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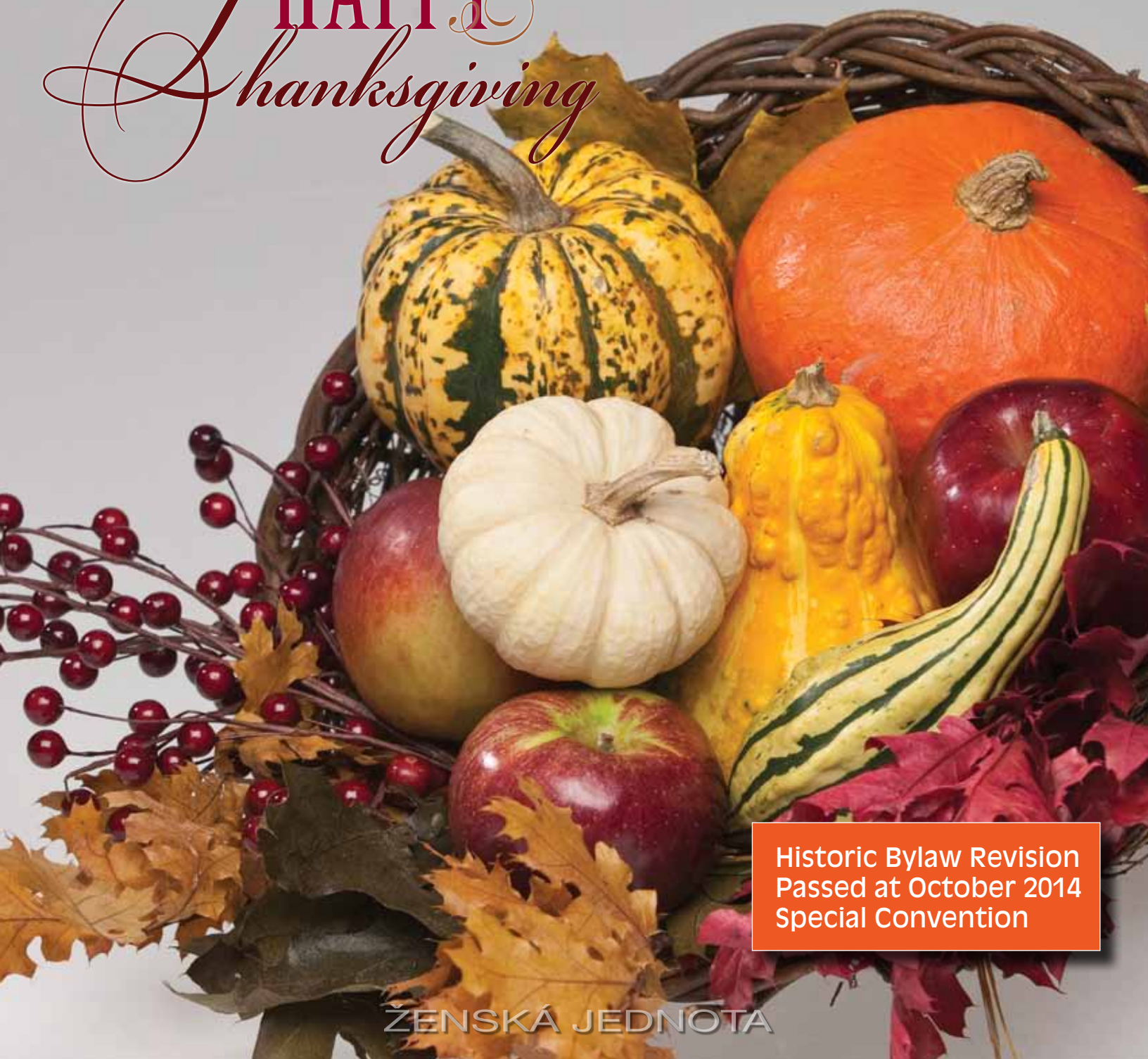
# Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 101, NO. 2

NOVEMBER 2014

*HAPPY  
Thanksgiving*



Historic Bylaw Revision  
Passed at October 2014  
Special Convention

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA



## ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

### Fraternally Yours™

ISSN 0897-2958



Fraternally Yours,  
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,



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## Thanksgiving Day . . .

If your home is like most, your Thanksgiving day will be very busy, with either traveling to where you want to go or preparing to have others over for the day. Either way, Thanksgiving Day and the preparations can be emotionally trying, which doesn't lend itself to preparing your heart to be reflective and thankful.

So, if we want to be the kind of people who are characterized by thankfulness, then we must make sure that we focus on being thankful not just on Thanksgiving Day but every day of the year. Here are a few thoughts you can ponder in your efforts to become more thankful:



- **Time.** Set aside time regularly to be quiet, to reflect. We live in a fast paced world. From the moment we awaken to the moment we collapse into bed, we have the opportunity to go at full speed. Technology keeps us connected and distracted almost 24/7. Unless we schedule time every day in which we can be quiet, reflect, and disconnect, we will never free our hearts and minds up from being rushed and on the go.
- **Thought.** Give thought to the many blessings that you have. Living in a materialistic culture, most of us are fully aware of what we do not have and how we absolutely must have "it." But how often do we reflect upon what we already have? Take some time each day and think of one or two things you have that you may take for granted and then take a moment and give thanks for those and resist the urge to always "keep up."
- **Generosity.** Be generous toward those with less and not envious of those with more. We tend to look at others who may be wealthier than ourselves and think, "I sure wish I had what he or she does." That kind of thinking breeds envy and jealousy rather than contentment. What can we do to break that cycle? I would suggest being generous to those who are less fortunate than yourself. Go volunteer at a food bank or homeless shelter, not just during the holidays—everybody works there then—but on a regular basis during the year. That will remind you of just how good you really have it.
- **Ask.** Ask a friend what they are thankful for. The next time you are at lunch with a friend, ask him or her what they are most thankful for. You will be amazed at the answers you receive and you may just create a more meaningful bond with your friends as you focus on this powerful question.
- **Acknowledge.** Lastly, tell those you love how thankful you are for having them in your life. So many times we neglect to tell those closest to us what their presence in our lives means to us. This year take the opportunity of Thanksgiving Day to write them a note or sometime during the day, look them in the eyes and tell them. Let them know what they mean to you, and in return you'll begin to create deeper, richer, more fulfilling relationships with those you love.

Dear Friends,

Let's make the most of the day we call Thanksgiving, but also vow to reflect on our blessings everyday, not just the fourth Thursday in November. May we be both thankful and aware of the many great gifts that we have been blessed with every day of the year. As we do so, may our hearts be filled with thanks and our minds experience a more restful peace as we cultivate a sense of gratitude for all that God has given us.

## Happy Thanksgiving!

Until Next Month,  
Warmly, Carolyn

## A FIFTY YEAR HISTORY: VATICAN II

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Since the winter of 2013 until now, my articles have centered on the Documents of the Second Vatican Council. My purpose was to highlight the fact that we are in the midst of celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Council that was opened in October 1962 and concluded in December 1965. It was the twenty-first Ecumenical Council in the history of Councils of the Church, the first having been convoked by Pope Sylvester I in Nicaea in May to June 325, A.D. As you and I well know, it is impossible to even give a brief sketch of each document in a monthly column as such. My hope, however, is that you and I will pick up a copy of the Documents and reread them so that we might understand the Holy Spirit's inspiration upon the Bishops of our Church in leading us to the conclusion of one millennium into the dawn of another. In this final message of the Second Vatican Council, I will share with you some of the important dates of this Council.

- 25 January 1959** Saint John XXIII announced that he had the intention to summon a Council.
- 5 June 1960** Saint John XXIII established the preparatory commissions and secretariats of the Council.
- 25 December 1961** Saint John XXIII convoked the Council.
- 11 October 1962** The Council solemnly opened at the Vatican.
- 8 December 1962** The Council's first session was concluded without any completed results.
- 3 June 1963** Saint John XXIII died.
- 21 June 1963** Pope Paul VI was elected pope and announced his intention to continue with the Council.
- 29 September 1963** The second session of the Council opened.
- 30 October 1963** An orientation vote was taken that favored the sacramentality and collegiality of bishops, the divine right of the episcopal college, and the restoration of the diaconate as a distinct and permanent order.
- 4 December 1963** The second session of the Council closed with the promulgation of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* and the *Decree on the Instruments of Social Communication*.
- 14 September 1964** The third session of the Council opened.
- 21 November 1964** The third session of the Council closed with the promulgation of the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*; the *Decree on Ecumenism*; and, the *Decree on Eastern Catholic Churches*. Pope Paul VI pro-

claimed the title of Mary as *Mother of the Church*.

