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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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When Is Enough – Enough?

What does it take to make you happy? How much do you have to have to be grateful for?

To the barefoot man, happiness is a pair of old shoes. To the man with old shoes, it's a pair of new shoes. To the man with new shoes, it's more stylish shoes. And, of course, the fellow with no feet would be happy to be barefoot.

This leads to the ancient insight: If you want to be happy, count your blessings, not your burdens. Measure your life by what you have, not by what you don't.

*Measure
your life
by what
you have,
not by
what you
don't.*

Yet in our modern world where we're continually exposed to endless increments of more and better – others with more money, better TVs, newer cars that all but drive themselves and bigger houses – this is very difficult.

For some people, the pleasure of having something good is drained as soon as they see someone else with something better. Our sense of contentment is created or destroyed by endless comparisons.

A life consumed with unfulfilled wants is an affliction. The antidote is the concept of "enough."

This starts by thinking more clearly about the difference between our needs and our wants, between sufficiency and abundance.

Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with wanting more and striving to fill our lives with things and experiences that give us pleasure, so long as we don't believe we **need** whatever we want.

When we think we need what we really only want, we make our desires preconditions to happiness, thereby diminishing our ability to appreciate and enjoy what we do have.

Dear Friends,

It is so easy to think that happiness is achieved by getting what we want when it's really a matter of wanting what we get.

In the end, enough is enough.

Until next month I will leave you with a few of my favorite quotes on gratitude:

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have." — **Fredrick Koeing**

"In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich." — **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." — **John F. Kennedy**

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." — **Melody Beattie**

Warmly, **Carolyn**

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

A FIFTY YEAR HISTORY: VATICAN II

Decree on Priestly Formation, *Optatam Totius*

Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 1996, I had the privilege of traveling to Italy and the Slovak Republic for several weeks with the Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, then bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Reverend Monsignors Francis Beeda and Thomas Banick of the Diocese of Scranton, Michael Chaback of the Diocese of Allentown, and the late Edward Matash of the Archdiocese of Newark. I was pretty excited about this trip because it would be my second trip to Rome and my first trip to Slovakia since 1973. Bishop Adamec was instrumental in the execution of the itinerary, scheduling of flights, reservations for accommodations, and meetings with various ecclesiastical personalities in Rome (His Holiness, John Paul II and His Eminence, Jozef Cardinal Tomko) and in the various dioceses in the Slovak Republic (bishops and seminary personnel).

The Roman part of the trip was highlighted by our personal meeting with Pope John Paul II after his weekly Wednesday audience. This particular audience was held in Saint Peter Basilica and our admittance tickets were somewhat puzzling to the Gentlemen to the Holy Father. But after being escorted from one section to another, we reached our final destination – six distinct chairs to the right of the main altar above the tomb of Saint Peter. The Holy Father sat in front of the altar where he gave his weekly message. After praying the *Angelus* and imparting the papal blessing, he came down to our chairs where we were personally introduced to him. This was a grace filled moment for me and I was speechless!

The second part of our trip enabled us to visit the various (arch)dioceses of the Slovak Republic, to meet the (arch)bishops of each (arch)diocese, and to be introduced to the rectors of the newly built or recently refurbished seminaries in five of the six (arch)dioceses. For me, our meeting and dinners with the (arch)bishops proved to be valuable insights of the similarities and differences of roles as shepherds of the People of God in the Church in Slovakia compared to those of the bishops of the Church in the United States. The highlight

of this part of the trip for me, however, was my introduction to the rectors of the seminaries and the amount of seminarians in each of them. Communism had already become history in the Slovak Republic and now the Church, in general, was becoming more acclimated in the expression of religious freedom. Existing seminary building were being renovated or new ones being built in those dioceses that did not have any. Men were entering the seminaries and they were full to the seams whereas here in the United States, the decline of entrants to seminaries was sliding downwards. There were various reasons for the statistics in both countries and my present article is not to make a comparison. It was through the visits to these seminaries and conversations with their rectors that I became more interested in the formation of seminarians.

When I was in the seminary (1972-1980), seminary formation programs throughout the world were undergoing major transitions that were a result of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. Before Vatican II, most formation programs were rooted in the post conciliar period of the Council of Trent of the later part of the sixteenth century. And prior to that Council, many men were educated in philosophy and theology under the guidance of the local pastor. There were inconsistencies in the educational and formational processes from region to region, country to country. In reaction to the Reformation and the Council of Trent, more structure in those processes was introduced and thus was borne the *seminary* as a place of education and formation for future priests. Because of the constitutions, decrees, and declarations that were being produced during the Vatican II period, it became apparent that the priestly formation program needed to be reformed as well. The Council Fathers declared, "Seminarians should be thoroughly penetrated by the mystery of the Church, especially as it has been presented with new clarity by this holy Synod. Thus, bound even now to Christ's Vicar with humble and filial love, attached after ordination to their own bishop as loyal assistants, and working in concert with

their brother priests, they will give witness to that unity by which all are attracted to Christ" [*Optatam totius*, paragraph 9].

In addition to philosophical and theological formation, seminarians must be readied for "the ministry of the word, so that they may always grown in their understanding of God's revealed word...the ministry of worship and sanctification, that by their prayers and participation in sacred liturgical ceremonies, they may know how to exercise the work of salvation through the Eucharistic sacrifice...the ministry of a shepherd. They should know how to represent Christ before all" [paragraph 4]. Furthermore, formation of seminarians "requires that they be carefully instructed in those matters which have a special bearing on the sacred ministry, especially catechetics, preaching, liturgical worship, the conferral of the sacraments, works of charity, the duty of seeking out the straying sheep and unbelievers, and other pastoral obligations" [paragraph 19].

In the closing year of the last century, I traveled to the seminary in Košice with the vicar general of my diocese to explore the possibilities of having seminarians come to visit our country and encourage them to serve as priests for us. All in all, I have been back for several other visits and over a dozen of seminarians have had pastoral experiences here and two have been ordained and now are priests of my diocese. Recently, two Slovak seminarians had a year's pastoral experience and one of them, Šimon Miňo, is entering the seminary in Cincinnati to study for the Diocese of Youngstown. And at the present, two seminarians are completing a two month stay with me, exploring the same possibility.

These visits have given me a "hands on experience" of seminary formation as developed from this decree of the Second Vatican Council both here in the United States and in the Slovak Republic. We all know that formation is an important part of developing skills in any vocation, especially the priesthood. Let us pray for those who are preparing for ordination and pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life!

Message from our National President CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



In September, many of us begin a new cycle in our lives. Students return to school, the weather starts to change, farm and garden crops are ready to be picked and harvested. We celebrate the work of our workers on Labor Day and the Feast Day of Our Lady of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia, on September 15th!

This is a time when many of us move on to new beginnings with a clean slate. During this month designated as Life Insurance Awareness Month, it is fitting to acknowledge that life insurance can help surviving family members faced with the death of a loved one move on with their lives, while giving families the peace of mind and the time they need to grieve.

Even if you and your family members own small face amount policies with us, it is time to purchase additional coverage. In considering how much life insurance you need, consider that it should cover bills related to your death (medical, funeral) and to support your family for a few years, exactly how long depending on your own circumstances and that of your loved ones.

We join with the LIFE Foundation in devoting several articles in this September issue to remind our readers how important life insurance is in your own financial planning.

As the summer months pass by, we have been busy holding bylaws' revision committee meetings, preparing for strategic planning for our board of directors, conducting relief fund drives and conducting sales planning meetings. For me, devoting time and energy to strategic planning is of utmost importance. As either Winston Churchill or Benjamin Franklin (depending on your source) said: "Failing to plan is planning to fail". Many great thinkers have opined that planning and committing your plan to writing improves the likelihood of greater success.

We sincerely hope that your September is a meaningful step forward for you and yours and that FCSLA insurance is part of your plan for the future!

Until next time, I am fraternally yours,
Cynthia M. Maleski

Frances Jakabcin District Fall Meeting

The Eastern PA Frances Jakabcin District will hold their Fall Meeting on Sunday, September 29, 2013 at A & C Catering, 505 W. Mahanoy Avenue, Mahanoy City.

The meeting is being hosted by Mahanoy City Branch 55 and Shenandoah Branch 196. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. For reservations contact President Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 by September 19.



FCSLA continues to grow with the opening of new branches. To date I have opened six (two in New York, one in Pennsylvania, one in Michigan and two in Wisconsin). One is in the process of opening in Peoria, IL. I have been working with the two branch officers to complete the necessary paperwork so our home office staff can "do their thing" and get the branch set up in our computer system. We will then plan the "grand opening celebration party". Planning a branch opening takes time and effort, but it is also very exciting! It means Family + Friends = FCSLA'S Future!

There are several branches that are ready to open! The agents have worked hard to sign up the required 10 new members to start a new branch. However a branch cannot open without at least two branch officers. So the next phase of a branch opening begins.

I am looking for interested members in the following areas to become branch officers. **Wichita, KS** (Cliff Cross, agent), **Fremont, NE** (Mike and Mark Guillatt, agents), **Elkins, WV** (Roger Main, agent), **St. Louis, MO** (Jerry Berry, agent). Please contact me if you are interested at 800-464-4642, Ext. 1051 or kelly@fcsla.org. It is an awesome opportunity and very rewarding.

Before I became the Fraternal & Youth Director, two branches (Senior & Junior) opened up in Council Bluff, IA. Unfortunately they never had the Grand Opening Celebration Party. So in September I will be heading to Iowa to meet the branch officers and members of Sr. Branch 627 and Jr. Branch 533 at their long over due celebration. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Also in the works is a "Meet 'n' Greet" for the Phoenix and Tucson, AZ areas. Members that I have talked to in Arizona are very excited that someone from the home office would want to come all the way out there and meet them. There is a misconception that there are no Slovaks / Czechs west of the Mississippi. That is not true. We have a very large population in Texas and Arizona. We have branches in Texas, but none in Arizona. I would love to be able to say we are opening a branch or two in Arizona in the near future!

The next several months will be very exciting! To all our new members – be on the look out for your grand opening invitation! You will be a part of the FCSLA history forever! To all our existing branches . . . Keep up the GREAT work!

FCSLA Connects . . .

By Danielle Sturgeon

SEPTEMBER IS LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH!

Each year, the LIFE Foundation devotes this month to remind consumers how important life insurance is when planning financially.

Life insurance provides financial support for the "what if" moments in life. While many individuals do not want to venture down this unknown path, life insurance, in fact, provides many benefits that come in handy for those "what if" moments. It can help cover the cost of funeral expenses, as well as lost income so families can continue to survive financially. The benefits of life insurance are endless.

According to the Lifehappens.org Campaign, "Thirty percent of U.S. households have no life insurance at all; only 44 percent have individual life insurance," while "Fifty percent of U.S. household (58 million) says they need more life insurance."

Do you or someone you know fall into one of these categories? At FCSLA, we want to challenge each of our members this month to reevaluate their policies and determine if it meets their insurance needs.

This is a prime opportunity to examine your financial needs for you and your loved ones. To learn more about FCSLA's insurance products and fraternal benefits, log onto www.fcsla.org to find a local insurance producer in your area.

FCSLA is also running a special campaign this month to support the insurance industry's awareness efforts.

During Life Insurance Awareness Month, FCSLA producers will earn triple new member points for applications on new members received in the Home Office between September 3, 2013 and September 30, 2013 (inclusive). Producers will also receive a \$50 cash bonus for each of these applications as well. (Please note: Super Youth Term applications must be for \$50,000 face amount and annuity applications for a \$1,000 initial deposit will qualify.)

Telling Family + Friends = FCSLA's Future!

~ ATTENTION ~

SR. BRANCH 81 MEMBERS

The Officers of Sr. Branch 81 cordially invite all members to their

ANNUAL DINNER

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22, 2013 at 1:00 P.M

ANDORRA BANQUETS

1112 Rt. 41 (Indianapolis Blvd.), Schererville, IN
Reservations required on or before September 16th

**Please Call: Becky at 219/659-7215
or Margaret at 219/659-2109**

From the Desk of the National Secretary

Sue Ann M. Seich



Do you have "Fraternal Spirit" or is it just talk? In June, our quarterly Board Meeting was held in Cedar Rapids, IA. It was the first time a board meeting was held in one of our western districts. Traveling was a little bit chaotic with the weather but the "Fraternal Spirit" of the Iowa District was A+. The Sunday Mass was a well attended celebration of faith.

A luncheon was held in the afternoon and

all officers and members participated in the Branch Leadership Training later in the afternoon. The board members met on Monday, June 24 at the National Czech and Slovak Museum. If you are in that area make it a point to stop and tour the museum. It has many beautiful and interesting displays. A fraternal thank you is extended to our FCSLA Iowa members for sharing their "Fraternal Spirit".

In July, our National Chaplain, National President and I had the pleasure of traveling to Milwaukee, WI to celebrate St. Anne's Day with Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin District officers and members. It was a dual celebration in Milwaukee as District #9, Louise M. Yash District also celebrated their 30th anniversary. We were invited well in advance of the celebration, (it was on my calendar for 12 months). The welcome we received was genuine fraternal hospitality. We warmly extend our appreciation to the District #9 officers who planned the celebration. It was evident by the success of the celebration that many long hours and days went into the planning. A huge thank you to all the officers and members who attended, especially those who took time off from work and traveled a distance. You definitely have "Fraternal Spirit".

"Fraternal Spirit" is part of our nature as members of FCSLA. Our Home Office Staff has "fraternal spirit" with caring for our members life insurance or annuity phone calls and questions. When is the last time you shared your "fraternal spirit"? Show "fraternal spirit" by recommending a family member or friend for membership. If you need help locating a recommender/agent or would like assistance for a quote, our website can assist you, www.fcsla.org or call our home office. A member of our staff will be more than happy to assist you.

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



BRANCH W016 PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR BIKE RIDE ACROSS NEBRASKA

On June 7, 2013 Brainard, NE, more than doubled its population as the BRAN (Bike Ride Across Nebraska) riders spent the night. FCSLA Branch W016 for the benefit of Holy Trinity Parish Council of Catholic Women coordinated a pot luck evening meal for the bikers and their support group. FCSLA officers also joined with the village organizations to plan the entire event. The planning involved preparations for camping spots, showers, meals, assistance with gear, some housing, swimming, storm shelters if needed, a welcome brochure with a map, shuttle transportation, and various other services.

Local talent was featured for the

evening's entertainment. BRAN voted Brainard as its #1 host city. Our FCSLA and our town can be proud of the way everyone pulled together to make the event a success. We can say it was a big job well done!



BRAN gear being unloaded at Brainard.



FCSLA member Jerome Svoboda and others selling the pot luck tickets.



The welcome site for BRAN at Brainard.



BRAN riders enjoying the pot luck meal.



FCSLA and PCCW members: Jill Reinsch, Kathy Janak, Charlotte Greguras, Kathy Bongers, and LuJane Kotera.

Nina and John Holy Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Well-known Slovak cultural and fraternal activists, Nina and John Holy of Pompton Plains, NJ, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June of this year. They celebrated this joyous occasion by taking a cruise to several Caribbean islands, together with their daughters, Luby Masi and Jane Konzelmann, as well as their son in law, Thomas Masi and four grandchildren: John and Jennifer Masi and Mark and Andrew Konzelmann.

Nina serves as the long-time financial secretary of Sr. Branch 235 and is a past member of the Court of Appeals. Both jubilarians are very active in Slovak-American life and belong to our fraternal organizations. Nina Holy serves as the National Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak League of America.

Her husband John held that office from 1975 to 2002. Nina also serves as the co-chairperson of the popular New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. Our congratulations!



Surprising Facts about Slovakia

- Slovakia has the largest fortified castle in Central Europe — Spis Castle.
- The real inspiration for Dracula lived in Cachdice Castle in Slovakia — and SHE was a woman!
- You can find Paradise and Hell and a River Styx in Slovakia's caves.
- Slovakia has more forests than any other European country/region, outside Scandinavia.

