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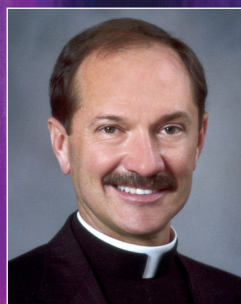
# Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 98, NO. 4

FEBRUARY 2012

## 2012-2015 FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



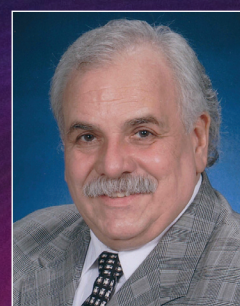
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SEE BIOS BEGINNING  
ON PAGE 4

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



## ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

### Fraternally Yours™



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## SPILLED APPLES

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a re-  
gional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured  
their families that they would be home in plenty of  
time for Friday night's dinner.

In their rush, with tickets and  
briefcases, one of these sales-  
men inadvertently kicked over a  
table which held a display of  
baskets of apples. Apples flew  
everywhere. Without stopping  
or looking back, they all managed  
to reach the plane in time for their

nearly missed boarding. All but one. He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch  
with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple  
stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved goodbye, told one of them to  
call his wife when they arrived at their home destination, and explain his taking a  
later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the  
terminal floor. He was glad he did.

The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down  
her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled pro-  
duce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping, and no one to care for her  
plight. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them  
into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed  
that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another  
basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here,  
please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?"

She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil  
your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to  
him, "Mister..." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She contin-  
ued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to  
catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are  
you Jesus?"

Dear Friends,

Do people mistake you for Jesus?

That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the dif-  
ference as we live and interact with a world that is often blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him  
is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to daily Mass.

It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though we, too,  
have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He  
was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called  
Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Let us live like we are worth the price He paid.  
During the coming year let's all try to be more like  
Jesus!

Until Next Month ...  
Warmly, **Carolyn**



# MORAL GUIDES FOR CATHOLICS – PRECEPTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Wednesday, 22 February 2012, Christians throughout the world embark onto the sacred season of Lent. Lent is that annual period when we recall our sinful human nature and seek penance and reconciliation in order to better prepare ourselves to celebrate the gift of our redemption – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ during the Sacred Triduum. We are asked to seek forgiveness from God and from one another by the traditional means of extra almsgiving, fasting and abstinence, and better communication with God through extra time in prayer. Usually we review our lives in relation to the moral order given to us through the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Another guide that I find quite useful for those under my pastoral ministry and myself are the Precepts of the Church. These will be the basis of my next several articles in *Fraternally Yours*.

I recall being taught The Precepts of the Church when I was educated about them in the fifth grade through the tool of *The Baltimore Catechism*. Unlike the Decalogue and the Beatitudes, the Precepts are of human origin and not divine. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that, “The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor” [paragraph 2041]. I note that the *Catechism* states that the precepts are the “indispensable minimum of prayer and moral effort”. How much more we are able to do only brings about more saving graces in the life of the Catholic! Each one of us has the ability to do more according to our state of life.

Paragraph 2042 lists the Precepts of the Church. “The first precept (‘You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.’) requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.” You may recall that I previously wrote an article about the observance of Sunday in the March 2010 issue of *Fraternally Yours*. My series that year was based on the Decalogue and the Third Commandment “Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy” was the subject in that issue. In a sentence the thrust of the article was to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy, to avoid unnecessary work on that day of the week, enjoy the company of family and friends and to participate in works of charity. In this Precept of the Church, the thrust is placed on the participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy. Why is this so important for us Catholics?

The Eucharistic Celebration is the center of the Christian life for through it the Word that is proclaimed and the words of Jesus that transforms the bread into the Body of Christ and the wine into the Blood of Christ afford us the hope of eternal life. For Jesus himself tells us, “He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood real drink. The man who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the Father who has life sent me and I have life because of the Father, so the man who feeds on me will have life because of me” (John 6:54-57).

All of the Gospels give an account of the Last Supper but the oldest account of the Institution of the Eucharist is handed down to us from *Saint Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians*. In that Letter, Paul gives us a portrait of the

earliest Eucharistic Celebrations of the Christian community. He writes, “I received from the Lord what I handed on to you, namely, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup, saying ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ Every time, then, you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes! (11:23-26). From the earliest days of the Christian community, Christians have gathered to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays.

From age to age in the Church, the Eucharistic celebration on Sunday has been emphasized as central to the spirituality of the Christian community. Even in recent teachings, the importance of Sunday Mass and participation in it has been underlined. In the Second Vatican Council’s *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, the Council Fathers wrote in relation to the promotion of the liturgical life in the diocese and the parish, “Therefore the liturgical life of the parish and its relationship to the bishop must be fostered in the thinking and practice of both laity and clergy; efforts also must be made to encourage a sense of community within the parish, above all in the common celebration of the Sunday Mass” [paragraph 42].

Now that we are about to participate in the Sacred Season of Lent, let us take into mind our participation in Mass, especially on Sundays and days of obligation. Are we present for participation in weekly Sunday Mass? Why or why not? When we do participate, do we do so prayerfully and actively? When we leave Sunday Mass, are we spiritually fed? How can I live my life better through participating in Sunday Mass?



# Meet Your New Board of Directors

## **REV. MSGR. PETER M. POLANDO, NATIONAL CHAPLAIN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

Monsignor Polando is beginning his second term on the National Board as Chaplain. He served as President of the Slovak Catholic Federation from 1997 to 2001. Monsignor holds a BA in ecclesiastical and US Histories from St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati, OH, an MA in sacred theology from Mount Saint Mary Seminary of the West, Cincinnati, OH; a Master of Arts in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN; a Master of Arts degree in non-public school administration from Ursuline College in Cleveland, OH; and in May 2007 received a doctoral degree in ministry at the Graduate School of Theology at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland, OH. Monsignor Polando continued studies in canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and received his licentiate in canon law.

His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, conferred the honor of Chaplain of His Holiness upon Monsignor Polando on Palm Sunday, 23 March 1997. In May 1998, the Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin appointed him to the Board of Mediation and Arbitration for the Diocese of Youngstown's Office of Conciliation.

On 1 July 2003, Bishop Tobin appointed Monsignor Polando Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Youngstown, a position he still maintains. In addition to his pastorate at Saint Matthias Church, the largest Slovak Parish in the Diocese of Youngstown, he was made administrator of Holy Name of Jesus Church in Youngstown in March 2005. Most recently, Monsignor Polando was appointed pastor of the newly merged parishes of Holy Name of Jesus, Saints Cyril and Methodius, and Saint Matthias in Youngstown on 1 August 2011.

He is currently a member of the Youngstown Diocesan Finance Council, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, and Office of Conciliation having been appointed to these positions by the current bishop of Youngstown, the Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J.

Monsignor Polando is a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, having been invested on 18 September 2011 by His Eminence, Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago at Holy Name Cathedral. On 9 October 2011, he was awarded the Medal of Honor of the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, His Excellency Peter Burian, for his contribution in the preservation of Slovak Heritage and Culture in the United States of America.

Currently he is a member of the Canon Law Society of America and a member of its convention planning committee; secretary/treasurer of the Midwest Canon Law Society; member and immediate past president of the Slovak Catholic Federation; secretary of the Conference of Slovak Clergy; member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 169; member of the Mahoning Valley Slovak Cultural Association; spiritual moderator of the Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses; member of Phi Beta Kappa of the University of San Francisco; member of the Notre Dame Club of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys; a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus – Bishop James W. Malone Assembly of Youngstown; and, a Third Degree member of the Knights of Columbus — Youngstown Council 274. He is a member of Branch 169.