- 14 September 1965** The fourth session of the Council opened.
- 28 October 1965** The following documents were promulgated: the *Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office in the Church*; the *Decree on the Appropriate Renewal of the Religious Life*; the *Decree on Priestly Formation*; the *Declaration on Christian Education*; and, the *Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*.
- 18 November 1965** The *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation* and the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity* were promulgated.
- 7 December 1965** The *Declaration on Religious Freedom*; the *Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests*; the *Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity*; and, the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* were promulgated.
- 8 December 1965** The Second Vatican Council was solemnly concluded.

Although the Council was composed of four sessions, there was much work prior to and in between sessions with many working drafts of the documents that were reworded and theologically fine tuned. The results were the above promulgated documents that assist the laity, the women and men religious, clergy, and bishops in their roles as Catholics who make up the Universal Church. As the documents made a better understanding of our expression of Faith in the middle of the last century, so even now the work of the Council guides us in the modern world.

We must be a grateful people, thanking the Holy Spirit to be the expression of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as espoused in the Catholic Church. In this Season of Thanksgiving, let us keep in mind not only the Fathers of this Council and all the Councils of our Church, but also all of our ancestors of Faith who have contributed generously and faithfully in building up the Body of Christ, His Church.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

### Branch 114 Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

The Annual Meeting and Christmas party for St. Ann's Lodge, Branch 114 will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 1:00 pm at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway, Lorain, OH. All members are invited to attend. Please make reservations no later than Tuesday, December 16th by calling Bernie Danevich at 440-960-2605 or Marge Thomas at 440-288-1492.



## *Message from our National President*

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We have breaking news from Beachwood, Ohio! After over ten years of repeated attempts, our delegates from across the nation at the Special Convention held in Beachwood from October 6-8, 2014 adopted a new set of bylaws for our society. This Special Convention was mandated and authorized by the 2011 Quadrennial Convention and approved by our Board of Directors in June, 2012. We are proud

that these new bylaws provide a reasonable framework for growth and success for many years to come, while continuing to promote and preserve our Catholic faith and Slovak/Slavic traditions and culture.

After the opening of the convention with prayer, presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Slovakia, the delegates welcomed the Honorable Merle Gordon, Mayor of the City of Beachwood, Ohio, who presented us with a Proclamation declaring October 6-8, 2014 as First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Days in the City of Beachwood.

Elected delegates from our branches convened in sessions for two and one half days for presentations from members of the bylaws' revision committee, chaired by Barbara Waller, and then engaged in discussion and debate in the spirit of democracy. The delegate body concluded the sessions by adopting all the essential provisions of the proposal, with a few modifications passed as amendments, and adopting various effective dates for implementation.

The proceedings were expedited by electronic voting, agreed upon by a vote of the delegates, a first for our society. This process also ensured the confidentiality of each delegate's vote. We were also blessed by a spirit of professionalism, kindness and courtesy demonstrated by all, punctuated by bursts of applause and levity from time to time. Members of the Anna Hurban Cleveland District co-

chaired by Joyce Lechman and Helen Gebura, volunteered to act as a host committee, and provided additional welcome bags with local treats, gift cards for door prizes donated by Cleveland District branches, drawn at our meals, and music and sing-alongs led by Ralph Szubski and his band. During one free evening, we invited any interested delegates and guests to visit our home office, for those delegates who wished to visit.

Indeed, we were honored to have prominent church leaders celebrate Mass for us each day: Bishop Richard Lennon, Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio, Auxiliary Bishop Roger Gries, O.S.B, also of the Diocese of Cleveland, and newly installed Abbot Gary Hoover, O.S.B. Abbot, St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio. We heartily thank our National Chaplain, Msgr. Peter Polando, for inviting them to our convention, planning the liturgies, and leading us in Mass the first evening, daily prayer and the rosary on Tuesday, October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Many remarked that we really could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding our way so we could act as strongly as we did---with courage, fortitude and prudence---to take this GIANT LEAP FORWARD for the benefit of our beloved Association and generations to come.

Now, we have lots of work to do to implement these changes after they are approved by the Ohio Department of Insurance, so that they can become effective at the various times in the coming year as set forth and adopted by the delegates at this historic Special Convention. We are heading for a very busy and hectic next year!

In a few weeks, we will celebrate our American national holiday of Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for, as we move forward to act upon the decisions made at this 2014 Special Convention. Let us also be thankful that we are able to meet in FREE ASSOCIATION in this great nation of ours to lay the groundwork for the future of our beloved Zenska Jednota. May you enjoy this time with family and friends!

With God's Blessings and with fraternal love,

**Cynthia M. Maleski**  
National President



## 2014 SPECIAL CONVENTION SUB-COMMITTEES



**BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP: L-R** Ex-officio committee member National President Cynthia Maleski, Esq.; Bylaw Revision Committee Chair Barbara N. Waller, Board Vice-President; Committee Secretary JoAnn Skvarek Banvich.



**ARTICLE III SUB-COMMITTEE/BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE — L-R:** Co-Chairs Mary Ann S. Johaneck, Esq. and Dr. Suzanne Strohl; Melissa Sis, and Clarice Sabata.



**ARTICLE I SUB-COMMITTEE/BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE — L-R:** Elaine Walters, Linda M. Killeen (Chair), Bernadette J. Demechko, and Joseph Sladeczek.



**ARTICLE IV SUB-COMMITTEE/BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE — L-R:** Dennis Povondra, JoAnn Skvarek Banvich (Chair), Helen Oravec, and David Sadowsky.



**ARTICLE II SUB-COMMITTEE/BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE — L-R:** Florence McCabe, Virginia A. Holmes, Mary Jo Noyes, and Msgr. Peter Polando (Chair).



**ARTICLE V SUB-COMMITTEE/BYLAW REVISION COMMITTEE — L-R:** Milton Trnka, Evelyn Napierala, Jeanette Palanca (Chair), and Bernie Drahozal.



# FCSLA Connects . . .

Patrick F. Braun, FICF, CLU, LUTCF, National Sales Manager

## Fourth Quarter and Goal to Go!



Patrick Braun

Just as the fourth quarter in a football game many times determines the final score, so the fourth quarter of the year often determines which yearly sales goals are met and which are not. To encourage all FCSLA producers to finish the year strong, a great **Fourth Quarter Campaign** is running and there is still plenty of time to participate!

The campaign is very simple. Every application for life insurance or annuity that is received in the Home Office between October 1 and December 19 (inclusive) will qualify for a \$25 bonus. (Super Youth Term must be for \$50,000 face amount and annuities must have at least an initial premium of \$500.) Each qualifying application received will also generate an entry into a super drawing. Five names will be drawn for \$100 cash prizes and one name will be drawn for a \$500 prize! In addition, **all qualifying Life New Members will be awarded double points toward the Leaders Conference in Jamaica!**

Every application gives a producer a bonus and a chance to win a prize. This could really help with the Christmas bills! In the drawing, there is no limit on how many prizes a producer can win so the more applications sent in, the better the chance to win one or more prizes.

The fourth quarter campaign will be the final campaign of 2014. Thanks to all producers who participated in our campaigns this year! Please watch for the 2015 Incentive and Recognition Program!

## FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our Elite Annuities Issued After 1/31/2014:

**SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)**

**3.00% APY\***

**GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)**

**3.25% APY\***

**PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)**

**3.50% APY\***

5 Year Annuities issued prior to 2/1/2014 will earn their guaranteed minimum rate.

\*This rate is in effect 2/1/2014 thru 12/31/2014.



## THINGS I NEVER LEARNED IN HIGH SCHOOL

- How to do taxes
- What taxes are
- How to vote
- How to write a resume/cover letter
- Anything to do with banking
- How to apply for loans for college/other
- How to buy a car or house

. . . but thank my lucky stars, I can tell you about a Pythagorean Theorem.