FCSLA, District Anna Hurban of Chicago Join Hands Day Event

An Afternoon of Bingo with the Veterans at the Hines VA Hospital, Maywood, Illinois

For the seventh year in a row, a handful of members from District Anna Hurban of Chicago met on Saturday, May 4, 2013 for its Join Hands Day event at the Edward Hines, Jr., VA Hospital. Nineteen of the District members spent the afternoon with 30 of the resident veterans playing 26 serious games of bingo where the vets had the chance to win some of the \$500 in commissary coupons available as prizes. To make the playing field fair, each of the vets received an initial gift of \$5 in coupons along with one of the "go green" FCSLA bags. Each of the vets also received a homemade thank you card from individual 4th grade students of Chateaux Elementary School (Hinsdale, IL) taught by Helen Bendik Grygus, Sr. Branch 274 Vice-President. The last two games of bingo for the afternoon were "cover your card". In the first game of "cover your card", the sole winner received \$20 in coupons with the second "cover your card" game prize winner netting \$30 in coupons. District President Mary Therese Tylus stated,



"The vets truly enjoyed our visit and when asked if we should come back again, the reply was 'Yes – how about next weekend?'".

The VA Hospital located in Maywood, IL is the largest of the Chicago-area Veterans' Hospitals, well known for its many programs and specialties including: blind rehabilitation, spinal cord injury, neurosurgery, radiation therapy, cardiovascular surgery, and serves as a

Polytrauma Center for severely injured veterans with skilled medical professionals who treat patients with traumatic brain injuries.

Once again, the afternoon was filled with lots of laughter and fun, and all the members in attendance agreed that it was just a small way of showing these vets how grateful we all are to them for the sacrifices they have made to ensure our American freedom!

(To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 452 — Whiting, Indiana

Nuts and Noodles to Buy Nuts and Bolts to Restore the Grotto

As customers arrive and hesitate at the base of the 42 steps they must climb to reach the school cafeteria, the aroma of freshly baked nut rolls draw them upward. Two Officers and seven members of the FCSLA Sr. Branch 452 along with four parishioners participated in a fundraising activity to benefit the continuing restoration project of the Immaculate Conception Grotto located on the church grounds. This nuts and noodles to buy nuts and bolts activity netted a \$712 profit to be donated to the restoration fund.

The I.C. Grotto is one of a kind in the Northwest Indiana area. Home movies from the 1930's and 1940's document the various processions, graduations, and communion ceremonies held in the Grotto. Joann Skvarek Banvich, Branch Auditor recalls that the Grotto was the backdrop for her eight grade graduation picture. Liz Dedinsky, retired Branch President states that the present day use of the Grotto is limited to rosary services held in May and October including the entire Whiting Area Community Cluster Churches. It is a beautiful tribute to our Lady held annually, but the parish is anxious to complete the restoration in order to hold Corpus

Christi and other processions at the Grotto similar to the earlier years.

These memories encouraged the fraternal ladies and men to embrace this activity. Restoring this town and religious landmark is a task worth completing according to member, Barbara Michniewicz who serves as chairman for the noodles and nut roll making and selling project.

Sr. Branch 452 thanks the FCSLA Home Office for the matching funds to assist this effort in Whiting, IN.



Sr. Branch 140

Golf Open Benefit

Lansford, PA
Sr. Branch 140 and Jr. Branch 46 sponsored a Golf Open on May 24th as a Matching Funds project to benefit Our Lady of the Angels Academy Catholic School.



L-R: Lucille Blasko, Anne Chovan, Diane Yoder, Barb Michniewicz, Branch Auditor-Joann Skvarek Banvich, Maryanne Ramsey.



Immaculate Conception Grotto (presently under renovation).

New Branches Open in Bloomville and Rhineland, Wisconsin

Kelly Shedlock, Fraternal Director

On June 14th I traveled to Wisconsin to do a combined Branch Opening Celebration! The dinner was held at Inshalla Country Club in Tomohawk, WI.

Congratulations to FCSLA's newest Branches — Sr. Branch 633 in Bloomville and Sr. Branch 634 in Rhineland!

This was my first ever trip to Wisconsin. Cleveland to Chicago to Wausau, WI. I went from one of the biggest and busiest airports in the world (O'Hare) to a very nice small

airport (all of 5 gates). When I looked out the airplane window I thought the captain was going to land us in a farmer's field, and at one time it probably was. Wisconsin is beautiful! That is one of

the perks of opening new branches throughout the country. I am getting to see parts I otherwise never would. I can add the following towns to my "places I have seen list" — Wausau, Merrill, Tomahawk and Phillips, WI.

I was very excited to make this trip. I had three things to accomplish with this visit. The first two were to open two new FCSLA branches which is always very exciting to do after months of planning. Since the branches were about an hour away from each other (and about 4 hours north-west of Milwaukee) the agent David Schmitz and I decided to hold a combined branch opening celebration! It would give the branches a chance to meet each other. My third task was to take part in a festival in Phillips, WI (which next year our new branches can take part in).

We had a small crowd which included Wisconsin District President Mary Jo Noyes who made the four hour trip from Milwaukee. It was a great opportunity for the new branch officers to meet the District President. She offered her help to them whenever they need it. Thank you Mary Jo for making the trip and a big thank you to agent David Schmitz for all his hard work, without it there would not be two new branches in northern Wisconsin!

Congratulations to the first branch officers of Sr. Branch 633, Bloomville — Brenda and Jason Meyer and Sr. Branch 634, Rhineland — Cindy Schmitz and Rita Dobbins! They are very eager to start doing Matching Funds and work on opening Junior branches. They asked questions throughout my presentation. You are going to do GREAT! Welcome to the FCSLA Family!

Send us your Wedding Anniversary
and Birthday Announcements!
zjbazik@comcast.net

Sr. Branch 177 and Jr. Branch 155 — Elizabeth, Pennsylvania

Center for Victims Team Walk

Members from S177 and J155 (Elizabeth, PA) formed a team to walk for the benefit of Center For Victims in the Annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

The Center for Victims provides shelter and services to abused women and children in the Pittsburgh area. The team received pledges to walk and collected a total of \$692. All funds were donated to the Center for Victims to allow them to continue providing this service to women and their children. The Center for Victims would like to thank the FCSLA for the matching funds.



L-R: Susannah Geletko, Fran Timpey, Pittsburgh Pierogie and Amy Thomas.



L-R: Camden Stover, J115, Fran Timpey, Staff Center for Victims, Amy Thomas, J115 President Susannah Geletko, S177, Monica LaFrankie, S177 Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Jerry LaFrankie, S117 President and Pittsburgh District Vice-President.

Anna Hurban District Calendar of Events

Members should check the Anna Hurban Chicago District web calendar for information on upcoming events. Don't forget to stay in touch with your branch officers to obtain more details on our events coming up in August, September, October, November and December. Sign-up to receive the District web alerts found on our District Welcome Web page."

~ SAVE THE DATES ~

NOVEMBER 16th — Junior Order Christmas Party

DECEMBER 7th — Senior Order Christmas Party

LOUISE M. YASH DISTRICT HOSTS BINGO

Members of the Louise M. Yash District came together on May 11 to host a game of bingo for the retired and disabled Sisters at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Brookfield, WI. The Sisters enjoyed the company and appreciated that even though Sister Rinachek (who was a member of Sr. Branch 376) had passed away, the District came back to visit them. The Sisters enjoyed prizes of note cards, candy bars, hard candy and FCSLA bags. The Dis-

trict members were joined by two young ladies, Louisa Steinhafel and Maura Skelton, students at Divine Savior Holy Angels School. After bingo ended the Sisters sang songs of praise that raised goose bumps and enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by the kitchen staff.

Nicole Bazik Graduates with Honors

Nicole Bazik (S140, Lansford, PA) graduated with Honors from George Washington University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate Degree on Sunday, May 19th. She is the daughter of Michael (S140) and Ann Bazik of Drexel Hill, PA. Nicole will begin work as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in September. She is pictured with her brother Matt, proud grandmother Veronica Bazik, Eastern PA District President and proud Aunt Carolyn Bazik, FCSLA National Editor.



HOLY TRINITY CELEBRATES FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Holy Trinity Parish of Brainard, NE celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi on June 1, 2013. Altars were set up on the east, north and west side of the church.



Pictured (left) are Carolyn Dvorak and Mary Lou Meister, Branch W016 officers with the altar.



Father Matthew Eickhoff with parishioners at the outdoor altar during the Corpus Christi procession.

The Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey Benefit

The Benedictine Monks of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey will host their annual Abbey Benefit on Sunday, November 3, 2013. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at 12:15 p.m. at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, OH 44147. A reception, banquet and program will follow at the Parish Center.