## **CYNTHIA M. MALESKI, NATIONAL PRESIDENT BEACHWOOD, OHIO**

Cynthia is beginning her first term as National President in January 2012 after two terms as National Trustee (2004-2012).

She has more than 35 years of legal and executive leadership experience, most notably in the insurance and health care industries, as well as in fund management and in the nonprofit sector. As Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary, Cynthia implemented the Model Fraternal Benefit Code and the first Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the U.S. She led the legal and insurance departments and government relations efforts during her seventeen-year tenure as General Counsel and Director of Insurance at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, founded and operated by the Sisters of Mercy. Cynthia has also been Vice President of Regulatory Compliance for a large national health, property/casualty and life insurance company, based in Western Pennsylvania. Cynthia founded her own legal practice, and she has taught insurance law at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh as an Adjunct Professor of Law.

Cynthia's leadership has also extended to her community, especially to the Slovak and Catholic communities in Western Pennsylvania and throughout the country. She has been President and Financial Secretary of FCSLA Branch 313, Natrona, PA, and since 2005, she has served on the Law Committee of the American Fraternal Alliance as a representative of FCSLA. She is a founding board member of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, a director of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, and Vice President of the Slovak League of America. She also works for our ethnic and religious communities through board involvement with the Catholic Youth Association of Pittsburgh, the St. Thomas More Society of Pittsburgh, and the Women's International Club of the University of Pittsburgh, the Duquesne University Tamburitzans, and the Executive Women's Council.

Cynthia received her Juris Doctorate with academic excellence from Duquesne University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a member of Branch 313, Natrona Heights, PA.

## **IRENE J. DROTLIEFF, FIRST NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT BEACHWOOD, OHIO**

Irene is beginning her ninth term on the Board of Directors, first serving four terms as Junior Order Secretary and from 1996 through 2010 was our National Secretary. She now begins her first term as National Vice-President. Irene has served two terms as President of the Ohio Chapter of Fraternal Insurance Counselors, is Past President of the Fraternal Section of the National Fraternal Congress of America, is currently Vice President of the Secretary's Section of the National Fraternal Congress and has been a Branch officer for over 25 years. Irene has an Associate's Degree in Business Management from Cuyahoga Community College and has also attended Cleveland State University. Irene is a licensed Fraternal Insurance Counselor and is a member of Branch 10 in Cleveland, Ohio.

## **LARRY M. GOLOFSKI, SECOND NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA**

Larry is beginning his first term as National Vice-President. He has served several terms on the Court of Appeals. Larry has worked at Westinghouse Electric Company since 1968 holding positions of increasing responsibility. Larry served as a Helicopter Pilot in the United States Army (Vietnam 1970-1971) receiving the Bronze Star and Air Medal for Valor and Pennsylvania National



# *Elected Term ~ 2012-2015*

Guard (1972-1980) where he received a citation for participation in rescue operations during the flood of Johnstown, PA in 1977. Larry has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Pittsburgh and is a Graduate of the Westinghouse Electrical Test Apprentice Program. Larry has been managing a program for Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel and has developed training material, training classes and instructed customers from Korea and China in nuclear fuel manufacturing processes. Larry is a member of Branch 13 Braddock, PA.

## **BARBARA NOVOTNY WALLER, THIRD NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT READING, PENNSYLVANIA**

Barbara is beginning her first term on the board as a National Vice-President. She has a long and diverse work history including many years of retail experience as a major department store buyer and as an antique dealer, owning and operating an antique business with her sister. She has been Deputy Director for CCWS, a large non-profit organization serving Berks and Schuylkill County in eastern Pennsylvania for the past ten years.

Barbara has served as President and Treasurer of the Centre Park Historic District in Reading, PA and is currently serving a new term as a board member. She is a branch officer for FCSLA Branches 140 and 46 in Lansford, PA and is District Vice President for the Frances Jakabcin District of Eastern PA. She has served as Chairman of the National Convention Salary Committee in 2007 in St. Louis, MO, and as National By-Law Committee Chair at the Baltimore Convention in 2011.

She has a BS from Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA and a certificate in Non-Profit Leadership from Alvernia University, Reading, PA. She is a member of Branch 140.

## **SUE ANN M. SEICH, NATIONAL SECRETARY CANTON, OHIO**

Sue Ann is beginning her first term as National Secretary. She was hired in January of 2008 as our first Fraternal & Youth Director. A few of her accomplishments as our Fraternal & Youth Director include: FCSLA Matching Funds Program, Youth Recognition Award, establishing twelve new branches, modernizing and educating existing branches and updating the FCSLA existing Branch Manual. She has increased membership participation in FCSLA and community activities and has strengthened the communication between our national headquarters, members, and agents. She is an active Licensed Insurance Agent in Ohio and several other states. Since 1986, she has served on the Board of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance in various positions and currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer. Prior to her career with FCSLA, she served on the Board of Directors of another fraternal benefit society for 20 years. She is Past President of the American Fraternal Alliance Fraternal Section. Sue Ann currently holds the office of Vice President in Branch 301, Canton, OH.

## **STEPHEN C. HUDAK, NATIONAL TREASURER BEACHWOOD, OHIO**

Stephen is beginning his first term as National Treasurer. He served one term as National Auditor. Stephen is a CPA with twenty-five years of experience in accounting, auditing and finance. He worked in Bratislava, Slovakia as the Director of Accounting, Auditing and Valuation Services for Deloitte & Touche. He is Presi-

dent of Branch 481, Board Treasurer of the Cleveland Host Lions Club, Finance Chairman for Merrick House Settlement Home and an active parishioner at St. Basil the Great parish. Stephen is a licensed agent and has a B.S.B.A. in Accounting from Bowling Green State University. He is a member of Branch 481.

## **JOHN M. JANOVEC, NATIONAL TRUSTEE BEACHWOOD, OHIO**

John recently retired after serving as National Treasurer for nearly 14 years, and now embarks on a new role in his first term as National Trustee. Prior to assuming his role with the FCSLA, John was an Assistant Professor at Edinboro University where he taught Principles of Accounting I and II, Intermediate Accounting I and II and Personal Economics. He also taught Accounting at Kent State University and was a Senior Staff Accountant for Ernst & Young in Akron, OH. John has a B.S. degree in Accounting and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Akron. He has also completed all his course work for a Ph.D. at Kent State University. John has been a licensed CPA since July 1988 and is a member of Branch 408.

## **VIRGINIA A. HOLMES, NATIONAL TRUSTEE WHITE OAKS, PENNSYLVANIA**

Virginia is beginning her third term as National Trustee. She was a member of the Court of Appeals for one term, has served two terms as Vice President of the Pittsburgh District, and has been an active branch officer for over 48 years. Currently retired, she worked for Penn Central Railroad and the Davele Agency. She has experience in Tax Preparation, Real Estate Management, Insurance and various accounting and inventory functions. She has been a Religious Education Teacher for over 25 years and serves as a Eucharist Minister and Lector. She has taken courses through Pittsburgh Institutes of Higher Education. Virginia is a member of Branch 77.

## **KATIE A. MUELLER, NATIONAL AUDITOR MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

Katie is beginning her first term as National Auditor. She is an Accountant for a large non-profit organization in Milwaukee, WI. She received her B.S.B.A. from Marquette University, where she majored in Accounting and Human Resources. Katie serves as Branch Secretary for Branch 23 in Milwaukee, WI. She is very active in the Czech and Slovak communities in Milwaukee and throughout the state of Wisconsin. She is a member of Branch 23.