So what does the above have to do with FCSLA, a fraternal benefit society, life insurance and annuities? Well, everything! As the year comes to a close people are getting ready for the holidays, end of the year, new year, filing taxes, etc. Kids are back in school with a full schedule of classes and extracurricular activities.

Younger people today charge everything. Without a computer they cannot even make change – it always amazes me that when you are at a store and your total comes to \$10.51 and you give the cashier a \$20 bill and a penny. They look at you like why are you giving me a penny? Gee so I don't get back a five, four singles a quarter, 2 dimes and 4 pennies. Give me a five, four singles and two quarters back, that's why! I think most of us have experienced something like this scenario. It's funny, but yet it's not.

Do our younger members even know what life insurance is or why you need it? Probably not. Take a moment. Do a refresher course for yourself, pull out those insurance policies – when was the last time you updated your beneficiaries? Sit and talk to your kids about what a life insurance policy is – not an easy subject to talk about, but basically it helps pay for burial expense as well as other expenses when a loved one passes away. It's a part of life. Best time to purchase a policy is when you are young and the premiums are cheaper. A life insurance company is not a bank. You don't call up or send in a request and we cut a check and mail it right then. It is a lifetime investment. And it may not seem important to a 16 year old, but once you turn 35 and start having a family . . . you wish you would have bought a policy when your premium was cheaper.

Oh by the way, according to Wikipedia in mathematics, the **Pythagorean theorem** – or **Pythagoras's theorem** – is a relation in Euclidean geometry among the three sides of a right triangle. It states that the square of the hypotenuse (the side opposite the right angle) is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

## American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting



Some members of the Board of Directors along with national sales manager Patrick Braun attended the 2014 American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. The meeting was held September 4-6, 2014

at the Hilton Austin Hotel. With a diverse line-up of educational opportunities, and guest speakers this was another excellent meeting. Best-selling author and Fast Company magazine columnist, Dan Heath discussed his latest book, *Decisive: How to Make Better Decisions in Life and Work*, and Saturday was declared "Grow Younger Day." Featured speaker millennial speaker and generational expert, Kim Lear spoke to us on to how to best leverage a dynamic multi-generational workforce and how to best connect with a multi-generational customer base. Workshops featured presentations like Headwinds and Tailwinds Facing Fraternal Insurers by AM Best; Branding Our Business Model for The Next Generation by Phillippe Garneau of GW Branding; and an Unclaimed Property Update to name a few. National President Cynthia Maleski continues to represent the FCSLA well as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Fraternal Alliance.



Standing, L-R: Carolyn M. Bazik, Barbara Waller, Sue Ann M. Seich. Seated: Larry M. Golofski, Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, and Irene J. Drotleff.



## Agnes (LaBuda) Stephan Celebrates 93rd Birthday



Agnes A. (LaBuda) Stephan, (Sr. Branch 89, Bethlehem, PA) celebrated her 93rd birthday on September 10, 2014. On Saturday, September 6th a mass was celebrated for her at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish (the former Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church) by Monsignor Robert Kozel with beautiful music including a Slovak hymn sung by the choir.

Family and friends wished her many blessings on her special day.

The family enjoyed a meal and birthday cake with her at the home of her daughter Michelle and son-in-law Patrick Shannon.

Agnes was born to the late Joseph and Mary (Mizak) LaBuda. She was married to Michael Stephan, Jr. for 60 years. Agnes has three children, Nancy Hutt, wife of Carl Hutt, Michael Stephan III and his wife, Linda and Michelle Shannon, wife of Pat Shannon. Her grandchildren are Ryan and Kyle Shannon and Taylor and Madison Stephan.

## Josephine Kluska Hooton Celebrates Her 90th Birthday

Josephine (Jo) Kluska Hooton celebrates life and her 90th birthday outside the assisted living facility where she now resides in Leawood, KS. Jo was born and raised in Sugar Creek, MO and lived there for 88 years.

Jo has been a member of FCSLA Sr. Branch 351 for 70 years. She has a son and daughter of Kansas City, MO, six grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.





## FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION LUNCHEON

The Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven is celebrated every year on August 15th. For many years, Sr. Branch 452 in Whiting, IN has celebrated this most important of all Marian feasts with a luncheon at Elizabeth Dedinsky's home (President Emeritus). This year the luncheon was moved to the Knights of Columbus hall to accommodate the 60 members and guests who attended. Joann Skvarek Banvich, Auditor felt that this was a result of moving the luncheon to Sunday, August 17th which allowed for members that work during the weekday to participate.

Rev. Father Gregory Holicky said the invocation. Each member enjoyed a lovely lunch, received a FCSLA notebook, and a raffle ticket to win a generous prize. The floral arrangements were also given away to lucky members.

We were fortunate to have several guests in attendance, including former Board Members, Rosemary Mlinarich and Betty Yurechko. This function was a great opportunity for members to enjoy a fraternal event that allowed them to visit with friends they haven't seen recently while commemorating the death and Assumption of Mary.



Seated, L-R: Officers of Branch 452 — Betty Skvarek, Liz Dedinsky. Standing, L-R: Helen Furto, Joanne Ortiz, Joann Skvarek Banvich, Mary Beth Kutcka, Margaret Ortiz, and Betty Ortiz.



### ATTENTION CLEVELAND DISTRICT BRANCHES

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

#### ~ EVENTS ~

- ❖ December 6 – LOHV Christmas Decorating at Bedford
- ❖ December 13 – LOHV / District Christmas Party at Bedford

Please check the Cleveland District Webpage  
[www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org) for more details on each event.

### FCSLA Accepting Applications for National Sales Manager

Due to the future retirement of national sales manager Patrick Braun, FICF, CLU, LUTCF, The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is accepting applications from qualified individuals to prepare for succession. Interested parties should submit a full resume along with a cover letter to President Cynthia Maleski at the FCSLA Home Office. Previous life insurance sales and sales management success and appropriate industry designations are preferred. Knowledge of life insurance products, recruiting expertise, and leadership positions in the life insurance industry will also be helpful.



## Celebrates 70 Years



Urban and Lucy Dietzenbach (W033) celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, September 28, 2014 with a Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Notre Dame Parish in Cresco, IA, followed by a family dinner. The couple were married on October 3, 1944 at St. Luke Church in St. Lucas, IA. They were blessed with eight sons and one daughter: Donald (Janice) in Evergreen, Colorado; JoAnne (Gary) Larson; Richard; Dean; Kevin; and Dale (Julie) all of whom reside in Cresco, IA. Three children James (Barb); Robert (Kathy); and Duane are deceased. The couple has 21 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

## Celebrates 70th Wedding Anniversary

Harry and Shirley Chermak of St. George Parish, Munden, KS celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary with a family pot-luck dinner. They were married on August 30, 1944 by Monsignor C.J. Brown at St. George's. They have three sons, Harry James (Tina), Ritchie (Teresa), and Andy (Danette). Two sons Kirby and Timothy are deceased. They are both members of Branch W086 where Harry served as treasurer for many years. He is a retired farmer and she is retired from the hospital where she served as a kitchen supervisor. The couple has 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Congratulations and God's blessings on our anniversary couple.

## 70th Wedding Anniversary Honored

Ed and Helen (Opalek) Bancuk were married November 23, 1944 in Sacred Heart Church in Muskegon Heights, MI. Ed was a tail gunner on a B29 in the Air Force. He retired from GTE Telephone Company and Helen is retired from the Heights School System.

They have over 30 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Helen served as an officer for many, many years in Branch 364 at Tatra Hall. Congratulations and God's blessings on our anniversary couple!



## Plan Now to Order Your Christmas Oplatky

*Oplatky*, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted until December 19, 2014. The *Oplatky*, five per package, are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$4.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$5.75 and upwards, depending upon the number of packets ordered and the prevailing cost of Priority Mail. Orders can be customized to meet your needs. Checks should be made payable to **Jankola Library** and must accompany your order.

For more information or to place an order, contact Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M., at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

## MARCH FOR LIFE

Our presence at the 42nd Annual Right to Life March on **Thursday, January 22, 2015** in Washington, D.C. is extremely important. First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the First Catholic Slovak Union support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSLA and FCSU are once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH for this very important trip. For the past few years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve two buses for the trip to D.C. Our organizations are proud to encourage our members along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA Home Office. Her phone number is 1-800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at [Kelly@fcsla.org](mailto:Kelly@fcsla.org) for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 29th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. If you cannot find information please call or email Kelly for assistance.

