sold about 200 pounds of barley sausage. The fundraiser is used for hall improvements.





## *North Pole Musical Presented in Whiting, Indiana*

St. John School students, many who are members of Jr. Branch 58, presented a North Pole Musical on Wednesday, December 19, 2012. The fifth through eighth grade students, church band and school choir all participated in this holiday extravaganza. The dancing reindeer were "hoofin' it," but didn't know what to do with Rudolph and his four left hooves. The elves were tired of always getting the short end of the stick, and were singing the blues. The snowmen were "chillin'," but worried about the funky hot lights, and the toys were trying to do the entire Nutcracker Suite in 3 minutes! This production got everyone in the holiday mood.



Sr. Branch 81 and the St. John Home School Association complemented the standing room only crowd by selling Fannie May Candy, conducting a 50/50 raffle and numerous basket raffles. The hard work of these ladies helped the Music Department to purchase much needed items for the church band and school choir. In addition, the Home Office will provide an extra \$500 through matching funds, to the Music Department.



## **Mosaic Floor Project Receives Funding from FCSLA**

Branch W033 (Spillville, IA) reports that the mosaic floor project that started for St. Wenceslaus Church 150th anniversary in 2010 continues to make good progress. The project needed additional funding which was awarded at the 40th National Convention in Baltimore, MD in October 2011.

Mr. John Kjolme continues his detailed, time-consuming work redoing sections of the mosaic church floor. He is pictured at right working on the floor in front of the St. Joseph Altar. John hopes to have the project completed this year. Rebecca Kuhn, Branch Secretary along with help from member Joyce Zoulek completed the convention application and was very happy with the \$12,000 convention award which has allowed this wonderful project to move forward.

The branch and church community thank the FCSLA for their generous donation.





## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MEETING FOR SR. BRANCH 114

The members of Sr. Branch 114 (Lorain, OH) celebrated their annual Christmas dinner and December meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at the American Slovak Home. Bernie Danevich welcomed all members followed by a prayer. A meeting was held with the previous months minutes read by Cindy Sams and the treasurer's report given by Joanne Mrosko. A yearly report of both branches, senior and junior was given.

Election of officers followed with a new vice president Margaret Kurta being elected. A luncheon was served and poinsettias and money door prizes were awarded as members were served their meals. Everyone enjoyed singing holiday carols and the remaining festivities.



## Senko Awarded Presidential Medal

At a recent reception at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., Joseph Senko of Pittsburgh, PA was awarded the Medal of the President of the Slovak Republic for extraordinary merit in the development of friendly relations with the Slovak Republic, as well as promoting Slovakia throughout the world. This is the highest award that the Slovak government awards to foreigners.

Joe Senko has been the Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania since 1997. In this capacity, he receives and responds to approximately 100 inquiries each year. Shortly after becoming Honorary Consul, he formed the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, a non-profit organization, that presents approximately ten Slovak cultural programs each year.

He is also a charter member of the executive committee of the Washington D.C. based non-profit organization, Friends of Slovakia, which was formed in 2001 to seek friendship and understanding between Slovakia and the United States. Joe is the Chairman and Treasurer. This organization has sponsored over 125 events since it was formed including scholarships for Slovak students, annual freedom lectures, receptions for dignitaries from Slovakia and artistic and cultural events.

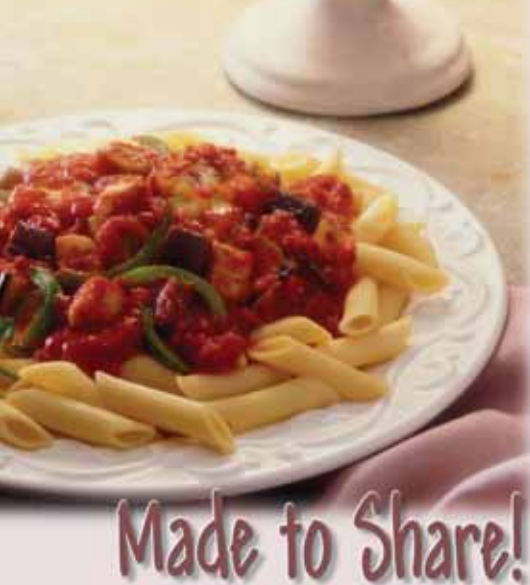
Some of the more notable programs which Joe has accomplished were:

- The collection, repair and shipment of 250 computers to Slovakia which were distributed to 45 schools;
- Shipment of 60,000 copies of an American children's magazine which were distributed to 830 schools to assist in learning English;
- Shipment of medical supplies to hospitals in Svidnik, Bardejov and Bratislava.