## **BARBARA A. SEKERAK, NATIONAL AUDITOR BROOK PARK, OHIO**

Barbara is beginning her third term as National Auditor. She has over twenty years experience in the banking field. She is a partner and Vice President of ePayment Network LLC, a recurring payment processing firm. She is also a member of the National Notary Public Association. Prior to her retirement in 2000, Barbara was the manager of training and development for the Corporate Security staff at KeyBank NA. She was responsible for coordinating developmental seminars for the Corporate Security investigative personnel and new members to the department. Barbara's involvement at her parish, St. John Bosco Catholic Church, Parma

*continued on page 6*



## Board of Directors *cont. from page 5*

Hts., OH consists of serving on the Parish Pastoral Council, chairs the Stewardship Committee, and is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Barbara served as the 2010-2011 president of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance. She is the branch secretary for Sr. Branch 141, is the Financial Secretary for the Anna Hurban Cleveland District and is a licensed recommender and member of Sr. Branch 141.

### **DOROTHY L. URBANOWICZ, NATIONAL AUDITOR MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Dorothy is beginning her fourth term as National Auditor. She is President and Financial Secretary of Branch 88. She has previously served four years as President of the Pittsburgh Okres. Dorothy has over thirty years experience in the Budget and Payroll Departments of a Pittsburgh based utility company and has also served concurrently as the Treasurer/Manager of a Credit Union for thirty-seven years. She is President of the Board of Directors of the Mon Valley Refuse Authority and serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors of the BVA Credit Union. She is also a member of the Monessen Slovak Cultural Society. Dorothy has completed the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance Course, is a licensed Producer and has taken courses in Accounting and Computer Science at Westmoreland Community College, Duff's Business School and the Mon Valley Tech School. She also served as church organist for 28 years and is a member of Branch 88.

### **CAROLYN M. BAZIK, NATIONAL EDITOR READING, PENNSYLVANIA**

Carolyn is beginning her sixth term on the Board, and her second term as National Editor. She served one term as National Auditor (1988-1991), and three terms as National Vice-President (1996-2007). She has previously served as the CEO/CFO of Co-County Wellness Services and the Executive Director of Keystone Community Blood Bank, both in Reading, PA. She is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Business and Economics at Albright College, Reading, PA where she teaches Accounting and Finance. She chairs numerous committees for the United Way of Berks County and facilitates strategic planning for non-profit organizations. She is past Treasurer for the Centre Park Historic District Board of Directors and the Wyomissing Band. She has served as Jr. Branch 46 Secretary/Treasurer for over 30 years and has been a District Officer for Okres Frances C. Jakabcin in Eastern Pennsylvania. Carolyn has B.S. in Education from Kutztown State College and an MBA in Finance from Wilkes University. She is a member of Branch 140.



**FCSLA Board of Directors at their December 2011 Meeting, Beachwood, OH.**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

At our Board of Directors Meeting held on January 16, 2012 the retiring officers: Mary Ann S. Johaneck, National President; Rosemary A. Mlinarich, First Vice President; Linda M. Killeen, Second Vice President; and Bernadette J. Demechko, Third Vice President were honored at an Appreciation Luncheon.



**Sue Ann M. Seich**

Incoming National President, Cynthia M. Maleski commended them for their years of service and presented them with a token of our appreciation. The retiring managing officers, National Secretary, Irene J. Drotleff and National Treasurer, John M. Janovec were elected to the Board of Directors as First Vice President and Trustee, respectively. They also were honored for their years of service and given a token of our appreciation. The old and new Board Members along with FCSLA staff attended the luncheon. Following the luncheon the new Board of Directors met and began their elected term of office.

Your incoming Managing Officers: Cynthia M. Maleski, National President; Sue Ann M. Seich, National Secretary; and Steve Hudak, National Treasurer are looking forward to working together for the growth of our beloved association. We kindly ask the branch officers and members to keep the lines of communication open and assist us in making FCSLA the best that it can be for all generations.

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

**Sue Ann M. Seich, National Secretary**

**From JANUARY 1 through MARCH 31, 2012,  
older FCSLA annuities (issued prior to 2005)  
with a guaranteed minimum rate of**

**4.50%**

**will earn a yield of 4.6025%.**

**NEWER FCSLA ANNUITIES**

**(issued 2005 and after)**

**with a guaranteed minimum rate of**

**3.50%**

**will earn a yield of 3.5618% while those with a  
guaranteed minimum rate of**

**3.00%**

**will earn a yield of 3.0453%.**

## FCSLA Makes Donations to Deserving Organizations During 40th Annual Convention

### • National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

For the second time, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has continued its corporate support of the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) with a gift of \$10,000 granted at the 40th National Convention in Baltimore, MD. The funds will be used to provide programs and services to the Society's members (known as Vincentians) across the country. In addition the Association will receive visibility on SVdP's websites and publications. Established in 1892 as a premier fraternal benefit organization, the FCSLA provides financial security to its members nationwide through 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 Slovak traditions.

The largest social assistance organization in the world, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul ([www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org)) is a nonprofit Catholic lay organization of almost 700,000 men and women who voluntarily join together to grow spiritually and offer person-to-person service to the needy and people living in poverty in 142 countries on five continents.

"The Society truly appreciates the generosity of this gift," said Roger Playwin, SVdP's national executive director. "We also value the partnership we've formed with FCSLA, which recognizes that our work with those in need and living in poverty is a mutually shared mission."

### • St. Monica School

Ralph Szubski (President of Branch 618) awarded the convention donation check to Father Thomas Haren pastor of St. Monica Church in Garfield, Heights, OH in December of 2011. Also pictured is Anna Lisa Novak, who is a member of Jr. Branch 529 and a student at St. Monica School in Garfield Heights, OH. The money will be used for the "gutter heating" project for the school, which will make the school much safer by preventing gutters from overflowing with water which freezes during the winter months.



### • Catholic Workman Hall

Delegates David and Pauline Sadowsky represented Branch W121 at the 40th National Convention in Baltimore, MD. During the Convention the FCSLA made many donations for projects around the country. Pictured below is David presenting a check for \$6,000 to Branch President Curtis Pavlicek for the handicap project at the Catholic Workman Hall in New Hradec, ND.



### • Metro Catholic High School

Mary Ann Johaneck is pictured below with Sister Carol Brandt, advancement director and Sister Anne Maline director of Metro Catholic High School after presenting the donation awarded by the 40th National FCSLA Convention. The funds were given to the school – to support the Special Education Resource Room Program. The students in the class struggle with poverty and learning challenges.



*Additional FCSLA donation article on Page 8*

### Father Basu Celebrates Ordination Anniversary

On Sunday, June 12, 2011 at St. Hilary Church in Fairlawn, OH, Father Frank Basu celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of his 40th Ordination Anniversary. The family was also celebrating mother Helen Basa's 90th birthday. A combined reception for family and friends was held after Mass at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Glenmount Avenue in Akron, OH.

Both Fr. Frank and Helen are members of Sr. Branch 475 in Bedford, OH where Helen has been branch treasurer for over 45 years.





## MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

### Sr. Branch 225 — Chicago, IL

#### Money and Postage for Adopted Troop in Iraq

St. Catherine Sr. Branch 225 of Chicago, IL held its Matching Funds event on November 8, 2011 at St. Julie Billiart's Church Hall in conjunction with the Senior Young of Hearts luncheon held to honor the U.S. veterans of the parish. During the luncheon, St.



**Pastoral Associate Sr. Gael Gensler (left) and Fr. Steve Lanza (right), Pastor of St. Julie Billiart parish were special speakers for this event.**

Catherine's Sr. Branch 225 of Chicago conducted a free will offering from the attendees to be used for postage to send gifts and homemade cookies for our adopted troop in Iraq. The attendees donated \$618 to this endeavor. Guest speakers at this event were the pastor of St. Julie Billiart's parish, Fr. Steven Lanza and Sr. Gael Gensler, Pastoral Associate. Dolores Glomb, Treasurer of St. Catherine's Sr. Branch 225 who coordinated the free will collection, stated, "This Matching Funds event is another great success for our branch. The generous response from our attendees at this luncheon was both touching and overwhelming. Thank you to all in attendance who made it possible."