Your support of our Abbey Benefit is a very important part of the monks' present and future ministry. Please join us in honoring our Monks for their many years of service. If you cannot attend, a gift in their honor will be greatly appreciated.

The ticket price is \$75.00 with additional sponsorships available, including \$100.00 "Honor-a-Monk" contributions. For reservations and additional information please contact Rose Stiflar at Saint Andrew's Abbey at 216-721-5300 ext. 0 or Marie A. Golias at 216-228-8179. Please make reservations by October 21, 2013.



2013 WORD SEARCH CHALLENGE #6

Find words associated with World War II.

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

World War II

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

ALLIED FORCES
ATOMIC BOMB
CHURCHILL
D-DAY
GERMANY
GUADALCANAL
HIROSHIMA
HITLER

HOLOCAUST
IWO JIMA
JAPAN
MACARTHUR
PEARL HARBOUR
RED ARMY
ROOSEVELT
UBOAT



Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Branch: _____ Phone # _____

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

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

Monessen Sr. Branch 88 Holds Recognition Dinner

The Monessen branch recently held a recognition dinner honoring Msgr. Roger Statnick on the 40th Jubilee of his ordination and the scholarship winners: Stephen Betza, Andrew Funtal, Amanda Hall, and Allesandra Lesho. Natalie Bialon of Jr. Branch 157 was also honored for her recent awards for her research paper on Thomas Nast.

The dinner was held at the New Alpine in Monessen and Rev. Micha Kozoil, Sr. Branch 88 Chaplain gave the invocation. President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed all present and gave the following biographies on each person and presented each with a gift from their branch.

Msgr. Roger A. Statnick is celebrating this 40th year of ordination. He was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Greensburg in 1973. His priestly ministry has included assignments in seminary and ongoing, post-ordination formation, educational and diocesan administration and as a parish pastor. He holds licentiate and doctoral degrees in systematic theology from Saint Mary's Seminary and University and from the University of Notre Dame respectively. He is currently the pastor of Saint Sebastian Church in Belle Vernon, PA. His hometown is Johnstown, PA.



Dorothy Urbanowicz presenting FCSLA check to Msgr. Roger Statnick for his 40th ordination anniversary.



Aaron, Natalie and Alice Bialon.



Scholarship and award winners with Sr. Branch 88 officers.

STEPHEN BETZA is the son of Donna and Kenneth Betza. He is entering his senior year at Clarion University studying Business Marketing and Economics. He is currently a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society and last semester his GPA was 4.0. He is currently interning at Willis Group, a global insurance broker located in downtown Pittsburgh.

ANDREW FUNTAL is entering his sophomore year at Slippery Rock University. At school, his major is Biology and is in the Honor's Program. Along with being in the Honor's Program he played JV baseball for SRU. His parents are Robert and Flora Funtal and he has a younger sister, Rachael. His aspirations for the future are to attend medical school to become a doctor. He is also an Eagle Scout, and becoming an Eagle Scout has taught him to balance things in life. This summer he will be taking 12 credits at CCAC and also working full time at Washington County Health Center.

AMANDA HALL was unable to attend the dinner, but did receive a scholarship. She is a registered nurse. She is currently enrolled in the University of Phoenix and hopes to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree by the end of October 2013. Her professional goal is to obtain her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). Her objective is to gain additional knowledge and leadership skills and to become part of an administrative health care team.

ALLESANDRA JACQUELINE LESHO is



Allesandra and Jacqueline Lesho and Clara Battist and Paul Cochran.

the proud daughter of Pavel Tesack Lesho and Cora Naomi White who both reside in the state of Maryland. She is the granddaughter of Edwin Thomas and Jacqueline Marie Lesho of Weirton, WV. She was born March 1, 1995 in San Diego where her father served as a Marine Corps Officer at Camp Pendleton, CA. She attended Kent County High School in Worton, MD. Academically she was a distinguished member of the Science 2 Technology Engineering Mathematics program where she excelled in all four disciplines. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Her competitive nature was tempered by serving on several sporting teams in support of Kent High's "Fighting Trojans" to include receipt of letters for in-door track, woman's lacrosse and cheerleading (fall, winter and spring semesters respectively). Her leadership prowess was demonstrated as being named co-captain by her peers for two consecutive years on the woman's lacrosse team. She also participated as a member of the "After-shock East Coast Nitro Competitive Cheer Team" who captured first place at the finals held in Myrtle Beach in April 2013. Allesandra also has held several

Continued on Page 13



Rachael, Flora and Andrew Funtal.



Robert, Kenneth, Stephen, Christopher, Donna and Rosemary Betza.

Sr. Branch 88 Dinner

Continued from Page 12

jobs to include her town's local bakery and most recently as the hostess at Sushi Yama Japanese Gourmet Cuisine near her hometown. She is proud of her Slovak heritage and the tenants for which the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association promotes, namely "Caring for Others", involving the youth community and most importantly "Patriotism" (in honor of the Lesho family's heritage towards serving within the US Armed Forces from her father to that of her great uncles during WWII). She is proud to call herself a third generation member of FCSLA. Allesandra will matriculate this September at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA where her elect course of study will be within the Bio-medical Engineering Co-Op program in pursuit of a dual Bachelor and Masters of Science Degree with a concentration toward the discipline of tissue.

NATALIE BIALON is an eighth grade student at Bellmar Middle School. Her aspirations include being a writer and journalism. At Bellmar she made the high and highest honor rolls. In addition she as well as other classmates made Bellmar the Most Outstanding Middle School amongst 166 schools for 2013 at the Pennsylvania National History Day Competition held in Mechanicsburg, PA in early May 2013. Natalie submitted a research paper entitled "Those Damned Pictures: An Examination of Boss Tweed and Thomas Nast" which placed both second at the California University competition locally and at the Heinz History Center for the Western Pennsylvania Regional finals which permitted her to present her paper at the State finals in May. Natalie also submitted a poem and short story which placed in the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs contest. She has also been recognized by the Belle Vernon Area School Board for her accomplishments in debate with the gifted program for food nutrition and school snack foods. She is the granddaughter of Alice Bialon, Recording Secretary of Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157. She is the daughter of Aaron Bialon, member of Sr. Branch 88 of Monessen. Natalie also serves on the Jr. Branch 157 Advisory Board.

On behalf of the officers of Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157, Dorothy congratulated all those honored and wished them many more years of success and happiness.

Sr. Branch 289 Hosts the Helen Kocan District Meeting

Sr. Branch 289, Gary, IN, hosted the Helen Kocan District Meeting on March 9, 2013 at Our Lady of Consolation Hall in Merrillville, IN. In conjunction with the meeting, the District scholarship winners were honored. A luncheon was served and the scholarship winners in attendance were introduced. The winners spoke about themselves and were each presented with a gift from the District.

Margaret Abildua, District President conducted the meeting.



Jr. Branch 184 winner Madeline Martin, second from left, with her family and Jr. Branch Officer Cindy Oresik.



Madeline Martin, J184 winner addresses the district members in attendance at the meeting.



Scholarship Winners from Jr. Branch 184.



Helen Kocan District Officers with Jr. Branch Scholarship Winners.



Helen Kocan District Officers with Sr. Branch Scholarship Winners.



Jr. Branch 184 winner Rosemary Yurechko with Cindy Oresik, branch officer and Missy Yurechko.



IN MEMORIAM

MARY THERESE DYBEL

Sr. Branch 81



Mary Therese Dybel (nee Staucet) 88, of Whiting passed away peacefully on December 4, 2012. She was the beloved wife of the late Andrew A. Dybel who passed away

on May 4, 1961; loving mother of Andrea (Steven) Conover of Fort Wayne, IN, Marcia (Nathaniel) Pappalardo of LaGrange, IL, Gerard (Connie) Dybel of Littleton, MA, Andrew T. (Susan) Dybel and Martin Dybel, both of Whiting; dear friend of Dwain Thomas; dear mother-in-law of Bob (Brenda) Breck; cherished grandmother of Robert (Sarah) Zabrecky, Ryan Zabrecky, Justin (Emily) Zabrecky, Jason (Carla) Conover, Allyson (Christian) Lavinder, Bethany Pappalardo, Dr. Jennifer (fiancee Bryon Harper) Pappalardo, Mark (Elizabeth) Pappalardo, Kelly Dybel, Stacey Dybel, Andrew M. Dybel, Abigail Dybel, Jonathan (Jill) Joseph and Jeremy Joseph; adoring great-grandma of Hailey, Aidin and Roxanne; dearest sister of Frank (late Grace) Staucet, dear sister-in-law of Anna (late Joseph) Marciniak and Charles (Dorothy) Dybel; fond aunt to many nieces and nephews; special friends, Ann Shelton, Margaret Saliga, Mary Bellile and Evelyn White. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Paula Marie Dybel Zabrecky and her devoted canine companion, "Lady".

