



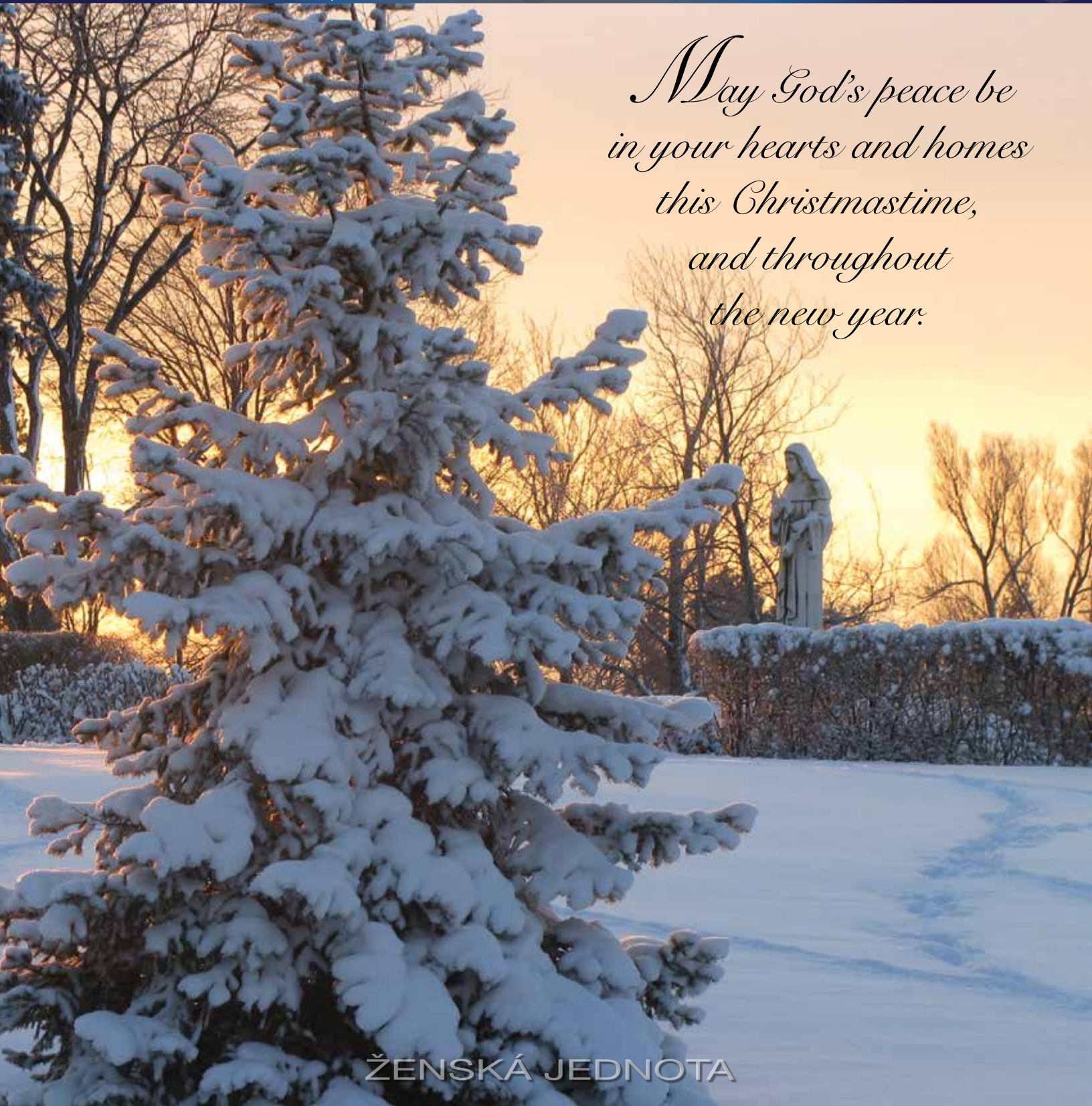
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Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 101, NO. 3

DECEMBER 2014



*May God's peace be
in your hearts and homes
this Christmastime,
and throughout
the new year.*

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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Fraternally Yours™

ISSN 0897-2958



Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,

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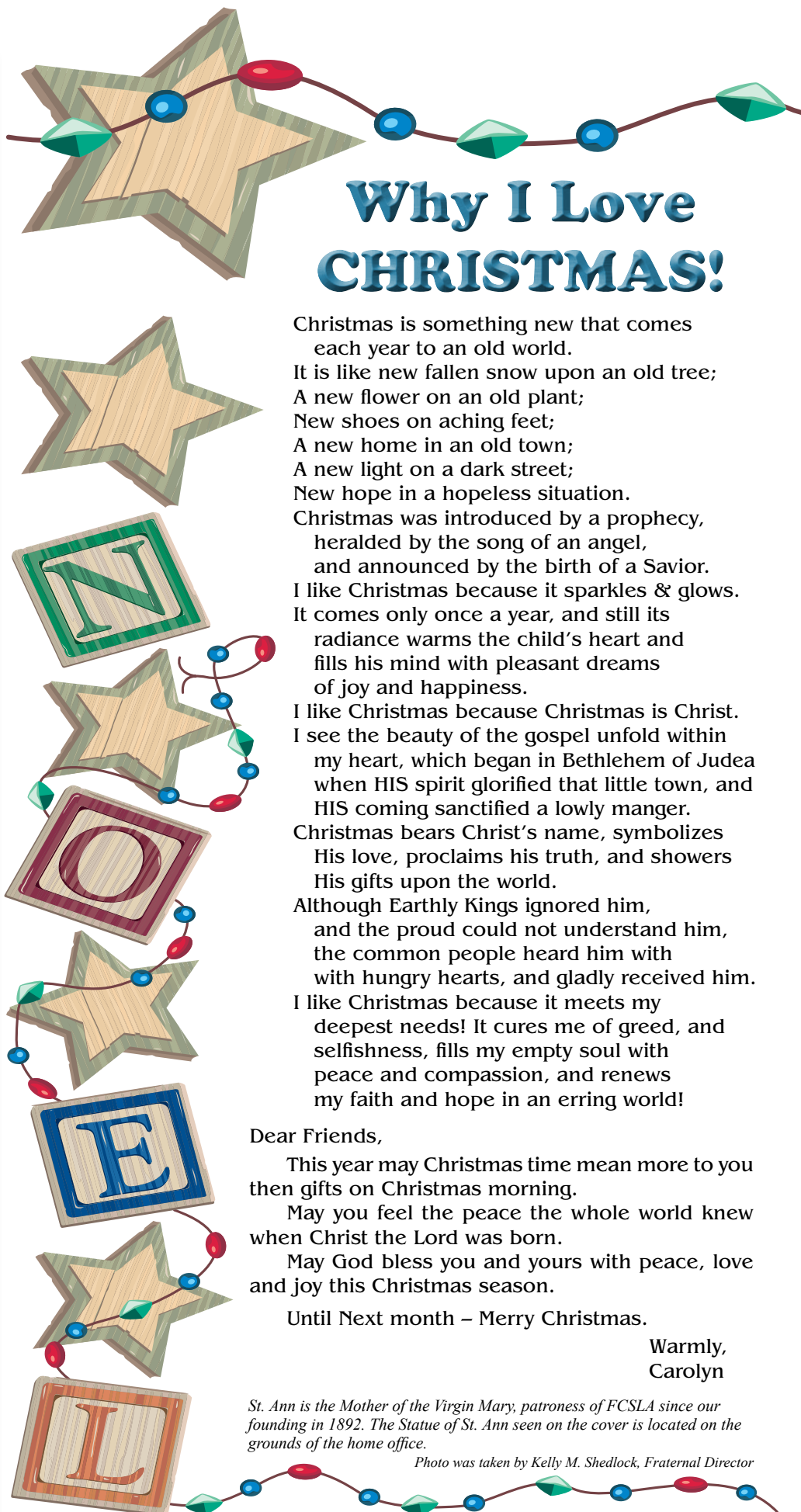
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Why I Love CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is something new that comes
each year to an old world.
It is like new fallen snow upon an old tree;
A new flower on an old plant;
New shoes on aching feet;
A new home in an old town;
A new light on a dark street;
New hope in a hopeless situation.
Christmas was introduced by a prophecy,
heralded by the song of an angel,
and announced by the birth of a Savior.
I like Christmas because it sparkles & glows.
It comes only once a year, and still its
radiance warms the child's heart and
fills his mind with pleasant dreams
of joy and happiness.
I like Christmas because Christmas is Christ.
I see the beauty of the gospel unfold within
my heart, which began in Bethlehem of Judea
when HIS spirit glorified that little town, and
HIS coming sanctified a lowly manger.
Christmas bears Christ's name, symbolizes
His love, proclaims his truth, and showers
His gifts upon the world.
Although Earthly Kings ignored him,
and the proud could not understand him,
the common people heard him with
with hungry hearts, and gladly received him.
I like Christmas because it meets my
deepest needs! It cures me of greed, and
selfishness, fills my empty soul with
peace and compassion, and renews
my faith and hope in an erring world!

