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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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*My country,
'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!*

~Samuel F. Smith, "America"

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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JUST BE NICE . . .

Marta was a hard-working single mother. Last week, at church, her priest urged the congregation to improve the world by doing more to help others. He's got to be kidding, she thought, I can barely make ends meet and provide my children with basic necessities. Still, she felt guilty — "maybe I should be doing more." So, on the bus to work she started thinking of things she could do to help others, but she felt sad and defeated by the idea of adding even more obligations to her life.

Sylvia, an elderly woman, saw the distress on Marta's face and asked what was wrong. Marta explained her problem. Sylvia consoled her. "I think it's enough that you're a good mother and a good person, but I bet you can find ways to help others more while doing what you already do." Marta said. "I sell hamburgers. How can I help others?"

Sylvia replied, "Let me tell you a story. When I was a young mom with two young kids, I was in line to get some burgers and fries at a McDonald's. My kids were restless and it took all my energy to keep them from bothering others. I felt overwhelmed.

"When I got to the counter the lady said, 'Excuse me, but I've been watching how you handled your kids . . . ' — and I thought, 'Oh no! On top of everything else I'm going to get a lecture on what a bad mom I am' — and then she said: 'I just want to say you are an incredible mother. I wish I had the patience to be as loving and attentive as you. They are so lucky to have you.'

"Well, that not only made my day, it was the encouragement I needed and it really helped me feel okay about myself. I told everyone I knew about the nice thing the McDonald's lady said and I remember to this day the gift she gave me.

"What if you made a greater effort to find ways to cheer people up, encourage or compliment them? Don't you think that could make a real difference in people's lives?"

"I guess so," Marta replied, "but that's just being nice."

"Right," said Sylvia, "Sometimes that's all it takes. Niceness can change lives."

Marta looked at the old woman. "Thanks, I think I can do that. If you don't mind me asking, how do you try to make a difference in the world?"

"Well, now that I'm retired," Sylvia said, "I just ride the bus talking to people like you."

Dear Friends,

Mother Teresa said making a difference doesn't require us to do great things, only little things with great love. Don't underestimate your power to improve the world with a kind word, a cheerful hello or even a smile. It can brighten someone's day and start a chain reaction that lights up lives. This month just be nice!

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

~ CALL TO OUR MEMBERS ~

As mandated by the 40th Quadrennial Convention held in Baltimore, MD in October 2011, an entire revision of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws is to be presented by a Bylaws Revision Committee at a Special Convention in 2014.

The Bylaws Revision Committee will be composed, in part, of several members who are not part of districts, and to be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

A member in good standing, not part of a District, who is committed to the Association's mission and willing to serve, please contact Cynthia M. Maleski, National President, at 1-800-464-4642, ext. 1011, **by August 1, 2012**, for further consideration.

MORAL GUIDES FOR CATHOLICS – PRECEPTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Welcome to the first full month of summer! Many of you like me are privileged to live in a section of our wonderful nation where we are able to experience more distinctly the changes of the seasons during the year. Each of them has positive traits while we may note some negatives. I enjoy summer because of the warmth, the sunshine, the ability of walking outdoors at more varied times, the jet skiing with my friends, the opening up of windows and doors in the early morning to let in the fresh air, and the longer days. But I do not like removing the poor dead bugs on my car after a road trip, the smell of sun protective lotion that I have to place on my skin, and having to escape the oppressive heat by putting on the air conditioning. Although I may experience the above in some of the other seasons of the year, I take advantage of the season in which I live and put up with what I do not like because I admit I do not live in a perfect world! I also know that there are some things that I can change and some that I cannot!

There is a continuous relay of the seasons of nature and we experience them in different ways whether in the present season or have a passing thought of one of the other three. As we experience the changes of the natural seasons, so we also have the passing of one season to another in the liturgical year of the Church. These are very familiar to us as Catholics. The cycle of liturgical seasons begins with Advent that prepares us for the anniversary of Christ's birth. We celebrate Christ's birth during the Christmas season that usually ends with the Baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist. Ordinary Time commences until Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday at the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The highpoint of

the liturgical season is the Sacred Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. The joy of Easter Sunday flows for the next fifty days until the anniversary of the birth of Church on Pentecost. Then Ordinary Time picks up again (this season totals thirty-four weeks of the year) until the new year at Advent.

Although we may be in a particular season of the liturgical year, we may have glimpses of the other seasons at various liturgical celebrations. For example, the Annunciation of the Lord is on 25 March that may fall either in the Lenten or Easter seasons but reminds us of Christ's birth. The Triumph of the Cross falls on 14 September which recalls Christ's death that we annually commemorate during the Sacred Triduum but this feast occurs during Ordinary Time. Easter is the highpoint of the liturgical year as Sunday is the highpoint of the week for all Christians. In the document of the Second Vatican Council, the Church Fathers wrote: "Every week, on the day which she (the Church) has called the Lord's day, she keeps the memory of His resurrection. In the supreme solemnity of Easter she also makes an annual commemoration of the resurrection, along with the Lord's blessed passion" [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 102].

According to Church law, every Friday of the year is a penitential day [cf. canon 1250, *Code of Canon Law*]. And what is a penitential day? The answer to that question can be found in canon 1249 which states, "The divine law binds all the Christian faithful to do penance each in his or her own way. In order for all to be united among themselves by some common observance of penance, however, penitential days are pre-

scribed on which the faithful devote themselves in a special way to prayer, perform works of piety and charity, and deny themselves by fulfilling their own obligations more faithfully and especially by observing fast and abstinence, according to the norms of the following canons."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "The fifth precept ('You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence') ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts; they help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart" [2043]. What does it mean to abstain and fast? Canon 1251 declares, "Abstinence from eating meat or some other food according to the prescripts of the conference of bishops is to be observed on every Friday of the year unless a Friday occurs on a day listed as a solemnity. Abstinence and fasting, however, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday." According to Church practice, the obligation for abstinence binds Catholics over the age of fourteen and fasting for those between the ages of eighteen through fifty-nine.

Our abstinence on Fridays enables us to set aside food that we enjoy and sometimes take for granted to direct our souls to Christ who suffered for us to the point of death on Good Friday. It also enables us Christians to open our eyes to the needs of the hungry and poor of the world and align ourselves with them. We especially do this by donating to the poor the monies we would have used to buy those foods.

No matter what season of the year, whether liturgical or natural, Friday, the day of Christ's death, prepares us to celebrate more joyfully Sunday, the day of His resurrection through our observance of the fifth precept of the Church.

THE CASE FOR BUYING LIFE INSURANCE ON CHILDREN



Patrick Braun

I have been getting questions about buying life insurance on children throughout my 42 year career. This might be the third or fourth time that I have addressed the issue in writing. This time, the article is in response to some of our FCSLA members who have heard comments from popular “financial advisors” on TV. These people would have us believe that, because children don’t bring income into the home, we shouldn’t buy life insurance on them. **This is total nonsense!**

First of all, as unlikely as it might be statistically, children die. Look in the paper. Every day you will find evidence of this! They die from accidents and they die from illness. Some illnesses last a long time and it is heart-wrenching for the family. It can also be very expensive. One of my wife’s cousins had a beautiful little girl that suffered for years with cancer. The expenses bankrupted them! We all helped but these kinds of costs are far above what anyone can afford. The girl died and the family is not only devastated emotionally, but also financially!

Second and even more important, **an accident or illness can render a child uninsurable!** This is much more likely than dying. What do we mean by “uninsurable”? It means that a person can’t buy life insurance. It means that, when that person gets married, has children, and has responsibilities like a home mortgage or providing family income in event of his death, he or she won’t be able to buy life insurance.

As an insurance salesperson, I don’t like to focus on the dying part. I know it’s possible, but the fact is, that people don’t like to talk about their child dying. So I focus on the idea that everyone will need life insurance some day, and now is the best time to guarantee that it can be purchased. Take a little boy, four years of age and currently in good health. FCSLA will issue a \$100,000 certificate on that boy as fast as we receive the application and it would only cost \$236 per year. That’s the least expensive his life insurance will ever be! The certificate will grow and grow, both in cash value and death benefit.

Think of all the things that might prevent that little boy from buying the life insurance by the time he reaches age 25. First, there are those terrible childhood illnesses like muscular dystrophy, many types of cancer, diabetes (It is estimated that 1 child out of 3 will contract diabetes in the future due to the country’s poor eating habits), and others. St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital wouldn’t be in business if children didn’t become horribly sick. Then there are accidents. A car accident can cripple a child, but so can bike accidents, skateboard falls, boating accidents or sports injuries.

Then, think of all the additional dangers that teenagers face, like alcohol (a DUI can render a person uninsurable), drugs, social diseases, etc. By the time the little boy has turned 20, if none of these things have happened and he can

buy the life insurance, it will cost him \$462 per year for the same certificate as he could have purchased for \$236 per year at age four. Why take a chance on his insurability and pay two or three times as much later? That doesn’t make sense!

For those parents or grandparents who wish to buy a single premium whole life certificate on the four year old boy as a tax-free gift, the \$100,000 certificate will cost \$5,200. That’s one time, one payment for a tremendous legacy from Grandpa or Grandma; something with his name on it which will save their grandson thousands and thousands of dollars in premiums over the years!

And, here’s a word about our Super Youth Term. It is Super Indeed! Every member’s child or grandchild should own one of these, regardless of any other life insurance purchased. The amount should be the maximum, \$50,000. The premium on this amount is only \$50 per year and all of the premiums go into a “conversion credit”. When the child reaches age 25, this conversion credit will be applied to the premium on his new permanent certificate. And **his/her insurability is guaranteed for the \$50,000 conversion.**

In conclusion, **children should have life insurance!** Don’t listen to those TV “advisors”. They are not going to bring any money to anyone if a child dies or has an accident or is diagnosed with a dreaded disease! Their bad advice will cause a lot of misery when the unthinkable happens to a family! FCSLA has some excellent certificates at reasonable rates. Members can call a licensed recommender or one of our independent agents for advice on these certificates. Please don’t delay. **The line of insurability can be crossed by anyone at any time and that includes children.**

CLEVELAND OKRES ANNA HURBAN
DISTRICT OF THE FCSLA

St. Anne’s Day

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid, OH

Thursday, July 26, 2012

- Time: 9 a.m. til 3 p.m.
- Mass at 11 a.m. in the Chapel
- Seating is limited
- Get your Tickets now — \$15.00 each
- Please contact Barb Sekerak to purchase tickets at 216.676.9332.
- Raffle tickets will be sold to win great prizes provided by the branches.

From the Desk of the National President



Cynthia Maleski

Every year since our founding 120 years ago, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Ann on July 26th. Our own records establish that the 15 delegates of the first convention of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in 1892 chose St. Ann, the Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the Association's patron saint.

St. Ann, "Grandmother of our Saviour!" begins the litany of St. Ann. Of all the saints in the calendar of the Church, probably none, except the Blessed Virgin, holds so exalted and unique a position as St. Ann, Mother of Mary.

Perhaps our foremothers chose her as our Patroness because she indeed shares humanity with us. She achieved sainthood without suffering martyrdom or taking any perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

By all accounts, she lived the normal life of a daughter, wife, mother and grandmother in her time, under conditions which we believe were favorable to happiness, comfort and wellbeing. She chose to fervently practice her own faith, live a holy life and was charitable to all. She was surrounded by her family and occupied by daily cares. She is an ideal for which we all can strive.

She also serves as the personification of the bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

It is not surprising to me that since the 5th century, there have been many canticles, hymns, songs and poems connected with St. Ann. Some offer petitions or sing her praises; others tell her story and stress her role as the Grandmother of Our Lord. Most are holy songs, but some are even folk tunes.

We hope that you can attend one of the various district gatherings planned for St. Ann's Feast Day on July 26, 2012. Or perhaps you can attend Mass in your local church on the Feast Day with another member or two and share fellowship afterwards.

I applaud those of us who have planned and participated in St. Ann's Feast Day events for many years!

Good St. Ann, pray for us!



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty symbolizes America's independence and the freedom the country offers to all that enter. It was given to the United States in 1886 by France (shipped in 214 crates and assembled on what is now known as Liberty Island in the New York Harbor.)

The 4th of July ~ Happy Independence Day

The United States is a fairly young country, and the original birthday of the U.S. was actually not that long ago. In 1776, the original thirteen states came together and separated from England with the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. During this time, the brave Founding Fathers knew that the future ahead would be full of danger and risk to themselves and their families, but the importance of the country was greater than any one person.

Thus, in 1776, the United States of America was born. After years of extremely difficult fighting and war, the country came out on top and began its existence as a peaceful country. This was the defining moment for the country, and that is why Independence Day is of such great importance for American people even today. Without July 4th, there would be no America.

Happy Independence Day!

CLEVELAND DISTRICT PARTICIPATES AT THE FEST ~ Sunday, August 5 ~

The Cleveland District will once again have a booth at the FEST, Sunday, August 5, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Center for Pastoral Leadership, 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

It is a day of fun for the whole family. The day will end with Mass at 8 p.m. on the main stage.

Volunteers needed to help at the FCSLA booth. Call Barb Sekerak at 216.676.9332 to sign up and for additional information.

From the Desk of the
National Secretary
Sue Ann M. Seich

Do you have a "Will"? When a Death Claim is brought to me for a signature, I am very surprised to find out that many of our members do not have a Will or have not updated their Will. Everyone should have a Will if you have any monetary or material possessions that you are passing on to your loved ones. A Will eliminates a lot of heartache and shortens the time for an estate to be finalized.



Having a Will makes it easier for your loved ones to share knowing your intentions. Many times an Executor or Executrix named on the Will that was drawn up many years ago is deceased and he/she was never replaced. The family has to go through many more steps in order for the estate to be executed.

Stop for a minute and think when was the last time you updated your Will. Plan on updating it as soon as possible or find the time to draw up a new Will. You and your loved ones will be relieved, knowing that at the time of your death an updated Will is in place. It will make your passing a little bit easier on your family and friends.

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

Exchange Wedding Vows

Dr. Joshua Miksanek and Roseanne Patel exchanged wedding vows at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, IL, November 5, 2011. Reverend Matthew Compton officiated.

Parents of the groom are Drs. Tony and Arlene Miksanek. Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Niranjana Patel.

Zach Miksanek, brother of the groom was the Best Man. Mrs. Rachel Zinger; best friend of the bride was the Matron of Honor.

The reception, with dinner and dancing, attended by 350 guests followed at the Renaissance Hotel, in Schaumburg, IL.

Dr. Joshua Miksanek, Dr. Tony Miksanek, and Grandmother Rosemary Miksanek are all members of Sr. Branch 181. Grandma Rosemary Miksanek resides in North Aurora, IL.

Congratulations to the newlyweds.



FCSLA Officers and Members Attend Father Portasik's 60th Anniversary Mass

Fr. Richard A. Portasik, O.F.M., celebrated his 60th Anniversary of Ordination on June 14, 2012. Many FCSLA officers and members attended the special Mass on May 20.



L-R: Irene Drotleff (1st National VP), Monsignor Peter Polando (National Chaplain), Sister Ann Pavlik, Agnes Farcosky (Branch S044 Secretary), Cynthia Maleski (National President), Mary Ann Johaneck (Past National President).



Back Row, L-R: Monsignor Peter Polando (National Chaplain), Mary Ann Johaneck (Past National President), Irene Drotleff (1st National VP), Cecelia Rostas (Branch S313), Cynthia Maleski (National President), Larry Golofski (2nd National VP), Betsy Butler, Maggie Golofski, Agnes Farcosky (Branch S044 Secretary). Father Portasik is seated in center.

Lydia (Massura) Berry Named Woman of the Year

On May 19, 2012, Lydia (Massura) Berry, Sr. Branch 485 Financial Secretary and Treasurer, was honored as one of sixteen Women of the Year from the Chicago Archdiocese's Vicariate IV to represent her parish, St. Louise de Marillac hosted and presented by the Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Lydia has been a member of St. Louise de Marillac parish since 1963 and is a widow with four adult children (Dan, Tim, LuAnn and Mary Beth all graduates of the parish school) and the proud grandmother of five grandchildren. In 1964, Lydia began her active ministry within the parish when she joined the women's group, volunteering as one of Our Lord's Housekeepers. She has served as past Vice President and chairperson for the Community Concerns and Church Communities commissions. She has chaired many coat and paper goods drives, Evenings of Reflection, rummage and bake sales and St. Patrick's Day dances. She tirelessly worked at Tag Days, craft shows, card and bunco parties and helping out at various other parish fundraisers and events that her parish women's group sponsors. She is currently a member of the parish's Guardian Angels Prayer group, the Resurrection Choir, the Hospitality Committee and serves as a Marshal. She volunteered for ten years in the parish school library and for many years provided food for the BEDS homeless shelter program held at St. Louise on Sunday



Lydia Berry with her two daughters. L-R: LuAnn Hoffman and Mary Beth Ossowski.

nights. She is an active supporter of the Comboni Mission Center, having served on their picnic and rummage sale committees. Not only is she Chicago Sr. Branch 485's Financial Secretary and Treasurer, but she was the 2008 FCSLA Fraternalist of the Year.

Lydia has been a member of the FCSLA since 1947 and her children Dan, Tim, Mary Beth and grandchildren Zac, Gretchen and Monica are also members of Sr. Branch 485. Congratulations Lydia!

FCSLA to Participate at Slovak-American Day at Kennywood Park

The 89th Annual Slovak Day will take place Thursday, July 19, 2012 at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. Slovak Day was established in 1923 to celebrate and preserve the Slovak heritage of western Pennsylvania. Since its beginnings, FCSLA has held a leadership role. Our own late Margaret Kuzma, FCSLA National Vice President for many years, also served as President of Slovak Day for many years and the late Margaret Bock, National Trustee for many years, served as Secretary. In the 1930s, our drill teams marched and performed. Our organization has donated the children's prizes for many years, and our members plan cultural exhibits, lead the national anthems, donate for the program book, help in the Slovak kitchen, participate in the Slovak dancing and sell tickets. All proceeds benefit Slovak-American cultural and charitable causes.

Children's activities begin at 12:30 p.m., Slovak Kitchen at 1:00 p.m., entertainment at 2:00 p.m., followed by a Mass with Slovak hymns. We will be there to meet and greet attendees. Everyone is welcome for a great day!

Please contact a committee person for discounted tickets.



Lydia with members of Sr. Branch 485 and her daughters. L-R: Gretchen Gilbert (granddaughter), LuAnn Hoffman (daughter and former member), Lydia Massura Berry (awardee), Mary Therese Tylus (niece and Chicago District President), Joan Wickers (niece and member) and Therese Massura Tylus (sister and member).



Several officers recently met at a committee meeting to help plan Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Seated, L-R: Rev. Joseph Grosko, Chairman; Hon. Joseph Senko, Treasurer; Dolores Sakal, President. Standing: National President Cynthia M. Maleski and National Vice President Larry Golofski.

SISTER MARY ANTONIA "WILMA" KLAUSNER ~ 1918-2012

Sister Mary Antonia Klausner, C.S.F.N. was a nurse, teacher and supervisor at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital on Chicago's West Side, now part of Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, for 67 years.

Sister Klausner, 93, died of acute respiratory failure on February 4, 2012 at the medical center, according to her order, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

She was born Wilma Klausner on Chicago's South Side, the beloved daughter of the late Felix and Theresa, nee Budzel Klausner. She joined the order in 1932, taking the name Mary Antonia when she became a nun.

After getting a bachelor's degree in nursing from DePaul University, she went on to get a master's in nursing from The Catholic University of America in Washington. She worked at Bethania Hospital in Wichita Falls, TX, before joining St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital.

She held positions at the Division Street Hospital, including supervisor of the nursery, and taught in its nursing school. In 1965, she took over as the school's director and over the next 21 years watched as more than 1,300 nursing students graduated.

"Her motto was, 'To teach is to change a life forever,'" said a nephew, Jack Krasula. "She epitomized everything a hospital wants to be, loving, caring for the sick."

According to her order, Sister Klausner once said she ministered "in the manner of Florence Nightingale as a professional nurse, 'easing the pain of patients, witnessing their faces softened with gratitude.'"

After the nursing school closed in 1986, she served as a coordinator in standards and education and helped prepare the hospital for the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program process.

"She was a very dynamic woman, extremely loyal to the hospital, very religious and with strong family ties to



Florida, the Carolinas, Detroit and Washington, D.C.," said Barbara McGrath, long-time colleague and case manager of the medical/surgical/telemetry unit at Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center.

Money is being raised for an auditorium that will bear her name at the medical center. The medical staff also has established a scholarship in her name for nursing education, McGrath said.

"She was a wonderful person who touched many people. She was my friend, mentor, spiritual director, pillar of strength and voice of reason," said her colleague Sophia Kass, performance distinction coordinator at the medical center.

In addition Sister served as Chaplain of the Anna Hurban Chicago District of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and was president of Sr. Branch 180 in Chicago, IL.

Sister Klausner was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, David (Harriet), Joseph, (late Anne), Felix (Irene), Edward (late Eleanor), Virginia (late William) Dancik and Theresa (late Andrew) Krasula; proud aunt to many nieces and nephews, and friend to all.

Memorials to the Congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth of the Klausner Auditorium Project of St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, appreciated.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branch W033 — Spillville, IA

Annual Breakfast and Raffle

On March 4, 2012, Branch W033, Spillville, IA held its Annual Breakfast and Raffle. A check for \$1,000 plus \$500.00 from the Matching Grant program through the Home Office was presented to Principal Kathryn Schmitt of St. Wenceslaus Catholic School, Spillville, IA. The money will be used to help complete the renovations of the classrooms.



CHICAGO DISTRICT HOSTS "A DAY OF RECOLLECTION"

with Fr. Larry Janowski, OFM

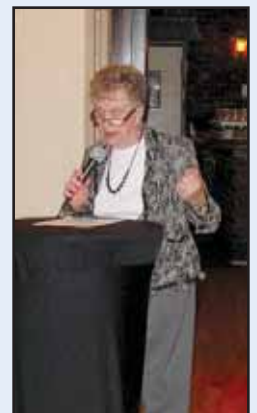
The Chicago District hosted "A Day of Recollection" with Fr. Larry Janowski on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the Garden Chalet in Chicago Ridge, IL. Fr. Larry shared with the approximately 51 members in attendance from the District, from various branches within the District, reflections on prayer and one's relationship with God as it relates to prayer. Fr. Larry explained the differences between reflective prayer (think reflection, vocal or mental word-centered), affective prayer (more inclusive of emotion than reflection, but still uses words) and contemplative prayer (beyond words and thoughts with feeling a profound and simple union with God). He also shared the thoughts of Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister who

provided a definition of prayer as consciousness (awareness of God), immersion (falling into God) and relationship (connection with God, eventually melting into God completely). Fr. Larry also shared with the group a short simple pamphlet on centering prayer which was a wonderful take-away for the group as they began to further enrich their prayer relationship with God.

Fr. Larry is a native Chicagoan, alumnus of St. Michael the Archangel Slovak Parish in Chicago and has been a Franciscan Friar (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province) for over

40 years. He is the author of several books of poetry and currently teaches poetry at Loyola University Chicago, while also being the co-chaplain at the Felician Sisters' motherhouse in Chicago and assisting on weekends at St. Barbara Parish in Brookfield, IL.

The day ended with the celebration of Mass and a good road map for enhancing one's current relationship with God through a daily life of prayer.



Pittsburgh District Holds Spring Meeting in West Mifflin, PA

The Pittsburgh District held its spring meeting on April 29, 2012, hosted by Sr. Branch 218 (Braddock), at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA.

President Judy Fedor opened the meeting with the pledge and "God Bless America" and Archabbot Douglas Nowicki led the members in prayer before the meal.

Following the luncheon, Father Joseph Grosko, District Chaplain, held the responsorial prayer service.

Roll call was taken. Recording Secretary Judy Yates gave the minutes of the October, 2011 meeting which were read and approved. Marian Gatto, Financial Secretary read the treasurer's report which was also approved.

President Judy called Kathy Esack, representing the Branch 218 officers, to the podium and presented a check for the District's portion of the luncheon in addition to a Mass for the members of Branch 218.



President Judy congratulated the members of the District for their efforts to achieve our sales goal. Last year, our goal was 1.5 million dollars and

we finished the year with 14 million. This year, our goal was increased to 2.5 million dollars and as of the end of March, we already have 6.5 million in! The Pittsburgh District is truly a valuable asset to the Association!