She was born on February 20, 1924 in Whiting, IN to Frank and Mary (Brenkus) Staucet and was a lifelong resident. She was a member of FCCLA Branch 81 and the LPSCU Branch 79. In 1942 she was crowned Whiting's Slovak Queen. Since this was the last year of the pageant, Mary Therese has been the reigning Slovak Queen of Whiting, IN for the past 70 years. She was a retired officer of the former American Trust & Savings Bank, Whiting with a service of 22 years and was an associate of

the Baran Funeral Home, Whiting, for the past 20 years. Mary Therese was a devout Catholic and a woman of great faith. She loved to shop and enjoyed many hours working in her garden. Devoted to her family, she will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. Memorials to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Whiting, would be appreciated.

MARY D. DOLCE

Sr. Branch 169



Mary entered the world on October 22, 1922 in a small coal mining town of Filbert, PA, the daughter of John and Susan Walick. She departed it on February 17, 2013 in Port

Ritchey, FL. In between she led a wonderful life.

She was the beloved mother of three sons: Russ (Sue), Ron (Melissa), and Chuck. She was grandmother to five and an aunt and great-aunt to many more whom she loved.

She was preceded in death by her three siblings: Joe (Marie), Ed (Betty), and Agnes (Michael) and five half-siblings: John (Carmella), John (Emily), Frances (Ed), Margaret (Joe) and Ann (Ed).

She raised her family and worked in the greater Chicago-land area until she was 65.

In 1988 she moved to Florida where she finally settled in Port Ritchey.

She "retired" but never slowed down.

She volunteered for her church, Our Lady Queen of Peace where she was active in the Ladies Guild, the Rosary Society among other groups.

She was dedicated to helping others and volunteered for numerous causes assisting the sick and the elderly. Most recently she devoted her time at Trinity Hospital where she was recognized for over 5,000 hours of service. In 2011 she was given the "First Hu-

manitarian Award" in recognition for her tireless service to patients and the healthcare community.

She loved to play cards with her friends which she did weekly without fail. She was often at the theater to enjoy a movie or play. And amid all that she made time to tend to her plants around her home.

To those who mourn her loss, her family asks that you remember her life; she lived and loved for 90 years on this earth. Now she has been called to her eternal reward.

MARCELLA SUSAN RIDENOUR

Sr. Branch 114



Marcella Susan Ridenour (nee Yasher), passed away on April 3, 2013 in Hickory, NC.

She was born in Lorain, OH, on May 31, 1926 and was a graduate of Lorain High School as a member of the class of 1944-B. She went on to attend Kent State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1972. She subsequently completed graduate work at Bowling Green State University, Baldwin Wallace College and The Ohio State University.

Marcella retired from the Avon Lake City Schools in July 1994 where she had served as Treasurer. She was a past member of School Business Officials International, as well as a member of both the Ohio School Business Officials and the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Mrs. Ridenour was an active parishioner of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Parish (formerly St. John the Baptist Catholic Church) in Lorain where she was a member and former officer of the Altar and Rosary Society, served on the parish finance committee, and was an officer for the St. John Endowment

Fund. She was also a member and former secretary of St. Ann's Lodge Branch 114 of the First Slovak Catholic Ladies Association. In addition, she volunteered for the AARP where she completed federal and state income tax returns for seniors and low income individuals.

Survivors include her son, Robert D. Ridenour (wife Judy), 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren along with sisters Regina Davis and Betty J. Ward, and former daughter-in-law Debra Ridenour.

She was preceded in death by her husband Cleo R. Ridenour, Sr. in 2008, son Cleo R. Ridenour, Jr., parents George and Mary Ellen (Doslak) Yasher, and by brothers Regis and George Yasher.

Donations are encouraged to the Alzheimer's Foundation – P.O. Box 74924, Cleveland, OH 44194-4924.

GALE W. DVORAK **Branch W016**

Gale Dvorak, 63, of Lebanon, OR, passed away on April 7, 2013 at the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

Gale was born in David City, NE, the son of Woodrow and Evelyn (Hasik) Dvorak. He grew up in the community of Brainard, NE, where he graduated from high school and attended two years of trade school. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He moved to Albany, OR in the early 1970s and had lived in Lebanon for the past 20 years. He worked as a mechanic and later as a machinist for Wah Chang in Albany for 30 years, retiring in 2004.

He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, was a charter member of the Association for Motorcyclists of Oregon (AMO) and the Road Maggots of Lebanon. He was also a member of the Eagles Lodge, American Legion and Elks Lodge. He was known for his great sense of humor and loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was never far from his wife, Kimi.

Gale married Laura Bakke in Albany in 1974. From this union three children

were born: Joe, Anna and Abbe. The couple later divorced. He married Kimi Holloway on May 13, 2006.

He is survived by his wife, Kimi of Lebanon; son Joe Dvorak of Albany; daughters Anna Benson and Abbe Dvorak of Albany; stepson Austin Ross of Lebanon; twin brother Dale Dvorak of Valparaiso, NE; sister Pat Hurst of Lincoln, NE; and grandchildren Cody, Jasmine, Izak, Evan, Payton and Jacob.

ANDREW B. FERENS **Sr. Branch 424**



Andrew B. Ferens, 92, of West Mifflin, PA passed away on April 14, 2013. He had been the devoted husband of the late Helen G. Ferens. They had been high school sweethearts

at Munhall High School and were married for 68 years.

They were members of Resurrection Church, Homeville, PA. He was past president of Sr. Branch 424 and attended many conventions as a delegate. Andrew retired from U.S. Steel, Homestead, after over 40 years. He loved his work as a roll turner.

Andrew was an avid fisherman, a Pittsburgh Steelers fan and a talented painter. His lifetime passion for art was shared in the many paintings he gave to the staff of Southwestern Care Center. He was the past President of Pittsburgh Amateur Artist Association. He also served as a member of the West Mifflin School Board.

Andrew was a WWII Veteran, having served in the Army 70th Infantry Division in Europe where he earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He took part in the 50th Anniversary of his Army tour with Helen and two grandsons, the highlight of which was Luxemburg. He traveled the world with Helen, visiting Slovakia many times. They loved to dance the polka and are probably in heaven dancing now.

His family, daughters Gerry Smith and Bobbie Ames, and Andi Cipa, were with him when he passed away. Andrew touched the lives of many, especially his nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. He will be missed by all who loved him.

ANTHONY SAWCZAK **Sr. Branch 184**

Anthony (Axie) Sawczak, 92, of Carteret, died on April 26, 2013 at Riverton Rehab & Care Center in Rahway, NJ. He was born in Carteret and was a life-long resident. He was a parishioner of Divine Mercy Parish-Sacred Heart of Jesus RC Church in Carteret.

Anthony retired from Chesebrough-Ponds in Perth Amboy after 37 years. He was an Army Veteran of World War II, an avid bowler and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association where he served as Branch President.

Anthony is predeceased by his parents, John and Anna Sawczak; his brother, Joseph Sawczak; and his three sisters, Mary Kaczor, Stephania Sawczak and Helen Zachik. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary (Thompson) Sawczak; his sister, Genevieve Kurdyla and many nieces and nephews.