## Kristin Zabrecky Graduates with Highest Distinction



**Kristin Zabrecky on Graduation Day with her Degree from Purdue University.**

Kristin Zabrecky, daughter of Mr. George and Dr. Anna Zabrecky of Cincinnati, OH and members of the Purdue University class of 2014 graduated in May with Highest Distinction with a degree in Biology. She will be attending Veterinary School at Ohio State University.

During her undergraduate years at Purdue, she was involved in a variety of activities including Habitat for Humanity, Purdue Equestrian Team, Women in Science Program, Tae Kwon Do as a 3rd Degree Black Belt and various volunteer and job opportunities around the Veterinary School.

During Kristin's freshman year, she went with the Purdue Equestrian Team to the IHSA Nationals in Lexington, KY. The team has made it to Nationals every year since with Kristin earning Top Placing Regional and Zone competitions. She was also very involved with her parish; St. Thomas Aquinas where she was a Sunday School teacher/Life Guide for the 1st grade classroom and a missionary to Baudin, Haiti to work with people on agricultural sustainability. After all this, Kristin feels blessed to have been a recipient of an FCSLA Scholarship in her senior year. She is a member of S81, Whiting, IN and the Grand Niece of Margaret Abildua, S81 Treasurer and President of the Helen Kocan District.

## FCSLA Branches Honor Scholarship Winners

### Branch W033

Branch W033 was honored to present three National Scholarship winners from the branch with their checks. Two winners were honored as part of the Annual Branch Picnic on Sunday, July 6th.

A \$1,250 scholarship check was awarded to **RACHEL STIKA**, daughter of Ron and Elaine Stika from Cresco, IA. Rachel is attending Iowa State.

A \$1,250 scholarship check was awarded to **BAILEY TIMP**, daughter of Dave and Kris Timp from Spillville, IA. Bailey is attending the University of Northern Iowa.

The final winner **MARK RYANT**, son of Jim and Denise Ryant from Calmar, IA was awarded his \$1,750 scholarship on Sunday, July 28th at St. Wenceslaus Church after returning from his work with the Catholic Heart Work Camp on the East Coast. Mark is attending St. Pius X Seminary at Loras College.

The branch congratulates their winners and wishes them God's blessings in their educational endeavors.



**L-R: President Dan Silhacek, Vice-President Jerry Kuhn, scholarship winner Rachel Stika, Secretary Rebecca Kuhn, and Treasurer Rita Fjelstul.**



**L-R: Vice-President Jerry Kuhn, scholarship winner Bailey Timp, Secretary Rebecca Kuhn, and President Dan Silhacek.**



**L-R: Vice President Jerry Kuhn, scholarship winner Mark Ryant and Secretary Rebecca Kuhn.**

### Branch W080

Branch W080 of FCSLA was very pleased to have three of their members selected for national scholarships for the coming year. College scholarships in the amount of \$1250 were awarded to **KYLIE BRABEC** of Schuyler, NE and **ELIZABETH JANOUSEK** of Clarkson, NE. A grade school scholarship in the amount of \$600 was won by **BETHANY RUPPRECHT** of Clarkson, NE.

Kylie, the daughter of Rich and Renee Brabec, plans to attend the College of St. Mary in Omaha, NE.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Dale and Becky Janousek, and will be attending the University of Nebraska/Lincoln this fall.

Bethany will be a 6th grader at St. John Neumann School. Her parents are Ron and Mary Rupprecht. Congratulations to three outstanding students!



**L-R: Front row are scholarship winners Kylie Brabec, Elizabeth Janousek and Bethany Rupprecht. Back row: Gerald Brabec (grandfather of Kylie), Renee Brabec (Kylie's mother), Monica Fisher (Branch Treasurer), Don Vrbicky (President), Ron Bos (Vice President).**



## MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

### *Sr. Branch 484*



Congratulating and presenting this year's scholarship winner from members and officers of Sr. Branch 484, Egypt, PA are: (from left) Christopher Bachman (brother); Msgr. Daniel J. Yenushosky (Pastor, Holy Trinity Catholic Church); Delores Krempasky (Recording Secretary); EMILY ROSE BACHMAN (scholarship recipient); Anne Marie Bachman (mother and Treasurer); Dolores Neupauer (President and Financial Secretary) and Bruce Bachman (father).

### *Branch W149*

Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch W149, Vining, IA presented a \$1,250 National Scholarship award July 15 to member **CAROLYN CIBULA**. Carolyn graduated from South Tama High School in June and is now attending Luther College, Decorah, IA to study vocal and instrumental music.



Front row, L-R: David Dvorak, Luree Riha, Carolyn Cibula, and parents Bunny and Duane Cibula. Back row: Marvin Hlas, Paul Riha, Peg Dvorak and Delores Posusta.



### *Jr. Branch 157*

#### Tag Day for Flag Distribution

Officers of Monessen Jr. Branch 157 recently presented a Matching Funds check in the amount of \$600 to the Monessen Veterans Council. The branch recently held a tag day distributing flags to those donating funds.

Presenting the check to Veterans Council President, Ron Chromulak are Rosemary Betza, branch secretary and Dorothy Urbanowicz, branch president. Observing the presentation are Council officers.



### *Sr. Branch 111*

#### Slovak Food Booth

The members of Branch S111, Charleroi, PA had a Slovak Food Booth at the "Festival of Nations" held at Mary, Mother of The Church, Charleroi, PA. The branch members along with the help of church members conducted the Matching Funds project, by making and selling homemade pierogies, haluski, and holupki, raising \$1,750. Many thanks to all who participated to make this event so successful!



L-R: Front Row: Father Jerry, Agnes Braunegg, Beth Braunegg, JoAnn Macilan and Elaine W., (kneeling) Barb Lombardi.



# National and District Scholarship Awards Luncheon

The Magdalen I. Iskra District recently held a luncheon to honor the eight National and three District Scholarship recipients from the district. Two special award recipients were also honored. There were 54 adults and four children in attendance. The luncheon was held at the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Loree A. Gerich, District Secretary served as Master of Ceremonies. Bernadette Yench, Secretary of Branch 172 led the singing of the National Anthems of the United States of America and Slovakia. Magdalen I. Iskra, District President extended greetings to all in attendance. Ann Dougher, District Auditor gave the invocation. A delicious buffet was served.

After lunch, Loree A. Gerich introduced the branch and district officers in attendance. Each recipient then introduced their family members and gave a brief history about themselves. The District Scholarships were then presented. Gifts were presented to the National Scholarship recipients from their branches. The Magdalen I. Iskra Scholarship and the Frank and Joann Biros Memorial Scholarship were also presented. Everyone in attendance were given gifts compliments of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

After the awarding of the scholarships and gifts, Anna M. Hudock, District Treasurer gave the benediction. The program ended with singing of "God Bless America" by everyone in attendance.

Those not able to attend the luncheon include: Rachel M. Ungvasky, National College Junior Award; Molly Marie

Roche, National College Sophomore Award; Ryan Falchek, National College Freshman Award; Mary B. Klueber, National 5th Grade Award; Shane A. Eckert, Magdalen I. Iskra Scholarship and Mary Lacey Klueber, Frank and Joann Biros Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations to all recipients!



Magdalen I. Iskra, District President and Loree Gerich, District Secretary and Luncheon Chairman.



Seated: Gabrielle Alberigi, David Alberigi, David Alberigi, and Nancy Alberigi. Standing: Ann Rajala, Rita Kcenich and Florence McCabe.



National, District, and Special Award Recipients — First Row: Daniel J. Paoloni, National 7th Grade Award; Jordan M. Ceklosky, National 1st Grade Award; Abigail L. Sabol Spare, District 1st Grade Award. Second Row: Nathan James Iskra, National College Sophomore Award; Lauren Serafin, District High School Sophomore Award; Dylan M. Christy, District 6th Grade Award; and Gabrielle Alberigi, National College Sophomore Award.



Seated: Cyril A. Iskra, Nathan James Iskra, Cyril M. Iskra, and Theresa Iskra. Standing: Sage Iskra, Nolan Iskra, Shanin Iskra, Magdalen I. Iskra, and Martha A. Iskra.





**Seated:** Irene Smee, Antoinette Kravits, and Donna Schwalbach. **Standing:** Nina Paoloni, Sherry Dalessandro, and Daniel J. Paoloni.



**Seated:** Marie Flannery, Theresa Partika, and Sister Joseph Marie. **Standing:** Jack George, Michele Thomas, and William Greytock.



**Seated:** Irene Kalinowski, Donna Christy, Rachael Christy, and Dylan M. Christy. **Standing:** Ann Dougher, Mary Ellen Myers, Jo Ann Klinesmith, and Kevin Christy.



**First Row:** Barbara Ceklosky, Jordan M. Ceklosky, Theresa Ceklosky, Noah Ceklosky, Jean Bonn, and Michael Ceklosky. **Second Row:** Kevin Ceklosky, Francis Ceklosky, and Heidi Ceklosky.



**Seated:** Anna Hudock, Loree Gerich, and Bernadette Yencha. **Standing:** David Bryk, Patricia Bryk, and John Gerich.



**Seated:** Bonnie Baltes, Monica Novak, and Joyce Serafin. **Standing:** Lori Sabol, Abigail L. Sabol Spare, Bernadine Sabol, and Lauren Serafin.

Email your Wedding, Anniversary and Birthday Announcements to [zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net)

## YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT HOSTS WINNERS

The twenty-two scholarship winners of the Youngstown District were honored at a dinner on August 24 at the Gallery Catering Center in Hubbard, OH. Dolores Medvec, President of Branch 153, which hosted the event, welcomed the 158 attendees and thanked them for supporting their children and grandchildren and encouraging them in their educational goals. Dolores and her co-hostess, Junior Branch 54 Secretary, Fran Chervinko, and members of the committee had decorated the hall in a red, white, and blue theme, honoring our men and women in the military.

District President, Bernadette Demechko, also congratulated the winners and stated that of the 54 members of the Youngstown District who had applied for scholarships 22 of them had been awarded one. She stated that although she usually spoke, at the scholarship dinner, on the importance of perpetuating one's Slovak heritage, this time she would, instead, speak on the importance of Slovak fraternal societies at the turn of last century when so many immigrants came to the United States.

Bernadette had the privilege of translating the minutes and pastors' announcements written in Slovak, of her Saint Matthias parish from 1914-1938. The ledger itself was old and worn and its pages brittle with age. She noted that the Slovak immigrants settled in small communities near their place of employment, area steel mills. They soon were visited by other Slovaks who were agents of the various Slovak fraternal insurance companies. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) had been founded in 1892 by nine Slovak women in Cleveland, OH. By 1897 the membership had grown to 1102 members. Because the fraternal society offered financial protection for a small monthly fee, many families sacrificed to pay the premium for funeral coverage. Until the FCSLA was founded, women could obtain insurance only through their fathers or husbands. Eight Slovak Branches were soon established in the Youngstown area and this was followed by building Slovak churches in those same areas.

The President's own Branch 161 was formed in 1903, eleven years before Saint Matthias Church was founded in 1914.



Front Row L-R: Magen Petty (J192); Madeline Christoff (S30); Kristen Osiniak (S30); Leanne Chandler (J192); Emma Romanko (S30); Caroline Elaine Vargo (S156); President Bernadette Demechko; Sarah Gleydura (S30). Back Row L-R: Jacob Hicks (J29); Ryan Gavalier (S161); Jessica Joyce (S30); Joel Zaluski (S161); Kyle Bahmer (S161).

The minutes indicate that in 1915, Saint Matthias parishioners borrowed a large amount of money to erect a wooden church which would also have 6 rooms for a school. But the immigrants could not donate the \$5 per month the pastor requested. She stated that in addition to councilmen, collectors were appointed to go to parishioners' houses

twice a month to collect the parish offering. This was done on the 2d and 4th Saturdays; the days after the mill distributed the workers' pay in cash. Her own father, John Slanina, was listed in the minutes as a collector on Taft Avenue where she still resides. But the payments to the bank could not be met. It was the fraternal societies in the parishes that helped the newly established churches with their finances.

Since the Branches had large treasuries because of insurance premiums they collected, the fraternal societies offered to pay for their own members' 25 cent entry fees to parish picnics, plays, dances, etc. Minute's show profits from the first picnic were \$419 almost half of the \$1000 owed monthly to the bank. The Branches' offerings at Christmas and Easter were also large enough to help the parishes reach a better financial plane. She pointed out that the policy of a Branch paying for its members' fees to social events, has continued for 100 years, for everyone in attendance at today's dinner has had their dinner paid by their Branch.

The President then introduced each Branch President who called her Branch's winners forward. Winners were asked to speak briefly about their education, extracurricular activities, goals, etc. Each was presented with a monetary gift from the District by Shelly Zura, District Treasurer, and a monetary gift from their Branch President.

Doctor Mary Lou DiPillo, Branches 29/30 President

(Continued on Page 15)



**Bernadette Demechko and Emma Romanko, Branch 30, winner of the \$1,000 Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship.**



Some members of the Board of Directors, L-R: Kay Kovalchik, (S30), Auditor; Nancy DeWitt (S202) Auditor; Dolores Sonoga (S169) Secretary; Shelly Zura (S344) Treasurer; Sandi Saluga (S422) Trustee, and Pat Granchay (S156) Trustee.



## St. Ann's Day and Scholarship Winners Celebration

Members of Sr. Branch 114 and Jr. Branch 198 celebrated St. Ann's Day in Lorain, OH and their scholarship winners and their families at a recent meeting held on July 20th, 2014 at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH.

A business meeting was held welcoming all present followed by reports from the Senior and Junior branches. President Bernie Danevich, then honored the Senior Branch scholarship winners – **KELSEY BOBEK**, college graduate, Cleveland State University, daughter of Audrey and Tom Bobek; **MEGHAN BOBEK**, college sophomore, Bowling Green State University, daughter of Laura and Richard Bobek; and **JULIE WOLFINGER**, Theresa Sajan Award, Towson University, daughter of Nancy and Peter Wolfinger from Maryland who was unable to attend. Betty Boone, Treasurer of J198 presented an Elementary Scholarship winner, **JOSH SHUTIC** who read his application essay to the delight of all the attendees. In addition, the branch honored those who applied for scholarships and scholarship winners with a check to be used toward college expenses; they were all congratulated and wished much success for the future. A light luncheon was served to all with cake for dessert. The meeting was ended with a raffle and gifts from Branch 114 and from the FCSLA followed by prayer and adjournment.



Joshua Shutic and Betty Boone, J198 Treasurer.



L-R: Betty Boone, Treasurer J198; Joshua Shutic, scholarship winner; Bernie Danevich, President; Meghan Bobek, and Kelsey Bobek, scholarship winners.

## YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT HOSTS WINNERS

(Continued from Page 14)

introduced Jacob Hicks (Canton Central Catholic High School); Madeline Christoff (Kent State University); Sarah Gleydura (Youngstown State University); Kristen Osiniak (Youngstown State University); and Jessica Joyce (Cleveland State University Graduate School). For Branch 156, Annie Scherr, introduced Caroline Elaine Vargo (Youngstown State University). Virginia Deluca, Branches J192/S161, introduced Leanne Chandler (Holy Family Elementary School); Magen Petty (Saint Christine Elementary School); Isabella Rose White (Saint Alphonsus School, Cranberry, PA); Kyle Bahmer (Hoban High School, Akron, OH); Ryan Gavalier (Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie, PA); and Joel Zaluski (Youngstown State University).

Winners who could not attend had representatives who received their rewards and spoke on their behalf. They included Branch 156: Kathleen Rusbacky (University of Cincinnati); Branch 161: Deanna Demechko (Ohio University), Logan Kaplan (Austin Texas Community College); Branch 161: Alyssa McKula (Kent State University), Brittany Bobovnyik (Ohio University Graduate School), Samantha Niznik (Youngstown State University); Branch 202: Marion Bresko (Penn State University) and Branch 344: Alexa Mary Suhich (University of Central Florida Graduate School). The District President presented the District Scholarship to Sarah Gleydura, Branch 30, who is attending Youngstown State University. Agnes Lisko, Representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust Scholarship presented a scholarship to Emma Romanko, Branch 30, who is also attending Youngstown State University.

There was no formal meeting, but the President updated the group on the proposed bylaw changes of the FCSLA which will be voted on at the October special convention in Beachwood, OH.