Dear Friends,

This year may Christmas time mean more to you
then gifts on Christmas morning.

May you feel the peace the whole world knew
when Christ the Lord was born.

May God bless you and yours with peace, love
and joy this Christmas season.

Until Next month – Merry Christmas.

Warmly,
Carolyn

*St. Ann is the Mother of the Virgin Mary, patroness of FCSLA since our
founding in 1892. The Statue of St. Ann seen on the cover is located on the
grounds of the home office.*

Photo was taken by Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal Director

“IT’S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!”

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you read this article, I am sure that you are in the midst of Christmas joy preparation! The list of what to do is getting longer and the time to accomplish everything is getting shorter. What seem to be the more important items to get off of the agenda have been placed off to the side allowing other, minor, pressing matters to take precedence. Patience may be waning and sleep deprivation has become a norm. The cards may not have been sent and the gifts have not all been bought and or wrapped. When to bake? What to cook? Which relatives and friends need to be visited? How many days are allotted for travel? How and when to entertain? And how to handle one's self with a relative/acquaintance that brings an uncomfortable wrench in the stomach becomes an issue at the thought of the annual encounter. Yes, indeed, “It's the most wonderful time of the year!”

I thought that this would be a good time to assist all of us make our Christmas preparations more spiritual as we approach the anniversary of the Birth of Jesus. Let's start with the sending of greetings whether by postal service or email. Usually I send cards to people I have become acquainted with through the years and family members that live distances away. During the writing process and placing the stamp on the envelope, I either say a Hail Mary or an Our Father for the family members or for each member. It is my “silent” gift for them and hopefully my prayers for them will allow the Prince of Peace to reign in their hearts as they approach the Solemnity.

And speaking about the Prince of Peace – This is a perfect time of the year to remember those who are serving us in the Armed Forces. Although our country is not engaged in massive troop interventions throughout the world, there are very many women and men who will not be home with their families because of protecting our freedoms in this country, especially our religious freedom. It is always an uplifting experience to see our children make gifts in their art classes, assisted by parents and alumni who chip in to send care packages to our armed

service personnel. Maybe you and I can inquire at our local parish or public grade schools whether or not teachers and children will be involved in such a task. If they are, maybe we could be a part of their project.

I love this time of the year because family members come together to make their traditional Christmas cookies. I am overwhelmed by walking into their homes, taking a deep breath to bring me down “Memory Lane”. As a child, it was going into both of my Babas' homes, then (and now) my Mom's, and to other family members and friends houses. These are perfect times to remember those who have handed down their recipes to us and now rest in the peace of Christ. They are the ones who have nourished us with physical food, and in many cases, are the ones who handed down this gift of Faith to us.

As we follow their recipes, written or typed by their own hands, we should say a prayer for them and as they come to the fullness of redemption, ask them to pray for us within the Communion of Saints in heaven.

It would be nice also to share some of those cookies with the needy of our communities. One does not have to travel too far to encounter poverty in our own country. Many parishes at this time of the year have food drives and also gift drives (clothing and toys) to assist those who are so less fortunate than us. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta was quoted of saying that she saw the face of Christ in the faces of the poor. It is our duty and responsibility as Christians to feed the hungry and clothed the naked. Christmas is a perfect time to call us to these tasks for the poor...but not the only time of the year! It should be our wake up call that these corporal works of mercy are constant throughout the New Year!

Some of you may want to pray the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague, a very familiar novena of the Slavic peoples. You can acquire the booklet from a nearby religious bookstore and begin it nine days prior to Christmas. There is a very interesting website about the Infant Jesus at www.pragjesue.info

from the church where the statue is housed in Prague. If you are unable to purchase the novena booklet, there is a chaplet that can be prayed and is easy to follow. Tradition has it that the Lord appeared to Venerable Margaret of the Sacred Heart, a Discalced Carmelite nun, who died in 1648 in the Carmel of Beaune, France and asked her to reveal the chaplet to the Church. Here is how it is prayed: A. Three times pray, “And the Word was made flesh” followed by the Our Father; B. Once pray, “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” C. Pray twelve Hail Mary's; and, D. End the chaplet with one Glory be to the Father. The three Our Fathers represent the members of the Holy Family and the twelve Hail Mary's are in memory of the childhood of Jesus.

There is also a prayer to the Infant Jesus that by tradition was revealed to Venerable Father Cyrill, OCD, by the Blessed Mother. “Infant Jesus, I have recourse to You and ask You through the intercession of Your Holy Mother to help me in my need (here mention your need) for I firmly believe that Your Divinity can help me. I hope, in complete trust, to obtain Your holy grace. I love You with all my heart and with all the strength of my soul. I am truly sorry for all my sins, and beg You, O good Jesus, to give me the strength to conquer them. I shall never offend You and am ready to suffer rather than to cause You pain. From now on I want to serve You with complete faithfulness and for love of You. O Divine Infant, I will love my neighbor as well as myself. Omnipotent Infant Lord Jesus, again I implore You, help me in this need of mine (mention need again). Grant me the grace of possessing You eternally, with Mary and Joseph and of adoring You with the holy angels in Your heavenly court. Amen.”

These are just a few ways of keeping the traditions of Christmas sacred! Slow down, enjoy family and friends, assist those so less fortunate than ourselves, and give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of the Infant Jesus!

Have a wonderful Vilija! Vesele Vianoce! Merry Christmas!

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear Fellow Members,

We all have experienced beautiful customs and traditions which help us to anchor our lives and hopefully bring back so many cherished memories of our childhood. In our families and homes, rituals and traditions help to create stability, predictability, camaraderie and a sense of belonging. They help us bond together even more as time goes on.

In addition to attending Christmas Mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the World, Christmas is a time when we enjoy many time honored traditions which date back to when many of our immigrant families came to America. One of these time honored traditions is the Christmas Eve Supper, or as we call it in our family, "Vilija". We begin our supper at the sighting of the first star on Christmas Eve, and everyone knows to arrive before that time, in his or her best attire. The best china, crystal, silver and linens are on our table. Everyone waits in anticipation as we light the first candles, and say Christmas prayers for living and deceased in our family. The eldest child then goes around the table, to break the oplatky with everyone present and place the sign of the cross on the forehead of each person with the oplatky, dipped in honey, to welcome the Baby Jesus into our hearts and our home. My husband then offers the first toast, to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and for the health and prosperity of the family in the coming year.

We have kept this tradition in our family as far back as I can remember, and my mother could remember before me, when we all gathered at Baba and Dzedo's house for the Vilija meal before going to Midnight Mass. The meal has always consisted of oplatky, wine, mushroom soup, bobalky, sauerkraut, apples, walnuts, poppyseed and nut rolls, and very delicious paska bread. As we continue this time honored tradition today in our home with the beloved members of our family, we strengthen our bond together, in both good times and bad.

Just stop for a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are to be part of a family, where we know our Catholic faith, where we love each other, no matter what, and we belong to each other!

This year the National President's Appeal is to help those children who may be part of fractured families. If you have not done so already, we ask you to make your donation to a cause or agency in your local community "To Protect the Children" and let us know of your efforts and donation. What a beautiful way to spread the joy of the birth of the Christ Child!

Let us be mindful of our customs and traditions and ways in which we can continue to share them so that everyone in our families knows that they belong together and that we love one another.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Cynthia M. Maleski

National President

Don't forget, the recipes for Traditional Christmas Eve Supper and the menu have been in the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association cookbook since it was first printed in 1952.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are proud to announce the FCSLA Guaranteed Issue Life Insurance Program for the period of November 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015.

SO WHY IS GUARANTEED ISSUE LIFE INSURANCE ATTRACTIVE? WHAT IS IT?

First of all, you can apply by simply completing the enclosed application you will receive or have already received by mail. Simply indicate your choice of the amount of life insurance, and return it in the envelope with your check. That's it! There are no medical questions and no doctor's visits. It is a guarantee that you cannot be turned down for any medical reason.

This offer is made using our standard rates. This means that you are buying life insurance with NO EXTRA PREMIUM due to medical condition. There are no future premiums and your life insurance will never decrease in value. If you compare these rates with other similar guaranteed issue programs, you will see

our program is a reasonable cost, quality life insurance product.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, a fraternal benefit society with an A- Excellent rating from A.M. Best and an outstanding financial position, offers this program to YOU, a loyal and dedicated member, to say THANK YOU and provide you with a way to better meet the rising costs of final expenses. It is an opportunity for you to purchase life insurance in an easy, affordable way.

Questions regarding this offer should be directed to the New Business Department at extension 1062 or by emailing NewBusiness@fcsla.com.

May all the Joy, Beauty,
and Hope of that
First Holy Night
Remain with You and Your
Families This Christmas
Season and Forever.



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*Nech radosť, krásu a nádej teh Prvej Svätej
Noci ostáva s Vami a s Vašou rodinou
nielen tieto Vianočné Sviatky ale aj navždy.*



REAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Let us reflect on the **REAL** gifts of the Christmas story. Those gifts were wrapped in miracles, which is probably why we can't find them in malls or online. The first gift was of **SPIRIT**: unconditional Love. The next gift came from a Jewish teenager named Mariam, who was known to her family and friends as Mary. Her Christmas present was **SELF-LESSNESS**: the complete surrender of the ego and will needed to bring heaven down to earth. The gifts of her fiancé, Joseph were **TRUST** and **FAITH**. He trusted Mary wasn't pregnant with another man's child; he believed there was a divine plan to get them through this mess. The child brought **FORGIVENESS, WHOLENESS** and **SECOND CHANCES**. The angels' gifts were tidings of **COMFORT, JOY** and **PEACE**, the reassurance that there was nothing to fear, so rejoice. The shepherd boy's gift was **GENEROSITY**: his favorite lamb for the baby's birthday present. The innkeeper's wife's gifts were **COMPASSION** and **CHARITY**: a warm, dry, safe place for the homeless family to stay, her best coverlet to wrap the new mother and little one, a meal for Joseph, the donkey's fresh hay. The three wise men un-wrapped gold, frankincense and myrrh, but their **REAL** gifts were **WONDER, ACCEPTANCE** and **COURAGE**.

Yes, Christmas is all about gifts. Nothing but gifts. But such gifts! Gifts with heartstrings. Gifts that surprise and delight. Gifts that transform the mundane into the miraculous. Gifts that nurture the soul of both giver and the given.

From Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach

Merry Christmas to you and your family!

"Vilija Dinner"

Sponsored by St. John the Baptist Cultural Society

DECEMBER 7·3 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Social hour with appetizers,
followed by entertainment and dinner.

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

St. John the Baptist Church Hall
159 Reed Ave., Campbell, OH

TICKETS \$20

For information call Mariann at 330-755-1979

Poised For Growth



Patrick Braun

At the special convention held in Cleveland, on October 6-8, the delegates approved a major change in the Association's bylaws regarding who can purchase our products. Two classifications of membership were approved. Those who meet the current membership requirements of Catholic and Slavic and relatives of current members will be "Principal Members". (All members as of the convention are grandfathered and will be Principal Members.) A new classification, "Fraternal Members", was created in the bylaws. This membership will consist of all those who profess to be Christians and agree to support the FCSLA mission. Fraternal members may purchase the Association's life insurance and annuity products. They also are eligible for the fraternal benefits and they may attend branch and other fraternal events. (They may not hold any FCSLA political office.)

This change will have a major impact on FCSLA's future! Opening the membership will remove a major obstacle for our sales force. Membership growth will occur simply because the marketplace for FCSLA products has greatly expanded. Our professional independent agents have long chafed under the restrictive membership requirements and now their full potential can be unleashed!

A major new marketing opportunity for FCSLA is the ability to work inside Catholic parishes. It has always been difficult for a producer to convince a parish to work with him or her when a large number of parishioners and possibly even the priest and deacons couldn't even join. Now that obstacle has been removed, the entire parish can become members! Of course this will take new materials, training in parish marketing techniques, and support from the FCSLA Home Office for the producer's efforts. But there are many things which FCSLA has to offer a Catholic parish, such as scholarships for pupils in the Catholic School, donations from the Home Office, the ability to start a parish branch and

benefit from matching funds projects. FCSLA producers will have a great story to tell!

There are a number of things which must be done before we can take advantage of the change. Our new membership form must be approved by the State of Ohio, new sales materials must be created and approved and our computer system must be programmed to keep track of the dual memberships. Work on these things has already begun! Until we have given the OK to our sales force the current membership rules will apply.

It is difficult to overestimate what this change will mean to the future of FCSLA! It will mean more members, new branches, a more productive sales force, the ability to maintain our A- rating and the ability to help many more families with savings and protection. Kudos to those delegates who saw fit to put FCSLA on a new, progressive course of growth. Your work will be seen in the history of FCSLA as the first major achievement of FCSLA in this millennium.



Honoring Our Military

Coming in January 2015 we would like to feature a new "corner" in our *Fraternally Yours* Magazine that honors our FCSLA members that are currently serving our country. "Honoring Our Military Corner" will let FCSLA members say "thank you" to our brave men and women members in uniform and show them we care, how proud we are of their service, and that we are all praying for their safety.

If your son, daughter, niece, nephew, brother, sister, grandson, granddaughter, or friend is currently serving in the Armed Forces please provide Fraternal Director Kelly M. Shedlock, via email at kelly@fcsla.org or regular mail, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122 the following information: (they must be a FCSLA member) Name, Rank, FCSLA Branch #, City, State, Branch of Military, a photo if possible and where they are stationed and we will feature them in an upcoming issue of *Fraternally Yours*.

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.



Join Hands Project

Branch 77 Donates Hand-Picked Corn to Food Banks

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". Each year, Dick Staver of North Huntingdon, PA, plants a Hunger Garden to help feed the less fortunate. He devotes several of his fields to plant corn, and volunteers such as boy scouts, church groups, and this year, members of Branch 77, McKeesport, helped him to harvest the corn.



On September 3, four members of Branch 77, Marion Greenland, Financial Secretary, Carol Yurechko, Branch Auditor and Court of Appeals Representative and members, Mary Anne O'Neil and Willis, her husband, volunteered to help pick corn — a true Join Hands Project. Armed with long sleeved white shirts, hats, long pants and FCSLA shirts and garden gloves, we proceeded with the dirty, sweaty job of picking corn among the weeds and bugs. Corn was sent to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Fayette Food Bank and the Dream Center Food Bank in McKeesport. That night, 23,280 pounds of corn was picked to help feed others.

This year's planting, yielded 35,538 pounds of corn. Even though it was hard work, it was very rewarding to spend a few hours helping to feed the hungry, in these difficult economic times.

Christmas Eve Holy Supper Scheduled for December 5

SS. Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Christian mothers will host a Slovak "Vigília" on Friday, December 5, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in their church hall at 50 N. Morgantown St., Fairchance, PA 15436.

The Vigília (vah lēē ah), literally "vigil" in Slovakia, is the Christmas Eve Holy Supper and will include a meatless 12-item meal to commemorate Christ's birth. Each of the 12 items represents the 12 apostles.

The evening will also include entertainment by The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PÁS) who are one of the premier ethnic performing groups in Pittsburgh for more than 40 years. They recreate the splendor of Slovakia through traditional folk music, song and dance. They will also be selling Slovak items.

Admission is \$20.00 per person and children \$7.00 for 14 and under. Checks payable to "SS. Cyril and Methodius Christian Mothers" and mailed to: Jean Thompson, 24 E. Church St., Fairchance, PA 15436, or phone 724-564-2641.

Sr. Branch 88 Sight & Sound Trip

Members of Monessen Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 recently traveled four hours from Monessen, PA to see the presentation of "Moses" at Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. Upon entering the bus, all were presented a gift from FCSLA by Tristan Todd. Before leaving Monessen, Rachel Funtal recited a prayer for safe travel. In route, numerous games were played with gifts awarded compliments of FCSLA.

Prior to the show, the group visited the Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market and purchased numerous items. Following the show, the members were treated to a delicious dinner at the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant. All expressed pleasure for the trip and the desire to make another trip of this type in the future.



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.

Scenes from the October 2014 Special Convention





MIDWEST SLOVAK PASTORAL SEMINAR HELD

The annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, under the auspices of the Slovak Catholic Federation, took place on Sunday, September 21 at the Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, IN.

Attendees first enjoyed a catered luncheon buffet before the program. Afterwards, Msgr. Joseph Semancik, Ph.D., talked about the life and legacy of Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, the first Bishop of Gary, IN. He was born to Slovak immigrant parents in Joliet, IL, and became a priest for the Diocese of Ft. Wayne, IN. He was chosen to be the first bishop of the new Gary Diocese in 1956. Bishop Grutka was instrumental in founding the Slovak Institute of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Rome (the ustav), which is now a pontifical college which trains seminarians from Slovakia.

Many FCSLA members were in attendance. Special thanks go out to Agnes Chervenak, who spread the word about the seminar in northwest Indiana.



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO STEVE HAMALA

Steve Hamala celebrated his 90th birthday with about 70 of his closest family and friends. Since Steve loves watching baseball, his children gave him a baseball themed party which was enjoyed by all!

Steve married Dolphie Drozd on February 7, 1945. They were together for 51 years before Dolphie passed away in 1996. They have 7 living children, 17 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

On Steve's actual birthday, October 15, he enjoyed lunch at the Champion/Simpson Paper Mill's annual retiree luncheon.

Steve has had his life insurance since April 1946, originally with Catholic Workman, and then transferred to the FCSLA. Mr. Hamala is a member of Branch W114.



Steve and his seven children at his 90th birthday party.



Hamala family at their 50th wedding anniversary in 1995.

Sr. Branch 409 Christmas Party

The Sr. Branch 409 Christmas Party will be held December 7, 2014 at Our Lady of Consolation Church Hall, 8303 Taft Street (Route 55), Merrillville, IN at 12:00 p.m. (Noon). For reservations please contact Agnes Chervenak - (219) 865-6396, e-mail: acher-venak@att.net or Jeanette Bramer - (219) 397-6890.

American Slovak Cultural Association Vilija Dinner

The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will once again be hosting their annual traditional Vilija Dinner. This year it will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 4 p.m. at the Father Snock Center at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish (former St. Matthias School), 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH. One of our most beloved Slovak traditions, Štedrý Večer, or Vilija . . . the traditional Christmas Eve dinner is a special meal the family shares before going to celebrate midnight Mass. This dinner is filled with tradition and memories of our Slovak heritage. In eastern Slovakia it is a meatless meal, but by no means a meager one. We will have the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal featuring oplatky and honey, fish, pirohy, bobalky, mushroom soup and kolačky. There will be musical entertainment and much more including a Chinese Auction and a lotto tree raffle. We'll even have oplatky for sale!

We will also be presenting the winner of our annual ASCA scholarship at this dinner and letting you know about some exciting projects coming up in our Slovak community. While some of us still celebrate this traditional Christmas Eve dinner at home, many no longer have that opportunity, and this annual dinner is our way of keeping our tradition alive. Whether you still have this dinner at home, or you remember

From the Desk of the

National Secretary

Sue Ann M. Seich

Can't believe it will be Christmas in a few weeks. Every year the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas gets shorter and shorter for me. I am going to start praying that everyone will have the opportunity to share Christ's birth and celebrate with family and friends. It is great making new memories every year and this year is no exception.

Another year has gone by of serving you as your National Secretary and I appreciate the opportunity. This year I have had the opportunity to attend many more activities and special occasions on the district and branch levels. It has been my sincere pleasure meeting many of you and sharing. I look forward to working together and building a stronger, brighter and more successful future for "our" Association.

May you and your family enjoy the loving presence of the Christ Child as we celebrate Christmas and plan special events for the New Year. I fraternally wish you a very "Merry Christmas" and a very healthy "Happy New Year" from my family to yours.

Until next time, may God keep you happy, healthy and loved, Sue Ann.



it from your childhood and would like to experience it again . . . or if you've never had the opportunity to experience it but would like to . . . come join us in celebrating our Slovak heritage. Get your tickets soon for the best seating. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

For ticket price and information contact: Ron Garchar at 330-533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330-549-3760 or email Loretta at: loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com. The deadline to purchase tickets is December 8th.

United Slovak Societies will host a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner on Sunday, December 7th

at the American Slovak Club
2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, Ohio

5:30 p.m. cocktails • 6:00 dinner

Featuring the Ladies Auxiliary
Perch, Pierohi, Bobalki, Sauerkraut Soup,
Oplatky, Kolacki and more.

Entertainment by Ralph the Accordion Man

Open to the Public and Advanced Ticket Sales Only

Tickets for Vilija dinner are \$20.00 per person

Contact Len at 440/988-3236

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.

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

St. Joseph Nursing Home, Lacon, IL Celebrated 50 Years

Saturday, June 21, 2014 was a bright, sunny, and joyous day as St. Joseph Nursing Home in Lacon, IL, a not-for-profit Catholic nursing home that was the first Roman Catholic nursing home in the Peoria Diocese (currently the only Catholic nursing home in the entire diocese of Peoria) celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The Daughters of St. Francis of Assisi, an order of nuns that traveled from Slovakia to the United States with only \$20 and a mission to serve the sick, poor, and abandoned, founded the nursing home in Lacon and still manages the facility today.

The Sisters, nursing home staff, residents, friends, and supporters of the nursing home commemorated this milestone with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., D.D., of the Peoria Diocese who was joined by clergy from the Diocese, area parishes and nearby Benedictine Monastery. After the mass, a light lunch was served outdoors for the residents and their families, while the Sisters entertained the Bishop, priests and other special guests at a small community center down the street. The General Superior, M.M. Gerarda Farská of Slovakia and the Regional Superior of the Congregation, Sister M. Loretta Matas greeted the guests and thanked them all warmly for

attending and for all of their support over the past 50 years. Chicago District President, Mary Therese Tylus, served as Master of Ceremonies at the luncheon with the Bishop. Also in attendance from the Chicago District were Lydia Berry, S485 Financial Secretary/Treasurer and both she and Mary Therese brought warm wishes and congratulations from the various Chicago Branches and District.



L-R: FCSLA Chicago District President, Mary Therese Tylus presenting donation on behalf of the District to Sr. M. Loretta Matas, Regional Superior of the Congregation, Lydia Berry (S485 Financial Secretary/Treasurer) and General Superior, M.M. Gerarda Farská from Slovakia.

AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP



FCSLA Branch 55 of Sacred Heart Parish, Cedar Hill, NE was honored with member, Kyle Minchow, receiving a national FCSLA scholarship. Kyle is a junior at Pius X High School, Lincoln, NE and received a \$1,000 scholarship. Pastor Father Jeremy Ha-

zuka, also a FCSLA member, made the presentation; Kyle was honored with a brunch after Mass.

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.

Halloween at the Home Office



Spooktacular Event Held by United Slovak Societies in Ohio

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, OH hosted a children's costume party on Sunday, October 26th at the American Slovak Club for children of the fraternal lodges that include FCSLA Br. 114, FCSU Br. 228, SCS v. 111, and NSS Ass. 160.

The spooktacular event consisted of an afternoon of bowling followed by hot dog and nacho treats and sweets.

The children, their parents and grandparents had a fabu-



President Len Zilko and grandson.

lous time and the highlight of the afternoon was the breaking of the spider and pumpkin pinatas that were abundantly filled with toys and candy.

Officers of United Slovak Societies were ever so pleased with the turn out and enjoyment had by the children and will continue to conduct this annual affair.



Helen Zemanek, Michele Mager, Marge Kurta, Teresa Arendt.



Sue Naelitz and grandsons.

Installation Ceremony Held

Officers and Board Members of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania for 2014-2015 were installed at ceremonies following elections at its annual meeting held at Kings College, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Shown below (seated from left): Benevolent Chair, Connie Plewniak, Wilkes-Barre Twp.; Recording Secretary Anna Hudock, Wilkes-Barre; Society Chair Philip R. Tuhy, Wilkes-Barre; Membership Chair Mary Migatulski, Wilkes-Barre; and Dorothy Sullivan, Nanticoke. Standing from left, Anthony Palischak and Dinner Chair Elaine Palischak, Plymouth; Treasurer Jackson Hendershot, Wilkes-Barre; Financial Adviser Magdalen M. Benish, Plains; Michael Stretanski, Kingston; Corresponding Secretary Bernadette Yencha, Wilkes-Barre; Education Co-Chair Andrew Sofranko, Hanover Twp.; Joseph Kowatch, Kingston; Education Co-Chair Helen Savinski, Swoyersville; and Public Relations Director William A. Zdancewicz, Edwardsville.

The Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA was founded during the American Bicentennial in 1976 by Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, S.T.L. and Slovak cultural activists.

The Society hosts seasonal Slovak cultural events, most recently the Bratislava Boys Choir of Slovakia Concerts in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton in tribute to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Reverend Jozef Murgas, "Radios Forgotten Genius". The group currently is following through on plans for a Special Room honoring Fr. Murgas in the King's College facilities on Public Square. Its annual "St. Nicholas Hymn Sing" is set for Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m. in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, open to the public.



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 81

ALL Class Reunion Picnic

As a Matching Funds Project, Branch S81 of Whiting, IN, participated in an ALL Class Reunion Picnic held on the grounds of St. John the Baptist Elementary School after the alumni attended Mass celebrated by Father Jerome Stack, a graduate of the school. FCSLA members sold T-shirts and drink/diner tickets to 250 guests who enjoyed reminiscing about the "old days of grade school" from classes of 1936 to 2013. The celebration, sponsored by the BLUE AND GOLD ALUMINI ASSOCIATION of the school, along with donations, raised a total of \$17,000.00 to be used to assist needy students with tuition and to purchase additional desks.



Annette Markovich and Dorothy Hoover are selling "Forever Blue and Gold" T-Shirts.



Dorothy Hoover checking the food line.



Dorothy Hoover, Margaret Abildua, Geraldine Tumidalsky, and Marjorie Stribjak are selling drink and dinner tickets.

Sr. Branches 630

Annual Golf Tournament

On July 24th, the Buffalo, NY Sr. Branch 630 held its first annual golf tournament. This matching funds project benefited the Mary Queen of Angels Regional Catholic School. Golf chairman general agent, John Gonsiorek reported that 24 golfers participated to raise \$744 to benefit the school's tuition assistance program. Those funds along with the FCSLA's matching funds grant of \$600 were well received by Pastor Louis Klein. Branch president/golfer Lynn Zakowicz along with School principal, Mary Alice Bagwell were present to assist in the festivities. The day was blessed with fantastic weather, great golfing, and fine fraternalism!



Sr. Branch 177 and Jr. Branch 115

Walk for a Healthy Community

Branches S177 and J115, Clairton, PA sponsored a Matching Funds Project by sponsoring a team to walk for the benefit of Center for Victims in the Annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, May 17th, 2014. The walk was held at Stage AE on the North Shore in Pittsburgh,



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

PA. Members from S177 and J115 and staff from the Center formed a team to collect pledges and raised a total of \$917. The funds were donated to the Center for Victims to continue to provide individuals, families, and communities of Allegheny County a comprehensive response to help heal from the trauma and harm caused by all forms of violence and crime, including domestic violence, rape/sexual assault, physical assaults, child and elder abuse, homicide, robbery, and burglary. Sr. Branch 177 and the Center for Victims would like to thank the FCSLA for the \$600 matching funds.



J115 and S177 members at the walk.



Sr. Branch 177 members during the walk.

"Lands of the Crown of St. Wenceslas" that was presented to U.S. Secretary of State Robert Lansing in mid-October. October 28, 1918, Czech politicians took control in Prague, followed by Slovak politicians in other parts of the former crown lands and proclaimed the first Czecho-Slovak Republic.



Branch W187

Brownie Ice Cream Social

Branch W187, Valparaiso, NE recently presented \$1,270 to the Pilger Tornado Fund. Utilizing the Matching Funds Program the branch held a Brownie Ice Cream Social that raised \$670 which was matched with \$600 from the Home Office. Nearly the entire town was destroyed by a tornado during the spring of 2014. Several people were saved from harm by locking themselves in the bank vault as the rest of the bank was destroyed. Pictured at the Main Office of the Bank Branch that was destroyed to present the checks are Clarice and Ken Sabata of Branch W1876 and Bank President Brian Wolford.



Jr. Branch 115 and Sr. Branch 177 booth at the walk.



Sr. Branch 88

Benefit Dinner for Monessen Museum

Members of Monessen, Branch S88 recently held a Matching Funds Project for the benefit of the Monessen Museum. Members served a meal of holupki, mashed potatoes, green beans and cake as a benefit for the museum.

The benefit was held in conjunction with the Independence Day of the First Czecho-Slovak Republic. The third title of the Hapsburg emperor was "King of Bohemia", which traced its origin to the old Holy Roman Empire that evolved into Austria-Hungary. By October 1918, the Hapsburg Monarchy was crumbling as World War I slowly ended. Tomas Masaryk drafted a Declaration of Independence for the



IN MEMORIAM

ANNA M. TOROK Sr. Branch 262



Anna M. Torok, 95, of New Kensington, died July 29, 2014, in Bel Air Nursing Home, Lower Burrell, PA. She was born September 29, 1918, in Graceton, PA, to

the late Joseph and Anna Konkol Bondra. Mrs. Torok was a member of Mt. St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, New Kensington, PA, and enjoyed cooking, baking, flowers and especially spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her two daughters, Patricia (Dominic) Giordano, of Lower Burrell, and Arlene (Richard) Bruni, of New Kensington; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and sister, Helen (Thomas) Koscianski, of Lower Burrell.

Besides her parents, she was preceded by her husband, Joseph Torok, Sr.; son, Joseph T. Torok, Jr.; two grandchildren, Joseph H. Torok and Letitia Bruni Nielsen; brothers, Joseph, John, Steve and George Bondra; and two sisters Pauline Smrek and Mary Ann Fischer. The family suggests donations made in her name to: Mt. St. Peter Church, 100 Freeport Road, New Kensington, PA 15068.

ROBERT EDWARD CERNY Branch W122



Robert Edward Cerny, 77, of Rogers, NE, passed away August 1 at his home. Bob was born July 9, 1937, northwest

of Clarks, NE to Edward and Helen (Mares) Cerny. He graduated from Schuyler High School in 1954. On January 5, 1956, Bob married Elsie Lodes at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Dodge. Bob farmed and was on

the original construction crew building Spencer Beef (Cargill) in Schuyler. Bob retired from Cargill in 2003.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Church Council, District 11R School Board where he served as president, livestock inspector for the State of Nebraska, vice-president of the Nebraska Jaycees, 34 year member of A.A., and president of the Nebraska Woody Floral Association.

Bob loved farming, singing in the church choir, the outdoors where he enjoyed fishing, family camping, following his children through their many sporting events, racing stock cars and later watching his sons race stock cars.

He is survived by his wife Elsie of Rogers, children: Keith (Debbie) of Alamosa, CO, Joel (Rhonda) of Schuyler, Kaye (Tim) Heavican of Schuyler, Daniel of Schuyler, Roger (Julie) of Richland, Eric and special friend Evelyn of Rogers, 17 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 4 sisters.

He was preceded in death by his parents and mother and father-in-law Bess and Henry Schlautman. Memorials are suggested "In Care of the Family."

HELEN M.A. SNAUKO Sr. Branch 456



Helen was born November 3, 1915 in Lansing, MI, Helen was the daughter of the late Peter and Mariana (Baranoska) Pabis, passed away on July 29, 2014 in Lansing at age 98.

Helen was a wonderful wife and mother who taught her family many lessons, including ironing of laundry, knitting and crocheting. She was proud of her Polish ancestry and was active in the Federated Polish Home and the White Eagles Nest 42. She was also a member of St. Gerard Catholic Church. She is preceded in death by her husband Steven of 67 years. They were married at St. Casimir Catholic Church in

Lansing. She is also preceded in death by her son, Albert Snauko, son-in-law, Casey Wahoski and daughter-in-law, Janice Snauko.

Surviving are her six children: Mary Wahoski, Stephanie (David) Spellman, Stanley Snauko, Veronica (Terry) Ulrich, Michael (Catherine) Snauko and Catherine (Donn) Hotchkin, 16 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and daughter-in-law, Jo Snauko.

RITA SZENTKERESTI Sr. Branch 475

Rita Szentkeresti, 89, of Brook Park, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2014. She was born on May 17, 1925 in Lakewood, OH to the late Michael and Elizabeth (nee Blanar) Billick. Rita was heavily involved at St. Ambrose Catholic Church where she taught religious education classes, was an Eucharistic minister, member of the Women's Guild and worked at Bingo. She enjoyed arts and crafts, ceramics, and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rita will be missed by her loving daughters Karen Szentkeresti and Janet (Peter) Fuldauer; treasured three grandchildren; cherished four great-grandchildren, brother Phil (Rose) Billick, sisters-in-law Pat Billick and Margaret Saunders, and dearest family friend Beverly Bellock. She is preceded in death by her husband William in 2013, her parents; daughter Judy (Kevin) Werner, brothers Raymond (Maryann) and Michael (Joyce) Billick. Contributions may be made in Rita's memory to St. Ambrose Church.