The Pittsburgh District enjoys the distinction of having several national officers as members of our district. The winners at the 2011 Convention are as follows: Cynthia Maleski, National President; Larry Golofski, National Vice President; Virginia Holmes, National Trustee; Dorothy



Seated, L-R: Cynthia Maleski, National President; Carol Curry, District Auditor; Judy Fedor, District President; Jerry LaFrankie, District Vice President. Standing: Larry Golofski, National Vice President and District Auditor; Father Joseph Grosko, District Chaplain; Judy Yates, District Recording Secretary; Virginia Holmes, National Trustee; Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor; Marian Gatto, District Financial Secretary; Andrew Breznai, District Auditor and Dolores Tomlin, District Parliamentarian.



L-R: Branch 218 officers and members — Peter Connelly; Dolores Sakal; Emma Richardson; Mary Susan Richardson, Auditor; Mary Ellen Connelly, Secretary Treasurer; Mary Frances Legin, Auditor and Kathy Esack.

Urbanowicz, National Auditor, and Carol Yurechko, Court of Appeals. The District board congratulated the winners and presented a fruit basket to each.

National President, Cynthia Maleski, greeted the membership. She thanked them for their support at the National Convention.

The Pittsburgh District decided to add to the donation given to St. Vincent Seminary at the Convention. Many of the branches in our district came together to make a donation of \$10,000, which was presented to Archabbot Douglas



Nowicki at the meeting. The Archabbot addressed the members and expressed his appreciation.

President Judy discussed the motion made at the 2011 Convention to establish a Bylaws Revision Committee. Our representative will be Linda



Killeen, who is very experienced and knowledgeable in this area.

Virginia Holmes presented the National Officers Report and updated the members on Home Office business.

Drawings were held for the prizes provided by Branch 218

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Father Micah, along with the singing of *Hej Slovaci*.

Hosts Picnic Reception

Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities, Inc. and the American Slovak Cultural Association, Youngstown, OH, hosted Miriama Svetkovska, Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia at a picnic reception at the home of Susan and Ron Garchar, Canfield, OH, on May 2, 2012. Miriama recently was selected to be the Economic Advisor for Slovakia to the United States and will be based at the United States Embassy, Bratislava, Slovakia. Miriama has maintained a close friendship with Youngstown Sister Cities Board members, Kay and Jim Bench and Susan and Ron Garchar, while attending Georgetown University in the United States. She has stayed at their homes while visiting this country and has attended Slovak events such as the annual Slovak Fest at Saint Matthias Slovak Parish held every August in Youngstown, OH. Miriama was accompanied by her fiancé, Marian Letovanec.



Seated, L-R: Director, Jim Bench; Secretary, Bernie Demechko; Director, Loretta Ekoniak; Slovak Economic Advisor, Miriama Svetkovska; Guest, Kay Bench. Back Row, L-R: Guest, Marian Letovanec; Director, Brian Petruska; President, Robert Petruska; Director, Gigi Bacon, and Treasurer, Ron Garchar.

39th ANNUAL SLOVAK DAY

Sunday, July 15, 2012

Salvatorian Shrine

5755 Pennsylvania Street, Merrillville, Indiana

- 10:30 A.M. **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**
Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine
Main Celebrant: Rev. Joseph Kelchak,
Gary Diocese Priest
Con-Celebrants: Gary Diocese and
Visiting Slovak Priest
After Mass: Purchase of "Ethnic Foods"
Cash Bar: Open after Mass until
closing time!
- 1:00 P.M. **"Veselica Dancers"** — Chicago, IL
- 1:30 P.M. **Raffle Drawing**
- 2-5 P.M. **Music & Dancing** — "Joe Arent Quartet"

Branch W080 Holds Annual Breakfast Meeting



President Don Vrbicky conducting the meeting.

On Sunday, April 15, 2012, Branch W080 held its annual breakfast meeting at St. John Neumann Hall in Clarkson, NE after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. About 85 members and guests attended.

A special highlight of the event was the presentation of 50 year certificates to two members.

Three door prizes were given. A special thank you to the Home Office for the cutting boards, multi-tool pocket knives, pens and coloring books.

A great time was had by all.



Members and guests enjoying the meal.



Father Tim Forget, Treasurer Monica Fisher and Deacon Ed Fisher.

Fall Slovak Language Classes Scheduled

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will conduct Fall Slovak language classes every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., starting September 4 and running through October 30. The classes will be held at the Brashear Association (412-431-2236), 2005 Sarah Street, Pittsburgh, PA. The instructor will be Bozena Hilko. Tuition is \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Call Pam at 412-531-2990 during office hours to reserve a place.



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!



Pictured above is **ZACHARY DESKO**, Bishop A. James Quinn and Richard Schweinberg, Zack's maternal grampa, to whom he gave the honor of being his sponsor. Confirmation was at St. Joseph Church, Cuyahoga Falls, OH, on November 20, 2011, with Bishop Quinn administering the sacrament.

On June 7th, Zack graduated 8th grade from St. Joseph's and has been accepted at St. Vincent/St. Mary High School in Akron, OH, in the fall. He is a member of Jr. Branch 198, in Lorain, OH.

Zack's mom, sister and maternal grandparents are all FCSLA members. His maternal aunt, Margaret Thomas, is the current Financial Secretary of Sr. Branch 114 in Lorain and his maternal great-grandmother, Margaret Doslak, was an active lifetime member and held the office of President of the lodge for many years.



BRADY JOSEPH MATTA, a member of Jr. Branch 32 in McKeesport, PA, was confirmed by Bishop Mitchell Rozanski at the Church of the Resurrection in Ellicott City, MD. His sponsor is Grandpap Joseph Matta, a member of Sr. Branch 77 in McKeesport, PA. Congratulations Brady!



PAIGE ROBERTS received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at Duncan, IA, on April 28, 2012, with the Rev. Dennis Miller serving as celebrant. Her parents are Adam and Pamela Roberts. The Roberts families are all members of Branch W051 Duncan, IA.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SLOVAKIA

- Vienna (Wien) is the nearest European capital city to Bratislava. Apart from Rome and Vatican City, Bratislava and Vienna are the two closest capital cities in Europe, only 40 miles (64 km) apart.
- Bratislava, the Slovakian capital city was built on the banks of the River Danube (Dunaj). Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade are the three other capital cities also built on the banks of the Danube. The Vah and Hron are tributaries the Danube in Slovakia. Vitava (also called Moldau) is in the Czech Republic.



On Mothers' Day, May 13, 2012, **NIKOLAS LODUHA** received his First Holy Communion at Christ King Church in Wauwatosa, WI. Nikolas is a member of Jr. Branch 334 in Milwaukee, WI; and he is the son of proud Sr. Branch 376 members Daniel and Terezia Loduha. Daniel is also Secretary of Branch 376. Nikolas also attends most Sr. Branch 376 meetings and is a great help!



MEREDITH JANE STEIRER, daughter of Bill and Kathy (Krempasky) Steirer of Allentown, PA received her First Holy Communion at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Orefield, PA on May 5, 2012. Meredith is a member of Jr. Branch 378, Egypt, PA. Her proud grandparents are Will and Gwynn Krempasky of Allentown, PA.

Exchange Student Part of Hodish Family

Pictured on the left and right are Lianne and Madalyn Hodish, members of Jr. Branch 38 with Belen Guerrero (center), who is an exchange student from Ecuador. Belen has been staying with the Hodish family of Clairton, PA since August 2011 and will return home in June 2012. It has been a wonderful experience for the girls who plan on keeping in touch in the future. Belen has been a straight A student and was inducted into the National Honor Society on May 24, 2012.



Submitting News Items to *Fraternally Yours*

The following suggestions are intended to keep *Fraternally Yours* an informative, attractive organ of our Association. Cooperation from our readers is most important in order to avoid delays and have a smooth-running operation.