L-R: Frances Hobor, Dorothy Hobor, and Bernadette Steadman.



L-R: Kay Yasher, Marie Schweinberg, and Carol Bainbridge.

# FCSLA 2015-16 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) is pleased to announce its **2015-16 Scholarship Program**, which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. This year, more than \$248,250 will be awarded to young members of the Association, which includes \$42,000 being awarded to elementary school applicants.

The elementary school awards are a benefit, recently passed by the FCSLA Board of Directors. In this day of promoting education, one of the best means of offering assistance is by the Scholarship Program. Each category will be awarded as follows:

### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS - \$1,250 EACH**

58 Freshmen • 27 Sophomores • 16 Juniors • 16 Seniors

### **GRADUATE AWARDS - \$1,750 EACH**

16 Full-Time Graduate Awards

### **32 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS - \$1,000 EACH**

8 Freshmen • 8 Sophomores • 8 Juniors • 8 Seniors

### **28 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH**

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

### **28 EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH**

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

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

An eligible candidate for a FCSLA Fraternal Scholarship Award shall be a member of good standing for at least three years prior to date of application and hold a \$1,000 legal reserve certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or a \$100 annuity certificate. If applying for a Seminary or Deacon Scholarship, it is necessary to complete all documents.

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field, based on the following: Academic Standing - 40%; Church/Community Service Value - 30%; and School Involvement/Essay - 30%.

Applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted to the Home Office and **received at the Home Office on or before February 20, 2015**. No applications will be eligible after that date. Applications and further details for this program may be obtained by calling the Home Office, your local Branch Officer, or by visiting our website at [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com) or by completing the form on this page and mailing it to:

### **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION**

Scholarship Department • 24950 Chagrin Boulevard • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

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## **2015-2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST**

**Please send me a scholarship application form**

(PLEASE PRINT)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Application requested for following award:

☐ College

☐ Graduate

☐ High School

☐ Seminary or Deacon

☐ Grades 1-4

☐ Grades 5-8





# IN MEMORIAM

## MARY F. GASPARICH Sr. Branch 53



Mary Francis (nee Pekar) Gasparich, 88, passed away peacefully at Willow Falls Assisted Living on May 26, 2014 after

battling cancer recurrence for 2 years. She was a 16 year lymphoma survivor.

Mary was born on December 8, 1925 in Joliet, IL to the late John Pekar and Anna (Medvesky) Pekar.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her brother John Pekar (2004), sister Margaret (Pekar) Vargocko (2009) and brother Raymond Pekar (2013).

A lifelong resident of Joliet, Mary attended St. Cyril's Catholic School and Joliet Central High School. Mary worked for Allied Van Lines in Chicago, a subsidiary of IBM (1943-1953). She was the supervisor of their entire secretarial department for all divisions. Mary's claim to fame was her mathematical skills and speed in stenography and typing.

She married Thomas Edward Gasparich on June 18, 1949 at St. Cyril's Catholic Church. They were married 60+ years before his death on February, 28, 2010. In raising five children, Mary was heavily involved with the St. Mary's Nativity Catholic School Mother's Club. Mary loved the Lord with her whole heart and loved her neighbor as herself. She always had a smile for everyone. Mary was a phenomenal cook and baker. She was an avid reader and preached education. Mary was the happiest when she was enjoying time with her grandchildren.

Mary is survived by her brother, Edward Pekar, her beloved five children, Mary Ellen (John) Hendricks, LeAnn (Bill) Tatro, Tom (Deborah) Gasparich, Christine (Dennis) Coil and Tim (Kathryn) Gasparich. She was an incredibly loving grandmother to 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made in Mary's memory to St.

Mary Nativity Catholic Church, Educational Endowment, 706 N. Broadway St., Joliet, IL 60435.

## EDWARD P. MATUSKA Sr. Branch 81

Edward P. "Grandpa" Matuska, Sr., 89, of Whiting, IN, entered eternal life on May 1, 2014 at Porter Regional Hospital, Valparaiso, IN.

He was the beloved husband of the late Margaret C. (Dubeck) Matuska who passed away September 8, 2012. He is survived by his loving son, Edward (Judi) Matuska, Jr.; cherished grandfather of Melissa and Jennifer; adoring great-grandpa of Dominic; dearest brother of Bettye (late Martin) Kragel and the late Anna (late Michael) Csigas, Mary (late Michael) Hajduk, Margaret (late Michael) Vislocky, Robert and Dennis Matuska; dear brother-in-law of Phyllis Matuska, Vera Matuska, Joan (Dan) Murphy and Maryann (late Norman) Andres; proud uncle of many nieces and nephews.

He moved to Whiting, IN as a small child where he attended St. John School and was a graduate of George Rogers Clark High School, Class of 1943. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Whiting, where he served as an Eucharistic Minister. Ed was one of the greatest generation. He served his country during WWII as a Naval Electrician stationed in the South Pacific. Ed then went on to operate Star Sales/Whiting Home Center with his wife, Marge until their retirement. Ed served the Whiting-Robertsedale Community in many ways and was very active in the Kiwanis Club, where he was secretary for countless years, the Chamber of Commerce, and volunteered regularly at the Whiting Care Center. Ed was a "Jack of all Trades", often sharing his skills with family and friends. His greatest joy was his beloved granddaughters, enjoying many shared vacations and leaves with them many happy memories. Ed lived a Christian life and his memory will be cherished until we meet again.

## ETHEL C. BARTOS Sr. Branch 74



Ethel Cecilia Bartos, 89, of Bethlehem, PA, passed away on May 26, 2014 at home. She was born on August 21, 1924, in Bethlehem. She was the daughter

of the late Joseph and Margaret Daday. She was the wife of the late Dr. Joseph E. Bartos of Bethlehem for 64 years.

Mrs. Bartos was a nurse at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown. She attended Bethlehem Catholic High School and Sacred Heart School of Nursing. Mrs. Bartos dedicated her life to her family and her community. She was a long-time volunteer with the Ladies Aide Society at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem Catholic High School, a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church where she served as an Eucharistic Minister and also volunteered with many activities and clubs. She was a member of the Serra Club of Bethlehem and served on the women's council of the Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem.

She will be lovingly remembered by her son, Joseph Bartos, Jr. with whom she resided; sons, Attorney John Bartos (Sallie) of Bethlehem; Dr. Paul Bartos (Carol) of Canton, OH; Robert Bartos (Susan) of Allentown; Jeffrey Bartos (Yvonne) of Palantine, IL; daughters, Mary Jane Sickonic (Michael) of Allentown; Susan of Newport, RI; and Peg Story (Bernie) of Bethlehem; 21 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Nancy Bartos; and brothers, Msgr. Stephen J. Daday, Joseph M. Daday, John L. Daday and Paul B. Daday.

Contributions may be made to Bethlehem Catholic High School, 2133 Madison Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017.





## 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!



On May 10, 2014, Jr. Branch 158 members, twins **STEVEN** and **CANDICE MCNEILL**, made their First Holy Communion at St. John the Beloved, McLean, VA. Steven and Candice both attend the parish school, St. John Academy. Steven loves playing baseball and is a Chicago Cubs fan, and Candice loves playing softball, dancing and learning the piano. Proud grandmother Margaret A. Buss is a member of Branch 319, Catasauqua, PA.



**JESSICA PRANTL** (W008) made her First Holy Communion on April 26, 2014 at St. Dominic's Catholic Church in Colorado Springs, CO with Fr. Bill as celebrant. Jessica and her family, (including grandparents and cousins) are all members of W008 in Dodge, NE. She is the daughter of Chris and Debra Prantl and granddaughter of Alice Maresh.



**EMILY BONCHIK** (Br. 348), daughter of Brian (Br. 452) and Kris Bonchik, made her First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Whiting, IN. Emily is the granddaughter of Bob and Betty (Br. 452) Bonchik and David and Priscilla Williams, all of Whiting, IN.

A party was held at the American Slovak Club in Whiting for family and friends. Emily's American Girl Doll wore a matching dress which was given to her by her godmother, Christine Bonchik (Br. 452).



## Happy Thanksgiving!





Darlene Blazek, President of Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE and her husband Jim are very proud of their 1 year old great-granddaughter **LONDON HANSELING**. Both Jim and London are also Branch W187 members. London is very excited about finding her Uncle Nathan Blazek and Cousin Derek Jansa's pictures on the scholarship pages of the August issue of *Fraternally Yours*. Everyone is happy that she is starting to read the magazine at such a young age!



