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# Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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**A**way in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning in nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us from heaven to live with Thee there.

**W**ay the grace of the Christ Child be with you  
this holy season and throughout the New Year.

*Fraternally Yours,*  
**ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®**



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## Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus ...

### JESUS vs SANTA

Santa lives at the North Pole...

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...

JESUS stands at your door and knocks,  
and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?" ...

JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name,  
He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and  
He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly ...

JESUS has a heart full of love

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry" ...

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys ...

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes  
and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but ...

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree ...

JESUS became our gift and died on a tree ... the cross.

Dear Friends,

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.  
This Christmas think about giving these gifts:

To your enemy . . . forgiveness.

To all men . . . charity.

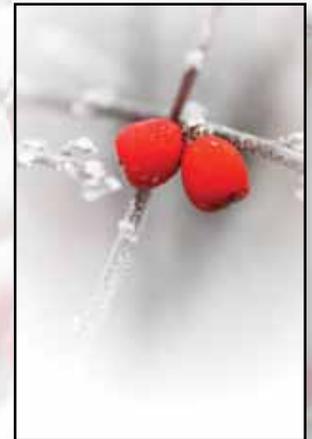
To your opponent . . . tolerance.

To every child . . . a good example.

To a friend . . . your heart.

To yourself . . . respect.

To a customer . . . service.



**MERRY**  
*Christmas!*

Until next month,  
**Warmly, Carolyn**

# JOY TO THE WORLD

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“In those days Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to register, each to his own town. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to David’s town of Bethlehem – because he was of the house and lineage of David – to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was with child. While they were there the days of her confinement were completed. She gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged” (*Luke 2:1-7*).

As we gather together in our annual observance of the Nativity of Christ the Lord, my challenge to all of us is to keep in mind those people in our cities, nation, and world who have no place to lay down their heads, no meals to eat, and no access to the basic needs of health and human dignity to be afforded them that we may daily take for granted. The Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph were without a place for housing and food as they listened to God the Father’s love bestowed upon them in bearing the Savior in Bethlehem. May all of us pray at the Christmas Eve Vilija and the festive meal on Christmas Day for those who have so little to celebrate with family and friends on Christmas. As members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, as Catholics, as people united with the human race, may we always support the needs of those who are homeless, those in need of the basics with compassion and love. May we see the Face of the Baby Jesus in each of them.

I want to share with you several notes that were sent to me after the conclusion of the Forty-first Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Convention in October 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky. Our Board of Directors usually makes a donation request to a needy organization in the city in which we have our



quadrennial convention. This year, the soup kitchen at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, Kentucky, where our opening liturgy was celebrated, was chosen. I believe that our contribution, our gift to them, and most importantly, our obligation to those less fortunate, was once more lovingly exhibited. Please read carefully the words of the following people.

*Dear Reverend Monsignor Polando,*

*The Cathedral received today your [FCSLA Convention’s] very generous donation of ten thousand dollars to benefit our soup kitchen. Words cannot express our thanks and gratitude for this gift. Our daily lunch program serves almost 160 hungry, homeless and marginalized people every day. Our kitchen is staffed by approximately 330 dedicated and caring volunteers each month who strive to serve our guests a sustaining meal along with dignity and respect in an environment which is safe and welcoming. Your donation is overwhelming and I cannot tell you how much good it will do. I sincerely wish that I could give you a more proper Thank You. The best that I can offer is a promise to keep you in my heart and in my prayers. I thank God for you and the members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. May God bless you all.*

*In the peace of Christ and the love of our Lady,*

**Molly Chesney**

*[Pastoral Associate for Parish Outreach, Cathedral of the Assumption]*

*Dear Monsignor Polando,*

*On behalf of the hundreds of homeless and near-homeless people of Louisville’s inner-city core, I thank you for the most gen-*

*erous donation to our soup kitchen. Without the kindness of folks like the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, we could not exist. We are sincerely most grateful.*

**Steve Lee,**

*Lunch Program Manager*

*Dear Monsignor Peter,*

*Greetings from Rome. I am so sorry that I missed you and the convention of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. I received an email concerning your presence at the Cathedral. I truly hope that we were hospitable. I also heard of the tremendous generosity that you exhibited to support the program to feed the hungry. Thank you so very much. We are nearing the end of our first week of the three weeks in it and I know Bishop Murry also sends his fond regards and prayers.*

*God bless,*

**Archbishop [Joseph] Kurtz**

*[Archbishop of Louisville]*

After reading these notes of gratitude, I feel blessed to be a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. As a fraternal of our size, I believe that we are so very generous to the needs of not only our members but also to those who are truly in need. Our delegates in Convention this past autumn donated more than nine hundred thousand dollars to various churches, schools and organizations. We annually support our young people from grade schools through master degree programs in an excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars. When a tragedy hits, we do our best in financial assistance. Management and the members of our Board of Directors commit themselves to people’s needs. I am very humbled to be a part of these efforts and want all of our members to know that you are being cared for spiritually by many prayers, celebrations of Holy Mass, and celebrations of the Divine Office. And I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Association and the delegates of the Forty-first Convention in Louisville for having me as your National Chaplain once again.

I pray that our generosity spiritually and corporally may continue in the future. May you have a warm Vilija and a Vesele Vianoce.

# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear fellow members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association:

As we approach the Christmas season, we look forward to all the opportunities we have in our families, communities and branches for sharing and giving. Attending one of our branch events is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit, by seeing our friends and joining together to do good deeds in the communities where we live.

It is fitting for me to devote this article to some of the significant business topics covered at our 41st Quadrennial Convention. The following paragraphs are a summary of my Report as National President.

### REPORT OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT AT THE 41ST QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

I am honored to serve you as National President of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America. I am pleased to report that in the last four years, your national officers have stood in good stead as fiduciaries to steer our beloved Association to be an even stronger, sustainable premier fraternal benefit society through sound ethical and legal governance and financial management structures, processes and practices.

Our society has grown financially and fraternally. Currently, we have over \$800M in admitted assets, over \$1B of life insurance in force and our very robust surplus for ethnic fraternal benefit societies, even with generous fraternal expenditures, prior period adjustments and a low interest rate environment.

Since our 2014 Special Convention, we have the struggle of the bylaws behind us and we are well positioned to grow membership with the membership change, our licenses to do business in 48 states, and our plans for California, where we have recently been admitted to do business. These bylaws also contain new qualifications and governance standards to hold office. As part of the bylaws implementation process we are currently in the process of recruiting for our two other managing officer positions.

In accordance with our Mission and Vision, we have embarked on a renewed strategic planning process, where our focus is profitability, membership growth, infrastructure planning and most importantly, continuing to build on the foundation of our Catholic Faith and Slavic traditions.

In the last four years, we have made a number of critical decisions which have led to profitability during this term of office, good governance standards, and steady solid growth in sales, assets and surplus, with a generous value to Members. We have continued to declare dividends, as we have

done since 1924 and have offered a guaranteed issue program for eligible insured members. A.M. Best has reaffirmed our A-(Excellent) rating for four consecutive years and we received a clean public report from the Ohio Department of Insurance, after an all risk review of five years of operations.

Fraternally, we are strong, with the creation of 14 new branches in the last three and one half years in areas where we have not had a presence to date. In 2014, our 400+ branches have reported a record number of volunteer service hours and matching funds projects. We are truly the "Light of the World" in our communities!

To close, I am proud of the hard work, commitment and dedication of the board of directors, my fellow officers, the home office staff and the district and branch officers as we pursue a standard of excellence to be the premier fraternal benefit society in the United States of America.

God's blessings to you and yours at this special time of year!

**Cynthia M. Maleski**  
National President

### FCSLA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for Interim National Secretary and Interim National Treasurer Positions

As mandated by the changes to the bylaws and the effective dates adopted at the Special Convention held in October 2014, First Catholic Ladies Association is accepting applications from qualified individuals for interim positions for National Secretary and National Treasurer in accordance with the process as approved by the Special Convention.