## FCSLA Makes Donation to St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church

The FCSLA Officers of Branch W033, Spillville, IA were pleased to present Rev. Father Donald Hawes and Parish Council President Larry Spalla a check for \$12,000 to complete the restoration work of the tile floor in St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Spillville, IA. The restoration project began in 2010 as part of the 150th Anniversary of the Church, but was not completed due to a lack of funding. The money was awarded to the church at the 40th National Convention in Baltimore, MD in October 2011.

Branch Secretary Rebecca Kuhn along with branch member Joyce Zoulek completed the necessary application for the convention donation. Every four years at their convention the Association approves donations for projects whose applications are complete and in keeping with the vision of the organization.

The restoration will resume in the Spring of 2012 by Mr. John Kjome who originally began the project in 2010. The goal of the parish is to restore and maintain the religious, architectural, historical and ethnic identity of St. Wenceslaus Church in order to educate visitors and residents of the community about the church's rich heritage and preserve for generations to come.



**L-R, Branch W033 Officers: Treasurer Rita Fjelstul, Secretary Rebecca Kuhn, Parish Council President Larry Spalla, Rev. Fr. Donald Hawes, Vice President Jerry Kuhn, Director Richard Kuhn, President Dan Silhacek and Director Alice Klemish presenting the \$12,000 check awarded by the National Convention.**





## FAMILY REUNIONS TOUCH THE HEARTS OF MANY

After the death of one of their sisters Clara Seman Bednar in June 2011, the family decided that it was time to plan a family reunion. Brother John who lives in Denver, CO was unable to attend the funeral because of medical problems and promised to visit with his wife Pam when he felt better. That was the beginning of what turned into a wonderful Seman family reunion. With



**The Seman Family Reunion**

quick and enthusiastic responses from Denver, CO, Owenton, KY, Pittsburgh, PA, Canal Fulton, OH, Cleveland, OH, Garfield Heights, OH, Kirtland, OH, Medina, OH, Olmsted Falls, OH and Parma OH, fifty adults and six children gathered in Kirtland, OH on October 1, 2011 for the reunion.

The time of being together gave the opportunity to celebrate the special events in the lives of some who were present. John turned 90 in February 2012, Ron (S161) will be 80, Dorothy turned 85 and Sister Janet Bednar, Clara's daughter will celebrate her 50th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph and Sophia, wife of George turned 94 in January of 2012. There were also many trips down memory lane as the family viewed collages of photos that

were assembled especially for the reunion.

The blessings of God were plentiful in this large family. Prior to sitting around the "table of plenty" this was brought to the attention of the group by Sister Mary Judith (S542) as she reflected on God's goodness by gathering

the family together and by her prayer of thanksgiving and blessings that have been very much a gift to each person throughout the years.



**The four celebrants: L-R: John Paul Seman from Denver, CO; Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN (VSC) (Dorothy) from Pittsburgh, PA; Sister Janet (Seman) Bednar, CSJ from Cleveland, OH and Ronald Joseph Seman from Parma, OH.**



**The three remaining siblings from the Seman family of ten. L-R: John P. Seman, Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN (VSC) and Ronald J. Seman.**

## *Henry and Mildred Blecha Celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary*

Henry and Mildred Blecha celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Saturday, November 12, 2011. They were married in St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Morrowville, KS. Father James Hoover celebrated the anniversary Mass and gave the couple a special blessing at the end of Mass. After the Mass at St. George Catholic Church in Munden, KS the honored couple, relatives, parishioners and friends enjoyed a meal hosted by their children. The meal was served by the Parish Council of Catholic Women in St. George Dragon's Den.

They are the parents of Donald and Margaret Blecha of Wichita, KS; Kelvin and Marcia Blecha of Chester, NE; Janice and Mark Keeley of Telequah, OK and Rita who is deceased and Richard Sulzen of Kansas City, MO.



There are eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The Blecha's continue to reside and care for their campground "Evergreen Acres" in rural Republic County, KS. They are members of St. George Parish, Munden, KS.

Henry is Financial Secretary of Branch W086. Mildred is also a member of Branch W086, the Parish Council of Catholic

Women and EHU. The entire family belongs to Branch W086. Both Henry and Mildred have been 4-H leaders and active in the North Central Kansas Free Fair, Belleville, KS. After retiring from farming and the dairy business, the couple took up woodworking, their specialty being clocks, as well as the running of their campground. God Bless our anniversary couple!



# Scenes from the 40th National Convention

Tuesday, October 11 ~ Business Sessions & Hospitality Night





# Scenes from the 40th National Convention

Tuesday, October 11 ~ Business Sessions & Hospitality Night





# Scenes from the 40th National Convention

Thursday, October 13 ~ Closing Session of Convention



Newly elected National Board and Court of Appeals members during swearing in ceremony.



The newly elected members of the Court of Appeals.



The newly elected members of the National Board of Directors.



Retiring National Vice Presidents, L-R: Rosemary Mlinarich, Linda Killeen, and Bernadette Demechko.





## Annual Christmas Dinner Held for Sr. Branch 88 Members

Members of Sr. Branch 88, in Monessen, PA, recently celebrated with their annual Christmas Dinner. Members were greeted by Linda and Tom Oslick, chairpersons for the event. They presented each member with a bag of cookies baked by Tom.

Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed members and led in the recitation of grace. A delicious meal of stuffed chicken breast, and breaded veal cutlet was enjoyed by all.

Following dinner, Dorothy conducted a brief meeting. She reminded members of the importance of address changes and sold cookbooks. Rev. Justin Matro, St. Vincent Seminary led the group with "In-

tercessory Prayers of the Faithful Season of Christmas." Dorothy then recited "Believers Call it Christmas."

Fifty year members were recognized and Dorothy offered thanks to State Rep. R. Ted Harhai for his door prize contributions and Tim Billick for donating favors and Ann Billick and Bob Funtal for door prize donations. Dorothy donated her annual contribution of a homemade afghan in keeping with the tradition started by her late mother, Dorothy Doty.

The Oslick's awarded the numerous door prizes and offered to chair the event again next year.

Rev. Justin Matro provided the final blessing and members were wished a very Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



L-R: Tom Oslick, Event Co-Chairperson; Lorrie Veschio, Auditor; Linda Oslick, Event Co-Chairperson; Roberta Wavrek, Auditor; Dorothy Urbanowicz, President; Alice Bialon, Recording Secretary; Rosemary Betza, Auditor and Veronica Bellicini, Auditor at Large.



## Branch W045 of Cedar Rapids Celebrates the Holidays

The adult Christmas party for Branch W045 was held in the St. Wenceslaus gym building on Sunday, December 18, 2011 and consisted of cocktails, hors-d'oeuvres, roast beef or ham sandwiches, party potatoes, and kolaches.

Chances were sold for multiple drawings of cash. All money collected is given back in the drawings. Approximately 80 members and guests attended this event.







## 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!



**ERIN ADELINE JACKSON**, daughter of Sam and Lisa Jackson (Branch 156) of Boardman, OH made her First Communion earlier this year at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Struthers, OH with the Rev. Bob Bonnot officiating.

Erin's was the last First Communion Class at Holy Trinity Church before the merger of churches which are now known as Christ Our Savior.

Erin attends Robinwood Lane School in Boardman and CCD at the Holy Trinity site of Christ Our Savior Parish. Among her favorite things to do is attending Brownies with her troop, golfing, swimming and playing with her new little brother Sammy, the families newest member of Jr. Branch 66. Erin is a 4th generation FCSLA member along with her sister, Emily, her little brother and her cousins Andrea and Anthony Zuccaro of Kingsville, OH.