**NATALIE ELIZABETH ESTERLE** was baptized at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Big Bend, WI on July 27th. She is the daughter of Katie and Martin Esterle. Katie currently serves as a National Auditor of FCSLA and is Secretary of Branch 23.

Natalie's baptismal gown was made by her grandmother, Kathleen Mueller, from pieces of her wedding gown.

Natalie and her family belong to J130 and S23 in Milwaukee. She is a fifth generation member of FCSLA.

## Elsa Buehler Attended Cooks Honor College Program



**ELSA BUEHLER** a member of Branch 233 of the Southside of Pittsburgh, PA, was selected to attend the Cooks Honor College program on the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania during the summer of 2014. She is now a junior at West Branch High School in Beloit, OH. Students are selected for participation in the program on the basis of grades, teacher recommendations, and a submission of several essays. Elsa has maintained a 4.0 grade average throughout her school years.

She is very active in church, school, and community activities. She belongs to St. Charles of Boardman Youth Group, volunteers for the Knights of Columbus activities, food drives, senior citizens groups and in 2013 she attended the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Her school activities include being a member of the tennis team, participating in the Destination Imagination Group, which advanced to national completion in Tennessee; being on the newspaper staff and is involved with the academic challenge group. Her three younger sisters Madeline, Olivia, and Mary are also active in church and school activities and are members of J129. Her mother Tamara, Aunt Lisa Jaronski, and Grandfather Pete Shurina are members of S233. Elsa plans to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education when she attends college.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ (Money Order)

☐ (Check) for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Cook Book.

## Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest A Big Success

The Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest held Sunday, August 10, 2014, on the grounds of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish was a big success. The Fest, in its ninth year, is sponsored by Slovak parishes of the Youngstown area. Over 1,000 people enjoyed the festivities which began with a Slovak Mass at the church celebrated by Pastor, Reverend Martin Celuch.

Attendees then enjoyed the "Taste of Slovakia" dinner, bake sale, Slovak exhibits, and vendors in the Father Snock Center. Singers and dancers performed throughout the event and Slovak music filled the air outdoors, where booths were set up with food and games. Youngsters enjoyed the face painting and clowns who walked throughout the crowd. Over a dozen members of Sr. Branch 161, were volunteering their time at both inside and outside venues. This type of social activity is a wonderful way of keeping our Slovak heritage alive.



A fraternal booth was set up to offer FCSLA mementos including pens, pencils, emery boards, stick-on notes and banks. Recent editions of *Fraternally Yours* and pamphlets explaining our financial products were also available. FCSLA cookbooks were offered for sale. L-R: Financial Secretary, Bernie Demechko; President, Ginny DeLuca; past Financial Secretary, Agatha Fabiny, and S169 President, Dolores Sonoga.



Looking over the baked goods before the Slovak Fest began are S161 Recording Secretary, Millie Kust; Senior Auditor, Loretta Ekoniak; Financial Secretary, Bernie Demechko, and President of the Sacred Heart and Rosary Society, Flo Bolchak.

**Visit our website: [fcsla.com](http://fcsla.com)**

## BRANCH W006 HOLDS ANNUAL PRE-HARVEST MASS AND PICNIC

On August 23, 2014 FCSLA Branch W006, Heun, NE (rural Clarkson) held their annual pre-harvest Mass and picnic. Following Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, the branch members enjoyed a meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, potato salad, and several flavors of ice cream provided by the branch. The Branch W006 officers and their wives manned the grill and hosted the event. After a delicious meal, Jill Brichacek was acknowledged for winning a national scholarship. Several local branch scholarships were announced but due to the start of the school year recipients were unable to attend. One of the lucky recipients Jennifer Brodecky, was present along with her mother Ann and grandparents, Ernest and Marguerite Brodecky. Jennifer will be attending Southeast Community College.



**Jennifer Brodecky winner of a Branch W006 scholarship.**

Several door prizes were awarded, courtesy of FCSLA Branch W006. The remaining time was spent visiting with branch members who had traveled a distance to attend the event, reminiscing and catching up on times past. Free refreshments were available throughout the evening and approximately 50 people were able to attend this event.



**The winner with her family: Ann, Ernest, Marguerite and Jennifer Brodecky.**

## Sr. Branch 409 Christmas Party East Chicago, IN

**DATE:** December 7, 2014  
**PLACE:** Our Lady of Consolation Church Hall  
 8303 Taft Street (Route 55)  
 Merrillville, IN  
**TIME:** 12:00 p.m. (NOON)  
**RSVP:** Agnes Chervenak - (219) 865-6396  
 e-mail: [achervenak@att.net](mailto:achervenak@att.net)  
 Jeanette Bramer - (219) 397-6890



## Branch W033 Annual Summer Picnic

On Sunday, July 6th, 2014 Branch W033, Spillville, IA held their Annual Summer Picnic at the Spillville Library. There were thirty adults and six children present. A delicious pot luck dinner was served with meats and beverages supplied by the branch. Rev. Father Donald Hawes was the branch guest and led the group in prayer. Two National Scholarship winners Rachel Stika and Bailey Timp were in attendance. A third winner Mark Ryant was unable to attend because he was participating with the Catholic Heart Work Camp on the East Coast. Everyone enjoyed good food, fellowship, playing cards and the door prizes! Congratulations to our National Scholarship winners.



Frank Ryan and President Dan Silhacek at the Branch W033 Annual Summer Picnic.



L-R: Alice Klimesh, Joanne Hagerman, Martha Klimesh, Adella Kuhn, Beck Kuhn and Fr. Hawes leading the group in prayer before dinner.



Members are seen enjoying each other's company before dinner.



Members are visiting before dinner; seen standing are Roger Fjelstul and Vice-President Jerry Kuhn.

## SCF Fall Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation met at the Holiday Inn, in Boardman, OH on September 16, 2014. Rev. Andrew Hvozdozic was elected to serve as President, with Rev. Thomas Nasta elected to serve as First Vice President. A morning prayer and reflection were given by Msgr. Thomas Derzack. A welcome was given to Right Rev. Gary A. Hoover, Abbott of St. Andrew Abbey. The board reviewed the following: financials, reports of the Slovak Catholic Federation Chapters, report of the Slovak Religious and report of the Slovak Clergy. Committees were given time to meet and gave a report. A mass was held at St. Columbia Cathedral followed by a dinner in the social hall. Guest speaker was Msgr. Vladimir Stahovec, Rector of the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methoduis, Rome. The next meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation will be held on March 3, 2015 in Bethlehem, PA.

## Sr. Branch 221 Holds Annual Summer Dinner

Sr. Branch 221, Parma, OH held their annual branch activity, the Annual Summer Dinner on June 21, 2014 at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Euclid, OH. Mass was followed by a delicious dinner of pulled pork, baked beans, corn, green beans, salad, bread and butter. Music was provided by Ralph Szubski, The Accordion Man and the Party Band.



## Youngstown Jr. Branch 192 Enjoys Baseball Game

Members of Jr. Branch 192, Youngstown, OH, and their families, enjoyed an evening of baseball at Eastwood Field, Niles, OH on August 8, 2014, when the Mahoning Valley Scrappers, a Class A Affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, played the Brooklyn Cyclones.

Flyers to Junior Branch members living in a 30 mile radius were mailed by J192 Financial Secretary, Bernie Demechko.

J192 Auditor, Nancy Clausen, was Chairperson for the event. She designed the flyers and worked with the Scrappers' Events Manager on all details. J192 Branch purchased box seat tickets not only for members but for the entire family of the member(s). The day of the event Nancy and Treasurer, Melanie Leonard, stood by the box office and held "Sponsored by FCSLA" signs to have the 40+ attendees come to them and receive an envelope containing the tickets, a coupon from the Scrappers for free potato chips, hot dogs, and pop, and \$5 bill for the J192 member.

Although the Scrappers lost the game, the group enjoyed the wonderful display of fireworks lighting up the summer sky, following the game. All agreed it was a wonderful Junior Activity and family outing.