~ September 15 ~
FEAST DAY
of Our Lady of Sorrows
Patroness of Slovakia

Branches 58 and 81 Participates in Racing for a Cause

On a beautiful Friday morning in May, officers and members of Branch 58 and 81 participated in the St. John the Baptist School ~ Race For Education. They volunteered to help distribute water to the students at water stations. Others walked some of the classes to the football field to race. Preschool students started the day off in the main parking lot. The students walked and ran laps while volunteers punched their cards as they completed laps. Kindergarten through eighth grade continued throughout the day. After the races ended the students were treated to lunch and dessert followed by an assembly in the gym to announce winners. The junior branch had three winners in different categories. Michael Markovich won for highest dollar

amount collected in his division, at \$528. Alexandria Delgado and Juliana Scivinsky both won for the fastest girl in their divisions. This year's fundraising goal was \$25,000 but because of an increase in donors the event raised \$30,000. Our members raised over \$1,500. The race is an annual fundraiser for the school and results in helping to keep tuition costs low.



Kaitlin Brockett Receives College Graduate Scholarship

Members of Sr. Branch 111 in Charleroi, PA and the family of Kaitlin Brockett gathered at Hoss's Steak and Sea House to honor her on receiving a College Graduate Scholarship.

Kaitlin was a member of the class of 2009 at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, MD. This May she graduated magna cum laude from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA with a BS in Biology and Health Sciences.

Kaitlin is continuing her education in the graduate program of Duquesne's Rangos School of Health Sciences where she anticipates receiving a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in August 2015. Combining her enjoyment of children with her graduate work, she looks forward to working as a physical therapist in the pediatric field.

Grace Popson, Branch Secretary-Treasurer welcomes the winner and her family. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all in attendance. Following the meal Grace Popson presented Kaitlin with a check from the branch and "goody bag" from the Home Office. Kaitlin then thanked her Mother and Grandmother by presenting them with a thank-you gift and "goody-bag."

Cake was served and the event ended with Kaitlin being wished much luck and God's Blessing in the future from her branch!



L-R: (seated) Kaitlin Brockett, Scholarship Winner, and Grandmother Emma Pavelkovsky; Standing, Mother Alicia Brockett, and Aunt-Godmother Lori Szerszen.

Annual Membership Picnic of Branch W045

The annual membership picnic of Branch W045, Cedar Rapids, IA was held on Sunday, July 28, 2013 in the St. Wenceslaus Gym Building.

Approximately 80 members attended the picnic. Bingo started at 2:00 p.m. and the meal was served at 4:00 p.m. The meal consisted of hamburgers, bratwurst, hot dogs, tomatoes, cucumbers, baked beans, rye bread, buns, kolaches and a beverage. A raffle was held for fourteen \$20.00 cash prizes.

Branch W045 was honored to have two National FCSLA Scholarship winners and both were present at the picnic: Amber Melchert, a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA and Cody Freeburg a 7th grader at LaSalle Middle School in Cedar Rapids, IA.



Branch W045 trustees and officers with scholarship winners: Bob Ruzicka, Amber Melchert (national scholarship winner), Al Sattler, Cody Freeburg (national scholarship winner), Mike Papich, Meagan Hoffman (local scholarship winner), George DuCharme, Joe Zachar and John Salat.



Attention Members!

Have you checked out the FCSLA website lately?

www.fcsla.org

We have updated the Fraternal Section! There is a new Virtual Coloring Book, Word Search Puzzle, Word Fun Puzzles, Fun Fact section, New Jokes! Complete the puzzles or color a page or two, send them in you may win a prize!

Two Benedictine High School Alumni Mark 75th Anniversary

This summer two members of the Benedictine High School (Cleveland, OH) Class of 1938 celebrated the 75th anniversary of their graduation. John Krem-pasky of St. Sebastian Parish in Belle Vernon, PA and Joe Banas of Parma, OH, both 92, were present for the 2013 Benedictine High School commencement ceremony at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in South Euclid, OH last month, and were greeted by each of this year's graduates. Benedictine High School's first commencement was held in 1931. In addition to Joe Banas and John Krem-pasky, John Rondzik of Cleveland are believed to be the only surviving members of the Class of 1938 which originally awarded diplomas to 32 seniors.



L-R: Joe Banas and John Krem-pasky mark their 75th anniversary with Benedictine High School president Fr. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B.

Receives FCSLA Scholarship



Member Maria Rajkowski, Branch 55 in Mahanoy City receives her FCSLA scholarship check from branch President Marylou Henninger. Maria will attend Elizabethtown College in the fall majoring in Business Administration.



We Want to Hear From You!

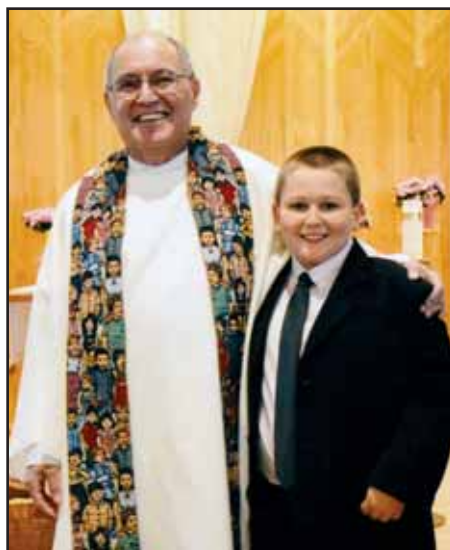
- Did your children, grandchildren receive special awards or achievements in school?
- Baptisms? Confirmations? New Members?
- Participated in Volunteer and Community Projects?

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

Cousins Receive First Holy Communion



ABIGAIL LAINE HEATH, daughter of Ken and Dawn Heath of Severn, MD made her First Holy Communion on April 20, 2013 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Odenton, MD. She attends the School of the Incarnation, in Odenton, MD., 2nd grade. She and her sister Allison Grace are both members of Jr. Branch 364 in Johnstown, PA. Her grandmother, Janet Babik is a member of Sr. Branch 28, Johnstown, PA, now residing with her husband Bernard in Dover, PA. Her great-aunt Helen Babik was President of both Sr. Branch 28 and Jr. Branch 364 for over 50 years.



JOSEPH JOHN BABIK, JR., son of Joseph and Brandy Babik, made his First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 20, 2013 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Odenton, MD. He and his sister Emily Trader are members of Jr. Branch 364 in Johnstown, PA. His grandmother, Janet Babik is a member of Sr. Branch 28, Johnstown, PA, now residing with her husband Bernard in Dover, PA. His great-aunt Helen Babik was President of both Sr. Branch 28 and Jr. Branch 364 for over 50 years.



ANOTHER GENERATION JOINS THE FCSLA — ADELAIDE ROSE LOIS (J334, Milwaukee, WI) joins great-grandmother Helen Glocka, grandmother Susanne Glocka, and her mother Angela Glocka Lois as a member of the FCSLA. Aunt Jennifer Glocka and great-aunt Nancy Glocka Danhauer round out the family members, all whom belong to Sr. Branch 376 also in Milwaukee, WI.

~ CORRECTION ~

In the August 2013 issue, page 24 of *Fraternally Yours*, an error was made in the residing state for 3rd grade scholarship winner Justin P. Viau, Jr. It should be Ohio, not Maryland as was stated in the magazine. We apologize for the error.



JUSTIN P. VIAU, JR.
Baltimore, OH
St. Pius X School
Jr. Branch 192



RICO GALASSI ~ TIMES-TRIBUNE *Male Athlete of the Year*

Rico Galassi (S124, Throop, PA) turned running long distances into a graceful test of endurance and a unique display of speed and athleticism. His seemingly effortless stride and steady smile became his signature style as he collected gold medals and left records in his wake.

Nobody did it better this year. His legacy will be one that any who follows will be measured against.

After winning PIAA championships in both cross country and track and field, Galassi, a graduate of Holy Cross, has been chosen The Times-Tribune Male Athlete of the Year.

According to his Holy Cross Track Coach John Casey, he knocked the socks off a lot of the great distance runners of all time from this area at a high school level in terms of his times. You have to consider him one of the best ever.

Beginning his racing career as a fourth grader at St. Mary's, Galassi didn't immediately capture the attention of coaches. He has a certain confidence and a bounce to his gait, but more importantly he has a desire to be great.



SYDNEY R. BEAGLE received her First Holy Communion on May 4, 2013 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Pickerington, OH. She is a member of JHO.

Cross Country Coach Charlie Orlando said that Rico's potential started to become apparent in seventh grade. Even in his freshman year, there was work to be done on his form. He got taller, he got stronger and he started to get that beautiful running form. By sophomore year it was clear that Rico was something special in terms of his running talent.