Erin is the granddaughter of Emil and Ann Bobby (Branch 156) and Sam and the late Adeline "Dolly" Jackson, all of Struthers, OH.



Thomas and Jennifer Pavlovich of Seekonk, MA would like to announce the birth of their daughter **JULIA LYNN PAVLOVICH**.

Julia was born on February 9, 2011 at 1:14 a.m. weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 20 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Edward Jr. and Claire Fowler of East Taunton, MA. Maternal great-grandparents are Edward Sr. and Nancy Fowler of East Taunton, MA.

Paternal grandparents are Jack and Lauren Pavlovich of Naples, FL. Paternal great-grandparents are Elizabeth Mooney of Rocky River, OH. Photo is taken by Ria MacKenzie at [riamackenziephotography.com](http://riamackenziephotography.com).

Thomas Pavlovich her father is a member of Sr. Branch 128, Lakewood, OH.



Jr. Branch 374, Cleveland, OH welcomed its newest member **LOGAN ANTHONY BENO**, born on July 29, 2011. His parents are Philip and Sarah Beno; great-grandparents Tony and Linda Beno and his proud Aunt Sarah Beno. Logan is the first boy born of the fifth generation to the Beno family and is a real gift! The entire family proudly belongs to the FCSLA!

*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!*





## Jr. Branch 157 Members Attend Christmas Party

Members of Jr. Branch 157, Monessen, PA, and their parents attended a Christmas Party at the New Alpine in Monessen. Members were greeted by Jr. Branch Advisory Board members Rachell Funtal and Natalie Bialon.

As members were arriving, they were provided with coloring books to enjoy until everyone had arrived. Rachell Funtal provided the invocation which was followed by a delicious meal of Black Angus Sliders, french fries, applesauce and cake.

Following lunch, President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed all members. She reminded them of the importance of changing their addresses and informed them that scholarship applications are available. She concluded her presentation with a Christmas reading. Providing entertainment was Magician David Lawrence. He had the group spellbound with his tricks. Numerous children took part in his act which concluded with a live rabbit, which all the children were permitted to pet. The Jolly



Red Man made an appearance. He listened to all requests and provided treat bags and a cash gift from the branch.

As members were leaving they all expressed their pleasure and thanks to Flora Funtal who chaired the event.



**L-R, Branch Officers: Flora Funtal, Event Chairperson; Lorrie Veschio, Auditor; Dorothy Urbanowicz, President; Rosemary Betza, Auditor and Alice Bialon, Recording Secretary.**



## Branch W137 Enjoys Holiday Festivities

Branch W137 of Cedar Rapids, IA, held a Christmas Party for members on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at St. Ludmila Gym. Seventy-five members were in attendance. Santa appeared for everyone to visit. Games were enjoyed by members of all ages. Dinner was served and everyone went home with a gift bag in hand.

The branches next event will be a wine tasting, for adults only on Sunday, February 19, 2012 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the St. Ludmila Church Social Hall.

An email with the entire calendar for 2012 will be sent out early in the new year.



## Santa's Helpers from Jr. Branch 257

Jr. Branch 257, Campbell, OH acting as Santa's helpers attended the Maria E. Grega Christmas Party and handed out gifts that were handmade by the officers of Branch 344 and 257. After completing the job as helpers, they stayed and enjoyed dinner and the party afterwards.



**L-R: Angeleah Matzye, Zachary Kish, and Jacob Zura.**





## IN MEMORIAM

### **CHRISTINE H. WILD** **Sr. Branch 274**

Christine H. Wild (Sr. Branch 274, Chicago, IL), was born on August 3, 1912 and died November 21, 2011 at age 99, at home in Chicago, IL. She was preceded in death by her husband David.

She was very proud of her Slovak heritage and enjoyed making traditional food. The FCSLA Anniversary Slovak-American Cook Book was something she cherished. She went blind in her later years, but often talked about the recipes in the cookbook and had many recipes memorized.

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association meant the world to her. She was very active in her younger years and always felt a connection even though she could not actively participate as she got older.

May she rest in peace.

### **RONALD LOUIS CAHOJ** **Branch W074**

Ronald Louis Cahoj, son of Louis and Dorothy (Vrbas) Cahoj, was born on July 11, 1949, in McCook, NE. He went to be with his Lord on November 17, 2011, at the age of 62 years, 4 months and 6 days.

He attended Enterprise Country School through eighth grade. He attended high school at Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City, CO for two years then graduated from Atwood High School in 1967. He attended Fort Hays State College.

He was a rancher/farmer all of his life. Ron took pride in farming the homestead and running the L & R Gelbvieh cattle business which his dad and mom established in Atwood, KS.

Preceding him in death was his dad, Lou and his younger sister, LuAnn.

Ron was married to Virginia Haller (Musgrave) on June 12, 1999. Family left to celebrate his life include his much loved wife, Virginia and four step children: Jeff (Jennifer), Brian (Leah), Camille (Matt) and Ricky. Seven grand-

children: Alexis, Alan, Tommy, Belle, Calvin, Zachary and Jacob. His mother, Dorothy Cahoj, his sister Collette (Casey) and nieces: Cami (Dan), Traci (Jim), Jennifer (Jeff) and nephew Heath (Lori). Six great-nephews: Kobey, Alec, Gunner, C.J., Baylor and Casey. Three great-nieces: Breanna, Bethany and Gabby. Brother-in-laws: Glenn Haller (Billie) and Louis Haller (Mary Lou) and Dave Van Laeys and nieces Megan and Amanda. Ron also leaves behind a host of friends.

Grandpa/Uncle Ronnie will be missed greatly as entertaining his grandchildren, nephews and nieces were a joy to him. Tractor and four wheeler rides, bonfires and shooting the gun are all memories that will stay with them forever.

### **MARY LOUISE BISAH** **Sr. Branch 262**

Mary Louise Bisaha, 78, of Vandergrift died on October 4, 2011 in The Arbors III at St. Barnabas in Gibsonia, PA.

Born on November 14, 1932 in Vandergrift, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Giovanina (Ciambala) Trunzo.

A homemaker and lifelong resident of Vandergrift, Mary was a member of St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church in Vandergrift and a 1950 graduate of Vandergrift High School. She enjoyed listening to all types of music and traveling, but her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren.

Mary was very proud of her Italian heritage, loved listening to Italian music and took her most memorable vacation to Italy.

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew A. Bisaha on May 21, 2008 to whom she was married for 55 wonderful years.

Survivors include two daughters, Anita B. (Kevin) Higgins of Vienna, VA and Alicia (Venena Hutcherson) Bisaha of Plum; two sons, Andrew J. (Jared Ivy)

Bisaha of Oceanside, CA and Anthony (Debra) Bisaha of Athens, WV; seven grandchildren, Andrew, Joseph and Anthony Bisaha, Chloe, Brandon, Ariel and Evan Higgins; a great-grandson Elijah Valentino Pardo; three brothers, Frank (Velma) Trunzo of Washington Township, Nino (Sadie) Trunzo of Leechburg and Joseph (Dolly) Trunzo of Florida; and three sisters, Phyllis Baranak of Florida, Jean Maradei of Vandergrift and Edith Detman of Allegheny Township.

### **SUE MURDZAK** **Sr. Branch 161**

Sue Murdzak, 90, died peacefully December 6, 2011.

She was born in Horna, Slovakia to John and Susan Charney Basanda, the eighth of nine children on April 27, 1921, and came to the United States in 1938.

She married Andrew Hockicko on February 22, 1941. He died in 1977. She then married George Murdzak on May 16, 1981. They moved to Boynton Beach, FL in 1982 and George died in 2005.

She was a former parishioner of St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, OH and St. Mark Catholic Church in Boynton Beach, FL.