*The National Secretary* directs the operating activities of the Association on a full time basis and reports to the National President. The minimum qualifications for such position include a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and possess ten years experience, demonstrating communication, organization and managerial skills. Insurance and/or fraternal benefit society experience a plus.

*The National Treasurer* monitors the financial conditions of the Association, oversees the Association's finances and investments on a full time basis and reports to the National President. All candidates must have either a CPA or MBA in finance or related fields from an accredited college or university and shall have ten years or more experience in the fields of business, finance or related fields.

If selected for the interim position, the candidate for each position has the potential of being considered for the permanent position and reports to the National President. Interested parties meeting the above qualifications should submit a detailed resume and cover letter to National President Cynthia Maleski, FCSLA National Headquarters, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122.

From the Desk of the

## National Secretary

Sue Ann M. Seich



This month allows me the opportunity to wish all of you a very **"Merry Christmas"** and a **"Happy and Healthy New Year"**. This time of year we also have an enormous amount of "fraternal spirit" floating around. There are many opportunities for you to reach out to assist a family in need or an individual who has had a rough time recently. My parish like many of yours has a "Giving Tree" that

has many tags hanging ready to be snatched in order to help make someone's Christmas a little brighter. There are bake sales, Santa's Workshops, plays, Christmas caroling and many other ways to volunteer and donate your time promoting our "fraternal spirit". We have a good number of Matching Funds Projects scheduled this month which will occupy many branch members' time to accomplish them. Think of all the fraternal hours we will be able to submit on our annual Fraternal Activity Report. Please make sure you include them.

It is hard for me to believe that this is my last article to you as your National Secretary. To say that I enjoyed my term of office would be an understatement. It has been a great experience serving you in both positions, as your first Fraternal and Youth Director and National Secretary. Every day I was given the opportunity to know another member and share. I learned new ways to handle situations working with our National President Cynthia Maleski and our National Treasurer Steve Hudak. Both of these individuals are an asset to our Association. We are very fortunate that our treasurer on a daily basis finds ways to invest and keep our money growing in this present economy.

I know I am going to miss working with the best supportive staff anyone could have working for them. We have grown together over the last eight years and I have established a great working relationship with many of them. I am going to miss them.

There is only one thing that I won't miss and that is the drive I had every day to and from work. I managed to drive over 200,000 miles to our home office over the past eight years. I played a game by keeping track of the time it took to get to work. The longest was 2 hours and 43 minutes for the 50 mile trip which should take 58 minutes (not speeding of course). I occupied my time in the car by saying a rosary to and from work, which amounts to over 2,000 rosaries. I never got tired of reciting the prayers which I said for a variety of reasons.

I can't thank the delegates to the 40th Quadrennial Convention enough, for electing me as your National Secretary. Now I am ever thankful to the delegates of the 41st Quadrennial Convention that elected me as a National Director. This new role will allow me to assist in making decisions that will allow our Association to grow. I promise to continue serving you in this new position to the best of my ability.

I thank all the members that I have had the opportunity to assist over the years. I enjoyed the many occasions where you invited me to join your fraternal celebration in a branch



Kelly Shedlock

Did you ever wonder why there is one Pink Oplatki in your packet? I love Oplatki. I remember as a child having Oplatki with Christmas Eve dinner at my Baba's house. I always liked the pink colored Oplatki. I had dibs on the pink one. Not that it tasted any different than the white, I just liked the color.

Last Christmas a question came up in a conversation I had with our President Cynthia Maleski. What does the pink Oplatki represent? Cynthia had heard different meanings but neither of us really knew for sure. I had a new mission – I went on the internet and looked up Pink Oplatki. I found the answer on the Catholic Company website – "The Pink Oplatki is made especially for pets. Traditionally this corresponds to the animals that were present at Christ's birth. However, in current times, this can also represent the important roles that pets play in the family". I guess that is why I have always been attracted to the pink Oplatki.... I LOVE animals!

The name Oplatki may vary depending on whether the tradition is being observed by families with a Slovak, Polish or Lithuanian background. It is sometimes called "Angel Bread" which is the English translation. In America the tradition is simply called "Christmas Wafers". Many nationalities have come to love this warm and wonderful Christmas tradition. The Christmas wafer tradition began because the word Bethlehem means "House of Bread." The breaking of bread has long been a sign of charity, unity and friendship in many cultures. The Oplatki Christmas tradition is commonly celebrated at home just before the Christmas Eve meal. Generally the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of wafer and passing it to another family member. It is then passed from person to person at the table until everyone has a piece. The purpose of this act is primarily to express unconditional love and forgiveness for one another. The tradition can vary depending on nationality.

However you incorporate the Oplatki tradition into your family, it is a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas spirit: peace, love, joy and goodwill.

*Merry Christmas!*

or district. Also the many cards, notes or letters I received, really made my day, especially if it was a day not going so well. It has indeed been a pleasure to serve you. I have been truly blessed.

My prayer for all of you is that God continues to watch over you, protect you, bless you and love you every day of your life. **"Thank you"** for being part of my life.

*Fraternally, Sue Ann*

## Looking for a Meaningful Gift to GIVE



**Albert Heiles**

For many people, the month of December is a very busy month. Between planning for family gatherings, baking the favorite holiday cookies, preparing for the meals, decorating the house, hosting and attending Christmas gatherings, and of course the most important part of December, preparing for the celebration of Christ's birthday, the thought of December is sometimes stressful.

In addition to all the many things that often need to be done in December, gift giving is frequently the most difficult and certainly the most time consuming. Questions like what kind of gift to give, how much money to spend on the gift, how to deliver the gift and finally the meaningfulness of the gift are all factors being considered.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association may offer an appropriate and more significant solution to your gift giving question. Have you ever considered giving a gift that increases in value as time goes on, rather than just being used and eventually discarded? Have you ever considered a gift that permits the individual who received the gift the opportunity to think of you not just the year they received it, but rather every year because of its increasing value?

The gift of a life insurance policy is a remarkable and generous gift. The size of the policy can be based on the amount of premium selected. Premiums can be calculated with only a single premium or using a limited year premium plan. FCSLA offers a very attractive Single Premium Life Policy with guaranteed cash value. An alternative to the Single Premium Life, is the FCSLA Limited Pay Premium 10 Year and 20 Year Life Policy. The Limited Pay 10 or 20 Year Life Policies may solve the problem of the gift giving question for years to come. The cost of the Limited Pay Policies can be very low based on the age of the insured and the size of the death benefit. The advantage of such a gift takes on more meaning as years pass.

As an alternative to the life insurance policy, an annuity may also offer a gift solution with ongoing meaning and value. Funds placed into a retirement annuity grow cash deferred and generally offer security and peace of mind. FCSLA offers a variety of annuities with minimum start up amounts.

With all we have to do in December, the relief of gift giving to that special loved one may certainly lighten our load as we enjoy the Christmas season. A life insurance policy to a young person may be one of the most important gifts received. A parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle, can establish a plan that will have ongoing value and meaning for a lifetime. And of course, one of the greatest gifts a husband or wife could give each other is the unselfish gift of life insurance.

The FCSLA would be happy to assist you as you consider beginning a gift of a Life Insurance Policy or an Annuity for a loved one. Please feel free to contact the Home Office. A licensed professional will contact you to answer any questions you may have or review an illustration of the product of your interest.

*Merry Christmas!*

## COURT OF APPEALS

Since there were only two (2) persons elected to the Court of Appeals at our 41st Quadrennial Convention in Louisville, KY, and our Bylaws provide for five (5) members on the Court of Appeals, the three (3) vacancies on the Court of Appeals will be filled by the Board of Directors per the Bylaws page 25, Article V Section 4 j which states "Vacancies in elected National Offices shall be filled by the Board of Directors from a list of candidates who are Principal Members in good standing of the Association and who are duly qualified." Qualifications for the Court of Appeals appear on pages 9 and 10 of our Constitution and Bylaws.

If you are interested in filling one of these three (3) vacancies obtain an intent form from the National Secretary. Your completed intent form, a \$25 registration fee made payable to FCSLA, and your resume must be received by the President at the home office no later than December 31, 2015.

**Cynthia Maleski**, National President  
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association  
24950 Chagrin Boulevard  
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Please note your resume must include education, 15 years of employment history with a description of the work you performed, and your involvement in the FCSLA. See page 24 of the Constitution and Bylaws dated October 6-8, 2014.

The Court of Appeals will take office in January 2016. The Board of Directors will fill the three (3) vacancies after reviewing all the applications and résumés received.

### First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

of the United States of America  
Beachwood, OH



**Don't forget about the FCSLA  
Family and Friends  
Membership Rewards Program.**

**You can earn \$10 for each valid referral.**

**Call 1-800-464-4642  
for more information.**





*May the Blessings of the Christ Child be with You On this Holy Christmas Day and May the Days of the New Year Bring You Happiness and Peace.*



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Carol Yurechko

*Nech požehnanie malého Ježiška bude s Vami v tento svätý Vianočný Deň a nech všetky dni v Novom Roku prinesú Vám šťastie a pokoj.*



*Attends Eucharistic Liturgy*

National President Cynthia Maleski, National Vice-President Barbara Waller, and National Editor Carolyn Bazik attended the Eucharistic Liturgy that concluded the 75th Anniversary year of the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius celebrated in the Basilica at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Harrisburg, was the principal celebrant.



**National President Cynthia Maleski presents Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M., General Superior Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius with a donation from the FCSLA.**



**L-R: National Vice-President Barbara Waller, Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M, National President Cynthia Maleski.**



**L-R: Annie and Steve Pogorelec, Slovak Catholic Sokols; Most Rev. Robert W. Gainer, Cynthia Maleski, Barbara Waller, Carolyn Bazik, Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, OSB.**

# First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association's 41st Quadrennial Convention

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association's 41st Quadrennial Convention was held in Louisville, KY from October 3-8, 2015 at the Louisville Marriott Downtown.

Delegates arrived on Saturday and were treated to a get-acquainted dinner with entertainment. Sunday morning after a delicious brunch, committee meetings were held, along with a Parliamentary workshop and First Convention attendee orientation. Delegates then either walked or boarded buses for the Cathedral of the Assumption where the opening Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B. The beautiful opening liturgy was followed by a reception and opening banquet that commenced with the flag ceremony by the Host Committee from Indiana.

Business meetings were held from Monday through Wednesday with Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., Convention Chair and FCSLA National President Presiding and Patricia A. Koch, PRP serving as our Registered Parliamentarian. The first session opened with the Call to Order by President Maleski, an Invocation by the National Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando, the Posting of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance led by WW2 veterans, and singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Slovakia. This was followed by a welcome from National President Maleski, the roll call

of the National Officers, Court of Appeals and Delegates by National Secretary Sue Ann Seich. There was a recognition of the ninety-one First Time Delegates, registered Association members and guests and past National Officers.

Delegates heard reports from National President Cynthia Maleski, the Association's Actuary Grant Hemphill, Bruce & Bruce; Attorney Anthea Daniels, Esq., Baker Donelson; and Outside Auditor Leo Hannah, Horovitz, Rudoy & Roteman. Written reports of National Secretary Sue Ann Seich and National Treasurer Stephen Hudak were given to the delegates. All reports emphasized that the Association is in a sound financial position and well managed.

The four proposed bylaw amendments were presented to the convention delegates by Barbara Novotny Waller, Chair of the Bylaw Committee. One of the four proposed amendments was approved by the delegates.

The recommendations of the Compensation Committee were presented to the convention by Committee Chair Donald Cernosek. The report was overwhelmingly approved by the delegates.

Donation Committee Chair Stephen C. Hudak presented the revised Donation Committee report and delegates approved recommended donations of \$925,000 to churches, schools, religious and charitable organizations.

Theresa Gentzer, Co-Chair of the Credential Committee provided a final report that there were 334 certified delegates.

Leo Hannah, Outside Auditor reported on the results of the Election for the National Board for 2016-2019. The delegates elected:

Monsignor Peter Polando, National Chaplain; Cynthia Maleski, National President; Jeanette Palanca, Director; Sue Ann Seich, Director; Larry Golofski, Director; Joann Skvarek Banvich, Director; Virginia Holmes, National Trustee; Barbara Waller, National Trustee; Barbara Sekerak, National Auditor; Dennis Povandra, National Auditor; Dorothy Urbanowicz, National Auditor.

Two members were elected to the Court of Appeals - Ron M. Sestak and Anne M. Sedlock. The other three members will be appointed by the board of directors from a list of qualified candidates in January 2016.

Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B. presented the Report of the Resolutions Committee.

Abbot Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B, was the Installing Officer and administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected members of the Board and the Court of Appeals.

After a closing prayer, the delegation joined in singing "God Bless America" and "Hej Slovaci," and the Colors were retired.



*Get-Acquainted  
Saturday Evening  
October 3*



Get-Acquainted  
Saturday Evening  
October 3







October 4 — Sunday Banquet





October 4 — Sunday Banquet



## Helen Kocan District Members Support Higher Education



On Sunday, June 22, 2015, twenty five members of the Helen Kocan District attended the Spring Luncheon of the Women's Guild of Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, IN. The Women's Guild was founded in 1961 and has been a longstanding benefactor of the college. Past Presidents of this Guild include Florence Hovanec and Margaret Abildua. Margaret who is the current president of the Helen Kocan District says, "There is a lot of satisfaction in giving to the students." Both this luncheon and the Fall Brunch are the Guild's most profitable fundraisers. All of the profit goes to scholarship awards and the college. This year's luncheon was very enjoyable for everyone.

## Alexis Gajkowski Celebrates First Holy Communion

**ALEXIS GAJKOWSKI**, a member of FCSLA Jr. Branch 535, celebrated her First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows RC Church in Elma, NY. Reverend Daniel J. Palys officiated.

Lexi attends Hillview Elementary School and enjoys girl scouting and basketball activities. She is the granddaughter of FCSLA agent James and Christine Jozwiak, members of Sr. Branch 638 in Springville, NY.



## "All Good Things and Such" Makes Special Donation for Convention Host Committee Gift Bags



Judy Vhrin announced a generous special gift being distributed to all delegates. A special "thank you" is sent to Sonia and Larry Folkner of *All Good Things and Such* who made and donated the sample natural essential oil soaps for our delegates. They weren't aware of the FCSLA, but after reviewing our website and the *Fraternally Yours* Scholarship winners issue they personally delivered 425 bars of soap to Louisville from Madison, IN. The Host Committee encourages all members to visit this generous couple on Facebook or at [www.allgoodthingshandmade.com](http://www.allgoodthingshandmade.com) in order to read about their history and view all of their wonderful products.

## WPSCA Offers 11th Summer Scholarship

For the eleventh consecutive year, WPSCA and the Stephanie Husek Scholarship Fund is offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, from August 2 to August 22, 2016. WPSCA will award \$2,500 to cover transportation, tuition, room and board to the successful candidate. Applications must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a full time college student
- Must be of Slovak heritage
- Must not have previously attended the program
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and enhance their Slovak language competency as well as increase their knowledge of Slovak literature and culture.

For further information, or for an application, contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 or 412/956-6000. Completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before April 15, 2016 at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

## Cleveland District Branches SAVE THE DATE!

The  
PHANTOM  
of the  
OPERA

Coming to  
Playhouse Square  
July 1, 2016 at  
8:00pm



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Branch W033

### Dave Timp Family Benefit

On Sunday, July 19, 2015, Branch W033, Spillville, IA, along with the family and friends of Dave Timp attended and helped at the Dave Timp Family benefit held at the Inwood Ballroom in Spillville, IA. Family friends Karen Hertges, a branch member, and Nancy Buchheit organized the benefit which will help the family offset the expenses they have encountered since Dave's diagnosis with Stage 4, Type II, advanced papillary renal cell carcinoma. The event was complete with Hall of Fame Band Crystal Axe, local talent Lew Klimesh, free donation meal, live and silent auction, games, mini doughnuts, face painting and mini golf to help the Timp Family. Dave is in his second battle with kidney cancer. In July 2014 he had successful surgery to remove his right kidney. However, just five months later the cancer had returned in three locations. In February he began participating in a clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of a drug for this type of cancer. Dave and

his family are extremely grateful for the overwhelming response and support they have received from their friends and the community. The outpouring of love and support was obvious to all in attendance!



Branch W033 President Dave Silhacek, Dave Timp, wife Kris, Branch Secretary Becky Kuhn are presenting a \$600 matching funds check from the Home Office as part of their overall support of the event.

was held on August 22, 2015 at Sts. Mary and Joseph Church Hall after the 4 p.m. Mass. The proceeds went to the church for the 2016 Totus Tuss Fund. Two checks were presented to Monsignor Witt; one for \$605 from the Branch and the other a \$600 check as the Matching Funds proceeds from the Home Office.



The branch presents Kris and Dave with their donation — L-R: Director Richie Kuhn, Secretary Becky Kuhn, President Dan Silhacek, Kris and Dave Timp, and Treasurer Rita Fjelstul.



Branch W033 Treasurer Rita Fjelstul tending the entrance at Inwood Ballroom for the Dave Timp Family Benefit.

## Branch W187

### Ice Cream Brownie Social

Branch W187 held an Ice Cream Brownie Sunday Social as their first Matching Funds Project. The event

## Change to Calendar

### Branch W093 Christmas Party

The Branch W093 Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday, December 27 at noon. Potluck, cookie exchange, meeting, honoring our 50 year members and scholarship winners, games, and refreshments in Beseda Hall in Tabor, SD. To celebrate the "Feast of the Holy Family" members are asked to attend mass together, and ALL parishioners are invited to the potluck and activities ... just bring a dish to share.



FCSLA member Karen Hertges (right) an organizer of the Dave Timp Family Benefit.



L-R: Presenting the checks are Clarice Sabata, Branch Secretary, Monsignor Witt, Darlene Blazek, Branch President and Robin Reginer, Branch Treasurer.



## Four Generations Doubled

While visiting her daughter, Paula Langston and her family in Oklahoma City this summer, Ed Demechko of Youngstown, OH took a photo of two four generation families who belong to the FCSLA. All 28 descendants of Ed and Bernie Demechko are members of Sr. Branch 161 or Jr. Branch 192 in Youngstown, OH.

Going back in time while preparing for a historical display of Sr. Branch 161 memorabilia, current officers found documents signed by Bernie's mother, Mary Slanina, Jr. Branch 192 Financial Secretary, signed in 1927. Today, Bernie is the Financial Secretary of Branches S161 and J192 and is also the Youngstown District President. So after eighty-eight years, in the Slanina-Demechko family, the FCSLA goes on and on and on . . .



L-R: Alaina Breitenbach holds son, Caius; Grandma, Paula Langston, and Great-Grandma, Bernie Demechko.



L-R: Aniala Speegle, mother Melissa Adair, Great-Grandma Bernie Demechko, Grandmother Paula Langston.

## Agnes (LaBuda) Stephan Celebrates 94th Birthday

Agnes A. (LaBuda) Stephan, (Sr. Branch 89, Bethlehem, PA) celebrated her 94th birthday on September 10, 2015. On Saturday, September 12, a mass was celebrated for her at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish (the former Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church) by Monsignor Robert Kozel with beautiful music sung by the choir and directed by the organist, John Stofanek. Family and friends wished her many blessings on her special day. The family enjoyed a meal and birthday cake with her at the home of her daughter Nancy and son-in-law Carl. Agnes was born to the late Joseph and Mary (Mizak) Labuda. She was married to Michael Stephan, Jr. for 60 years. Agnes has three children, Nancy Hutt, wife of Carl Hutt, Michael Stephan III and Michelle Shannon, wife



of Pat Shannon. Her grandchildren are Ryan and Kyle Shannon and Taylor and Madison Stephan.

## Mary Rindosh Celebrates her 90th Birthday

Mary Rindosh of Carteret, NJ, a member of Sr. Branch 184 for over 50 years, celebrated her 90th birthday on September 14, 2014. Her children, Diane Gruskowski of Carteret, NJ; William and wife Victoria Rindosh of Eastampton, NJ; Gary Rindosh of Iselin, NJ; and Robin Turner of North Brunswick, NJ; along with 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; and family and friends, all members of Zenska Jednota, hosted a family reunion in her honor for her very special day.

A very happy birthday to Mary Rindosh. May she be always blessed with happiness, good health, and peace.



## Weston Howell is Newest Member of Jr. Branch 184

Always smiling with a "true Slovak smile" is 6-month-old **WESTON HOWELL**, a new member of J184. He is the great-grandson of Leona Cupka, S289. His mother Jackie, and his grandparents, Joan and Steve Lytle are also members of S289, Gary, IN.



# Eastern Pennsylvania Fall District Meeting

Coaldale, PA, Branch 417 hosted the Fall District Meeting of the Frances Jakabcin District on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at Memorial Hall in Jim Thorpe, PA. The fifty members in attendance enjoyed a delicious meal and heard a recap of the recent quadrennial convention in Louisville, KY from the district delegates. From all reports it was one of the best FCSLA conventions ever held with over 90 first time delegates. President Veronica Bazik asked host Branch President Sharon Oravec to welcome the members and then opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer by District Chaplain Monsignor Thomas Derzack. A memorial service to honor deceased members was held. A business meeting was conducted with the president's report, reading of the minutes of our last meeting, and the financial and

audit reports being given. Members were reminded to take advantage of the Matching Funds Program to benefit local causes. The members congratulated Barbara Waller on her election as National Trustee. Information about the spring meeting will be forthcoming. The meeting closed with prayer.



## Sr. Branch 161 and Jr. Branch 192 Honor Scholarship Winners

Saint Elizabeth Sr. Branch 161 and Saint Cecilia Jr. Branch 192, Youngstown, OH, honored the thirteen winners of their Branches at the Youngstown District Scholarship dinner in August. President Virginia DeLuca called each scholarship winner forward and he/she spoke briefly on their goals, extra-curricular activities, and school or college they are attending. She presented each winner with a FCSLA cookbook. Treasurer Melanie Leonard presented each winner with a monetary gift from the Branch. The Branch also sent a card and monetary gift to all non-winners who had applied for scholarships. The hand-written note included the statement, "Please try again next year."



L-R, seated: Reggi Demechko, Liana Zigo, Secretary Bernie Demechko, Mya Gee, Emily Jade Lyons, Nicole Marcovits; Middle row: Nolan Lane, Leanne Chandler, Brooke Chandler; Back row: Auditor Nancy Clausen, John Paul Bahmer, Jack Bahmer, President Virginia DeLuca; Treasurer Melanie Leonard, and Joseph Sebest. Missing from photo: Justin Krupa and Ernest Purnsley, III.

## Kristin Zabrecky Participates in Research Program at Johns Hopkins

Kristin Zabrecky, Branch 81, great-niece of Branch 81 president, Margaret Abidula, is a second year veterinary student at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. This summer, she took part in the Meriel Veterinary Scholar Research Program at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Her research focused on the subtle changes in prostate cancer after drug treatment. Upon completion of the project, she presented her research at the program's national symposium at UC Davis in Sacramento, CA. Kristin hopes to pursue a career in medical and veterinary research to benefit both human and animal health.



## Annual Pilgrimage to Holy Hill

On September 7, 2015, the Milwaukee, WI area Slovaks held their annual pilgrimage to Holy Hill. Holy Hill is located in Hubertus, WI and was named a minor basilica a few years ago. The day includes Stations of the Cross and a Mass. This year was the 100th pilgrimage and the Jack Molchany (S484) family attended together filling up an entire pew.



Mass before the presentation of the gifts.



Procession with statue of Blessed Mother and Jesus.



Jack's Molchany daughter Jenny Nagel (S484) with her children Leah (11), Meghan (6), Rachel (8), Nathan (3), and Jonah (10). The children are all members of J378.

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP  
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**

## Dedication of Father Murgas Room at King's College

The Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA is so pleased to announce the "Father Jozef Murgas Room" was dedicated on June 4, 2015. This room is located on the first floor of King's on the Square, former Ramada Inn, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre. It is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

The dedication began with a prayer in Slovak and English by Rev. John Albosta, Chaplain of SHSNEPA. John Loyack, Vice President of Business Affairs at King's, offered greetings and remarks. He said the room pays tribute to a man who "epitomized Abraham Lincoln's advice that the best way to predict the future is to create it. Father Murgas did that, with everything from radio to reinventing the fishing reel".

Rev. John J. Ryan C.S.C., Ph. D, President of King's College, who blessed the room and the artifacts in his remarks, noted among Father's accomplishments he remained a priest and the room could "remind us that no matter how hard we work, we need a Sabbath moment ... To reflect on why we do what we do."

Dr. Thomas M. Check, D.D.S. gave a brief history on the life of Father Murgas; born 1864 and died May 11, 1929. Dr. Check was one of the first financial contributors to the room. He was baptized by Father Murgas whose name is on his baptismal certificate.

### United Slovak Society Presents Scholarships

On July 7, 2015, United Slovak Societies President Len Zilko and Scholarship Coordinator Helene Virant awarded six high school seniors \$1,000 college scholarships at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH. After the presentation, members, recipients along with their parents and grandparents enjoyed a lovely barbeque prepared for them by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Club. The recipients are Alison Harper, Shannon Solak and Katherine Ondeka of the FCSLA Branch 114, Stephanie DePuw and Olivia Dziak of National Slovak Society Assembly 160 and Cullen Grude of FCSU Branch 228.



It took 86 years but now there is a permanent place for the historical items that were shown in the SHSNEPA traveling exhibit. Father Albosta said the closing prayer and invited all to join in singing "Hej Slovaci".

Inside the room are the vestments of Fathers Murgas, a picture of him when he was ordained a priest, an original painting which he started on the reverse side, didn't like, and started over on the back, copies of the paintings that were on the alters at Sacred Heart Church, butterfly collection, picture of the Botanical Garden he envisioned at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Dallas, picture of the rare Beech tree that is in the yard by Sacred Heart Church, a copy of the Pittsburg Pact, his desk, and panels of the towers that transmitted sound from Wilkes-Barre to Scranton.

The 34 x 72 inch glass panels placed on opposite sides of the room were artistically hand carved and enhanced with LED lighting, symbolizing and honoring Father Jozef Murgas for his notable invention of the famous wireless telegraphy towers he built in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.

The stained glass butterfly panel, in the center of the ceiling, is comprised of over 1,100 pieces of various shades of hand blown stained glass, brilliant bevels, and imported faceted jewels. Each piece is hand cut, ground, copper foiled and soldered in the tiffany tradition designed by Hel-fran Glass Co. of Edwardsville PA. The panel has a central Monarch butterfly linking the connection and gratitude of the Slovak Heritage Society to King's College for their involvement in helping to create this memorable room.

On the wall outside the room is a collage that shows his other paintings, articles in newspapers, his grave site, the Slovak prayer card from his funeral, and a stamp that Slovakia issued commemorating him.

The following Branches of the FCSLA gave financial donations to the project: Magdalen I. Iskra District, Sr. Branch 172, 035, 072 and 615. An anonymous donor requested the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund named for Father Jozef Murgas. The scholarship will provide annual support to a talented King's student with financial need. Please consider making your own gift or pledge to this fund to support future bright minds like Father Murgas.

For more information, please contact Bill Lynn at King's College (570-208-5946) [williamlynn@kings.edu](mailto:williamlynn@kings.edu).

## National and District Scholarship Awards Luncheon

The Magdalen I. Iskra District recently held a luncheon to honor the ten National and four District Scholarship recipients from the district. Two special award recipients were also honored. There were 80 adults and 6 children in attendance. The luncheon was held at the Best Western Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.



**Anna M. Hudock, District Treasurer and Luncheon Chairman.**

After lunch, Anna M. Hudock introduced the branch and district officers in attendance. Each recipient then introduced their family members present. The District Scholarships were then awarded. Gifts were presented to the National Scholarship recipients

from their branches. The Magdalen I. Iskra Scholarship and the Frank and Joann Biros Memorial Scholarship were also presented. Everyone in attendance were given gifts, compliments of the FCSLA.

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After the awarding of the scholarships and gifts, Diane Gregor, District Trustee gave the benediction. The program ended with singing of "God Bless America" by everyone in attendance.

Recipients unable to attend were: Nicole A. Hvozdovic, National College Junior Award; Elyse K. Falchek, National College Freshman Award; and Thomas B. Mike, District Graduate Award.

Congratulations to all recipients!



**Catherine Rose Flannery, recipient of the Frank and Joann Biros Memorial Scholarship with Donna Greytock Baird, niece of Frank and Joann Biros.**



**Magdalen I. Iskra, District President presenting the Magdalen I. Iskra Scholarship to Peter J. George.**



**Seated, L-R: Theodore Mike, Anna Mike, Donna Schwalback, and Antoinette Kravits. Standing: James Hoffman, Elizabeth Hoffman, Ellen Hoffman, and Laura Hoffman.**



**Seated, L-R: Mary Ellen Meyers, Liz La Cailla, Jo Ann Kline-smith, Ann Dougher, and Irene Kalinowski. Standing: Walter Mitchell, Dylan Christy, Rachael D. Christy, Donna Christy and Nevin Christy.**



**Seated, L-R: Theresa Ceklosky, Frank Ceklosky, Michael Ceklosky, and Barbara Ceklosky. Standing: Loretta Ceklosky, Joseph Ceklosky, Dave Logar, Timothy E. Logar, Kayla Logar, and Justine Logar.**



**Seated, L-R: Martha I. Iskra, Mary Matrisciano, and Magdalen I. Iskra. Standing: Jackie Smith, Geriann Smith, and Megan Marie Smith.**



Seated, L-R: Ann Kwak, Catherine Trycinski, Jude Trycinski, and Charles Butler. Standing: Michael Kolessar, Abigail Kolessar, Cathy Kolessar, and Nicole C. Kolessar.



Seated, L-R: Sister Joseph Marie, Michele Thomas, William Greytock, and Meredythe Baird. Standing: Sister Jo Louise, David Baird, David L. Baird, Jr., and Donna Baird.



Seated, L-R: Florence McCabe, Rita Kcenich, and Anna Rajala. Standing: Kim Graham, Karina Graham, Nancy Fedor, Daniel Balas, and Denise Balas.



Seated, L-R: Bernadine Sabol, Abigail L. Sabol Spare, Theresa Partika, and Marie Flannery. Standing: Bonnie Baltes, Lori Sabol, Michael Flannery, Catherine Rose Flannery and Andrea Flannery.



Seated, L-R: Marissa Jason, Diane Jason, and Paul Gregory Jason. Standing: Mary Migatulski, Mary Ann Ewasko, and Anna M. Hudock.



Seated, L-R: John C. George, Jr., Mary Lacey Klueber, John G. George, and Peter J. George. Standing: Tiffany Klueber, John C. George, and Lauren George.



Seated, L-R: Peter Hrycenko, Ann Hrycenko, and Marcia Musial. Standing: Andrew Lorraine, Janet Lorraine, and Diane Gregor.



National, District, and Special Award Recipients — First row: Rachael D. Christy, National High School Sophomore Award; Nichole C. Kolessar, National College Freshman Award; Abigail L. Sabol Spare, National 2nd Grade Award; Catherine Rose Flannery, Frank and Joann Biros Memorial Scholarship; Peter J. George, Magdalen I. Iskra Scholarship; Mary Lacey Klueber, District 4th Grade Award; and Daniel G. Balas, District 6th Grade Award. Second row: Megan Marie Smith, District College Junior Award; Elizabeth Hoffman, National College Sophomore Award; David L. Baird, Jr., National High School Junior Award; Paul Gregory Jason, National High School Junior Award; Timothy E. Logar, National College Freshman Award; and Karina Graham, National High School Junior Award.



# IN MEMORIAM

## RICHARD A. "DICK" WOITA, W017



Richard A. "Dick" Woita, age 89, of Fremont, NE passed away June 6, 2015. He was born September 8, 1925 in Prague, NE to Andrew and Agnes (Schultz) Woita. Dick grew up at Weston, NE. During WWII he worked at Swift Packaging in Omaha and Nebraska Ordinance Plant at Mead, NE. He later came to Fremont and worked at Montgomery Wards and in 1950 started at Hormel. Dick married Rosanne (Konecky) on September 30, 1947 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wahoo, NE. Rosanne died June 30, 2011. From 1971 until his retirement he was Chief Steward of Amalgamated Union of Meat Cutters (UFCW). Dick was a member of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus Council #1497 all of Fremont. In 2003 he was inducted into the Nebraska State AFL-CIO Labor Leaders Hall of Fame. He loved taking care of his yard and farm. Survivors include his daughters, Gerri Morris of Papillion, NE, Diane (David) Brunmeier of LaVista, NE, Karen Coop and Mary (Steve) Cline all of Lincoln, NE; ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; son Steve Woita; twin brother, Ray Woita and a sister Rita Stieren. Memorials are suggested to Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Fremont.

## PAULINE SADOWSKY, W121



Pauline Sadowsky, 85, Bismarck, ND, formerly of Dickinson, died June 7, 2015 with her family by her side. Pauline was born October 26, 1929, the daughter of Carl and Margaret (Boespflug) Roshau. She was raised in Dunn County and attended country school through the eighth grade. Pauline married Bill Sadowsky on November 10, 1948. They lived in Dunn County, where they farmed and ranched all of their lives until their retirement in 1996, moving to Bismarck in 2009. Pauline was a member of the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary and the Friendly Neighbors Homemakers Club; and was a lifetime member of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Hradec and a member of Ascension Church in Bismarck. Pauline always stressed that faith and family were the most important things in life. Pauline is survived by her children, Dennis (Cathy), Parrish, FL, Linda (Dennis) Gleich, Baldwin, Bill (Nancy), Bottineau, and Marvin, Marilyn (Brian) Mertz and Paulette (Dean) Kerzmann, all of Bismarck; 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; three sisters, three brothers; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; her parents; two infant brothers; three brothers, Harry, Ralph and Richard; three sisters, Anne Bullinger, Florence Haag and Irene Franchuk; and a grandson, Matt (Becky) Geiger.

## BEATRICE POLAK, W053



Beatrice M. Polak, 98, of David City, died June 7, 2015, in David City, NE. She was born in Prague on July 28, 1917, to Anton and Catherine (Paseka) Stuchlik. She attended country school District #94 and Prague High School. On August 16, 1937, she married James Polak at Plasi.

They lived and farmed near Bruno. Bea was a farm wife and enjoyed gardening, caring

for her African Violets and Begonias, and loved to bake. She also worked at the Mead Ordinance Plant and Hinky-Dinky Grocery in David City and Columbus for 25 years. She as a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Prayer Club, the Seminarians Club, PCCW, Pink Sisters, and the VFW Auxiliary. In 1985, she was awarded the Ak-sar-ben Good Neighbor Award for helping her neighbors. She is survived by her two daughters; Lyla (Dan) Kouma, Seward, Janice (Harry) Crook, Lincoln, one son, Jim (Kathy) Polak of San Dumas, CA, 13 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, 17 great-great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents, husband James Polak (July 1952), two great-great-grandchildren, Jesse Kouma and Logan Ewbank, one sister, Marie Sabata and two brothers, Joe and Lee Stuchlik.

## MILDRED M. BLECHA, W086



Mildred M. Blecha died June 22, 2015, at the age of 97 years. She was born in rural Morrowville, KS on March 25, 1918, the daughter of Frank Zach, Sr. and Maude (Nutsch) Zach. She graduated from Haddam High School, Haddam, KS and attended Kansas State University. She married Henry J. Blecha on November 8, 1941 and to this union four children were born. Before becoming a farm wife and homemaker, she taught in one room country schools. She and her husband Henry spent their life farming and had a grade A dairy nearly 30 years. The last 30 years they were owner and operators of Evergreen Acres Campground. She was an active member of St. George's Catholic Church, Munden, KS, Women's Altar Society, FCSLA Catholic Workman, Liberty Rose Creek 4-H Leader, Excelsior FCE. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Maude Zach, husband, Henry J. Blecha, one daughter, Rita Blecha Sulzen, three brothers, Frank, Harvey and Lawrence. She is survived by two sons, Donald (Margaret) Blecha of Valley Center, KS, Kelvin (Marcia) Blecha of Chester, NE; one daughter, Janice (Mark) Keeley of Tahlequah, OK; son-in-law, Richard Sulzen of Shawnee, KS; nine grandchildren, four step grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

## BERNARDINE M. POPIK, SZJ0



Bernardine M. Popik, 85, passed away August 29, 2014, in Willoughby, OH. Born April 8, 1929, in Cleveland, she had been a Lake County resident for 41 years, living in Mentor. She was a founding member of St. John Vianney Church in Mentor, member of the Mentor Senior Center, and a former organist at Nativity B.V.M. Church in Cleveland. Bernardine had a great affection for Marble Head and Kelly's Island and enjoyed being a member of the Marine City Yacht Club. She loved cooking, was the best cook and catered weddings. Mrs. Popik was the cafeteria manager at Shore Junior High in Mentor and had also worked as a cook at Mentor High School. She was the beloved wife of 64 years to Joseph F. Popik; loving mother of Christine M. (George) Hvizd of Strongsville; Joanne (Ron) Juchnik of Hinckley; Mary Lou (Ted Jr.) Fleck of Parma; Judy (Bill) King of Maricopa, AZ; and Barbara (Bill) Long of East Claridon; cherished grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of eight; and aunt of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Agnes Ledinsky, Raymond Ledinsky and Sr. Frances Pauline, O.P.

## RUTH A. BUNCHAK, S485



Ruth A. Bunchak, 91, of Chicago Ridge, IL, earned her wings and was received into the loving arms of our Lord on July 5, 2015. Ruth was born on March 30, 1924 to Rudolph and Mary (Donoval) Uher. She had six brothers and sisters, the "first born" her brother Rudy, passed away as an infant. She is the sister of Bernice Jeropke, Dorothy Uher, Frank (Frances) Uher, the late Edna Alles and the late John Uher. She grew up in the Chicago area where she met her late husband, William G. Bunchak. They married on January 6, 1946. They had a beautiful, loving marriage until Williams death in 2000. She had two children, a son, William J. Bunchak, deceased, and a daughter, Joyce A. Bunchak Hodur, son-in-law, Ted. She is the grandmother of four; and great-grandmother to one. She is mourned by all her loving family and friends. She is remembered as being a beautiful spirit who lived for her family. She was dedicated to family and whatever she could do to make life happy for her loved ones, is what gave her the most joy. The last 7 months of her life was spent with her daughter and son-in-law in Colorado Springs, CO where she was surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. We shared loving memories of years past and we made new memories until our dear Lord called her home.

## FLORENCE F. MALESKA, S002



Florence F. Maleska, formerly of Yonkers, NY, passed away peacefully on April 21, 2015 in Hebron, NH where she had been cared for so lovingly by her daughter, Carol in recent years. She was the loving wife of the late Raymond A. Maleska to whom she was married for 52 years. A native of Yonkers, NY, she was born on September 22, 1923, the youngest of eight to Slovak immigrant parents, Martin and Emma Sivco. She was a graduate of the High School of Commerce and served in various accounting positions over the years before her retirement in 1985. Florence and her family have been active in the FCSLA Branch 2 for generations. She served as the financial secretary of Branch 2 for many years before her retirement in 2006. She was a lifelong member of Most Holy Trinity Parish and was active in the Sodality of Our Lady as well as the local chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Florence loved to travel and would take annual trips with her husband and close friends and enjoyed their summer house in Richfield Springs, NY. In addition to her daughter, Carol and her child, June, Florence is survived by another daughter, Susan Hodgdon and her husband, Ronald of Foxboro, MA; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Her only surviving sibling is her sister, Helen Syso of Dobbs Ferry, NY.

## JOHN PHIL ORESIK (PHIL), S289



John Phil Oresik, age 79, of Merrillville, IN, passed away August 1, 2015.

Survived by his wife Mary Ann Oresik (nee Kuzma) of 52 years; three children: Dr. Alicia Oresik, Philip (Kelli) Oresik, Cynthia Oresik; two grandchildren: Matthew and Cole Oresik; brother, Ronald (Nan) Oresik; brother-in-law,

Dan Kuzma; sister-in-law, Lillian (John) Zaborske. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Agnes Oresik.

Mr. Oresik was a member of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, a member of K of C Msgr. Joseph S. Ryder Council #4047, and the FCSLA Branch 289.

Phil was a graduate of Tolleston High School, Class of 1954. He was an Army veteran and a retired electrician from Bethlehem Steel with 35 years of service.

## REGINA T. FABIAN, S172



Regina T. Fabian, daughter of Stephen M. Baloga and Scholastica B. Kozak and lifetime member of Sr. Branch 172, went to her eternal rest on February 22, 2015. Born October 15, 1921, she was a member of Girl Scout Troop 2 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and received the Golden Eaglet Award, a recognition of merit since discontinued. In 1941 she married Pennsylvania State Trooper Andrew A. Fabian (1970), moved to Larksville, PA, and raised eight children: Andrew and wife JoAnn, Regina (Sister M. Philothea, SSC.M.), Stephen and wife Janet, Joseph and wife Tracy, Anna and husband Sam Elmir, Benedict and partner Kevin Westjohn, Marie and husband James Vogelei, and Monica and husband Chuck Marvin. In addition to wifely, motherly, school, and church related work, she spent weeks helping people displaced by the flood of Hurricane Agnes. Quietly and for several years she had her children deliver bread and other foods to infirm, needy and lonely persons within a few blocks of her home. In 2003 she left her home in Larksville for Maria Hall in Danville, then lived with her daughter Anna and her husband Sam in Wilkes-Barre until her death. At her request, her body was sent to the Humanity Gifts Registry for study by medical students. A Memorial Mass was celebrated in St. Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, on Easter Saturday, April 11.

## Maria E. Grega District Recognizes Scholarship Winners

*(Correction from November Issue)*



The Anna S. Granchay District Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Lauren Getz (S156), who is attending Youngstown State University. Patti Granchay, Branch 156 President, which hosted the event is seated with Lauren Getz (center) and Carol Vargo, daughter of Mary Bellotto, whose family funds the scholarship.

# FCSLA 2016-17 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) is pleased to announce its **2016-17 Scholarship Program**, which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. More than \$248,250 will be awarded to young members of the Association, which includes \$42,000 being awarded to elementary school applicants.

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 permanent life insurance certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or a \$100 minimum 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 no later than 4:30 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.** Applications received after that date will not be considered. Applications and further details for this program may be obtained by calling the Home Office, your local Branch Officer, e-mail us at [Scholarship@FCSLA.org](mailto:Scholarship@FCSLA.org), visiting our website at [www.fcsla.com](http://www.fcsla.com) or by completing the form on this page and mailing it to:

## FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

Scholarship Department

24950 Chagrin Boulevard • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

800-464-4642, ext. 1054

## 2016-2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send me a scholarship application form by:

US Postal Mail     Email

(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

# REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JULY 31, 2015

ASSETS	
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 13,283,872
Bonds	760,413,552
Preferred Stock	2,105,553
Common Stock	5,035,287
Investment Income Due & Accrued	12,095,085
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,687,692
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	3,142,221
Other Assets	136,692
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 801,899,955</b>
LIABILITIES	
Life Reserves	\$ 252,509,598
Annuity Reserves	434,862,943
Death Claims Payable	2,022,118
Unearned Premiums	518,141
Matured Endowments	356,461
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,523,174
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,296,017
Accrued Convention Donations	866,867
Provision for Future Conventions	577,476
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,911,806
Interest Maintenance Reserve	964,428
Other Liabilities	1,076,430
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 707,485,460</b>
Surplus	\$ 94,414,495
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 801,899,955</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT

For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2015

REVENUE	
Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,752,423
Annuity Premiums	20,898,683
Investment Income	23,283,687
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	52,558
Rental Income	231,722
Other Revenue	6,981
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 48,226,054</b>
EXPENSE	
Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 1,634,810
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	18,612,506
Insurance Benefits	3,496,219
Annuity Benefits	12,595,832
Commission Expense	577,601
Surrender Benefits	2,932,214
Post Mortem Benefits	769,538
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	49,571
Matured Endowments	29,633
Donation Expenses	40,084
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	142,322
Convention Expenses	84,933
Bank Service Charges	10,787
Data Processing Service Fees	140,419
Accounting Fees	65,976
Actuarial Fees	121,525
Legal Fees	17,262
Consulting Fees	70,068
Bonus to Branches	495,831
Fraternal Activities	72,113
Official Publications	243,063
Scholarship Awards	151,425
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	246,432
Fees — Directors	78,107
Salaries — Employees	834,827
Salaries — Officers	270,984
Interest Expense	196,285
Tax Expense	161,030
Depreciation Expense	149,349
Utility Expense	47,273
Postage and Printing	100,579
Advertising	64,216
Travel Expense	66,688
Insurance Department Fees	84,797
Sales Promotion	107,410
Rental Expense	231,722
Other Expense	272,378
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 45,265,809</b>
<b>Income (Loss) from Operations</b>	<b>\$ 2,960,245</b>
Dividends to Members	1,513,446
<b>Subtotal Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 1,446,800</b>
Capital Gains (Loss)	(56,659)
<b>NET INCOME (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 1,390,141</b>



## Holiday Treat Exchange

### GINGERBREAD PEOPLE

- 3 cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled), plus more for rolling
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- ½ cup packed dark-brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- ¾ cup unsulfured molasses
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 4 teaspoons powdered egg whites (meringue powder)

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, ginger, cloves, nutmeg, baking soda, baking powder, and salt; set aside. Using an electric mixer, beat butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy; beat in egg and molasses. With mixer on low, gradually add flour mixture; mix just until combined. Divide dough in half; flatten into disks. Wrap each in plastic, and refrigerate until firm, at least 2 hours and up to 2 days, or freeze up to 3 months (thaw before baking).

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, with racks set in upper and lower thirds. Working with one disk at a time, place dough on lightly floured parchment paper, and roll out to ⅛ inch thick, dusting lightly with flour as needed. Using paper, lift dough onto two baking sheets; freeze until firm, about 20 minutes.