ELIZABETH HUTCHENS Branch ZJ

Elizabeth L. Landor Hutchens died July 25, 2014 at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, NY, embraced by her loving family. Born in Cohoes, NY, she was the daughter of the late Jacob John and Catherine Pavalcak Landor and beloved wife of the late Vaudeur C. Hutchens. Elizabeth was a lifelong

resident of Cohoes and graduated from Cohoes High School. She was a World War II veteran of the Army Air Corp. Elizabeth was a secretary for Landor TV and Appliance repair shop in Cohoes. She was a gifted and talented artist, enjoyed baking and traveling, but her true enjoyment was her family. They were the focus of her life and she treasured their abundant love. Elizabeth was a communicant of the former St. Joseph's Church in Cohoes and a communicant of St. Mary the Assumption Church in Waterford. She was an active participant with the Ladies of St. Anne with both parishes.

She is survived by her devoted son Michael (Donna) Hutchens, Sr. of Cohoes, four grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, siblings, Paul (Ann) Landor, Albina Della Rocco, brother-in-law David Benamati, all of Cohoes, son-in-law Neil Cooney, Sr., and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her daughter Karen Cooney, siblings, Joseph Landor, Mary Frydel, Catherine Reepmeyer, Anna Galarneau, Michael Landor and Theresa Benamati.

MARGARET E. SLAVIK Sr. Branch 181

Margaret E. Martisek Slavik was born on June 24, 1931. In January 2014, Margaret was diagnosed as having Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She lost the battle with the disease on July 23, 2014, at 83 years old.

Margaret graduated from Bloom Township High School in 1949 and with a degree from Little Company of Mary School of Nursing in August, 1954.

She became engaged to Norbert Slavik. The two of them decided to get married only after they had earned enough money to pay for their own wedding and to purchase their first house. On November 16, 1956, the couple was married at St. Paul's Catholic Church. Norbert worked in the shipping department of Amsco Steel, and Margaret as a registered nurse at Saint James Hospital in Chicago Heights.

She gave birth to Robert in 1960 and Thomas in 1962. When Norbert's company transferred the family to Denver, CO, it was Margaret who chose their new home in the Bear Valley neighborhood, where she would live for the next 47 years. Her daughter, Laura, was born in 1969. Margaret loved Colorado, and spent much of her free time in the coming years exploring the state. She worked as a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver. Always active, Margaret and Norbert played pickle ball and worked out at Barnum Recreation Center. She was also a devoted member of Notre Dame Catholic Church.

She is survived by her sisters Ann Martisek and Helen Jelinek, her children Robert Slavik, Thomas Slavik and Laura Fortin, and two grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to be sent to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, www.lls.org.

M. JOANNE DRAHOZAL Branch W045



M. Joanne (McElliott) Drahozal, 77, of Cedar Rapids, died May 23, 2014 at the Missouri Baptist Medical Center, Saint Louis, MO.

M. Joanne Drahozal was born September 18, 1936 in Independence to James A. and Colette (O'Neill) McElliott. She had lived in Cedar Rapids since 1954. Joanne married Jerry A. Drahozal on June 25, 1960 at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Ryan. She was a retired registered nurse from the office of T.E. Stark, M.D. Joanne was a 1954 graduate of Saint Patrick's Catholic School in Ryan and a 1957 graduate of the Mount Mercy College Department of Nursing. She was also a licensed insurance agent and very active in activities at Saint Wenceslaus Church.

Joanne is survived by her husband

of 63 years, Jerry; sons, Tim of Bensenville, IL and Tom (Dianne) of Chicago; siblings, Janet (George) Howes, Shawnee, KS, Judy (Jerry) Flanagan, Cedar Rapids, Jeanine (John) Reilly, Ankeny, Jayne (Gary) Schuster, Dubuque, Patrick (Cindy) McElliott, Cedar Rapids, and Mike (Diane) McElliott, Ryan. She was preceded in death by her parents, infant brother, Richard, infant sister, Patricia, sister-in-law, Diane McElliott, parents-in-law, Wencil and Olga A. Drahozal; brothers-in-law, Wesley J. and Olga Drahozal and Stanley and Barbara Drahozal. Memorial contributions may be given to Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church and the American Heart Association.

DONNA LOU YOUNG RAYHONS Branch W051



Donna Lou Young Rayhons, 78, of Garner, died August 8, 2014 at the Rehabilitation Center of Hampton. Donna, the daughter of Otto and Maria (Heinichen) Lehmann, was

born August 12, 1935, in Mason City. Her parents owned and operated the Garner Bakery where she worked alongside with her father. Donna graduated from Garner High School in 1953. On June 3, 1953, she was married to Leonard (Slim) Young at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Garner, and together they raised three daughters. Donna and Slim were avid beekeepers; keeping bees and selling honey, an interest she continued until a few years ago. Donna was an active member of St. Boniface Catholic Church and, for many years, taught both catechism and confirmation classes.

After 48 years of marriage, Slim passed away on October 17, 2001. On December 15, 2007 Donna married Henry Rayhons from Garner. Donna enjoyed spending time with Henry and

Continued on page 18



IN MEMORIAM

being part of his family. She supported Henry as a State Representative and enjoyed her years at the Capitol and attending political functions with him.

Those left to cherish her memory are her husband, Henry Rayhons of Garner; three daughters, Patricia (Dennis) Wright, of Grimes and their three children, Andrew (Carissa), Thomas (Monica) and Rachel, Linda (Phil) Dunshree, of Urbandale and her two sons, Daniel and Adam Hoeft, and Suzan (Kevin) Brunen of Klemme and their two children, Kristine (Heath) Anderson and Jesse; and four great-grandchildren; four step-children, Carol (Mark) Juhl, Dale (Kelly) Rayhons, Sara (Doug) Abbas and Gary (Michelle) Rayhons; ten step-grandchildren; three step-great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Otto and Maria Lehmann; and husband, Leonard. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Boniface Catholic Church or Hospice of North Iowa.

EDITH E. DRABEK **Branch W051**



Edith E. Drabek, 85, of Garner, IA passed away July 26, 2014 at the Concord Care Center in Garner after a brief struggle with pancreatic cancer. The daughter of William and Margaret

(Jacobson) Holck, she was born October 21, 1928, on a farm north of Britt. She was united in marriage to George Edward Drabek on October 14, 1947 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Duncan. They lived on a farm by Hayfield and lived in Britt until the mid 1950's, when they moved their family to Duncan. Edith loved her family and made it her job to raise and care for her eight children. She had a daycare while her children were young, then worked at Concord Care Center from 1974 to 1980 and Duncan Heights from 1980

to 1987. Over the years, her strong Christian faith comforted her during the struggles that life presented. She was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Rosary Society, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Garfield Hobby Club, and a Birthday Club.

Those left to cherish her memory are her eight children, Rita (Terry) Norstrud of Fernandina Beach, FL, Joyce Uhlenhake of Orlando, FL, Jeanette (Don) Priebe of Mason City, Dennis (Pat) Drabek of Garner, Vivian (Kenny) Sankey of Yulee, FL, Pauline (Tim) Lynch of Britt, Rosemary (Brent) Weaver of Garner and Denise (Rick) Sankey of Garner; twenty grandchildren; and nineteen great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, George, on July 3, 1999; parents; three brothers, Kenneth, Lloyd, and Marvin; and son-in-law, Jerry Uhlenhake.

MICHAEL J. WARGO **Sr. Branch 177**

Michael J. Wargo, Chief Exploration Scientist for NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Mission, died unexpectedly on August 4, 2013 at his home in Alexandria, VA. He was 61 years old. Dr. Wargo was the son of Margaret and John J. Wargo of Clairton, PA, both deceased, who themselves were the children of Slovak immigrants.

Michael was a leading contributor to NASA's human lunar and planetary

exploration program. As a scientific member of many lunar missions, including the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and the LCROSS satellite, Dr. Wargo helped map resources for human missions to the moon and participated in the discovery of ice in the shadows of lunar craters. In a nearly two-decade career at NASA, he received numerous awards including NASA's Exceptional Service Medal and seven group achievement awards. He was a member of the team planning the next robotic mission to Mars in 2020.