She is survived by her three loving children, Father Charles Hawkins, pastor of Ascension Catholic Church, Boca Raton, FL, James (Debbie) of Youngstown, OH, and Mary Jean Hockicko of Boynton Beach, FL.

Additionally, she leaves behind two grandsons, Matthew (Lindsay) Hawkins of Farmington Hills, MI, and Brian Hawkins of Youngstown, OH, as well as three great-grandchildren, Aidan, Adelaide and Annalise Hawkins.

Memorial donations in her honor may be made to Birthline, 155 SE 3rd Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33483.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Mario Baez and his staff, Abbey Delray South, and Hospice By The Sea for the outstanding care they provided her.

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



## Sr. Branch 140 Celebrates the Holiday Season

Sr. Branch 140, Lansford, PA held their annual Christmas Party and meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at Macaluso's Restaurant in Nesquehoning, PA. Prior to a delicious luncheon a brief business meeting was held. Carolyn Bazik, National Editor

gave a recap of the Convention held in Baltimore in October 2011.

She then thanked Louise Dunstan and her committee for planning such a grand party. Branch President Veronica Bazik shared a Christmas poem with

the group and wished everyone in attendance a blessed holiday season.

Monsignor Thomas Derzack offered grace before the meal and the rest of the afternoon was spent enjoying a wonderful meal and some fraternal fun!



## Louise M. Yash District Holds Christmas Meeting/Luncheon

On December 3, 2011 at Alioto's Restaurant, the members of the Louise M. Yash District held their Christmas meeting luncheon. President Mary Jo Noyes highlighted events of the year past and events for the new year. Pat Braun, our National Sales Manager, spoke to the members on the strengths of the ideas of the organization. The members of the District honored their new National Officer, Katie Mueller, who won a seat as Auditor.

The last order of the meeting was Election of the District officers which was presided over by former District President Mary Kebisek, the members voted unanimously to keep the members of the present board, President-Mary Jo Noyes,

Vice President-Virginia Sedlacek, Treasurer-Betty Novak, Secretary-Kathy Valent, and Auditors-Fred Forrest and Bob Budjac. Following the members enjoyed a tasty luncheon of chicken, pork and fish prepared by Master Chefs. Entertainment was provided by the musical talent of Beverly White.

The members went home with many prizes donated by Discount Liquors owned by the Greguska family. On behalf of the Board and members, we would thank the Greguska family, who have been great supports of our organization for many years.





## Cleveland District Holds Christmas Party for LOHV Residents

The FCSLA Cleveland District held their Christmas Party for the Light of Hearts Villa (LOHV) residents on Saturday, December 10 in Bedford, OH.

The festively-dressed Cleveland branch members, approximately 30, provided a variety of yummy bakery items, beautiful Nativity plates and napkins for each table and a gift bag for each resident.

The 80 residents enjoyed entertainment by the LOHV Bell and Voice Choirs, Cleveland Lucina Dancers and the singing of Christmas songs lead by Fr. Gerard along with his comical stories.

One of the residents in attendance was a 1933 graduate of Benedictine High School. Fr. Gerard is also a Benedictine Alumni and current President of the school.

The day ended with Mass celebrated by Bishop Roger Gries.

Sr. Regina sent an email thanking the Cleveland District for the party that was provided for the

residents. "They thoroughly enjoyed every minute. They commented on the beauty of the tables set up, the delicious pastries, the gifts, the entertainment. . . . May the love and generosity you extend to the Light of Hearts residents be returned to you double."







# FCSLA 2012/2013 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is pleased to announce its 2012-2013 Scholarship Program which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. This year more than \$248,250 will be awarded to young members of the Association, which includes \$42,000 being awarded to elementary school applicants.



These elementary school awards are a benefit recently passed by the FCSLA Board of Directors. In this day of promoting education, one of the best means of offering assistance is by the Scholarship Program.

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE \$1,250 EACH AND GRADUATE AWARDS ARE \$1,750 EACH

58 Freshmen • 27 Sophomores • 16 Juniors • 16 Seniors • 16 Full Time Graduate Awards

## 32 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS AT \$1,000 EACH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

8 Freshmen • 8 Sophomores • 8 Juniors • 8 Seniors

## 28 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS AT \$750 EACH WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

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

## 28 EARLY ELEMENTARY AWARDS AT \$750 EACH

7 for Grade 1 • 7 for Grade 2 • 7 for Grade 3 • 7 for Grade 4

In addition, two (2) Theresa Sajan Scholarships are awarded to graduate students.

An eligible candidate for a FCSLA Fraternal Scholarship Award shall be a member of good standing for at least three years prior to date of application and hold a \$1,000 legal reserve certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or have an annuity certificate. If applying for a Seminary or Deacon Scholarship it is necessary to complete all documents.

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field and based on the following: Academic standing 50%, Family membership 15%, Leadership 20%, and extenuating circumstances 15%.

All applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted to the Home Office no later than March 1, 2012.

Applications and further details for this program may be obtained by calling the Home Office, your local Branch Officer, or by visiting our website at [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com) or by completing the form on this page and mailing it to:

**First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association — Scholarship Department**  
**24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-5634**



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send me a scholarship application form. (PLEASE PRINT)

Branch No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Application requested for following award:

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



# District Anna Hurban of Chicago Hosts 8th Annual Combined Christmas Party in Orland Park, Illinois

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, District Anna Hurban of Chicago, hosted its eighth annual combined Senior Branch Christmas Party at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park, IL on Saturday, December 3, 2011 with a total of 366 senior branch members and guests in attendance. District members and their guests enjoyed great conversation with one another and caught up on the years' events before and during the luncheon. Sr. Antonia Klausner, District Chaplain, gave a food prayer and blessing before the meal. Everyone feasted on a flavorful family style meal, which included the traditional Slovak roasted pork as well as four more courses. The wonderful luncheon was topped off with Italian pastries for dessert. Everything was deliciously prepared and scrumptious.

This year the District invited representatives from the Chicago area organizations that received donations from the FCSLA's 40th National Convention. Representatives from these organizations

were: Dr. Charles C. Martinez, co-founder of Old Irving Park Community Clinic in Chicago, providing free quality medical care to the uninsured; Fr. Daniel Brandt, Chicago Police Chaplain, and a Director of the Police Chaplains Ministry of the Chicago Police Department; Sisters Janet and Marcella from St. Rose Center in Chicago, ministering to the developmentally impaired young adults living in Chicago; and Mary Pat Ambrosino, Executive Director of Southwest Community Services in Tinley Park which provides services that empower individuals with diverse disabilities to maximize their development and independence. Later in the program, the District sponsored its annual raffle of 167 available prizes. With a surprise visit from Santa, he guided the attending District junior members, who acted as prize runners, as they distributed the gifts to the raffle winners shouting "Kapusta, Koláčiky, Bingo" or their favorite Slovak word upon hearing their winning number. The wonderful event started

by Marge Krugley has been a favorite now for the entire District and surrounding areas. The newly elected District President, Mary Therese Tylus stated, "As the event continues to grow in popularity, I look forward to maintaining its presence and increasing participation. It is such a wonderful time to renew old friendships, make new ones and oh, remind everyone of the wonderful FCSLA products!"

A special thank you goes out to Marge Krugley, who continues to support the festivities, the raffle prize shoppers Phil and Dolores Glomb and Helen and Joe Ledvora, Fay Hlubocky, "Santa", as well as the entire District Board and Branch Officers for working so hard in making it such a memorable event.

So mark your calendar for next year's party on Saturday, December 1, 2012 – same time, same place!

*(To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)*



L-R: Therese Tylus Sr. Br. 485 (Chicago), Margaret Abildua (Indiana District President) and her husband Anthony Abildua.



Chicago District Officers: Seated, L-R: Judy Tybor-Knizner and Jarmila Hlubocky. Standing: Mary Therese Tylus, Carol Rosenthal and Irene Zittman.