Senko is presently arranging his tenth tour to Slovakia. Over 250 people from the United States have participated in his previous tours.





### EGGPLANT PENNE

- 5 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 bell peppers (preferably 1 red and 1 yellow), chopped
- 2 small onions, chopped
- 1 small eggplant, unpeeled, cut into ½- to ¾-inch cubes
- 2 large garlic cloves, chopped
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil or 1½ tablespoons dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 cup canned vegetable broth
- 1 pound penne, freshly cooked
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Heat oil in heavy large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add bell peppers, onions, eggplant and garlic; sauté until onions are translucent, about 6 minutes. Add ½ cup basil, thyme and rosemary and sauté until eggplant softens, about 10 minutes. Mix in broth. Simmer sauce until eggplant is very tender and liquids begin to thicken, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Add penne to serving plates, top with sauce and sprinkle with Parmesan.

### CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP

- 1 lb. sliced button mushrooms
- ½ cup diced onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1 clove minced garlic
- 3 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 1-2 cups chicken stock (the thicker you like your soups the least amount of stock you want to use)
- 2 cups light cream
- 1 cup sour cream
- Chives for garnish

In a heavy bottom pot, like a dutch oven add half of your butter, mushrooms, onion,

salt, pepper and garlic. Cook over medium heat stirring frequently until golden and onions are caramelized. About 15 minutes. Remove mushroom mixture from the pan, and set aside.

Reduce heat to low, add remaining butter and flour. Cook and stir until it is glossy. Pour in 1 cup of your chicken stock and cream slowly. Turn heat back up to medium and whisk continuously, until mixture has thickened. If it is too thick add some more chicken stock.

Stir in mushroom mixture. Stir in sour cream before serving.

Serve garnished with chopped chives and your favorite crusty bread.

### ROASTED RED PEPPER WALNUT DIP

- ¼ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup chopped drained roasted red peppers (from a 7-ounce jar)
- 1 slice firm white sandwich bread, torn into pieces
- 1 medium garlic clove, or to taste, minced and mashed to a paste with ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, or to taste
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt

Blend together walnuts, roasted peppers, bread pieces, garlic paste, lemon juice, cumin, and cayenne in a food processor until as smooth as possible, about 1 minute.

With motor running, add oil in a slow stream and blend until combined well. Season to taste with salt and additional lemon juice, as well as additional cayenne and minced garlic.

### MACARONI AND CHEESE SALAD

- 1½ cups macaroni
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- ½ cup chopped green bell pepper
- ¼ cup chopped celery
- 3 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion
- 8 cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook pasta until al dente, rinse under cold water and drain.

In a large bowl, combine pasta and vinegar. Mix well and allow to sit 15-20 minutes.

Add cheese, peppers, celery, green

onions, tomatoes, mayonnaise and seasonings. Mix well and refrigerate until chilled.

### EASY CHOCOLATE FUDGE

- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips (12 ounces)
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips (6 ounces)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts, optional

Lightly grease a 9-inch square pan; line with a piece of plastic wrap about 18 to 24 inches in length, leaving the ends out to cover the finished fudge. The ends will also serve as "handles" which will help you lift the fudge out of the pan.

Heat the condensed milk, chocolate chips, butter, and vanilla in a double boiler over simmering water. Stir until the chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in nuts, if using; pour into the prepared pan. Spread gently then cover lightly with the ends of the plastic wrap. Chill until firm. Lift out of the pan and cut into small squares.

### BROWNE BUTTER OATMEAL PECAN CHOCOLATE CHIP BARS

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups old fashioned oats
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup pecan halves

In a sauce pan add butter and melt over medium/low heat. Be careful not to burn the butter, just brown it until it starts to get a toffee-colored look. Set aside to cool slightly.

In the bowl of your electric mixer cream eggs and sugars together. Add in vanilla, slowly pour in the browned butter.

Mix in flour, oats, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Fold in the chocolate chips.

Press dough on the bottom of a greased 9x13 baking dish. Press pecan halves on the tops of the dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Let the bars cool for 30 minutes before cutting.

## The FCSLA Mission Statement

*Established in 1892, the FCSLA provides financial security to its members nationwide through its premier life insurance and annuity products. Sales of these products allow FCSLA to serve both its members and the community with fraternal and charitable opportunities that promote Catholic and Slavic traditions.*

## The FCSLA Vision is to:

- *Promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of the members through fraternal and charitable activities in our communities*
- *Promote our Slovak Catholic values and traditions and all Slavic cultures*
- *Be a premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits*