



ISSN 0897-2958

Fraternally Yours™

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 101, NO. 6

MARCH 2015



Building on our 123 year history
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Opens the Door to Our Future ...

New Membership Requirements Adopted

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours™

ISSN 0897-2958



Fraternally Yours,
ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,



is a monthly magazine published by the
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.
National Headquarters at 24950 Chagrin Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio 44122
EDITOR: Carolyn Bazik
P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA 19603
E-mail: zjbazik@comcast.net
Phone (610) 373-2743 • Fax (610) 375-8333

Periodical Postage Paid at
Cleveland, OH 44101 and additional entries
Subscription Rate, Non-Members: \$6.00 — 1 Yr.

Printed at Triangle Press
6720 Allentown Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17112

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Ženska Jednota,
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44122

Deadline for all articles is the 15th
of the month, 1½ months prior to the issue date.

OFFICE HOURS — HOME OFFICE
Monday through Friday — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (216) 464-8015 • Toll Free: 800-464-4642
Fax: (216) 464-9260 • Website: www.fcsla.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAPLAIN:

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, The
Cathedral of Saint Columba, 154 West Wood St.,
Youngstown, OH 44503. Residence: (330) 744-5233.
Email: ppolando@youngstowndiocese.org

PRESIDENT:

Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., 24950 Chagrin Bou-
levard, Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext.
1011. Email: Cynthia@fcsla.com.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Irene J. Drotleff, 17807 Nottingham Road,
Cleveland, OH 44122. (216) 486-6950. Email:
rene@apk.net.

Larry M. Golofski, 1114 Surrey Lane, Vandergrift,
PA 15690. Residence: (724) 845-8078. Email: LarryGolofski@windstream.net.

Barbara Novotny Waller, 24950 Chagrin Bou-
levard, Beachwood, OH 44122. Residence: (610)
207-0747. Email: bnwaller@comcast.net.

SECRETARY:

Sue Ann M. Seich, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1012.
Email: sueann@fcsla.com.

TREASURER:

Stephen C. Hudak, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642. Ext. 1016.
Email: steve@fcsla.com.

TRUSTEES:

John M. Janovec, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. (800) 464-4642.

Virginia A. Holmes, 1625 Vermont Avenue, White
Oak, PA 15131. Residence: (412) 672-1565.

AUDITORS:

Katie A. Esterle, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard,
Beachwood, OH 44122. Residence: (262) 720-7190.
Email: katie.esterle@gmail.com.

Barbara A. Sekerak, 6312 Elmdale Road,
Brook Park, OH 44142. (216) 676-9332. Email:
bas7535@gmail.com.

Dorothy L. Urbanowicz, 27 Crescent Drive,
Monesen, PA 15062. Residence: (724) 684-8243.
Email: doly8613@gmail.com.

EDITOR:

Carolyn M. Bazik, P.O. Box 1617, Reading, PA
19603 (610) 373-2743.

COURT OF APPEALS:

Mary Angeloff	Jeanette Palanca
Barb Shedlock	Ralph Szubski
Joseph L. Szumski	Carol Yurechko
Ron Sestak	Joyce Kelly
Ronald Paseka	Ann Sedlock
Bernard Drahozal	Dawn LaBuda

The Ship of Friendship

A voyaging ship was wrecked during a storm at sea and only two of the men on it were able to swim to a small, desert like island. The two survivors who have been good friends, not knowing what else to do, agreed that they had no other recourse, but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, they agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island.

The first thing they prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren.

After a week, the first man was lonely and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship was wrecked, and the only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the land. On the other side of the island, there was nothing.

Soon the first man prayed for a house, clothes, more food. The next day, like magic, all of these were given to him. However, the second man still had nothing.

Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that he and his wife could leave the island. In the morning, he found a ship docked at his side of the island. The first man boarded the ship with his wife and decided to leave the second man on the island.

He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings, since none of his prayers had been answered.

As the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a voice from heaven booming, "Why are you leaving your companion on the island?"

"My blessings are mine alone, since I was the one who prayed for them," the first man answered. "His prayers were all unanswered and so he does not deserve anything."

"You are mistaken!" the voice rebuked him. "He had only one prayer, which I answered. If not for that, you would not have received any of my blessings."

"Tell me," the first man asked the voice, "What did he pray for that I should owe him anything?" "He prayed that all your prayers be answered"

Dear Friends,

United and together we can always achieve more. For all we know, our blessings are not the fruits of our prayers alone, but those of another praying for us. Value the community of people around you and do not judge one person to be more or less worthy of another. While we may all be different, in God's eyes, we are all the same.

As the FCSLA opens the doors to new members by implementing the recently adopted membership requirements, take the time to share our rich 123 year history, and our insurance products with your family, friends, and the community around you. Help us expand our fraternal family where united and together, "For God and Country", we can care for others following Christ's example.

**Until Next Month,
Warmly, Carolyn**

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST: A REFLECTION

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I begin this article, I gaze outside my window and admire the amount of snow that has fallen throughout this Winter Season. I am equally amazed at how low the temperatures have dropped, some days breaking records in my neck of the woods. Even though the Ground Hog did not see his shadow on 2 February that predicted six more weeks of this snow and cold, we know that warmer weather is on the way now that you and I have reached March! There is a light at the end of this tunnel! My prayer is that as we continue our Journey through Lent, the warmth of Easter joy will lift up our hearts and spirits to the radiant love of our Crucified and Risen Savior Jesus Christ!

A few weeks back, our wonderful editor, Carolyn Bazik, text messaged the contributors of *Fraternally Yours* declaring that the theme of “opening doors” would be knitted through the articles of this issue. She, in her most humble way, requested that we attempt to keep this in mind as we were writing our monthly contributions for this edition. I like Carolyn; she is such a joy to serve with on the Board of Directors; and, her opinions are usually taken to heart as Board members make decisions for the good of the Association. However, as difficult as it is for me to admit, she does put up with me each month as I eek out my article at the last moment of the deadline! In regards to our Christian Faith, the theme Carolyn requests of her contributors is one that has been constant throughout salvation history and the history of our Church in its relationship with the Year of Jubilee or the Holy Year.

The Year of Jubilee goes back to the Hebrew Scriptures. The priestly author in the Book of Leviticus wrote, “You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred. You shall proclaim liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you when each of you shall return to your own property, each of you to your own family. This fiftieth year is your year of jubilee; you shall not sow, nor shall you reap the aftergrowth or pick the untrimmed vines, since this is the jubilee. It shall be sacred for you. You may only eat

what the field yields of itself. In this year of jubilee, then, each of you shall return to your own property. Therefore, when you sell any land to your neighbor or buy any from your neighbor, do not deal unfairly with one another.” (25:10-14)

Within the tradition of Catholicism, the Holy Year was inaugurated during the pontificate of Boniface VIII in 1300, A.D. A Holy Year emphasizes works of charity, a strengthening of faith within the community of believers, and a special call to give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of salvation in the person of Jesus Christ. Special graces and indulgences may be obtained throughout the celebration of the Holy Year. The Holy Year begins and ends with holy actions, especially the opening and the closing of the Holy Doors of the four major basilicas in the City of Rome, i.e., Saint Peter, Saint John Lateran, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, and Saint Mary Major. These doors are only opened every twenty-five years for the Holy Year and are closed, encapsulated by bricks, until the next Holy Year.

In chapter ten of the Gospel of John, Jesus teaches His followers that He is the Good Shepherd. But not only is He the Shepherd but He is also the gate, the door, of the place where the sheep are housed. He opens it and leads the sheep. “So Jesus said again, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep’.” (10:7-11) We possess such a wonderful gift from God our Creator for bestowing upon us His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ is the Door to the Father. Jesus is the Shepherd who leads us, His sheep, through this Door to the Father. Our Brother nurtures us in this pasture of life through His Word and Sacraments guided by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Door opens wide to the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. John 14:1-6).

Our last Holy Year was celebrated more joyfully because it concluded the second millennium of Christianity and commenced the third millennium of our expression of Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In his Apostolic Letter in preparation for the Holy Year 2000, Saint John Paul made reference to the Holy Door. He wrote, “The Holy Door of the Jubilee of the Year 2000 should be symbolically wider than those of previous Jubilees, because humanity upon reaching this goal will leave behind not just a century but a millennium. It is fitting that the Church should make this passage with a clear awareness of what has happened to her during the last ten centuries. She cannot cross the threshold of the new millennium without encouraging her children to purify themselves, through repentance, of the past errors and instances of infidelity, inconsistency, and slowness to act. Acknowledging the weaknesses of the past is an act of honesty and courage which helps us to strengthen our faith, which alerts us to face today’s temptations and challenges and prepares us to meet them.” (Tertio Millennio Adveniente, 33)

In recent centuries, the Holy Doors of the four major basilicas of Rome were opened and closed every twenty-five years. The opening of them symbolize that Christ is the Door of the Church, the Shepherd of His Flock – us! The symbol of Christ as the Door is to be carried over to each individual Christian – not every twenty-five years but every day of our lives. You and I are to open the doors of our hearts to Almighty God – with love, in repentance and reconciliation, with humility, in faith, with hope. Likewise, we open the doors of our hearts to all we encounter each and every day – our family and friends, co-workers, those who have hurt us and those who we still yet do not know. The doors of our hearts should always be widely opened – they should never be closed or only ajar. Just as He opens and leads, so too are we called to open our lives to Him and our neighbor to be led to His pasture, the Communion of Saints.

**OPEN WIDE YOUR
HOLY DOORS TO CHRIST!**

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members of
First Catholic Slovak Ladies
Association:

Our new membership criteria are being unveiled this month as our Society turns a new page in a new chapter in our history. We welcome new members with open arms to take advantage of the great opportunities that membership provides: our excellent insurance and annuity products, our financial and fraternal strength, and our vast

array of fraternal benefits. We are proud of our history and our strengths and we are certainly proud to share them with new potential members. Please share the good news with a friend or acquaintance in your church or neighborhood, so they can benefit from our membership, as well!

We are again gearing up for our 2015 National President's Appeal: "FCSLA Unites To Fight Hunger". During this convention year, this is a fabulous opportunity for all of us to band together and give generously, either through your branch, district or individually to help address hunger issues in our local communities. Let us take up the call of our current Pope Francis, who has urged the world's wealthiest nations to do more to help those in need. Our branches and districts will receive information about how to report their activities to us. Individuals should also let us know of the good works they are doing to support this cause by emailing the office of the National President at magolias@fcsla.com. It is believed that there are at least 40% of Ameri-

cans who have limited access to safe, nutritious foods. Let us work together to help reduce this overwhelming problem that is all around us!

Our 2014 Annual Appeal: "To Protect the Children" was a huge success, with our branches, districts and members donating \$49,645.00 for at risk children across the country in honor of our Saints Pope John XXIII and John Paul II. Look for a listing of all the 2014 Annual Appeal contributors in the April issue of *Fraternally Yours*. On behalf of the children and their families, we thank you!

March comes in like a lion and leaves us like a lamb! We hope that these days will be prayerful during this season of Lent, always joyful and full of the promises of spring.

Cynthia M. Maleski

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FCSLA GUARANTEED ISSUE LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM

NOW THROUGH APRIL 30, 2015

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

Siblings Celebrate Milestones

Brother and sister celebrated graduations this year. Ryan Taylor graduated from Hempfield Area High School in Greensburg, PA. He is currently attending Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA and will major in Computer Science.

His sister Kaitlyn graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Actuarial Mathematics and a Minor in Economics. She accepted a position

in May and is employed by Dunbar Bender and Zapf in Pittsburgh, PA.

Ryan and Kaitlyn are the children of William and Tammy Taylor. Grandparents are John and Shirley Ritz. All are members of the FCSLA Branch S044.



FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

3.00% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

3.25% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.50% APY*

*This rate is in effect 1/1/2015 thru 12/31/2015.

Additionally the guaranteed minimum rate for Elite Silver and Gold contracts issued in 2015 will be increased to 2%.

**5 Year Annuities issued prior to 2/1/2014
will earn their guaranteed minimum rate
from 1/1/2015 thru 3/31/2015.**



LENTEN CUSTOMS AND THE PRETZEL



It seems like we just celebrated the birth of Christ and rang in the New Year and Lent is already here. It's time to start preparing for Easter. (It will be here before we know it).

You might be wondering why a common snack such as the pretzel has any significance for Lent. Based on its shape and ingredients, this modern tasty treat has a deep spiritual meaning that dates

back to the fourth century of the Church. The earliest picture and description of the pretzel is from about 450 AD. (This information can be found in the manuscript-codex #3867, located in the Vatican Library).

From about 300 AD, the pretzel was considered to be the ancient "Christian Lenten Bread" because fasting regulations in the Church allowed no milk, butter, eggs, cream, cheese or meat during lent. The pretzel was served along with vegetables and "greens" (an early concept of a salad) at meals.

The story is told that a monk who taught children the faith created these treats to reward the children for learning their prayers. He mixed flour, salt and water into a stiff dough, formed it into "praying arms" that reminded people of crossed arms touching their shoulders, and baked it. The monk called these treats "bracellae" (meaning "little arms"), and from this Latin word, the Germanic people later coined the word "pretzel."

I know many of our branches sponsor Lenten Fish Fry's — a perfect time to include homemade soft pretzels and their connection to Lent (you may also want to make the pretzels at a Junior Branch activity or Youth Group activity). The recipe is as follows:

Ingredients: 1 pkg. yeast; 1½ cups warm water; 1 tbsp. sugar; 1 tbsp. salt; 4 cups flour (½ whole wheat, ½ unbleached)

Process: Preheat oven at 425 degrees. Mix yeast, sugar, salt and warm water in a bowl. When yeast is bubbly (about 10 min.) stir in flour and knead until dough is smooth.

Pinch off small sections of dough, roll into ropes and twist into "arms crossed in prayer" or other desired shape. Place on a lightly greased (or parchment-covered) baking sheets. Brush pretzel with 1 beaten egg. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake immediately for 12 to 15 minutes. *Remove, cool and enjoy!* (Pretzels are like potato chips and cats ... you can never have just one).

You may wish to include the following "prayer" before eating your pretzel: *Dear Jesus: Thank you for giving us a pretzel to remind us of arms crossed in prayer. Help us to remember that our Lenten treat is always intended for sharing. Amen.*



We are very grateful for the sacrifices you and your families make to protect us.

Thank you so much for your service:

Navy Airman
August Walton Kliment
of Valparaiso, NE
Branch W-187
Ship: The USS Iwo Jima
Stationed (homeport):
Mayport Naval Station,
Jacksonville, FL



Army SPC David Martinovich
of Johnstown, PA
Branch S-404
He has been a member
since birth.

Rosemarie Martinovich, David's grandmother also of Branch S-404 sent in his photo and said he is currently serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan.



Navy STSS E 4
Craig Prazak
Branch S-258
in Chicago, IL
Craig is currently stationed
in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



LCPL Alexander Hicar
Stationed in Hawaii with the Marine Corps. He is the grandson of Mary Hicar. Both are members of Branch S-490, Cleveland, OH. He became a member when he was a year old.



Please keep all our service men/women and their families in your prayers.

New Opportunities and a Bold Plan to Take Advantage!



Patrick Braun

It's almost hard to believe the transformation which FCSLA has undergone in the last 9 years! In fact, if I hadn't personally lived through it, I would not believe it myself. When I started in October of 2005, FCSLA had never contracted a life insurance agent to sell the Association's products. For 113 years, all the sales were made by branch members, mostly women. And these women did well, for FCSLA and for themselves. Many compiled some very impressive sales records, particularly in the number of certificates and new members written. But, in 2005, many

of these branch "recommenders" had grown older and had retired or passed on and the officers and the Board made the decision to contract professional agents to sell the certificates in addition to the recommenders. That's where I came in. My primary responsibility was to build a sales force of independent insurance agents to sell FCSLA products. For the first four months we put the infrastructure in place to do this.

We needed to have a process for contracting the agents. In fact, we needed a contract so I wrote one, and with the help of our attorney, we put in place the same contract which we use today. We decided on our selection process. Our president, Mary Ann Johaneck, felt that we should have a very comprehensive inspection report and so we contracted with a company to do a national criminal check, an insurance department report and a consumer credit report on every candidate. Because of our thoroughness in selection, we have had very few problems with the agents we contract. We also had to sign up with a company which performs the actual transfer of electronic information with the states. There had never been a need for this previously.

All insurance companies must have what is called a "sales illustration system". The sales illustration is a printout which is required by the states for life insurance policies. It describes the policy, gives cash value figures and a picture of the dividend scales. The form of the illustration must conform to strict state rules! We contacted a number of firms and they came in and showed us what they could do. We chose one and they built that system for us. Later, we built our own system and continue to use it.

These and a number of internal tasks prepared us to contract agents to sell our life insurance and annuity certificates. At that time we were licensed to sell in 21 states. On January 20, 2006, we appointed our first four professional insurance agents! The first person contracted was Albert Heiles, Jr. His agent number is GA 00000001. (I guess we were prepared to contract millions of agents!)

Through the years, many changes and improvements have taken place. Not long after I started, we built a beautiful new Home Office at the same location. We worked in the old office until moving day and then the old office was torn down as we worked in the new one. The noise was pretty intense. Other changes have taken place; new computers, new systems, new life and annuity products, new insurance laws to follow and new people on the Home Office staff. And, at a convention almost four years ago, three new officers were elected. Through it all, FCSLA has continued to be one of the elite fraternal benefit societies with a financial picture second to none! We now have over 850 independent insurance agents contracted to sell our products and we are licensed in 48 states.

Just as our board and officers met the challenge and the opportunity it presented in 2005, now a new opportunity has presented itself. At our special convention last year, the delegates decided to change our by-laws and open our membership to all Christians. This is a **huge sales and marketing opportunity** which will require more sales agents and more sales management power. We are preparing to take advantage of this opportunity to build our membership in the years ahead! As I am retiring in April, President Cynthia Maleski and I have worked diligently to hire a new national sales manager and also add several additional regional sales managers, (one of which will work in the Home Office to help with marketing as well.) These people will be introduced in *Fraternally Yours* in a future issue. I will help to train this new team and will continue to be available as FCSLA may need my help and advice. Of course I will remain a member of Branch 23 and will always be available to help our branch and district members! I can assure our members that FCSLA is in good hands and that the future looks extremely bright for the Association and its members! I consider myself to be very lucky. Few people in the world get to do work which they really enjoy, with fellow associates which they truly love and respect. I have had that experience at FCSLA and I am profoundly grateful!

41st NATIONAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

DELEGATE FORMS: Forms have been sent to the branch secretary. Delegates should be staunch supporters of the association and active within their branches, have an understanding of the scope of the organization and be willing to travel to Louisville, KY from October 3-8, 2015. Completed forms, including alternate delegates, should be returned to the Home Office, postmarked, delivery service or electronic media dated by May 4, 2015.

BYLAW CHANGE: Anyone wishing to submit a bylaw change for consideration must do so in writing to the attention of Cynthia Maleski, National President, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122. All submissions must be signed and postmarked, delivery service or electronic media dated by April 27, 2015.

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE: Anyone wishing to aspire to National Office must return an intent form, available from Sue Ann Seich, National Secretary, along with resume and non-refundable registration fee to the Home Office. All materials must be postmarked, delivery service or electronic media dated by August 2, 2015. Please review the requirements for National Office, including Court of Appeals, contained in the newly revised bylaws, Section III, Leadership & Governance Structure, starting on page 9 of the new Bylaw book.

GUESTS: Please note that guests are allowed to attend the convention, but are responsible for all their expenses (travel, room food.) More information will be forthcoming.

When you look at our front cover are you reminded of our family tradition of welcoming family and friends into our home with open arms? We always had food on hand and baba always managed to make everyone feel warm, welcomed and fed, knowing they would not go away hungry. It will soon be spring (thank heavens) and it couldn't be a better time than to open our membership with our new approved requirements and invite more individuals to join us.

Have you signed a new member lately? This may be the time to sign up your Christian neighbor or your Italian friend. Think about sharing all of our fraternal benefits with them by becoming a member and purchasing a life insurance policy or an annuity. Our Association has so much to offer someone even if it is only taking advantage of our monthly magazine and all it has to offer in the way of news, branch happenings, member accomplishments and our fraternal games or puzzles. It gives them the opportunity to take advantage of a planned activity by your branch with a dinner, sports event, or themed party. They will be able to make new

friends and build relationships. Some of my very dear friends, I met at a branch function and we still "hangout" together. There even may be a lonely individual who becomes a member with a small annuity but is rewarded with a friendship to fill their loneliness. Can you just picture the good that will come of your recommending them for membership into our Association? Think about the possibilities. If you aren't sure of your fraternal exemption for your state check with your branch officer who has a list of every state's fraternal exemption.

Your managing officers have quarterly meetings with our National Sales Manager and Regional Sales Managers to discuss new products that will benefit our current members and potential members. Our Executive Committee and Board of Directors designate a portion of every meeting to discuss new products. One of the board's strategic planning committees is a Product Development Committee. We are constantly researching new ways to assist you in planning for your future with the products we offer.

We value your opinion and questions. Let us know what you think and what benefits you would like to see be available to our members. There is also a possibility of planning a seminar for your branch or district by contacting our National Sales Manager, Patrick Braun, who will assist you in the planning. Call the home office and we will assist you in contacting him.

Happy Spring to all of you! Until next issue, may God keep you happy, healthy and loved.

Sue Ann



DONATION APPLICATION AVAILABLE

Convention Donation Applications are now available on our website. Please log on to fcsla.org to download and print out a copy of the application. It must be **completed in full** in order to receive consideration for financial assistance at our 41st National Convention.

This information is to be submitted on your stationery and be signed and returned to the Home Office postmarked, delivery service or electronic media dated by April 27, 2015.

Please return the completed applications to:

THE DONATION COMMITTEE

**First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122**

If you received a donation from our 40th National Convention, your Status Report from that donation must be on file at the Home Office in order to file again this year.

The Philanthropic & Scholarship Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors have determined that the budget for convention donations will be based on 10% of net income for the four calendar years preceding the convention or 1% of surplus at the year-end prior to the convention, whichever is greater.

For questions please contact Jayne Neelon at the Home Office (800) 464-4642.

Catherine Kovalchik Celebrates 99th Birthday



Catherine Kovalchik, Sr. Branch 30 (Youngstown, OH), celebrated her 99th birthday on December 4, 2014. She still serves as treasurer of her Branch and is active in Okres Maria E. Grega. She loves her FCSLA!

42nd March for Life, Washington, D.C.

In 2014 we had to cancel our trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life due to bad weather. A year later we had really good weather (for January) for the 42nd March for Life on January 22, 2015. The sun was out, it was in the mid 40's, a little chilly, no rain and no snow — what a blessing!

Finally after months of preparation (I start in September) two full buses, co-sponsored by FCSLA and FCSU, left the FCSLA Home Office at 11:15 p.m. on Wednesday the 21st. I was very excited to have one of the bus drivers (Andre) from a couple of years ago. In my book he is one of the best! We arrived in Washington, D.C. around 8 a.m. The groups and individuals all had their own agendas prior to the Rally at noon and March at 1 p.m. — we all went our separate ways.

Every year at noon we have a designated place to meet to take a group photo. We were able to meet up with our Branch S-624 members, Agent Tom Keogh and Branch Secretary Vincent Armstrong from Plymouth, MA who came down on the Cape Cod Bus For Life. Branch S-624 does two Matching Funds projects a year to help fund the costs of a bus. It is amazing that we were able to meet up with Tom and Vincent. It is estimated that there were 300,000 + people there for the March. I was so glad I emailed Tom before the trip to see if we could meet. It was a pleasure to see them.

Group photo below includes FCSLA National President Cynthia Maleski and from various Cleveland branches are Irene Drotleff (past National Secretary), Mary Ann Johanek (past National President), Lana Zachlin, Laura Caserta, Christine Kiggins and Marie Golias (missing from the photo is Kelly Shedlock, the photographer).

For more photos, Like Us (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association) on Facebook or check out our website www.fcsla.org. There are also some great photos on the Official March for Life website as well.

The two buses got separated in D.C. (traffic gridlock) — one bus arrived back at FCSLA around 11 p.m. Thursday night, the 2nd bus arrived around 11:30 p.m. I am happy to report that everyone that went down with us came back with us. No one was left in D.C. A successful trip! Mission accomplished!

Kelly Shedlock



2014 MATCHING FUNDS TOTALS

The 2014 Matching Funds Program was an incredibly successful year! The projects just kept coming in, exceeding my hope of completing 109 (one more than we did in 2013).

Congratulations to the 76 branches (some doing two projects per branch) who completed 120 projects. Yes, you read that right **120** completed Matching Funds Projects in 2014. Those branch members and their projects raised a grand total of \$322,590.76! All of you are AMAZING!!!! FCSLA matched \$70,607.63!

Can you imagine what our branches could raise if every branch did one Matching Funds Project? We have 407 branches. I'm just sayin'.

Congratulations again on a FABULOUS 2014!!!

Kelly M. Shedlock
Fraternal & Youth Director



MAGDALEN I. ISKRA DISTRICT CELEBRATES HOLIDAY

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, Magdalen I. Iskra District along with Jr. Branches 168 and 362 held their Annual Christmas party at Genetti's Best Western Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, PA with 70 children, parents and guests attending. A delicious lunch was served and the children played several games. "The Night Before Christmas" was narrated by Michael Ceklosky, a junior branch member. Entertainment was

provided by Bill Frye and his guitar. He sang along with the children. A matching funds raffle was held and the proceeds of \$201.00 were donated to the Magdalen I. Iskra Scholarship Fund. The children were happy to see Santa arrive with a gift for each of them. All of the adults were presented with a gift bag from the branches.