# Christmas Celebration for Jr. Branch 58 of Indiana

Jr. Branch 58, of Whiting, IN, held its annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 3, 2011.

The Branch Officers and members gathered in St. John Founders Room at 11:30 a.m. to make some ornaments, play some games and have a wonderful lunch while waiting for Santa to arrive. Marjorie Strbjak, Dorothy Hoover and Becky Coleman gathered all the children together so that Julianna



**Carol Vargo watches junior members make a floor puzzle.**



**Jr. Branch 58 Officers and members with Santa.**



**L-R: Nathan Meza with his Mom, and Damian and Alexandria Delgado.**



Scivinski and Dorothy Hoover could lead the group in singing Christmas carols. Dorothy also taught the group how to say Merry Christmas in Slovak!

Santa arrived and presents were given.

We wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Birthday to Jesus too!



**Junior members playing pin the hat on the polar bear.**



**Rachel Noojin and Dorothy Hoover help members make ornaments.**



## Branch W045 of Cedar Rapids 2011 Events

The annual membership picnic of Branch W045, of Cedar Rapids, IA, was held on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

Approximately one hundred members and guests attended the picnic. Bingo began at 2:00 p.m. with the meal following at 4:00 p.m. The meal consisted of hamburgers, bratwurst, hot dogs, tomatoes, cucumbers, baked beans, rye bread, buns, kolaches and beverages.



Branch officers and scholarship winners, L-R: Joe Zachar, Tyler Timmerman (2nd grader), George DuCharme, Levi Miller (high school sophomore), Mike Papich, Amber Melchert (college junior), and John Salat. Not able to attend was Charles Herder (3rd grader). Charles is also the Grandson of John and Vivian Herder.



### Youngstown Sister Cities Sets 2012 Tour

Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities 15th Heritage Tour is set for July 10-24, 2012, with Jim and Kay Bench as tour guides. Tour will include churches, castles and historical sites in Bratislava, Piestany, Nitra, and more. Included is the raft ride on the Dunajec River, champagne breakfast at City Hall of our Sister City, Nova Ves, and performances at Slovak dance studios. Side trips to ancestral villages and relatives are available with advance notice. Approximately \$3,600 plus airline taxes.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench, 428 West 4th Avenue, Derry, PA 15627, phone (724) 694-5101 or cell (724) 858-5843 or email [jmbench@yahoo.com](mailto:jmbench@yahoo.com) or Adventure International Travel, P.O. Box 770410, Lakewood, OH 44107 or phone (216) 228-7171 or toll free (800) 542-2487 or email [paul@aits.webmail.com](mailto:paul@aits.webmail.com).

Three of the four members of our Branch that received National FCSLA Scholarships were able to attend and receive their awards.



L-R: Vivian Herder (grandmother), Terry Timmerman (father), Tyler (scholarship winner), Alexa (sister), Jennifer (mother) and John Herder (grandfather).



Levi Miller (scholarship winner) and his father Adam.



Betty Horak, grandmother of Amber Melchert (scholarship winner).

### ~ FYI ~

*Fraternally Yours* is also available on the website as a pdf file. **Please log onto [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com)** and click on *Fraternally Yours Magazine* found under Fraternal Tab in the column on the left side of the home page.



## BRANCH W033 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEETING

Branch W033, Spillville, IA held their annual Branch Christmas Party and meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2011 with 43 adults and 12 children in attendance.

After the minutes of the previous meeting were read, the treasurer's report and yearly report were given. President Dan Silhacek gave a report on the state meeting held in Spillville, IA on July 31, 2011. He also reported on the National Convention which was held in Baltimore, MD including the good news that the branches application made on behalf of the church was approved for \$12,000 to continue the restoration of the tile floor.

The branch sent out two \$250 scholarships to college students Emily Zoulek and Kristen Shindelar who were unable

to attend the meeting. A \$100 scholarship was presented to 6th grader Karissa Stika.

During the meeting children in attendance worked on making nativity crafts and holiday stenciling with the help of members Jenae Kuennen and Joanne Hageman.

Election of officers took place with all officers remaining the same for another term.

Santa arrived with bells ringing to give out bags of treats to all in attendance and stayed for photos with children and adults.

Afterwards door prizes were given out and bingo was played with prizes for the lucky winners under the Christmas tree. Many thanks to all who helped make the event possible!

In addition, the branch also held its annual breakfast and raffle in March as part of the FCSLA National Matching Funds program and gave the Church a total of \$1,500 from the event which included the \$500 from the Home Office.

Annual donations to local churches, schools and community organizations were approved.



President Dan Silhacek presenting \$100 scholarship to Karissa Stika a 6th grader at Notre Dame School in Cresco, IA.



Children's group with Nativity Craft they made during the Christmas Party.



Members enjoying the social event.



Stacey Klemish and family with Santa.



The Christmas tree with bingo presents on and under the tree.

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# FCSLA EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

## 3RD QUARTERLY MEETING ~ SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

### 0100.00 Call to Order/Prayer

President Mary Ann S. Johaneck called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Home Office, Beachwood, OH. The meeting was opened with prayer by Msgr. Peter M. Polando.

### 0200.00 Opening Business

#### 0200.01 Roll Call

Secretary Irene J. Drotleff was asked to call the roll. Members present were:

Msgr. Peter M. Polando	Chaplain
Mary Ann S. Johaneck	President
Rosemary A. Mlinarich	Vice President
Irene J. Drotleff	Secretary
John M. Janovec	Treasurer
Cynthia M. Maleski	Trustee
Virginia A. Holmes	Trustee

#### 0200.02 Approval of Agenda

Msgr. Peter M. Polando moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

#### 0200.03 Approval of Minutes of 6/16/11

Cynthia M. Maleski moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of 6/16/11 as presented.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

### 0300.00 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John M. Janovec gave a detailed financial review of key financial figures through the second quarter of 2011. Supplement #1

#### 0300.01 Investments

Members of the Executive Finance Committee reviewed the investment purchases made through August 2011. Supplement #2

### 0400.00 Unfinished / New Business

#### 0400.01 Annual Annuity Yield – October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

John M. Janovec moved and it was seconded to recommend to the Board of Directors, that the annuity annual yield remain at each contract's minimum guaranteed rate effective October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

#### 0400.02 Return of Investment (ROI)

FCSLA's ROI was compared to large fraternal, medium fraternal and mutual companies. Supplement #3

### 0500.00 President's Comment

President Johaneck asked that her comments be reserved and given at the full Board of Directors meeting so as not to be repetitious.

#### Continuation of Unfinished / New Business:

#### 0400.03 Dividend for 2012

John M. Janovec proposed to recommend to the Board of Directors that the Association pay 100% of the base dividend schedule for the 2012 annual dividend to FCSLA members.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

#### 0400.04 Donations

Rosemary A. Mlinarich moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the listed donations. Supplement #4

**MOTION ADOPTED**

### 0600.00 Meeting Dates

#### 0600.01 Meeting

December 6, 2011 – Home Office – Beachwood, Ohio

### 0700.00 Adjourn

Virginia A. Holmes moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned with prayer.

#### ATTEST:

Mary Ann S. Johaneck, President  
Irene J. Drotleff, Secretary  
Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Chaplain  
John M. Janovec, Treasurer  
Rosemary Mlinarich, Vice President  
Cynthia Maleski, Trustee  
Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee



## SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

### Feast Day ~ February 14th

They were two Byzantine Greek brothers born in Thessaloniki in the 9th century. They became missionaries of Christianity among the Slavic peoples of Bulgaria, Great Moravia and Pannonia. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title "Apostles to the Slavs".



## 34th Annual SCF SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However, their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic fraternals, religious communities of men and women, and nearly 300 Slovak parishes. Today, in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor its **34th Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal**.