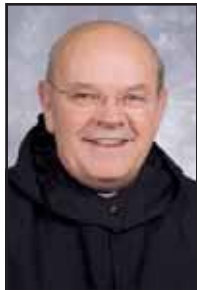
1. Branch and District activities, members' accomplishments, special announcements, financial reports, Slovak cultural items and the general status and function of the FCSLA fill the pages of *Fraternally Yours*.
2. Events and accomplishments should be sent to the editor as soon as possible after the occurrence; announcements, at least 2 months in advance.
3. **Pictures should be colored, CLEAR and glossy finish, if possible. Polaroids and pictures from newspapers will not be used since both reproduce very poorly. Digital photos are acceptable at their highest setting on disk (J-PEG format) or contact editor for e-mail address. An effort is made to return all pictures. For this reason a self-addressed, stamped envelope is much appreciated, but not absolutely necessary. For major branch and district events, please limit the number of photos to 5.**
4. Please include branch number with all articles. We also ask that news items be submitted only of FCSLA members. If said honoree is worthy of being in our publication, he or she should be worthy of being an FCSLA member.
5. The 20th of the month, 1½ months prior to the month of issue is the deadline for submitting material by regular mail and the 27th of the month if submitting by email. There will be no exceptions. However, depending on available space each month, the final decision lies with the editor.
6. Editorial staff is not responsible for errors in the spelling of names, etc. if said article is not typed or legibly printed.

**Send all material to the editor,
Carolyn Bazik
P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603**



IN MEMORIAM

FR. ALBERT MARFLAK, OSB Sr. Branch 530



Fr. Albert Marflak, OSB, 65, subprior of St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland and former president of Benedictine High School died on Saturday, May 26, 2012 at the Cleve-

land Clinic from complications following a severe heart attack that left him unconscious while tending flowers at the Blessed Virgin Grotto on the Benedictine campus on the morning of May 21.

Born Michael Marflak on September 30, 1946 in Charleroi, PA, he was the son of the late Frank and Helen (Skorvan) Marflak. He was a member of the former St. Dominic's Parish in Donora, PA (now known as Our Lady of the Valley Parish) where he attended the parish elementary school. Due to the loss of both parents, he completed his education at the former Jednota Home of the Immaculate Conception in Middletown, PA.

He lived at the former prep seminary of St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland beginning in 1961 while attending Benedictine High School from where he graduated in 1965. He pursued his collegiate studies at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN and received a bachelor's degree in history in 1969. Following his graduation he entered the Benedictine order at St. Andrew Abbey and was given the religious name of Albert.

After completing a year of novitiate formation at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA, he professed his first monastic vows on July 11, 1970.

Returning to Cleveland, he continued studies for the priesthood at St. Mary Seminary and was ordained a priest by Bishop (later Cardinal) James Hickey on June 14, 1975. After his ordination, Fr. Albert became a full time faculty

member at Benedictine High School during the 1975-76 school year before being appointed co-pastor of the former St. Benedict's Parish adjacent to the high school on September 5, 1976.

He would serve St. Benedict's Parish for the next 14 years, as co-pastor for 5 years and as pastor for 9 years. Through his leadership the parish added a Head Start education center and established a summer lunch program for children of low income families. He opened a hunger center at the parish and a food cooperative. A senior citizens club grew and became very active. Fr. Albert directed the development of an evangelization program through the parish and its grade school as well as starting one of the first Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) programs in the diocese. While at St. Benedict's Parish he served as chaplain for the Catholic War Veterans, Post 381 and continued to hold Memorial Day services through recent years at the abbey.

In 1990 Fr. Albert ended his pastorate at St. Benedict's and returned to the faculty of Benedictine High School. From 1990 to 1996 he taught theology and served as moderator of the Student Council and school chaplain.

During this period, Fr. Albert assumed additional duties at the abbey becoming vocation director from 1992 to 2006 and treasurer from 1994 to 2002. In recent years he has directed the Benedictine Oblates, lay men and women who have a spiritual association with the monastery. He directed this year's Oblate Sunday on May 20, the day before he suffered his heart attack at the grotto. From 2002 to 2004 he held the position of prior, or second superior of the abbey. He was serving as subprior or third superior at the time of his death.

From 2004 to 2008, Fr. Albert served as the first president of Benedictine High School. Previously, the abbot had always assumed the duties of the school president. As president, Fr.

Albert held ultimate responsibility for the school developing a Community Life Congress, implementing a new governing structure, successfully completing the \$4 million Capital Campaign involving total renovation of the main classroom building, and visiting alumni across the country.

Fr. Albert was proud of his Slovak-American heritage and was active in numerous Slovak organizations including the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (Zenska Jednota), the Slovak Catholic Sokols, and the Slovak Catholic Federation. He also served as chaplain for the Knights of Columbus Council 3222 and for Ohio Council of Caravans of the International Order of the Alhambra, an organization that assist those with developmental disabilities.

Possessing bi-ritual faculties, Fr. Albert was able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the Ruthenian and Romanian rites of the Catholic Church. For a period he served as the administrator of Most Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in Chesterland.

He is survived by his sisters Patricia Sandis, Mary Ann Hull, Helen, and Kathleen (all of Pennsylvania) and by brothers Frank, Jr. of Chicago and Albert of North Carolina. His brother Ronald is deceased.

JOHN JAMES TUMA Branch W056



John J. Tuma, age 88, of Montgomery, MN, died January 28, 2012. John was born September 27, 1923 in Webster, MN, son of Albert and Anna (Simek) Tuma. He attended country

school in Veseli, MN and graduated from Northfield High School in Northfield, MN.

John married Angela Pesta on Janu-

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

ary 4, 1944 at St. Dominic's Catholic Church in Northfield. He was a farmer, bulk milk hauler for Webster Co-op Creamery, and he also worked for J&R Construction and was the business owner of Tuma Dairy in Montgomery. John enjoyed working, fishing, listening and dancing to Czech music, spending time with his family and winters in Tucson, AZ.

John was a member of FCSLA Branch W056 in Lonsdale, MN, and the Knights of Columbus Council 1573 in Montgomery for over 58 years. John was not only devoted to his wife and family but to his faith, his God and his church. His church took a center place in his life and he lived by its teachings. When he was in the ICU prior to his passing, he got a glimpse of heaven and said, "It was the most beautiful place one could ever see and looked forward to returning for eternity." John was grateful for his family's love and care during his illness and that they were at his side as his earthly life came to an end.

John is survived by his wife Angela; son Kenneth (Arlene) Tuma of Northfield; daughter Cheryl (Ivan) Woodard of Green Island, NE; son David (Ruth) Tuma of Brooklyn Center, and daughter Denise Pinc of Northfield; eight grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

DOROTHY M. MASSURA LEHOCKY

Sr. Branch 485



Dorothy M. Massura Lehocky passed away on November 27, 2011 at the age of 77 in Orland Hills, IL. She had been a former long-time resident of Chicago's Gage Park neighborhood,

and was a graduate of St. Simon parish elementary school. Her grandfather, Joseph Massura was a founding mem-

ber of the parish and upon election by the building committee became the general contractor in 1928 when the church, school, rectory and convent were constructed. Her father, Edward Massura, was the general contractor in 1961 when the parish needed to build a larger, more modern elementary school.

Dorothy worked for 30 years at (LaSalle) Talman Bank, in the Gage Park neighborhood, where she was in charge of training tellers for many years and retired as a vice president in 2000.

Shortly before retirement, Dorothy moved to Orland Hills, IL where she taught CCD and was involved in many other parish activities at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. During her retirement, Dorothy met once a month with some of her classmates from St. Simon to play dominoes.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Rick (Maureen), Mark (Anne), Tom (Jean), David, Maria (Brian) Pond, John (Lisa), Renee (fiancée Anne), and the late Tina and Edward Lehocky; her daughter-in-law Debra Lehocky, 23 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Dorothy was the devoted sister of Joan (late Bill) Wickers, Sr., Sr. Joan Marie Massura, OSB, Robert (Bev) Massura, the late Edward Massura; and dear sister-in-law of Carol Massura and the late Alice Massura.

Dorothy came from a very large and loving Slovak family and is survived on her father's side by her Aunts Therese (Leo J.) Tylus and Lydia (late Tom) Berry and her Uncle Alfred (Eileen) Massura and an Aunt on her mother's side, Marge (late Al) Kussy; many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

Dorothy was a life-long member of the St. Bernadine Sr. Branch 485 of St. Simon along with many of her immediate and extended relatives. Dorothy embodied and epitomized Slovak hospitality, which she learned from her mother, the late Wilma (nee Kussy) Massura.