L-R: Officers with Santa – Martha Iskra, J362 President; JoAnn Klinessmith, J168 President; Magdalen Iskra, President of Magdalen I. Iskra District; Mary Ellen Myers, J168 Auditor; Barbara Ceklosky, J362 Treasurer; Anna Hudock, Treasurer of Magdalen I. Iskra District; Ann Dougher, J168 Secretary-Treasurer; and Theresa Ceklosky, J362 Secretary.



Ray Myers with grandchildren, Riley, Abbey, and Haley Mellas.



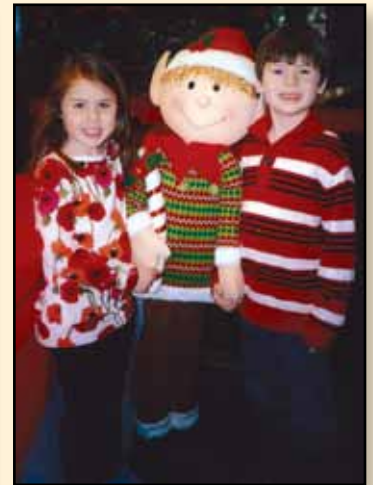
L-R: Great Aunt Anna Hudock with Ayden Everett and Great-Grandmother Mary Grobinski.



Santa Claus and the children from J362 at the party.



Michael Ceklosky reading "The Night before Christmas."



Sarah and Matthew Babula (J362) standing with Elf, one of the raffle prizes.



Jr. Branch members pulling the lucky raffle ticket winner accompanied by Branch officers Barbara Ceklosky and Ann Dougher.



Bill Frye and the children singing songs.

FCSLA 2015 FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION IS ANNOUNCING ITS ANNUAL FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD PROGRAM. The award is given to an outstanding volunteer on the local level for branch, church and community involvement. The FCSLA selection will be submitted as a nominee for the American Fraternal Alliance Fraternalist (AFA) of the Year Award.

All Officers and members are eligible to **submit** a name for this award. The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA with a history of fraternal and community service. **National Officers, Home Office Employees and previous recipients of this award are not eligible.**

Please submit their name, branch number and describe any / all significant involvement in fraternal and community services that should be considered. This will better assist our Independent Committee in the selection of the 2015 Fraternalist of the Year

Award. Also, include a little bit about them such as are they Single, Married, Widowed, Occupation or Retired, Employer/School, Children, Grandchildren (this information is requested on the AFA nomination form). The committee will select one nomination and submit that name to the (AFA) American Fraternal Alliance. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call Kelly at the Home Office, 1-800-464-4642, EXT 1051 or email her at kelly@fcsla.org. You may also print this form off our website: www.fcsla.org. Also include a head and shoulders photo of the nominee.

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS APRIL 15, 2015

All nomination forms and photos should be mailed to:
Kelly M. Shedlock, FCSLA Fraternal & Youth Director
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122

— PLEASE PRINT —

Print Name of Nominator

Signature of Nominator

Phone #

E-mail

Branch #

Nominee's Resume: (only activities within the past 12 months will be considered) **Please Print!**

Nominee's Name

Branch #

Nominee's Address

City State Zip

Please use a separate sheet of paper typed or printed to describe any / all significant involvement in fraternal and community services that should be considered.

Christmas Dinner Concert Held for Dyer Nursing Rehabilitation Center

Helen Kocan Jr. Branches 184 from Gary, IN, 317 from East Chicago, IN and 348 from Whiting, IN, held a Christmas Dinner Concert for the Residents of the Dyer Nursing Rehabilitation Center in Dyer, IN. This fraternal program was held by the joint branches to bring Christmas cheer to the residence of this facility.

The children wore Christmas attire and elf hats and were directed by the main elf, Sherry Anderson, the mother of elf, Eleanor Anderson. Assisting the children in this effort were Officers; Joann Skvarek Banvich, Margaret Ortiz, and Betty Ortiz of Sr. Branch 452-Whiting, IN, and Agnes Chervenak of Sr. Branch 409-East Chicago, IN, and many parents and grandparents as seen in the photos.

The residents of the facility joined in to sing the finale, "Silent Night," after which the elves delivered Christmas gifts to each of the residents. The gifts consisted of candy, chips, various toiletries, and miscellaneous items from the FCSLA Home Office. Everyone enjoyed this event held by the Helen Kocan District and the children were treated to ice cream creations by the staff of the Dyer Nursing Rehabilitation Center staff for their wonderful presentation.



Find us on
Facebook

**FIRST CATHOLIC
SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION**

Branch W033 Holds Annual Christmas Party and Meeting

Branch W033 (Spillville, IA) held their annual Christmas Party and Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at St. Wenceslaus School. Fifty-five adults and fourteen children enjoyed the day that began with a potluck dinner.

The branch supplied meats, buns, beverages, place settings; and members brought many delicious dishes to round out the menu. After the meal the annual meeting was held, while children went to the lunchroom with Jenae Kuennen

and Joanne Hageman to make arts and crafts (Christmas ornaments).

The branch awarded four \$250.00 scholarships to Emyleigh Opat, Bailey Timp, Monica Ryant and Mark Ryant. Joshua Stika received a \$500.00 scholarship. The branch congratulates the winners and wishes them success in their future endeavors! Santa then arrived giving out bags of treats for everyone and taking photos with youngsters and adults.



Santa gives Helen Maldonado (holding her Christmas ornament) her Santa bag of treats.



Secretary Becky Kuhn and junior member Alayna Kuennen decorated tables for the party.



Mark Ryant accepts his \$250 scholarship from Vice-President Jerry Kuhn. He is attending Loras.



Becky Timp accepts her \$250 scholarship from Vice-President Jerry Kuhn. She is attending UNI.



Members and their families begin gathering for the annual Christmas Party.



Sara Opat accepts a \$250 for her sister Emyleigh who is attending UNI.



Monica Ryant accepts her \$250 scholarship from Vice-President Jerry Kuhn. She is attending St. Ambrose.



Junior members with Christmas ornaments they made at Party. L-R, Back Row: Makenzie Kuhn, Shyla Kuennen holding Helen Maldonado, Sara Opat, Lincoln Kuhn, Rory Kuennen, Alayna Kuennen. L-R, 1st Row: Ethan Maldonado, Olivia Opat, and Kashton Riley.



Ron and Elaine Stika receive a \$500 scholarship for their son Joshua who is attending seminary.

Branch W093 of Tabor, SD Celebrates the Christmas Season

On December 7, 2014, FCSLA Branch W093 members and families met in Beseda Hall, in Tabor, SD for a noon potluck Christmas party. A short meeting followed the noon potluck. Branch W093 honored our 50 year members. Door prizes were given out. There was a cookie exchange and a candy count as well. After the meeting, bingo was enjoyed by all who attended. St. Nicholas did not let us down. He stopped in to visit with the young and old and everyone received a "goodie" bag from him. Following St. Nick's visit, refreshments and a light snack was provided. Msgr. Hermann and Fr. Jones were presented with some Christmas goodies as well.

Potluck Halloween Supper Held

On October 26, 2014, FCSLA W093 members and families met in Beseda Hall in Tabor, SD for a Potluck Halloween supper. There was a great turn out. The evening consisted of great food; our monthly meeting, and costume judging.

Prizes were given out for both youth and adult winners. Bryce Mayrose won the youth candy count and Mark Povondra was the adult winner. Many door prizes were also won by those who attended. Cards were signed for priests in our area for Priesthood Sunday and a monetary gift was given.



Branch W093 met on December 28, 2014 in the Beseda Hall to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family as well as honor our scholarship winners for 2014 both at a National level and local level. *(More photos in next month's issue)*



Magdalen J. Iskra District Makes Donation



The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Magdalen I. Iskra District, presented \$250 to Valley Santa to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need throughout Luzerne County. From left are District Auditor, Ann Dougher; District President, Magdalen I. Iskra; John Maday of Valley Santa; District Treasurer, Anna Hudock; and District Trustee, Martha Iskra.

BRANCH W033 HOLDS FELLOWSHIP AFTER MASS

Twice a year in June and November, Branch W033 (Spillville, IA) has a Fellowship at St. Wenceslaus School after Sunday Mass for anyone that would like to enjoy fresh kolache, juice, coffee and conversation.

The photos are from the Sunday, November 2nd Fellowship with 53 people in attendance. After Fellowship a regular meeting for members was held.



Some of the 53 parishioners enjoying kolache and conversation.

Maria E. Grega District Holds Christmas Party

The eight Branches of the Maria E. Grega (Youngstown, OH) District held their joint Christmas party on November 23, 2014, at Avion on the Water Catering Center in Canfield, OH. Hosting this year's event was St. Elizabeth Branch 161. President, Virginia DeLuca, welcomed the 153 attendees. District President Bernadette Demechko, thanked the Branches for their cooperation in coordinating the event by sending flyers and publishing church bulletin articles to inform their members. Virginia and her committee made the room festive with centerpieces of potted poinsettias wrapped in gold foil and towers of chocolate candy in gold and red boxes. Headquarters provided 2015 daily planners for each member. Mille Kust, Recording Secretary, was the chairperson of the raffle prizes and had a dishtowel with \$10 for each gift. Additional prizes were sent by Headquarters (canvas tote bags) and each Branch also provided a gift. Nancy Clausen, Junior Auditor, was dessert chairperson and arranged the cupcakes, with decorative red and green icing, in a beautiful table display. Loretta Ekoniak, Senior Auditor, set up the head table manager scene consisting of white ceramic statues of Jesus, Mary and Joseph arranged on a red velvet cloths surrounded by green pine boughs. Melanie Leonard, Treasurer, and her daughter Theresa, were responsible for reservations and the door prize and money raffles. Financial Secretary, Bernadette Demechko, informed the group of the Special convention held in Beachwood in October to adopt the newly revised bylaws. The Bylaws were approved by the delegates and subsequently the Ohio Department of Insurance. She reminded attendees that the following scholarship ap-

plications for Youngstown District students were available on the side table: FCSLA Scholarship, *Anna S. Granchay, Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust and American Slovak Cultural Association. The President introduced Dr. Linda Miller, Ursuline High School staff member, who spoke on the Ursuline High School Scholarship available to students of Slovak heritage who attend that school. Marie Yurco gave her traditional vinc (greeting) and the group sang "Happy Birthday" to Kay Kovalchik who would be celebrating her 99th birthday the following week. After the singing of Slovak and English carols, the meeting was adjourned and the group departed, all set to usher in the Christmas season.

* Pat Granchay, President of Branch 156, announced at her Branch Christmas party at Bruno's Restaurant a few weeks later that a Branch member had donated \$5,000 to fund the Anna S. Granchay Scholarship. It had been established in memory/honor of Anna, who had served as National president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and was also active and held office in her local Branch 156, Struthers, OH. The \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to a college student who is a member of the Maria E. Grega District.



L-R: Bernie Demechko, District President, and Financial Secretary of S161/J192; Loretta Ekoniak, Senior Auditor, and Virginia DeLuca, S161 president.



Mille Kust, S161 Secretary, is prepared to distribute door prizes, assisted by member, Theresa Leonard.



L-R: Millie Kust, Secretary, with Marie Yurco, and her daughter, Nancy Clausen, Junior Auditor, and Melanie Leonard, Treasurer.

Chicago Junior Branches and District Sponsor Christmas Party

FCSLA Jr. Branches 39, 106, 174, 322, 339, 382, 427 and the Chicago District co-sponsored their fourth annual Junior Member Christmas Party at noon on Saturday, November 15, 2014 at St. Simon Slovak Parish's gymnasium. The Junior members participated in a snowman beanbag toss game, cookie decorating, ornament making, face painting, a coloring contest, and a raffle with seven super-raffle prizes. Svätý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas), Bishop in 4th Century Myra, Turkey arrived and spoke to the children and adults about his origins. Svätý Mikuláš presented to each of the children three gold chocolate coins which reflect the story of the gold coins that Svätý Mikuláš gave to a poor man so he could marry off his three daughters. The children and their guests feasted on a wonderful meal of chicken, beef, corn, mashed potatoes and pasta salad with vanilla and chocolate cakes for dessert. Coloring contest winners each won a \$25.00 Amazon gift card and were Eric Ebenau-J339; Addison Gillan-J339; and Sean Harrison-J382. A raffle was held with seven super-raffle prizes: a 28-inch Flat Screen TV won by Candace Pac, a \$50 Walmart card and \$50 check from Kubina-Funeral Home won by Olivia Satala, a Tablet won by Elizabeth Hirschbeck-J174, a Canon Photo Printer won by Victor Kelly-J339, a second Canon Photo Printer won by Susan Niemi-S485 and a Blue Tooth Speaker won by Sean Harrison. The raffle prizes were donated by Jr. Branches 174, 322, 382, and 339, as well as funds from last year's raffle ticket sales. The Super Raffle

Prizes consisting of the \$50 Walmart Gift Card were donated by Satala-Pac Funeral Home, the \$50 check by Kubina-Tybor Funeral Home and the two Canon Photo Printers by Therese and the late Leo J. Tylus. A huge thank you to these branches, members and entities that donated the raffle and super-raffle prizes.

A special thank you to the Jr. Christmas Party Committee Co-Chairs: Lorraine Gibas (J322/S421) and Dr. Fay Hlubocky (J39/S295) and their Committee members: Jeanette Palanca (J174/S258), Rosemary Mlinarich (J174/S258) Cathleen Lehocky (S485), Fay Hlubocky (J39/S295), Helen Bendik Grygus (J427/S274), Mary Beth Satala-Pac (S427/S274), and Mary Therese Tylus (Chicago District President/J382/S485) for all their hard work and preparation in making this event another great success. A huge thank you to the Committee's elves: Lydia Berry (S485), Geri Hletko (S485), Deana Hull (S485), Colleen Kopeck (J382/S485) and Tom Kopeck (S485), Candace Pac, Tom Lynch (S421), Therese Gibas (S421) and Cameron Palanca (J174) and any others whom we may have missed in this article for all their help in setting up, manning the various activities tables, and clean-up. The children, their parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents had a wonderful time and all are looking forward to next year's party and another visit from Svätý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas)! *(To see all of the photos from this event, please go to <http://www.fcsla.org/district/chicago/gallery.php>)*



Chicago Christmas Party

Continued from Page 14



FCSLA 41st National Convention

Marriott Louisville Downtown / Louisville, KY

October 3-8, 2015

Attends Installation of Bishop Hying

Sisters Joanne Marie Schutz, SS.C.M. (below left) and Brigid Fasiang, SS.C.M. (right) attended the Installation of Bishop Donald Hying, the fourth Bishop of Gary, on January 6th at the Holy Angels Cathedral. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius currently serve the Diocese of Gary, IN, as Teachers, Pastoral Associates, Instructional Services Personnel, Visitors to the Sick, and as Bishop's Liaison for Women Religious.



Christmas Eve Supper

S553 and J481 (Cleveland, OH) participated in the Annual St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Christmas Eve Supper by providing members a discounted ticket to attend and by making over 40 gift baskets and purchasing other gifts for the Abbey Raffle.



2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour

September 11-20, 2015

Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village visits available.

For more information visit
www.slovakiaheritage.com
 or contact Judith Northup-Bennett,
 Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or
connectionswork4u@hotmail.com



IN MEMORIAM

MARGARET I. ZIMMERMAN, S452

Margaret I. Zimmerman (nee Durkovich), 78, of Whiting, IN, passed away September 1, 2014. She was born on June 26, 1936 in Whiting, IN to John and Susan Durkovich. She was a lifelong resident and a graduate of Whiting High School, Class of 1954. She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church, Whiting, and the St. Ann Sodality. Margaret loved to read, flowers, feeding the birds and EWTN-TV, but above all, she loved her Lord and God.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, Gerald; loving mother of Susan (Dennis) Betustak of Whiting, Mary Ann Zimmerman of Lansing, Helen (James, Jr.) Staley of Whiting, Margaret (Timothy) Kovacic of Schererville and Christine (David, Jr.) Goodwine of Whiting; cherished grandmother of two; and dearest sister of John (late Dolores) Durkovich of Whiting and the late Andrew (late Ruth) Durkovich; and her canine companion, "Ricky".

LILLIAN SAGAT, S489



Lillian Sagat, (nee Kuna), age 93, of Darien, IL, died peacefully at home on September 17, 2014. She was the devoted wife of the late Steve Sagat; loving mother of Stephen (Sharon), Mary Lynn (John) Sagat Economou and Ronald (Maria); cherished grandmother of nine; fond sister-in-law of Margaret Sagat, also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Lillian was a long time parishioner of Our Lady of Peace Church and a member of the Younger than Ever Seniors of Darien. She was also a long time member of the St. Simon Seniors Group Chicago. She proudly served the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association as a National Auditor and also served for many years as the secretary of Chicago Branch 489, Anna Hurban District. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Alzheimer's Association, 8430 W. Bryn Mawr, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631 would be appreciated.

CECILIA BUCHA GAUGHAN, S66



Cecilia Bucha Gaughan, 83, of Whitehall, PA, left this world on September 14, 2014. Cecilia was the daughter of Peter and Anna (Holenchik) Bucha, one of nine children. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Thomas Francis Gaughan, Jr. Though primarily a homemaker, Cecilia also worked at Allentown's Hess Bros. Department Store, Western Electric, and for over 25 years as a clothing consultant for numerous retail stores including Bridal Consultant

at the 'The Personality Shoppe.' Cecilia also enjoyed serving as the Junior Activities Director for the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. She was a life-long parishioner of the St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic; serving as lector, Eucharistic minister, choir member, among many other capacities.

Survivors include her husband, three children; Patrice DeFazio (Jerome), Thomas F. Gaughan III (Janine) and Timothy P. Gaughan (Beth) as well as five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Cecilia's memory to St. Johns Church care of the funeral home.

JOHN G. KOCIK, SZJ



John Kocik, age 79, of Granville, OH, passed away on October 7, 2014. He was born August 9, 1935 in Gypsum, OH, the son of the late John J. and Elizabeth L. (Yakobison) Kocik. He was a graduate of Port Clinton High School and married his wife Barbara Jo Kent on November 20, 1954. He was the owner of the Colonial Steak House and The Eatery in Newark, OH and a former meat cutter with Kroger Company. He

was an active member with the Water's Edge Assembly of God. John is survived by his loving wife of 60 years Barbara Jo (Kent) Kocik of Granville; daughters Betty Jo (Ernie) Cordray of Granville, Susan Long of Newark, OH, Julie Fryman of Alexandria, OH and Monica (Michael) McBride of North Lauderdale, FL; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; as well as nieces, nephews and many friends. In addition to his parents, his brother Joseph John Kocik preceded John in death. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts to Water's Edge Assembly or to charity of donor's choice is suggested by the family.

LUCILLE M. (PLESKAC) PTACEK, W026



Lucille M. (Pleskac) Ptacek, 91, of Weston, NE, died peacefully at home on October 11, 2014. She was born February 28, 1923, in St. Paul, NE, to Lewis and Lillian Nabity. After teaching for three years in St. Paul rural schools, she married Paul Pleskac. They had nine children. She and Paul retired to Weston in 1982. After Paul died in 1997, Lucille continued to live in Weston. On November 4, 2000, she married Frank Ptacek from Bruno.

Lucille was an active member of St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, Weston. She was secretary of the Weston Branch of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA). Lucille is survived by husband, Frank, sisters: Loretta (Joe) Petersen and LaJeanne (Dale) Radford, children: Julie (Rick) Falleck, Alice (Richard) Meduna, Mike (Doris) Pleskac, David (Linda) Pleskac, Richard (Claudia) Pleskac, Barbara (Ervin) Opp, Paul (Shelly) Pleskac, Rita (Mark) Kavan, Frank (Cynthia) Pleskac, 40 grandchildren, 65 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul, grandson Michael, great-grandson Luke, four brothers and one sister.

ELOISE C. JURICK, SZJ



Mrs. Eloise C. Jurick, 89, passed away October 18, 2014. She was born March 10, 1925, in Clarksburg, WV, the only daughter of Vance and Helen Palmer. Mrs. Jurick was a 1943 graduate of St. Mary's High School. Following graduation, she went to Washington, D.C., and worked for the federal government before returning to Clarksburg to marry the love of her life, Joseph Jurick. She enjoyed gardening, reading, dancing the polka with her husband and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her husband Joseph; four children, Michael (Betty), Donna Dolan, Bill (Delene)

and Mark (Frances); nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one brother, Bill Palmer (Alta May), Wichita Falls, TX. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, infant daughters; one great-granddaughter; and her son-in-law. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Forward in Faith, c/o Immaculate Conception Church, 150 S. Maple Avenue, Clarksburg, WV 26301; United Home Health and People's Hospice, 327 Medical Park Drive, Bridgeport, WV 26300; or the charity of your choice.

NORBERT JOHN SKLUZACEK, W056



Norbert John Skluzacek, age 84, of Lonsdale, MN passed on October 19, 2014.

Norbert was born to John and Cecelia (Malecha) Skluzacek in Lonsdale, MN. He graduated from New Prague High School in 1947. After high school, he farmed until serving with the United States Army from 1953-1955 achieving the rank of Corporal. Upon his return from service, he was united in marriage to Marion Tupy at Most Holy Trinity in Veseli on August 30, 1955. Norbert then continued farming along with Marion on a dairy farm north of Lonsdale. There, they raised three children. Norbert treasured his Catholic faith and daily mass. Norbert enjoyed time with his family, playing cards, and visiting with friends, gardening and keeping busy around their home. Norbert is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marion L. Skluzacek, and their children, GERALYN Sticha and Rick Burns of Veseli, Greg and Deanna (DeCoux) Skluzacek of Lonsdale and Cheryl and Jim Marek of Northfield; ten grandchildren, as well as six great-grandchildren; 55 nieces and nephews and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

PAUL E. GATES, S77



Paul E. Gates, 87, of North Versailles, PA died December 30, 2014. Paul was born April 10, 1927, in McKeesport, PA, a son of the late Paul and Anna Gajdzik. He was the beloved husband of Matilda (Pavuk) Gates for 62 years and loving father to Karen (Ron) Bevan, Glenn (Karen) Gates and Gary Gates. He was the proud grandfather of Carlin (Garrett) Fisher, Bryant (Molly) Bevan, Jason (Denise) Wills,

Joshua (Christy) Wills and Hannah Gates. He doted on his 3 great-grandchildren: Caroline, Ethan and Caitlin. He is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Paul was a World War II veteran. He was the proprietor of Paul E. Gates Auto Service. He was a member of St. Colman Church, life member of the Elks and for years served as a leader for Boy Scout Troop 85. Contributions can be made in Paul's name to St. Colman Church.

MARY (MARIA) J. KUNERT, S254

Mary (Maria) J. Kunert, a longtime resident of Tarrytown, NY, died on October 22, 2014. Mary was born on October 30, 1921 to Pavel and Tereza (Janos) Majernik in Jablonove, Czechoslovakia. She left her family at 16 years old and immigrated to the United States in 1938. On January 9, 1943, she married John J. Kunert at Holy Cross Church. Her husband predeceased her November

9, 1953. A former resident of Sleepy Hollow (North Tarrytown) until 1974, Mrs. Kunert retired from Duracell in 1984. She was a parishioner of Transfiguration Church in Tarrytown and a member of the Transfiguration and Tarrytown Seniors. Mary is survived by her three loving daughters, Theresa Broadway, Mary Ann Kunert and Janet (John) Strilowich; her beloved five grandsons, and cherished two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her sisters Matilda Nevoral and Terza Palov. Her greatest joys were her family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations to Careers for People with Disabilities, 401 Columbus Ave., Valhalla, NY 10595 would be appreciated.

JOHN CHARLES POPELKA, W047



John Charles Popelka, 66, of Glencoe, MN, died October 20, 2014. A child of God, he was born to John C. and Mary (Vacek) Popelka on January 17, 1948, at the Glencoe Municipal Hospital. He graduated from Glencoe High School with the class of 1965. He furthered his education by attending Nazareth Hall and Seminary for two years. The Glencoe area has been home for Mr. Popelka for all his life, as he took over the family dairy farm in the late 1960s and stayed

on the farm until health problems necessitated a change to less-physical labor. In April 1987, he took employment at the Glencoe Veterinary Clinic until he retired, but he continued to help part time at the clinic until his death. Mr. Popelka is survived by his brother, Francis (Delores) Popelka of Hopkins; sons, Charles Popelka and Gary Popelka; three grandchildren; and many relatives and friends in the Glencoe area and distances away. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Popelka; and a sister.

ANDREW V. SMREK, SR. S150



Andrew V. Smrek, 83, husband of Elizabeth A. (Hritz) Smrek, of Phoenixville, PA, died on November 13, 2014. He was the son of the late August and Mary (Kuska) Smrek. Andrew served in the United States Army during the Korean War, receiving the Korean Service Medal, Bronze Star with Valor, and a Purple Heart. He was a longtime member of Sacred Heart Church in Phoenixville. Surviving, in addition to his wife are sons, Andrew Smrek, Jr. of Phoenixville, PA;

Robert Smrek of Phoenixville, PA; two grandchildren; four sisters; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three brothers, John Smrek, George Smrek and Albert Smrek.





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!



Jill and David Tarantini of Harvey's Lake, PA, announce the birth of their son **JACKSON DAVID TARANTINI**, on March 11, 2014. Jackson is the first grandchild of Mary Jean and David Tarantini also of Harvey's Lake, PA. Jackson is the newest member of the family to be enrolled as a proud member of the FCSLA and is the third generation of the Tarantini's to be a member of the Magdalen I. Iskra District, Jr. Branch 362.



CELEB JAMES MIKSANEK, son of Drs. Josh and Roseanne Miksanek is a new member of J41 (Chicago, IL). A fourth generation member of FCSLA he is following in the footsteps of his great-grandmother Rosemary Miksanek, North Aurora, IL; grandfather Dr. Tony Miksanek and his father Dr. Josh Miksanek, all members of S181 (Chicago, IL).