Dr. Wargo graduated from M.I.T., with a BS degree in Earth and Planetary Science and received a Doctorate in Materials Science in 1982. At M.I.T., he was recognized with the John Wulff Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Hugh Hampton Young Memorial Fund Prize for exhibiting leadership and creativity while maintaining exceptionally broad and interdisciplinary interests. NASA drew on Dr. Wargo's ability to explain complex scientific findings in straightforward terms as a spokesman at agency press conferences. NASA is asking the International Astronomical Union to name a crater on the moon in his honor "so his name will be forever enshrined in the heavens". He is survived by his wife, Adele Morrisette of New York, NY; and brothers, John, David and Robert, all of whom graduated from M.I.T.



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 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

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

Branch W137 Holds Septemberfest

FCSLA Branch W137 had an adult only beer tasting Septemberfest on Sunday, September 7, 2014 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the St. Ludmila Social Hall. Several Leinenkugel beers were sampled. Snacks were provided including fresh popped popcorn. All adults went home with gift bags. The branch family Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 3 to 6 p.m. in the St. Ludmila Social Hall. Games will be held from 3:30-4:30 p.m., pizza at 5 p.m.



PHOTO LIMITS

Branch activities will be limited to 4 pictures per story and District activities will be limited to 10. Additional photos (up to 50) can be sent to the Home Office for uploading to your District web page. If you do not have an active web page please contact the Home Office to find out how you may use this valuable tool to reach your members and share your good news! In addition due to the volume of memorials received they will be limited to 125-150 words and a small photo beginning with the January 2015 issue. At the discretion of the editor some exceptions may be made!

Pinocchio Perfektný Dar

Už skoro boli Vianoce a Geppetto bol veľmi zaneprázdnený, robil hračky ako vojakov a bábiky. Mikuláš mal u neho veľkú objednávku. Každý deň Geppetto vyrezával, lepil a maľoval a čas len tak letel.

Medzitým Pinocchio s pomocou Jiminy Cricket pripravili dom na prvé Vianoce Pinocchio. On a Jiminy ozdobili stromček a izbu a tiež pripravili slivkový puding.

“Jiminy chcem nájsť perfektný dar pre Geppetto,” povedal Pinocchio. “Pomôžeš mi?”

“Keď chceš” Jiminy začal hovoriť. Ale Pinocchio bol tak nadšený a nič nepočul. Už bol pri dverách a ponáhlal sa do obchodov. Jiminy ho našiel v obchode kde predávali nože. “Čo si myslíš o noži ako dare?” Pýtal sa Pinocchio. “Ten čierny je pekný.” Pinocchio vyťiahol svoje peniaze. Obchodník pokrútil hlavou. “Lutujem, ten najlacnejší nôž stojí desať krát toľko čo ty máš.”

Pinocchio išiel do druhého obchodu. Chcel kúpiť ponožky, rukavice, čiapku, aby Geppettovi nebola zima keď pracuje. Potom chcel kúpiť schránku na nástroje, kreslo na sedenie . . . ale všetko bolo alebo malé alebo veľké alebo veľmi drahé.

Tak už bol Štedrý večer a obchody sa zatvárali. Bol čas vrátiť sa domov.

“Jiminy” povedal Pinocchio “čo mám robiť?”

“Vieš čo, mám ideu” povedal Jiminy. “Naozaj?” pýtal sa Pinocchio. “Prečo si to predtým nepovedal?” Jiminy a Pinocchio si sadli pri kuchynský stôl.

“Chceš dať otcovi niečo čo ozaj potrebuje?”

“Určite chcem” povedal Pinocchio.

“To najviac chcem.”

Jiminy dal Pinocchio pero a papier.

“Píš všetko čo ti hovorím.” A diktoval.

“Drahý Geppetto, ja ti chcem pomôcť s tvojou prácou, takže to bude akoby si mal druhé ruky, druhé nohy a srdce, čo ti chce uľahčiť prácu. S láskou Pinocchio.”

“Ale Jiminy to je len kus papiera.” Povedal Pinocchio.

“Aký je to dar?”

Jiminy zobral list, dal ho do škatule a zaviazal ju červenou mašľou.

“Keď sa ma pýtaš, čo potrebuje Geppetto, tak ti hovorím že potrebuje pomoc. Má toľko práce, že ju nemôže sám spraviť. Tak poďme do jeho dielne! Keď Geppetto dostal dar od Pinocchio bol veľmi rád.

“To je práve to, čo potrebujem.” Pinocchio sa ponáhlal s prácou okolo dielne, zametal, dal pozor na oheň a balil všetky dary. Konečne skončil svoju prácu a práve bola polnoc. Vtedy prišiel Mikuláš pre všetky dary, ktoré urobil Geppetto.

Pinocchio Perfect Gift

It was almost Christmas, and Geppetto was frantically busy making toy soldiers and dolls. In fact, Santa himself had placed a big order. Each day, as Geppetto carved and glued and painted, he grew more rushed and weary.

Meanwhile, Pinocchio, with the help of Jiminy Cricket, was getting the house ready for his first Christmas as a real boy. He and Jiminy had put up a tree, strung garlands of holly from the rafters, and even baked a plum pudding.

“Jiminy, I want to find the perfect gift for Geppetto,” said Pinocchio. “Will you help me?”

“Well, if you ask me . . .” Jiminy began.

But Pinocchio was too excited to listen. He was already out the door, and on his way to the shops.

Jiminy caught up with him at the cutlery shop.

“How about a new knife?” said Pinocchio. “I’ll take the black one.” Pinocchio pulled out his coins.

The shopkeeper shook his head. “I’m sorry, son. The poorest of my wares costs ten times what you have.”

Undaunted, Pinocchio dashed into another store.

They shopped for socks, for gloves, for caps to keep Geppetto warm while he worked. A chest to keep his tools in. An armchair to relax in. But everything was too small, too big, or too expensive.

Now it was Christmas Eve, and the shopkeepers were locking their doors. It was time to return home.

“Jiminy,” cried Pinocchio, “what am I going to do?”

“Well, you know, I did have this idea —” Jiminy replied with a sign.

“Really?” said Pinocchio. “Why didn’t you say so before?”

Jiminy sat Pinocchio at the kitchen table. “You want to give your father something he really needs?”

“I sure do,” beamed Pinocchio. “More than anything, I do.”

Jiminy handed Pinocchio pen and paper. “Write what I tell you.” He dictated:

Dear Geppetto: This will entitle you to an extra pair of hands, an extra pair of legs, and an extra-willing heart.

Your loving son, Pinocchio.

“But — but, Jiminy! It’s just a scrap of paper,” said Pinocchio. “What sort of gift is that?” Jiminy took the note, put it in a box, and tied it with a red ribbon! If you ask me, what the poor man really needs is help! All the work he has can’t be done alone. Now, let’s get to the workshop.”

When Geppetto open Pinocchio’s gift, he was overjoyed. “Well, now, I guess I could use a pair of hands.”

Pinocchio scurried about the workshop, sweeping up shavings, tending the fire, boxing and wrapping toys.

He finally finished at midnight, and just in time, for at the stroke of twelve there came a thump on the roof. Santa had come to pick up the gifts that Geppetto had made.

Slovak Heritage Society of NE PA Picnic Held in Wilkes-Barre, PA

Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania held its annual picnic in the Nuangola Park of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

A highlight of the picnic is the menu of homemade "Slovak-style" culinary creations ... starting with Goulash with ground caraway seed, Halaubki, Halushki with bacon and dill ... and "Pirohi" surprises: mushroom, sauerkraut, and bacon, sweet cabbage, farmers cheese and farmers cheese with golden raisins plus almond flavoring. The menu also featured hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and corn-on-the-cob. A variety of homemade baked goods were available, sure to please all. Celebrated Chef was Michael Stretanski, Kingston, PA, a Society Board Member.

Society members and guests participated in a variety of "guessing games" at each table and enjoyed being recipients of "door prizes" offered by Society Board Members.

A good time was had by all attending the Slovak picnic.



Members and guests of Slovak Heritage Society gathered behind the Slovak Flag, held at left by Ann Hudock, Wilkes-Barre, and at right by Magdalen M. Benish, Plains, Board Members.



Board Member Joseph Kowatch, Edwardsville, PA happily serves traditional corn-on-the-cob to those waiting in line.



Many door prizes were awarded at the picnic. Board members shown above preparing distribution to the winners were, left to right, Ann Hudock, Wilkes-Barre; Magdalen Benish, Plains; and Bernadette Yencha, Wilkes-Barre.