Dorothy always opened her home

and her heart to all who walked through her life and one never left without going home loaded up with some delicious Slovak dish or dessert to enjoy later.

LILLIAN ROUS Branch W093



Lillian A. Rous, age 98, of Tyndall, SD, passed away Thursday, March 29, 2012 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD.

Lillian was born on August 23, 1913 to Joseph and Mary (Zeleny) Adam on a farm east of Tabor, SD in Yankton County. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor. On October 3, 1932, Lillian was united in marriage to Joseph "Joe" H. Rous at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor and to this union 3 children were born. They lived on a farm in the Tyndall area where they farmed and raised their family. Joseph "Joe" passed away on March 28, 1984.

Lillian was a member of the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, St. Wenceslaus Altar & Rosary Society and FCSLA Branch W093. She was a homemaker that enjoyed farm life, baking Kolaches, gardening and spending time with family.

Those who will always cherish her memory are her son Laddie (Janice) Rous of Tyndall, SD and daughter Mary Ann (Eugene) Jambor of Lesterville, SD; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law Anne Ulmer of Yankton, SD; many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Lillian was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son Raymond; grandson Joseph Jambor; sister Agnes in infancy; brothers and sisters-in-law Joseph (Mary and Eleanor): Jerry; and Henry (Vincie).

continued on page 16



IN MEMORIAM

MARIE (KORTAN) SCHUCH **Branch W093**

Marie A. Schuch, age 95, formerly of Tabor, SD, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012, at Covenant Village of Westminster, CO.

Marie was born on July 1, 1916 to Vaclav and Mary (Caba) Kortan on the family farm, 6 miles south of Tabor. She was baptized and confirmed at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic church in Tabor. She attended Bon Homme County Byrne grade school and St. Wenceslaus Catholic School through the eighth grade. Marie's early years were spent on the farm with her parents and brothers.

Marie married Frank J. Schuch of Tyndall, SD, on May 24, 1938 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor. They lived and farmed 4 miles east of Tyndall for 40 years. Frank retired from farming in 1979 and they moved to Tabor. She enjoyed gardening, baking, dancing and having her grandchildren during the summers. Marie was a member of the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, St. Wenceslaus Altar and Rosary Society and Tabor Beseda Dancers. She was also a member of FCSLA Branch W093.

Frank and Marie were married 62 years. Frank died June 18, 2000 and in December that year Marie went to live with her daughter in Westminster, CO. She entered Covenant Village Aspen Place Assisted Living in July 2001. After suffering a fall she was moved to Skilled Nursing in February 2002 where she resided for 10 plus years.

Those who cherish her memory are her daughter Marie (Schuch) Wagner/Williams of Westminster, CO; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Frank, both parents, three brothers; John, Jim and David Kortan; and one grandson Richard Wagner.

MARY E. VANYO **Branch SZJ0**

Mary E. Vanyo, 93, died at Maplewood Manor in Ballston Spa, NY, on Wednesday, April 11, 2012. She was

the daughter of the late John and Anna Jurcsak Bargovic.

She worked as a Store Clerk for the former Betor's Department Store, Ballston Spa. She was a great bowler and as a young girl played basketball for the Melander Flower Girls.

Mary was a member of Ballston Area Senior Citizens and a Communicant of St. Mary's Church, Ballston Spa, NY.

She was a wonderful cook and made delicious pies and nut breads. Many dinners were enjoyed with her home grown vegetables from her garden. Mary was proud of her family connection with Czechoslovakia and visited her hometown there in 1993. She loved her family and spending holidays with them. She could always give details on family dates and events.

She was predeceased by her husband Michael B. Vanyo who died on October 21, 1984, son Michael B. Vanyo, Jr., brothers Joseph, John, Steve Bargovic, granddaughter, Jewel E. Anna Brown and son-in-law Kenneth C. Brown who died July 19, 2010.

Survivors include her daughter: Marlene A. Brown of Ballston Spa, her grandsons, Timothy Brown and his wife Melanie of Ballston Spa, Michael Brown and his wife Sue of Burnt Hills, her sister-in-law, Evalina Bargovic; 5 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Maplewood Manor especially the angels on B-2. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to St. Mary's Church, 167 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020 or Maplewood Manor Residents Activities Fund, 149 Ballston Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

ALVIN THOMAS MERKWAN **Branch W093**

Alvin T. Merkwán, age 74, of Tyndall, SD, passed away on Sunday, May 13, 2012 in Lesterville, SD. He was born on August 2, 1937 in Tabor, SD to Anton and Anna (Cahoy) Merkwán. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, SD. He served his country in the National Guard and United States Army from 1955 to 1963. He married Joyce Mount in Tyndall, SD on October 24, 1959. To this union, 4 children were born: Diane, Linda, Kathy and James.

Farming was his way of life, spending many hours in his fields and caring for his livestock.

He enjoyed working on cars and found a love in restoring classic cars. He found joy in doing woodworking and restoring all types of furniture. Every winter he would travel to his ranch in Texas, where he treasured his longhorns. The time he spent with his grandchildren was precious and limitless.

He was a member of the FCSLA Branch W093 and St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.

He is survived by his 3 daughters, Diane (Gary) Kriz of Tyndall, SD; Linda (Bruce) Kortan of Tyndall, SD; and Kathy (Kerry) of Scotland, SD; and one son, James (Jeani) Merkwán of Tyndall, SD; 12 grandchildren; his friend who shared in his memories for 13 years, LaLanie Tucek of Tyndall, SD; a brother, Laddie (Lillian) Merkwán of Tyndall, SD; and sister-in-law, Adeline Merkwán of Tabor, SD and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Anton and Anna Merkwán and his brother, Edward.

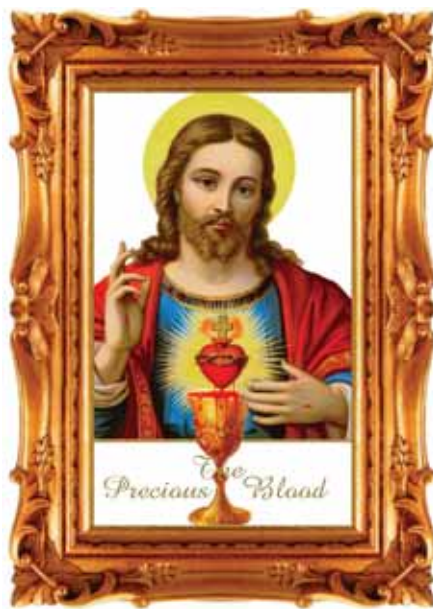
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JULY~ MONTH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

The month of July is dedicated to **The Precious Blood of Jesus**. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward.

The Blood that coursed through the veins of Christ was a part of that Sacred Humanity made possible by the maternity of Mary, whose parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne are honored this month. (July 26). Our Lord's blood poured out on the Cross purchased our salvation, washed clean the robes of the martyrs, and gave birth to the Church as it flowed from his wounded side. The Precious Blood of Christ — now pulsing through his Mystical Body — continues its salvific work, preserving and purifying, repairing and providing nourishment for regeneration and renewal of its members.

July's longer and warmer days also provide us with the



opportunity for renewal, both interior and exterior. Schedules relax and pressures ease, inviting travel. But, whether we travel or not, like the missionary, Bl. Junipero Serra (July 1), we preach to others — by our conduct, our speech, even the clothes we wear. May we be modest in everything we do, imitating St. Maria Goretti, the young martyr for purity (July 6), and “preaching” Christ to everyone we meet.

The summer Readings of Ordinary Time remind us that our earthly pilgrimage is also a journey, a great adventure towards union with Christ, the Beginning and the End of our journey. Each Sunday with its Easter renewal becomes a mile marker along the way, linking where we have been with where we are going. May the Precious Blood of Jesus sustain

us as we journey to our true home, with Mary and the angels as our companions on the way.



The 23rd Edition of Our **SLOVAK-AMERICAN COOK BOOK**

**No books are sold or delivered C.O.D.
ALL ARE SOLD FOR CASH**

The cost of each book is \$9.00. A carton of 18 books is \$144 (\$8.00 per book). Canada residents \$11.00 U.S. money order per book.

Send only money order or check payable to:

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Attention: Cook Book Department
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122
(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Enclosed find \$ _____

☐ (Money Order) ☐ (Check) for _____ copies
of the Slovak-American Cook Book.