JOSEPH JOHN BABIK, JR. (J364, Johnstown, PA) son of Joseph and Brandy Babik was inducted into the Elementary School National Honor Society at Rippling Woods Elementary School in Glen Burnie, MD for the school year 2013-2014. Joseph carries on the tradition of an FCSLA family; his sister Emily Trader is also a member of J364; his grandmother Janet Babik is a member of S28 (Johnstown, PA) now residing in Dover, PA with her husband Bernard; and his great-great Aunt Helen Babik was President of S28 and J364 in Johnstown, PA for over 50 years.

On February 8, 2015 at Little Flower Parish in Toledo, OH, Father David Nuss is holding newly baptized **EVELYN MARIE SCHAK** (J149). She was born on November 12, 2014. From left to right are FCSLA families, godparents Seth and Katie Dickman, Fr.



Nuss and parents Andrea and Jeffrey Schak holding son Alexander. After the Baptism Mass, the families gathered at the home of grandparents Tim and Kathleen Snyder for brunch and to also celebrate Alexander's 2nd birthday.



VILJA DINNER IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

A Vilja Dinner was held December 14, 2014 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Youngstown, OH. Sr. Branch 169 treated their members to the \$20 dinner. Members were invited through the church bulletins and enjoyed the traditional Christmas Eve dinner bringing back memories of past Christmas Eve at Baba's. The members sat together and shared stories of their Slovak ancestors.



Carol Dumez, Marlene Holdosh and Vivian Sedlacko.



Dolores Sonoga, Elaine Nemesh, and Aggie Larry and Phillips.



Ron Pudhalla, Jean Pudhalla, Geri Mazzone, and Elaine Charnoky.

Scenes from Branch 30 Christmas Party

Below are photos of members of Branch 30 from our Maria E. Grega, Youngstown, OH District Christmas Party on November 23, 2014.



L-R: Verne Gleydura, Rita and Ed Smrek.



L-R: Dr. Linda Miller, Ginny Lucarell.



L-R: Kay Kalischak, Debbie Olney, Cathy Glista.



Dolores Bach, Vicki Long, Betty Sefcik, and Ann Brayer.

Eastern PA District Annual Spring Meeting

The Frances C. Jakabcin Eastern PA District will hold their Annual Spring Okres Meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 1 p.m. at Capriotti's Palazzo, 1 Banks Avenue, McAdoo, PA 18237. Branch 45 Hazleton is the host Branch. Please RSVP to President Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 by April 2, 2015. Branch Model Training will take place after dinner. More details will be sent directly to the branches.

Sr. Branch 30 and Jr. Branch 29 Holds Thanksgiving Celebration YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

St. Ann's Lodge, Sr. Branch 30, and St. Helen's Lodge, Jr. Branch 29, held their Annual Thanksgiving Celebration at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Youngstown, OH on October 26, 2014. Approximately 54 members of the senior and junior branches enjoyed fellowship and a delicious spaghetti dinner. Attendees were entered into a drawing for several door prizes and all received a favor, compliments of the FCSLA Home Office.

Each year, our branches donate to a charitable or worthy cause. Since Cynthia Maleski requested that we donate to an agency or community center that supports children, we selected the Beatitude House, a nonprofit, nondenominational corporation of the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown. As indicated on the website, Beatitude House "serves all



Dr. Janet Gardner (Executive Director of Beatitude House), Helen Kukura, Margaret & Michael Belcik, and Sr. Mary Alyce Koval (Director of Educational Services and Site Director).

women and children bound in the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Through our housing, education, and family support, we help them break that cycle." With the support of donors, Beatitude House provides services that empower homeless women to attain an education and become gainfully employed. The

children who live there are tutored, fed, and provided a safe haven that fosters success.

Sr. Janet Gardner, Executive Director of Beatitude House, and Sr. Mary Alyce Koval, Director of Educational Services and Site Director, addressed the members and shared background information on their work.

Following their presentation, Mary Lou DiPillo (President, Branch 30) and Catherine Kovalchik (Treasurer, Branch 30) presented them with a check to support the

services they provide to the women and children in their facilities. They were most grateful for our support.

This ministry of the Ursuline Sisters touched the hearts of our members. As they interacted with the Sisters during our event, they were proud of our contribution to this worthy cause.



Diane Balog and Dolores Sonoga



Mitchell, Morganne, and Meganne Evans



Louise Joerndt and Joan McKeown

DONATES TO PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

Branch W033 (Spillville, IA) donated \$500 to Helping Services for Northeast Iowa on behalf of the 2014 President's Appeal dedicated to newly canonized Popes St. John XXIII and John Paul II. The agency serves families including single parents as they strive to care for their children; especially children in fractured families or those grieving the loss of a loved one. Pictured presenting a check to Dennis Osmundson are Branch Treasurer Rita Fjelstul (left) and Branch Secretary Becky Kuhn (right).



37th Annual Slovak Catholic Federation SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal

Our Slovak ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago with a prized possession, their Catholic faith. This faith was nurtured by the Slovak priests who accompanied our ancestors and together, these immigrants helped begin our Slovak Catholic fraternal organizations, build communities of men and women Religious, and establish nearly 300 personal parishes for Slovaks. The Slovak Catholic Federation continues this legacy by its sponsorship of the **37th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal**.

Most of the funds from the Appeal aid the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries. A portion of the appeal funds benefit those communities of men and women Religious which have a counterpart in the United States represented on the Conference of Slovak Religious.

While donations to the Appeal in previous years came almost exclusively from collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry, the trend has changed as today the number of individual donors continues to rise each year. The 2015 Annual Appeal begins in the personal parishes of Slovak ancestry across the United States and Canada during February and continues throughout the year.

Please make your tax deductible check payable to the **Slovak Catholic Federation**, with a notation stating it is for the 2015 Annual Appeal, and mail it directly to:

Dolores Evanko, National Secretary/Treasurer
Slovak Catholic Federation
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as National President is Reverend Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown. The National First Vice President, Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Pastor of Our Lady of Ransom Parish, Philadelphia, PA, is the Appeal Coordinator.

SCF Seeks Contributors for 2015 The Good Shepherd Annual

Dobry Pastier (*The Good Shepherd*), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, is compiled of articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is once again accepting articles for inclusion in its 2015 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is June 1, 2015. Due to the publication schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual. The annual will be available for distribution in the latter part of 2015.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of *The Good Shepherd*, the following guidelines are established for authors who would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the annual:

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All articles must be type-written, double-spaced, in Microsoft WORD format in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For the sake of the editor, please do not capitalize all words (or entire sentences), unnecessarily use exclamation points, etc. The article layout should be similar to articles printed in daily newspapers and magazines.

- It is strongly preferred that **English** articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Editor, at: bondusscsm@gmail.com. In this age of modern technology, it is faster and more cost effective to work from a text that is provided digitally instead of having to retype the entire article.

- If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, an original "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette at Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. "Hard copy" means that articles are either typed or hand-written by the author. **Please do not send photo copies of articles or photos.**

- To be accepted for publication, articles must be between three and ten typewritten pages. Articles fewer than three pages or beyond ten pages will not be accepted.

USE OF PHOTOS

- If using photos within the article, **photos must be included at the same time the article is sent to the Editor.** (If sending photos digitally, save as separate JPGs to accompany the article.) Please indicate where photos are to be placed within the body of the article. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s). **If no indication is given as to where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted, the photos will not be used.**

- In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs, along with a hard copy of the article, must be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie for inclusion in the article. (If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD which the printer can then link up with the article.) Once again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted. Photos must always accompany the article for which they are intended.

- Captions must be included with the photos. This allows readers to better understand the relationship of the photo to the content of the article.

ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

- Slovak articles can be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie, but a hard copy (including all accents) must also be mailed to her. (Please indicate that the article was both mailed and emailed.) Frequently, accent marks, diacritical characters, and other special characters do not come through properly when articles are e-mailed. Having a hard copy of the article, appropriately marked, will save valuable time and minimize errors.

As Editor, Sister Bernadette Marie retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange ideas to make them clearer, etc. Sister Bernadette Marie also retains the right to determine the appropriateness of articles for the publication. However, she will not substantially change the author's ideas without first consulting the author.

Our sincere thanks to all the faithful contributors to *The Good Shepherd*! Your contributions, year after year, ensure that the Slovak Catholic Federation is able to provide a quality annual which helps celebrate our Catholic faith, preserves our Slovak heritage, and allows our readers to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic Church, in Slovakia, and in the Slovak-American community.

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

**Communications Committee
Slovak Catholic Federation**

FCSLA Represented at Andrean High School's Homecoming Queen Court

Two First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association members were voted onto Andrean High School's Homecoming Queen Court this fall! Andrean High School is a member of the Catholic Diocese of Gary located in Merrillville, IN.

►L-R: Jillian Bridgeman and Madeline Martin (both are Sr. Branch 289 members and past recipients of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association High School Scholarships). Both girls will be graduating from Andrean with "Academic Honors" this June.