The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic fraternals, our parishes, and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2012 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in churches of Slovak descent across The United States and Canada and will continue to the end of the year.

**The 2011 Appeal collected \$39,749.25.**

**Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,272,737.74!**

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the diocesan churches in Slovakia both as vicars and bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those religious communities of both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Conference of Religious. These communities include the Vincentian Sisters of Charity (*Ruzomberok*); Dominican Sisters (*Dunajska Luzna*); School Sisters of St. Francis (*Zilina*); Daughters of St. Francis (*Bratislava-Prievoz*); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (*Secove and Presov*), Franciscan Friars Minor (*Bratislava*), and House of St. Benedict (*Bacurov*).

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The purpose of the Federation is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner for cultural, religious, and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.G., Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese of Scranton, PA. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA, is the coordinator for this annual Appeal.

In our Church today, we are finding that more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation check, made out to the *Slovak Catholic Federation* (please note that it's for the "Annual Appeal") can be sent directly to the National Secretary-Treasurer of the SCF: Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

***Thank you for your continued support!***

## REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

**BALANCE SHEET AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2011**

### ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 10,257,373.92
Bonds	628,561,139.34
Preferred Stock	6,580,430.87
Common Stock	710,981.84
Investment Income Due and Accrued	9,918,199.56
Promissory Notes	0.00
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,623,951.34
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	1,924,246.29
Other Assets	202,390.16

**TOTAL ASSETS \$ 664,778,713.32**

### LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 199,275,625.08
Annuity Reserves	351,484,640.50
Death Claims Payable	708,138.90
Unearned Premiums	569,323.00
Matured Endowments	322,883.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,147,768.00
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,748,936.00
Accrued Convention Donations	880,670.00
Provision for Future Conventions	680,350.00
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,955,534.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,340,281.00
Other Liabilities	1,358,700.81
Provision for Annuity Certain Accounts	4,284,000.00

**TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 573,756,850.29**

### SURPLUS

Surplus	\$ 91,021,863.04
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**TOTAL SURPLUS \$ 91,021,863.04**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS \$ 664,778,713.32**

### INCOME STATEMENT

**For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2011**

### REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 17,542,174.89
Annuity Premiums	14,704,861.64
Investment Income	26,737,515.94
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	98,241.58
Rental Income	299,421.00
Other Revenue	13,438.38

**TOTAL REVENUE \$ 59,395,653.43**

### EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 17,702,625.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	9,721,640.00
Insurance Benefits	3,424,827.64
Annuity Benefits	14,064,553.06
Commission Expense	1,826,843.97
Surrender Benefits	1,112,659.06
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	114,865.55
Matured Endowments	14,577.31
Donation Expenses	262,927.84
Convention Expenses	136,604.96
Dividends to Members	1,575,005.46
Post Mortem Benefits	778,817.15
Bonus to Branches	723,690.00
Fraternal Activities	48,482.34
Bank Service Charges	40,206.24
Data Processing Service Fees	221,302.50
Accounting Fees	65,644.00
Actuarial Fees	110,402.00
Legal Fees	5,176.90
Consulting Services	96,737.50
Official Publications	254,679.00
Scholarship Awards	253,500.00
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	308,673.40
Fees — Directors	84,002.74
Salaries — Employees	1,093,161.60
Salaries — Officers	328,703.20
Interest Expense	186,303.96
Tax Expense	226,721.48
Depreciation Expense	217,927.00
Utility Expense	64,283.94
Postage and Printing	239,192.98
Advertising	65,827.32
Travel Expense	127,582.07
Insurance Department Fees	78,005.55
Sales Promotion	154,854.01
Rental Expense	299,421.00
Other Expense	362,344.44

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 56,392,772.17**

**NET INCOME \$ 3,002,881.26**





## February Favorites!

### HEARTY BEEF VEGETABLE SOUP

- 3 cups water with bouillon cubes for beef stock
- 2 cups diced, cooked beef
- 1 (16 oz.) can tomatoes, cut up
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 large potato, pared and cut into small chunks
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, pared and sliced
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon dried basil, crushed
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups cooked vegetables: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, green beans, peas

In 4 quart Dutch oven, combine the beef stock, cooked meat, tomatoes and celery. Add potatoes, onion, and carrot. Add salt, thyme, basil and pepper. Bring to boil, reduce heat. Cover and simmer until vegetables are tender, 20 to 25 minutes. Add the 2 cups cooked vegetables and continue to simmer for 10 minutes.

### BLT STEAK SALAD

- One 1-pound flank steak, trimmed
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon black pepper
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 6 cups romaine lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup crumbled blue cheese
- 2 slices crisp-cooked turkey bacon, crumbled

Sprinkle the steak with  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of the salt and the pepper. Spray a nonstick grill pan with cooking spray and set over medium-high heat. Add the steak and cook 5 minutes on each side for medium-rare. Transfer the steak to a cutting board and let rest for 5 minutes. Cut the steak on an angle against the grain into 12 slices.

Meanwhile, whisk together the oil, vinegar, mustard and remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt in a large bowl. Add the lettuce, tomatoes and onions and toss to coat well. Transfer the salad to a platter. Top with the steak slices and sprinkle with the blue cheese and bacon. Serve immediately. Serves 6.

### BUTTERNUT ORZO

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups peeled, seeded and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-diced butternut squash (about 1 pound)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 small onion, diced
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups orzo
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dry white wine
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup grated Parmesan
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup half-and-half
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
- Salt and cracked black pepper

Heat the olive oil in a large heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the butternut squash and saute until just starting to soften, 5 to 7 minutes. Add the garlic and onions and saute until fragrant and translucent, 2 minutes longer. Add the orzo and continue cooking another 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour in the wine and cook until absorbed.

Gradually add the chicken broth while stirring. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook until the liquid is almost absorbed and the orzo is tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from the heat. Serves 4.

### DOUBLE CHOCOLATE-CHIP MUFFINS

- $1\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons best quality cocoa powder
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup superfine sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup semisweet chocolate chips, plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup for sprinkling
- 1 cup milk
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup plus 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Put the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cocoa, sugar, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of the chocolate chips into a large bowl. Pour all

the liquid ingredients into a measuring bowl. Mix the dry and wet ingredients together, remembering that a lumpy batter makes the best muffins. Spoon into the prepared muffin pans. Sprinkle the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chocolate chips on top and then bake for 20 minutes or until the muffins are dark, and risen. Makes 12 muffins.

### APPLE BREAD PUDDING WITH CARAMEL DESSERT SAUCE

Nonstick cooking spray or butter, for greasing

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 cups whole milk
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 9 large egg yolks
- $3\frac{1}{2}$  cups Granny Smith apples, peeled and chopped
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup pecans, chopped and toasted
- 1 loaf stale French or Italian bread, cut or torn into 1-inch pieces (preferably stale)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup unsalted butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch salt

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray or butter.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the heavy cream, whole milk, brown sugar, cinnamon, salt, vanilla and egg yolks and set aside.

Add the cubed apples, pecans and cubed bread to the prepared baking dish and toss to combine. Pour the custard over the bread and apple pieces. Carefully toss to coat, making sure that the cubed bread is submerged in the custard, and let stand to allow the bread to soak up the custard, 10 to 15 minutes.

Bake until the center has set, about 45 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes. Drizzle Caramel Dessert Sauce over the bread pudding. Serve with extra sauce and vanilla ice cream.

#### Caramel Dessert Sauce:

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, combine the sugar, butter, buttermilk and corn syrup. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and cook for 1 minute. Remove from the heat and slowly add the baking soda (it will foam up), followed by the vanilla and cinnamon. The sauce will thicken as it cools. Serve warm. Serves 8.



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