Remove paper and dough from baking sheets. Using a long offset spatula, loosen dough from paper. Cut out shapes with cookie cutters, and brush off any excess flour. Transfer to baking sheets. (Gather scraps, briefly freeze, and re-roll.)

For softer cookies, bake 8 to 10 minutes; for crunchier cookies, bake 11 to 12 minutes, rotating sheets halfway through. Transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

Make icing: In a large bowl, whisk together confectioners' sugar, powdered egg whites, and ¼ cup water (if needed, adjust

consistency with confectioners' sugar). Transfer icing to a pastry bag with a small tip, or place in a resealable plastic bag, and snip a small hole in one corner. Decorate cookies as desired.

*Note: Make sure the disks of dough are well-chilled so they're easy to roll out thin. Roll from the center out, and aim for an even thickness, stopping just short of the edge of the dough. A quick dip in flour will keep the cookie cutter from sticking to the dough. Look for powdered egg whites in the baking aisle at your supermarket.*

### CHOCOLATE-ESPRESSO SNOWCAP COOKIES

- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 teaspoons instant espresso
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ⅔ cup packed light-brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 4 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, melted and cooled
- 1 tablespoon milk
- Confectioners' sugar, for coating

In a medium bowl, sift together flour, cocoa, espresso, baking powder, and salt. With an electric mixer, cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg until well combined; mix in cooled chocolate. With mixer on low, gradually add flour mixture; beat in milk until just combined. Flatten dough into a disk; wrap in plastic. Freeze until firm, about 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Pour confectioners' sugar (about ½ cup) into a medium bowl; working in batches, roll balls in sugar two times, letting them sit in sugar between coatings.

Place on prepared baking sheets, 2 inches apart. Bake until cookies have spread and coating is cracked, 12 to 14 minutes; cookies will still be soft to the touch. Cool cookies on a wire rack.

### BISCOTTI BITES

- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1¼ cups fine cornmeal
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon coarse salt
- ¾ stick unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1½ cups sweetened shredded coconut
- 2 tablespoons finely grated grapefruit zest (from 2 small grapefruits)
- 11 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
- Fine sanding sugar, for sprinkling

Whisk together flour, cornmeal, baking powder, and salt.

Beat butter with a mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add granulated sugar and beat until pale and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, until well combined. Add flour mixture and beat on low speed until just combined. Then beat in coconut, grapefruit zest, and 5 ounces chocolate until evenly distributed.

Drop heaping teaspoonfuls of dough, spaced 1 inch apart, on parchment-lined baking sheets. Sprinkle tops with sanding sugar. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake, rotating sheets halfway through, until golden, 18 to 20 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheets set on wire racks.

Melt remaining chocolate in a bowl set over a saucepan of simmering water, stirring until smooth. Dip bottoms of cooled cookies in melted chocolate, scrape off excess against rim of bowl, and set on parchment-lined baking sheets. Refrigerate until chocolate is set, about 30 minutes.

### GOOEY LAYERED EVERYTHING BARS

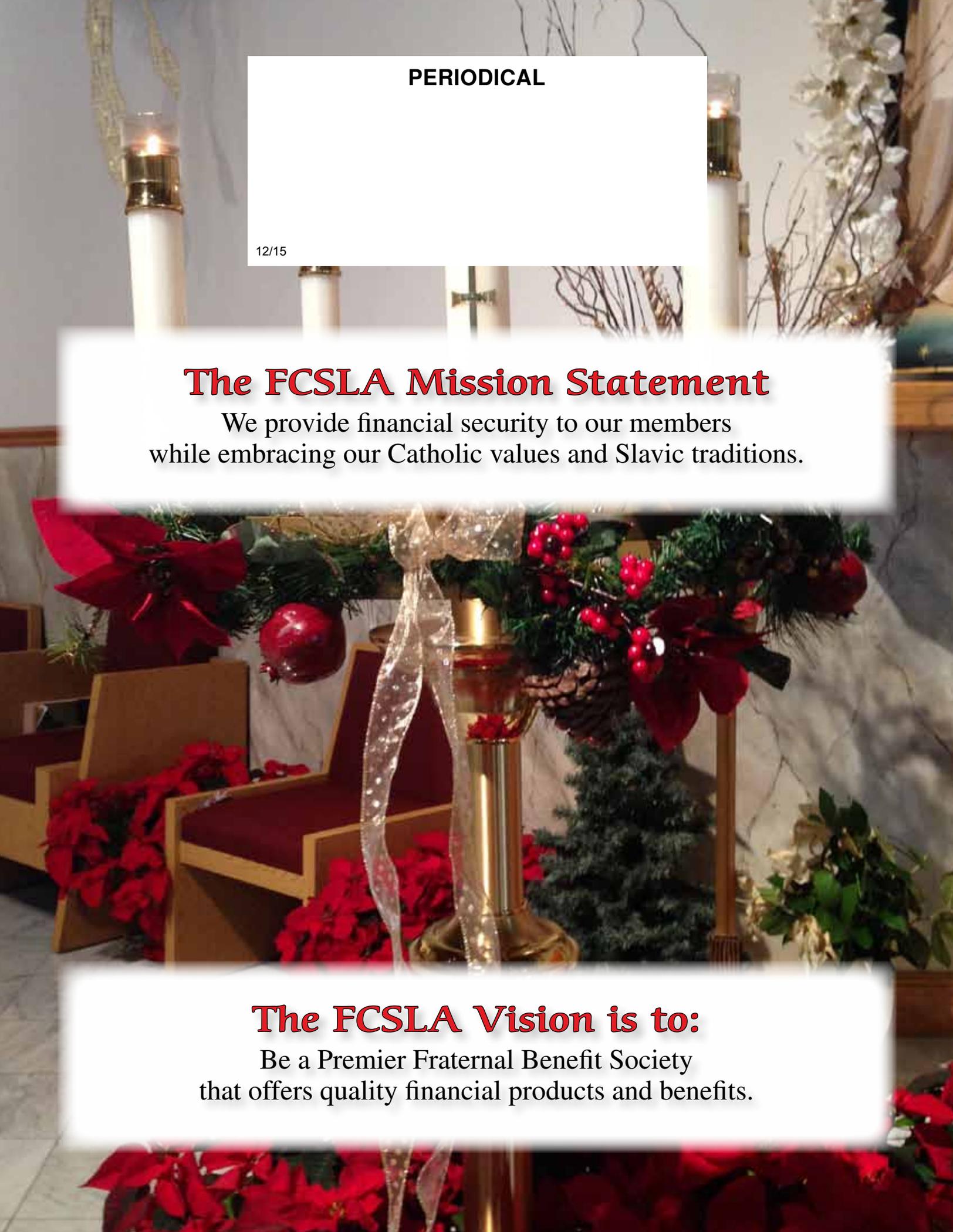
- Nonstick cooking spray
- ¼ cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled)
- ½ teaspoon coarse salt
- ¾ cup rolled oats (not quick-cooking)
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips (6 ounces)
- 1 cup walnut pieces, toasted
- ½ cup raisins
- 1 can (14 ounces) condensed milk
- 2 cups sweetened shredded coconut (7 ounces)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a 9x13-inch baking dish with parchment paper, leaving overhang on short sides; lightly coat paper with cooking spray.

In a food processor, pulse together butter, confectioners' sugar, flour, and salt until mixture resembles coarse meal. Add oats and pulse until just combined. Press dough evenly into bottom of dish and bake until lightly browned and firm, about 20 minutes.

Scatter chocolate chips, walnuts, and raisins on top of crust. Drizzle with condensed milk and top with coconut. Bake until coconut is golden, about 20 minutes. Let cool completely in dish on a wire rack before cutting into 18 squares. Store in an airtight container, at room temperature, up to 3 days.





PERIODICAL

12/15

## ***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.