Madeline Martin crowned as Homecoming Queen. Madeline is the granddaughter of Sr. Branch 289 Vice President Catherine Kunas.

VISIT SLOVAKIA

Remember how your parents and grandparents referred to their birthplace as "The Old Country?" Now is the time for you to visit their ancestral homeland. Youngstown-Spisaska Nova Ves Sister Cities has scheduled its 18th annual tour for July 13-27, 2015. Tour guides, Jim and Kay bench, have again scheduled interesting events which include musical folk groups, dinner at koliba (shepherds' hut), rafting on the Dunajec River, viewing decorated homes at Cicmany, visiting Tichy Potec, (the Slovak Williamsburg with towns replicating an old Slovak village), and relaxing in the thermal waters of the spa in Sliac. You can visit your relatives and you will also enjoy a luncheon reception with the Mayor of our Sister City, Jan Volny.

For more information contact:

Jim Bench (cell phone) 724-858-5843;

email: jmbenck@yahoo.com

Kay Bench (cell phone) 724-771-7900

Travel arrangements through Adventure International

Travel (Paul Hudak) 1-800-542-2487

Email: Paul@adventuretravel.com

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2014

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 13,970,012
Bonds	733,122,023
Preferred Stock	2,105,553
Common Stock	5,302,393
Investment Income Due & Accrued	11,619,058
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,860,048
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,864,944
Other Assets	122,336

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 774,966,367

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 247,853,964
Annuity Reserves	412,313,496
Death Claims Payable	1,343,672
Unearned Premiums	522,892
Matured Endowments	335,066
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,721,490
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,152,887
Accrued Convention Donations	683,000
Provision for Future Conventions	583,731
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,808,245
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,483,806
Other Liabilities	1,433,574

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 680,235,823

Surplus

\$ 94,730,544

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 774,966,367

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2014

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,613,312
Annuity Premiums	23,142,232
Investment Income	32,972,211
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	127,061
Rental Income	328,783
Other Revenue	11,348
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 60,194,947

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ (2,235,036)
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	16,430,496
Insurance Benefits	4,740,953
Annuity Benefits	21,052,062
Commission Expense	751,789
Surrender Benefits	6,968,702
Post Mortem Benefits	1,019,549
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	52,413
Matured Endowments	10,445
Donation Expenses	54,716
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	190,000
Convention Expenses	190,000
Bank Service Charges	16,139
Data Processing Service Fees	215,314
Accounting Fees	77,680
Actuarial Fees	162,178
Legal Fees	32,627
Consulting Fees	105,535
Bonus to Branches	743,944
Fraternal Activities	111,943
Official Publications	353,509
Scholarship Awards	212,420
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	335,365
Fees — Directors	109,393
Salaries — Employees	1,096,295
Salaries — Officers	379,530
Interest Expense	244,207
Tax Expense	216,747
Depreciation Expense	231,819
Utility Expense	59,123
Postage and Printing	138,131
Advertising	69,828
Travel Expense	83,828
Insurance Department Fees	89,371
Sales Promotion	119,400
Rental Expense	328,783
Other Expense	473,287
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 55,232,485

Income (Loss) from Operations

Dividends to Members	\$ 1,562,356
Subtotal INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 3,400,107
Capital Gains (Loss)	\$ 45,435
NET INCOME (Loss)	\$ 3,445,542



TOMATO AND OLIVE PENNE

Salt and pepper

1 pound penne, or other short pasta

¼ cup olive oil

2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced

⅔ pound (2 cups) cherry tomatoes, halved

1 teaspoon dried oregano

¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper (optional)

¼ cup Kalamata olives, pitted and sliced

¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese,
plus more for serving

In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook penne according to package instructions until al dente, about 13 minutes. Drain.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic, and cook, stirring, until just golden, about 1 minute. Add cherry tomatoes, oregano, crushed red pepper, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Reduce heat to low, and cook, stirring, until tomato juices run, about 3 minutes.

Add penne, olives, parsley, and 1/4 cup Parmesan to the skillet and toss to combine. Serve with more cheese if desired.

STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD WITH VINAIGRETTE

½ cup pecan halves

3 tablespoons strawberry vinegar

¼ teaspoon salt

⅛ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

3 tablespoons olive oil

5 ounces fresh baby spinach (about 8 cups)

½ pound strawberries (about 1½ cups),
cut lengthwise into thick slices

In a small frying pan, over medium heat, lightly toast the pecan halves until just golden brown. Remove from the heat and let cool.

In a small bowl, whisk together the strawberry vinegar, salt and pepper. Add the olive oil and whisk well until fully combined.

In a large bowl, place spinach, strawberries and pecans. Pour vinaigrette over top and toss to coat. Serve immediately.

SHRIMP CHOWDER POTATO

1 chopped shallot

2 diced stalks celery

1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves

Olive oil

¾ cup chicken broth

¼ cup heavy cream

½ pound halved, peeled medium shrimp

4 baked potatoes

In a pot, saute shallot, celery, and thyme in olive oil until tender; season. Add broth and simmer until reduced by half. Add cream and shrimp. Simmer until shrimp are opaque throughout; season. Top potatoes with chowder.

BEER-BATTERED FISH

8 cups vegetable oil

1 cup all-purpose flour

Coarse salt

½ teaspoon baking powder

1 cup pale lager

1½ pounds boneless, skinless cod

or other firm white-fleshed fish,

cut into 1-by-3-inch pieces

lemon wedges, for serving

In a wide 6-quart pot fitted with a deep-fat thermometer, heat oil to 350 degrees over medium-high. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whisk together flour, 1½ teaspoons salt, and baking powder. Slowly add beer and whisk together until smooth. Line a baking sheet with paper towels and place near stove.

Pat fish dry with paper towels and season lightly with salt. In two batches, dip fish into batter (gently shaking off excess) and place in oil. Fry fish, turning occasionally, until deep golden brown and crisp, about 7 minutes per batch (adjust heat as necessary to maintain 350 degrees throughout frying).

With a slotted spoon or mesh strainer, transfer fish to prepared sheet to drain. Keep warm while cooking second batch. Serve with lemon wedges and tartar sauce.

TARTAR SAUCE

½ cup mayonnaise

1 teaspoon sweet relish

1 teaspoon capers, rinsed, drained,
and chopped

1½ teaspoons fresh lemon juice

Hot-pepper sauce, such as Tabasco

Mix together mayonnaise, relish, capers, and lemon juice. Add hot-pepper sauce, to taste.

ROASTED SPAGHETTI SQUASH

1 medium spaghetti squash (3¼ pounds)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. With a small sharp knife, prick squash all over. Place on a rimmed baking sheet and roast

until tender when pierced with knife, about 1 hour 20 minutes, flipping halfway through. When cool enough to handle, halve lengthwise and scoop out seeds. Scrape squash with a fork to remove flesh in long strands.

ROASTED SQUASH WITH PARMESAN AND HERBS

2½ tablespoons unsalted butter

2 shallots, diced small

2 garlic cloves, minced

1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves

¾ teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary leaves

6 cups Roasted Spaghetti Squash

¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

2 tablespoons grated Parmesan

Coarse salt and ground pepper

In a large nonstick skillet, melt butter over medium. Add shallots and garlic and cook until softened, 7 minutes. Stir in thyme and rosemary and cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Add squash and toss to combine. Cook until warmed through. Stir in parsley and Parmesan and season with salt and pepper.

BROWNIE BATTER DIP

8 oz. cream cheese

½ cup butter

2-3 cups powdered sugar

5 tablespoon All Purpose Flour

5 tablespoon Cocoa

2 tablespoon brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 tablespoon milk

In a stand mixer, whisk together the cream cheese and the butter. Add 2 cups of the powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, and 1 tablespoon milk. Add the flour, cocoa powder, vanilla, brown sugar, and 1 more tablespoon of milk if needed. Whisk until all smooth. Add remaining powdered sugar and milk alternately until dip reaches your desired consistency.

Examples of things to dip in it are strawberries, fruit, pretzels, graham crackers, animal crackers.

FRUIT WITH PINA COLADA DIP

2 (6-oz.) containers Fat Free Vanilla Yogurt

2 teaspoons dark rum

3 tablespoons flaked coconut, toasted

2 tablespoons finely chopped pineapple

15 fresh strawberries, halved

30 (1-inch) chunks fresh pineapple

30 chunks kiwi fruit (about 5 medium)

In small bowl, combine yogurt, rum extract and 2 tablespoons of the coconut; blend well. Stir in pineapple. Serve immediately, or cover and refrigerate until serving time.

To serve, arrange fruit on serving platter. Sprinkle dip with remaining tablespoon toasted coconut. If desired, garnish with pineapple leaves. Store dip in refrigerator.

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.