Blood of Jesus, Help Me!

In every need let me come to Thee with humble
trust saying

Blood of Jesus, help me!

In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations,
Blood of Jesus, help me!

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials,
Blood of Jesus, help me!

In the failure of my plans and hopes; in
disappointments, troubles and sorrows,
Blood of Jesus, help me!

When my heart is cast down by failure, at seeing
no good come from my efforts,
Blood of Jesus, help me!

When others fail me, and Thy grace alone can
assist me,

Blood of Jesus, help me!

When I throw myself on Thy tender love as my
Father and Savior,

Blood of Jesus, help me!

When I feel impatient, and my cross irritates me,
Blood of Jesus, help me!

When I am ill, and my head and hands cannot
work and I am lonely,

Blood of Jesus, help me!

Always, always in spite of weakness, falls and
shortcomings, of every kind,

Blood of Jesus, help me and never forsake me.

Albert Heiles Presented with Keystone Award



Albert E. Heiles, CLU, ChFC, LUTCF, was presented with the Keystone Award during the annual convention of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors-Pennsylvania (NAIFA-PA), May 21 at The Inn at Pocono Manor. The award is NAIFA-PA's highest honor and it is presented in recognition of outstanding service to NAIFA on a state and/or national level.

Al has been a member of NAIFA since 1975, having been active on the local and state levels. He served as NAIFA-PA's 2007-2008 president. He also has served as president of NAIFA-Pittsburgh, president of GAMA International-Pittsburgh, the Estate Planning Council of Pittsburgh, the Society of Financial Services Professionals of Pittsburgh and the Professional Advisory Board of Pittsburgh.

Al is a 2003 graduate of the Leadership in Life Institute, which trains future NAIFA leaders. He later served as a moderator for the course. He served as NAIFA-PA's membership chair and strategic planning chair, and as vice president of the Keystone Foundation.

He is regional sales director with First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of Beechwood, OH, and is a 20-year Million Dollar Round Table member and a Top of the Table qualifier.

Al is an ordained deacon in the Roman Catholic Church and serves as a deacon at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Wexford.

He and his wife, Donna, are the parents of two children and reside in Mars, PA.

NAIFA-Pennsylvania is the association representing nearly 2,000 licensed professionals in 19 local associations who provide life, health and multiline insurance and related financial services in Pennsylvania. NAIFA-Pennsylvania is affiliated with the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA). NAIFA, founded in 1890, represents about 55,000 insurance and financial professionals.

BRANCH W137 HOLDS SWIM PARTY

FCSLA Branch W137, Cedar Rapids, IA gathered for a family swim party on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at Bender Pool. Forty members were in attendance for swimming and a taco dinner.

The next branch event a family bike ride and lunch was held June 23, 2012 at Sokol Park.



Next Month's Issue Includes ~
the FCSLA Scholarship Winners!



SR. BRANCH 88 AND JR. BRANCH 157 CELEBRATES FCSLA 120TH ANNIVERSARY!

On Wednesday, May 3, 2012, Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 (Monessen, PA) celebrated the FCSLA's 120th Anniversary with a trip to see "Jonah" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA.

Along the way members were treated to gifts from the Home Office and snacks provided by the branches. They played Bus Bingo with prizes provided by the Home Office. Members enjoyed lunch prior to their arrival at the beautiful theater. They were truly amazed at the in depth production of "Jonah."

"For Jonah it was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the son of Man would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Jesus said that Jonah was a sign — a sign that something like the resurrection had happened before. Something impossible. Something that could not be proven. Something that had to be believed by faith."

Following the amazing production, members enjoyed a delicious meal at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant in Bird-in-

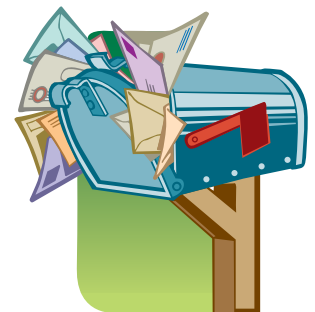
Hand, PA. They then boarded their coach for their journey back to Monessen and shared more snacks provided by the branches. As they departed, everyone expressed satisfaction for the delightful day. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Association's 120th anniversary!



Change of Address?

If you belong to a household receiving two or more magazines or if you have recently moved and have a new address, you can alleviate both situations simply by using the form on page 22 and mailing to the home office address. We ask that one magazine per household be sufficient.

Also, the same form holds good for any of our members who would like to, but are not receiving the magazine. If you are our member, you are entitled to receive our publication.



Branch 289 of Gary, Indiana

HOSTS ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

On Sunday, April 22, 2012, Branch 289 of Gary, IN hosted their annual Spring Luncheon at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Merrillville, IN. Members born in the year's 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984 were honored at the event. It was a wonderful afternoon that included a buffet lunch, socializing with fraternal members and fun games.



FORMATION OF NOUNS BY MEANS OF PREFIXES

The meaning of nouns can be altered by means of the prefixes:

- proti-*: *protiklad* (contrast), *protiútok* (counter-attack), *protiváha* (counter-weight);
medi-: *medziposchodie* (mezzanine), *medzivládie* (interregnum);
ná-: *nálet* (air-raid), *nácvik* (drill), *nález* (find);
nad-: *nadčlovek* (superman), *nadpis* (title), *nadporučík* (lieutenant), *nadvýroba* (overproduction);
pod-: *poddôstojník* (non-commissioned officer), *podhradie* (outer bailey), *podnebie* (climate), *podpredseda* (vice-president);
pred-: *predmestie* (suburb), *predpis* (prescription), *predpoklad* (assumption), *predseda* (chairman);
pra-: *prajazyk* (proto-language), *prales* (primeval forest), *pravek* (prehistoric times);
pa-: *paroh* (antler), *pazvuk* (alien tone);
sú-: *súbeh* (competition), *súčasník* (contemporary), *súčet* (sum), *súhlas* (agreement);
pre-: *preklad* (translation), *prebytok* (excess), *prehľad* (survey), *presun* (shift), *prestavba* (reconstruction);
bez-: *bezvedomie* (inconsciousness), *bezvládie* (anarchy).

FORMATION OF NOUNS BY COMBINATION

By combining roots and stems compound nouns are formed. The two elements are most frequently joined with the help of the vowel -o-, e.g. *tlakomer* (manometer), *teplomer* (thermometer), *liehovar* (distillery), *Bielorus* (Byelorussian).

Here also belong compounds whose first element has a meaning close to a prefix, e.g.:

- polo-*, *pol-*: *pologuľa* (hemisphere), *polotma* (semi-darkness), *polderň* (half-day), *polhárok* (half-sheet), *polmesiac* (crescent), *polnoc* (midnight), *polostrov* (peninsula), *polrok* (half-year);
spolu-: *spoluhláska* (consonant), *spolupráca* (cooperation);
veľ-: *veľmoc* (the Great Power), *veľtrh* (fair), *veľvyslanec* (ambassador), *veľryba* (whale).

Less often the compounds are formed by a simple connection of two forms (one of them is in the genitive or in some other case), e.g. *zemeguľa* (globe), *kníhtlačiareň* (printing-house), *pravdepodobnosť* (probability), *nocľah* (night-shelter).

VOCABULARY

- ako** – how
alebo – or
(byť) dlho hore – (to be) long up
bývať – to live; iterative of **byť** – to be usually
celý – all, whole
cez – during, through, across
cez (deň) – during (the day)
čas – time
číslo – number
človek, ľudia – man, people
desať – ten
deväť – nine
dlho – long
dobré – well, good
doma – at home
dva – two
hoci – though, although
hore – up, upstairs
hra – play, game
chodiť – to go
iný – other, another, different
ísť domov – go home
izba – room
ja – I
každý, á, é – each, every, everybody
konať – to do, to act
môj – my
my – we
náš – our
nechávať – to leave
neskoro – late
niečo – something
niekedy – sometimes, some day
no – but
obyčajne – usually
on – he
ona – she
oni (ony) – they
päť – five
poriadok – order, discipline, neatness
poznať – to know
práca – work
presne – precisely, punctually, accurately
pretože – because, since, as
prichádzať – to come, to arrive
mať rád, a, o – to like
ráno – morning, in the morning
rozličný, á, é – various
rozprávať sa – to speak, to chat
rýchlo – fast, quickly

USE THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND MAGAZINE CANCELLATIONS

CHANGE THE ADDRESS ON ALL FCSLA
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☐ ENTIRE FAMILY — LIST NAMES

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FAX: (216) 464-9260

NOTICE

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website as a pdf file.