Society Chair Philip R. Tuhy, Wilkes-Barre is shown third from left, conferring with Chef Michael Stretanski, Kingston, seated at right. At left is Peter Kmec, Slovakia, now a senior at King's College and member of the Slovak Heritage Society and Andrew Sofranko, Wilkes-Barre, Board Member.



Some of the picnic-goers are shown above in line for Slovak entrees on the menu.



The opening cup of Slovak Goulash was great for the cool Fall Day, served above by Peter Kmec from Kosice, Slovakia to Thomas Check, DDS, Penn Square, PA.

Attention!

If you would like to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email instead of through the mail please return this form to the attention of Marie Golias at the Home Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

You will begin to receive *Fraternally Yours* by email as soon as the changes can be made.

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 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.

Sr. Branch 153 Christmas Party

Sr. Branch 153, Farrell, PA, held their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8, 2013. All present enjoyed a sit down dinner followed by bingo, door prizes, individual gifts and headquarter handouts. Slovak and English Christmas Carols were sung. Long-time member Julia Luther celebrated her 95th birthday and the group serenaded her with a resounding version of Happy Birthday. Julia has been attending FCSLA Christmas Parties since she was a child.



Julia Luther



REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JULY 31, 2014

ASSETS	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 5,475,278
Bonds	733,681,684
Preferred Stock	2,130,553
Common Stock	5,257,141
Investment Income Due & Accrued	11,810,232
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,922,748
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,803,510
Other Assets	143,872
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 767,225,019
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 247,382,449
Annuity Reserves	406,568,934
Death Claims Payable	1,382,295
Unearned Premiums	534,146
Matured Endowments	332,020
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,373,502
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,080,405
Accrued Convention Donations	626,000
Provision for Future Conventions	541,881
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,895,602
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,340,035
Other Liabilities	1,069,899
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 673,127,168
Surplus	\$ 94,097,850
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 767,225,019

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2014

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 2,565,701
Annuity Premiums	16,120,731
Investment Income	23,033,696
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	73,664
Rental Income	225,447
Other Revenue	8,729
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 42,027,968
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ (2,706,551)
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	10,685,934
Insurance Benefits	3,480,198
Annuity Benefits	15,363,967
Commission Expense	525,480
Surrender Benefits	5,878,539
Post Mortem Benefits	749,212
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	33,999
Matured Endowments	5,472
Donation Expenses	36,301
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	133,000
Convention Expenses	133,000
Bank Service Charges	10,904
Data Processing Service Fees	145,839
Accounting Fees	72,800
Actuarial Fees	117,609
Legal Fees	24,359
Consulting Fees	77,758
Bonus to Branches	521,154
Fraternal Activities	79,787
Official Publications	271,772
Scholarship Awards	147,419
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	240,342
Fees — Directors	76,575
Salaries — Employees	763,299
Salaries — Officers	265,671
Interest Expense	167,319
Tax Expense	154,013
Depreciation Expense	162,521
Utility Expense	37,270
Postage and Printing	98,363
Advertising	57,620
Travel Expense	44,177
Insurance Department Fees	80,041
Sales Promotion	64,374
Rental Expense	225,447
Other Expense	324,610
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 38,549,595
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 3,478,373
Dividends to Members	813,465
Subtotal INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 2,664,908
Capital Gains (Loss)	\$ (44)
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 2,664,864



Homemade Holiday Recipes

GOLDEN BROWN CHRISTMAS GOOSE

- 1 domestic goose (10 to 12 pounds)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 medium apple, peeled and quartered
- 1 medium navel orange, peeled and quartered
- 1 medium lemon, peeled and quartered
- 1 cup hot water

Sprinkle the goose cavity with salt and pepper. Place the apple, orange and lemon in the cavity. Place goose breast side up on a rack in a large shallow roasting pan. Prick skin well with a fork. Pour water into pan.

Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 2¼ to 3 hours or until a meat thermometer reads 180 degrees. If necessary, drain fat from pan as it accumulates. Cover goose with foil and let stand for 20 minutes before carving. Discard fruit. Yield: 8 servings.

BEEF TENDERLOIN ROAST

- 3 tablespoons coarsely ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon peel
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 beef tenderloin roast (3 to 4 pounds)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine pepper, oil, lemon peel, salt and garlic; rub over tenderloin. Place on a greased rack in a foil-lined roasting pan.

Bake, uncovered, 45-65 minutes or until beef reaches desired doneness (for medium-rare, thermometer should read 145 degrees; medium, 160 degrees; well-done, 170 degrees). Cover and let stand 12 minutes before slicing. Yield: 10-12 servings.

BOURBON BAKED HAM

- 1 bone-in fully cooked spiral-sliced ham (7 to 9 pounds)
- 1 cup honey
- ½ cup bourbon
- ½ cup molasses
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Place ham on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Score the surface of the ham, making diamond shapes ½ in. deep. Bake at 325 degrees for 2 hours.

In a small saucepan, combine the remaining ingredients; cook and stir until smooth. Brush ham with some of the glaze; bake 20-25 minutes longer or until meat thermometer reads 140 degrees, brushing occasionally with remaining glaze. Yield: 15 servings.

MERRY MEATBALLS

- 1 lb. lean (at least 80%) ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped (1½ cup)
- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup plain bread crumbs
- ¼ cup milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅓ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ cups Thick/Chunky salsa (from 16-oz. jar)
- 2 medium green onions, thinly sliced (2 tablespoons), if desired

Heat oven to 400 degrees. In medium bowl, mix all ingredients except salsa and green onions. Shape into thirty 1-inch balls. Place in ungreased 13x9-inch pan.

Bake uncovered about 15 minutes or until no longer pink in center and thermometer inserted in center reads 160 degrees.

In 2-quart saucepan, heat salsa and meatballs to boiling, stirring occasionally; reduce heat. Cover and simmer about 15 minutes or until salsa and meatballs are hot. Sprinkle with green onions. Serve hot.

LEMON-DROP DINNER ROLLS

- 1 loaf (1 pound) frozen white or sweet bread dough, thawed
- ¼ cup sugar
- 4½ teaspoons grated lemon peel
- ⅓ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

Divide dough into 12-18 pieces; shape into balls. In a small bowl, combine sugar, lemon peel and nutmeg. Dip tops of rolls into butter, then into sugar mixture. Place in greased muffin cups, sugar side up. Cut a ½-in.-deep cross on tops of rolls. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1½ hours. Bake at 375 degrees for 14-16 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately remove from pan; cool on wire racks. Yield: 1 to 1½ dozen.

CHOCOLATE ALMOND BISCOTTI

- ¼ cup light olive oil
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon almond extract

2 eggs

- 1¾ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¾ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ¾ cup blanched almonds

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. In the bowl of a stand mixer, mix together the oil and sugar until blended. Add in the vanilla and almond extracts and eggs. Mix well.

In a separate bowl, combine the flour, salt and baking powder, mixing well. Gradually add the flour mixture to the wet mixture – mixing until fully blended. Add chocolate chips and almonds and mix until just blended.

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Divide dough in half and form into two logs (approximately 12x2 inches for small biscotti or 9x3 inches for longer biscotti) on the parchment paper. Note: dough is sticky so wet your hands with cool water to more easily handle the dough.

Bake the logs for 30-35 minutes in the 300 degree oven until logs are a very light brown. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool for 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to 275 degrees.

After 10 minutes, using a serrated knife, cut the logs on a diagonal into ¾ inch thick slices. Lay the cookies on their sides on the parchment covered cookie sheets and bake for 8 to 10 minutes more. Let cool.

CHRISTMAS VEGETABLE SALAD

- ¼ cup canola oil
- 1 tablespoon plus 1½ teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon plus 1½ teaspoons white wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- Coarsely ground pepper
- 2 cups thinly sliced cauliflower
- ½ cup sliced pimiento-stuffed olives
- ⅓ cup chopped green pepper
- ⅓ cup chopped red pepper

In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine the first six ingredients; shake well. In a salad bowl, combine the cauliflower, olives and peppers; drizzle with dressing and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Yield: 6 servings.

NOEL SPRITZER

- 2 cups chilled dry white wine, (or nonalcoholic wine or apple juice)
- 1 cup chilled cranberry-apple juice drink
- 1 cup chilled sparkling water
- Apple slices, if desired
- Fresh mint, if desired
- Mix wine, juice drink and sparkling water.
- Serve over ice. Garnish with apple slices and mint.



PERIODICAL

12/14

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.*