**J192 Auditor and Chairperson of the Junior Activity, Nancy Clausen (left) holds FCSLA sign and stands with Theresa and Treasurer, Melanie Leonard, as they distribute box seat tickets to members and their families.**



**J192 members hold FCSLA sign while enjoying baseball game.**



## REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

### BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2014

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 11,029,629
Bonds	726,443,347
Preferred Stock	2,130,553
Common Stock	5,564,549
Investment Income Due & Accrued	11,548,826
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,943,648
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,721,328
Other Assets	153,381
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 765,535,261</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Life Reserves	\$ 247,449,909
Annuity Reserves	405,225,817
Death Claims Payable	1,363,104
Unearned Premiums	524,877
Matured Endowments	337,075
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,363,336
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,075,248
Accrued Convention Donations	607,000
Provision for Future Conventions	524,000
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,952,167
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,095,450
Other Liabilities	979,327
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 671,497,311</b>
Surplus	\$ 94,037,950
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 765,535,261</b>

### INCOME STATEMENT

For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2014

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,283,353
Annuity Premiums	14,410,068
Investment Income	19,733,372
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	44,966
Rental Income	194,222
Other Revenue	7,352
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 36,673,332</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ (2,639,091)
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	9,342,817
Insurance Benefits	3,045,140
Annuity Benefits	13,515,968
Commission Expense	471,167
Surrender Benefits	5,326,625
Post Mortem Benefits	677,670
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	28,150
Matured Endowments	8,972
Donation Expenses	28,071
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	114,000
Convention Expenses	114,000
Bank Service Charges	10,962
Data Processing Service Fees	127,426
Accounting Fees	47,800
Actuarial Fees	95,132
Legal Fees	16,990
Consulting Fees	67,043
Bonus to Branches	446,630
Fraternal Activities	55,017
Official Publications	209,510
Scholarship Awards	125,752
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	212,873
Fees — Directors	65,636
Salaries — Employees	654,434
Salaries — Officers	227,718
Interest Expense	144,472
Tax Expense	131,582
Depreciation Expense	139,418
Utility Expense	30,765
Postage and Printing	83,462
Advertising	50,793
Travel Expense	37,651
Insurance Department Fees	75,698
Sales Promotion	54,685
Rental Expense	194,222
Other Expense	282,063
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 33,621,224</b>
<b>Income (Loss) from Operations</b>	<b>\$ 3,052,109</b>
Dividends to Members	697,944
<b>Subtotal INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ 2,354,165</b>
Capital Gains (Loss)	\$ (44)
<b>NET INCOME (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,354,120</b>





# Autumn Harvest Favorites

## CRANBERRY ORANGE SAUCE

2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries (8 oz.)  
½ cup sugar  
2 teaspoons cornstarch  
½ cup water  
½ cup orange marmalade

Wash cranberries; remove blemished berries.

In 2-quart saucepan, mix sugar and cornstarch. Stir in water. Heat to boiling over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally. Stir in cranberries; heat to boiling. Simmer uncovered 5 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, until cranberries pop.

Stir in marmalade. Serve sauce warm or chilled.

## GRILLED HONEY-DIJON BRINED TURKEY BREAST

11 cups cold water  
1 cup honey  
½ cup Dijon mustard  
⅓ cup salt  
1 bone-in whole turkey breast (5 to 6 lb.), thawed if frozen  
3 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon dried marjoram leaves  
1 teaspoon ground mustard  
1 teaspoon garlic-pepper blend

In 6-quart container or stockpot, stir water, honey, Dijon mustard and salt until honey and salt are dissolved. Add turkey breast to brine mixture. Cover; refrigerate at least 12 hours but no longer than 24 hours.

Heat gas or charcoal grill for indirect cooking as directed by manufacturer. Remove turkey from brine mixture; rinse thoroughly under cool running water and pat dry. Discard brine.

In small bowl, mix remaining ingredients; brush over turkey. Insert ovenproof meat thermometer into turkey so tip is in thickest part of breast and does not touch bone.

Place turkey on unheated side of 2-burner gas grill or over drip pan on charcoal grill. (If

using one-burner gas grill, cook over low heat.) Cover grill; cook over medium heat 1 hour.

Rotate turkey ½ turn; cook covered 45 to 60 minutes longer or until thermometer reads 170°F.

Remove turkey from grill. Cover with foil; let stand 5 to 10 minutes before slicing.

## ROASTED SWEET POTATO SALAD

4 medium sweet potatoes (about 1½ lb.), peeled and cut into 1¼-inch cubes  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
½ teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons raspberry jelly or seedless jam  
1 teaspoon packed brown sugar  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
Dash of crushed red pepper flakes

Adjust oven rack to middle position. Heat oven to 400°F.

In large bowl, toss sweet potato cubes with butter and salt.

Spread sweet potatoes on cookie sheet and roast 20 minutes. Use pancake turner to turn potatoes over. Roast 10 to 15 minutes longer or until evenly browned and cooked through but not mushy. Remove from oven and transfer to large bowl.

Meanwhile, in 1-quart saucepan, heat oil, jam, brown sugar, lemon juice, cinnamon and red pepper to boiling, stirring until jam melts. Pour dressing over hot sweet potatoes and toss gently to coat. Cool slightly and serve warm.

## BACON-CORNBREAD STUFFING

4 slices bacon, cut into ½-inch pieces  
½ cup chopped green bell pepper  
½ cup chopped onion  
½ cup sweetened dried cranberries  
2¼ cups water  
4 cups seasoned cornbread stuffing crumbs (from 16-oz. bag)  
½ teaspoon seasoned salt  
¼ teaspoon dried marjoram leaves

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 8-inch square (2-quart) glass baking dish with cooking spray. In 12-inch nonstick skillet, cook bacon over medium heat about 6 minutes, stirring occasionally, until browned but not crisp. Stir in bell pepper and onion. Cook 3 to 4 minutes, stirring occasionally, until tender. Stir in cranberries. Add water; heat to boiling. Remove skillet from heat.

Stir in stuffing mix, seasoned salt and marjoram until well mixed. Spoon into baking dish.

Cover with foil; bake about 30 minutes or until thoroughly heated.

## BAKED CARROT CASSEROLE

2 pounds medium carrots, cooked and mashed  
½ cup milk  
½ cup sugar  
⅓ cup butter, melted  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
**TOPPING:**

⅔ cup packed brown sugar  
⅓ cup all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons cold butter  
⅔ cup chopped pecans  
⅔ cup flaked coconut

In a large bowl, combine the first six ingredients; place in a greased 1½-qt. baking dish. Combine brown sugar and flour; cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in nuts and coconut. Sprinkle over carrot mixture.

Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees. 6-8 servings.

## PRALINE PUMPKIN CAKE

½ cup butter or margarine  
¼ cup whipping cream  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
¾ cup coarsely chopped pecans  
1 box yellow cake mix  
1 cup (from 15-oz. can) pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)  
½ cup water  
⅓ cup vegetable oil  
4 eggs  
1½ teaspoons pumpkin pie spice  
1 container (1 lb.) cream cheese frosting  
Caramel topping, if desired  
Additional coarsely chopped pecans, if desired

Heat oven to 325°F. In 1-quart heavy saucepan, stir together butter, whipping cream and brown sugar. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, just until butter is melted. Pour into 2 (9- or 8-inch) round cake pans; sprinkle evenly with ¾ cup pecans.

In large bowl, beat cake mix, pumpkin, water, oil, eggs and 1 teaspoon of the pumpkin pie spice with electric mixer on low speed until moistened. Beat 2 minutes on medium speed. Carefully spoon batter over pecan mixture in each pan.

Bake 43 to 45 minutes or until cake springs back when touched lightly in center. Cool 5 minutes; remove from pans to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 1 hour.

Stir remaining ½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice into frosting. To assemble cake, place 1 layer, praline side up, on serving plate. Spread with half of the frosting. Top with second layer, praline side up; spread remaining frosting to edge of layer. Drizzle with caramel topping and additional pecans. Store loosely covered in refrigerator.

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several ears of corn. The corn cobs are arranged vertically, showing rows of kernels in various colors including yellow, red, white, and blue. They are partially covered by a light brown, crinkled paper bag that is visible at the top and sides of the frame.

PERIODICAL

11/14

## The FCSLA Mission Statement

*We provide financial security to our members  
while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.*

## The FCSLA Vision is to:

*Be a Premier Fraternal Benefit Society  
that offers quality financial products and benefits.*