While he began to make waves and set the stage as a junior, Galassi came into his own this season.

In the fall, he avenged a loss to his nearest competitor, Elk Lake's Luke Jones, at the District 2 Class A Cross Country championship by earning a state championship in Hershey.

He crossed in 15 minutes, 59 seconds, just ahead of Jones, who came in at 16:00.

That finish earned Galassi an all-state berth.

In the spring, he set a goal of winning a state championship at 3,200 meters. Along the way he challenged the District 2 Class AA record of 4:17.44, set in 1982 by Meyers' Mark Merlie, by winning the gold medal in 4:18.02. Then came his race in the 3,200 where he erased his own district mark by winning in 9:15.78.

At the state track and field meet, Galassi ran a tactical race and came around the final turn for the final 150 meters of the 3,200 on a mission.

His sprint to the finish resulted in a gold medal, passing defending champion Brendan Shearn of North Schuylkill, and winning in a time of 9:12.48.

Two sports. Two state titles. That's tough to top!

The FCSLA congratulates Rico and wishes him much success as he continues his education this fall at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA.

40th Anniversary Slovak Day in Merrillville

Pictured are members of the Slovak Day Committee, (below) and Msgr. Joseph Semancik (at right), who was the main celebrant of the Mass.



All of the Slovak Day Committee members belong to the FCSLA. The celebration took place on July 21, 2013, at the Salvatorian Fathers Shrine. U.S. Representative Peter Visclosky recognized the Slovak Day Celebration in the Congressional Record.



Photo of the National Board of Directors in the stairwell of the Czech Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, IA where they were moved due to a tornado warning!

Polish Women's Alliance of America Celebrates 115th Anniversary

The Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWA) celebrated its 115th anniversary in Des Plaines, IL on Sunday, May 19, 2013 with a luncheon honoring its founding and a program that included the presentation of the 2013 Remkus-Sochacki Academic Achievement Scholarships and the PWA District Fraternalists of Distinction Awards.

In attendance at this event were the Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago – Cardinal George's Liaison to Polish Catholics, the PWA Officers and District Presidents, friends of the PWA, and representatives from other local and national fraternalists. Our fraternal organization was represented by Mary Therese Tylus, MA, Chicago District President, Jarmila Hlubocky, Chicago District

Financial Secretary, Rosemary Mlinarich Sr. Branch 258 Secretary/Treasurer and Dr. Fay Hlubocky, Sr. Branch 295 Auditor. Master of Ceremonies for this event was none other than Chicago's own NBC-TV news reporter, Mr. Charlie Wojciechowski.

After the presentation of the scholarship and District Fraternalists of Distinction Awards, a gourmet basket and 50/50 cash raffle was held. All who attended enjoyed the delicious food and fraternal fellowship. We congratulate the Polish Women's Alliance of America on its 115th Anniversary!

(To see additional photos from this event go to: <http://www.fcsia.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)



L-R: Jarmila Hlubocky, Chicago District Financial Secretary, Dr. Fay Hlubocky, Sr. Branch 295 Auditor, Charlie Wojciechowski (NBC TV Chicago) Master of Ceremonies, Rosemary Mlinarich, Sr. Branch 258 Secretary/Treasurer and Mary Therese Tylus, MA, Chicago District President.



L-R: Dr. Fay Hlubocky, Sr. Branch 295 Auditor, Jarmila Hlubocky, Chicago District Financial Secretary, Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago - Cardinal's Liaison to Polish Catholics and Mary Therese Tylus, MA, Chicago District President.



L-R: Dr. Fay Hlubocky, Sr. Branch 295 Auditor, Jarmila Hlubocky, Chicago District Financial Secretary, Sharon Zago, Polish Women's Alliance of America National Vice President, Delphine Huneycutt, Polish Women's Alliance of American National President, Rosemary Mlinarich, Sr. Branch 258 Secretary/Treasurer and Mary Therese Tylus, MA, Chicago District President.

CHICAGO DISTRICT/BRANCHES

“Bring a Friend/ Tell a Friend Event”

Know someone who would like to learn more about and join our organization? Are you an existing member who wants to know more about our various life insurance and annuity products in order to purchase or *upgrade additional insurance or annuities*? Or have you added a new member to the family who may be interested in joining or a perfect candidate for membership?

If so, then come and join the Chicago District and Branch Officers for our “Bring a Friend/Tell a Friend” Event!

When: Saturday, October 5, 2013

Where: European Chalet

5445 S. Harlem Avenue in Chicago, IL

Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with lunch served at 1:00 p.m.

RSVP by Friday, September 27, 2013

to your Chicago Branch Officer

Branch W033 Makes Donation to St. John Nepomucene Church

FCSLA Branch W033 (Spillville, IA) made a donation of \$500.00 to Rev. Nick March, Pastor of St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church in Fort Atkinson, IA. St. John's went through a much needed repair and repainting and is beautiful refurbished.

Rev. March is the Pastor of a six parish cluster which includes St. John's, Assumption of the BVM in Little Turkey, Holy Trinity in Protivin, St. Luke in St. Lucas and St. Mary in Waucoma. The Very Rev. Marvin Salz is Sacramental Priest.



Rebecca Kuhn, Secretary W033 presenting a \$500 check to Rev. Father Nick March. The donation was put toward repainting St. John Nepomucene Church in Fort Atkinson, IA.

Scholarship Donation

Lansford, PA Sr. Branch 140 and Jr. Branch 46 made their annual \$5,000 Scholarship Donation to 14 elementary school students at Our Lady of The Angels Academy. In the photo at right: S140/J46 President Veronica Bazik presents the \$5,000 scholarship check to OLAA Principal Sr. Regina Elinich, IHM.



From JULY 1 through SEPTEMBER 30, 2013, 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%.

Sr. Branch 161 and ARK Join Hands

Sr. Branch 161, Youngstown, OH, and Holy Family Elementary School group, ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) joined hands to beautify the school grounds on Friday, May 17, 2013. President of Sr. Branch 161, Virginia DeLuca, her husband, Fred, and Sr. Branch 161 Financial Secretary,



L-R: President Virginia DeLuca, Mya Agee, Leanne Chandler and Brooke Chandler. The three girls are Jr. Branch 192 members and have been recipients of FCSLA scholarships.

Bernie Demechko, observed as ARK members dug, weeded, planted and mulched plants. The ARK group, with Melanie Jones as Director, has 40 members from grades six through eight. They meet monthly to plan community projects and sponsor field trips to broaden their knowledge of the community. The assistant of the ARK group is Tina Kali.

Sr. Branch 161 donated the money to purchase the shrubs and flowers that were planted. Last year the same group joined together and completed a similar project at the Poland Youth Soccer Field.

ARK projects this past year included making fleece blankets for the Neo-Natal Unit at Saint Elizabeth Hospital. They made and sent larger blankets to military patients at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. They have baked bread for distribution at Sojourner House (Domestic Abuse Program) and have assisted at Sacred Heart Kitchen for distribution of food to those in need.

On a more personal level, the group spent several hours at a local library becoming acquainted with the library catalog system. They have also attended concerts sponsored by the Youngstown Symphony Youth performances, local band practices and other musical events.

Sr. Branch 88 Join Hands Day



Monessen Sr. Branch 88 join hands with the youth group at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish to plant flowers around the church and parish house.

Slovak Catholic Federation Mid-Year Annual Appeal Report

Since 1978, the Slovak Catholic Federation has been conducting the SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal, which begins each year in the month of February during the closest weekend to the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius. To date, I wish to report that **\$16,493.85** has been collected. This is roughly \$1,000 short from last year's mid-year report.

In its 35th year, this Appeal has primarily been taken up in parishes of Slovak heritage in the United States. As we are all very much aware, "ethnic parishes" are becoming a thing of the past. More and more Slovaks reside in different parts of the country and no longer claim to belong to a parish of Slovak heritage. For this reason, many Slovaks may not have the opportunity to hear about, let alone participate in, this Annual Appeal. If it were not for the Slovak Catholic fraternal societies and their publications, communication to American and Canadian Slovaks would not be possible.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in individual donations apart from the parish collections. Also, most of the Slovak fraternal societies have been making contributions to this collection from their national Boards of Directors, along with a number of local branches, wreaths, assemblies, and lodges. This year's Appeal continues during the entire calendar year 2013.