Please log onto www.fcsla.com

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

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF APRIL 30, 2012

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 24,366,707.11
Bonds	647,205,490.56
Preferred Stock	5,998,660.16
Common Stock	984,996.19
Investment Income Due and Accrued	10,423,495.04
Bond Liquidating Trust	64,377.46
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,465,526.48
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,007,792.72
Other Assets	184,006.46

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 697,701,052.18

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 224,526,173.08
Annuity Reserves	372,424,098.38
Death Claims Payable	858,647.87
Unearned Premiums	640,607.00
Matured Endowments	317,457.00
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,150,830.00
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,854,543.12
Accrued Convention Donations	107,800.00
Provision for Future Conventions	78,000.00
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,529,284.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,278,011.00
Other Liabilities	1,482,181.87

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 614,247,633.32

SURPLUS

Total Surplus	\$ 83,453,418.87
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TOTAL SURPLUS

\$ 83,453,418.87

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS FUNDS

\$ 697,701,052.18

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2012

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 13,989,099.93
Annuity Premiums	9,522,146.44
Investment Income	12,328,327.12
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	29,522.00
Rental Income	133,711.00
Other Revenue	5,414.53

TOTAL INCOME

\$ 36,008,221.02

EXPENSES

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 15,283,173.00
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	8,478,098.88
Insurance Benefits	1,678,811.86
Annuity Benefits	6,335,801.02
Commission Expense	1,594,613.45
Surrender Benefits	713,160.02
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	20,986.25
Matured Endowments	1,430.36
Donation Expenses	83,859.82
Convention Expenses	53,833.30
Dividends to Members	718,580.43
Post Mortem Benefits	357,004.69
Bonus to Branches	300,000.00
Fraternal Activities	22,989.15
Bank Service Charges	6,464.87
Data Processing Service Fees	75,257.10
Accounting Fees	50,259.90
Actuarial Fees	94,190.00
Consulting Services	35,037.50
Official Publications	120,378.22
Scholarship Awards	(443.00)
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	115,810.12
Fees — Directors	60,493.64
Salaries — Employees	453,120.47
Salaries — Officers	145,916.68
Interest Expense	85,261.00
Tax Expense	107,318.55
Depreciation Expense	98,412.00
Utility Expense	26,326.71
Postage and Printing	126,092.82
Advertising	35,842.85
Travel Expense	36,014.37
Insurance Department Fees	52,776.71
Sales Promotion	44,910.27
Rental Expense	133,711.00
Other Expense	186,047.50

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 37,731,541.51

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ (1,723,320.48)

Capital Gains (Loss)

\$ 1,110,117.81

NET INCOME (LOSS)

\$ (613,202.68)



RED, WHITE AND BLUE SHORTCAKE

1½ quarts strawberries, sliced (6 cups)
 1½ cups granulated sugar
 4 ⅔ cups Original Bisquick mix
 1 cup milk
 ½ cup chopped dried cherries
 6 tablespoons granulated sugar
 6 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
 2 cups blueberries
 ¾ cup whipping (heavy) cream
 2 tablespoons granulated or powdered sugar
 Mix strawberries and 1½ cups sugar. Let stand 1 hour.

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Mix Bisquick mix, milk, cherries, 6 tablespoons sugar and the butter until soft dough forms.

Gently smooth dough into ball on surface sprinkled lightly with Bisquick mix. Knead 10 times. Roll dough ½ inch thick. Cut with floured 3-inch round (or star-shaped) cutter. Place about 1-inch apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.

Stir blueberries into strawberries. Beat whipping cream and 2 tablespoons sugar in chilled medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until stiff. Split shortcakes in half. Fill and top with berries and whipped cream.

PENNE WITH RICOTTA & SUMMER VEGETABLES

8 ounces dried whole wheat or regular penne pasta or ziti
 2½ cups broccoli flowerets
 1½ cups cut fresh asparagus or green beans (1-inch pieces)
 2 large tomatoes
 1 cup light ricotta cheese
 ¼ cup snipped fresh basil
 4 teaspoons snipped fresh thyme
 4 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 clove garlic, minced

½ teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan or Romano cheese
 Fresh basil sprigs (optional)

Cook pasta according to package directions, adding broccoli and asparagus or green beans for the last 3 minutes of cooking. Drain.

Meanwhile, place a fine strainer over a large bowl. Cut tomatoes in half; squeeze seeds and juice into strainer. With the back of a spoon, press seeds against strainer to extract juice; discard seeds. Chop tomatoes. Add ricotta cheese, basil, snipped thyme, balsamic vinegar, oil, garlic, salt, and pepper to tomato juice; mix well. Stir tomatoes into ricotta mixture.

Add hot pasta-vegetable mixture to ricotta mixture. Toss to coat all ingredients. Divide mixture among 4 dinner plates; sprinkle with Parmesan or Romano cheese. If desired, garnish with basil sprigs.

GRILLED STEAK WITH CHARRED TOMATO SALSA

Cooking spray
 1 lb. fresh tomatoes
 Cooking spray
 4 ounces red onion slices
 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
 1 teaspoon extra virgin basil olive oil
 ¼ teaspoons salt, divided
 ¼ teaspoons black pepper, divided
 6 fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced
 1 lb. lean boneless top sirloin steak, lean

Core and slice tomatoes in half horizontally; remove seeds.

Arrange tomato halves, cut side down, on paper towels and let rest 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, preheat grill to medium-high.

Lightly coat grill pan with cooking spray. Place tomato halves, cut side down, on pan and cook 5 minutes. Flip tomatoes and grill 1 additional minute or until skin is charred. Remove tomatoes from heat and let stand 5 minutes.

Chop tomatoes into 1-inch pieces.

In small mixing bowl, combine tomatoes, onion, vinegar, oil, ⅓ teaspoon salt, ⅓ teaspoon pepper, and basil.

Season both sides of steak with remaining salt and pepper.

Place steak on grill pan and cook 6 minutes per side for medium rare.

Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes.

Slice steak diagonally into thin pieces. Serve with tomato salsa on side or over steak.

BERRY-GOOD CHEESECAKE

8 sheets phyllo dough (14" x 9" inches)
 6 tablespoons butter, melted
 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
 ½ cup sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 2 eggs, lightly beaten
 2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
 ½ cup strawberry jelly
 1 cup whipped topping
 Sliced fresh strawberries and additional blueberries, optional

Place one phyllo sheet in a greased 9-in. pie plate; brush with butter. Repeat seven times; trim edges. (Keep remaining phyllo covered with plastic wrap and a damp towel to prevent it from drying out.)

Bake at 425 degrees for 6-8 minutes or until edges are lightly browned (center will puff up). Cool on a wire rack.

For filling, in a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Add eggs; beat on low speed just until combined. Fold in blueberries. Spoon into crust.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes; cover edges with foil to prevent over-browning. Bake 23-27 minutes longer or until center is almost set. Cool on a wire rack for 1 hour. Refrigerate until chilled.

In a small bowl, beat jelly until smooth; spread over filling. Spread with whipped topping. Garnish with strawberries and additional blueberries if desired.

Note: If using frozen blueberries, use without thawing to avoid discoloring the batter.

MOJITO SLUSH

1 package (3 ounces) lime gelatin
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 cup boiling water
 1 cup fresh mint leaves
 2 cans (12 ounces each) frozen limeade concentrate, thawed
 2 cups cold water
 1 cup grapefruit soda
 1 cup rum or additional grapefruit soda
Each Serving:
 ⅔ cup grapefruit soda

Garnish:

Lime wedge and/or fresh mint leaves

In a small bowl, dissolve gelatin and sugar in boiling water; add mint leaves. Cover and steep for 20 minutes. Press through a sieve; discard mint. Stir in the limeade concentrate, cold water, soda and rum. Pour into a 2½-qt. freezer container. Freeze overnight or until set.

For each serving, scoop ⅔ cup slush into a glass. Pour soda into the glass; garnish as desired.

PERIODICAL

7/12

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*