As many of you know, this Appeal assists the Church in Slovakia by supporting the training mission of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, Italy (formally known as the Slovak Institute or *Ustav*). In addition, funds are distributed to those religious communities of both men and women that share a counterpart which belongs to 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*).

As various groups will be holding summer picnics, national conventions, and other Slovak fraternal gatherings, I ask that consideration be given to kindly taking up a collection in support of the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. In 2012, this Annual Appeal collected **\$36,528.51**.

Individuals, groups, parishes, and other Slovak organizations are all welcome to make a donation to this Appeal. Check should be made payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation and sent directly to National Secretary-Treasurer Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Avenue, Hazleton, PA 18201.

I pray that Almighty God rewards all of us who participate in the support of the Church in Slovakia through the Slovak Catholic Federation 35th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Thank you for your support.

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, 2013 Appeal Director
SCF National First Vice President

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF APRIL 30, 2013

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 14,332,068
Bonds	697,127,816
Preferred Stock	3,982,044
Common Stock	986,183
Investment Income Due and Accrued	11,126,990
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	6,237,667
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,444,152
Other Assets	165,664

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 736,402,584

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 249,224,734
Annuity Reserves	386,445,779
Death Claims Payable	852,784
Unearned Premiums	567,688
Matured Endowments	355,109
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,249,286
Accumulated Dividends and Interest	3,984,129
Accrued Convention Donations	312,000
Provision for Future Conventions	258,000
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,383,379
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,196,343
Other Liabilities	1,303,776

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 653,133,007

Surplus \$ 83,269,577

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS \$ 736,402,584

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Four Months Ending April 30, 2013

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,155,787
Annuity Premiums	10,466,578
Investment Income	12,903,273
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	29,871
Rental Income	138,606
Other Revenue	4,333

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 25,698,449

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 2,396,734
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	7,725,315
Insurance Benefits	2,057,374
Annuity Benefits	8,131,322
Commission Expense	386,767
Surrender Benefits	530,141
Post Mortem Benefits	460,688
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	21,255
Matured Endowments	12,951
Donation Expenses	91,827
Convention Expenses	76,000
Bank Service Charges	7,211
Data Processing Service Fees	99,688
Accounting Fees	32,236
Actuarial Fees	74,096
Legal Fees	20,470
Consulting Fees	35,578
Bonus to Branches	300,000
Fraternal Activities	32,720
Official Publications	148,680
Scholarship Awards	80,000
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	143,002
Fees — Directors	42,900
Salaries — Employees	478,048
Salaries — Officers	148,835
Interest Expense	82,368
Tax Expense	96,168
Depreciation Expense	98,012
Utility Expense	31,713
Postage and Printing	71,813
Advertising	31,237
Travel Expense	13,974
Insurance Department Fees	51,050
Sales Promotion	33,567
Rental Expense	138,606
Other Expense	157,311

TOTAL EXPENSE \$ 24,339,657

Income (Loss) from Operations \$ 1,358,791

Capital Gains (Loss) 331,264

Subtotal INCOME (LOSS) \$ 1,690,055

Dividends to Members 414,463

NET INCOME (Loss) \$ 1,275,592



SUMMER SPAGHETTI

- 12 ounces dried spaghetti
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 5 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- Pinch crushed red pepper, or more to taste
- ¾ cup diced red bell pepper
- ¾ cup diced yellow bell pepper
- ¼ cup red onion, chopped
- 2 cups plum tomatoes, chopped
- ¼ cup fresh basil leaves, torn
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- salt to taste
- ½ cup dry white wine
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley

Bring a large pot of salted water to boiling. Stir in spaghetti. Cook for 9 to 10 minutes or just until tender. Strain pasta.

In a large bowl combine olive oil, garlic, and crushed red pepper. Stir in bell pepper, tomatoes, onion, and torn basil. Season with salt and pepper. Add wine. Let sit for at least a half hour.

Sprinkle with Parmesan. Transfer to a large serving bowl. Serve at room temperature.

TACO PIE

- 1 sheet puff pastry
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup salsa
- 1 cup shredded lettuce
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- Sour cream, optional

Place puff pastry on the bottom of a greased pie tin.

In a medium skillet, cook beef and onions until beef is browned and cooked through. Drain. Add salsa and taco seasoning. Cook until bubbly. Pour into crust.

Bake for 25 minutes, or until crust is golden brown. Let cool for 5 minutes.

Top with cheese, lettuce, and tomatoes. Cut and serve with sour cream.

STRAWBERRY AND RICOTTA BRUSCHETTA

- 12 ½-inch-thick baguette slices
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- ¾ cup chopped strawberries
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh mint
- 1½ teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- ¾ cup whole-milk ricotta
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Fine sea salt

Position a rack about 4 inches from the broiler and heat the broiler on high. Put the baguette slices on a baking sheet and brush with 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil. Broil just the oiled side until lightly toasted, about 1 minute.

In a medium bowl, toss the strawberries with the vinegar and mint.

In a small bowl, combine the ricotta with the honey and ¼ teaspoon salt.

Spread the ricotta mixture on the toasted side of each slice of baguette, then top with the strawberry mixture.

APPLE AND BLUE CHEESE SLAW

- 4 red apples, chopped
- ½ cup shredded green cabbage
- ½ cup shredded red cabbage
- 1 cup blue cheese salad dressing
- 1 tablespoon grated sweet onion
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- ¼ cup blue cheese crumbles

Combine apples and cabbage in a medium bowl.

Mix salad dressing, onion and vinegar in a small bowl.

Pour half of dressing over the salad, stir to mix and toss in blue cheese crumbles. Add more dressing as desired. Serve chilled. Makes 4-6 servings.

AWESOME BLUEBERRY PIE

- 1 (9-inch) frozen ready-to-bake pie shell, thawed
- 1 (4-serving size) package lemon gelatin
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ¾ cup ginger ale
- 3 pints fresh blueberries, washed

Bake pie shell according to package directions; set aside to cool.

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine remaining ingredients, except 2 pints blueberries. Cook 5 to 7 minutes, or until gelatin mix has dissolved and blueberries have popped and colored mixture blue, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and let cool about 5 minutes.

Stir in remaining 2 pints blueberries then spoon into baked pie shell.

Chill at least 4 hours, or until set. Serve, or cover and keep chilled until ready to serve.

STRAWBERRY-YOGURT BRÛLÉE

- 2 cups plain whole-milk Greek yogurt
- 1 cup coarsely chopped strawberries, plus several strawberry slices, for garnish
- 5 tablespoons turbinado or granulated sugar

In a medium bowl, combine the yogurt with the chopped strawberries and 1 tablespoon sugar. Divide among four 6-oz. ramekins.

Garnish each with a few strawberry slices. Sprinkle each with about 1 tablespoon sugar.

Pass the flame of a torch over the sugar until it's melted and browned, about 30 seconds. Serve immediately.

NO-BAKE CHOCOLATE CAKE

- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 (8-ounce) containers frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 14 whole chocolate graham crackers
- 1 (13-ounce) jar chocolate hazelnut spread

Line a 9- x 5-inch loaf pan with plastic wrap, overlapping sides of pan.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, 1 container whipped topping, and confectioners' sugar until smooth; set aside.

Break graham crackers into sections and gently spread hazelnut topping on one side. Place a single layer in pan, breaking as necessary to fit pan. Spread whipped topping mixture evenly over hazelnut and repeat 5 more times with remaining graham crackers and ending with whipped topping mixture. Cover with overlapping plastic wrap and freeze at least 4 to 6 hours.

Invert cake onto platter and remove plastic wrap. Frost entire loaf with remaining container whipped topping. Refreeze 1 hour, or until ready to serve. Let sit out 10 to 15 minutes before slicing.

LEMONADE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup hot water
- 2 cups fresh lemon juice
- 1 gallon cold water
- 1 lemon, sliced
- Mint sprigs, for garnish

In a 1 gallon container, place sugar and hot water, and stir until sugar dissolves. Add lemon juice and cold water to render 1 gallon. Stir until well mixed. Pour lemonade over glasses of ice, squeeze slice of lemon on top of each, and garnish with a sprig of mint.

PERIODICAL

9/13

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*